

**THE MALÉ DECLARATION: REGIONAL CO-OPERATION ASSESSING AND TACKLING  
AIR POLLUTION IN SOUTH ASIA**

**S. Shrestha<sup>1</sup>, I. Mylvakanam<sup>1</sup>, M. Elahi<sup>2</sup>, P.K. Kotta<sup>2</sup>, J.C.I. Kuylensstierna<sup>3</sup>, W.K. Hicks<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*UNEP RRC-AP, Pathumthani, Thailand*

<sup>2</sup>*Sacep, Colombo, Sri Lanka*

<sup>3</sup>*Stockholm Environment Institute-York, University of York, York, UK*

The UN-ECE Convention on LTRTAP has shown that regional collaboration by countries sharing air pollution problems has been a crucial part in tackling Europe's air pollution problems. The South Asian region has also realised that it needs to tackle its air pollution through regional cooperation and therefore eight countries have agreed to collaborate through the 'Malé Declaration on the Control and Prevention of Air Pollution in South Asia and its Likely Transboundary Effects' which was agreed in 1998. Implementation of the Malé Declaration has been on-going, building up the scientific activities required for an assessment of the regional air pollution problems. This includes the monitoring of regional air pollution at one site in each country and the preparation of common manuals for monitoring, emission inventories and impact assessment. This paper will review progress and outline the challenges facing the region.