

10TH BAQ CONFERENCE | CHANGEMAKER'S FORUM
14 NOVEMBER 2018, KUCHING, MALAYSIA

25 Solutions to Beat Air Pollution in Asia Pacific

Bert Fabian

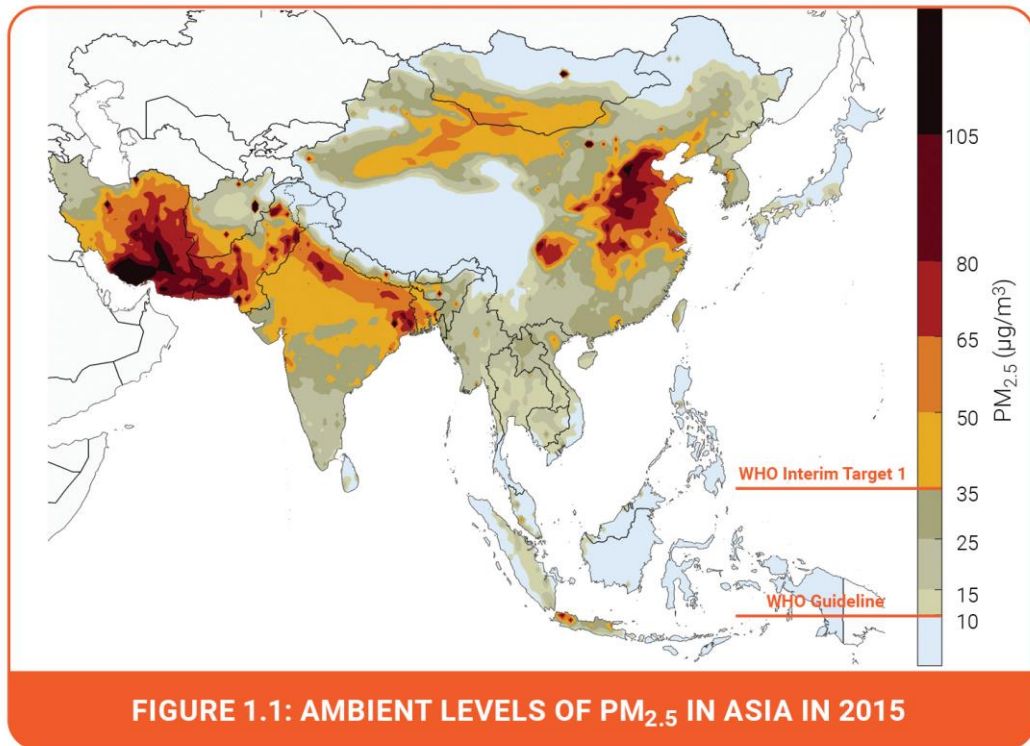
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Air pollution is a serious health crisis across Asia Pacific

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<8% of people in Asia Pacific enjoy clean air

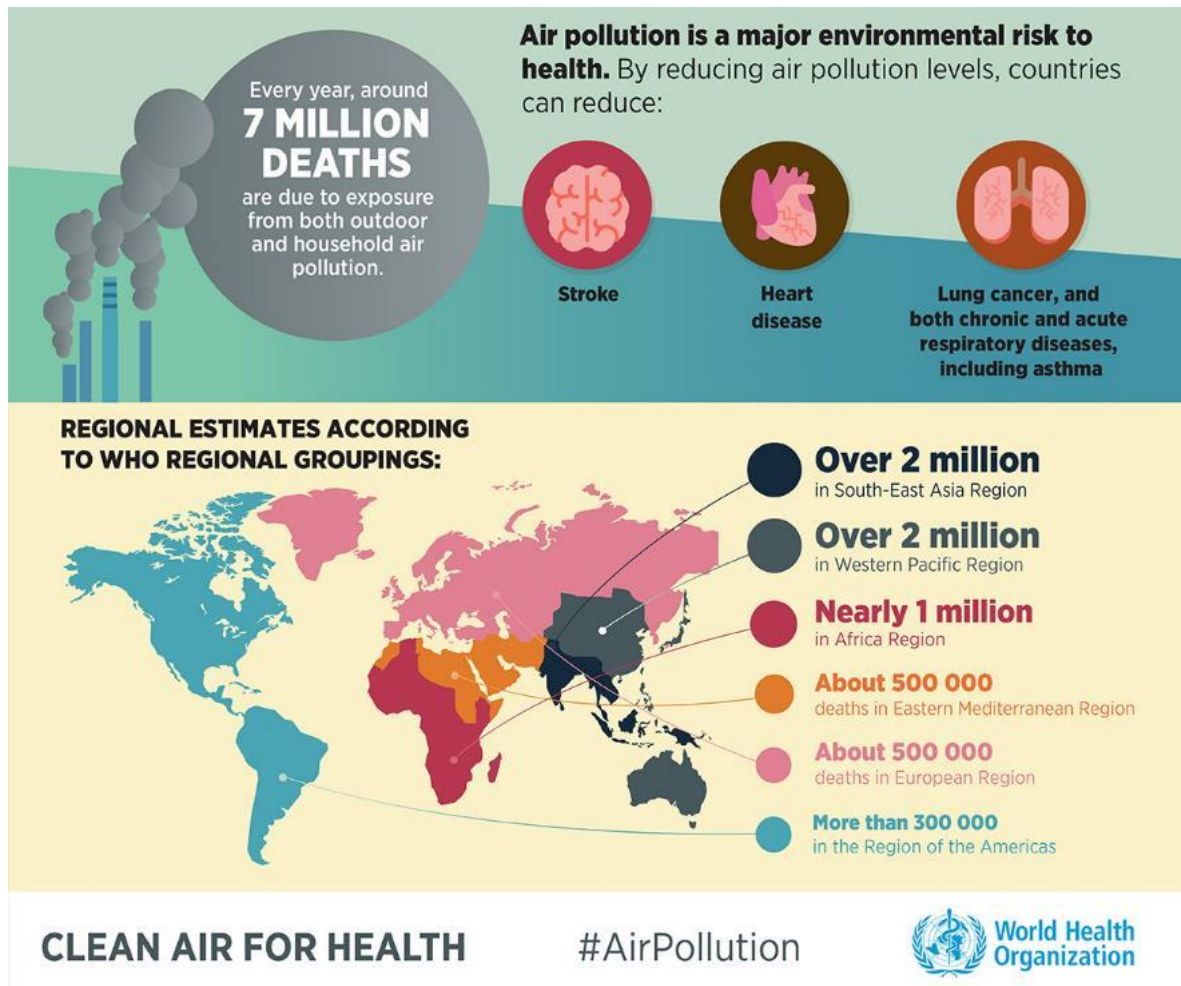
In 2015, 4 billion people were exposed to high levels of air pollution

