

Household Air Pollution (HAP) – the silent killer

The burden of disease from household air pollution is higher than the burden caused by outdoor air pollution.

Breakout – Session

Thursday, 20 November 2014, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Venue: Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall,
Committee Room C

■ Background

With over 7 million deaths every year, air pollution – both ambient and household air pollution – is currently the world's largest single environmental health risk. According to latest figures from WHO, air pollution in households alone caused 4.3 million deaths in 2012. South East Asian and Western Pacific regions bear most of the burden with 1.69 and 1.62 million deaths, respectively. As such, Household air pollution (HAP) is a key risk factor for many of the countries in the South Asia region. Further, it is a significant contributing source for outdoor air pollution.

WHO has developed indoor air quality guidelines which are introduced to countries concerned. A number of Asian countries are preparing strategies to advance the new WHO guidelines and bring stakeholders together to address indoor and outdoor air pollution challenges.

Household air pollution is mostly caused by incomplete combustion of solid cooking and heating fuels such as coal, firewood and charcoal. A number of solutions are available but access to clean cooking energy is still a big challenge.

■ Topics in Focus

- Importance of household air pollution in South Asia
- Relevance of the new WHO indoor air quality guidelines and challenges for national stakeholders
- Country case Sri Lanka: national situation of household air pollution and plans to develop and adapt the indoor air quality guidelines
- Solutions to reduce household air pollution

■ Panelists:

- Terrence Thompson, WHO
- Dr Sumal Nandasena, National Institute of Health Sciences, Sri Lanka
- Dr Thusitha Sugathapala, Director General of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Sri Lanka
- Dr Kapil Goel, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
- Dr Marlis Kees, GIZ

■ Facilitation:

Santosh Kumar Singh, GIZ India