



**Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP)  
15<sup>th</sup> Advisory Group Meeting  
Meeting Summary**

**27 January 2025, 15:00-17:00 (JST)**

**Virtual via Zoom**



## **Meeting summary**

On 27 January 2025, the 15<sup>th</sup> Advisory Group meeting of the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) was held online. Fifteen advisory group members from government agencies, international organisations, and research institutions joined the meeting and discussed the following: discussion on Working Paper on recent trends in co-benefits research and policy in India and South Asia; and the ACP Work Plan of individual members as well as discussion on the future ACP.

The ACP Advisory Group then supported the idea in principle to: 1) work on the proposed paper on South Asia that aims to be published by the end of fiscal year 2025; and, 2) discuss further on how to upgrade the future ACP.

## **Meeting Minutes:**

**15:00 - 15:10 (10 minutes)**

### **Opening and Introduction**

**1. Opening remarks:** Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura, IGES

The ACP co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura, welcomed participants to the online Advisory Group meeting. He began by recalling the remarkable progress on co-benefits activities in the Asian region led by the ACP members and shared his appreciation to the Advisory Group members as well as the Secretariat for facilitating this work for the last 15 years. Mr. Ohmura also reminded attendees of the ACP Flagship Report published last year (on integrating co-benefits into NDCs and other policies). He noted that he expected the meeting would help collect comments and inputs to the ACP activities for the coming years from the members' end.

**2. Objective of the meeting & Self-introduction by participants:** ACP Secretariat, IGES

Dr. Eric Zusman of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the ACP Secretariat shared the objectives of the meeting. The primary goal is to have a discussion over the paper on co-benefits trends with a focus on South Asia/India; he also noted that the meeting would focus on reporting the ongoing activities of each member as well as the future prospects for the ACP. He then asked participants to offer a brief self-introduction. Participants followed with self-introductions and the Secretariat reported members from Policy Research Center for the Environment and Economy (PRCEE) China and Korea Environment Institute (KEI) Korea would be absent from the meeting due to their national holidays.

**15:10 - 16:00 (50 minutes)**

**Discussion1: Working Paper on Recent Trends in Co-benefits Research and Policy (India/South Asia focus)** Facilitator: Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura

**1) Overview and Updates on Co-benefits in India/South Asia**

Dr. Zusman provided a presentation of background on a proposed working paper by recalling the request from the last advisory group meeting to conduct another report on co-benefits in India and South Asia.

The ACP Secretariat could propose a slightly modified version – a shorter working paper in 2025. He then made a presentation on the trends and development of the co-benefits concept, including a traditional economic argument by looking at the linkages between climate action and climate finance to development needs as well as policy-making process i.e. engaging directly with policy-makers. He also highlighted the interest in the SDGs and the growing recognition of the interlinkages across not only climate, air pollution and health, but many other development priorities that are covered under a broader framing of sustainability. The last argument could be the overlapping interest between co-benefits and social justice issues – this argument suggests that it is not only about assessing benefits in aggregate but also who benefits; the distribution of benefits; and how possible trade-offs could be overcome. All of these different arguments are feeding into and building off of some of the initial discussions of co-benefits and fuelling continued interest in the topic. Moreover, the international landscape is opening for co-benefits such as discussions over Article 6 and the Paris Agreement has created opportunities for integrating co-benefits into not only climate policies and projects. The Synergies Resolution coming out of UNEP puts also a huge emphasis on co-benefits and good practices of co-benefits.

The Flagship Report that ACP published last year reflects all these trends, especially the practical integration of the co-benefits concept into policies and plans. Case studies in that flagship report, for instance, how countries such as China are moving from co-control at the national level in their air pollution control law into the localisation of co-benefits, especially to align climate actions at the local level with air pollution controls. The Thailand case identified opportunities for putting co-benefits into the NDC and also the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) model focused on links between climate and other sustainability priorities. The Mongolian case concentrated on leveraging co-benefits for renewable energy as well as featured links between air pollution, climate change, health and other issues in SDGs. Mongolia's Voluntary National Review responded to the SDG process and places a strong emphasis on co-benefits. All the cases illustrate practical integration and highlight the need for potentially expanding co-benefits in other regions not only in East Asia and Southeast Asia, (where much of the work and energy from the ACP has been focused over the past 15 years) but South Asia. When looking at the articles to see which regions or countries specifically focusing on, the country that has the second largest focus, next to China, is India. It opens the door and makes a nice transition to the second working paper.

