

EANET NEWSLETTER



ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA



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Raising Awareness through Collaboration

The fight against air pollution requires everyone's support. To maximize its contribution, EANET prioritized activities that give significant impact to a better air quality in the region.

The Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly recognized EANET's contribution to progress implementation of resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally through its monitoring and assessment activities.

In the second half of 2018, EANET signed a Letter of Arrangement with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) that officially made EANET as part of the WMO contributing network. Hopefully this will increase the usefulness of EANET data.

Towards the end of 2018, EANET organized its key meetings to reflect the progresses, measure the results, and decide on future directions.

Curious? Discover more inside!

Editorial Page

By Tomi Haryadi

Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET

Time flies!

We have left our footprints in 2018, made meaningful memories, brought impacts and most importantly, learned from tons of past experiences.

We have achieved so much in this journey, turning promises and commitments into reality. However, despite all our efforts, keeping our air clean is still a massive struggle. There is still a lot that needs to be done to beat this silent killer that affects 92 percent of Asia Pacific's population.

In the last few years, Bangkok and its neighboring cities were choked by smog and ultra-fine dust particles (PM2.5). It happened between December and March when temperature level is low and does not allow air pollutants to disperse.

Thailand Pollution Control Department has taken several measures to mitigate the problem such as enforcing strict laws against vehicles emitting thick exhaust fumes, cleaning the roads, spraying water, and producing artificial rain and many more.

Numerous measures need to be in place to tackle the pollution to ensure that Thais can breathe clean air in the long term.

In line with that, in June 2019, EANET will organize a regional awareness event in Bangkok. The event aims to raise awareness and knowledge of stakeholders on acid deposition and air pollution by learning from countries' experience.

Since the theme of World Environment Day 2019 is air pollution, the event will build the momentum to call for collective actions in tackling air pollution problems.

We see this event as an opportunity to strengthen the collaborative efforts of the region in solving air pollution problems. Through collaboration of the participating countries, EANET awareness event can be used as an avenue to support countries like Thailand to strengthen the capacity of targeted groups and help to raise the awareness.

EANET will continue to contribute to implementation of resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally. With support from the participating countries, EANET continuously play its role in the provision of acid deposition monitoring and assessment analysis, information sharing and capacity development.

The fight for clean air is a constant battle, but through collaboration and information sharing, we are marching on the right direction.



EANET Joins as Contributing Network of WMO

In almost two decades of its presence in the region, EANET has produced credible monitoring data and analysis on acid deposition and related chemical species through its monitoring and related activities. EANET data is robust. Besides providing analytical information, EANET also able to provide trends of acid deposition since it has been produced systematically for such a long period.

To add more impact to this hard work, it would be more useful if EANET data can be accessible to wider users, such as researchers, policymakers, and other potential users. The users would benefit significantly when referring to EANET data due to its reliability and robustness.

Moved by this, in August 2018, EANET and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) signed a Letter of Arrangement (LoA) to recognize observational networks of the EANET, that measure major atmospheric pollutants and major ions in precipitation, as a contributing network to Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme of WMO. WMO manages one of world most substantial atmospheric monitoring information and repository with a significant number of data users annually.

Mr. Heng Nareth, Chairperson of the Nineteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the EANET (IG19), signed the LoA on behalf EANET and Dr. Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General of WMO on behalf of WMO.

Within the framework of this LoA, GAW will assign a status to the EANET monitoring stations as GAW Contributing Stations and get access to the EANET data and listed in the GAW Station Information System. GAW will refer to EANET data.

In addition, EANET stations are now listed in contributing stations on GAW Station Information System (GAWSIS) and are widely known by countries. It also enable wider users to access the EANET data.

To EANET participating countries, this collaboration opens the opportunity for training at the GAW training and Education Center.

As an intergovernmental cooperation network of 13 East Asian countries (including Southeast Asian) for monitoring of major atmospheric pollutants and ions in precipitation, EANET would be an excellent contributor to GAW observation networks.

The GAW programme, established by WMO in 1989, is a partnership involving the members of WMO, contributing networks and collaborating organizations and bodies.

It provides reliable scientific data and information on the chemical composition of the atmosphere, its natural and anthropogenic change that helps to improve the understanding of interactions between the atmosphere, the oceans and the biosphere.

GAW programme focuses on aerosols, greenhouse gases, selected reactive gases, ozone, UV radiation, and precipitation chemistry, which are related to stratospheric ozone depletion, changes in the weather and climate-related to human influence, the risk of air pollution on human health and so on.

More info:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/precip_ch em.html



19th Senior Technical Managers' Meeting

Every year, EANET participating countries develop their National Monitoring Plan (NMP). The NMP enables countries to conduct annual monitoring activities of acid deposition and related chemicals systematically. At the same time, it helps the EANET Network Center (NC) and Secretariat to provide guidance and support to countries.

As part of EANET monitoring mechanism, participating countries review their NMP every year. The content of NMP includes information on monitoring sites, monitoring methods, the frequency of monitoring and other crucial information. The information is vital for quality assurance and quality control activities of EANET to enable EANET to produce credible data continuously. Then, this will be reported to the Senior Technical Managers' Meeting of EANET.

