



Summary of Round Table 2: Chiang Mai Clean Air Project

On 15 June 2010, at Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel

The 2nd roundtable meeting for Chiang Mai Clean Air Action Plan project was held on June 15, 2010 at Chiang Mai Royal Orchid Hotel. The 150 participants came from civil society groups, national and local government agencies, local institutes and business sector.

The objective of the meeting was to present to and get consensus from the stakeholders on Chiang Mai clean air vision and the vision goals which were formulated with participation of key stakeholders in Chiang Mai in January and February 2010. The meeting also aimed to inform the project's technical working group the rationale behind the vision and goal statements as addressed in the previous roundtable meeting and workshop.

Summary of the meeting

The meeting started at 9 a.m. with an opening speech by Mr. Tassanai Buranupakorn, the Mayor of Chiang Mai Municipality who thanked the participants for their active participation and useful contributions in the previous RT and workshop. He also stressed that through the development of Chiang Mai Clean Air Action Plan, the municipality would have a concrete and well-grounded plan to improve the city's environment. Chiang Mai's economy relies quite highly on tourism, and there are two main reasons tourists come to Chiang Mai. Firstly to learn about its culture and traditions and secondly to enjoy the city's beautiful nature and good weather of the city and secondly they and Therefore, Chiang Mai municipality puts strong emphasis on parallel development and conservation of the city's traditions and environment.

Review of the project's background, objectives and activity framework

Mr. Panya Warapetcharayut, Director of Air Pollution from Transportation Division, Department of Pollution Control gave a brief review on the Clean Air Action Plan for Smaller Cities in ASEAN Region Project.

Key points:

- Project objectives are to provide technical assistance to ASEAN countries in developing and implementing clean air plan for selected smaller cities and to promote exchanging of experiences and lessons learnt among the 7 participating countries. The project duration is 4 years.
- Thailand has completed the project's activities in the first year, which include identification of pilot cities (i.e. Chiang Mai and Nakhon Ratchasima) and developing project roadmap. Key activity of this second year is to develop clean air action plan for the two cities. Years 3 and 4 will focus on action plan implementation, evaluation and diffusions of project results and lessons learnt.



- The Project Advisory Board has been established at the national level to provide overall guidance and technical assistance to support the project implementation. At provincial level, there is a technical working group who is responsible for the development of the action plan based on the grounded information/findings of the researches conducted by experts in the working group.

- Activities under the Road Map of the project include:
 - (1) Establishment of Steering Committee to oversee project implementation
 - (2) Formulation of Clean Air vision and vision's goals for pilot cities
 - (3) Study and preparation of Emission Inventory
 - (4) Air Quality measurement
 - (5) Study on the impact of air quality on socio-economic development and public health
 - (6) Analysis of strategies for the development of urban plan and transportation system
 - (7) Development of options for pollution control from stationary sources
 - (8) Area-specific demonstration activity (i.e. demonstration of transportation system in Chiang Mai University.
 - (9) National workshops to share implementation results and to develop appropriate options
 - (10) Reviewing and adjusting implementation options for air quality improvement
 - (11) Workshop to present the Clean Air Action Plans
- So far, the project has organized two technical training on Emission Inventory and Air Quality Measurement to relevant members of the technical working group.

Presentation on RT 1 and Goal Workshop results

Ms. Walaitat Worakul, the moderator gave a presentation on the process and outputs of the RT 1 workshop 1 as follows.

Roundtable 1 (RT 1)

- The objective of RT 1 was to formulate a Vision for the Chiang Mai Clean Air Plan through public participation process. The meeting was held on January 27, 2010 and actively participated by 229 people from a wide range of organizations, including civil society organizations (154), government agencies (34), educational institutes (38), and private businesses (3).

- The consultation process was done through a 'fish bowl' technique where selected number of the participants volunteered to sit in the fish bowl and the rest were active observers who could also inject their ideas where relevant.



- The process of vision formulation included the following steps:
 - Selection of representatives to be seated in the ‘fish bowl’
 - Developing common understanding/agreement on the definition and desired characteristics of a good ‘VISION’.
 - First round collection of Chiang Mai Clean Air vision from the participants in the fish bowl.
 - Analysis and grouping of key words
 - Second round formulation/collection of Chiang Mai Clean Air Vision by using the key words from each group
 - Screening of the visions which meet qualified characteristics
 - Voting
 - Polishing the selected VISION
 - Announcing the VISION.

