

Case studies on air pollution in the world of work

Examining intersectional impacts on women and youth

Air pollution is a growing health crisis in many Asian countries, but its associated impacts on the world of work, including worker's productivity and wellbeing, remain understudied. This project aims to understand the differentiated impacts of air pollution on labour and employment, particularly women and young workers in East and Southeast Asian countries.

Through the country-based case studies, the project identifies evidence-based recommendations to improve air quality and the quality of employment in the transition towards a low carbon economy.



Exposure to cooking pollutants by grilled-food vendors: issues of inequalities and gender

Study area: Vientiane

Research team: Faculty of Public Health (University of Health Sciences)

This study examines the health risks from exposure to cooking-related pollutants such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) among workers in outdoor grilled-food stalls; and how this exposure is influenced by gender and other social status. The study aims to raise awareness on the magnitude of risks experienced by this informal worker groups, and to initiate discussions on solutions to reduce the impacts.



Thailand

Environmental inequalities of air pollution

Study area: Bangkok

Research team: Asian Institute of Technology, Pollution Control Department (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment), Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (Ministry of Labour), Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning (Ministry of Interior)

The study examines the relationship between exposure to air pollution and socio-economic status by demonstrating how different social groups are disproportionately affected by air pollution. The study aims to increase the understanding of environmental injustice of air quality in formal and informal economy.

Vietnam

Intersectional impacts of air pollution on informal labour groups in craft villages

Study Area: Hanoi

Research team: Institute of Human Studies, Institute of Human Geography; Green Innovation and Development Centre (GreenID)

This study investigates impacts of air pollution in craft villages on informal young workers who engage in incense making, plastic recycling, and lacquer craft production. It aims to reveal structural causes of inequal impacts and main drivers of exposure of those worker groups; and to create a platform for them to share their voices and personal narratives regarding air pollution associated with their world of work.

