

The unveiling of UNEP's ground-breaking air quality measuring device

31 August 2015

"Each year, air pollution causes 7 million premature deaths around the world, with outdoor pollution responsible for more than half of that total. Tragically, these deaths are wholly preventable"

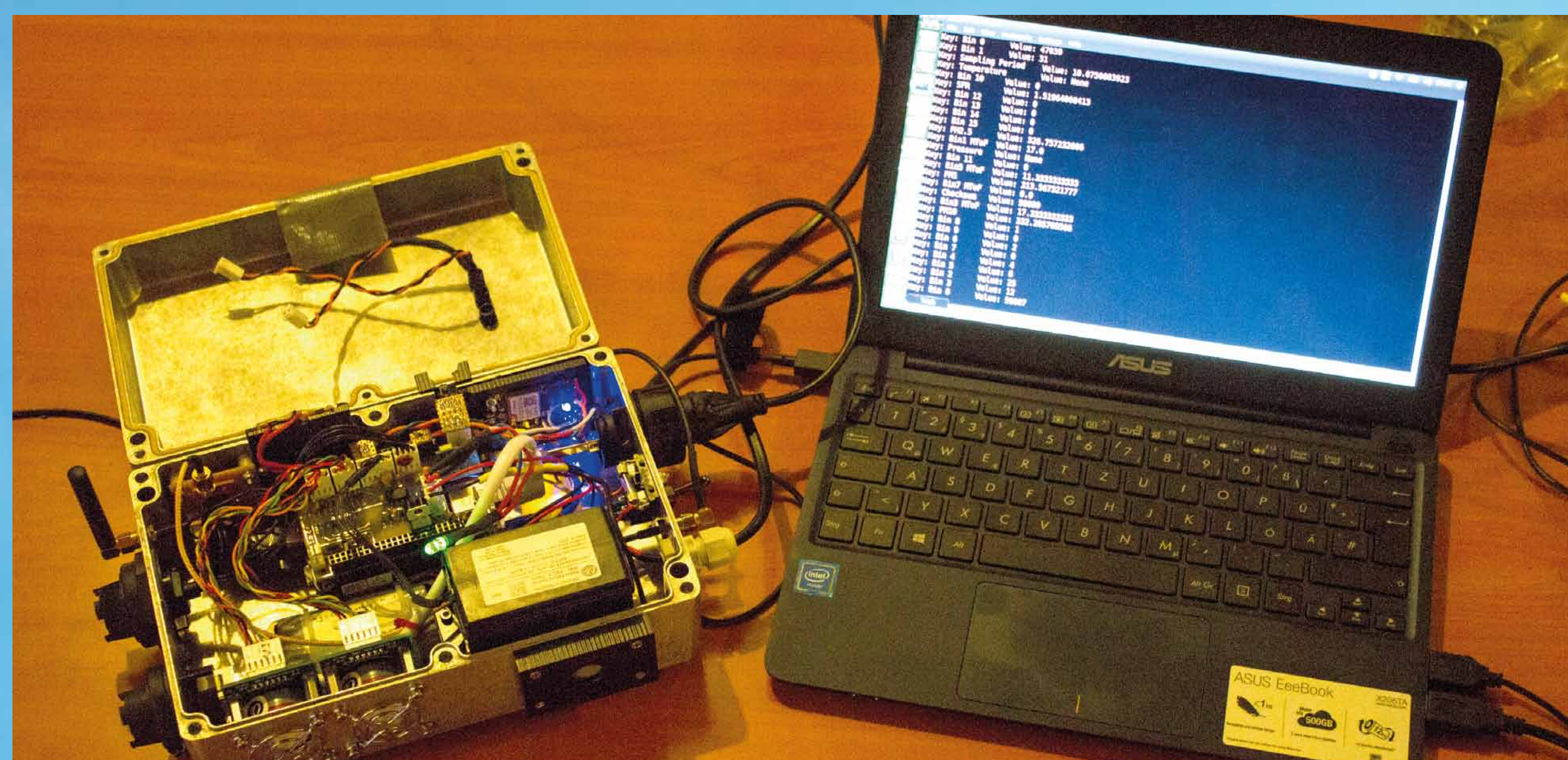
*Achim Steiner,
UNEP Executive Director*

"We would like to establish as many as 50 more units spread in various parts of the country [and] Kenya will easily map air pollution hotspots in the urban and rural areas"

*Professor Judi Wakhungu,
Cabinet Secretary for
Environment, Natural Resources
and Regional Development
Authorities*

"UNEP's device can measure the concentration of particulate matter ranging from 1 to 10 microns in diameter (PM 1 - PM 10), including PM 2.5, considered by the WHO to have the greatest effect on human health. It also records the concentration of sulphur and nitrogen oxides and can be extended to measure other gases such as ozone",

*Jacqueline McGlade,
UNEP Chief Scientist, Director,
Division of Early Warning and
Assessment*



A built-in GPS system means that the device can be used as a mobile unit as shown on the map of Nairobi. Deep colours on the map show areas with bad air pollution. The device's low cost and ease of use can boost community participation in environmental and health monitoring, and increase digital and technological literacy through the participation of schools.



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