First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health: Improving air quality, combatting climate change – saving lives

Pre-Conference Workshop

Evaluating the short-term health effects of desert and anthropogenic dust

29 October 2018, Geneva
WHO Headquarters, Salle D, [13h-18h]

Coordinator: Dr Sophie Gumy

Concept Note

Background

Desert dust and sand storms might have a large impact on air quality, in particular PM10 and PM2.5, not only in areas close to the sources or regions but over areas even a few thousands of kilometres away. Several studies have assessed the direct effects of desert dust on mortality, hospital admissions and other health outcomes. The main difficulty of these studies has been separating the effect of desert dust from that of other anthropogenic pollutants and meteorological variables. The workshop will provide an updated knowledge on both the environmental and the epidemiological aspects and will allow the design and the analysis of local time-series studies.

Target audience:

Experts in atmospheric or environmental science, air pollution managers, epidemiologists, statisticians, public health professionals.

Language:

Presentations and materials provided will be in English; the working language will also be English.
Workshop Program

13.00-13.30 Registration

13.30-13.35 Welcome address by WHO (S. Gumy) and WMO (A. Baklanov)

13.35-13.45 Introduction and aims of the workshop (F. Forastiere)

13.45-14.00 What is "desert dust"? (X. Querol)

14.00 - 14.30: Modelling and forecasting desert dust advections at global scale (S. Basart)

14.30 - 15.00: Quantifying the contribution of desert dust episodes on PM concentrations for epidemiological analyses (X. Querol)

15.00 - 15.30: Desert dust and health effects - A review of the literature (A. Tobias)

15.30 – 15.45: Break

15.45- 16.15: Health effects of dust, species and components of PM (G. Thurston)


16.30 - 17.15: Estimating the short-term effects of desert dust with time-series studies - Part 2: Practical (M. Stafoggia and A. Tobias)

17.15-18.00 Discussion and conclusions

Workshop moderator: Dr Francesco Forastiere, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

Workshop lecturers:

- Dr Francesco Forastiere, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Dr Massimo Stafoggia: Department of Epidemiology, Lazio Region Health Service (DEP), Rome, Italy
- Prof Xavier Querol, Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDÆA) - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Barcelona, Spain.
- Dr Aurelio Tobias, Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDÆA) - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) , Barcelona, Spain.
- Dr Sara Basart: Earth Sciences Division , Barcelona Supercomputing Center - Centro Nacional de Supercomputación (BSC-CNS) , Barcelona, Spain.
- Prof George Thurston, NYU School of Medicine, Ney York, USA

Participant registration

The workshop is open and a registration form is provided on the website:
Pre-conference events : http://www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/preconference/en/
Registration : https://extranet.who.int/datacol/survey.asp?survey_id=3914
Deadline for registration is 21 October 2018.