

The Nineteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting  
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia  
13-14 November 2017, Siem Reap, Cambodia

## **REPORT OF THE SESSION**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Nineteenth Session (IG19) in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 13-14 November 2017.
2. Representatives of the participating countries, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in the Session. Representatives of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Asia & the Pacific; the Secretariat and Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the Network Center (NC) for the EANET; Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology (RRC.AP/AIT); and Kanazawa University attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached as Annex.

### **II. OPENING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

3. Excellency Mr. Heng Nareth, Director General of Directorate of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, delivered the Welcome Address. He warmly welcomed all participants from the EANET member countries who participated in the Session. He noted that the Royal Government of Cambodia has commitment to join with other countries, partners and communities to protect the global environment that includes international conventions, protocols and agreements as well as EANET. Cambodia has many duties to develop its economy. Since it became the member of the EANET, step by step Cambodia is trying its best with limited resources and support from the NC to monitor regularly rain water and dry deposition in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap Province, as well as monitor inland aquatic environment in one national park. Recently, from April 2017, Cambodia has been continuously monitoring PM2.5 in Phnom Penh.

Mr. Nareth believed that the meeting will present an excellent opportunity for participants to learn and share the valuable experiences and to strengthen national capacity to meaningfully participate in the global processes. He assured that Cambodia will do its best to promote regional and global involvement in any activities that will contribute to safeguarding the global and regional environment. He expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the distinguished delegates from participating

countries and organizations for having the meeting in Cambodia. He also thanked UNEP, EANET Secretariat, the NC and staff from Ministry of Environment for their efforts and assistance in organizing the Session.

4. Dr. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Director, UNEP Asia & the Pacific delivered the Opening Remarks. Dr. Louis extended thanks and appreciation to the Royal Government of Cambodia, and the Directorate of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment for their gracious invitation and generous contribution to host IG19. She congratulated all EANET members and partners for a successful and productive year of activities, research and assessments, dialogue, communications and knowledge sharing as part of the Work Programme. She noted the meeting was happening at a very important time when the issue of air quality and a call for collective actions, is receiving urgent attention globally and in this region. The scientific work, knowledge sharing and capacity building activities of EANET was mentioned as an important contribution to efforts to improve air quality. Following the Framework Agreement between UNEP and EANET signed at IG18, she assured EANET of UNEP's continued commitment to support EANET, including to assist increasing the communications and outreach of the work of EANET. She informed the Session of the upcoming UN Environment Assembly 3, in Nairobi from 4 to 8 December 2017, under the theme of "Towards a Pollution-free Planet". She thanked all who contributed to the organization of IG19.

### **III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

5. The Session elected Mr. Heng Nareth, Director General, General Directorate of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, as the Chairperson, along with Dr. Batbayar Jadamba, Director, Environmental Monitoring Division, National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, Mongolia and Mr. Thalearnsak Petchsuwan, Director, Air Quality and Noise Management Bureau, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand as the Vice Chairpersons and Ms. Jean N. Rosete, Supervising Environmental Management Specialist, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines as the Rapporteur.

### **IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

6. The Session considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG 19/3/1), Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG 19/3/2) and Draft Programme (EANET/IG 19/3/3) proposed by the Secretariat and the NC.

**V. CONSIDERATION ON THE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA (EANET) SINCE THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING (IG18) ON THE EANET AND THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER IN 2016 (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

7. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Report on the Progress of the EANET since the Eighteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG18) on the EANET (EANET/IG 19/4/1) and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2016 (EANET/IG 19/4/2). The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, provide guidance, and endorse the reports, as appropriate.
8. Major points of discussion were as follows:
  - i. Japan encouraged all participating countries to submit their financial contributions as per the expected amount for core activities or more in order to promote additional activities.
  - ii. It was suggested to use the term “UNEP” instead of “UN Environment” in EANET documents.
  - iii. It was clarified that the announcement of recruitment of consultant on Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a New Network Center for EANET and the Terms of Reference (ToR) was shared with National Focal Points (NFPs) in January 2017. The concept note of the study and curriculum vitae of successful applicant was shared with the NFPs in March 2017. It was clarified that the recruitment of the consultant was done in accordance with UN recruitment procedures.
  - iv. It was suggested that the Secretariat share only the electronic copy of the Proceedings for cost efficiency upon agreement from 13 participating countries.
  - v. It was clarified that in 2017, two fellowships were awarded but one candidate withdrew. According to UN financial procedures, this unspent fund should be returned to UNEP as the Secretariat and cannot be carried forward.
  - vi. In 2018, the NC will circulate invitations for the Fellowship earlier.
  - vii. China informed the progress of its feasibility study of increasing new monitoring sites and will submit the new cities and related sites information to the Network Center before next STM meeting. It was encouraged to support the network activities in various modalities, such as personnel exchange and in-kind contribution, etc.
  - viii. Referring to the letter sent from China’s NFP to the Secretariat on the revision comments of voluntary financial contribution form, China suggested to separate voluntary financial contribution and in-kind contribution, and add note for in-kind contribution as “China continues to make in-kind contribution of the same

amount to the Secretariat budget to support the 1 year technical consultant to work at the Secretariat” under the Table 1 of Annex 1 (Page 16) of IG 19/4/1 and the Table 1 of Annex 1 (Page 6) of IG19/4/2 in accordance with the format and wording of 2015 voluntary financial contribution form.

- ix. The actual amount of voluntary financial contribution will be confirmed by UNEP Finance and Administration.
9. The Session endorsed the Report on the Progress of the EANET since the IG18 and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2016, with modifications.

## **VI. CONSIDERATION ON THE REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC17) (AGENDA ITEM 5)**

10. Dr. Nik Muhamad Majid, Chairperson of the SAC17, presented the Report on the Outcomes of the Seventeenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC17) (EANET/IG 19/5). The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance for further development of the activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and endorsed the Report, as appropriate.

11. Major points of discussion were as follows:

- i. Some countries did not submit monitoring data due to budget and human resources, and technical constraints, amongst others.
- ii. It was suggested that EANET website should be improved to be more user friendly. The NC is now improving the accessibility of the raw data.
- iii. It was informed that NC is considering appropriate timing for disclosing of prepared values of inter-laboratory comparison project.
- iv. It was informed that the Acid Rain Conference 2020 will be held in Niigata, Japan. Japan would like to offer a proposal to host EANET meetings (SAC or IG) during the same time as the Conference.
- v. Regarding collaboration with World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Japan suggested to modify the draft Letter of Agreement (LoA) to clarify that the document is not legally binding. Japan also suggested to modify to make it possible for EANET to receive data from WMO, if needed, based on LoA.
- vi. It was clarified that Draft LoA was circulated to SAC members after SAC17 and had received no comments.
- vii. It was suggested that Director General of the NC may be appointed as the signatory representing EANET. Finally, it was decided that since IG is the

decision-making body of EANET, the LoA should be signed by the Chairperson of IG19.

12. As a way forward, the Session agreed that the Secretariat in collaboration with the NC will prepare the revised draft of the LoA according to comments received by IG19 and to be circulated by 30 November 2017 to NFPs. The participating countries will provide comments between 1-31 December 2017. In January 2018, the Secretariat will compile the comments and suggestions from participating countries. Clean draft (with comments provided as attachment) will be circulated to participating countries between 20-30 January 2018. If no further comments are received by 15 February 2018, the NC will consult with WMO for comments. Upon finalization, the Secretariat will send the final hard-copy of the LoA to Chairperson of IG19 for signing and thereafter to WMO for signing.
13. The Session endorsed the Report on the Outcomes of the Seventeenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC17).

**VII. CONSIDERATION ON THE REVISION OF THE REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER FOR THE EANET (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

14. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Revision of the Revised Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center for the EANET (EANET/IG 19/6). The Session was invited to review, discuss, make any comments and suggestions, and provide guidance, as appropriate.
15. Major points of discussion were as follows:
  - i. It was clarified that the Secretariat is working with Programme Officer and Administrative Assistant at AIT, RRC.AP through a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA).
  - ii. It was reiterated that, in principle, reports of EANET, including but not limited to Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD), Report for Policy Makers, etc., should be adopted/endorsed by the Intergovernmental Meeting before publication. The nomination of the Drafting Committees, if required, should go through the NFPs.
  - iii. Japan requested to modify some wordings because it is not legally binding document.