Last year, EANET organized the 19th Senior Technical Managers' Meeting (STM19) in Niigata, Japan, from 4 to 5 September. All quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) Managers of EANET National Centers of thirteen participating countries attended the meeting.

The National QA/QC Managers reported to the meeting the progress of their monitoring activities, reviewed the NMPs, reported problems and support needed from the EANET Network Center.

The annual evaluation of the NMP by each country could ensure that the EANET monitoring activities can be implemented according to the NMP suitability. It also ensures that the activities can be completed as per NMPs and the results can be reviewed thoroughly.



At the STM19, the participating countries reported to the meeting on current number of EANET monitoring sites. As reported, EANET currently has 58 wet deposition monitoring sites, 55 dry deposition monitoring sites, 31 plots of soil and vegetation monitoring, 19 monitoring sites of the inland aquatic environment and two catchment-scale monitoring sites. Besides acid deposition sites, EANET also has 23 monitoring sites of ozone and 25 sites of PM2.5. This number may be changed from time to time depending on the countries and will be reported by the countries during the Senior Technical Managers' meeting each year.

This year, China reported to the meeting about their plan to add new wet and dry deposition monitoring in Wuzhishan in Hainan Province and Lijiang in Yunnan Province, which will be started to monitor in 2019 and the data will be included in 2020. Additionally, the Philippines also reported that its catchment-scale monitoring site in La Mesa Watershed has started its activities and will contribute to EANET data in 2019.



18th Session of Scientific Advisory Committee

Around one or two months prior to EANET intergovernmental (IG) meeting, the members of EANET Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meet to review the progress of EANET activities, monitoring data and proposed a programme of work for the following year from scientific viewpoints. Subsequently, the SAC meeting provides recommendations to be brought to the IG meeting.

In 2018, EANET organized the Eighteenth Session of the SAC (SAC18) in Hanoi, Viet Nam during 9-11 October 2018, hosted by the Government of Viet Nam. The SAC members from thirteen participating countries as well as experts attended the meeting. During the three days meeting, the SAC members reviewed the progress of EANET programme implementation in 2018, including monitoring data on wet deposition, dry deposition, soil and vegetation, inland aquatic environment and catchment-scale monitored by the EANET participating countries.

The SAC members also approved the report of inter-laboratory comparison projects, updated national monitoring plans of participating countries; reports of the Task Force on monitoring for dry deposition and Task Force on soil and vegetation monitoring.

In addition, the SAC members acknowledged the finalization of Letter of Arrangement between EANET and World Meteorological Organization, Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO/GAW).

The Session reviewed draft Report of Mid-Term Review on the Implementation of the Medium-Term Plan for the EANET (2016-2020) as well as a draft of the Fourth Report for Policy Makers (RPM4), and Work Programme and Budget of EANET in 2019 from scientific and technical viewpoints.

Dr. Le Ngoc Cau, Chairman of SAC18, reported the discussion of the SAC18 to the IG20 in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2018.



20th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting

EANET organized its 20th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG20) in Bangkok from 27-28 November 2018. Representatives of twelve EANET participating countries attended the meeting along with UN Environment, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific of Asian Institute of Technology, World Health Organization, and Secretariat of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

In his Remarks at the meeting, Mr. Thalearnsak Petchsuwan, Deputy Director General of Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand said that the country integrated the green growth concept has into its 20-Year National Strategic Plan of Thailand. As a follow-up, various efforts and measures have been implemented to reduce emissions of air pollutants including acid precursors.

“These measures include cleaner fuel, cleaner vehicles, cleaner technologies, energy conservation, promotion of renewable energy, law enforcement, building public consciousness, and public participation and partnership,” says Mr. Petchsuwan.

Meanwhile, on the same occasion, Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UN Environment appreciated EANET’s hard work as one of the forefronts in the science of air pollution during the last two decades. She mentioned that the network has significantly enhanced understanding of acid deposition as well as air pollution issues in East Asia.

“Development of key reports such as the “Third Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in the East Asia region (PR SAD3),” is a significant contribution of the EANET in addition to capacity building, awareness raising, other activities,” she said in her Opening Remarks.

The IG20 meeting reviewed the progress implementation of EANET in 2018 and approved the Work Programme and Budget in 2019. Since then, EANET has been continuously working on the implementation of activities in 2019.



Clean Air Technology Workshop of EANET

The Clean Air Technology Workshop was held on 4-5 November 2018 at the International Conference Center, Qingdao, China. The Network Center for the EANET in collaboration with Environment Research Institute, Shandong University, Atmospheric Environment Branch (AEB) of China Society for Environmental Sciences (CSES), and Qingdao Association for Science and Technology organized the workshop.

The objective of this workshop was to introduce clean air technologies and consider the application of them to improve the atmospheric environment in the region. It was expected that these technologies be used in countries in an appropriate manner.

Representatives of the participating countries of the EANET as well as representatives from related industries, institutions and international organizations such as UN Environment, Asia and Pacific Office attended the workshop.