In South Asia, the air quality issues are still very serious although there has been some significant improvement over the past few years based on the State of Global Air work by the Health Effects Institute. These studies suggest that particulate matter and fine particulates pose the greatest environmental health threat out of many different concerns. In the India case, the GHG emissions are rising quickly and three out of the 17 countries with the largest emissions in Asia are coming from South Asia. Hence, there are obvious opportunities for synergies or co-benefits between climate change, air pollution and health, perhaps also with a wider expansion of the benefit space. The 2019 National Clean Air Programme emphasises PM2.5 and other recent national pledges from India such as 2021 on Net-Zero, updated NDCs and the long-term Low Emissions Development Strategy could potentially have strong links to other development priorities and co-benefits. So, there are opportunities in the policy landscape to mainstream co-benefits into not only policy but action on the ground in India. The Advisory Group members have worked in other parts of South Asia i.e. Bangladesh and Pakistan and it would be great to collect those cases as well.

The proposed paper would be approximately 15 pages long and would draw upon the aforementioned substance as well as inputs from the Advisory Group members. It would consist of a review of recent trends in terms of co-benefits research and policy, a focus on India with the links between some of the net zero and air quality discussion as well as other parts of South Asia, and then, concluding thoughts on implications for other parts of Asia from this work. The Secretariat expects approximately a page summary of the work that members have conducted to synthesise it into the discussion paper.

### ACP Working Paper: Recent Trends in Co-benefits Research and Policy (India/South Asia Focus) January 27, 2025

#### Four Arguments for Co-benefits

- Economic Argument**
  - Offset the Costs of Climate Actions
  - Bring Climate Finance to Development Needs
- Policy-making Argument**
  - Breakdown Sectoral Silos and Build Coalitions
  - Use Co-design to Influence Policy
- Sustainability Science Argument**
  - Understand Interactions Across Sustainable Development
  - Work Across Spatial and Temporal Scales on Interrelated Issues
- Social Justice Argument**
  - Understand Benefit Distribution and Anticipate Opposition
  - Harness Energies of Marginalized Groups

#### Continued Interest in Co-benefits

#### More Emphasis on Integration of Co-benefits into Policies/Projects and a Wider View of Co-benefits

#### Recent History of Co-benefits: More Emphasis on Policy Applications and Broader Views Beyond Clean Air and Climate

#### ACP 2024 Flagship Report

- China Case**: Strengthening localization of co-control and synergies
- Thailand Case**: Opportunities in the NDC revision and BCG Model
- Mongolia Case**: Leverage co-benefits for renewables and continue to feature links in SDGs

#### Articles on co-benefits by country/region

#### Air pollution concentrations are high—though some positive trends South Asia

#### Air pollution presents significant health risk in South Asia

#### GHG emissions growing quickly in India and other parts of South Asia

#### Climate, clean air and other key milestones in India

#### India's Net Zero Panchamrit Strategy

- India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
- Renewable energy will form 50% of India's energy basket by 2030.
- India will abate one billion tonnes of total projected carbon emissions from now till 2030.
- India will bring its economy's carbon intensity level below 45% by 2030.
- Net-zero emissions will be attained by the year 2070.

#### Gurgaon Net Zero Plan

#### Proposed Outline for ACP Discussion Paper

- Review of Recent Trends in Co-benefits Research and Policy (3-4 pages)
  - Note Emphasis on Policy Integration and Broader Applications
  - Underline Some Work in India
- Focus on South Asia/India (6-7 pages)
  - India's Net Zero-Air Quality
  - Other Parts of South Asia
- Concluding Thoughts (3-4 pages)
  - Implications for Other Parts of Asia
  - Implications for Other Parts of the World
  - Implications for Research and Policy in South Asia

## 2) Feedback

Mr. Takashi Ohmura summarised the presentation that provided an overview of the global trends and

various arguments around the co-benefits and the rationale why India and South Asia should be covered (including the suggestions raised at the last Advisory Group meeting when evaluating the previous Flagship Report). He opened the discussion for comments and feedback on the proposed publication.