Highest numbers in South and East Asia

Source: UNEP, (2018) Air Pollution in Asia-Pacific: Science-based Solutions

The Silent Killer

Over **4 million**
premature
deaths in Asia
Pacific



And affecting those
most vulnerable

IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH

A child who is exposed to unsafe levels of pollution can face a lifetime of health impacts. Exposure in the womb or in early childhood can lead to:



Stunted lung growth
Reduced lung function
Increased risk of developing asthma
Acute lower respiratory infections



Impaired mental and motor development
Behavioral disorders



Low birth weight
Premature birth
Infant mortality



Childhood cancers



Increased risk of heart disease, diabetes and stroke in adulthood



IN 2016, AMBIENT AND HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION CAUSED

543,000 deaths
in children under 5 years

52,000 deaths
in children aged 5 -15 years



Household and ambient air pollution cause more than 50% of acute lower respiratory infection in children under 5 years in lower- and middle-income countries.

CLEAN AIR FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

#AirPollution



Growing scientific evidence on health impacts

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There is growing evidence that air pollution could be linked to:

1. Adverse birth outcomes, e.g., preterm birth, congenital abnormalities (PM, O3, SO2);
2. Impairment of cognitive functions in adults e.g., Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and neurodevelopmental anomalies in children (PM2.5, O3)
3. Diabetes (PM2.5)

TheScientist
EXPLORING LIFE, INSPIRING INNOVATION

NEWS & OPINION MAGAZINE SUBJECTS N

Air Pollution Linked to Decline in Cognitive Performance

A study compares verbal and math test scores to air quality measurements in China and finds a correlation.

Aug 28, 2018
SHAWNA WILLIAMS



Higher air pollution levels are linked to lower math and verbal test scores, according to a study of more than 25,000 people living throughout China. The analysis, which appeared yesterday (August 27) in *PNAS*, correlated test scores collected in a longitudinal study with official air pollution data to see how poor air quality was related to the same subjects' performance over time.

ABOVE: ISTOCK,
GRIGOREV_VLADIMIR

The research team, led by Xiaobo Zhang of Peking University, found that exposure to increased levels of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulates smaller than 10 µm (PM10) were tied to lower verbal test scores (math scores to a lesser extent, and only when people were exposed for weeks or more). Exposure over longer periods of time correlated with larger drops in performance, and the effects were most

Source: REVIHAAP Project Technical Report, WHO European Region, 2013, Prof. TW Wong Presentation, School of Public Health and Primary Care The Chinese University of Hong Kong Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Global Call to Action on Air Quality: UN Environment Assembly

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- Highest-level decision-making body on the environment; universal membership of 193 UN Member States
- Involvement of UN organizations, specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector



1st UNEA 2014:

Resolution 1/7 Strengthening UN Environment's role in promoting air quality

3rd UNEA 2017:

'Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally'

*"Air pollution: **top priority requiring immediate action.**
Member countries requested UN Environment to support national and local efforts in addressing air pollution issues"*

UNEA 3 RESOLUTION: Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally

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CONTINUE ACTION FROM UNEA-1

Recall UNEA 1 Air Quality Resolution 1/7 (para 1)

MEMBER STATE ACTION

Specific initiatives e.g. CCAC
Specific issues e.g. PM_{2.5}, BC, CH₄
Specific sectors e.g. transport, energy

REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Share knowledge at regional level (para 5)
Asia Pacific: APCAP

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Inter-Governmental and institutional cooperation (para 6)

UN ENVIRONMENT ACTION

Transport; Transboundary, Info sharing, Country support and technical support, Assessments, Indoor air quality, Global approaches, Second global policy assessment

