

ESCAP Workshop on strengthening national policies for improving water use and limit water pollution in key industrial sectors in Asia

Thursday February 21, 2019

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Background

Though the manufacturing sector has been a driver of growth in Asia, it is also the source of critical environmental problems in the region, including the surge of water resource and water pollution. Estimates suggest that the industrial sector of the region will see the largest increase (of 65%) in water use by 2030 compared to other sectors in the economy¹. A recent study indicates also that “projected growth and climate change in the next 35 years in Asia would lead to about 1 billion more people becoming water-stressed”, underscoring the extent to which “industrial expansion and population growth exacerbate water-access problems in Asia”². To meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and particularly SDG 6 related targets on improving water quality and water use efficiency, SDG 12 and related targets on Sustainable Consumption and Production, it is critical to limit adverse effects of industrialization on the environment.

The industrial sector in Asia is poised to undergo vast transformations due to major economies such as China envisioning a transition from an industrial to a more service-oriented/high-technology economies. This would entail a migration of labor and resource intensive manufacturing industries within the region, leading to significant expansion of manufacturing sector in many developing countries of the region. The projected south-south movement of industries calls for south-south learning on policy approaches to mitigate the environmental impacts of industrialisation.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)’s mandate is to foster a development pathway that integrates the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainability, with a more efficient management of natural resources and a natural environment that supports human well-being and shared prosperity in both urban and rural Asia and the Pacific.

¹ ADB (2016) Asian Water Development Outlook,

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/189411/awdo-2016.pdf>

² MIT News (2016), Water problems in Asia’s future, <http://news.mit.edu/2016/water-problems-asia-0330>

This specific workshop aims at strengthening the national capacity in developing countries to design environmental policies for improving water use and limit water pollution in key industrial sectors through developing regional networks for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and good practices. It aims to support governments to produce sound and inclusive environmental policy on natural resource management and pollution reduction, as reflected by the [Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific](#), the [Ministerial Declaration of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development](#) and the outcome of the [5th ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development](#).

Outcomes:

The workshop will focus on policy-relevant analytical products, capacity building, south-south and triangular cooperation. Further, it will analyse key lessons from policy experience of China and allow for sharing of best practices in policy across the region focusing on industries with high water use and pollution potential, in order to highlight the effective policy responses to industrial water pollution.

Objectives:

The objective of this session is to strengthen national capacities to design policies for improving water use and limit water pollution in key industrial sectors.

This workshop aims to:

- a) Explore known challenges and identify solutions for water use and pollution control in the industrial sector;
- b) Share and explore valuable lessons learned and best practices in policy; and
- c) Explore and identify ways to promote inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder environmental management .

Expected Outputs:

- a) Review of existing policies in the region to limit water use and pollution in industrial sectors and identify challenges and opportunities to improve the design and implementation of such policies;
- b) Enhanced understanding of national capacity, legal frameworks, tools, political culture, and other variables, including technology and innovation ecosystems, relevant to water use and pollution control and
- c) Reviewed operational strategies to create synergies and leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships through capacity building to strengthen existing environmental management and pollution control initiatives.

Participants:

The workshop will bring together government officials and non-governmental stakeholders from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Pakistan and Vietnam, policy experts from China, relevant sustainable development partners, environmental and pollution control experts, as well as United Nations partners to review innovative environmental management and pollution control policies and initiatives, as well as to discuss challenges and opportunities of building, strengthening and sustaining environmental priorities for the SDGs.

Preparation for the workshop

- a) Participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Pakistan and Vietnam : Participants are encouraged to collect information on notable government initiatives by your home government *or* notable research on the current approaches to limit water use and pollution in industrial sector, in preparation for round table talks with your peers, to discuss and exchange lessons and best practices. ESCAP will share background research produced for each country to start this discussion.
- b) Resource people: You are requested to collect information on best practices, lessons learned from current policy approaches and available support for developing and implementing policies to sustainably manage water pollution from industries. Such information may be requested to be presented through short presentations (5-10 minutes) as well as during the various interactive sessions during the workshop.

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