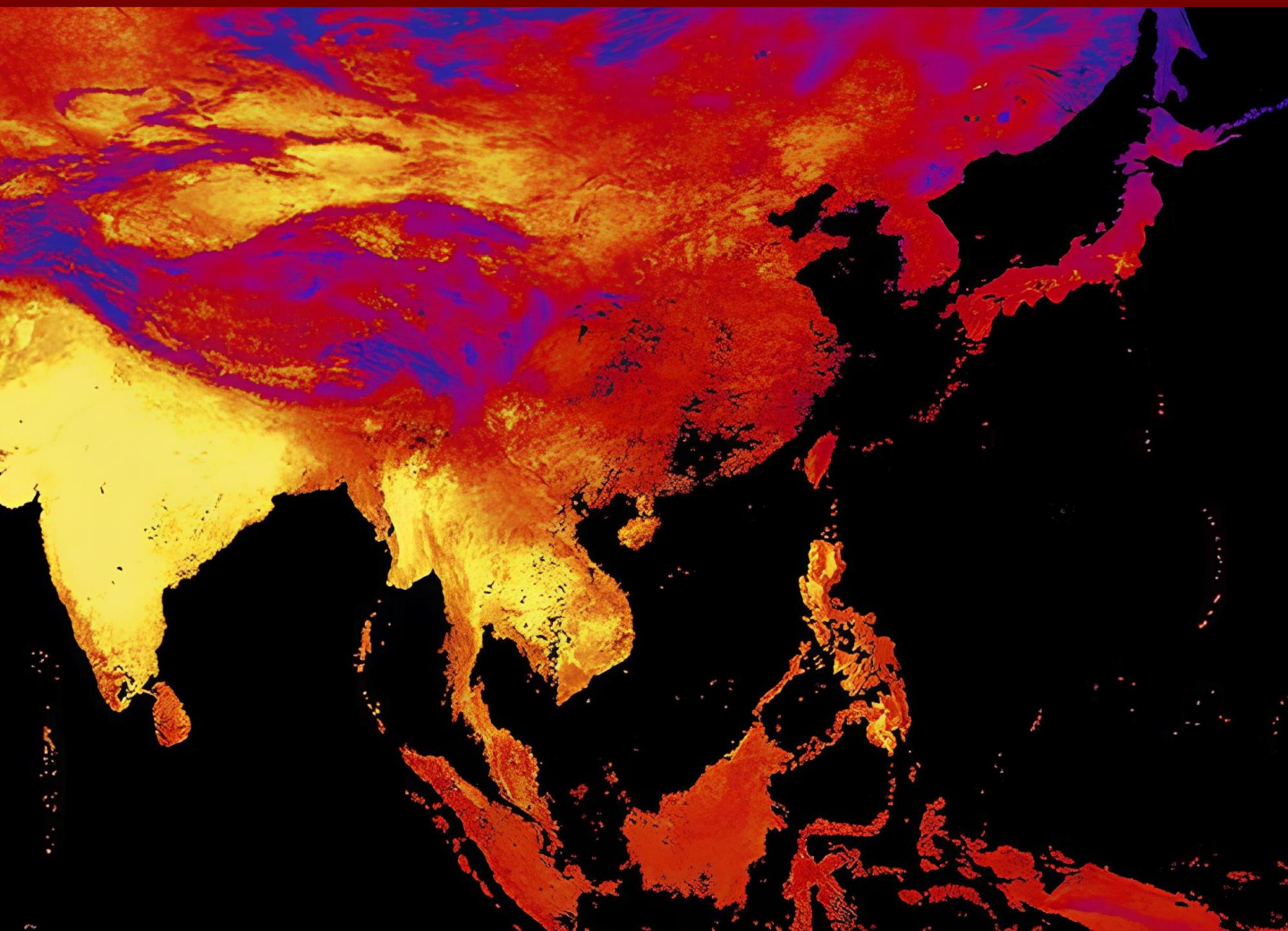




# HTAPC Newsletter

Issue 5, May 2024



## Highlights

### The Collaborative Development Activities.....Page 2

- Kick-off Workshop Thai-Lao PDR Cooperation: Hotspot and Transboundary Haze Pollution Reduction
- Collaborative Action Plan for Transboundary Haze Pollution Solution and Mitigation
- Unlocking and Future-Proofing Air Quality Management in Asia - A multi-stakeholder consultation workshop

### HTAPC Knowledge Dissemination.....Page 3

- ENSO and Heat Wave: Health Impact Perspectives in Thailand

Stay tune with more update



# The Collaborative Development Activities of Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (HTAPC)



## Kick-off Workshop Thai-Lao PDR Cooperation: Hotspot and Transboundary Haze Pollution Reduction

On April 2, 2024, **Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana**, Director of Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (HTAPC), collaboratively attended the Kick-off Workshop Thai-Lao PDR Cooperation : Hotspot and Transboundary Haze Pollution Reduction in Vientiane, Laos. The workshop was organized by the Pollution Control Department, Highland Research and Development Institute, Agricultural Research Development Agency, and Thailand Environment Institute, in collaboration with Natural Resources and Environment Research Institute, Lao PDR.

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## Collaborative Action Plan for Transboundary Haze Pollution Solution and Mitigation

From April 22-24, 2024, HTAPC joined the meeting with Myanmar government agency's representative for the clean sky strategy and the collaborative action plan for burning reduction in Tachileik, Myanmar.

**Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana**, HTAPC's Director, presented an overview of the transboundary haze situation and key strategies from the **ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap Phase II (2023-2030)**, aligning them with the clean sky strategy.

