



## FACT SHEET ON THE AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM

### The Problem

- People in seven out of 10 cities in developing Asia breathe air that is harmful to their health, based on World Health Organization's guidelines.
- Urban air pollution contributes to the premature deaths of 800,000 people in Asia every year.
- Several air pollutants, including black carbon (a component of particulate matter or soot), methane, and tropospheric ozone, contribute to global warming.
- Many governments still struggle to address air pollution.

### About the Program

Clean Air Asia's [Air Quality and Climate Change Program](#) consists of three components:

1. Develop a road map for better air quality in Asian cities, linking air pollution with climate change.
2. Establish a regional system for knowledge management and capacity building.
3. Support cities in the management of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

### Program Accomplishments

Clean Air Asia developed the [Clean Air Scorecard for Asian Cities](#). The scorecard is a comprehensive tool for understanding the air quality management status in cities. It incorporates air quality levels, clean air management capacity, and clean air policies and actions.

The scorecard has been applied to 10 cities. Clean Air Asia then assists cities in improving air quality management. The use of the scorecard in the Chinese cities of Jinan and Hangzhou initiated the formulation of city clean air report and inputs to action plans.

Clean Air Asia brought together various organizations in a knowledge partnership to

improve access to air quality and climate change data. The partnership aims to further enrich policy development interventions relevant to energy, transport, and urban development. It was initiated with funding from the World Bank Development Grant Facility and with co-financing from other partners.

The partnership focused on the development of benchmark emissions indicators for air pollutant and GHG emissions from the road transport and electricity sectors in 13 countries in Asia. It has four outputs:

1. [Air Pollution and GHG Emissions Indicators for Road Transport and Electricity Sectors in Asia: Guidelines for their Development, Measurement, and Use](#)
2. [Accessing Asia: Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Indicators from Road Transport and Electricity](#)
3. [Country Profiles](#)
4. [www.CitiesACT.org](http://www.CitiesACT.org), Clean Air Asia's online database on air quality, climate change, energy, and transport

### 2016 Goals for Asia

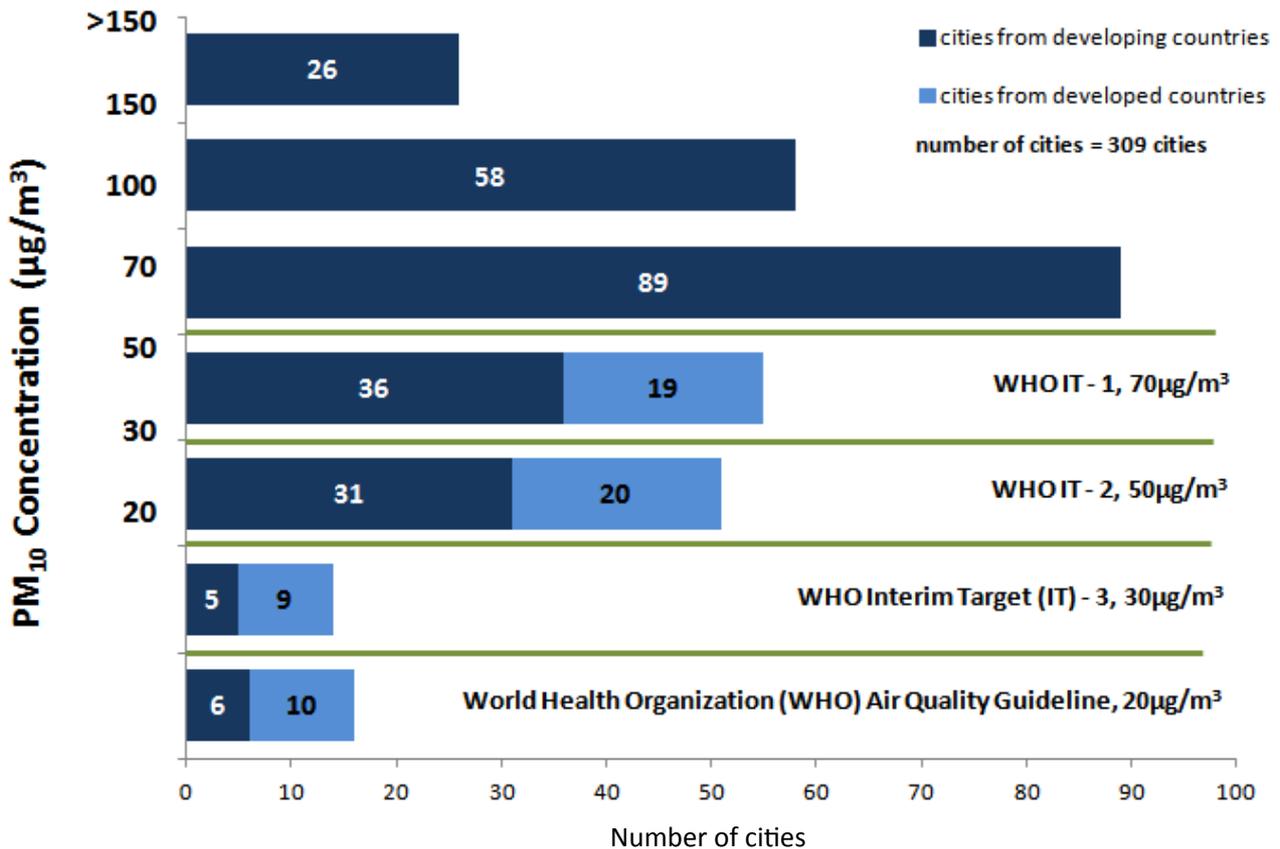
1. Asian countries adopt National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in line with World Health Organization Interim Target 1 for daily and annual levels.
2. Asian cities of more than 1 million people have air quality monitoring systems covering at least PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub>, and they report data publicly everyday.
3. Asian cities of more than 1 million people have Clean Air Plans with progress reported in annual reports.

