

**PROMOTING AIR POLLUTION ASSESSMENT AND REGIONAL  
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA THROUGH THE RAPIDC  
PROGRAMME**

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Air pollution is now an important and growing problem in South Asia and southern Africa. Projections indicate that air pollution emissions will continue to increase in developing country regions if current development patterns persist. In all regions policy makers require relevant information on air pollution issues to understand the risks of impacts and the benefits of taking action. This paper describes activities that have been carried out by the Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC) programme in South Asia, Southern Africa and internationally to provide relevant scientific information as a basis for promoting action on air pollution issues. Activities include: emission inventory preparation; atmospheric transfer modelling; networks for deposition measurements; integrated assessment modelling; rapid urban assessment; studies on health, corrosion, crop and forest and acidification of soil impacts; and regional multi stakeholder meetings to enhance regional co-operation. The results of the activities over the last 5 years are described. The relevance of RAPIDC activities to the policy processes such as 'the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia' and the draft 'Maputo Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution in Southern Africa and its likely Transboundary Effects' is discussed.