At the Session of the IG20, the meeting suggested EANET to organize similar workshop in the future.



3rd Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific

The Government of Singapore hosted the Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific from 23-25 January 2019.

It was for the first time that the Forum was organized outside of Bangkok. The Forum received good appreciation from countries in the Asia Pacific.

High-level participation from 38 of 41 countries in the region attended the Forum which highlights the issue of “Transforming Asia-Pacific: Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Consumption and Production.”

Joyce Msuya, Acting Head of UN Environment highly appreciated strong participation and engagement on the issues by member states. “It demonstrates a high degree of ownership and attention to innovation and sustainable consumption and production,” says Joyce.

Photo: IISD



In the review report of the implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and secretarial functions submitted to the Forum, EANET has the opportunity to report its contribution to achievement of UNEA3 Resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally as well as the secretariat function.

The Forum, also attended by private sectors, came up with various discussion on ways forward on how sustainable consumption and production should be enhanced. It can be done, among others, by stricter environmental regulation, better economic incentives, and coordination across ministries and development actors.

The region needs to invest US\$ 26 trillion in infrastructure to lock in sustainable growth to enhance sustainable consumption and production. In addition, it also required continuous campaigns and awareness raising to change behaviors and achieve sustainable lifestyles of the people.

More info:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/conference/third-forum-ministers-and-environment-authorities-asia-pacific>

The UNEA-4

The 2019 UN Environment Assembly, organized in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 15 March 2019 is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment. The Assembly brings together governments, entrepreneurs, activists, and others to share ideas and commit to action.

With its theme on Innovative Solutions to Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Assembly seeks to give the framework for shifting global economic systems towards more sustainable trajectories that tackle environmental challenges and bring the world closer to the 'future we want.'

"We are on a journey that we must make together. The findings of the latest global environmental assessments that indicate our Planet is increasingly polluted, rapidly warming and quickly losing its biodiversity, are deeply concerning," says Siim Kiisler, the Minister of Environment of Estonia and the President of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

UNEA-4 recognized contribution of EANET to progress implementation of resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally. The Report 'Progress in the Implementation of Resolution 3/8 on Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality' specifically highlighted the role of the network such as EANET in conducting monitoring and assessment of air pollution.

The report 'Progress in the Implementation of Resolution 3/8 on Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality' mentioned the role of EANET in the promotion of regular monitoring of acid deposition and analysis in 13 participating countries.

The Assembly and its events will discuss scale-up efforts to tackle common environmental challenges through fostering sustainable and efficient resource management; ensuring the access and use of environmental data; engaging civil society, citizens, the private sector and academia.

More info:

<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/documents/official-documents>

25 Policy Actions that Could Affect Safe Air Quality Levels

The Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition recently launched a new report, *Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions*. The report presents the first-ever scientific assessment of air pollution across 23 countries in the region.

The report outlines 25 policy actions that could achieve safe air quality levels for 1 billion people by 2030 – with numerous benefits for public health, economic development, and the climate. It was prepared in response to Resolution 1/7 of the First Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2014, which called for UN Environment to prepare regional reports on air quality issues.

The analysis takes the region's considerable diversity into account and groups the selected measures into three categories. Among others, conventional emission controls focusing on emissions that lead to the formation of fine particulate matter (PM2.5); further (next-stage) air-quality measures for reducing emissions that lead to the formation of PM2.5 and are not yet significant components of clean air policies in many parts of the region and; measures contributing to development priority goals with benefits for air quality.

More info:

<http://ccacoalition.org/en/resources/air-pollution-asia-and-pacific-science-based-solutions>



EANET Publications

Summary and proceedings of the 20th Session of Intergovernmental Meeting (IG20) on the EANET

In 2019, EANET produced the summary and proceedings of the 20th Session of Intergovernmental Meeting on EANET. The Report summarizes the outcomes of the Session of the IG20 in Bangkok, Thailand, 27-28 November 2018.

Summary and proceedings of the 18th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC18) on the EANET

EANET produced the summary and proceedings of the 18th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee. The report summarizes the outcomes of the Session of SAC18, organized in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 9-11 October 2018.

Summary and proceedings of the 19th Senior Technical Managers' Meeting of the EANET

The proceedings of the 19th Senior Technical Managers Meeting summarizes the outcomes of the Session of STM19, organized in Niigata, Japan, 4-6 September 2018.

These proceedings will be issued on the EANET website soon.

EANET Events in 2019

Regional Awareness Workshop of EANET, in Bangkok, Thailand, 25-27 June.

National Awareness Workshop of EANET in Malaysia, (time to be confirmed).

Working Group Meeting of EANET Medium Term Plan (2021-2025), Bangkok, Thailand, August

EANET Individual Training, in Niigata, Japan, July-August (to be confirmed)

EANET Research Fellowship in 2019, Niigata, Japan (to be confirmed)

The 20th Senior Technical Managers Meeting (STM20) of EANET (to be confirmed)

The 19th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC19) Meeting of EANET, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 8-10 October 2019

The 21st Intergovernmental (IG21) Meeting of EANET, China, November (to be confirmed)

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