

GROUP EXERCISE TO DETERMINE SPECIFIC FOCUS OF AE-NETWORK IN 2016

GROUP ONE



GROUP 1 - CITIES' AIR POLLUTION

- 1 Read Introduction text about theme
- 2 Read and discuss “Why is this a Business Case and Why Should Business Organisations Engage”
- 3 Read and discuss Sample Solutions
- 4 Rate the Sample Solutions to find the most important
- 5 Brainstorm, discuss and describe in detail how the AE-Network in 2016 can work with the selected, most important solution
- 6 Present suggestions for AE-Network in plenum (5 min. per presentation)
- 7 In Plenum: Vote to find the specific focus on the AE-Network in 2016

INTRODUCTION TEXT

WHAT STEP IS CRUCIAL IN FIGHTING CITIES' AIR POLLUTION?

In rapidly growing cities such as Beijing and New Delhi, air pollution has become so severe that respiratory disease is on the rise, flights have been grounded, and the public is often warned against letting children play outside. Chokingly thick blankets of smog are often a by-product of economic growth, which results in more vehicles on the road and more burning of fossil fuels, especially coal. The bad air can be deadly: Outdoor air pollution, both in cities and rural areas, prematurely killed 3.7 million people worldwide in 2012, according to the World Health Organization. With two-thirds of the population expected to live in cities by 2050, the need to ease urban pollution is particularly acute.

The problem goes beyond respiratory health and quality of life: A recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that in India, short-lived air pollutants such as ozone and black carbon, along with the changing climate, cut 2010 crop yields in half.

In the drive to build smarter cities around the world, what is the most important thing we should do to tackle air pollution?

WHY IS THIS A BUSINESS CASE AND WHY SHOULD BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS ENGAGE?

The industry can help reducing air pollution by switching to more sustainable and efficient methods of production incl. machinery. Becoming more energy efficient means cost savings, which leads to enhanced productivity. It is in the clear interest of business organisations to promote this.

Ideas for intervention:

Fuel switching: Erecting unit for melting lead and antimony alloy sealed and working by LPG rather than the open oven to reduce electricity consumption and reduce pollutants lead oxides of refractory crucible cover that posed a threat to the health of workers and the high consumption of electrical energy

Control flow velocity of air pump injection machines: Installing motor multi-speed VSD saving of 20-50% of the energy consumed in the management of the motor pump during injection.

Improving combustion Efficiency: Adjust the thermal performance of boilers and furnaces, and improvement of combustion efficiency by controlling the ratio of air to fuel using mobile gas analysis devices to reduce fuel consumption between 1-7%, which helps to reduce pollutants and their conformity with environmental law

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SAMPLE SOLUTIONS

Reduce tailpipe emissions from vehicles: Regulations aimed at transportation-related emissions, including fuel standards, idling restrictions for trucks, and manufacturing requirements for vehicles have helped California cut air pollution despite increases in road travel.

Speed the transition away from coal: The burning of coal, a key contributor to air pollution, accounts for about 70 percent of energy consumed in China and about 44 percent in India, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Clean energy advocates are pushing for a transition to solar and wind, but the reliability and low price of coal power have made it difficult for many countries—including the United States—to abandon it.

Place stronger rules on industry: Factories and shipping ports—key sources of dirty air—are going unchecked in many developing regions. In China, the desire to clean up its air for the 2014 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit led to a temporary shutdown of thousands of factories, along with bans on driving. Powering factories, and shipping the goods they make, causes air pollution. But the problem could be mitigated with rules aimed at making operations cleaner and more efficient.

Push for binding international targets: In a surprise pact which the United States announced in November 2014, China agreed to halt the growth of its emissions by 2030, while the U.S. pledged to cut emissions 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. The agreement, though voluntary, is seen as a signal for other developing nations to make similar commitments. Whether such pledges will be enough—and whether they will actually lower emissions—could help determine the world's progress in curbing emissions that stoke air pollution.

RATING

WHAT IS THE NEXT CRUCIAL STEP IN FIGHTING MENA CITIES' AIR POLLUTION? GIVE YOUR RATING FOR THE ANSWERS BELOW AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS IN THE COMMENTS.

Solution	Rating (1-5)	Comments
Reduce tailpipe emission from vehicles		
Speed the transition away from coal		
Place stronger rules on industry		
Push for binding international targets		

SELECTED SOLUTION: _____

BRAINSTORM, DISCUSS AND DESCRIBE

HOW CAN THE AE-NETWORK WORK WITH THE SELECTED SOLUTION IN 2016 TO FIGHT THE AIR POLLUTION IN THE CITIES ACROSS MENA?

- **Brainstorm:**
 - o Considering what is realistic within one year and considering the capacity and mandate of the AE-network, what would be the most valuable way for the AE-network to work with this topic?
 - o How can AE-members share knowledge and best practice in this field?
 - o What would be the desired output and outcome of the work of 2016 of the AE-network? Please be specific.
- **Discuss:**
 - o Should the AE-network work with this through service provision to its member companies and/or through development of a common policy position?
 - o How should the AE-members work together on this?
 - o How should the action be communicated and promoted?
 - o Which action could give good business benefits?
- **Describe (to be presented in plenum):**
 - o What concrete action do you suggest for the AE-network 2016?
 - o What would be the concrete goal/objective of this action? (within 2016 and on the longer run)
 - o Who should be the lead on this action?
 - o What should be done by members and the Secretariat respectively until next working group meeting?
 - o Other considerations



You should write your work on a laptop. Arabic or English.

Please prepare for your presentation in plenum, which should take no more than 5 minutes.