HEALTHY-POLIS workshop

A Global Initiative to Instigate a Clean Air, Low Carbon Transition towards Healthier and More Sustainable Cities

Tuesday 27th November 2018, 8:30 – 13:00

At the 15th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH 2018)

Speke Conference Center (Meera Room), Kampala, Uganda

BACKGROUND

There is an urgent need to reduce Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and premature mortality from air pollution, projected to double by 2050 in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) due to population growth and increases in urban air pollution. A clean air, low carbon transition in rapidly growing LMIC cities can deliver substantial public health, environmental, and socioeconomic benefits, by lowering emissions from the most polluting sectors, and reducing personal exposure to air pollution. Making cities more walkable and cycle friendly, and improving public transport, will reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, congestion, accidents and traffic noise, and help prevent NCDs through increased physical activity and better mental health.

Low carbon land use planning and urban design can improve dispersion of pollutants and reduce urban heat islands. Cleaner household fuels and cooking technologies can reduce indoor air pollution and health inequalities. To instigate these transformative changes is an exacting challenge requiring collaboration across research, policy and practice from key disciplines including public health, environmental management, and urban planning. The Healthy-Polis International Consortium for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability aims to stimulate transformative action through deep engagement with local authorities, planners, the health sector and local communities to co-develop urgently needed, actionable scientific evidence on policies and interventions that will reduce pollution and provide much wider societal co-benefits, such as improved health and productivity.

Workshop objectives:

This workshop, co-organised by the Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM, UK), Makerere University (Uganda), North-West University (South Africa), and the International Consortium for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability (Healthy-Polis), aims to:

1) Evaluate and promote urban policies and interventions aiming to improve air quality and provide multiple health co-benefits, particularly focusing on low- and middle-income countries.

2) Discuss innovation in urban health and environmental sustainability research and practice, focusing on the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.
3) Provide a forum for interdisciplinary collaboration on urban environmental health and sustainability, particularly focusing on cross-sectoral, cross-city interactions between the global North and South.

This interactive workshop will involve different actors from academia, public health, local government, NGOs, industry, and funding organisations, aiming to promoting low carbon urban development and effective clean air interventions in Africa.

**Workshop Program / Provisional Agenda**

8:30 – 8:50  
Registration

8:50 – 9:00  
Opening remarks. Samuel Sserunkuma, Deputy Executive Director Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda.

9:00 – 9:15  
The Healthy-Polis initiative: strengthening urban environmental health research and practice in sub-Saharan Africa. Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis, Research Director, IOM, UK.

9:15 – 9:30  
Interventions and innovation for climate change mitigation – experiences from Kampala (*tbc*). Mr Sadam Yiga Kiwanuka, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda.

9:30 – 9:45  
Air Quality Monitoring and Health in Uganda: Experiences from the Eastern Africa GEOHealth Hub. Prof Lynn Atuyambe / Samuel Etajak, Dept. of Community Health & Behavioral Sciences, School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda.

9:45 – 10:00  
Centre for Research in Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC) overview: Increasing access to clean energy. Agnes Naluwagga, CREEC, Uganda.

10:00 – 10:15  
Understanding the impact of domestic solid fuel combustion on air quality and health in South African Townships. Prof Stuart Piketh, North-West University, SA.

10:15 – 10:30  
Coffee break

10:30 – 11:30  
Moderated panel discussion

11:30 – 12:20  
Group discussion and feedback

12:20 – 12:30  
Concluding remarks – Lynn Atuyambe, Stuart Piketh, Sotiris Vardoulakis

12:30 – 13:00  
Lunch break – networking

**The discussion will address the following questions:**

(Q1) What are the evidence gaps and research priorities for reducing the health impacts from outdoor and household air pollution in urban Africa?

(Q2) How can we increase capacity and capability, and build a network to share experience on urban environmental health in Africa?
Panel Participants

Dr Daniel Okello, Director of Public Health and Environment, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda.

Dr Bruce Kirenga, Senior Lecturer and Director of Makerere University Lung Institute, Uganda.

Prof Blessing Mberu, Head of Urbanization and Wellbeing Research Program, African Population and Health Research Center, Kenya.

Prof Lidia Morawska, Director, International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health, Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

Didas Namanya, Uganda National Climate Change Policy Committee, National Health Information Management System and Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Committee. Ministry of Health, Uganda. (tbc)

Jennifer Kutesakwe, Senior Environmental Inspector, National Environment Management Authority, Uganda. (tbc)