MONITORING ACTION

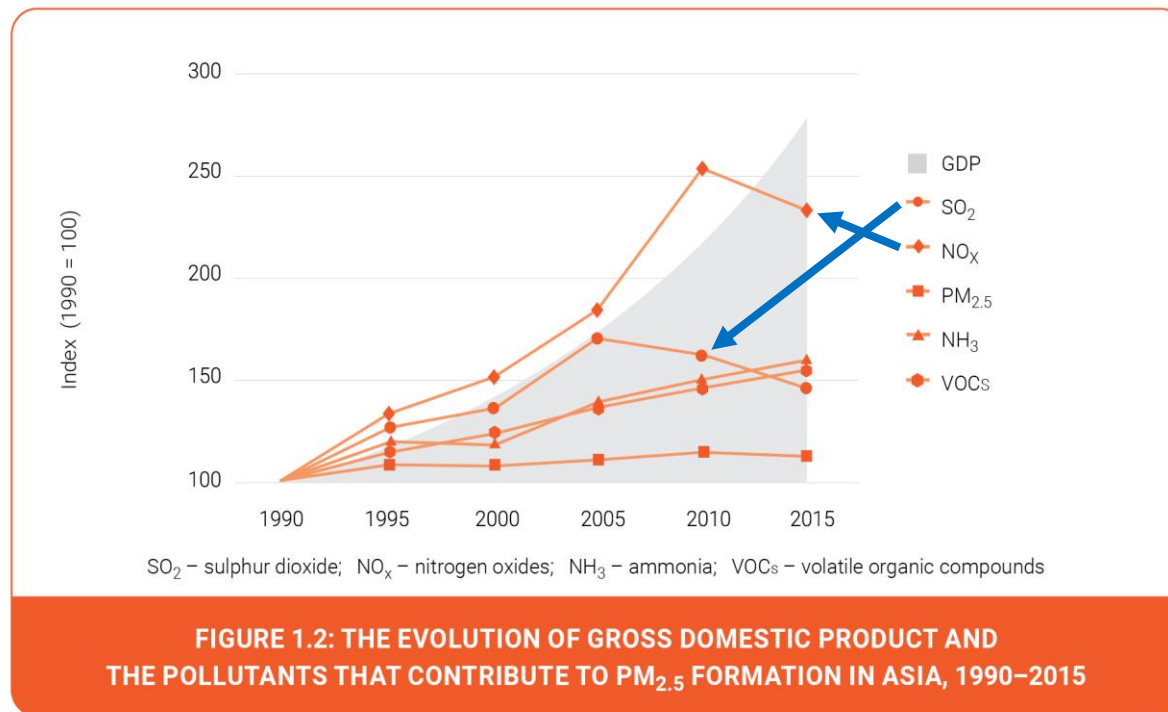
Report back at UNEA-4



<https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/unea3>

Considerable pollution reduction has been achieved

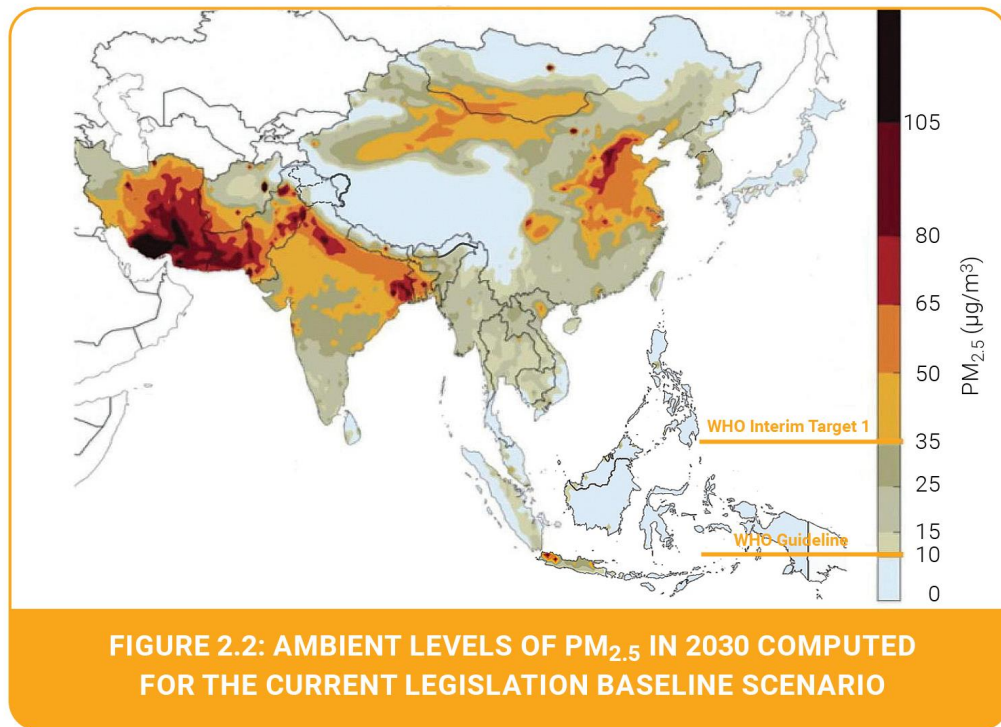
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Current policies have an effect on air quality levels by decoupling emissions from economic growth

Source: UNEP, (2018) Air Pollution in Asia-Pacific: Science-based Solutions

Current policies will avoid further large-scale deterioration but **not achieve** air quality standards



Full scale implementation and 80% expected economic growth forecast could result in no further increase in air pollution while lifting tens of millions out of poverty,

But....

