

EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

FIFTH ASIA PACIFIC CLEAN AIR PARTNERSHIP (APCAP) JOINT FORUM

20-21 March 2025 | Yokohama, Japan

Background

The Asia Pacific region continues to be at the forefront of the fight against air pollution. Countries in the region continue to experience the highest levels of ambient fine particulate matter PM_{2.5}.¹ Despite efforts to reduce air pollution in various subregions, most cities continue to experience high levels of ambient air pollution.² Improving air quality can bring significant benefits that go beyond health, to confronting other crises such as climate change and sustainable development. Air pollution and climate change are closely linked as all major pollutants have an impact on the climate and most share common sources with greenhouse gases. The interlinkages between air pollution and climate change provide an opportunity to amplify the benefits of actions and catalyze even greater mitigation ambition.

Member States also reinforced the important role of regional cooperation to address air pollution at the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in February 2024 with the adoption of a resolution on *Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally*.³ The resolution also requested UNEP to “form and facilitate a global cooperation network on air quality”, working with governments, UN organizations, multilateral environmental agreements, international and regional initiatives.

The **Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP)** is one of the regional initiatives working to strengthen international cooperation on air quality in Asia Pacific. APCAP, supported by the Ministry of Environment of Japan, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition developed an integrated air quality and climate assessment “*Air Pollution in the Asia Pacific: Science-based Solutions*” which identified a portfolio of 25 clean air measures focusing on high impact sectors that can deliver benefits for both air quality and climate. Unfortunately, lack of financing is one of the major barriers to effective air pollution action. Despite the significant harm air pollution causes to economies, the planet and to people’s health, clean air efforts remain chronically underfunded. There is a need to mobilize large scale investment for sector-specific mitigation measures that can reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions at local levels.

About the Fifth Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) Joint Forum

The Fifth Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) Joint Forum will be held in Yokohama, Japan in a hybrid format on 20 to 21 March 2025. For its fifth edition, the forum will be organized under the theme “*Invest in Clean Air Now*” in alignment with the 5th International Day of Clean Air for blue skies⁴ and hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Japan. In support of UNEA Resolution 6/10 on *Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally*, the Fifth APCAP Joint Forum will aim to:

- **Inform the state of air quality in the region and recognize progress** made to address air pollution at multiple levels
- **Share and exchange innovative solutions reducing emissions with climate co-benefits from high impact sectors** with a focus on legislation, technology, and finance
- **Facilitate discussion for next phase of APCAP, including future activities and direction**
- **Inspire and accelerate action** through regional and inter-regional cooperation for clean air

¹ State of Global Air 2024.

² ADB 2024. Environment Action Plan 2024-2030: Toward a Nature-Positive Asia and the Pacific.

³ UNEP/EA.6/Res.10 Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/k24/008/31/pdf/k2400831.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.cleanairblueskies.org/about/theme>

It is an opportunity to leverage investments and action, advance science-policy dialogue, facilitate regional cooperation, promote good governance, and demonstrate innovation and technology. The Joint Forum will also be offered to partners to launch new initiatives and programmes on air quality and linkages with climate action.

Outcome

The key messages, discussions, and recommendations from the Fifth APCAP Joint Forum will be consolidated in a **Roadmap for the Third Phase of APCAP** and used as main reference for the next phase of the partnership. It will contribute to the Progress Update of the Implementation of UNEA Resolution 6/10 to be submitted at the Seventh Session of UNEA in December 2025 and to the commemoration of the Sixth International Day of Clean Air for blue skies in September 2025.

Expected Participants

Participants at the APCAP Joint Forum represent air quality stakeholders from the region and beyond. This includes high-level policy and decision-makers from national and local governments, representatives from bilateral and multilateral donors, academia, civil society organizations, international organizations, regional intergovernmental bodies, youth, and the private sector. The event aims to be gender balanced and inclusive.

Programme Overview

Fifth Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) Joint Forum

Time	20 March 2025 Thursday Venue: Pacifico Yokohama Estimated number of participants: 70	21 March 2025 Friday Venue: to be confirmed Estimated number of participants: 70
9.00 – 10.00	Opening Session	Donor's Roundtable on Mobilizing Investment for Climate Tech for Clean Air and Launch of South Asia Finance Facility
10.00 – 11.30	High-Level Plenary: Invest in Clean Air Now	Unlocking climate finance for co-benefit solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of solutions with climate and air quality co-benefit and Japan's Joint Crediting Mechanisms (JCM) scheme • Business Matching
11.30 – 12.00	Future direction: APCAP - five years from now	
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch break	Lunch break
13.30 – 17.30	Thematic discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy track • Finance track • Sectoral and technology solutions track 	Site Visit (open to participants) By invitation only: Towards the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)
17.30 – 18.00	Summary and Wrap-up	
18.00 – 20.00	Welcome Reception	

About the APCAP Joint Forum

The **APCAP Joint Forum** has become the key venue in the Asia Pacific for sharing latest policy-relevant scientific knowledge, and information on the state of national and international efforts on air quality. The forum also aims to identify priority air quality issues, promote regional approaches to combat the priority issues where appropriate and identify mechanisms to help address air pollution challenges of the region.

The [Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership \(APCAP\)](#) aims to:

- Serve as a mechanism for better coordination and collaboration of clean air programs in the region.
- Provide a platform to generate and share knowledge on air pollution initiatives, policies, and technologies in the Asia Pacific region.
- Strengthen institutional capacity, provide technical assistance on air quality management; and support air quality assessments to identify solutions for clean air.

The voluntary partnership was launched by UNEP and partners in 2015 as a response to the call for action on air quality at the First Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in 2014 (Resolution 1/7 on Air Quality) and 2017 (Resolution on Preventing and Reducing Air pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally) and to help achieve the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

This responds to Resolution 3/8 of the third United Nations Environment Assembly in 2017 on 'Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally' which requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to, inter alia, '*support the enhancement of regional cooperation to address air pollution...in close cooperation with the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership, and to organize regional communities of practice for air quality management through the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme.*' (paragraph 7(c)).

Timeline of the APCAP Joint Forum

The first two forums in 2015 and 2018 were organized in Bangkok, Thailand. The Second APCAP Joint Forum was organized as part of the Asia Pacific Clean Air Week. It brought together 300 delegates from 30 countries to share and exchange practical and innovative solutions for clean air. The forum showcased the leadership that the governments, cities, NGOs, businesses, and citizens were taking to fight air pollution and demonstrated that proven solutions do exist. Many of these solutions are linked to technology and innovation, financing supported by credible science and policy guidance and tools, and wider public awareness on health, social, and economic implications of poor air quality.

The third APCAP Joint Forum was organized as a virtual event on 8-9 September 2021 and was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan where over 500 participants from 30 countries joined. The theme of for the third iteration was 'build back better for healthy air, healthy planet' and contributed to the commemoration of the [second International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#).

The Fourth APCAP Joint Forum showcased the region's commitment to protect the air we share. Attended by over 400 participants from 52 countries, the Joint Forum, hosted by the Gyeonggi Provincial Government in the Republic of Korea, was held from 5 to 7 September 2022 in Suwon City, Republic of Korea. The meeting showcased the region's efforts and progress to beat air pollution and discuss opportunities to accelerate clean air solutions, contribute to carbon neutrality, and protect people's health. It also contributes to the commemoration of the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies and is recognized in the official report of the International Day for 2022.

More information about previous forums is available online: <http://cleanairweek.org/>