

The Seventh Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems
6-7 February 2007, Niigata, Japan

CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY

1. The Seventh Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems was held in Niigata, Japan on 6 and 7 February 2007. It was organized by the Network Center (NC) for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), in collaboration with the Niigata Prefectural Environmental Conservation Corporation (NPECC) of Japan.

Attendance

2. The workshop was attended by approximately sixty participants and observers from EANET participating countries, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam. The list of the participants is attached as Annex.

Background and Purpose

3. The Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC), as the Interim Network Center/the Network Center (INC/NC) for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), has developed brochures and videotapes on acid deposition problems since 1998, and has implemented the joint brochure projects with some of the EANET participating countries, namely, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam to develop their own brochures/videotape for public awareness since 1999.
4. Together with awareness of public the involvement of policy makers is necessary to strengthen the basis of EANET activities toward development of an appropriate instrument. The policy makers have also an important role in rendering their leadership support for coordination among the concerned agencies, creation of awareness and promotion of national and regional initiatives to take appropriate measures for acid deposition. The Secretariat of EANET in cooperation with NC has developed a Report for Policy Makers (RPM) on EANET "Goals, Achievements and Way Forward". It was pointed out at the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7) held in Niigata, Japan in November 2005 that future RPM should include achievements at national and regional levels relating to acid deposition, progress in each participating country on pollution control and other hot spot description.

5. To further encourage and promote such activities, NC in cooperation with the relevant organizations held the Seventh Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems (WSPA7). Major objectives of the Workshop were: (1) To introduce the progress of EANET activities in order to promote clear common understanding on acid deposition problems; (2) To exchange information and share experiences on achievements at the national and regional levels relating to acid deposition monitoring, progress on pollution control in the participating countries and transboundary pollution issues in order to develop more appropriate EANET materials for policy makers, general public and so on in the future; (3) To share information on recent progress of public awareness activities in the participating countries in order to promote public awareness activities of EANET as a whole.; (4) To introduce the public awareness activities in Japan on environmental education and environmental conservation by non-governmental organization (NGO)/ non-profit organization (NPO) and companies in various fields.

Opening and Election of Chairperson

6. The Workshop commenced with the opening address by Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, Senior Programme Specialist, the Secretariat for EANET.
7. Dr. Hiromasa Ueda, Director General of ADORC introduced the objectives of the workshop in his opening speech.
8. Mr. Susumu Tanahashi, Director General, Department of Civic and Environmental Affairs, Niigata Prefectural Government made a welcome address.
9. Mr. Toshio Kaise, Environmental Affairs Department, Director, Public Affairs Bureau, Niigata City gave opening address.
10. Ms. Astutie Widyarissantie from Indonesia and Mr. Ahmad Rizal Khalit from Malaysia were elected as the Co-chairpersons of the Workshop.

Introduction of Report for Policy Makers (RPM) and the progress of recent EANET activities

11. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, the Secretariat for EANET made a presentation on the RPM. RPM was developed by the Secretariat in cooperation with NC in 2005 and endorsed at IG7.
12. Mr. Jiro Sato, NC presented the progress of EANET activities. It covered the background, short history and institutional arrangements of the EANET, overview of monitoring with some results and previous activities devoted to enhance public awareness on acid deposition problems. Mr. Sato further introduced the discussions on RPM as well as the Strategy on EANET Development

(2006-2010) and the discussion on components of an appropriate instrument on acid deposition to provide a sound basis for financial contribution at the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) held in November 2006, in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Presentations on country experience

13. Mr. Ken Choviran, Cambodia, made a presentation on atmospheric pollution control, wet deposition control and public understanding of acid deposition in Cambodia. Ambient air quality is good according to the National Standard. Although brochure of acid deposition problem was developed and public awareness activities have been implemented, Cambodian people are not sufficiently aware of acid deposition issue. So further public awareness activities are needed in order to prevent any damage caused by acid deposition in the future
14. Mr. Wang Xin, China, made a presentation on framework of acid rain monitoring and results of the monitoring in China. Acid rain (annual average of pH is below 5.6) was observed at 73 % of cities of Acid Rain Controlled Zone in 2005 according to the results. As Olympic games will be held in Beijing in 2008, the city takes some environmental measures, such as introduction of natural gas-fueled buses, installation of desulphurization equipment in the power plants. At the same time a “Green Olympic” Environmental Symbol was introduced and the symbol represents harmony and unity between human being and nature.
15. Ms. Astutie Widyarissantie, Indonesia, made a presentation on pollution control and rising awareness of the community of air pollution and acid deposition in Indonesia. The government of Indonesia has launched several national regulations to control air pollution issue, and has active participation in international regional cooperation on it like ASEAN Agreement of HAZE. Strategies and action plan for air pollution reduction such as energy conservation, provision of non-lead gasoline, and evaluation of company performance on environment protection, have been implemented. It was pointed out that integrated action and regulation are needed to improve environment quality.
16. Ms. Reiko Sodeno, Japan, made a presentation on acid deposition issues and air pollution control policy including an overview of acid deposition monitoring and state of air quality in Japan. An intensive research has been conducted for investigation of Ijira Lake in Gifu prefecture in the middle of Japan because acid deposition was suspected as the cause of changes in physics and chemical properties observed in the river waters feeding the lake as well as in soil of the vicinity. Although attainment rate of Environmental Quality Standards for SO₂, NO₂ and SPM in 2005 were 99.7%, 99.9% and 96.4% respectively, the rate for photochemical oxidant is 0.3%. A policy mix of regulation and voluntary agreements of enterprises on some pollutants

such as NO_x, SO_x, dust, VOC and so on has been enforced as a policy on air pollution.