4 billion will remain exposed to health-damaging levels of air pollution

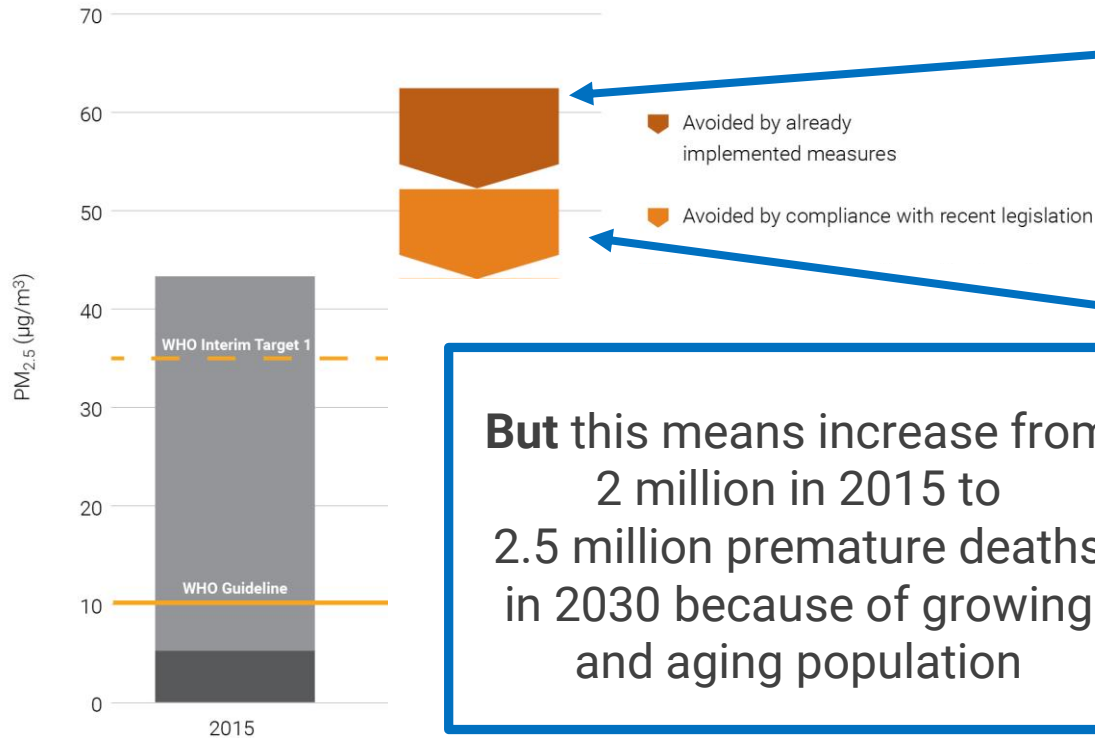


FIGURE 2.3: POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE THREE PORTFOLIOS OF MEASURES TO POPULATION-WEIGHTED MEAN EXPOSURE TO PM_{2.5}

Implemented policies have reduced burden that would have been experienced in 2030

If fully implemented by countries that adopted recent policies, this will reduce exposure in 2030 to the same level as 2015 despite projected 80% economic growth

We need **greater ambition** to reduce health impacts In the next decades

**ASIA-WIDE FULL
APPLICATION OF
CONVENTIONAL
MEASURES**

**NEXT STAGE AIR QUALITY
MEASURES THAT ARE NOT
YET MAJOR COMPONENTS
OF CLEAN AIR POLICIES**

**MEASURES WHICH
CONTRIBUTE TO
DEVELOPMENT
PRIORITIES WITH AIR
QUALITY BENEFITS**

Looking for measures that

- Lead to largest reduction in population exposed to PM_{2.5}
- Plus methane measures to reduce tropospheric ozone
- And HFCs which reduce near-term warming

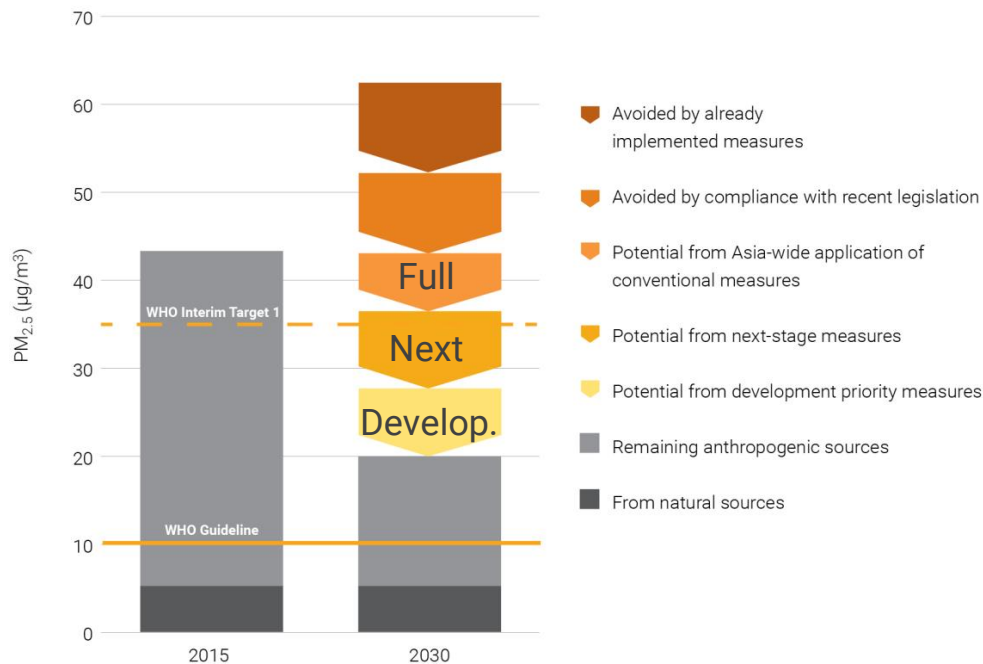


FIGURE 2.3: POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE THREE PORTFOLIOS OF MEASURES TO POPULATION-WEIGHTED MEAN EXPOSURE TO $PM_{2.5}$

Top clean air 25 measures will provide clean air [$<10 \mu g m^{-3}$] to 1 billion people in 2030

And reduce number of people facing the highest WHO Interim Target ($35 \mu g m^{-3}$) by 80%