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From May 27-29, 2024, UNEP, ESCAP and EANET co-organized the "Unlocking and Future-Proofing Air Quality Management in Asia" workshop in Bangkok, Thailand. **Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana**, Director of HTAPC, shared the key success stories of effective air quality management, policies and possible technological solutions for air pollution, and accordingly emphasized strengthening international and regional cooperation among network countries, potential international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.



## Unlocking and Future-Proofing Air Quality Management in Asia - A multi-stakeholder consultation workshop



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# Knowledge Dissemination

## ENSO and Heat Wave: Health Impact Perspectives in Thailand

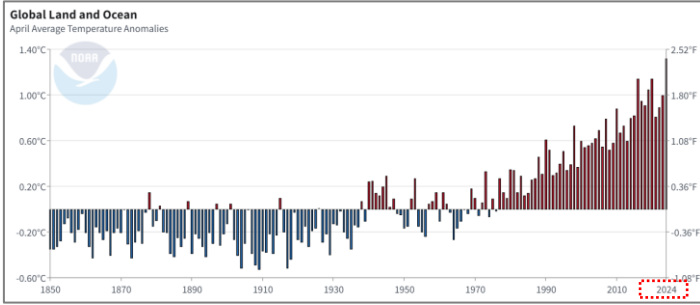


Figure 1: Temperature anomaly for April 2024  
(Source: NOAA, Monthly Global Climate Report for April 2024)

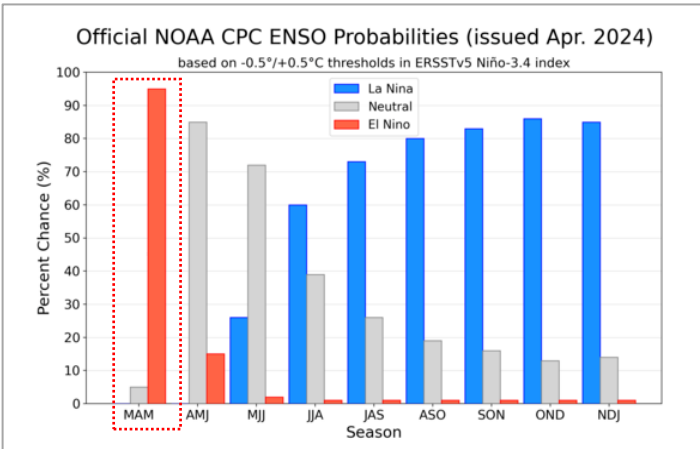


Figure 2: Three-month ENSO forecast for April 2024  
(Source: NOAA, Monthly Global Climate Report for April 2024)

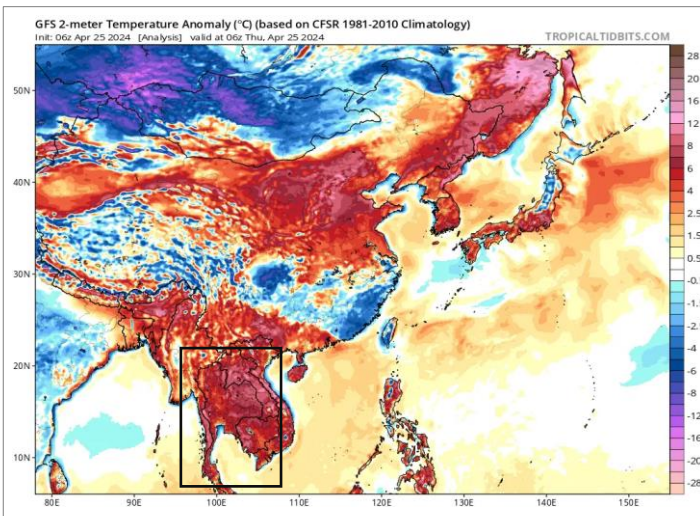


Figure 3: Map showing Temperature Anomaly (°C) on April 25, 2024  
(Source: Tropical Tidbits/GFS, The Watchers)

Currently, **climate change** reveals itself to be more severe and impactful than in previous decades, particularly with the increase in heat waves. According to the latest report from the Thai Meteorological Department, Thailand is experiencing an extreme heat wave, with temperatures reaching 44.2°C as of April 25, 2024. Annually, the country is expected to continue experiencing intense heat wave due to fluctuations in Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures, particularly the **El Niño phenomenon**. The NOAA's GFS model forecasts temperatures 4-8°C higher than historical averages from 1981 to 2050. The 95% probability of El Niño from March to May (MAM), as stated in NOAA's April 2024 report heightened the occurrences of severe heat waves in Thailand and its neighbors, as illustrated in Figure 2.

In summer, Thailand is facing an extreme heat wave crisis, with 61 heat-attributed deaths reported in 2024, more than double the 37 deaths in 2023. The northeastern region was the most severely affected, accounting for 33 deaths.

Heat-related illnesses, such as **heatstroke** and **heat exhaustion**, disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including the elderly, young children, chronic patients, and outdoor workers. Many victims had pre-existing conditions, drinking problem, and worked outdoors. Historical data have statistically shown an average of 33 heat-related deaths per year and 2,500 to 3,000 heat-related illnesses annually from 2015 to 2021, underscoring the severity of the crisis. The Ministry of Public Health has issued heat-related health advisories and disseminated practicable guidance on preventive measures for effectively coping with extreme heat events. Citizens can access real-time heat index data through the Department of Health's [official website](#).

# We cordially invite you to join us

Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate

## HTAPC Membership Form for Experts



Official website of Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (HTAPC)

<https://www.htapc.info>



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## Monthly Newsletter

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