Goal formulation workshop

- The workshop was organized on 15-16 February 2010 as a continual process to develop appropriate goals for the already formulated vision. The participants included 54 representatives from civil society organizations, 28 from government agencies, 2 from business sector, and 5 from local institutes (all together 89).

- The workshop began with an opening speech by Chiang Mai municipality Mayor, followed by presentation on examples of Clean Air Plans from smaller cities in Europe and Asia by Mr. Roland Hass, GTZ advisor.

- Although there are some differences due to specific local conditions, the Clean Air Plans for Vienna, Berlin and India share common principles, i.e. harmonization between socio-economic development plan and transportation system development plan; acceptance of all parties concerned, and practicability and sustainability. Special attention is also given to equal access of all groups including the disabled to mass transportation system.

- The participants of the workshop worked in three different groups to develop Chiang Mai Clean Air vision goals in three specific areas, i.e. economic development, social development and transportation system development.

- The outputs of each group were presented to and discussed in the plenary, which eventually resulted in consolidated goals and corresponding measures.



Chiang Mai Clean Air vision goals and measures



- Before the closing of the workshop, the participants had expressed their interests to participate in the implementation of suggested measures. Overall, 16 people wanted to participate in Goal1, another 16 for Goal 2 and 18 for Goal 3.

Introduction of CCAP Technical Working Group

- Mrs. Rungrong from Chiang Mai municipality gave a presentation on the composition and function of the CCAP technical group, whose responsibility is to develop action plan for the achievement of the stated vision and goals formulated by Chiang Mai stakeholders.

- Selected members of the technical group were invited to talk about their expected contribution to the project.

- Dr. Wasan Jompakdee, the chairman of the Advisory Council on Chiang Mai Air Quality Board explained that through this project, Chiang Mai people have a role to identify strategic direction to implement the city's clean air plan. We are now in transitional period and it is expected that



by the end of the fourth year of the project, significant changes will be achieved as we would have clear and grounded action plan as implementation guidance.

- Dr. Tippawan Prapamonthon from Chiang Mai University (CMU) gave three suggestions. Firstly, Chiang Mai municipality should have an extensive awareness raising/advocacy program through multi-dimensional channels. The program should allow for a two-way communication process to constantly get the feedback and suggestions from the public. Secondly, it should improve waste collection and management system in order to reduce pollution and odor. Thirdly, the Chiang Mai Clean Air Vision should be time bound and have a clear deadline.

- Associate Professor Poon Thiengburanathum from CMU also expressed confidence that Chiang Mai had high potential to improve its environmental problems in several aspects apart from air quality. Therefore, the municipality should focus on concrete actions to demonstrate good examples for other cities.

- Dr. Apiwan Pollachai, Assistant to CMU president stated that CMU has a comprehensive environmental protection programme which includes wastewater treatment, making fertilizer from organic waste, improving transportation system by using electric passenger cars, increasing green areas, and dust controlling. CMU is ready to be a demonstration site for the implementation of Chiang Mai Clean Air Action Plan.

- Pol. Lieutenant Colonel Winitchai Pinitsak who is responsible for transportation work in Chiang Mai municipality commented that the most serious air pollution problem in Chiang Mai is the smog from waste and forest burning as well as from transportation. The Police Office has been working closely with CM municipality to monitor exhausted smoke from motorized vehicles. The municipality should also improve mass transportation system and the people should be made aware of the cause and impact of air pollution.

- Associate Professor Pramote Wanittanakhom, Vice President of North College shared with the meeting that North College has been implementing garbage sorting program in the university. The success of this program and other environmental protection activities relies very much on its continuity and practicability, and sustainability.

Panel discussion on progress and next steps of the Project

Mrs. Rungrong Duriyapan (Chiang Mai Municipality)

- Upto present, four different committees have been set up at national and provincial levels, i.e. Project Advisory Board at national level; Project Steering Committee, Technical Working Group, and Civil Society Group. Each committee/Group has specific role.

- A series of roundtable meeting and workshop have been organized to develop clean air vision and goals for Chiang Mai city. Two trainings on emission inventory and air quality measurement were also provided to respective members of the technical working group.

Dr. Sirichai Koonaphapdeelert (CMU), responsible for emission inventory)

- Presented a plan to conduct emission inventory by Engineering Faculty, CMU.