Dr. Chris Malley of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) agreed the proposed paper would be a useful document. And he raised two points for consideration: one is that, in addition to the arguments presented, there could be an alternative school of thought saying a pollutant-by-pollutant approach might be more effective such as with the global methane pledge. Organisations like the Clean Air Fund have tried to make similar efforts with black carbon and now with tropospheric ozone rather than focusing on a more holistic approach. It would be a considerable point whether we look holistically across all pollutants and multiple impacts could be more effective in South Asia versus focusing specifically on black carbon, methane, or nitrous oxide. The other point pertained to Pakistan: there has been accumulated work over the past four years, is relevant for how to take forward air pollution benefits within the climate change planning process. They outlined in NDC to develop a clean air plan as part of contribution to achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets, and ended up developing an actual clean air policy. When this paper considers a case from another country in South Asia, Pakistan would be a potential candidate.<sup>12</sup>

Dr. Kevin Hicks of SEI focused on the Malé Declaration in South Asia. When signed in 1998, it was an air pollution agreement with India on board. SEI and CCAC now consider revising the Malé Declaration and would include co-benefits and the climate change dimension as well. The resistance to that in the region, from India in particular, underlines that air pollution and climate change are separate tissues to be dealt with separately. Therefore, the paper has the opportunity to look at the different options, as Chris Malley mentioned as well as to push the co-benefits issue forward and think about how best to continue the work in the Asia Pacific.

In response to the suggestions from Dr. Malley and Dr. Hicks, Mr. Nathan Borgford-Parnell of Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) played off their comments by pointing out that the ACP has been incredibly effective at socialising the concept of co-benefits particularly with the climate community not only in this region but across the world; however, the issue about the pollutant-by-pollutant approach is the philosophy and framing that the climate community takes when it comes to controlling pollution and stepping further into the world that is more formally the air quality management space. He emphasised that it is a prime moment to explore the interface and find a way to advise (particularly the climate community) on how to more synergistically interact with what is traditionally an air quality management purview in terms of regulatory approaches and management infrastructure and objectives and metrics and implementation. In short, he believes the idea that a single pollutant approach leaves an enormous amount of room for negative trade-offs, and in fact, invites them. Rather he felt that is important for the climate community understand better air quality or a net impacts management approach, particularly when they're stepping into the world of troposphere ozone management would be very useful at this moment in time, and so should be taken up in the thinking around this discussion paper.

Mr. Virender Kumar Duggal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) addressed his work of assessing the co-benefits of mitigation actions in a holistic manner since 2017 after consultations with IGES and UNEP then decided on three dimensional – social, environmental, and economic aspects to make a holistic

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<sup>1</sup> Zoom comments from Dr. Kevin Hicks of SEI: Agree holistic approach is very important as many pollutants come from the same sources.

<sup>2</sup> Zoom comments from Ms. Dang Casanova of CAA: Agree with Chris' suggestion earlier to document Pakistan's experience in national action planning to contribute to the paper.

assessment. Over the period of time, ADB developed a methodology and a tool kit that has an extensive range of indicators that allow to conduct holistic assessment of the mitigation actions. He emphasised the importance of this manner because when those are designed properly and implemented with due consideration and consultations with the local stakeholders, they not only reduce GHG emissions but also bring about a large spectrum of benefits or sustainable development impacts, which many times are actually not conceived of at the beginning. But these co-benefits happen sometimes by design and by default. Capturing the full range of benefits is why we should take a holistic approach. In terms of the proposed paper in South Asia, he showed strong support for the rationale as there are various mitigation actions already happening on the ground and proper mitigation actions would bring healthy impacts and experiences to a large population. Mr. Duggal also expressed his possible contribution to the growing momentum of co-benefits in the Asia and Pacific region based on the successful ADB project he worked for i.e. recent support by JCM using ADB's co-benefits assessment methodology and the Future Carbon funded second round assessment and co-benefits project.

