



UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN AGREEMENT ON TRANSBOUNDARY HAZE POLLUTION

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Regional Haze Action Plan (Dec 97)

Objectives

- to **prevent** land and forest fires through better management policies and enforcement
- to establish operational mechanisms to **monitor** land and forest fires
- to strengthen regional land and forest **fire-fighting** capability and other **mitigating** measures



ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

- Signed on 10 June 2002 in Kuala Lumpur by all ASEAN Member States
- Entered into force on 25 November 2003
- So far 8 countries have ratified the Agreement



ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Objective

Prevent and monitor transboundary haze pollution as a result of land and/or forest fires which should be mitigated, through concerted national efforts and international cooperation



ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Principles

- Ensure that activities within the jurisdiction do not cause damage to the environment and harm to human health
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination
- Take precautionary measures where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage
- Manage natural resources in a sustainable manner
- Involve all stakeholders



Institutional Arrangement



- COP: Conference of the Parties
- TWG: Technical Working Group
- TWG Mekong: Technical Working Group of Mekong Sub-Region
- MSC: Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee

Institutional Arrangement

- **Conference of the Parties (COP)** - reviews and evaluates implementation
- **Committee under COP** - oversee operation of ASEAN Centre; develop, implement and monitor operational work programme; advise COP re. management of ASEAN Haze Fund
- **Secretariat** - served by ASEAN Secretariat
- ASEAN Transboundary Haze Pollution Control Fund (**ASEAN Haze Fund**) – voluntary contributions from the Parties, open to contributions from other sources subject to approval by the Parties



ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ASEAN Centre)

- Currently performed by ASEAN Secretariat and the ASMC since the entry into force in November 2003
- Will be handed over when the ASEAN Centre is physically established
- Detailed TOR for the management and operation of the ASEAN Centre with proposed organisational structure already developed



ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Contains measures on:

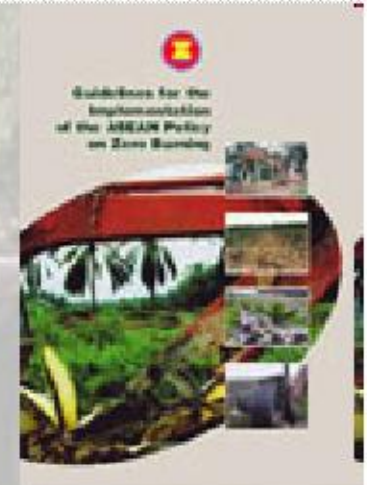
- Monitoring and assessment
- Prevention
- Preparedness
- National and joint emergency response
- Procedures for deployment of people, materials and equipment across borders
- Technical cooperation & scientific research

Implementation of the Haze Agreement

Projects and Activities

Prevention

- Guidelines for implementation of zero burning policy
- Dialogues with plantation and timber companies
- Guidelines for controlled burning practices
- Community-based fire management programmes through pilot projects in fire-prone areas
- Demonstrations and workshops on ZB best practices
- Public and community awareness programmes
- Training and capacity building on investigation, prosecution and enforcement against open burning



Implementation of the Haze Agreement

Projects and Activities

Prevention

- ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI)
- ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) (2006-2020) to guide actions to sustainably manage peatlands and reduce fires and associated haze
- Project on 'Capacity building to improve peatland management and reduce land and forest fires and associated transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region' (ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program)
- IFAD/GEF Project on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia – to commence in early 2009



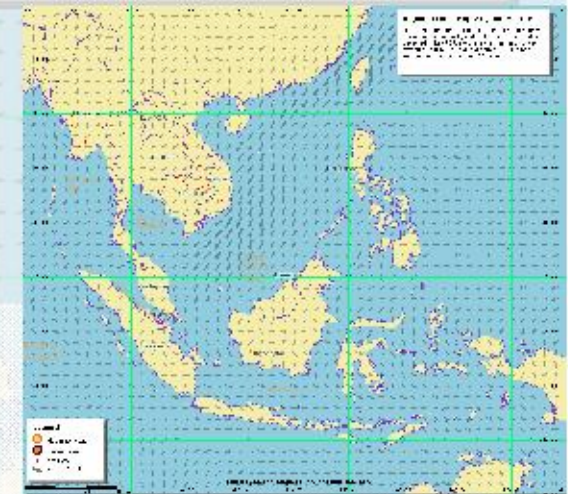
Implementation of the Haze Agreement

Projects and Activities

Monitoring

- **ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) based in Singapore** - provision of hotspot and smoke haze maps, satellite imageries, monthly weather & haze outlook, haze modelling
- **Comprehensive regional early warning system to be developed**
- Workshop involving relevant experts and agencies to discuss on how to enhance the reporting of weather and haze outlook, incl. simulation/ modeling of haze transport and incorporating data on PM10 which will be a useful indicator to track the extent of haze – early 2009 in Singapore

