

The Preparatory Meeting
for the Third Intergovernmental Meeting
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network
in East Asia
14-15 June 2001, Bangkok, Thailand

Summary of the Meeting

Introduction

1. The Preparatory Meeting (PM1) for the Third Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (IG3) was held on 14-15 June 2001 in Bangkok, Thailand.

2. Representatives of all the ten countries participating in the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), namely, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Vietnam, participated in the Meeting. Experts of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

Opening of the Meeting

3. The Meeting was opened by the Interim Secretariat for EANET (IS).

4. Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana (Thailand) was elected as Chairperson.

5. The Meeting adopted the agenda as proposed by IS (EANET/PM 1/3/1), as a basis for discussion.

Report on the progress after the Second Intergovernmental Meeting (agenda item 4)

6. IS and the Network Center for EANET (NC) presented a short summary of activities of EANET since July 2000. IS and NC welcome contributions from the participating countries on their national EANET activities for inclusion in the report. This report will be further elaborated for presentation to the First Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC1) and IG3 meetings.

7. IS reported that the official letter from EANET to UNEP requesting that UNEP serve as the EANET Secretariat was sent on 6 June 2001. A representative of UNEP informed the Meeting that a positive response was expected from UNEP's Executive Director, possibly in the next week.

8. IS informed the Meeting that only Thailand had proposed to host SAC1 and IG3. If other participating countries were interested in hosting these meetings, they were requested to quickly submit proposals. It was pointed out that November and December 2001 would be very busy for international meetings; therefore, the dates for these meetings should be set as

early as possible to ensure high-level representation. IS informed that SAC1 and IG3, if convened in Thailand, might be held in the week starting from Monday, 19 November 2001.

9. Participating countries expressed concern about the combined function of the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC) as the Network Center and Japan's National Center. IS clarified how ADORC carries out NC and other functions.

10. It was clarified that non-Japanese staff in ADORC to serve for NC would be achieved by secondment or some other mechanisms. The Eco-frontier Fellowship can fund non-Japanese researchers to do NC work, but institutional constraints of this program require that such researchers be nominally associated with ADORC.

Consideration of the proposed agenda of the First Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting and the Third Intergovernmental Meeting (agenda item 5)

11. IS made a presentation on the proposed agenda of SAC1 and IG3.

12. Some countries expressed concern about the ambitious agenda items for IG3. It was pointed out that consensus on financial mechanisms might be difficult to reach at IG3. Participating countries will consider more specific options for financial arrangements and then review the question of whether to exclude this item from the IG3 agenda. IS will communicate with participating countries on this issue through the national focal points.

13. IS reported that the Lao P.D.R. and Cambodia had inquired about the procedure to participate in EANET, but no applications had been received from them yet. Some concerns were expressed about possible effects of increasing the number of participating countries before consensus was reached on financial mechanisms.

14. The Meeting noted that procedures for public disclosure of EANET data have not yet been decided. Some participants informed the Meeting that national consensus on procedures for data disclosure might require a long period of domestic consultations.

15. It was suggested that QA/QC activities be added to the SAC agenda as a new agenda item; this item could include discussion of the results of inter-laboratory comparison projects.

Consideration of the Rules of Procedures (agenda item 6)

16. IS presented the preliminary draft of Rules of Procedure for EANET.

17. It was pointed out that decision-making should be done by consensus, rather than allowing a 2/3 majority vote in cases where consensus cannot be reached. If such a voting system should be retained, an additional procedure should be required to make a voting decision.

18. It was suggested to delete the phrase 'through the diplomatic channel' in para 2.1

19. Some clarifications and additional suggestions from participating countries and UNEP were made to improve the draft, which would be taken into account for further elaboration of the document.

Consideration of present status on arrangement for the Secretariat (agenda item 7)

20. The Director of UNEP/RCC.AP made a presentation on the draft proposal for the establishment of the EANET Secretariat. The presentation included a positive response to the request of IG2 for hosting the Secretariat; a briefing on other air pollution-related programs that UNEP assists; and Secretariat issues related to organizational structure, staffing, and finance. Many suggestions were made for improvements to the proposal. Clarifications were also made on various points.

- (a) Benefits and disadvantages of the various proposals for staffing levels, recruitment, and trust fund arrangements need to be more thoroughly explained.
- (b) If the secretariat is going to begin operation at UNEP in Bangkok in January 2002, a more detailed schedule of nomination and recruitment should be included in the proposal.
- (c) The extent to which UNEP could support start-up of the EANET Secretariat with sharing of equipment and personal from other programs needs to be explained.
- (d) The minimum funding needed to establish the EANET Secretariat should be specified.
- (e) The number and length of attachments to the proposal should be reduced in the next edition. A one- or two-page executive summary would be desirable.
- (f) The organizational chart of UNEP/RCC.AP needs to be clarified.

21. It was agreed to revise the proposal for UNEP to host the Secretariat, taking into account the suggestions made at this Meeting and to send the revised documents to the participating countries as quickly as possible. It was expected that the participating countries would send their comments on the revised documents to IS by the end of July.

Consideration of further financial arrangement (agenda item 8)

22. Participating countries made many requests for clarification and suggestions for improvement of the preliminary draft on further financial arrangements for EANET (EANET/PM 1/8). There was consensus that more concrete proposals were necessary before IG3 could consider this difficult issue. Participants extensively discussed how to elaborate concrete proposals for the financial arrangements.

23. It was pointed out that extensive consultations within each country would be necessary for each country to develop its own position on financial arrangements. Intensive communication between participating countries and IS was requested. IS was also asked to draw on UNEP's expertise in formulating proposed financial arrangements.

24. Some countries requested that an additional informal meeting be convened prior to IG3 to further elaborate and refine financial arrangement proposals. Such an informal meeting might be held immediately prior to IG3 to minimize the resources required. It was agreed that further feedback between IS and participating countries after PM 1 would be necessary before any final decision to hold such an informal meeting might be made.

25. Participating countries felt that insufficient preparation of the proposals for financial arrangements would make it difficult to reach consensus on financial arrangements at IG3. IS was asked whether funding for 2002 might be found to allow more time to work on stable, long-term financial arrangements for EANET. Japan indicated its intention to seek funds for contribution to the trust fund for 2002.

Consideration of future development of EANET (agenda item 9)

26. Participating countries made many suggestions for improvement of the preliminary draft on future development of EANET (EANET/PM 1/9).

27. Some participating countries expressed concern about admitting additional countries to EANET at the present stage. It was pointed out that application procedures should be added to the Rules of Procedure.

Other issues (agenda item 10)

28. The Network Center informed the Meeting of the Second Senior Technical Managers' Meeting to be held 19-21 September 2001 in Niigata, Japan. The main purpose of this meeting will be to consider national monitoring plans and national monitoring data. An official invitation letter will be sent to national focal points at the end of June or early in July.

Tour to the UNEP/RRC.AP Office

29. The participants thanked UNEP for a tour to their RRC.AP office in the Asian Institute of Technology and for their hosting of the cocktail reception.

Consideration and adoption of the Summary of the Meeting (agenda item 11)

30. The Meeting adopted the Summary of the Meeting.

Closing of the Meeting (agenda item 12)

31. The participants thanked both IS and NC for organizing the Meeting and the Government of Japan for sponsoring the Meeting.

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