17. Ms. Setouvanh Phanthavongsa, Lao P.D.R., presented public awareness activities in Lao P.D.R. The activities include Joint Project for compiling brochure on acid deposition control implemented under the cooperation with NPECC and ADORC as NC supported by Japan Fund for Global Environment and workshops for public awareness held in November 2006 and February 2007. The first workshop was attended by 100 participants from relevant government, provincial science technology and environment office, private sectors and so on. The second one was held to disseminate the brochures and attended by 50 participants from relevant government, teachers of high school etc. It was expressed that Lao intended to translate Report for Policy makers to Lao language.
18. Mr. Ahmad Rizal Khalit, Malaysia, made a presentation on environmental management in Malaysia under the 9th Malaysian Plan (9MP) (2006-2010). Environmental regulation for mobile source, public awareness activities for NGO and private sector, ratification of international environmental initiatives such as HAZE agreement has been undertaken. In addition to those measures, economic instruments and market-based measures will be undertaken under the 9MP. The 9MP is organized according to the five thrust of National Mission. Under the thrust four which aims to improve the standard and sustainability of quality life, greater focus will be placed on preventive measures to mitigate negative environmental effect at sources and intensifying conservation efforts and sustainably managing natural resources.
19. Ms. Puntsag Tamir, Mongolia, made a presentation on air quality in Ulaanbaatar and public awareness activities for acid deposition problems in Mongolia. Daily average and annual change of concentration of SO₂ and NO₂ in Ulaanbaatar were introduced. 77.8% of children in Suklbaatar and Bayangol district had respiratory symptoms, morning cough and phlegm. Information on acid deposition with other relevant information are enclosed by annual report and website. It was emphasized that improving public awareness and education on acid deposition issue and more publication about precipitation monitoring results were needed.
20. Mr. Win Maw, Myanmar, made a presentation on acid deposition monitoring, pollution control and public awareness in Myanmar. It covered state of acid deposition, institutional arrangement, monitoring system and introduction of brochure for acid deposition problems. Sampling of wet deposition has been implemented since 2003 and pH was analyzed by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH). Brochure for acid deposition problems, which was compiled by support of Japan Fund for Global Environment of Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency was introduced. The brochure consists of the mechanism of acid deposition, impact of acid deposition, problems caused by acid deposition and other issues.

21. Ms. Alma P. Ferarez, Philippines, made presentation on general information on the Philippines, monitoring of acid deposition, air pollution problems and control strategies in Philippines. Public awareness activities such as holding workshops for Academe Government, agencies, media, NGOs, private sector and educators, translation of the Report for Policy Makers into Filipino language were introduced. As emission from motor vehicles is about 70% of the total emissions, inspection and regulation of imported secondhand vehicle and engine are implemented. Promotion of use of low sulfur diesel fuel, alternative fuels such as biodiesel, bioethanol and phase out of leaded gasoline are also implemented.
22. Dr. Galina V Surkova, Russia, delivered a presentation on progress on acid deposition monitoring and transboundary air pollution issues. Organizations responsible for environmental monitoring were introduced. And also TROICA Project (Transcontinental Observations Into the Chemistry of the Atmosphere) of the Institute of Atmosphere Physics of the Russian Academy of Science and Institute of Russian Railway Transport was introduced. Observatory TROICA consists of two carriages equipped by the very state-of-the-art instruments according to requirements of Global Atmosphere Watch of World Meteorological Organization and able to measure gas compounds and aerosol concentrations in air, chemical composition of soil, water, plants, to do remote sensing of troposphere, to get all standard meteorological parameters, to measure solar radiation etc. Last years the role of ecological subjects in universities is rising. New educational programs, worked out to prepare specialists in environmental sciences, are in progress. Specialists may come to the sphere of environmental problems from different background spheres encompassing wide spectrum from world of law to biology.
23. Mr. Pichaid Atipakya, Thailand, firstly introduced 3 versions of brochure which published with the purpose of promoting the public awareness program on acid deposition problem in Thailand, namely “Transboundary Acid Deposition for General Public”, “Acid Deposition – The danger close to you” and “Transboundary Acid Deposition”. Regarding ‘current and future activities on public awareness program relating to acid deposition and pollution control in Thailand’, the VCD entitled “Transboundary Acid Deposition” was produced in the end of February 2006. In addition, Report for Policy Makers (RPM) is in the process of converting to Thai version for the time being. Then he adverted the dissemination of air quality data. In Thailand, the data and information that related to acid deposition and pollution control are disclosed to public through the Internet, Newspaper, TV, Radio and Electronic board. Public participation activities conducted by Pollution Control Department (PCD), such as “Hazardous Waste Exchanged to Notebook” campaign, “Recognizing Noise Pollution” exhibition were also introduced.
24. Mr. Pham The Quang, Viet Nam, made a presentation on activities on acid deposition problems in Viet Nam. Some observation results of acid deposition were introduced. The contents of

