

## Chair and Secretariat



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

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World Health Organization  
Southeast Asia Regional Office  
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World Health Organization  
Western Pacific Regional Office  
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1000 Manila  
Philippines



United Nations Environment Programme  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
The United Nations Building  
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Dusit, Bangkok 10200,  
Thailand

## Thematic Working Groups

The membership to the TWGs is open to all member countries and their designated national authorities and other relevant government and non-government organizations, formations and institutions

TWG	Chair (as of September 2019)
Air quality and health	Republic of Korea (MOE), and Thailand (MONRE)
Water, sanitation and hygiene	Pakistan (MOH)
Chemicals, waste and health	Japan (MOE) and Thailand (MOPH)
Climate change and health	Philippines (EMB)
Health impact assessment	Thailand (MOPH)
Ecosystem and health	Abeyance
Sustainable and healthy cities	Abeyance
Workers' health	Abeyance



# Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment

- Information Notes -



World Health Organization  
and  
United Nations Environment Programme



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## Brief history

The Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment was established in 2004 to address the growing threat that environmental hazards pose to human health. This forum seeks to create greater synergy among relevant government departments in order to better tackle environmental and health issues.

Initially founded by ministers of health and environmental sectors from 10 ASEAN countries and 4 East Asian countries (China, Japan, South Korea, and Mongolia), the Regional Forum is now open to all member states of UNEP ROAP, WHO WPRO, and WHO SEARO, which supports the Regional Forum jointly.

The Chair of the Regional Forum rotates among its member countries, with each serving in turn. Thailand served as the Chair from 2007-2010, followed by South Korea (2012-2013), Malaysia (2013-2016), Philippines (2016-2019), and Indonesia (2020-2024).

To date, four Ministers Meetings and ten High-level Officials Meetings have been held. The most recent Ministers Meeting was held in Manila, Philippines in 2016 and was attended by 34 countries and administrative regions. The Regional Forum provides a platform for countries to exchange ideas, share best practices, and work together to address the complex and pressing environmental and health challenges facing the Asia Pacific region.

## Objectives and strategies

The Regional Forum is committed to fostering cooperation and collaboration between the health and environment sectors at both the regional and country levels. The goal is to work towards a healthier, more sustainable future for all. To achieve this goal, the Regional Forum has developed a comprehensive set of strategies, which include:

- Sharing knowledge and experiences,
- Advocating for measures, policies, and actions to protect health, and
- Promoting other sectors to prioritize health.

Through these strategies, the Regional Forum is committed to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement, Minamata Conventions, and other international and regional initiatives.

## Achievements

The Regional Forum encourages the member countries to develop and implement cost-effective National Environmental Health Action Plans. Some countries have developed national activities and obtained external assistances to the relevant activities such as awareness raising. At regional level, the Regional Forum is aligned with the various existing initiatives on health-environment nexus. Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) have lead by the TWG Chairs and undertaken various activities including:

- Workshops and trainings to disseminate information and provide learning opportunities,
- Policy briefs and guidelines development,
- Surveys and monitoring plan.

## Current setting

Reformulation of the Regional Forum in 2016 streamlines the implementation structure to simpler and flexible. The member countries are supported by the Secretariat to interact with the knowledge networks for their priority topics. The TWGs which are inhouse subsidiary bodies run by the TWG Chairs selected by the Regional Forum.

The Regional Forum is open to collaborate with new and existing initiatives to enhance the impact by creating synergy and avoiding redundancy and duplication of works.