Regional Haze Map 27 January 2009



Legend

Moderate Haze

Heavy Haze

Very Heavy Haze

ASEAN

Issued by Meteorological Services Division, BEA

Implementation of the Haze Agreement

Projects and Activities Mitigation / Fire Suppression

- Fire Suppression Mobilisation Plans in fire-prone areas
- Online regional inventory of fire-fighting resources to facilitate sharing of resources during emergencies
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for monitoring, assessment and joint emergency response
- Regional table-top and simulation exercises to strengthen coordination and response



ASEAN HAZE ACTION ONLINE

- daily-updated information on fire-and-haze and info on ASEAN cooperation on transboundary haze pollution
- consist of public information and intranet services
- fire-and-haze situation reports
- hotspot and smoke haze maps from ASMC
- online inventory of fire-fighting resources
- online Regional and National Detailed Implementation Plans
- database of projects & documents



<http://haze.asean.org>

Public and Community Awareness

- Public/community awareness programmes in fire-prone areas, e.g. workshop in West Kalimantan Province to **explore traditional values of Dayak and Melayu tribes in managing fires and haze** in or surrounding their areas (March 2001). Follow-up actions include establishment of community groups at the village level to prevent and control land and forest fires, and public awareness programmes on the impact of haze on health.
- The World Conference and Exhibition on Land and Forest Fire Hazards, 10-12 June 2002, Kuala Lumpur – *signing of the Haze Agreement*



Training for the community

Public and Community Awareness

- Conference on Promoting Partnerships for the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, 10-13 May 2006, Ha Noi

involving ASEAN countries, Dialogue Partners of ASEAN, regional and int'l organisations, NGOs, academia and research institutions, and international donor community



Panel of ASEAN Experts on Fire and Haze Assessment and Coordination

- Established by the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment in August 2005 to provide rapid independent assessment and recommendation for the mobilisation of resources during impending critical periods. TOR adopted by Ministers in September 2005.
- Currently consists of **29 nominated experts from ASEAN Member States** with various technical expertise and background.
- Operational procedures developed for activation of the experts, deployment procedures, execution (or the conduct of the rapid assessment itself), demobilisation, and reporting procedures.



Panel of ASEAN Experts on Fire and Haze Assessment and Coordination

- The Panel has been deployed 3 times during dry season in 2006:
 - 1st deployment: Riau Province, Aug 06
 - 2nd deployment: West Kalimantan Province, Sep 06
 - 3rd deployment: South Sumatra Province, Oct 06
- A workshop was convened in April 2007 in Palembang, Indonesia to review the experiences from the three deployment missions in 2006 and refine the deployment and operational procedures for the Panel of ASEAN Experts
- Hands-on activities, such as refresher courses on conducting rapid assessment, field trips and table-top/simulation exercises to test the procedures for the Panel of Experts



Sub-Regional Groups

- **Southern ASEAN region:**
Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution
- **Northern ASEAN region:**
Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region



Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution

- Established in November 2006
- Comprise Environment Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand
- Currently chaired by Malaysia
- Assisted by a Technical Working Group (TWG)
- Has met 6 times between Nov 07 to Oct 08

Activities:

- Focus on Indonesia's Comprehensive Plan of Action (PoA) in Dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution



Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution

6th MSC, 23 Oct 2008, Phuket, Thailand

- The Ministers appreciated Indonesia's efforts in effectively implementing its PoA and **congratulated Indonesia for achieving its 50% hotspot reduction target** as of mid October for 2008, compared to 2006
- It was noted that while there has been an increase of hotspot activities in the region, there was no significant corresponding increase in transboundary haze in the region; attributed to the concerted mitigation actions taken to suppress the fires and wetter than normal weather conditions



Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution

- Singapore-Indonesia collaboration on Muaro Jambi Regency include:
 - capacity development for Jambi provincial government officials
 - socialisation workshop for local community
 - development of a fire danger rating system
- Malaysia-Indonesia collaboration on Riau Province include:
 - capacity building programmes on ZB techniques
 - installation of air monitoring station
 - peatland management activities



Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (TWG Mekong)

- Established in September 2007
- Members: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam
- Chaired by Thailand

Activities:

- Selected key activities to be implemented within 1 year have been identified
- Workshop to develop Sub-Regional Action Plan to be held in early 2009



Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (TWG Mekong)

- Workshop on sharing of experience on small-scale and shifting agriculture in relation to land and forest fire prevention – March 2008
- Thailand has offered mobile air quality monitoring units to be placed in Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR during the dry season (Jan-Apr 2009)



Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Monitoring, Assessment and Joint Emergency Response

Operationalisation of the SOP since 2004; activated during dry seasons and critical periods in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007





Thank you for your kind attention.

