Capacity Building Needs in SE Asia

Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan
Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Occupational and Environmental Health
Sri Ramachandra University
Chennai, India
Objectives of the SEAR Regional Meeting (18-20 June 2018, Bangkok)

• To promote a deeper understanding and use of available data on the impact of air pollution on health

• To facilitate the formulation of relevant interventions and national targets, action plans and strategies, including for relevant SDG indicators & NCD action plans

• To assist Member States in preparing for the first WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health and to leverage support for actions in other key regional and international forums and networks
Utilizing Health Evidence

Challenges

• Insufficient consolidation of available national information on air quality and health.
• Limited familiarity with current methodologies utilized for exposure modeling, risk assessment and disease burden estimation.

Suggestions for Capacity Building

• Building integrated (air quality and health) repositories together with accessible databases that are updated regularly (such as in Thailand).
• Routine engagement of network of national experts with global networks that engaged with global repositories/disease burden assessments (such as in India).
• Coordinated initiatives across Ministries (such as in NEHAP in Thailand, HNAP in SriLanka, Urban Health Initiative in Nepal) for inter-sectoral co-operation as well as human resource trainings.
• Cross-trainings within on-going NCD or MCH programs.
Assessing Intervention Efficacy

**Challenges**

- Inadequate capacities for SDG Target Setting
- Evaluating HAP Interventions
- Evaluating AAP Interventions

**Suggestions for Capacity Building**

- Create Institutional arrangements for achieving the SDGs *(such as in Bangla Desh)* including stakeholder mapping, aligning national planning with the SDGs, financing and assessment of data-gaps.
- Provide guidance on improving clean fuel/LPG access *(such as in India)* where the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** where nearly 50 million new LPG connections have been provided across 713 districts in less than three years).
- Compilation of regional success stories for AAP including documentation of cost-effectiveness *(such as favourable tax policies for electric vehicles in Bhutan; Electrification of buses/three wheelers and the Health Hospital Initiative in Sri Lanka; Green Sticker system for vehicles, zig-zag brick kilns in Nepal)*.
Creating additional infra-structure

• Insufficient density of air quality monitors
  • NAQMS including CAQMS routinely operational (such as in India, Thailand)
    • Guidance on Air Quality Policy (Bangladesh, Maldives, Timor-Leste)
    • Guidance for installation/operation/expansion of AQM networks (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Timor-Leste, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka)
    • Guidance for installation of monitors for health research (including rural monitors)
  • Guidance on low cost sensors for AQM
  • Guidance on evaluation of air filtration equipment/ PPEs
  • Guidance on issuing public health advisories on the basis of AQIs
Health Risk Communication Models

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