16. The Session approved the Revision of the Revised Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center for the EANET with the modifications suggested by the Session and the modified version will be circulated to all National Focal Points after the IG19.

**VIII. CONSIDERATION ON THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW NETWORK CENTER FOR THE EANET (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

17. The Secretariat presented the Draft Report of the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a New Network Center for the EANET (EANET/IG 19/7). The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments, provide guidance, and approve the Draft Report, as appropriate.

18. Major points of discussion were as follows:

- i. China agreed the conclusion of the Feasibility Study, i.e. through scientific study, the current NC can manage all activities as mandated by the current MTP, and it may not be necessary for the EANET to establish new NC during the current period. The suggestion of establishing Open Laboratory in the feasibility study was positively supported. And accordingly, it was encouraged that the Secretariat works closely with the NC to further continue with the collaboration to jointly develop the related feasibility study.
- ii. Korea supported the suggestion from China. For future feasibility studies, Korea requested the Secretariat to share with participating countries regarding their plans and progress for feedbacks.
- iii. Japan indicated its expectation to expand the scope of the EANET based on outcomes of the feasibility study.
- iv. Viet Nam suggested that instead of establishing a new NC, it would be better to strengthen the current NC and to expand its scope of activities. Viet Nam suggested to explore the possibility of having an Open Laboratory under the current NC.
- v. The Chair explained that a new NC will not be established until the next MTP and supported the adoption of the recommendations for IG19.

19. The Session approved the Draft Report of the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a New Network Center for the EANET (EANET/IG 19/7) with further studies.

**IX. CONSIDERATION ON THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE EANET IN 2018 (AGENDA ITEM 8)**

20. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2018 (EANET/IG 19/9). The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, provide guidance and approve as appropriate.
21. Major points of discussion were as follows:
- i. It was explained that unspent cash balance (savings/surplus) of EANET Secretariat is used to implement the work programme and balance the fluctuation of the voluntary contribution received by the Secretariat.
  - ii. It was proposed for EANET to increase the profile of the network through strengthened capacity building and public awareness activities for promotion of work progress and achievement of the network and the participating countries. China expressed the willingness to provide positive support for such activities.
  - iii. It was proposed that EANET Newsletters should be circulated electronically only.
  - iv. Draft work plan for the 2018 Science and Policy Dialogue will be circulated to NFPs after IG19.
  - v. The trends of budget and expenditure of the Secretariat, including interest, income and balance transfer should be shared. The Secretariat will consult with UNEP Finance and Administration on this provision.
22. The Session approved the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2018 (EANET/IG 19/8) with modifications suggested by the Session.

**X. UPDATES ON ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES RELATED TO ACID DEPOSITION AND AIR QUALITY (AGENDA ITEM 9)**

**PROGRESS OF THE AIR POLLUTION SOLUTIONS REPORT OF ASIA PACIFIC CLEAN AIR PARTNERSHIP (APCAP)**

23. Ms. Maria Katherina Patdu, UN Environment, presented the progress of the development of the Air Pollution Solutions Report jointly developed by the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the organization of the 2018 APCAP Joint Forum (EANET/IG 19/7). Building on the momentum of the region's response to implement the UN Environment Assembly Resolution on Air Quality and as a follow-up to the 2015 Joint Forum, the 2018 APCAP Joint Forum will be organized as part of a week-long programme from the 19th to 23rd March 2017 under the theme 'Solutions Landscape for Clean Air'.

24. Major points of discussions are as follows:

- i. Japan expressed its support to APCAP activities and expected APCAP to serve as a framework in Asia and the Pacific and platform to exchange knowledge and sharing information on air pollution.

#### **XI. OTHER ISSUES (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

25. The Session was invited to discuss and consider other issues to be raised by the participants, the Secretariat and/or the NC, if any.

26. Major points of discussion were as follows:

- i. No issues were raised in this Agenda Item.

#### **XII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

27. The Report of the Session (EANET/IG 19/11) was considered and adopted.

#### **XIII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

28. The Session expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson, Vice Chairpersons, the Rapporteur, the participants, the representatives from international organizations, and resource persons for their efforts, cooperation and contribution to the Session.

29. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat and the NC for their contributions, declared the Nineteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia officially closed.



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