Source: UNEP, (2018) Air Pollution in Asia-Pacific: Science-based Solutions

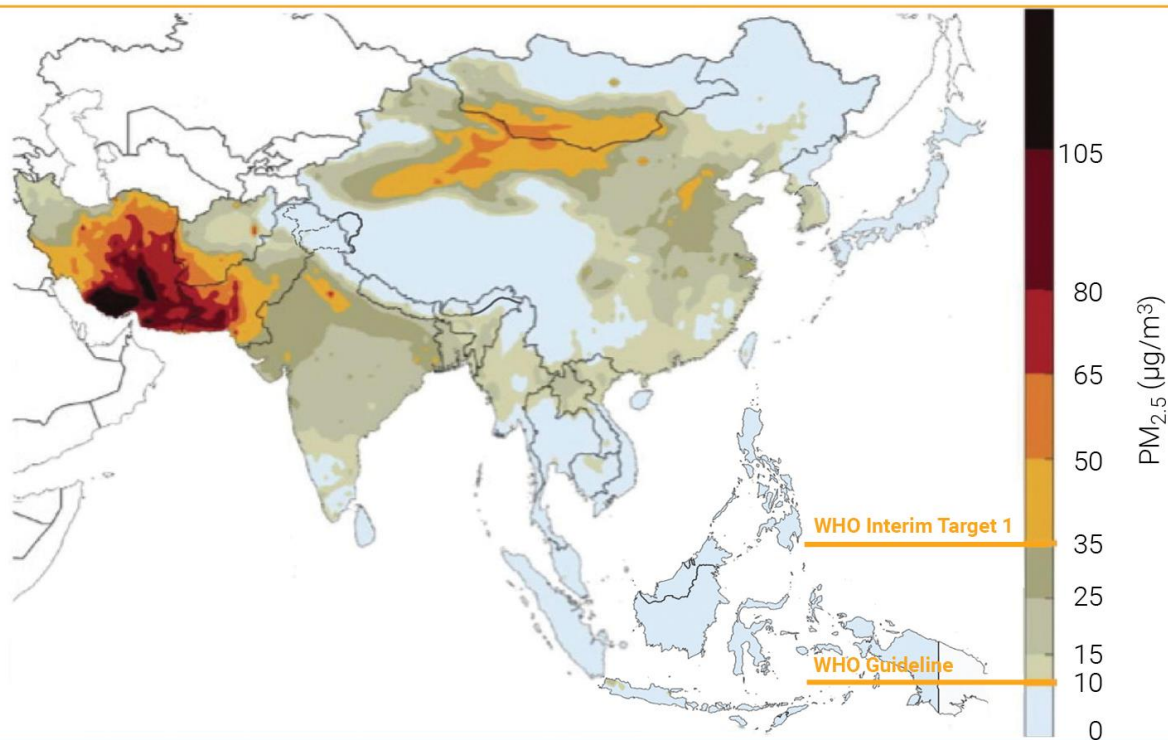


FIGURE 2.5: $PM_{2.5}$ CONCENTRATIONS IN 2030 AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOP 25 CLEAN AIR MEASURES

$PM_{2.5}$ after
implementation of
the Top 25 Measures

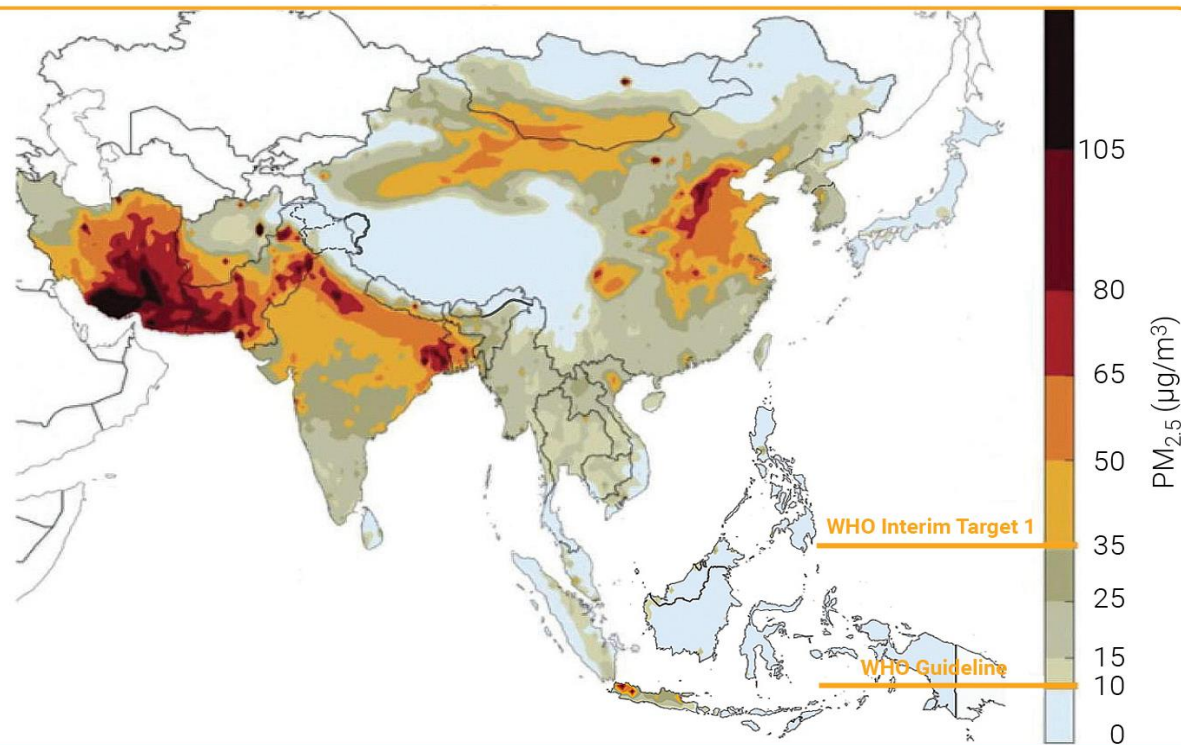


FIGURE 2.2: AMBIENT LEVELS OF PM_{2.5} IN 2030 COMPUTED FOR THE CURRENT LEGISLATION BASELINE SCENARIO

.....compared to the baseline

.....a big improvement!

