



Overview on Malé Declaration:

In 1998, UNEP RRC.AP together with SEI drew attention to the possibility of impacts of transboundary air pollution in South Asia. This initiative led to the adoption of the Malé Declaration by eight participating countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, at the Seventh Governing Council of SACEP. The initiative was funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) as part of the Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC) programme.

The Malé Declaration's objective is to aid the process of providing a clean environment through clean air. The Declaration calls for regional cooperation to address the increasing threat of Transboundary Air Pollution and its possible impacts.

During Phase I of its implementing programme in 1998-2000, a network was established, baseline studies were completed and action plans were drawn up. The baseline studies provided valuable information on air pollution management programmes in the participating countries and clearly identified the gaps in the existing monitoring systems in understanding the transboundary air pollution.

Consequently, a capacity building programme was initiated in Phase II of the implementing programme in 2001-2004, which included strengthening the monitoring networks and training. National and Regional level stakeholders were also held in this phase.

Subsequently, member countries developed and disseminated public awareness materials during Phase III in 2005-2008. A document on "Youth for clean Air" with an animated CD as a public awareness material for youth, and "Compendium on good practices on prevention and control of air pollution" was developed.

The Phase IV implementation (2009-2012) is to focus on assisting the member countries of the Malé Declaration in the reduction of air pollutants. Assisting the member countries enhances their regional cooperation, monitoring, and impact assessment; strengthen the initiatives started in the first three phases and to initiate new ones is continued. During this implementation phase, it is agreed with SAYEN to continue the process of raising awareness to the Youth in South Asia.

Under this framework a Regional Workshop on Malé Declaration and Air Pollution aspects for youth in South Asia (SAYEN Members and others), will be organized by CEE and Malé Declaration Secretariat on 5th February, 2012.