FIRST WHO GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY, COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE – SAVING LIVES

30 October – 1 November 2018
WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
Why a global conference on air pollution and health?
Air Pollution - one of the world’s largest single health risks
91% of the global population breathes polluted air
More than 3 billion people rely on polluting energy sources for cooking
Girls in households that cook with polluted fuels spent up to 35 hours a week collecting wood and water.
Ambient air pollution (AAP)  
4.2 million deaths/yr  
Household air pollution (HAP)  
3.8 million deaths/yr  
Joint effects of HAP and AAP  
7 million deaths/yr

In some areas, a significant fraction of ambient air pollution (AAP) is caused by household fuel combustion.
What air pollution does to our lungs and our cardio-vascular system

https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/air-pollution-839089-2016-10-20
Air pollution is the second leading cause of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

THE INVISIBLE KILLER
Air pollution may not always be visible, but it can be deadly.

- 29% of deaths from lung cancer
- 24% of deaths from stroke
- 25% of deaths from heart disease
- 43% of deaths from lung disease

BREATHE LIFE.
Clean Air. Healthy Future.
93% of children under 18 years play and live with air pollution levels above WHO guidelines.
Air pollution is stunting our children’s brains

**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
There are many solutions
Addressing air pollution will have benefits for health and climate change
In ten years from now we cannot say that we did not know

90% of world's children are breathing toxic air, WHO study finds

Pakistan moves to curb urban air pollution after high court ruling

UK taken to Europe's highest court over air pollution

European court of justice can impose multimillion euro fine on UK and five other countries do not address the problem

▲ Smog over London. The European commission is taking legal action against the UK over failing to tackle illegal levels of air pollution.

▲ Children cover their face from air pollution in New Delhi, India. Photograph: Hindustan Times/Hindustan Times

Via Getty Images
Outrage
Kathmandu, Winter 2016/2017
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Our shared vision