

The Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting  
on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia  
19-20 November 2007, Vientiane, Lao PDR

## **REPORT OF THE SESSION**

### Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Ninth Session in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 19 and 20 November 2007.
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 from the following international organizations, etc. also attended: United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), and Kanazawa University. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

### Opening of the Session (Agenda item 1)

3. The Session was opened by the Secretariat. On behalf of the Secretariat, Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP), delivered the opening address.
4. H.E. Mr. Noulinh Sinbandhit, Vice Minister to the Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Head, Water Resources and Environment Administration of Lao PDR, delivered the keynote address.

### Election of Officers (Agenda item 2)

5. The Session elected Ms. Monemany Nhoybouakong, Director General, Environment Research Institute, Water Resources and Environment Administration, Lao PDR, as Chairperson of the Session. Mr. Julian D. Amador, Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, was elected as Vice-Chairperson. Dr. Erdenebat Eldev-Ochir, Director, International Cooperation Division, National Agency for Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment Monitoring, Mongolia, was elected as Rapporteur.

### Adoption of the Agenda (EANET/IG 9/3/1) (Agenda item 3)

6. The Session adopted the proposed agenda as presented.

Consideration of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) Progress Report on the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET (Agenda item 4)

7. The Secretariat presented the WGFD Progress Report on the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET (EANET/IG 9/4). The Session was invited to consider and comment on the document and to provide guidance for further actions.
8. Japan and Russia explained their written comments on the instrument. Japan proposed that a decision on legal status be made at a later stage, after completion of detailed discussions on content of the instrument. Regarding the scope of substances and activities, Japan indicated its preference to keep room for future development, based on IG decisions. Russia stressed that a legal document is needed to strengthen the financial basis of EANET; that it prefers the scope to be regional air pollution rather than being limited to acid deposition; and that protocol could be developed later on specific issues.
9. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
  - Some countries expressed the need for a legal basis to strengthen national activities and to secure financial contributions for EANET, while others preferred a non-legally binding instrument at the present stage.
  - Some countries expressed their preference for a broader scope on substances and activities while others expressed their preference to maintain the current scope.
  - One country emphasized that the starting point of this discussion is to solve the difficulty in some countries of securing financial contributions for EANET.
  - Another country suggested that the scope could go beyond acid deposition, and that the instrument could provide room for additional tasks, if and when decided by IG.
  - The UNECE representative briefed the Session on the history of the development of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and suggested a flexible, stepwise approach.
  - One country suggested that detailed discussions on respective articles of the instrument should be conducted at the WGFD, and that IG should focus on providing guidance to WGFD.
10. The Session recalled the guidance from the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) that the instrument should be simple, flexible and open for future development, based on the Joint Announcement and Tentative Design, and relevant decisions at the IG meetings, and that financial provisions should not place an undue burden on participating countries. It requested the Secretariat to produce a consolidated text by integrating the drafts of a legally binding and non-legally binding instrument, in order to focus attention on the contents of the instrument. The Session further requested the Secretariat to integrate comments received into the text and circulate it to participating countries by 21 December 2007, and requested the participating countries to provide specific comments on this text to the Secretariat by the end of February 2008.

11. The Session requested WGFD to then proceed with discussions on the instrument, based on the consolidated text to be prepared by the Secretariat and on specific comments received via the Secretariat, with the aim of reporting the results of the discussions to the Tenth Session of IG (IG10) for its consideration, as stated in the IG Decision at its Seventh Session, DECISION 1/IG.7 (The Niigata Decision).

Consideration of the Report on the Progress of EANET after the Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC6) and the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2006 (Agenda item 5)

12. The Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) made presentations on the Report on the Progress of EANET after the Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC6) and the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) (EANET/IG 9/5/1). The Financial Report of the Secretariat and the NC in 2006 (EANET/IG 9/5/2) was included in the presentation. The Session was invited to review and endorse the report and to provide guidance.
13. Major discussions were as follows:
  - The Secretariat and NC clarified the procedure for submission of project proposals for potential donors.
  - The Session was informed that more detailed information on the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum will be provided under Agenda item 10.
14. The Session took note of the reports. It was decided that the Draft Project Proposal for UNEP funding (Annex 2) would be further discussed under Agenda item 9. The Session returned to this topic under Agenda item 9, and approved the project proposal.

Consideration of the Report on the Outcomes of the Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC7) (Agenda item 6)

15. The Chairperson of SAC7 made a presentation on the Report on the Outcomes of the SAC7 (EANET/IG 9/6). The Session was invited to review the report, to endorse the document adopted by SAC7, and to provide guidance for the further development of SAC activities. Japan provided information on the Workshop on Emission Inventory, held on 9 October 2007 in Manila, Philippines.
16. The Chairperson of SAC7 requested the Session to consider the establishment of the task forces and expert groups proposed by SAC.
17. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
  - It was emphasized that the establishment of task forces and expert groups is being proposed in order to implement activities and achieve targets described in the “Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010).”