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### Ambient Air Quality in 309 Asian Cities



### The twin problems of air pollution and climate change

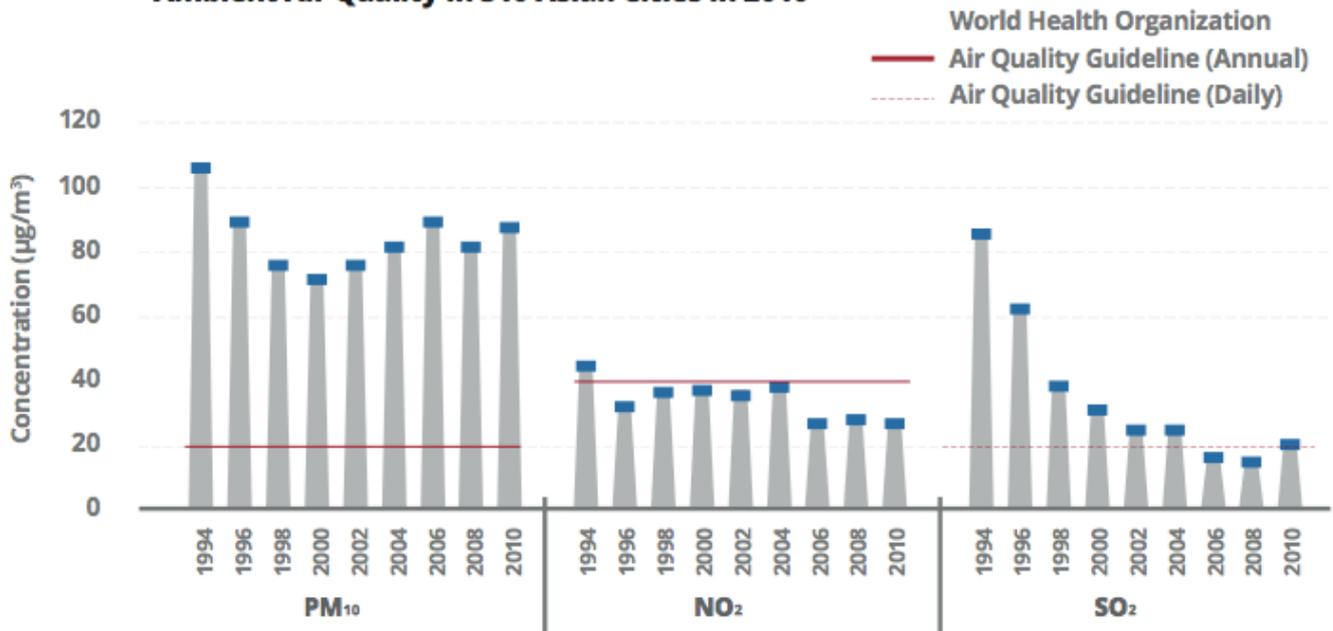
People in seven out of ten cities in developing Asian countries risk illness with every breath they take. Urban air pollution contributes to 800,000 premature deaths in Asia yearly, estimates the World Health Organization.

Several air pollutants, including black carbon (a component of particulate matter or soot), methane, and tropospheric ozone, contribute to climate change. Many governments still struggle to address the problems of climate change and air pollution.

Source of chart and text:  
Clean Air Asia (<http://www.cleanairasia.org/>)



## Ambient Air Quality in 310 Asian Cities in 2010



### Monitoring air quality trends to shape policies

Clean Air Asia was the first organization to show that air quality in Asian cities had improved since the 1990s. Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) levels in most cities now fall within the guidelines set by the World Health Organization (WHO). Levels of particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), a key air pollutant responsible for thousands of avoidable deaths across Asia, remain high, though.

In 2003, air quality data was available for only 20 cities in Asia. Today, data for over 400 cities in 22 countries is available.

The CitiesACT database (<http://www.citiesact.org>) is Clean Air Asia's online database on air quality, climate change, energy, and transport. The database is the main source for Asia data of the WHO's Global Outdoor Air Pollution in Cities database.

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Clean Air Asia (<http://www.cleanairasia.org/>)