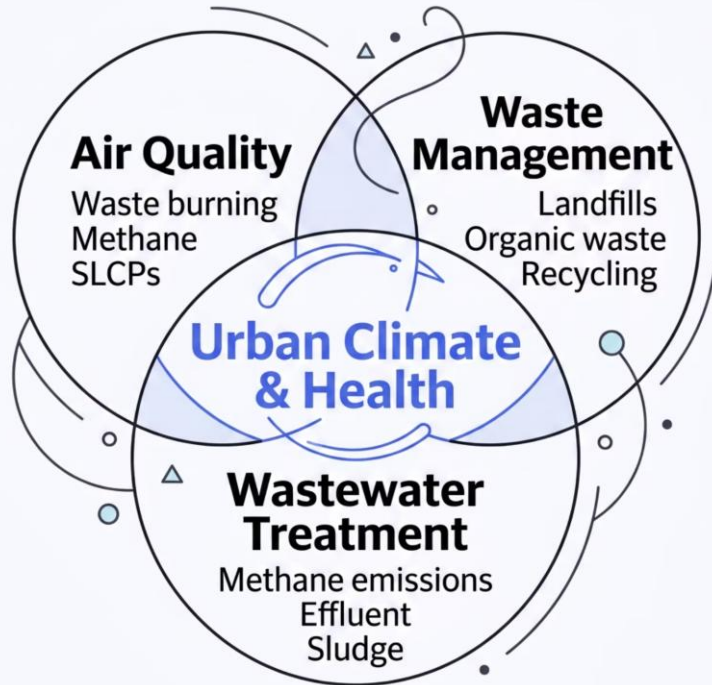




Air Quality & Waste Management: More Connected Than You Think

At first glance, air pollution and waste management seem like separate challenges — but they are deeply interlinked. Methane from landfills, emissions from waste burning, and pollutants from wastewater all degrade urban air quality. This session builds directly on our earlier discussion of international cooperation on air quality, extending that lens to waste and wastewater.

The Air–Waste–Wastewater Nexus



In Asia-Pacific, the waste sector is a major source of methane emissions:

- ~61% of waste-sector methane comes from wastewater
- ~34% comes from solid waste

Solutions — organic waste diversion, anaerobic digestion, biogas recovery — address all three challenges simultaneously.

 Source: ESCAP 2025 Policy Brief on Methane Strategies



PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Who Is in the Room Today

Policy & Finance

MOEJ · UNEP · UNDP ·
ADB · Lao PDR

Implementation & Cooperation

GIZ · CAA · JICA · JESC

Research & Resilience

AIT · Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna · ACAP

Institutional Synergies: Stronger Together

Policy → Finance

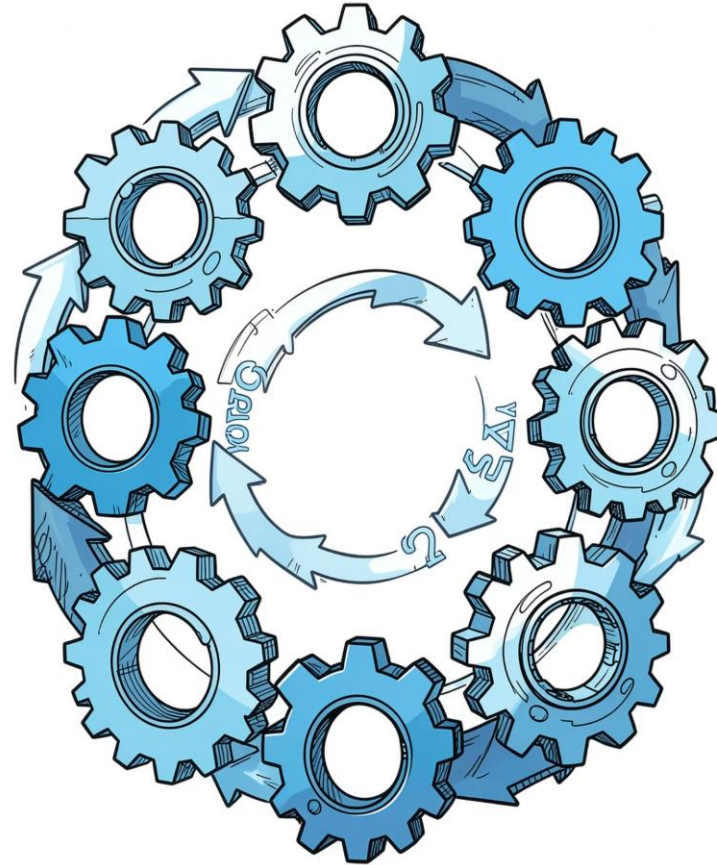
UNEP/UNDP frameworks enable
MOEJ/ADB/JICA to mobilise
investment

Research → Implementation

AIT/SEACAI evidence guides
GIZ/CAA city-level action

Capacity → Scale

JICA/ AIT/GIZ /CAA/JESC training enables municipalities to sustain
and replicate solutions





Key Messages & Path Forward

→ Solutions Exist

Organic waste diversion, anaerobic digestion, and biogas recovery are technically feasible — scaling requires coordination.

→ Integration Is Essential

Waste, wastewater, and air quality must be addressed together — methane connects them all.

→ Partnerships Are the Catalyst

The institutions in this room have complementary strengths. Joint pilots, co-financing, and shared platforms are the next step.

Three Questions for Today's Dialogue

1

Air–Waste Linkage

How is your organisation addressing the connections between waste management, wastewater, and air quality improvement — through projects, policy, or climate action?

2

Challenges & Cooperation

What are the most pressing waste and wastewater challenges in developing countries, and how can international cooperation better support practical solutions on the ground?

3

Concrete Collaboration

What specific opportunities exist among institutions here today — joint pilots, co-financing, or shared platforms — to turn methane reduction strategies into scalable city-level action?