

Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
21-22 November 2005, Niigata, Japan

REPORT OF THE SESSION

Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Seventh Session in Niigata, Japan on 21 and 22 November 2005.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the Session. Representatives from Myanmar and Uzbekistan attended as observers. Experts also attended the meeting, from the following international organizations: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP), United Nations Environment Programme Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP), and Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP. The Chairperson of the Fifth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC5) of EANET also attended. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

Opening of the Meeting (Agenda item 1)

3. The meeting was opened by the Secretariat. On behalf of the Government of Japan, Mr. Kazuhiko Takemoto, Director General, Environment Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan delivered the opening address.
4. Mr. Masaki Takahashi, Vice Governor of Niigata Prefecture and Mr. Junichi Ohizumi, the Deputy Mayor of Niigata City, delivered their welcome addresses on behalf of their respective governments.
5. Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP, presented the keynote speech. He stated that history has shown that we need the best in science and best proven data to understand the causes, mechanisms and impacts of acid deposition. Science is needed as basis for policy making. Taking the example of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, he said that three steps are important: monitoring and data analysis; modeling of potential impacts; and development of policy tools. Dr. Toepfer expressed his appreciation for the trust placed in UNEP RRC.AP, which hosts the EANET Secretariat. In closing, he said EANET is a good success story, and committed UNEP's continued support for EANET.

Election of Officers (Agenda item 2)

6. Mr. Kazuhiko Takemoto was elected as Chairperson. Ms. Monemany Nhoibouakong, Acting Director General, Environment Research Institute, Science Technology and Environment Agency, Lao PDR, was elected as Vice-Chairperson. Mrs. Veronika Ginzburg, Researcher, Background Monitoring Department, Institute of Global Climate and Ecology Roshydromet and RAS, Russia, was elected as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda (EANET/IG 7/3/1) (Agenda item 3)

7. The Chairperson invited comments on the proposed agenda. It was proposed to separate agenda item 5 into two components: “Feasibility Study on an appropriate instrument to provide sound basis for financial contribution to EANET activities” and “Draft Decision 1/IG.7”. The Session adopted the agenda with that change.

Consideration of the Guidelines on Administration and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center (EANET/IG 7/4 and EANET/IG 7/4/1) (Agenda item 4)

8. The Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) made presentations on the “Guidelines on Administration and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the NC (EANET/IG 7/4)”, endorsed in principle, by the Working Group for Future Development of EANET (WGFD). The presentation of the Secretariat included the “Draft Procedures and Guidelines for Financial Contribution to EANET (EANET/IG 7/4/1)”. The Session discussed some of the points in the documents, and the Secretariat noted revisions of the text.
9. Discussions included the following major points:
 - Clarifications were provided for the auditing of the Secretariat activities and fellowships in the NC.
 - It was proposed to (1) review the RRC.AP/AIT system that was endorsed at IG3, taking especially into account the need to have high quality of staff, (2) further consider a mechanism to decide the amount of voluntary financial contributions from participating countries, considering the difficulties in negotiating with financial authorities if the amounts fluctuate every year, and (3) consider the establishment of a trust fund for EANET.
 - It was agreed to delete the subtitle between paragraphs 6 and 7 in the document EANET/IG 7/4/1.
10. The Session endorsed, in principle, the two documents (EANET/IG 7/4 and EANET/IG 7/4/1), noting that certain topics required further consideration. The Session requested the WGFD to consider the following issues and report the results to the next IG session:
 - To review the RRC.AP/AIT system as well as the rules and regulations of the

- Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) and examine the possibility to move to the UN system
- To further consider an appropriate mechanism to decide the amount of voluntary financial contributions from participating countries
 - To consider establishment of a trust fund for EANET
11. The Session noted the importance of further effort for fund-raising, especially targeting multilateral aid agencies.