- The Chairperson of SAC7 provided a detailed explanation of why these task forces and expert groups are needed, in response to concerns some countries had voiced about establishing several task forces and expert groups.
  - One country expressed its reservations specifically about two of the expert groups proposed by SAC (Expert Group to Review Substances to be Monitored in EANET, and Expert Group for Promotion on Emission Inventories and Modeling Activities).
  - Some countries expressed the view that the activities stipulated in the Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010) related to the proposed Expert Groups should be implemented in some way.
  - Some countries suggested that SAC should be given the task to carry out the activities related to the proposed expert groups with assistance from NC and the Secretariat.
  - Some countries recalled that the Strategy states that indicators to evaluate implementation of the Strategy will be developed at the starting period (2006-2007) in terms of achievements, completeness and others, taking into account the outputs received, progress of activities, priorities, and so on.
18. The Session approved the establishment of two task forces and four expert groups, as follows:
- Task Force on Monitoring Instrumentation
  - Task Force on Research Coordination
  - Expert Group on Dry Deposition Flux Estimation under the existing Task Force on Dry Deposition Monitoring
  - Expert Group on Preparation of Second Periodic Report on State of Acid Deposition in East Asia
  - Expert Group on Revision of Technical Manual on Wet Deposition Monitoring
  - Expert Group on Revision of Technical Manual on Inland Aquatic Environment Monitoring

After discussions under Agenda item 8, the Session reached consensus to recommend that SAC reconsider its proposal of the establishment of two expert groups (Expert Group to Review Substances to be Monitored in the EANET Network, and Expert Group for Promotion on Emission Inventories and Modeling Activities).

19. It was agreed that NC would continue discussions with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and elaborate on the discussions at IG10.

Consideration of the Revised Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET (Agenda item 7)

20. The Secretariat and NC made presentations on the Revised Procedures and Guidelines for Contribution to EANET (EANET/IG 9/7). The Session was invited to discuss, review and adopt this document.

21. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
  - The Secretariat was requested to send a letter to participating countries requesting voluntary contributions for EANET.
22. The Session suggested some revisions and then adopted the Revised Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contribution (2008-2010) to EANET, including the revised definitions of the core budget and additional budget of the NC.

Consideration of the Work Program and Budget in 2008 for EANET (Agenda item 8)

23. The Secretariat and NC presented the Draft Work Program and Budget in 2008 for EANET (EANET/IG 9/8). The Session was invited to discuss, review and adopt the document.
24. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
  - Some countries considered it premature to decide whether or not a high-level segment should be convened at IG10. It was agreed that a high-level meeting might be convened at IG10, with the decision to be based on consultation with National Focal Points (NFPs).
  - The Secretariat and NC clarified some points on request of participating countries.
  - It was decided that the date countries are requested to submit data and information obtained through EANET monitoring activities will be by June 30, 2008.
25. The Session adopted the Work Program and Budget in 2008, subject to the stated revisions.

Considerations of the Set of Procedures to be followed by EANET in Preparation of Proposal for Potential Donors (Agenda item 9)

26. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Draft Set of Procedures to be followed by EANET in Preparation of Project Proposal for Potential Donors (EANET/IG 9/9). The Session was invited to discuss, review and approve the document.
27. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
  - It was suggested that “WGFD further review, if necessary” under Phase 2 (Project Formulation and Preparation) be moved to Phase 3 (Review and Approval).
  - On Phase 3, the project will be submitted to IG for approval, as appropriate, before submission to donor agencies.
28. The Session approved the Set of Procedures to be followed by EANET in Preparation of Project Proposal for Potential Donors, as amended.

Updates of other international programs on acid deposition and transboundary air pollution (Agenda item 10)

29. Mr. Keith Bull of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) reported on behalf of CLRTAP. He noted UNECE Environmental Ministers at their Conference “Environment for Europe,” held in Belgrade in October 2007, stressed the importance of outreach and sharing of experience and results by the UNECE conventions. He described the Convention’s work on Protocol reviews and highlighted work on hemispheric transport of air pollution, which was part of the Convention’s outreach activities. He invited EANET to consider any further possibilities for collaboration with the Convention in the future.
30. Mr. Kwang-Suk Park, Air Quality Policy Division, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, presented the Long-Range Transport of Air Pollutants (LTP) Project (Korea, China, Japan), covering activities on monitoring, emission inventory, and modeling in the region. He suggested that the project approaches and experiences might be useful for improvement and development of EANET activities.
31. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, of UNEP RRC.AP, provided an update on the implementation of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia, on the Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABC) project, and on the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum (GAPF). He highlighted possibility of support for EANET through GAPF activities, especially for capacity building for policy makers.

Other issues (Agenda item 11)

32. No other issues were raised during the Session.

Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Session (EANET/IG 9/12) (Agenda item 12)

33. The Report of the Session was adopted.

Closing of the Session (Agenda item 13)

34. The Session expressed its deepest gratitude for the warm hospitality and great support for the organization of IG9 by the host country, particularly the Environment Research Institute, Water Resources and Environment Administration, Lao PDR. The Session also appreciated the efforts by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Rapporteur, and representatives from international organizations.
35. The Chairperson closed the Session, thanking participants, Secretariat and NC for their constructive contributions.

**Annex 1**

**List of Participants**

*Participating Countries*

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Cambodia

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Deputy Director General  
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