

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

### International Conference on Air Quality Management in Southeast Asia

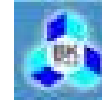
November 21-23, 2007; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Jointly organized by:

Canada



**CIDA-AIT Partnership (2003-2008)**  
**SEA-UEMA Project**  
**Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand**



**Department of Environment**  
**Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology**  
**Vietnam**

#### Background

Accelerated economic development fostered by industrial growth and agricultural production boom in Southeast Asia has given rise to rapid urbanization and often uncontrolled growth of cities. As a result of the industrial growth and the increasing standards of living among the rising middle class in any urban scenario, most developing cities are currently facing significant challenges to preventing a further deterioration of air quality. In addition, issues of regional haze and trans-boundary air pollution problems are increasingly affecting the air quality in the region. Efforts to reduce air pollution are often complicated by the wide range of technology and management options, and a diversity of stakeholders; whose cooperation is essential for effective implementation. Furthermore, air pollution researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers often come from a variety of technical backgrounds, which often keeps these communities fragmented. An integrated assessment approach to air quality management (AQM) aims to incorporate the knowledge and experience from various aspects of AQM (air pollution modeling, air quality monitoring, transport planning, energy use, public health impacts, etc.) through the use of methodologies and tools that provide a comprehensive assessment of air quality improvement options in the region.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a platform to bring together urban practitioners, researchers, scientists, policy makers, influencers and implementers, NGOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AQM to disseminate and discuss various issues of importance in urban air quality

from its technical and scientific aspects to socio-economic, community and gender related features. It is hoped that this will enable the development of policies geared towards cleaner air environment with decreased impacts of air pollution and enhanced quality of life.

The Southeast Asia Urban Environmental Management Applications (SEA-UEMA) Project, a partnership between Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), aims to improve the urban environmental conditions in this region through good urban environmental management (UEM) policies and practices with gender equality and poverty reduction as cross-cutting themes. Water and sanitation, solid waste and air pollution are the three intervening sub-sectors of this project.

#### Objectives

The conference is being organized with the following objectives:

1. To disseminate lessons learned and research results from the SEA-UEMA project activities as well as other related stakeholders on Air Quality Management (AQM);
2. To exchange views and ideas on socio-economic, institutional, environmental health, social and gender equality issues, and community aspects of AQM among the SEA countries;
3. To discuss national and regional air pollution concerns, and clean air action plan; and
4. To identify the deficiencies/inadequacies between the scope of current policies and practices in AQM.

## Conference Themes

The conference will be organized as a panel of themes on urban air quality management. Each panel would be based on a theme or one/more sub-themes and comprise 4-6 papers chaired by an expert on the subject. The Panel / Session Chair is responsible for selecting the papers to be presented in the panel from an open competition of abstract submission as well as from invited writers in consultation with the Technical Committee (TC). The Panel Chairs are proposed as follows for each theme, and are subject to the consent of the individual. S/he will be describing the contents of the track or panel and proposing the Co-chair for the respective session.

### A. Air Quality Management Technology and Modeling

*Chair: Dr. N. T. Kim Oanh*

### B. Air Quality Management and Policy Issues

*Chair: Dr. Edsel Sajor*

### C. Socio-economic Considerations and Cost Benefit Analysis

*Chair: Prof. ATM Nurul Amin*

### D. Sustainable Transport Planning and Energy Systems

*Chair: Prof. Sivanappan Kumar*

### E. Impacts Monitoring and Integrated Assessment Approach to Urban Air Quality

*Chair: Dr. Nowarat Coowanitwong*

### F. Gender and Social Equality Concerns, and Community Aspects

*Chair: Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe*

### G. Air Quality and Health Risks in Asian Cities

*Chair: Dr. Mazrura Sahani*

## Invitation for Abstracts

Abstracts with outlines are invited from among sub-sector network members and other individuals who have been working in the field of AQM in the SEA region as well as writers from other regions of the world. The selection will be based on the decision of the Technical Committee. The tentative number of papers will not exceed 30. Fifteen authors are to be invited

and 15 others will be selected from among those who submitted abstracts based on the given guidelines:

*Guideline\_abstracts\_AQM.pdf*

## Notification of Acceptance

All abstracts will be reviewed for their originality and relevancy to the conference themes. The authors of accepted abstracts will be notified and provided specific guidelines for writing the paper.

## Submission of Papers

All notified authors are required to submit their written papers before the conference. Each paper should be of length from 4000 to 6000 words (6-10 pages in single space A4-size) and not exceed the upper limit. Only one author per paper from SEA countries submitting full paper based on the pre-agreed outline by the given deadline will be invited to present at the conference. The project sponsors the invited authors and participants from the SEA region while those from outside SEA would have to manage their own sponsorship. The submitted papers will be reviewed by the TC and sent to the corresponding authors for revision (if necessary) before publication of the conference proceedings. Further, each presenting author is required to submit the presentation file before the conference such that they can be published in a CD-ROM along with the proceedings.