• Emission Inventory is a data base which collects information about pollution emission from human's activities in an area during a certain period of time. It is the most important database for air quality management and is used worldwide for several purposes.

• For this project, emission inventory will be conducted in 4 out of 6 areas within CM municipality. The researcher will monitor emission of 6 kinds of pollution gas from three sources, i.e. area source, mobile source and stationary source.

• Assistant professor Poon Thiengburanathum (CMU, responsible for air quality measurement) presented the findings from the review of transportation system in Chiang Mai. According to the findings, majority of people in CM prefer to travel with private vehicles, causing traffic jams in rush hours. Therefore, everybody in Chiang Mai should bear responsibility in solving the problem. Other alternatives to private vehicles are mass transportation or walking. Roads also should have special lanes for public buses. In order to solve the problem effectively, all parties should have sufficient knowledge on how to manage public transportation system.

Ms. Napaporn Yuberk (GTZ; Project Manager)

• Explained about the project roadmap which is regarded as a multi-dimensional guideline for the project implementation.

• Presented an example of Clean Air Plan from Berlin City. The plan includes 7 elements:

- Activities/measures
- Starting and finishing dates
- Estimated costs and sources of budget
- Responsible officer (name, position and organization)
- Indicator
- Expected Impact
- Justification

Discussion and comments from the participants

There were extensive discussion and recommendations from the participants of all sectors. Key recommendations include the following.

- Social measures should be used instead of legal measures to engage public participation in environmental protection
- We should start the activities on a small scale basis and gradually develop to a larger scale, for example, promoting the use of bicycle within municipality area before expanding to wider areas
- Chiang Mai municipality and its partners should be proactive in campaigning and providing information about its environmental activities



-
- An office to manage “Clean Air” activities should be established at the Municipality Office and run by civil society groups with relevant support from government agencies/municipality.
 - Bicycles’ lanes should have roofs or shaded with trees. Tricycles services should be made available for elderly people
 - One way to increase the green area is to campaign the use of pot plants instead of reeds in funerals. After the funeral, CM municipality could collect those plants and distributed to interested households to grow around their houses.
 - On some streets now there are tree shades for bicycle users but the municipality should assure that no cars are parked in bicycle lanes.
 - More students are using bicycles to schools as a result of campaigns by municipality and other organizations such as the Chiang Mai bicycle club.
 - TOT has a clear plan for environmental protection and has promoted eco-tourism and environmental protection campaigns in order to develop a good image for Chiang Mai. However, tourism also creates environmental, infrastructure and traffic problems as many tourists flux in. Tourism industry also causes greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The Project should have multi-media to distribute information about its activities (e.g. a board at bus and train stations or community members)
 - Rajabhat University is launching a project called: Mobile Rajabhat where students go out to local areas and raise awareness on global warming and other environmental issues.
 - The project should aim to develop sense of joint-responsibility among Chiang Mai people to solve environmental problems. The project should also have mobile units to reach out to different sectors of the city and listen to their concerns and ideas for solutions.
 - The Project should put more efforts in getting private sector’s engagement in problem solving process. Many private businesses want to take part in public activities but do not know how and where to start.
 - Indigenous wisdom/knowledge should be used to improve environmental problems.
 - The project should engage monks or religious leaders as change agents to transfer the knowledge to community members.
 - Awareness raising activities could start from youth group or young children.
 - Government should build stairs down to the Mae Kha canal so people could go down and clean the water more easily.
 - In designing solutions, one must understand road habits and behaviors of Chiang Mai people.



- BRT services should be considered as another alternative. Some roads such as those around Ton Lamyai market, Warorot market and Tapae area should be “car free” or “walking streets” at all times.
- Walking path/footpath should be widened and shady.
- Public bus services should cover all main roads.
- DPC is promoting “Green Scout” campaign to support Chiang Mai Clean Air Plan
- The Project should invite film makers to make short films to promote non-motorized trips.
- The Municipality should improve the crematory technology to prevent bad odor which affects the health of people in nearby communities.
- Renewable energy should be promoted to replace fossil energy.
- Those who burn garbage in open air area or those who burn down forest trees to collect mushroom should be strongly punished
- For effective awareness raising, one must start from young age and based on the 5 precepts of Buddhism.

Expression of interest to join the Project’s activities/implementation

All participants were invited to express their interests to participate in the implementation of Chiang Mai Clean Air Plan. All together 24 participants/organizations have indicated their interests to join in the implementation of the three goals.