

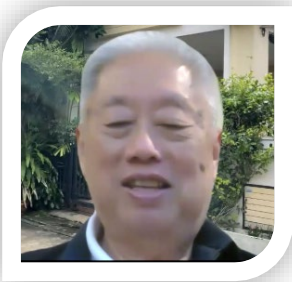
The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The ACP was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental co-benefits into decision-making processes in Asia. Learn more about us at our website. <http://www.cobenefit.org/>



Highlights

The ACP is graduating but friends of co-benefits will continue to grow

Co-chairs interview



Supat Wangwongwatana
Senior Expert
Thammasat University



Takashi Ohmura
Senior Fellow
IGES

As this Newsletter marks the last edition produced by the Secretariat, we took the opportunity to interview the ACP co-chairs. The interview comes with sad news that Mr. Takashi Ohmura passed away before the newsletter's publication. Given his lifelong dedication to sustainable future for all, we believe that Mr. Ohmura would appreciate that his final thoughts on co-benefits are shared far and wide.

In your view, what have been the greatest achievements of the ACP since it was founded in 2009?

Dr. Supat recalled that in 2009, when he worked with Professor Katsunori Suzuki to establish the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP), there was virtually no discussion of co-benefits, particularly in Asia. Since then, the ACP has played a significant role in promoting the concept. Today, co-benefits are widely recognised and discussed in many different policy areas.

He noted that the concept has evolved beyond simple "co-benefits" toward what is increasingly described as "multiple benefits." With this broader framing, the concept now extends beyond air pollution and climate change to areas such as solid waste management. For example, sanitary landfills can reduce methane emissions while generating energy for power production. This illustrates how well-designed policies can produce multiple, reinforcing benefits rather than a one-to-one outcome.

Dr. Supat emphasised that this shift in mindset—from single-objective policymaking to recognising multiple benefits—is one of the ACP's greatest achievements. Compared to 2009, when the concept was largely

unrecognised, co-benefits are now widely acknowledged, not only in Asia but globally.

Mr. Ohmura added that after joining as co-chair, he came to appreciate the ACP's strong network of stakeholders and practitioners. In fact, the ACP created a collaborative platform that has enabled the exchange of practical experiences and forward-looking discussions. The strength of this network and its sustained knowledge-sharing is, in his view, another major achievement of the ACP.

What else needs to be done to carry forward the ACP's vision of mainstreaming co-benefits in policymaking processes across Asia over the next decade?

Dr. Supat observed that one key challenge is that the application of the co-benefit concept remains largely voluntary. Countries may choose whether to incorporate it into policymaking to demonstrate the broader value of policies, but it is not systematically required in formal policy development. This voluntary nature creates gaps in integration and implementation.

To address this, he suggested that co-benefits should be embedded as a guiding principle within international conventions. Moving beyond voluntary

encouragement toward more formalised requirements would strengthen integration. Even within initiatives such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the application of co-benefits remains largely voluntary. Incorporating the concept into legally binding frameworks—such as international climate agreements—could significantly enhance its practical application and mainstreaming.

Mr. Ohmura pointed out that while many stakeholders now recognise the importance of co-benefits, their integration into financing decisions remains limited. One major barrier is the lack of concrete mechanisms to quantitatively assess and compare co-benefits alongside other policy objectives. As a result, co-benefits are often acknowledged rhetorically but not systematically reflected in decision-making.

He emphasised the need to develop concrete mechanisms that move beyond qualitative descriptions toward quantitative evaluation. Such mechanisms should allow co-benefits to be clearly incorporated into financing and investment decisions. At present, very few governments have institutionalised such approaches. He suggested that leading agencies could take the initiative to adopt and demonstrate robust quantitative methodologies.

While the ACP's collection of good practice examples is an important knowledge-sharing contribution, the next step is to identify, refine, and promote practical mechanisms that enable evidence-based, quantitative assessment. Learning from pioneering cases will be essential to mainstreaming co-benefits in a systematic and durable manner.

Dr. Supat agreed, adding that making the consideration of co-benefits a mandatory condition for financing projects would ensure that project proposals explicitly address multiple benefits. This would require applicants to integrate co-benefits into

project design from the outset. Such measures—whether legal, financial, or institutional—could significantly accelerate mainstreaming efforts.

What is your fondest recollection during your time as co-chair of the ACP?

Dr. Supat highlighted his close collaboration with the ACP Secretariat as one of his most meaningful experiences. Although the work of promoting co-benefits and supporting the Advisory Group was often challenging, it was also deeply rewarding. He particularly valued the opportunity to engage with diverse stakeholders, including representatives from the private sector, international organisations, and countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines. Non-governmental organisations, including Clean Air Asia, also played an important role in advancing the co-benefits agenda.

He also underscored the importance of the ACP White Papers, which have been issued regularly in recent years. These publications are significant because they present concrete, real-world examples of co-benefits in practice. Drawing on contributions from both the Secretariat and Advisory Group members, the White Papers demonstrate the tangible impacts and broad relevance of the co-benefits approach.

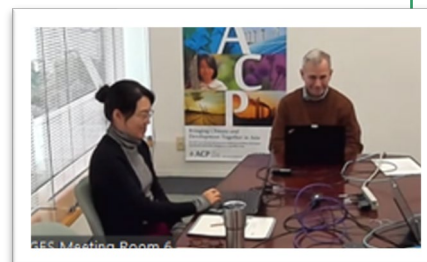
Mr. Ohmura reflected on the strong sense of partnership among Advisory Group members, even during challenging periods for the ACP. Representing their respective agencies, members led work on climate change and co-benefits within their own domains while engaging in productive exchanges and collaborative efforts at the ACP level. He described the cooperation among all members of Advisory Group members and the Secretariat as both fruitful and personally rewarding. Their shared commitment earned them the informal title 'Friends of Co-benefits,' a memory he regards with great pride.



Announcement

Farewell message from the ACP Secretariat

The ACP Secretariat would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the ongoing support from our partners. As we conclude the activities of the ACP Secretariat, we have archived the ACP website, which can be accessed at <http://cobenefit.iges.jp>. We would also like to extend our gratitude for the contributions from the advisory group and the generous support from the Ministry of Environment Japan over the past 15 years. While this marks the end of the ACP as an active network, we look forward to continuing to grow friends of co-benefits into the future.



Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) Secretariat
The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan
✉ [acp\[at\]iges.or.jp](mailto:acp[at]iges.or.jp) ☎ +81-(0)46-855-3709
Copyright © 2015 Asian Co-benefits Partnership. All rights reserved.

 **ACP Website**
<http://www.cobenefit.org/>

IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies


Ministry of the Environment