Mr. Curt Garrigan of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) shared his opinion on the importance of emphasising the transboundary impact of air pollution especially in this particular subregion in Asia even though he understands why others addressed such as Malé Declaration and the limitations of it.

Ms. Yumi Yasuda of the Ministry of Environment, Japan (MOEJ) commented to seek ways how to utilise the proposed paper, especially at the policy level. She supported the need to focus on South Asia since there was not much activity from Malé Declaration group in that region. However, the challenge she highlighted was how to convince and utilise a co-benefits approach to the countries those are not ready to accept the approach, including the Indian Government.

Mr. Mushtaq Memon of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) added his brief feedback saying it would be good to find out where the co-benefits approach is within all the big international events for the air pollution issues that happened in 2024 including the UNEA Resolution. He expects the paper can capture how the synergies could be created along the way.

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, co-chair of ACP, added a comment on the transboundary issues as he noted that this form of pollution is common in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Mekong subregion. Since there is the existing network addressing it in East Asia through UNEP's support he argued that it should expand in Southeast Asia with focus on PM2.5 – co-benefits with climate change and black carbon. He agreed that it would be a long way to move to address and reduce emissions but very important issue that has to be addressed.

Along with his support for Dr. Supat's opinion about the emphasis on the transboundary issue, Mr. Ohmura pointed out the balanced approaches between a single pollutant and holistic view in this paper because the single pollutant approach would appropriate when its background concern is from the global level of methane or tropospheric ozone; whereas, the countries tend to pay attention on the local pollutants those might not relate to those pollutants.

After all the suggestions were shared by members, he invited the ACP Secretariat to respond. Dr. Zusman provided responses to the comments: first, the point about the drawbacks of using a single pollutant approach are well noted and could be highlighted in the paper. Regarding the discussion of the Malé Declaration, it could be included along with SEI's recent updates. It would be incredibly helpful if there

were openings to bring ACP discussions into work on the possible revision of the Malé Declaration. The Pakistan country case that brought clean air into the discussions of the NDC and led to stronger clean air policy is noted; so, one of the sections should reflect on that progress outside of the India context. In terms of project implementation with co-benefits tools, inputs on how the ADB brought out the assessment tools being used in other cases in South Asia would be welcomed. For the point raised about how to actually raise the profile of the paper and elevate it so as to influence policy and action, he suggested consider be part of the synergies report in Asia and Pacific coming out in 2026. The report may have limited coverage of the cases in South Asia, the proposed paper could influence the regional and global discussion on synergies and bring opportunities to raise the profile of this work. Last but not least, in terms of transboundary pollution, ESCAP's work in the Southeast Asian context needs to be noted and also the proposed paper should work on the transboundary issue not only across but within countries especially in the national capital region in Delhi, India.

For Mr. Ohmura's request to explain the schedule for the report development before concluding of the first discussion, the Secretariat announced that the revision of the outline and request for the contributions could start next fiscal year, around June 2025; then by September, the draft development and revision could be completed. The delivery of the final report aims at the end of next fiscal year along with the distribution through the ACP website by then. Dr. Zusman underlined the importance of the members' contribution drawing upon existing projects, programmes, and activities in a half-page to a page brief.

**16:00 - 16:55 (55 minutes)**

### **Discussion 2: Update Work Plan**

Facilitator: Co-chair, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Thammasat University

- 1) Achievement and Prospects of Work Plan**
- 2) Achievement of ACP & Discussion on the future ACP**

ACP co-chair, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana opened the second session to discuss the achievement and prospects of ACP that established 15 years ago as well as to understand future of its existence. He firstly invited the Secretariat to provide a review of the achievements.