Helping achieve sustainable development goals

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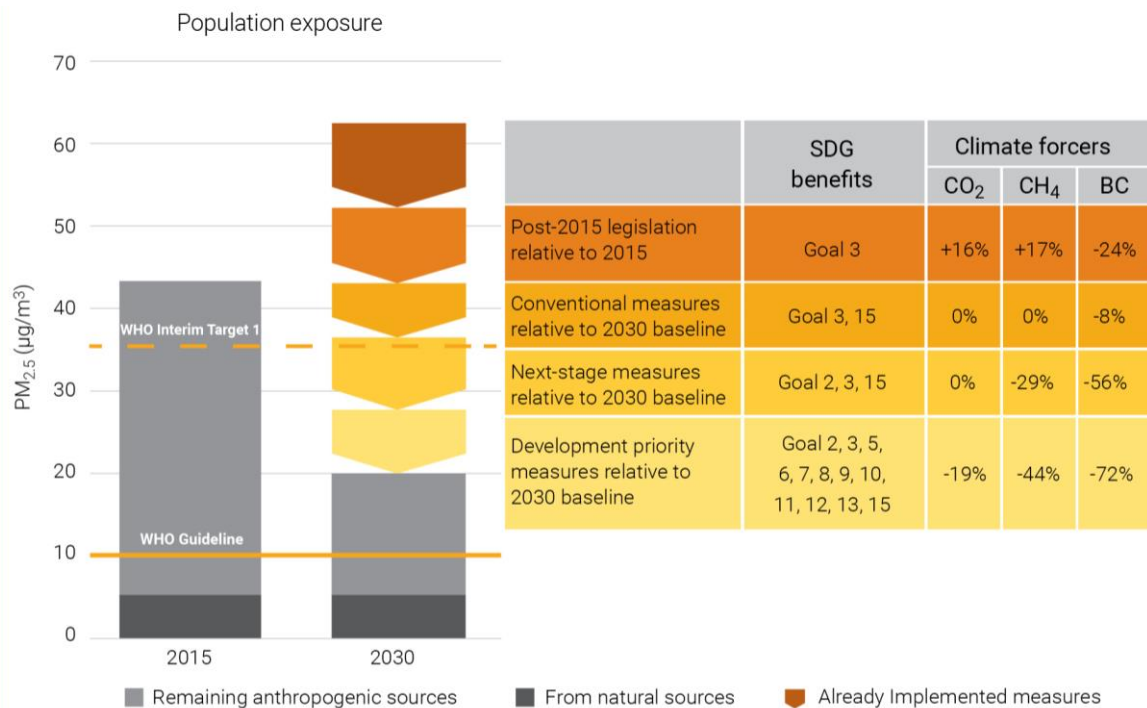


FIGURE 2.10: IMPACT OF THE TOP 25 CLEAN AIR MEASURES IN REDUCING POPULATION EXPOSURE TO PM_{2.5}, AND BENEFITS FOR CLIMATE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

All measures link to key SDGs attainment

All 25 measures reduce:

CO₂ by ~20%

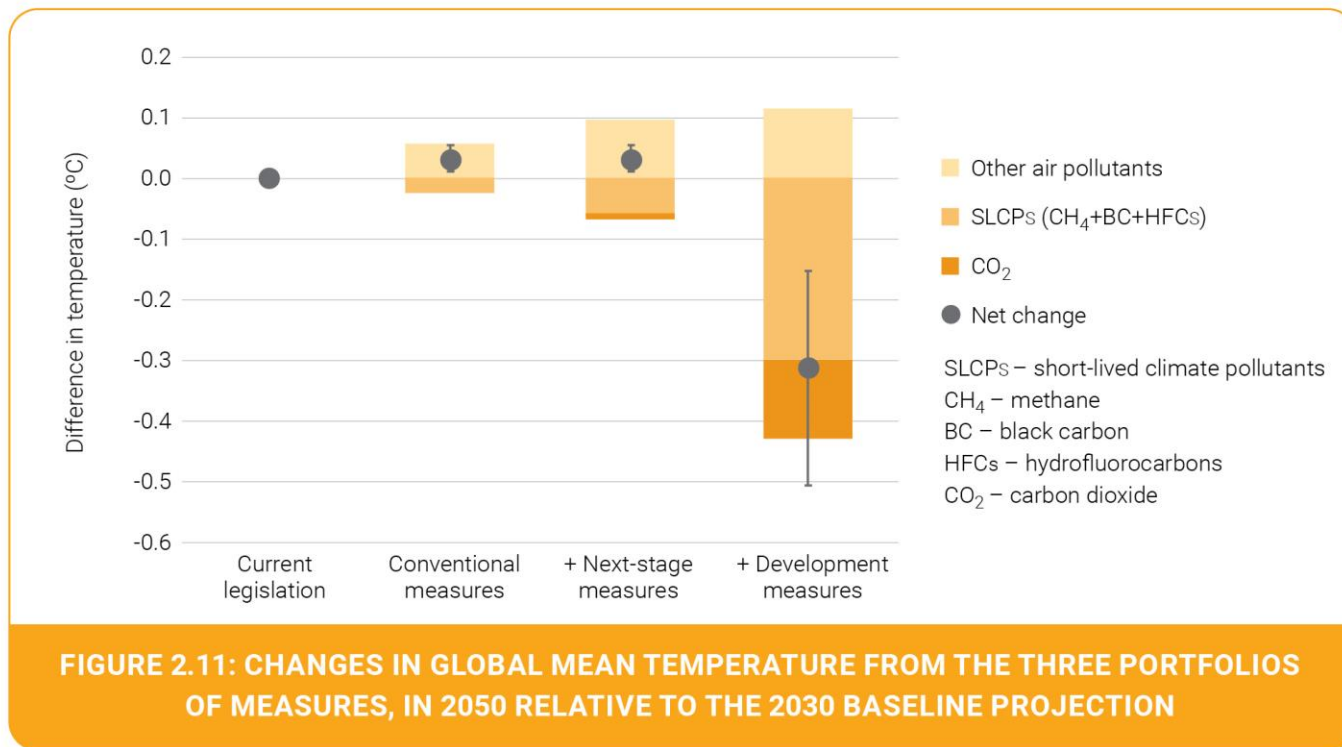
CH₄ by ~40%

BC by ~70%

HFC by ~80%

Source: UNEP, (2018) Air Pollution in Asia-Pacific: Science-based Solutions

Benefits for climate



25 clean air measures could avoid 0.3°C of warming by 2050

Examples of successful implementation of solutions

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RENEWABLES FOR POWER GENERATION

Case study: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines' renewable programs. Seoul's (Korea) one less nuclear power plant

Enabling / Success Factors: Including renewable power generation in energy and climate policies. Public pressure to switch from fossil fuels and nuclear to renewables



AGRICULTURAL CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

Case study: Thailand's open burning controls

Enabling / Success Factors: Growing awareness of pollution sources/impacts. Complementing burning bans with other use options with involvement of farmers, alternative off-site use of crop residues, technologies that plough residues on fields

