

WHO/WPRO's perspective on Health and Air Pollution

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28 JAN 2014 in Manila / Photo by Yeom, Jungsub

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**World Health
Organization**
Western Pacific Region

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- focused on air quality

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1. Environmental Health Situation

Environmental Burden of Disease in Southeast and the Western Pacific (2006)

- Approximately 6 million deaths or 26% of total deaths
- About 146 million disability adjusted life years (DALYs) or 23% of DALYs lost
- 11 deaths every minute from environmental-related causes
- Unevenly Distributed Within and Among Countries
- Not a burden that can just be addressed by more hospitals, more doctors and cheaper medicine

1. Environmental Health Situation

On 25 March 2014 WHO Reported

- Air pollution is now the world's largest single environmental health risk
- Studies in 2012 found out that around 7 million people died due to air pollution:
 - 4.3 mil indoor air pollution, 3.7 mil due to outdoor air pollution
- One in eight of total global deaths is caused by air pollution
- 41 % of the deaths are in the Western Pacific Region

1. Environmental Health Situation

Amongst the 6 WHO Regions

- Western Pacific Region has about 25% of the world's population, but accounts 41%(2.88 mil) of global deaths due to air pollution
- Western Pacific and South East region contributed to the highest death toll:
 - 3.3 million deaths were linked to indoor air pollution and
 - 2.6 million deaths were related to outdoor air pollution

2. Way Forward

Experts Meeting on Air Pollution and Health in Asia(19-20 JUN 2014, Korea)

- Key outcomes identified by the Meeting:
 - 1) translation of science findings to policy development and identification of priority policy dialogues to reduce health impacts of air pollution especially for vulnerable groups;
 - 2) how to better engage the health sector in air pollution to advocates for the health sectors' leadership in air pollution and health; and
 - 3) multi-sectoral engagement and regional/national/local co-approach is essential

2. Way Forward

A Good Example : Pro-bicycle Policy in Changwon, Korea [6th EST Forum, New Delhi]



- Key result of Health Impact Assessment (Sanghyuk Bae, Yun-chul Hong/SNU)
 - Decreased mortality due to the increase of physical activity, the reduction of traffic accident death and the reduction of air pollution

1st High-Level Officials Meeting on Air Pollution and Health (tentative SEP 2015)

- To develop Western Pacific Regional Strategy / Action plan
 - 1) not only Health & Environment sector, together with Energy, Transport, Urban Planning sector; and
 - 2) maximize synergy among regional/national/local activities



Thank you for attention

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