IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, DEATHS FROM POLLUTION far exceed those caused by certain diseases. Pollution kills almost five times more people than HIV, TB and malaria combined. In addition, it should be noted that pollution is a risk factor in cancers and other diseases like stroke, infections, heart disease as well as developmental and neurological disabilities. It also has negative implications for economic growth.

Worldwide, exposures to polluted soil, water and air (both indoor and outdoor) resulted in 8.4 million deaths in 2012. Deaths from HIV amounted to 1.5 million, and malaria and TB each less than 1 million.

In other words, pollution, either directly or as a contributor to disease, kills three times more people than HIV, malaria and TB combined, and causes more deaths than cancer globally.