

**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

### Webinar: Co-benefits Workshop for Mongolia Quantifying and Integrating Co-benefits into Policies

In previous Asian Co-benefits Partnership newsletters, the secretariat interviewed a leading thinker or practitioner who would offer their insights into advancing co-benefits in Asia. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many virtual meetings have been organised on themes related to the virus and its impact on the environment. In this newsletter, rather than an interview, the secretariat shares recent results from a webinar workshop on co-benefits along with a brief note from the organiser in Mongolia. Visit the recorded webinar at: [www.cobenefit.org](http://www.cobenefit.org)

The webinar workshop, entitled *A Co-benefits Workshop for Mongolia: Quantifying and Integrating Co-benefits and Short-Lived Climate Pollutants into Policies*, was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October and organised by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the Ministry of Environment Japan (MOEJ) and Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) along with the co-organisers of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Clean Air Asia (CAA), ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Climate Change Development (CCD) Academy Mongolia.

This is the first of three co-benefits workshops for Mongolia scheduled between October 2020 and February 2021. The series of workshops are designed to build the capacities of policymakers and researchers in Mongolia to understand and estimate the co-benefits from linking air pollution and climate change policies. The motivation for these workshops is that many policymakers are seeking knowledge and tools needed to identify, quantify and integrate co-benefits into their decisions.

The workshop consisted of presentations and dialogues with representatives from Mongolia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), National Development Agency, Ministry of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) as well as the Erdenet and Ulaanbaatar city governments. Participants from Mongolia gathered at ARC while international participants joined the meeting virtually.

This initial workshop in this three-part workshop series

had four goals:

1. demonstrate what are the co-benefits from air pollution, climate change and other relevant policies and practices in Mongolia;
2. acquire insights on the methods and tools for quantifying these co-benefits;
3. identify institutional structures and enabling reforms that can help achieve these co-benefits; and
4. discuss how the material from the workshop could strengthen climate change and air quality planning in Mongolia.

Mr. Batjargal Zamba, Special Envoy on Climate Change and the Mongolian national focal point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) welcomed participants with his opening remarks; then, the first session on the Introduction of Co-benefits and Related Activities in Mongolia was filled with general overview, Mongolian specific view and the support from the international donor. Mr. Eric Zusman, Research Director from Centre for Sustainability Governance at IGES introduced overview and shared the latest research on potential links between climate change, air pollution and short-lived climate pollutants. Mr. Damdin Davgadorj, CCD Academy Mongolia provided an overview of potential areas for aligning air pollution and climate change mitigation in Mongolia, drawing upon recent research on short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). This was followed by a presentation from Ms. Bulganmurun Tsevegjav, Air Quality Specialist,

ADB that highlighted technical assistance that is supporting cities in the design of on clean air plans in Mongolia and four other countries.

The second part of the webinar focused specifically on the air pollution and climate change policies of Mongolia. Ms. Gantuya Ganbat from the National Committee on Air Pollution, MET shared an overview of Mongolian air quality plans intended to reduce air pollution levels by 80% by 2025 based on The National Programme on Air and Environmental Pollution.

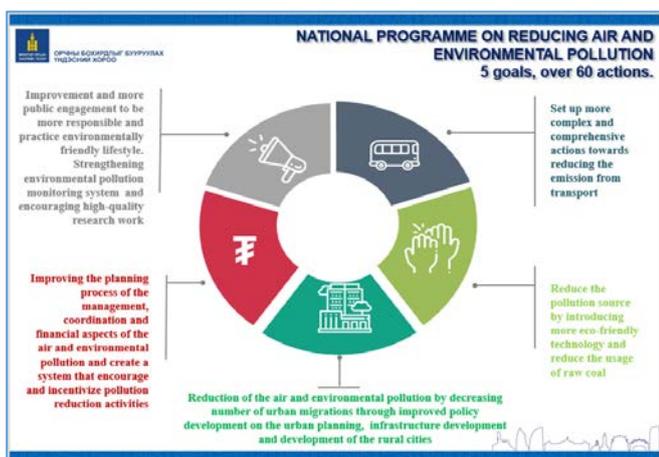
Ms. Anand Tsogt, Senior Officer of Climate Change Department, MET then provided an overview of Mongolia's climate plans. She noted that one of the keys

to these plans is establishing a national green financial system to promote environmentally friendly, efficient and clean technology.

Mr. Ts. Tsolmon, Head of Department for Fighting against Air Pollution, Ulaanbaatar City Government shared the ambitious provisions in air quality planning in Ulaanbaatar, highlighting recent efforts to prohibit the burning of low quality coal.

The final section of the webinar workshop consisted of presentations on quantifying co-benefits in Mongolia. Mr. Hooman Farzaneh, Professor at Kyushu University introduced an Excel based co-benefits assessment tool for Heat Only Boilers; participants will used this assessment tool in the second and third parts of the workshop series. Mr. Chris Malley, Senior Research Fellow, SEI presented research on The Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning – Integrated Benefits Calculator (LEAP-IBC) co-benefits assessment tool that suggests further actions in sectors and at sub-national scale. Ms. Dang Espita, Programme Manager, CAA shared its implementing cases of the co-benefits quantification tools in the Philippines and China.

Mr. Toshiyuki Yamasaki, Director of the International Cooperation Office, MOEJ and Ms. Karma Yangzom, Principal Environment Specialist, ADB closed the webinar by noting their appreciation for the on-going and planned activities in Mongolia.



### Note from the Co-Organiser in Mongolia



Mr. Damdin Davgadorj, Managing Director, CCD Academy Mongolia:

The workshop enabled 20 attendees from government ministries and agencies, local governments, universities, research institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Mongolia 1) to gain valuable information on the concept of co-benefits; and 2) how that concept could be used to enhance local and national policy decisions.

Participants not only showed significant interest in specific project-based co-benefits tools (i.e. excel based co-benefits assessment tool for heat only boilers) but how they worked with policy-based co-benefits tools (i.e. LEAP). Another area of interest moving forward is how the tools work within actual decision-making processes. Integration between tools and integration within decisions are areas we are eager to explore in future workshops.