

Event Highlights

Introduction

The greater Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei (BTH) region is one of the most important and dynamic regions in the People’s Republic of China (PRC), contributing to almost one-third of the country’s GDP. However, it is also the country’s worst-polluted region. Ten most polluted cities in 2017 are all in the greater BTH region.

The Government of the PRC has been implementing comprehensive action plans on air pollution prevention and control, which has resulted in the continuous improvement of air quality in the region. ADB participated in the efforts through a multiyear, multisector support program for air quality improvement in this region from 2015–2020 and a number of technical assistance projects. The first loan focused on reforming policy and strengthening regulatory capacity in Hebei Province. The second loan targeted better access to finance, especially for small and medium sized-enterprises. The third loan aimed to deploy advanced technologies in large emitters in agriculture, energy, transport, and urban sectors. The 2018 loan supported a clean heating and cooling project in Shandong Province by integrating various clean and renewable energy technologies for district and distributed heating and cooling systems.

In order to share the (i) lessons learned and good practices from ADB’s BTH program, (ii) analytical research on the air quality related issues, (iii) technology and financial innovations for air quality improvement, and (iv) policy and regulatory development on air quality improvement, the Workshop on Air Quality Improvement in the Greater BTH region was held in Beijing on 6–7 November 2018.

Around 120 participants from provincial/municipal Development and Reform Commissions, Finance Bureaus and Environmental Protection Bureaus, SOEs, domestic and international consulting firms, financial institutions, SMEs, universities and research organizations, and EAs/IAs attended the Workshop. Officials from National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Ecology and Environment opened the Workshop. Representatives from Mongolia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, and Vietnam, who are facing similar air quality issues also joined the workshop. Representatives from AIIB and KfW shared their experience in using market-based approach for air quality improvement in Beijing and financing climate and environmental protection projects.

Highlights

This workshop provided a platform for information exchanges, learning and cooperation on air quality improvement among the governments, enterprises, research institutions, MDBs, financial institutions and other stakeholders. Feedback from the participants were positive. Similar knowledge sharing events will be organized so that the experience and lessons learned from BTH program can be shared with more people.

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