## Important Deadlines

The following deadlines apply and will be strictly adhered to by the TC for the activities mentioned below:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Abstract submission:	May 20
Notification for full papers:	May 30
Submission of full papers:	July 31
Submission of presentation files:	November 9
Publishing of papers online:	November 12

## Conference Host City and Venue

The conference will be held in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in the southern part of Vietnam. With a population exceeding seven million (registered residents and migrant workers), Ho Chi Minh City is the main economic hub of the southern region of the country as well as a tourist center.

## Host Organizations

**1. Asian Institute of Technology (AIT):** AIT is an international graduate institution which hosts the five year (2003-2008) SEA-UEMA Project funded by CIDA through its Urban Environmental Management (UEM) Field of Study. The project implements activities in three UEM sub-sectors and provides capacity building in UEM through its training and professional support programs. The project disseminates results and lessons through its publications, workshops, seminars and conferences in its eight member countries of Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

**2. Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT):** It is a premier institute of Vietnam catering to the educational and research activities in Vietnam. HCMUT is a centre of technology - industry and management training producing graduate students with strong professional skills and capable of making remarkable contribution for the industrialization and modernization in Vietnam in general and Southern Vietnam in particular. HCMUT's Department of Environment has been carrying out several research and application projects in the city, and other provinces of Vietnam in collaboration with local environmental agencies and international organizations. More information on HCMUT is available from <http://www.hcmut.edu.vn>.

**Conference Committees** The conference will be managed by the following three committees and will consult and seek advice from the members:

### *A. International Organizing Committee (IOC)*

The Organizing Committee will comprise of members from the host organizations as indicated below. They will be actively involved in the organizing and/or act in the advisory capacity for the conference.

1. Dr. Edsel Sajor, SEA-UEMA Project Director, AIT; *Chair*
2. Prof. Phan Thi Tuoi, Rector, HCMUT; *Co-chair*
3. Dr. Nowarat Coowanitwong, UEM, AIT; *Secretary*

### *Members*

4. Dr. Ranjith Perera, UEM, AIT
5. Dr. N T Kim Oanh, EEM, AIT
6. Dr. M. A. Yusuf, SEA-UEMA Project Manager
7. Mr. Prajapati Shapkota, SEA-UEMA Project
8. Mr. Pravakar Pradhan, SEA-UEMA Project

### *B. Technical Committee (TC)*

The Technical Committee, chaired by Dr. Nowarat Coowanitwong, will comprise of the members from AIT, HCMUT and other experts in the different fields of AQM who would be instrumental in proposing authors, screening and reviewing abstracts submitted by invited and other prospective authors, and deciding on the quality and contents of each paper to be presented during the conference. It will review the submitted full papers before publication of the conference proceedings, and propose and edit suitable articles from the conference for academic/ research publication from the project with possible collaboration from external educational publishers.

### *C. Local Organizing Committee (LOC)*

The Local Organizing Committee will be chaired by Dr. Nguyen Phuoc Dan from HCMUT. Other members will be selected from HCMUT and its local partners, and other organizations involved in the conference.

## Participants

The eligible participants for the international conference will be from the SEA countries that comprise the following:

1. Invited authors to present papers comprising UEM field implementers, managers, donor agencies and academia;
2. SEA-UEMA Project partners who are awardees of demonstration projects, joint research and pilot projects in the air pollution sub-sector;
3. SEA-UEMA Project network members from air pollution sub-sector comprising of managers, researchers, NGOs/ CBOs as identified by the project components;
4. Local participants from Ho Chi Minh City who are concerned with AQM as urban planners, policy makers, influencers and implementers, NGOs, local and national government officials; and
5. Privately sponsored participants from within and outside the SEA region concerned with urban air quality and clean air.

The expenses (most economic air fare, per diem and accommodation) of invited participants who have been pre-informed will be borne by the SEA-UEMA Project. Details will be given in the "Note to

Participants" attached to the invitation/ confirmation letter.

### **Registration**

There will be no registration fees for participants from the SEA-UEMA networks and other invited participants. The Registration Form for the conference will be sent with the acceptance letter. However, other participants who wish to attend the conference on self support are welcome and must pay for their own travel costs and living expenses. The registration fee for such participants would be US\$ 100.00 which must be sent by demand draft payable to the HCMUT (*address and the bank name will be given*) along with the registration form.

### **Exhibition**

Local as well as international participants are encouraged to display posters and other dissemination materials during the event in the space provided based on their research or project activities in the region. The exhibition will be based on competition basis and five best will be selected for display. Participants who would like to exhibit their work will be required to submit soft copies of their display and dissemination materials by July 31, 2007.

### **Field Visit**

There will be two field trips for the conference participants starting at 13:30 hrs on November 22, 2007 to:

- (i) Tan Thuan Industrial Processing Zone; and
- (ii) Cangio Biosphere Zone (UNESCO).

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## **Conference Coordinators**

### ***Asian Institute of Technology***

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For further information, please contact:

## **Conference Contact Persons**

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