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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Twenty-eighth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-28) of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

22-23 September 2025

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**REVIEW OF PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

(Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda)

**Air Pollution**

*Note by the Secretariat*

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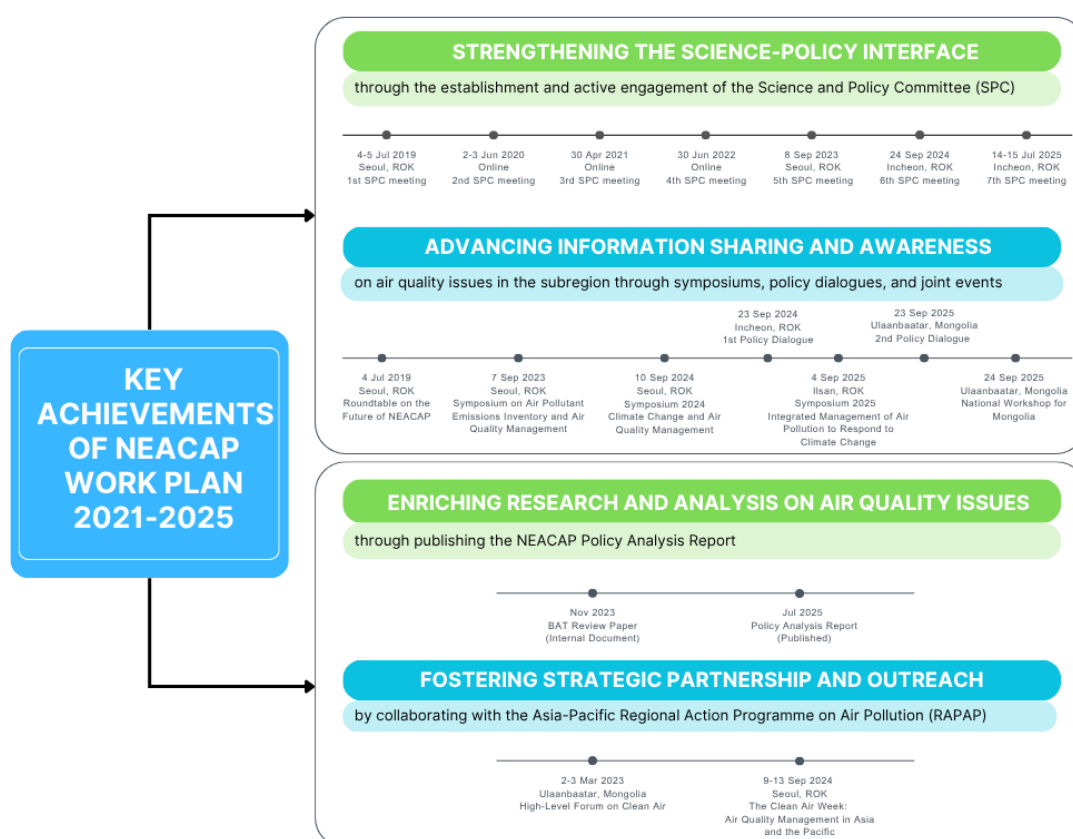
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## I. BACKGROUND

1. Air pollution continues to be a pressing environmental issue globally, including in East and North-East Asia, and the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) under NEASPEC has provided a vital platform for the member States in progressing initiatives on air quality management. In recent years, NEACAP has accelerated the implementation of the NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025, its first multi-year plan, with a central focus on advancing policy and technology cooperation for air pollution mitigation. Recognizing the diverse national contexts within the subregion, NEACAP, supported by the Science and Policy Committee and designated Technical Centers, has served as a collaborative platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices. Throughout the implementation period, NEACAP has actively engaged with relevant regional mechanisms, most notably the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP) under ESCAP to maximize synergies and to enhance the overall coherence of regional efforts.

2. The implementation of the NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025 has delivered concrete outputs on science-policy interface development, knowledge sharing and outreach, as summarized in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Strengthening NEACAP:  
Implementation of the NEACAP Work Plan 2021-2025**



3. The operationalization of SPC has provided a structural platform for integrating scientific evidence into policy discourse and ensuring regional relevance of NEACAP activities. The completion of the NEACAP Policy Analysis Report was a collaborative research milestone and has enriched analysis on air quality issues. On advancing information sharing and awareness, the organization of symposiums, policy dialogues, and joint outreach events has significantly enhanced understanding and collaboration among multistakeholders. Furthermore, collaboration with RAPAP and other regional initiatives has fostered strategic partnership and outreach, broadening NEACAP's network.

4. With the first work plan cycle reaching its conclusion in 2025, going forward, NEACAP sets its sights in further strengthening and expanding its role in facilitating coordinated approaches on air pollution mitigation in East and North-East Asia, in line with the *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030*.

