

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Smog Commission

The second meeting of the Smog Commission was held at Environment Protection Department, Government of the Punjab, at 11:00 AM on 13 January 2018. The following attended:

1. Dr Parvez Hassan, Chair
2. Saif Anjum, Secretary, EPD
3. Anwaar Hussain, Additional Advocate General
4. Ali Habib, Managing Partner, HIMA Verte
5. Sheraz Zaka
6. Barrister Harris Ramzan (representing Secretary Health)
8. Tauqueer Ahmed, Director EPA (assisting Secretary EPD)

1. Welcome by Chair and Organizational Matters

- (1) The Chair welcomed the participants and informed that Ms Sara Bilal had requested leave of absence for an engagement in Islamabad, which she was granted.
- (2) Secretary EPD presented the minutes of the first meeting of the Commission. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- (3) Chairman observed that the spade work done by Secretary EPD reveals the enormity of the task at hand which necessitates specialised input.

2. Discussion

- (1) The following emerged from the discussion of the members of the Commission:

- (a) There is need to constitute at least five committees
 - (1) Root Cause Committee to identify the sources and contributions of these sources to pollutant concentrations in ambient air;
 - (2) Smog Policy Committee to recommend elements of Smog Policy of Government of the Punjab;
 - (3) Health Emergency Committee to suggest and draft health emergency response of Government of the Punjab (at different levels: province, division, district) in an event of high pollutant levels in ambient air;
 - (4) Voluntary Action Committee to Actions to identify Short-Term, Medium-Term and Long-Term voluntary actions by general public aimed at mitigation air pollution and improving air quality in the province; and
 - (5) Capacity Building Committee to identify what capacity is needed to deliver the recommendations of the Committees.
- (b) There should be very strong presence of academics on these Committees.
- (c) The Root Cause Committee shall benefit from the recommendations of Lahore Clean Air Commission.

- (2) The Commission constituted these committees as follows:

- (a) Dr Abu Bakr, Associate Professor, LUMS to chair Root Cause Committee.
- (b) Saif Anjum, Secretary EPD to chair Smog Policy and Capacity Building Committees.
- (c) Anwar Hussain, Additional Advocate General to chair Health Emergency Committee.
- (d) Voluntary Action Committee will be chaired by Mr Ali Habib, Managing Partner, HIMA Verte.
- (e) The chairs of the Committees will coopt members as they deem necessary for their committees.
- (f) Each Committee should held at least two or three meetings and there should be a feeling of due delligence, expert contributions and participation.

3. Visit of EPA Headquarters Laboratory

The Commission visited the EPA Headquarters Laboratory. The Commission was informed that the laboratory is fully functional to measure almost all the criterial pollutants in wastewaters, stack emissions and ambient air. The functioning of various instruments – ICP-OES, Air Quality Monitoring Station, BOD5 Setup – were demonstrated to the Commission. Plans for future expansion of the analytical capacities were also presented to the Commission.

4. Next Meeting

The time, venue, and agenda for the next meeting was decided as follows:

(1) Third meeting of the Commission will be held in the Committee Room of Environment Protection Department, National Hockey Stadium, Lahore after completion and submission of recommendations of the Committies to the Chairperson of the Commission. The Chair will host the lunch.

(2) Agenda for the next meeting will be:

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the second meeting of the Commission.
- (b) Discussion on the recommendations of the Committees.
- (c) Drafting of recommendation of the Commission.
- (d) Lunch hosted by the Chair.

(3) The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Chair for the participants.