Legislation document such as Environmental Protection Law, which was reformed in 2006, Water Resource Law were introduced. Regarding activities for raising public awareness on acid deposition, some activities and achievements were mentioned. 1) Produced one video set on the acid deposition issues in collaboration with Vietnam Television, 2) Published the brochure on Acid deposition with the title: "Answers - Questions on Acid deposition"; 3) Distributed brochure with the content of acid deposition issues: detection, abatement and the harmful of acid deposition on human being especially children. And reported that many programs on environmental education targeted to primary school students have been implemented. Approval of revised national monitoring plan by the government was also introduced.

Presentations on pollution control and environmental protection

25. Mr. Kazuo Horii, Niigata prefecture, made a presentation on atmospheric environmental administration by Niigata prefecture. The monitoring system, which consists of air pollution monitoring stations and emission source monitoring stations/upper-air observation stations located in Niigata prefecture and their function were explained by a flowchart. Then he showed the data of 'Concentration of SO₂', 'Concentration of NO₂' and 'Concentration of SPM' in Niigata prefecture contrasted with those of Japan in-country results. As one of the measures of the atmospheric environmental administration, Niigata prefecture has implemented the on-site inspection toward emission (smoke and soot) generating facilities based on the regulation. The smoke and soot measuring car used for the inspection and its equipments were introduced accordingly. In general, the current atmospheric environment in Niigata prefecture is in good shape compared with those the Japan in-country status. The continuous effort is expected to undertake as heretofore.
26. Mr. Masato Endo, Niigata City, made a presentation on the approach on the air pollution issues in Niigata city. To manage for atmospheric environment, telemeter system was introduced in 1975, and strengthened its management. Niigata city made a regulation and guidance to general company, which have factory emitting smoke etc., based on ordinance concerning life environmental protection and air pollution control law. Regarding regulation and direction to the company, the company has to submit Notification for Establishment, Notification of Change, and Notification of elimination. And any company shall measure the volume by their own responsibility under the protection of Law. Niigata city survey for total amount of smoke, soot 1 time per 3 years. In addition to the air pollution control law, Niigata city enter into agreement on pollution prevention with large companies which have smoke generation facilities. Niigata city offers financial support for pollution prevention facility.

Presentations of company

27. Mr. Hirofumi Tatsuishi, Hokuetsu Paper, introduced the prevention of air pollution at Hokuetsu Paper, Niigata Mill. Based on a prevention of pollution agreement between Niigata city, the mill has settled action plan for prevention of air pollution, such as 'Switching to low environmental load fuel', 'Installation of pollution prevention machinery'. The data on the regulation value and actual discharge value of each emission generating facility was shown, as a result of it. As well as the prevention of air pollution, symbiosis with the local community is also an initial task of the mill. In order to contribute and activate local activities, they provide 'Mill visit tour', cooperate school education, hold a sketch contest by children, and support local events.

Presentations by NPO

28. NPO Kaeru-Do introduced their activity ECO-Festa that was organized by students, private corporations, media, and members of citizens' groups. The first ECO-festa was taken place in 2005. That was aimed to inform people of no interest in the environment of ecological issues and encourage them to perform ecological gestures. Their activity on ECO-festa 2006 was also introduced that they provided determination flag, the experience making candle from waste oil, flea market place. At the time of ECO-festa, P&P containers and re-usable cup were used in terms of reducing the amount of garbage. P&P container is that the pocket at the edge of the container simply snaps apart and the dirty film could be peeled off. The white container is recollected and reproduced again. To promote the public awareness for children, they played Eco-Ranger show. ECO-festa was held in three venues (Sado, Joetsu and Niigata). In Niigata City, 30,000 people came to attend this festa. They also have plan to have Eco-festa 2007 and to increase the number of participating group.

Wrap-up of the workshop

29. Dr. Sergey Arkadyevich Gromov, Network Center for EANET presented the summary of the views provided by the participants in the presentations and during subsequent discussions on environment protection and public awareness activities for acid deposition problems in EANET countries. Some common approaches and suggestions were taken in to consideration.

Closing

30. The Workshop was officially closed by the Co-Chairperson. The participants and observers

expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the efforts made by the organizers and the host country in the arrangement for the Workshop.

7 February 2007

Niigata, Japan

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Mr. Ahmad Rizal Khalit

Co-Chairpersons of
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***Note:
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