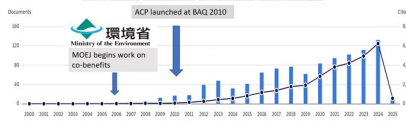
Dr. Zusman of the ACP Secretariat started the presentation from the origins of the ACP supported by MOEJ with the initial interest in co-benefits from MOEJ in 2006 based on the previous collaboration between MOEJ and USEPA on integrated environmental strategies programme that provided trainings on co-benefits throughout the world but with a strong focus in Asia. In 2008, there was a discussion of creating a network of organisations and policymakers to help raise the profile of co-benefits; to actually raise awareness; and to promote the integration of co-benefits into policies and plans. There were pre-meetings in 2009 leading to the launch of the ACP in 2010 at BAQ. With the ACP's creation, there were four main functions envisaged for the ACP: creating a knowledge base and Information clearinghouse; creating effective communication structures; mainstreaming co-benefits national and sector policies as well as specific concrete projects; and then cooperation among countries. The ACP has played an important role in each of these areas as part of broader collection of actors working in this space.

In terms of the first function, knowledge base and Information clearinghouse, the clearest illustration is the ACP website which accumulated five flagship reports including four White Papers, one Flagship Report

2024, and the proposed Working Paper would be the sixth. The Good Practice Map has over 50 cases as well as Newsletters and Fact Sheets. The annual ACP Advisory Group Meeting has been organised for the past 15 years – and has become an online gathering since COVID-19. In terms of communication structures, it really has created a network of people interested in these topics and created a set of advocates for bringing co-benefits to bear on policy and practice in terms of national and central policies and projects. He underlined that the ACP has helped hold up the profile of co-benefits; for instance, in Thailand, thanks to Dr. Supat’s contribution to the Parliament about a new clean air law that would have potential connections to climate change; UNEP with SEI on the Clean Air plan of Cambodia has an excellent analysis of SLCPs; PRCEE worked on a co-control concept that firmly embedded within China’s Clean Air Law as well as provincial and city level policies. To mention specific projects, there were the metro line analysis of co-benefits in Ho Chi Minh City as a part of a JICA project and IGES aims to carry out the solar panels for schools under JCM as well as the JCM project conducted by ADB. Regarding the cooperation among countries on co-benefits, to reiterate aforementioned points by other members, last year, MOEJ’s collaboration with other countries put forward a Resolution on Synergies which speaks to the need for good practice on synergies as well as co-benefits and also the work from UNEP and CCAC on resolution on regional cooperation on air pollution at the international level. At the regional level, ESCAP has worked on transboundary focus and also those linkages between climate change and air pollution – the first pan-regional initiative on air pollution draws together many of the different sub-regional initiatives. Last but not least, the ASEAN Haze Agreement and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Roadmap of the Haze Agreement make linkages between climate change mitigation and air pollution – though it does not necessarily mention co-benefits. All of this evidence is to promote the idea of co-benefits not as solely attributable to the ACP but as part of a larger effort to make the concept actionable in collaboration with members.

While the ACP has made significant progress on forming functions and plans to put out the proposed paper, the Secretariat would move towards a possible phase-down or graduation of the ACP and this would be the last formal ACP Advisory Group meeting. Over the following fiscal year, the Secretariat would publish the last discussion paper and set of Good Practice Map cases focusing on JCM projects. Also, newsletters featuring the idea of co-benefits or synergies and interviewing ACP co-chairs are planned to be published. The ACP website itself would be archived with a farewell message and expression of appreciation to the advisory group, co-chairs, and MOEJ generously supported the work of the ACP.

### The Origins of the ACP

Documents

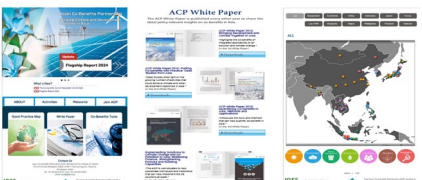
Chairs

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023





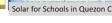
### ACP’s Main Functions

1. **Knowledge base and information clearing house** on co-benefits have been established to improve and disseminate information to various stakeholders in Asia, especially to policymakers;
2. **Effective communication structures** on co-benefits have been created which include all major organizations and initiatives promoting a co-benefits approach;
3. **National and sectoral policies** in Asia incorporate co-benefits and result in increased number of specific co-benefits projects; and
4. **Cooperation among countries** in Asia for further promotion of mutually-beneficial co-benefits approach/projects has been strengthened.





