

The Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting
on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
29-30 November 2006, Hanoi, Viet Nam

REPORT OF THE SESSION

Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Eighth Session in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 29 and 30 November 2006.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in the Session. Experts also attended the meeting, from the following international organizations: United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP), and United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS). The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

Opening of the Session (Agenda item 1)

3. The meeting was opened by the Secretariat. On behalf of the Secretariat, Mr. Hiroshi Nishimiya, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP/ROAP delivered the opening address.
4. Dr. Nguyen Cong Thanh, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam, delivered the keynote address.

Election of Officers (Agenda item 2)

5. The Session elected Dr. Tran Thuc, General Director, Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam as Chairperson of the meeting. Mr. Hiroyasu Tokuda, Director, Global Environmental Issues Division, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, was elected as Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Kusmulyani, Officer in Charge for Acid Deposition, Assistant Deputy for Climate Change Impact Control, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia, was elected as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda (EANET/IG 8/3/1) (Agenda item 3)

6. The Session adopted the proposed agenda as presented.

Consideration of the Report on the Progress of EANET after the Fifth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC5) and the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (EANET/IG 7) (EANET/IG 8/4/1) and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2005 (EANET/IG 8/4/2) (Agenda item 4)

7. The Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) reported on the progress of EANET after the Fifth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC5) and the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7), which were held on 1-3 September 2005 and 21-22 November 2005, respectively, in Niigata, Japan. The financial report of the Secretariat and NC in 2005 was included in the presentation.
8. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
 - The Secretariat introduced the present status of the Secretariat staffing. An announcement of a vacancy will be re-issued for the position of Coordinator of the Secretariat. The contract of the Programme Officer was renewed.
 - Some countries emphasized that it is important to fill the now-vacant Coordinator position, and requested the Secretariat to expedite the process. The view was expressed that reasons for lack of applicants included the low salary for this position compared to similar positions in the UN system, and that the announcement was sent only to National Focal Points (NFPs).
 - It was pointed out that in future, progress reports from the Secretariat and NC should include not only progress, but also an analysis of problems and difficulties facing EANET, and lessons learned.
 - The Secretariat and NC were requested to strengthen efforts to explore funding from potential donors, such as the Asian Development Bank, and to develop partnerships with other organizations.
 - The Secretariat clarified that interest from funds in the bank was not a significant amount.
9. The Secretariat made clear that it would do its best to accommodate the points raised by the Session.

Consideration on the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET for 2007-2008 (EANET/IG 8/5) (Agenda item 5)

10. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) of EANET for 2007-2008 (EANET/IG 8/5).

11. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
 - It was proposed to reduce the number of the working group sessions by increasing the duration of each session, and it was agreed that the number of the WGFD sessions in 2008 would be reduced from three to two.
 - It was suggested that the establishment of sub-groups or ad hoc meetings would be decided by IG and would not be delegated to the WGFD, and accordingly, paragraph 7 of the draft TOR would be deleted.
 - It was agreed that the numbering of sessions of the WGFD would be continuous, so the next would be the Fourth Session (WGFD4).
12. The Session adopted the TOR with the amendments described above, and attached as Annex 2 of this report.

Consideration on the Components of the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET (EANET/IG 8/6) (Agenda item 6)

13. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Draft Components of an Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET (EANET/IG 8/6).
14. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
 - It was pointed out that the instrument should be simple, flexible and open for future development of EANET, based on the Joint Announcement (EANET/IG 2/5/2 rev), Tentative Design (EANET/IG 2/5/3) and relevant decisions at the IG meetings. Financial provisions should be developed in close consultation with concerned countries and without placing an undue burden on participating countries.
 - Based on the request of the Session, the Secretariat will develop a clean text of the components of the instrument, to the extent possible, for presentation at WGFD4.
 - Financial contributions could not be identified in the text of the objectives of the instrument.
15. The Session took note of the outcomes of the discussions as guidance for future activities on this topic.

