

DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN CITIES IN ASIA

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The Air Pollution in the Megacities of Asia (APMA) project within the Clean Air Initiative Asia has endeavoured to develop a Strategic Framework on Air Quality Management in Cities in Asia. This framework addresses all stakeholders involved in air quality with the aim to strengthen awareness of the challenges in air quality in Asia and to propose ideas on how to tackle them. It is based on a set of guiding principles, which include precautionary and polluter pays principles, sustainability, stakeholder commitment, application of best practices, cost-effectiveness, risk awareness, and access to environmental information. Challenges in air quality management in Asia include government commitment; stakeholder participation; weakness in legislation and regulations; deficiencies in emissions data; lack of source apportionment, emission standards not reflecting best technical practice; lack of quality-assured, harmonised, spatially representative monitoring; ignorance on the magnitude of transboundary air pollution; lack of low cost and effective alternative technologies; ignorance of the impact of air pollution on public health and the environment; and availability of funding. These challenges and the key barriers to the adoption and implementation of effective air quality management have been addressed in the Strategic Framework and recommendations have been given to resolve the challenges and overcome the barriers. The Strategic Framework is intended to help countries and cities in Asia to develop and/or improve their actions in preventing further deterioration of air quality.