## II. PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES

### **Knowledge Production: Research and Policy Advice**

5. Building on the Executive Summary of the NEACAP Policy Analysis Report endorsed at SOM-27, the full **NEACAP Policy Analysis Report** was finalized in June 2025 following a comprehensive review process involving all the member States. The report synthesized regional trends and policy developments and provided policy recommendations, including on possible NEACAP collaborations. The report was a primary reference in developing the NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030 and will be launched at the *Second NEACAP Policy Dialogue* in conjunction with SOM-28. The layout version of the report is included in Annex I.

### **Knowledge Sharing: Capacity building**

6. The **Symposium on Integrated Management of Air Pollution to Respond to Climate Change** will be held on 4 September 2025 in Ilsan, Republic of Korea. Co-hosted with the National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR) of the Republic of Korea, which serves as a NEACAP Technical Centre, the symposium aims to deepen understanding of integrated approaches that align air quality and climate goals, drawing participation from government officials, researchers, and practitioners across the region. The concept note and programme of the symposium is included in Annex II.

7. The **National Workshop on Air Quality Issues** will be held on 24 September 2025 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The workshop will provide a platform for national stakeholders to engage with regional experts, share experiences, and explore policy and technical measures to address Mongolia's air quality challenges. The concept note and programme of the national workshop is included in Annex III.

#### **Knowledge Dissemination: Outreach**

8. The **Second NEACAP Policy Dialogue** will be held on 23 September 2025 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The dialogue will launch the *NEACAP Policy Analysis Report* titled "*Success and Challenges in Addressing Air Pollution in North-East Asia: A Call to Strengthen Regional Collaboration*", a milestone research collaboration under NEASPEC. The dialogue will also bring together policy makers and stakeholders for substantive discussions on advancing the collective discourse on clean air cooperation in line with the *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030*. The concept note and programme is included in Annex IV.

9. The secretariat undertook networking engagements raising awareness of NEACAP's work and exploring entry points of collaborations with other regional/subregional mechanisms working on air pollution. The secretariat started the information sharing exercise under RAPAP, with scheduled updates of NEACAP activities in the *RAPAP Partnership and Coordination Platform* (<https://www.rapap-platform.org/>). In addition, the secretariat virtually participated in the inaugural meeting of the *First Global Air Quality Cooperation Network* on 24 March 2025, established under UNEA resolution 6/10 to strengthen international collaboration on air pollution. Furthermore, the secretariat strengthened its coordination with the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) Secretariat, discussing participation in planned activities during the second half of 2025 organized by NEACAP and EANET (i.e., NEACAP-related associated activities during SOM-28 in September and EANET's Clean Air Week in November). Further discussions on concrete collaborations in 2026 are envisaged following the approval of the *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030* and the *EANET Medium-Term Plan for 2026-2030* in September and November, respectively.

### **III. OUTCOMES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF NEACAP SCIENCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC-7)**

10. **SPC-7** was held on 14-15 July 2025 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, with representatives from China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation, along with NEACAP Technical Centers from China and the Republic of Korea. The meeting discussed the implementation of the *NEACAP Activity Plan 2025* and noted the

completion of the *NEACAP Policy Analysis Report* and the preparations for NEACAP-related associated activities (i.e., *Second NEACAP Policy Dialogue* and *National Workshop on Air Quality*) to be held in conjunction with SOM-28. The meeting report of SPC-7 is included in Annex V.

11. SPC-7 worked on the zero draft of the *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030*, as prepared by the secretariat. The secretariat developed the zero draft, incorporating the strategic guidance and directions from the draft *NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030* (as reviewed by NEASPEC member Governments), findings from the *NEACAP Policy Analysis Report* and survey responses (i.e., *NEASPEC Stakeholders' Survey* and *Technical Centers' Survey*). SPC-7 agreed on a finalized draft *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030*, including the corresponding *NEACAP Activity Plan 2026*, for submission to SOM-28.

12. The draft *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030* further elaborated the objective and outputs on air pollution, as articulated in the draft *NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030*, through identifying four priority areas which include: (i) air quality management and its synergies with climate strategies; (ii) clean technologies and low-emission policy measures; (iii) policy support and collaboration; and (iv) capacity building. These priority areas are further mapped to activities to be delivered in the next five years. The activities are envisaged to be strategically delivered, ensuring coherence and linkages of activity outcomes. The draft *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030* is included in Annex VI.

13. Based on the draft *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030*, several activities were identified to commence in 2026, taking into consideration the relevant areas where NEACAP can already initiate work as well as the availability of resources. The corresponding *NEACAP Work Plan 2026* is included in Annex VII.

#### **IV. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

14. The Meeting may wish to request the member States to:

- (a) Review and approve the *NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030* (Annex VI) to guide the work on air pollution in the next five-year period, supported by the Science and Policy Committee and designated Technical Centers; and
- (b) Review and approve the *NEACAP Activity Plan 2026* (Annex VII) and provide further guidance on its implementation.

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