Consideration on the Revised Five-Year Medium Term Plan (MTP) for EANET (EANET/IG 8/7/1, EANET/IG 8/7/2, EANET/IG 8/7/3, and EANET/IG 8/7/4) (Agenda item 7)

16. NC made a presentation on the Revised Five-Year Medium Term Plan for EANET and Workload and Cost for Implementing the Medium Term Plan of EANET (2006-2010) for consideration of IG.

17. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
- There was a suggestion that the MTP should provide performance indicators and assured financial sources for individual activities. Another option was to change the title of the document to “Strategy.” It was then agreed to change the title to the “Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010).”
 - It was suggested that capacity building of the participating countries and establishment of an adequate number of monitoring sites should remain the priority for EANET. After discussions on priority issues, it was agreed that task (25) in paragraph 12 of EANET/IG 8/7/1 would be moved to paragraph 13. Accordingly, necessary revisions are to be made to relevant provisions of document EANET/IG 8/7/2.
 - It was pointed out that clearer definitions of NC’s “core budget” and “additional budget” should be explored.
18. The Session adopted document EANET/IG 8/7/1 with the amendments described above.

Consideration of the Report on the Review of the RRC.AP/AIT System and Establishment of a Trust Fund (EANET/IG 8/8/1), and of Overview on the Rules and Regulations of the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) and the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC) as the NC of EANET (EANET/IG 8/8/2) (Agenda item 8)

19. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Draft Report on Review of the RRC.AP/AIT System and Establishment of a Trust Fund. NC provided information on the rules and regulations of the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) and the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC) for NC of EANET.

20. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
- It was agreed that audit reports specifically for the EANET account should be attached to financial reports, starting with the next IG.
 - It was suggested that the salary of the Coordinator should be increased.
 - It was agreed that the issue of the trust fund would be discussed after the financial arrangements have been finalized in the instrument to provide a sound basis for financial contribution to EANET

Consideration of the Report on the Revised Procedures and Guidelines for Contribution to EANET (EANET/IG 8/9/1), and of Report on Ways in Obtaining Financial Support from International Funding Agencies (EANET/IG 8/9/2) (Agenda item 9)

21. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Report on Revised Procedures and Guidelines for Contribution to EANET and Draft Report on Ways in Obtaining Financial Support from International Funding Agencies.

22. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
- The Session agreed to move to the flat rate burden sharing system for voluntary contributions from participating countries to EANET from 2008, in principle, based on documents EANET/IG 8/7/1 and EANET/IG 8/7/2, with agreed amendments. The figures in table 1 of document EANET/IG 8/9/1 should, however, be further examined at WGFD sessions.
 - The Session also endorsed document EANET/IG 8/9/2 in principle, requesting the Secretariat to take further actions to obtain external resources. The Secretariat was requested to establish a set of procedures to be followed by EANET in preparation of proposals for potential donors.
 - The Secretariat was requested to receive the endorsement of NFPs on project proposals before submitting them to potential donors.
 - The Secretariat and NC were also encouraged to communicate with potential donors to identify their interest and priority to further develop good concept papers/proposals. Some countries suggested that the Secretariat may consider using external experts to develop full proposals, with additional budget.
 - It was suggested that a consultation meeting might be a good option for better communication with potential donors.

Consideration and endorsement on the Outcomes of the Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC6) (EANET/IG 8/10/) (Agenda item 10)

23. The NC presented the report on the outcomes of SAC6, including the outcome of the Drafting Committee for the periodic report.
24. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
- The Session requested SAC to prepare a summary of the Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition Monitoring in East Asia (PRSad) for policy makers. NC was requested to draft this summary for consideration by the Drafting Committee.
25. The Session endorsed, in principle, the procedures for finalizing and printing the PRSad. After further elaboration by NC and the Drafting Committee of PRSad with the comments by experts, the final drafts (both the report and the summary) will be sent to NFPs for their comments and endorsement.

Consideration of the Draft Revised Work Program and Budget in 2007 for EANET (EANET/IG 8/11) (Agenda item 11)

26. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the revised Draft Work Program and Budget in 2007 for EANET.

27. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
- The Secretariat provided a cost breakdown of projected expenditures for the Coordinator position for 2007. The Session requested the Secretariat to provide more detailed information on the salary of the Coordinator and a comparison of salary-related costs between the RRC.AP/AIT system and UN system.
 - The Session requested the Secretariat to investigate the regulations of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), regarding the salary for the Coordinator position and negotiate with AIT to increase the net amount (e.g., to U.S.\$60,000 per year). By the end of 2006, the results of negotiation should be announced to NFPs, and the EANET budget for 2007 revised if necessary, for approval by NFPs.
 - The Session requested that the Secretariat accelerate recruitment activities for a Coordinator.
 - It was emphasized that the 2007 budget should be revised to correspond to priority activities of the Strategy.
 - Revisions were requested on page 16 (Table 2) and page 18 budget lines (Table 1-1-1) on core and additional budgets of NC, to reflect the agreed Strategy.
28. The Session adopted the Work Programme and Budget in 2007 for EANET (EANET/IG 8/11) with the discussed modifications.

Updates of other international programs on acid deposition and transboundary air pollution (Agenda item 12)

29. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan presented information about the organization and activities of UNEP/ROAP. He also informed the Session of the progress of activities related to the Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC), the Malé Declaration, and the Global Atmospheric Forum.
30. The representative of the Republic of Korea presented the progress in the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in Northeast Asia (LTP) project, involving China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and recommended that as this project is relevant to EANET, updates be provided about it at future meetings.

Other issues (Agenda item 13)

31. The representative of Lao PDR announced her country's willingness to host IG9 in 2007. The Session noted this offer, with appreciation.

Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Session (EANET/IG 8/14) (Agenda item 14)

32. The Report of the Session was adopted.

Closing of the Session (Agenda item 15)

33. The Session expressed its deepest gratitude for the warm hospitality and great support for the organization of IG8 by the host country, particularly the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam, and the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology. The Session also appreciated the efforts by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur.
34. The Chairperson closed the Session, thanking participants, member countries, Secretariat and NC for their constructive contributions.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

**Terms of Reference
for
the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) of
Acid Deposition Monitoring (EANET) for 2007-2008
(Final)**

1. In line with the decision at the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG5) on EANET held in Pattaya, Thailand, on 27-28 November 2003, the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (hereinafter referred to as the “Working Group”) is established on an ad hoc basis.
2. Upon the expiration of TOR (2004-2006) adopted by the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG6), WGFD is directed by the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7) to be continued.
3. The members of the Working Group shall be nominated by the National Focal Points of the participating countries (NFPs). NFPs shall nominate two participants for each session, taking into account the topic of the session. NFPs are recommended to consult with national members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in nominating their Working Group members for scientific and technical aspects.
4. One Chairperson and two Vice-chairpersons will be elected for two-year term of the Working Group sessions.
5. The Working Group will, under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG):
 - (i) discuss and develop an appropriate instrument and its legal status to provide a sound basis for financial contribution for EANET and report the results of the discussion to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) for its consideration;
 - (ii) review the performance of the Secretariat and NC during the year 2005-2007, including financial aspect, for future development of EANET and submit the review report to IG10 in 2008;
 - (iii) guide the Secretariat and NC to carry out capacity building activities; and
 - (iv) carry out other tasks requested by IG.
6. The tentative schedule of the Working Group sessions based on the document EANET/WGFD 3/3 in May 2006 and was further revised/developed at the WGFD Second Special Session in August 2006 are set as follows:
 - (i) Fourth Session: April - May 2007
 - Development of the text on the instrument

- (ii) Fifth Session: August - September 2007

 - Drafting of the report for IG10 (index and abstracts of each chapter of the report/instrument itself)
 - Preparation of the proposed text on the instrument and its legal status.
 - Preparation of the draft reports
 - Discussion on the documents/reports which will be submitted to IG9 (report on the instrument and possibly reports on performance review and capacity building)

- (iii) Sixth Session: March - April 2008

 - Revision of the draft reports for IG10

- (iv) Seventh Session: July-August 2008

 - Consideration of the final draft reports for IG10

Depending on the requests of the IG, additional tasks may be included in the sessions specified, as appropriate.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

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(Final text)**

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