



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**

February 16-18, 2022



CAP India
Clean Air Project in India

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Improving Air Quality in Cities- Global issues, local solutions and best practices

18th February 2022 and Time: 2.45pm -4.15 pm (IST) | Duration: 90 minutes

Background note

Air pollution is a global issue, affecting cities around the world, and requiring both local and global solutions. Worldwide, air pollution is one of the leading causes of deteriorating human health, causing around seven million premature deaths every year. As per the Global burden of disease report 2019, almost all Indians are exposed to concentrations of PM_{2.5} above the value specified by the World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines, thereby making them vulnerable to serious health risks. Despite various initiatives taken by the government of India to control air pollution, around 78% of the Indian cities where air quality is being monitored violate the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); 122 cities are classified as non-attainment cities. To address the issue of air pollution, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India (GoI) has launched the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) in January 2019, intending to reduce 20-30% of PM₁₀ concentrations by 2023. NCAP also stresses that sharing best practices and increased cooperation with international agencies are critical elements for overcoming and tackling air pollution. In this context, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has initiated several projects, including the Clean Air Project in India (CAP India), intending to support India's initiative to improve the air quality of four selected cities (Lucknow, Kanpur, Nashik, and Pune); and the Clean Air Project in China. And both India and Switzerland coordinate their actions through the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which India has joined in 2020.

As a part of the CAP India project, a thematic track titled '**Improving Air Quality in Cities - Global issues, local solutions and best practices**' is organized in WSDS, 2022, to discuss future air quality scenarios for developing countries like India, and exchange experience and best practices. The thematic track consists of two sessions. The first session aims to discuss national and international experiences on air quality management in cities and discuss the progress made, constraints faced, and the way forward for faster and more effective pollution control. The panellists from India, the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), China, Europe and the Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) will discuss progress made and the way

forwards on the national and city-level air quality management plans, compare experiences and share best practices. The second session will discuss air quality and human health linkages, achievements and challenges, and tools needed to bring behavioral changes in the community on air quality and related issues. The session, which will focus on clean air action, will have representatives from the medical community, academia, policy and decision making, media, and NGOs.

Contact Us:

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