### 1. Knowledge base and information clearing house



### 3. National and sectoral policies (and projects)

### 4. Cooperation among countries on co-benefits

### Discussion Points

- The ACP has made significant progress on four main functions
- Proposed phase down/graduation of ACP
  1. Publish last discussion paper
  2. Publish last set of good practice case studies focusing on JCM projects
  3. Publish last newsletter with interviews with chair
  4. Archive website with farewell message expression of appreciation to advisory group, co-chairs and MOEJ



To begin his facilitation for the discussion, Dr. Supat expressed his sadness to face the phase-down of the ACP since he served as a co-chair from the beginning and observed the progress of the ACP for the last 15 years. He also emphasised that, as of now, the wording of co-benefits has spread far and wide and ACP's contribution to the success of co-benefits concept should be appreciated. Before opening the discussion, one of the suggestions for the last Newsletter, he recommended to include interviewing Prof. Katsunori Suzuki, the former co-chair.

Mr. Duggal of ADB also shared his sincere appreciation and commendation for the great work the ACP has been able to accomplish. He would like to place on record the very useful inputs that ADB received while finalising its methodology for assessing and reporting the sustainable development impacts in a quantified manner. The partnership has brought about a good amount of intellectual wealth to many practitioners in this sphere as well as given huge directional support to take it forward. Next fiscal year he suggested that he would contribute to the ACP moving forward including the designed publication to be scaled up and also perpetuated. He expected the next stage should not die out the discussion but go forward from here and expand the number of participants able to contribute to work on the assessment and reporting of sustainable development impacts or co-benefits. Since the ACP made a very good beginning with this collaboration, it needs to go forward over and beyond this partnership and across regions and the members who have been contributing to the ACP have a lot to offer for further. He strongly recommended this work seek the next level and shared strong commendation and assurance for continued engagement.

Dr. Hicks gave his appreciation to MOEJ and the Secretariat for looking after the ACP over the years and agreed that the ACP's progress had been achieved and said the word 'graduation' would be an appropriate one. He believes the strongest part the ACP created is the network and that would last for long. He highlighted that the ACP could keep maintaining progress and carrying on with the work.

The facilitator of the discussion, Dr. Supat, replied the idea of graduation is appropriate since the ACP achieved the objective of the establishment and needed to move to the real world to scale up the concept of co-benefits. So, he proposed to continue to work on it with MOEJ.

Mr. Ittipol Pawarmart of MONRE, Thailand, apologised above all for his late attendance of the meeting due to the urgent gathering for the particulate matter (PM) situation in Bangkok. He shared his appreciation to MOEJ, IGES, and all the key members of ACP as well as Dr. Supat who introduced this platform to him to learn co-benefits. He showed his belief the ACP was in success to spread the co-benefits concept to the government sector, private sector and Cabinet Secretary as well.

After hearing all the feedback from the Advisory Group members, Ms. Yasuda of MOEJ raised a question of how many times members have used or heard the co-benefits approach since the MOEJ is wondering whether to continue to support this approach or not. She argued that the ACP is already has existed for 15 years and this is no longer the time for co-benefits but for multi-benefits and synergistic approach. The graduation of the ACP is reasonable and there is a strong need to consider how to make harmonised or strategic terminology. Her personal comment was given by saying a farewell ceremony like this such as the last paper, last setup is unnecessary. The BAQ next year in February should be the gathering for the members to help support and that would also enable for continued networking. Mentioning goodbye types of ceremony happening today is negative; instead, this time should be given to discuss future approaches i.e. synergistic approach. For budgetary reasons, MOEJ would be difficult to continue funding but the year should be spent to generate productive and fruitful ideas in a positive way. Regarding the interview of the former co-chair Prof. Suzuki, it is acceptable but she noted that the ACP is not a

attributable to a single person; if there is to be expression of appreciation for the ACP, it should be for the MOEJ.

To respond Ms. Yasuda's several questions, Dr. Supat invited members' responses. Mr. Ittipol of MONRE answered the first question particularly with the case from Thailand. When he first participated in the ACP 10 years ago, it was the time start to learn the concept of co-benefits and at the moment he collaborates with other relevant ministries i.e. Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Transport and the idea became an important topic in the academic and private sector as well. Hence, in Thailand, the co-benefits approach has helped to make links in policy and practice. He strongly insisted that the co-benefits approach would be taken further with other relevant organisations.

