

## **Asia-Wide Workshop – Aerosol Studies of the Asia-Pacific Region**

**Project Leader:** International START Secretariat  
2000 Florida Avenue, Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
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**Aerosol and Air Quality in Asia and the Pacific:  
Implication for Science and Society**  
*A public policy forum sponsored by APN and START*

Aerosols are a significant and rapidly increasing component of the atmosphere over Asia and the Pacific. Natural aerosol levels have been substantially perturbed by anthropogenic activities, particularly by increases of sulfates, nitrates, organic condensates, soot and soil dust. Atmospheric aerosol particulates affect the Earth's radiative balance by scattering or absorbing light and indirectly acting as cloud condensation nuclei, thereby influencing the albedo and lifetime of clouds. Although aerosol particulates therefore have potential climatic importance, they are still poorly characterized in global climate models. They potentially have a large impact on the quality of the landscape and life of its inhabitants as well.

This forum, organized in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Network in Kobe, Japan, March 18-20, provided a briefing for participants in that meeting and the general public on the current status and priority issues in scientific studies of change in aerosols and air quality in the Asian-Pacific region, potential impacts and emerging policy concerns.