

GAHP 2017 Annual Meeting Summary

The GAHP 2017 Annual Meeting was held on 3rd December 2017 from 12:00 – 15:00 Nairobi time. About 60 persons from at least 43 different agencies were present, including: the Ministries of Environment of Togo, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sweden, the Ministry of Health of Kenya, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Global Affairs Canada, UNDP, UN Environment, WB, EC, UNIDO, DFID, US Department of State, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Air Quality Asia, Global Green Growth Institute, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, and SDPI Pakistan, among many others.

Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment, gave a strong statement of support and call to action. **Daniel Calleja, Director General, the Environment Directorate of the European Commission**, likewise echoed his support for GAHP and its initiatives, and expressed desire to hear country requests for GAHP assistance. Representatives from Global Affairs Canada and the US Department of State similarly expressed their support for GAHP's efforts, and indicated their agencies looked forward to more effective international coordination and action on pollution.

The meeting highlighted the terrific results of the *Lancet* Commission on Pollution and Health (more than 3,000 articles with more than 2 billion people reached), the resulting recommendations of the report, and a brief summary of the launch events held in New York, Brussels, Delhi and Ottawa.

The Secretariat presented a brief overview of the GAHP strategic plan and planning process, noting successes to date, and the viewpoints of members and observers alike which saw great value in GAHP's role in continuing its focus on advocacy and mobilizing political will.

The Secretariat then gave a brief overview of the Health and Pollution Action Planning (HPAP) process and its goals, followed by a presentation by the Pollution Control Department of Thailand regarding its experience to date with the HPAP process. These were succeeded by presentations from the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Indonesia and Cambodia. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Ecology of Madagascar submitted a presentation outlining the HPAP process in Madagascar. The presentations will be made available on the GAHP website, along with the other meeting presentations and documents.

Last but not least, several low- and middle-income countries government representatives conveyed their country's needs related to tackling pollution. More specifically:

The **Pollution Control Department Thailand** and the **Ministry of Environment and Forests of Madagascar** requested assistance with implementation of solutions identified in the HPAP process, including in Thailand regarding contaminated site identification, especially abandoned mining areas, wastewater treatment facilities, and

waste/hazardous waste management; and in Madagascar: strengthening technology and standards, gathering data and statistics about pollution and its health impacts, assistance to switch to cleaner cooking fuels, among other needs.

The Ministry of Environment of Cambodia requested support for: capacity building, human resources, and budget for monitoring equipment and enforcement; technical and financial assistance to implement solutions; more donor investments in key pollution areas, especially for the development of environmental infrastructure and green space; cross-sectoral planning based on health impacts; and more research, especially on contaminated sites, chemicals and wastes, and burden of disease.

The Ministry of Environment of Togo expressed that it needs capacity building and more detailed information about gathering data on contaminated sites. Specifically, the Ministry expressed a desire to build capacity in assessing contamination levels, noting that current efforts often rely on assumptions rather than hard data.

The Ministry of Environment of Kenya expressed an interest in gathering more information regarding the “up-stream” impacts from chemicals resulting from production and manufacturing and on GAHP’s work in this area.

The Kenya Ministry of Health expressed an interest in strengthening collaboration in the implementation of national strategies for environmental health, and specifically requested more information about global best practices in reducing health impacts from pollution.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests of Indonesia noted that while they had some good successes tackling air pollution, much more work needs to be done on other areas of pollution, such as contaminated sites.