Consideration of the Feasibility Study Report on an Appropriate Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET Activities (EANET/IG 7/5) (Agenda item 5-1)

12. The Secretariat introduced the draft “Feasibility Study Report on an appropriate instrument to provide a sound basis for financial contribution to EANET activities,” which had been endorsed by the WGFD on the previous day. The Session was invited to discuss the document. The Secretariat also clarified that the report does not reflect all the opinions of participating countries.
13. Some countries expressed their preference for a framework type instrument, to avoid duplication of efforts.
14. Several countries stated that without a formal instrument for EANET, such as a legally-binding agreement or a government-ratified instrument, it was difficult for their governments to contribute funds to EANET.
15. Dr. Toepfer pointed out there are a variety of possible approaches, each with its own merits. It is often easier to start by developing programs of actions that are not legally binding. Creation of a trust fund may be a good way to create opportunities to attract funds. At the right point in time, creating a legally-binding document is also worth considering.
16. It was pointed out that scientific evidence on the adverse effect of acid deposition and its national and regional implications should not be the first step to consider the possibility of formulating an appropriate instrument.
17. The Session acknowledged the Feasibility Study Report as presented.

Adoption of Decision 1/IG.7 (Niigata Decision) (Agenda item 5-2)

18. The Chair introduced the latest text of draft Decision 1/IG7.7 developed by the WGFD on November 20, 2005, for consideration by the Session.

19. It was pointed out that “acid deposition monitoring” was reflected in the main activities of EANET, so there was no need to mention it specifically.
20. A country suggested that the discussion should be limited to the existing EANET scheme, while another pointed out the need to have flexibility for future discussions.
21. The Session adopted Decision 1/IG.7 (Niigata Decision), with modifications. The final text is attached as Annex 2.

Consideration of the Report for Policy Makers (EANET/IG 7/6) (Agenda item 6)

22. The Secretariat presented the final draft of the “Report for Policy Makers on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia: Goals, Achievements and Way Forward.” The Session was invited to make comments, consider and adopt the report.
23. Participants offered a number of suggestions, some of which would be reflected in the current version, while others would be used for future reference:
 - Participants view publications such as this Report for Policy Makers (RPM) as very important documents. They should be accurate and of high visual and language quality. Photos should appropriately represent the East Asia region.
 - Besides achievements at the regional level, future versions of the RPM should also introduce achievements at the national level relating to acid deposition monitoring and responses.
 - Reports from national centers should include not only data on acid deposition, but also describe progress in each participating country in terms of pollution control relating to acid deposition. This kind of information would be of interest to policy makers.
 - Future reports should include effects on human health.
 - It is important to express EANET’s vision clearly.
 - The report should include an organizational chart of EANET with brief information on respective organizations as appropriate.
 - Some mention should be made of research activities supported by EANET in the section on Major Achievements.
24. It was agreed that the Report would be launched at the High-Level Segment later in the day.
25. The Session endorsed, in principle, the Report, and instructed the Secretariat to incorporate the suggestions described above, to the extent possible, within a few weeks, before its distribution.

Consideration of Five-Year Medium Term Plan for EANET (EANET/IG 7/7) (Agenda item7)

26. The NC presented the revised “Five-Year Medium Term Plan for Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (2006-2010),” which had been developed by the WGFD. Participants were invited to comment on the document.
27. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
- The plan should provide more information about (1) cost estimates for activities listed, (2) information about possible financial sources, (3) risk analysis (i.e., what happens if funds do not materialize), measures to secure the necessary resources, and (4) strategies to strengthen partnerships with donor agencies.
 - Budget information should be presented in terms of (1) core budget activities and (2) additional budget activities.
 - It is recommended to consider cost estimates for activities by both the Secretariat and Network Center.
 - Some clarifications were offered on views of how to deal with some aspects of institutional expansion (e.g., new centers or sub-centers).
28. The Session endorsed the general framework of the Five-Year Medium Term Plan for EANET (paragraphs 1 through 7), with the suggestion that concerns raised by participants about the evaluation of activities be incorporated. The WGFD is charged to elaborate from paragraph 8 until the end of the document in order to present a revised Five-Year Medium Term Plan in one year to the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) for approval.