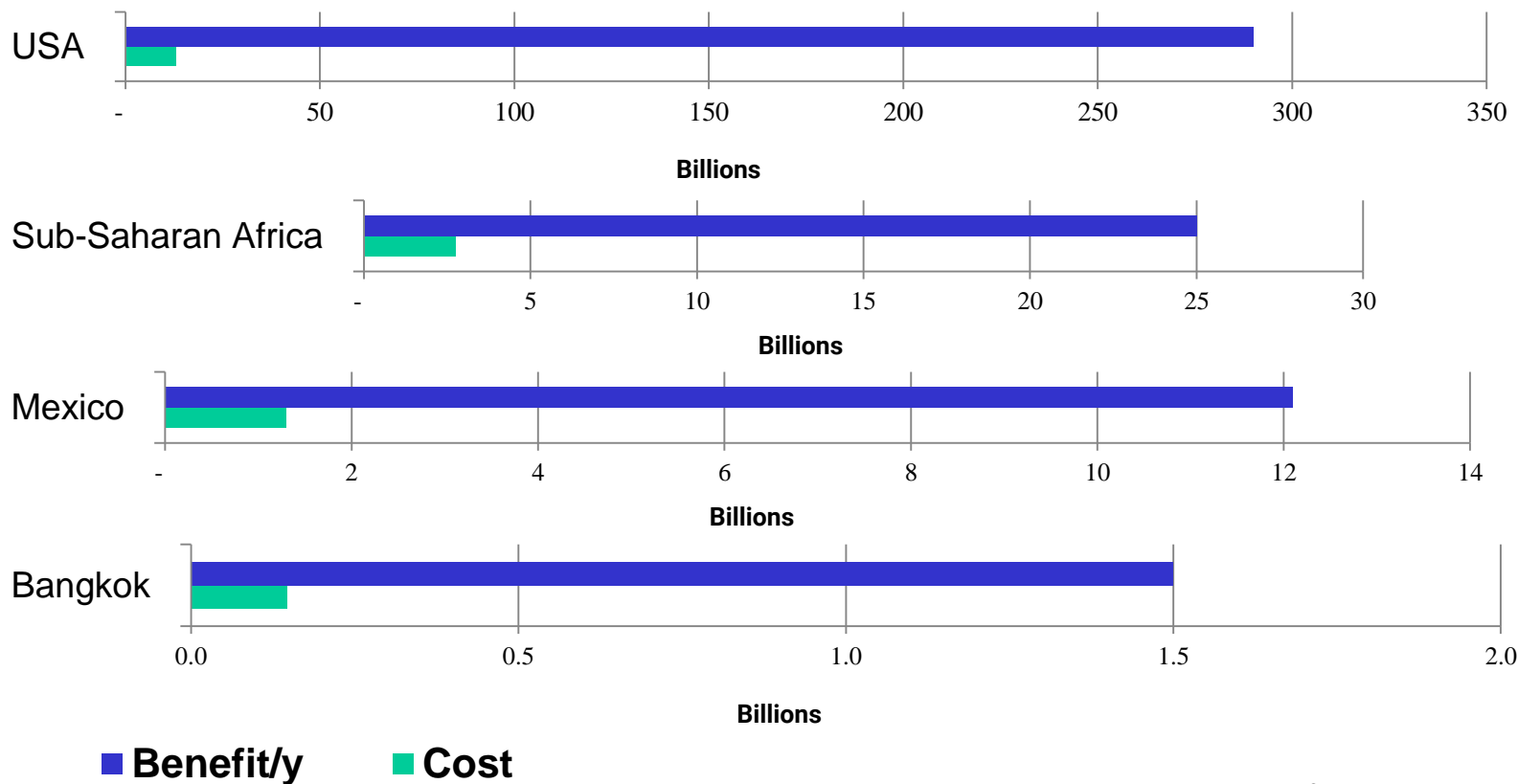


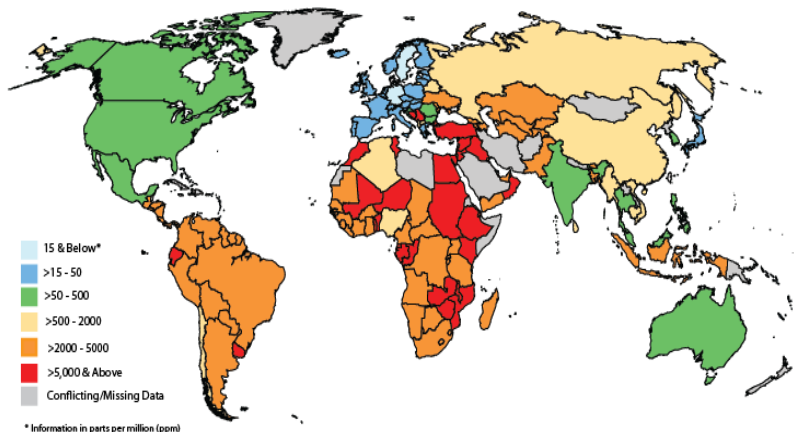
VEHICLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Case study: Tokyo's (Japan) diesel control strategy

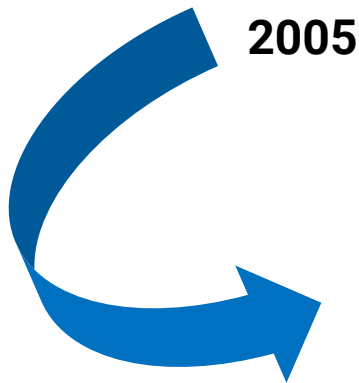
Enabling / Success Factors: Centralized I&M systems, developed through multi-agency collaboration. Self-funding mechanism for regular audits at test centres

