

Project Progress Report 2020 (RCARP)

- **Project Title: RCARP**, Air quality and Environmental Impact Assessment of Industrial Activities in Asian Region
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- **Implementation Period:** 2018-2020 (Phase 1), 2021- 2023 (Phase 2)
- **Objective:** To support the improvement of quality of the environment through the provision of appropriate pollutant data related to industrial activities for researchers and relevant stakeholders
- **Implementation status of the project:**

The RCARP was implemented as the first RCA Research Project under the framework of the RCARO Managed Projects for the research on the impact of the industrial activities to the air quality and environment in the Asian region.

Due to the travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19, the Research Coordination Meeting, initially planned to be held in Malaysia in November 2020, was cancelled. Instead, the CSI annual/final progress reports were submitted and reviewed by the Research Review Committee (RRC) on the project progress.

As the project ended in 2020, an Achievement Report of the project was drafted by Technical Officer (TO), integrating three-year progress reports received from the CSIs.

- **Participating countries** (Phase 1): Australia, New Zealand and Republic of Korea as Agreement Holders and China, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka as Contract Holders
- **Expected Outcomes:** Use of analytical data by stakeholders and governmental agencies involved in policy and strategy design, Improved understanding and new knowledge related to pollution sources for stakeholders, end users and researchers
- **Regional activities carried out in 2020:**

According to the work plan, all participated countries submitted 2020 annual progress reports and final reports for review by the RRC. Based on the reports received from CSIs, the TO of the project drafted the Achievement Report detailing implementation of the research activities, project outputs and outcomes against work plan and performance indicators set out under the project.

During the Phase 1, participated countries collected and analysed a total of two-thousand (2,000) air particulate matter samples and some other pollutant sources (soil and crops) using nuclear analytical techniques. A total of forty-one (41) research papers were published and twenty-four (24) stakeholder meetings were organised engaging governmental agencies and research institutes for improving understanding on the pollutant sources. There also had been some research synergies amongst participated countries in forms of fellowship, MoU and provision of sample analysis and sampling equipment utilising existing infrastructure and expertise in the region.

Considering the strong needs of the participated countries for expanded research from air particulate matter to other pollutant sources such as crop, soil and water, a proposal for second phase was submitted and approved by the 48th GCM. The second phase of the project is expected to be implemented from 2021-2023 for another three years.

● **Planned Activities in 2021:**

| No. | Title of Event | Date | Objective/purpose | Remarks |
|-----|---|------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1 | Research Coordination Meeting | 18-19 March 2021 | <p><u>Objective:</u> To review achievement of the Phase 1, discuss major project components, refine national research projects and establish regional work plan for 2021-2023</p> <p><u>Target participants:</u> CSIs from participating countries, TO, member of the RRC</p> <p><u>Estimated number:</u> 17</p> | Virtual Meeting |
| 2 | Submission of the Annual Progress Reports and review by the RRC | October 2021 | | Electronic communications |