High Level Segment (Agenda item 8)

29. Chairperson Mr. Kazuhiko Takemoto of Japan welcomed participants to this segment. Her Excellency Ms. Yuriko Koike, Minister of the Environment of Japan gave opening remarks, confirmed Japan’s continued commitment to EANET, and applauded efforts to strengthen its foundations. Mr. Hirohiko Izumida, Governor of Niigata Prefecture expressed his welcome to participants and expressed his best wishes for the meeting.
30. Mr. Takemoto then briefed the meeting on the major outcomes of IG7 to this point, emphasizing the Niigata Decision to provide a sound basis for EANET, and the launch of the Report for Policy Makers.
31. The following persons then offered their remarks to the meeting: Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP; Mr. Samnuon Khong, Secretary of State for Environment, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia; Mr. Sakhone Chaleunvong, Vice

President, Science Technology and Environment Agency, Lao PDR; Dr. Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand; Mr. Tang Dingding, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Department, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), China; Mr. Kim Kyung-Sik, Director General, Air Quality Management Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea; and Ms. Corazon C. Davis, Regional Executive Director, Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines.

32. The speakers congratulated the EANET on its achievements to date and expressed appreciation for the efforts to establish and strengthen the network so far. They described how EANET has strengthened their own nations' or organizations' efforts to address acid deposition issues. And they expressed their ongoing commitment to help the EANET develop further, as well as their hopes and expectations for the network in the future.

Review of the Progress of EANET after SAC4 and IG6 (EANET/IG 7/9/1) and the Financial Report in 2004 (EANET/IG 7/9/2) (Agenda item 9)

33. The Secretariat and the NC made presentations on the “Report of the Progress of EANET after the Fourth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC4) and the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG6)”, which were held in November 2004 in Siem Reap, Cambodia and the “Financial Report of the Secretariat and NC in 2004”.
34. The representative of Russia reported that a joint seminar was held successfully in Moscow, Russia at the beginning of November 2005, by EANET and the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP). She said that the seminar was an important first step for the exchange of experience between EANET and EMEP, and encouraged closer cooperation between EMEP and EANET at the regional and hemispheric scale.

Consideration of the Outcomes of SAC5 (EANRT/IG 7/10) (Agenda item 10)

35. Prof. Mohammad Bin Awang made a presentation based on the “Report of the Outcomes of the Fifth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee on EANET”, held from 1 to 3 September 2005 in Niigata, Japan.
36. The Session endorsed the report.

Consideration of the Work Program and Budget in 2006 for EANET (EANET/IG 7/11)
(Agenda item 11)

37. The Secretariat and the NC presented the draft “Work Program and Budget in 2006 for EANET”.
38. As the draft did not yet reflect discussions of the Session of the WGDF and day one of the IG7, countries requested the Secretariat to revise the text to fully reflect those discussions including consideration on details of the MTP, revisions relating to base year and estimated contributions in the Annex of Table 2 of the Work Program and Budget in 2006, the participation of high-level officials, and financial rules of the Secretariat, etc. The Secretariat agreed to do so.
39. The Session adopted the document in principle, with the understanding that the Secretariat will make the requested revisions and circulate the document to the National Focal Points as soon as possible for final endorsement.

Consideration of Report on the Review of the Performance of the Secretariat and the Network Center (EANET/IG 7/12) (Agenda item 12)

40. The Secretariat and the NC presented the draft reports on the “Review of the Performance of the Secretariat and the Network Center” as well as their financial reports from 2002 to 2004. The Session was invited to make comments.
41. The Session accepted the report.
42. Countries inquired about the current status regarding the selection of a Coordinator of the Secretariat, following the completion of the term of the present Coordinator. In response, Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP RRC.AP, on behalf of the Director of UNEP RRC.AP, informed the meeting that although his office had sent out invitations to the participating countries, it had not yet received any nominations for the position. It was agreed that the invitation would be sent again to participating countries. Countries were urged to nominate candidates.