Benefits outweigh costs: Moving to low Sulphur fuels





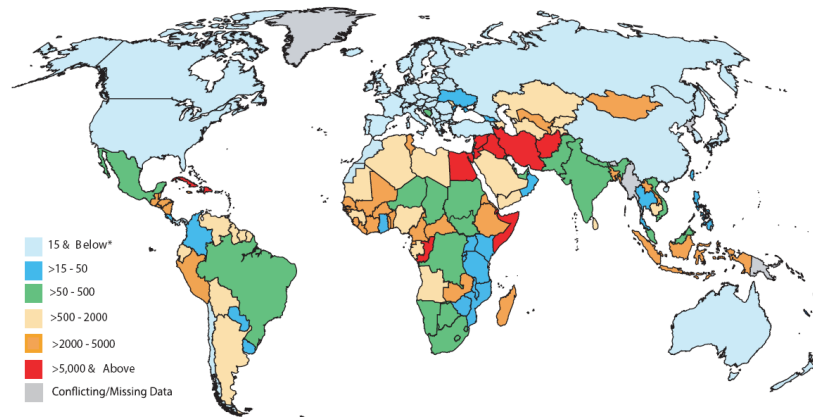
* Information in parts per million (ppm)



2005

2018

We are on track!
The world is moving
towards low-Sulphur fuels

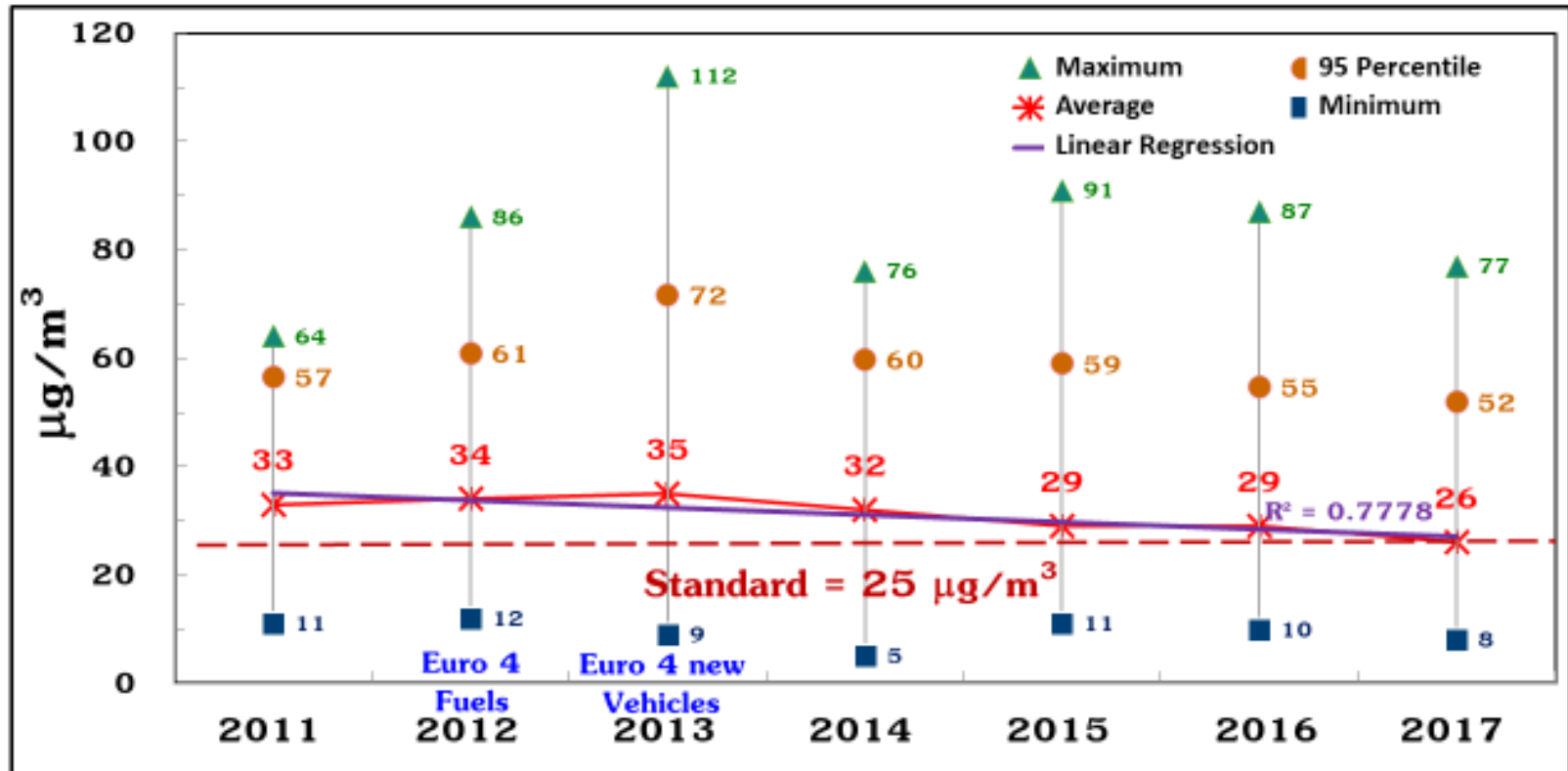


* Information is in parts per million (ppm)

For additional details and comments per country, visit www.unep.org/transport/

Impact of cleaner fuels and vehicles in Bangkok on PM_{2.5}

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Let's make it happen for healthy people and environment



COOPERATION IS KEY

Successful adoption and effective implementation will require concerted effort and integrated action from governments, businesses and civil society.

BENEFITS OUTWEIGH THE COST

Implementing the measures is projected to cost US \$ 300-600 billion per year. This is only about one twentieth of the annual increase of US \$ 12 trillion in GDP that is projected by 2030 and will deliver substantial benefits including savings on pollution control.

TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCING FOR THE MEASURES

Many measures are aligned with national development priorities and could be supported from domestic public finance. Private sector and businesses are ready to invest in cleaner technologies, provided a favourable enabling environment is in place. Climate finance mechanisms are available.

UN Environment: Improving air quality in Asia Pacific

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REGIONAL COOPERATION
AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

POLICY SUPPORT AND
CAPACITY BUILDING

DATA AND INFORMATION

SCIENCE FOR POLICY



Asia Pacific Regional
Forum on Health and
Environment with WHO



CONTACT US

FEEL FREE TO KEEP IN TOUCH.

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