**Title: Effective Air Quality Management, a Precondition for Clean Air in Asian Cities**


1. **Description of the development challenge**

Seven out of 10 cities in developing Asia have unhealthy levels of air pollution. In 2012, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that outdoor air pollution contributed to 3.7 million premature deaths globally. People's Republic of China (PRC) and India alone accounted for 1.8 million premature deaths. According to the ADB, another 1.1 billion people will move to Asia's cities in the next 20 years and by 2030, more than 55% of the population of Asia will be urban. Ensuring clean air for rapidly growing cities is one of the major urban development challenges for the years to come. A solution to keep air pollution in check is the development of effective air quality management for cities.

2. **How was the challenge solved?**

Effective air quality management does exist and the "Train-for-Clean-Air" (T4CA) Program has been developed to enhance the capacity of city governments to undertake adequate air quality management activities. T4CA is a standardized modular training system that ensures that courses meet quality standards. Currently, its five modules are guides to: (1) establish a strategic framework for air quality management, which describes initiatives within local development and planning processes; (2) monitor air quality to assess the state of the air, ensure compliance to regulations, evaluate these and other control measures towards better air quality data measurement; (3) develop an emissions inventory that enumerates the amount of air pollutants by source and lists them in an emissions database with corresponding regulatory actions and emission trends; (4) raise awareness of the public on the effects of air pollution and benefits of having better air quality; and (5) develop an effective communication strategy to promote better air quality management to the media, civil society groups, and other concerned sectors.

T4CA follows the TRAIN-X methodology, a training approach initiated by UN agencies and other international organizations that ensures adherence to quality standards. It is primarily directed towards smaller cities that have fewer resources to combat air pollution and has been successfully established in selected cities of the Philippines.

3. **What is now better than before?**

"Train-for-Clean-Air" (T4CA) leads to the development of a Clean Air Action Plan that outlines key measures to strengthen air quality management, provides cost estimates, and identifies key actors to ensure successful implementation. The plan is developed in consultation with various stakeholders and reflects results of emissions inventory data and air quality monitoring, and application of the Clean Air Scorecard. The Clean Air Scorecard is developed by Clean Air Asia (http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/Scorecard), an international non-governmental organization.

The T4CA program profits from lessons learned in one city that can be quickly transferred to other cities. Currently the city of IloIlo in the Philippines serves as a case study for success and resource for information and learning in Clean Air Action Plan development not only in the Philippines but also in the larger ASEAN region. T4CA is an excellent opportunity for knowledge and network expansion through and beyond training. Activities that have included a number of cities not only facilitate the sharing of expert knowledge but also foster peer-to-peer learning on all 5 modules: (i) framework development to combat air pollution, (ii) air quality monitoring, (iii) emission inventory development, (iv) public awareness raising, and (v) communication strategy development.

Lessons are numerous since every T4CA workshop includes practitioners from other cities allowing for knowledge exchange in a systematic manner by using the five modules. The Strategic Framework development profited from lessons of cities that had better coordination among agencies in place. Once emission inventories and clean air action plans are developed and priorities are set, resources need to be earmarked in city budgets. Often, examples from other cities serve as important guidance, especially when being introduced through a systematic system that the T4CA program promotes in its modules. Important capacity development gaps are easier identified among successful peers. Bringing air quality management to the attention of important stakeholders and knowledge multipliers was fostered through examples from peer cities in the developing but also in the developed world.

4.   References:

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For more information:
- www.citiesforcleanair.org
- www.cleanairasia.org
- www.baq2014.org

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