Other Issues (Agenda item 13)

43. The EANET Secretariat announced that it had received a letter from Major General Thein Swe, Minister, Ministry of Transport, Myanmar, dated 1 July 2005, stating that Myanmar has attended EANET meetings as an observer since 1999 and requesting that Myanmar be accepted as a member. The Session decided unanimously to welcome Myanmar as a member of EANET. In response, Mr. Tin Ngwe, Director,

Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Transport expressed appreciation for the warm welcome.

44. Countries requested the Secretariat to provide earlier notice and circulate documents in advance of meetings for all important matters, including requests for membership.

Updates of other international organizations/programs on acid deposition and transboundary air pollution (Agenda item 14)

45. Dr. Keith Bull, Chief, Pollution Prevention Section, Environment and Human Settlements Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), provided information on recent activities under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. He gave special mention of the EANET Secretariat's participation at the Convention's 25th anniversary session in December 2004, the joint EANET/EMEP seminar held in Moscow in early November, and the participation of experts from EANET countries in the Convention's new Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution. He welcomed further collaboration from EANET in the future.
46. Dr. Alexander Tkalin, representing the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP expressed interest in maintaining contact with EANET, because atmospheric deposition of nutrients and contaminants to the marine and coastal environments is of major concern for NOWPAP. NOWPAP's ten years of experience have demonstrated how important it is for international programmes like NOWPAP and EANET to develop good institutional and financial arrangements (e.g., trust fund, legal status, location and functions of the Secretariat, etc.).

Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Session (EANET/IG 7/15) (Agenda item 15)

47. The Session reviewed the draft Report of the Session and adopted it with modifications.

Closing of the Session

48. The Session expressed its deepest gratitude for the warm hospitality and great support for the organization of IG7 by its hosts, particularly the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Niigata Prefecture, Niigata City, and the Network Center. The Session also expressed sincere appreciation for contributions during the meeting from the representatives of international organizations.
49. The Chairperson closed the Session, thanking participants for their constructive contributions.

Annex 1

List of Participants

Participating Countries

Cambodia

H.E. Mr. Khong Samnuon
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Ministry of Environment

Mr. Heng Nareth
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Annex 2**DECISION 1/IG.7 (The Niigata Decision)**

The Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), on 21-22 November 2005 in Niigata, Japan,

Recognizing that the East Asian region faces increasing risks of problems related to acid deposition,

Recognizing that the EANET has been established as an important initiative for regional cooperation, aiming to create common understanding on the state of acid deposition problems and to provide useful inputs to policy makers at various levels,

Recalling the agreements reached at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting through Decision 2 and paragraph 2 of the Joint Announcement on the Implementation of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET),

Recognizing that EANET Decision 1/IG5 clearly states to review the possibility of developing an international agreement to provide a sound basis for financial contribution, and the importance of long-term, secured financial arrangement for the EANET activities,

Taking into account the discussions at the sessions of the Intergovernmental Meeting as well as the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) of EANET,

Considering that in some countries the negotiations on the new financial arrangement with national financial bodies require legal status and mandate,

1. Confirms that the principles that were agreed at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting should remain as the basic policy of the EANET activities;
2. Decides that the participating countries of EANET should begin a process to discuss an appropriate instrument and its legal status to provide a sound basis for financial contribution to EANET and will report the results of the discussion to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting for its consideration, and that the "Feasibility Study Report on an Appropriate Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET Activities" will be a reference for the process of discussion, but it will not be a necessary basis for the process of discussion;
3. Decides that the above-mentioned process should be carried out on the basis of the best available scientific information from EANET on acid deposition and its impacts;
4. Decides that the above-mentioned process should be initiated at the earliest and conducted through WGFD;
5. Suggests that the discussion process should consider the following:
 - Elements to be included in the instrument;
 - Legal status of the instrument; and,
 - Proposed text of the instrument;
6. Requests the Secretariat to provide a working paper on the revised schedule of WGFD for discussion immediately after the IG7.