

The Second Intergovernmental Meeting  
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network  
in East Asia  
25-26 October 2000, Niigata, Japan  
Agenda Item 4

## REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE PREPARATORY-PHASE ACTIVITIES

1. This document was prepared by the fifth meeting of the Working Group for EANET for further discussion at the sixth WG Meeting and eventually for submission to the Second Intergovernmental Meeting, in order to review and evaluate the preparatory-phase activities of EANET.

### I. Feasibility of the designed Network activities and relevant technical documents

2. The designed Network activities were implemented successfully during the preparatory phase, in terms of the following aspects:

- Interim bodies such as ISAG, IS and INC were successfully established;
- The quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) programs of the Network were adopted by ISAG, and great efforts were made by the participating countries to carry out QA/QC activities;
- Training programs related to the Network were developed and implemented;
- Preparatory-phase national monitoring was implemented by all the participating countries;
- Monitoring data and other information were successfully compiled and stored, and the data report during the preparatory phase was prepared and disseminated among the participating countries;
- The report of the acid deposition monitoring of EANET during the preparatory phase was prepared; and
- Cooperative relationships with other global, regional and national activities were promoted.

3. However, activities on QA/QC and capacity building, in particular, should be continued and further strengthened. It was observed that more attention had been paid than before to the QA/QC activities in most of the participating countries. QA/QC has been much improved in some countries, while others still need further improvement. It is expected in the future that the participating countries will facilitate the further development of their national QA/QC programs and Standard Operating Procedures for their respective laboratories.

4. During the preparatory-phase, participating countries were expected to take into

consideration as much as possible the monitoring guidelines and technical manuals developed by the Expert Meeting on EANET. In the process of trying to follow these technical documents, it was revealed that some of the monitoring guidelines and procedures in the technical manuals might not be suitable for all parts of the diverse East Asian Region. Revised technical documents were developed and adopted at the Second ISAG Meeting in March 2000.

## II. Provision of time to develop national monitoring systems for the Network

5. It is considered to be remarkable progress that in total 38 Network monitoring sites started their operation during the short period of the preparatory-phase. However, there seems to be much room for further improvement on geographical distribution of monitoring sites and adequacy of site selection. Effort is expected to be continued in developing and revising the national monitoring plans after the preparatory phase.

6. In most participating countries, existing budgets seem to have been used for the preparatory-phase activities, since the EANET activities were implemented together with existing activities. Most participating countries did not increase their staff for the EANET activities, but reorganized the assignments of their existing staff. It was observed that some countries, such as the Philippines, had initially received financial assistance from INC due to the lack of their budgets for the preparatory-phase activities, and had later obtained their own budgets for their national monitoring activities. Thus, the principle of internal funding for national monitoring activities has been largely successful during the preparatory phase, but flexibility has been and may continue to be helpful in facilitating further development of national monitoring.

7. There are various relevant agencies on acid deposition monitoring in a country, because acid deposition monitoring includes a wide range of activities such as monitoring for wet deposition, dry deposition, soil and vegetation and inland aquatic environment. It was observed in some countries that the coordination and cooperation among relevant agencies had not worked well. To overcome this problem, some countries established an inter-agency committee on acid deposition or transboundary air pollution problems.

8. Regarding the technical matters on the Network monitoring, progress has been achieved and some recommendations were made as follows:

- The national systems for wet deposition monitoring in the participating countries have been much improved and most countries are ready for the regular activities of the Network. However, further improvement is needed, in particular in site selection.
- Automatic instruments, filter packs, denuders and low volume air samplers are used for dry deposition monitoring in the participating countries. It was agreed to establish

and/or reorganize the Task Force on Dry Deposition Monitoring that will further elaborate the monitoring methodologies suitable for the East Asian Region.

Dissemination of information and training for recently introduced methodologies such as filter packs should be continued and further strengthened.

- Identification and exchange of information among the soil and vegetation specialists and relevant institutions were promoted during the preparatory phase. Some experiences on the soil and vegetation survey for the network were also obtained. It was also agreed to establish the Task Force on Soil and Vegetation Monitoring to elaborate the methodologies suitable for the East Asian Region, and the networking of the specialists.
- The participating countries have just started to accumulate experiences on the monitoring for inland aquatic environment. At present, no specific difficulties have been found to carry out the monitoring, if the monitoring sites be adequately selected. The results of the monitoring during the preparatory phase should be carefully reviewed in the future. Training for QA/QC activities, similar to those for wet deposition monitoring, should be undertaken in this field.

### III. Formulation of policy recommendations for further development of the Network

9. The Fourth WG Meeting in March 2000 discussed further steps of implementation of EANET, including the form of the document to be adopted, and institutional and financial arrangements. The Fifth WG Meeting further elaborated these issues, and developed the documents for discussion at the Sixth WG Meeting and the Second Intergovernmental Meeting, including the draft joint announcement and the tentative design of EANET.

10. Regarding technical issues, ISAG adopted the strategy paper for dry deposition monitoring. The Task Force on Soil and Vegetation Monitoring is expected to develop a strategy document on soil and vegetation monitoring.

### IV. Overall evaluation

11. Based on the above discussions, WG considers that the participating countries have developed the basis to start the acid deposition monitoring as regular activities, although there are still diversities in the national arrangements and many problems for further improvement in the region as a whole.