Ms. Yasuda of MOEJ was pleased to hear that the co-benefits approach has been used a lot because it was originally from MOEJ and other international experts. However, she preferred to use multi-benefits that are commonly used by international society, especially for the discussion with UNEP and also synergistic approach was proposed by the Japanese government last year. She proposed, instead of spending time discussing phasing down or graduation of the ACP, writing so many papers, the open discussion during the Japanese fiscal year 2025 on how people consider the co-benefits approach or synergistic approach as Dr. Zusman is a specialist for the synergist approach, this type of the discussion could be more useful. She summarised what future development of the ACP should stop using co-benefits but multi-benefits to meet the current international discussion.

Dr. Zusman of the ACP Secretariat, IGES supported the proposal to contribute global push for synergies, especially in response to the Resolution on Synergies based on the information and materials the ACP developed over the years. He also fully agreed that the synergies focus on multiple benefits as it put a stronger emphasis on dynamic interactions that come from working on multiple benefits across stakeholders and across decision-making processes. Hence, he proposed the materials from the ACP could be used to contribute to that work and probably included a section in the proposed paper about how to move from co-benefits to synergies covering MOEJ's concern as well as global thinking. In terms of the farewell messaging, the terminology was not intended to sound pessimistic. It is meant to share appreciation with members who have given their time and energy to this effort. For the Newsletter interview, having it with the former co-chair would be helpful and also colleagues from the MOEJ that were initially involved in the early discussions of the ACP featured in the Newsletter are welcome.

Ms. Yadusa added her observation once again that there would not be further support from the MOEJ side, but if the ACP could find other funders, the MOEJ has no objection to continuing it. Her clarification was not to stop or graduate the ACP but to develop further with changed terminology since departments in MOEJ intend to move forward with it.

Dr. Supat highlighted again the appreciation to the MOEJ's contributions to support the ACP and the necessary discussion on how to transform after the graduation of the ACP. Then, he invited Ms. Dang Espita-Casanova of Clean Air Asia (CAA) to mention the BAQ next year.

Ms. Dang of CAA shared the plans and activities for the Better Air Quality (BAQ) Conference in the first quarter of 2026. The CAA management has been in discussions with some of the organisations who are envisioned to support the event. She noted that the BAQ continues to be a platform to support not only discussions and policy dialogues but also be an incubator of projects that would support synergistic approaches to air pollution and climate change. It would be good to be a strategic platform for those

discussions and identify concrete mechanisms on how these stakeholders could work together to promote a synergistic approach.

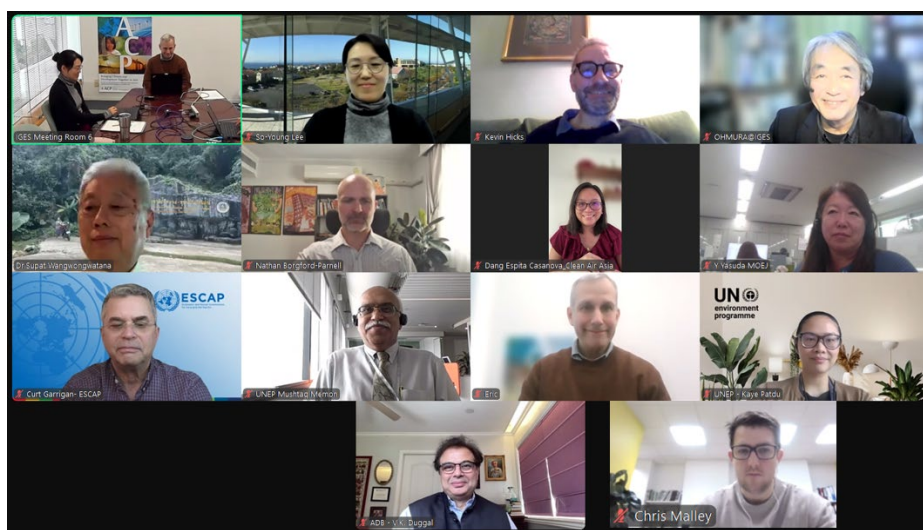
**16:55 - 17:00 (5 minutes)**

**Next Steps and Wrap Up**

After the discussion with all the participants, Dr. Supat wrapped up the meeting, noting the expected activities for the following year: continue to work on the proposed paper on South Asia aims to publish early next year and discuss how to upgrade or update the ACP. And he invited the other co-chair to share the last word.

Mr. Ohmura once again thanked the MOEJ’s support and other members’ contributions. He understood that, without financial support, it would be difficult to maintain the Secretariat to function as it is; however, suggested that the existing partnership built and relationship among organisations should remain not only with the co-benefits focus on air pollution and climate change but also more synergetic approaches. He agreed with the idea that there are other opportunities to discuss future direction on these approaches; for instance, the BAQ in 2026 and look forward to how the network could be utilised for the next agenda. Dr. Supat repeatedly shared his appreciation to MOEJ and members, recalled all the achievements the ACP developed and expectations for the future partnership based on it, and closed the meeting offering his high appreciation to the participants for their contributions and wished all well.

**Meeting Photo**



**Meeting Agenda**

**15<sup>th</sup> Asian Co-benefits Partnership Advisory Group Meeting**  
**27 January 2025 15:00-17:00 (JST)**  
Virtual via Zoom

15:00 – 15:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Opening and introduction</b></li> <li>1) Opening remarks: <i>Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura</i></li> <li>2) Objective of the meeting: <i>ACP Secretariat, IGES</i></li> <li>3) Self-introduction by participants &amp; Group photo</li> </ul>
15:10 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b><u>Discussion 1: Working Paper on Recent Trends in Co-benefits Research and Policy (India/South Asia Focus)</u></b></li> <li><i>Facilitator: Co-chair, Mr. Takashi Ohmura</i></li> <li>1) Overview: Eric Zusman, IGES</li> <li>2) Updates on Work on Co-benefits in India/South Asia</li> <li>3) Feedback</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b><u>Discussion 2: Update Work Plan</u></b></li> <li><i>Facilitator: Co-chair, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana</i></li> <li>1) Achievement and Prospects of Work Plan</li> <li>2) Achievement of ACP &amp; Discussion on the future ACP</li> </ul>
16:55 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Wrap up</b></li> <li><i>Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, ACP Secretariat</i></li> <li>Summary of discussion</li> </ul>

### **Meeting Participants**

	Organisation	Name	Title, Division
1	Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN	Yumi Yasuda	Deputy Director, International Cooperation Office, Environmental Management Bureau
2	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, THAILAND	Ittipol Pawarmart	Head of Automotive Emission Laboratory, Air Quality and Noise Management Bureau
3	<b>[Co-chair]</b> Thammasat University	Supat Wangwongwatana	Senior Expert, Faculty of Public Health
4	<b>[Co-chair]</b> OECC/IGES	Takashi Ohmura	Senior Fellow
5	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Virender Kumar Duggal	Principal Climate Change Specialist
6	Clean Air Asia (CAA)	Dang Espita-Casanova	Programme Manager
7	Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)	Nathan Borgford-Parnell	Scientific Advisory Panel & Science Affairs Coordinator
8	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	Kevin Hicks	Senior Research Fellow
9	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	Chris Malley	Senior Research Fellow
10	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	Mushtaq Memon	Regional Coordinator for Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme
11	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	Kaye Patdu	APCAP Coordinator
12	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)	Curt Garrigan	Chief, Environment and Development Division

ACP Secretariat		
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Eric Zusman	Research Leader
	So-Young Lee	Research Manager
	Ayako Hongo	Senior Programme Coordinator



## **Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) 15th Advisory Group Meeting - Meeting Summary**

### **Acknowledgements**

This proceeding is the summary of main discussions of the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) 15th Advisory Group Meeting held on 27 January 2025 via Zoom. The Secretariat appreciates all the active supports and participation of the Advisory Group members, as well as financial support from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

The Secretariat for the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP), January 2025

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