

The Fifth Working Group Meeting
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network
in East Asia
2-4 August 2000, Manila, the Philippines

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Introduction

1. The Working Group (WG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its fifth meeting from 2 to 4 August 2000 in Manila, the Philippines.
2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of nine of the countries participating in the preparatory-phase activities of EANET, namely, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Vietnam; the representative of the Russian Federation was also invited, but was not able to attend the Meeting. Experts of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) also attended the meeting. Officials of the government of Niigata Prefecture, Japan, also attended the meeting as observers. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

Opening of the Meeting

3. The Meeting was opened by the Interim Secretariat (IS) for EANET. Honorable Mr. Antonio H. Cerilles, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, delivered a keynote address.
4. Mr. Peter Anthony A. Abaya (the Philippines) was elected as Chairperson, Mr. Zamba Batjargal (Mongolia) and Dr. Vu Van Tuan (Vietnam) as Vice-chairpersons, and Mr. Guo Jing (China)

as Rapporteur.

5. The Meeting adopted the agenda as proposed by IS.

Report of the outcomes of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific Advisory Group (agenda item 4)

6. Dr. Hajime Akimoto, the Rapporteur for the Third Interim Scientific Advisory Group (ISAG) Meeting, reported on the outcomes of the ISAG Meeting. The Interim Network Center (INC) further supplemented his presentation.

7. The Meeting endorsed the Report of the Third ISAG Meeting (EANET/ISAG 3/9), including the "Report on the Acid Deposition Monitoring of EANET during the Preparatory Phase - Its Results, Major Constraints and Ways to Overcome Them" (EANET/ISAG 3/4/2), with the modifications made at the ISAG Meeting (EANET/ISAG 3/4/2 Mod.1).

Consideration of the program and agenda of the Second Intergovernmental Meeting (agenda item 5)

8. The meeting considered the "Draft Organization of the Second Intergovernmental Meeting" (EANET/WG 5/5).

9. The meeting agreed that the sixth WG Meeting and the Second Intergovernmental Meeting would be held from 23 to 24 October and from 25 to 26 October, respectively, both in Niigata, Japan.

10. The meeting made clarification on the expected participants to the meeting, reconsidered the agenda of the WG and Intergovernmental Meetings, and agreed on the revised document on the organization of the meetings (EANET/WG 5/5 rev.2).

Review of the preparatory-phase activities of the Network (agenda item 6)

11. The Meeting took note of the report on the review of the

preparatory-phase activities (EANET/ISAG 3/5/1), which was prepared by IS and INC, and had been discussed at the Third Meeting of ISAG, held in Manila on 31 July and 1 August, 2000.

12. It was generally felt by the Meeting that the preparatory-phase activities of the Network had been successful in demonstrating the feasibility of the Network, providing time for developing national monitoring systems, and considering policy recommendations on further development of the Network. The participants concurred that the preparatory-phase activities provided the basis for starting the Network as regular activities.

13. It was agreed that WG should prepare and submit to the Second Intergovernmental Meeting a report on review and evaluation of the preparatory-phase activities, based on the updated information on the progress of the activities provided by IS and INC. The working draft of such report was developed, by considering the preliminary description provided by the last several paragraphs of EANET/ISAG 3/5/1. The working draft is attached to this report as annex II.

Consideration of the documents for further implementation of the Network (agenda item 7)

14. The Meeting reviewed the draft joint announcement on the implementation of EANET (EANET/WG 5/7/1), which had been prepared by IS based on the discussions at the Fourth WG Meeting, as a brief document describing the principles of the Network, to be considered and adopted at the Second Intergovernmental Meeting.

15. The Meeting was generally supportive of this draft addressing policy aspects of the future development of the Network. However, different views were expressed on future development of an international agreement on the Network and an international framework on the issues related to acid deposition. The participating countries were requested to further consider the alternative descriptions on this topic, which are included in the revised draft (EANET/WG 5/7/1 rev.2).

16. The Meeting also reviewed the tentative design of EANET (EANET/WG 5/7/2), which was referred to by the draft joint announcement, based on the draft documents developed at the previous meeting of WG.

17. In relation to paragraph 1 of EANET/WG 5/7/2, it was suggested that the communication between the participating countries and the Secretariat should be made through the diplomatic channels. IS clarified that the participating countries may specify the channels of communication with the Secretariat.

18. It was agreed that the name of the organizations to be designated as the Secretariat and the Network Center need not be mentioned in this document, since the designation would be made by the Intergovernmental Meeting. It was also agreed that the paragraphs on the Secretariat and Network Center should also mention how they should carry out their duties.

19. The Republic of Korea expressed reservation on the description of some further scientific activities such as emission inventories and numerical modeling.

20. It was pointed out that further consideration should be given to such matters as establishment of subsidiary bodies and the decision making of EANET during inter-sessional periods between intergovernmental meetings.

21. The Meeting developed the revised document (EANET/WG 5/7/2 rev.1) to be considered at the next WG Meeting.

Consideration of designation of the Secretariat and the Network Center (agenda item 8)

22. The Meeting discussed designation of the Secretariat, based on the discussion paper presented by IS (EANET/WG 5/8/1) and information provided by the experts of international organizations.

23. UNEP informed the Meeting that the outcome of the last WG

Meeting was reported to the Headquarters, and there was a clear response that UNEP was willing and fully ready to serve as the Secretariat, in close cooperation with ESCAP, if so requested by the Intergovernmental Meeting.

24. ESCAP informed the Meeting that it also is ready to serve as the Secretariat if so requested by countries in its Commission session.

25. China expressed its opinion that it preferred designating UNEP, in that UNEP is more suitable to handle purely environmental activities such as EANET, that UNEP had experience in successfully implementing environmental information databases, and that UNEP is in a better position in coordinating among national environmental authorities, which are in many countries designated as national focal points.

26. Some countries felt that sufficient information was not provided for choosing the host for the Secretariat. In response to the requests of these countries, the discussion paper was reorganized and supplemented with additional information collected by IS; the results are presented as EANET/WG 5/8/1 add.1. The participating countries were requested to consider their preference regarding designation of the Secretariat based on the information provided, in order to reach a consensus at the Second Intergovernmental Meeting.

27. The Meeting discussed designation of the Network Center, based on the discussion paper presented by IS (EANET/WG 5/8/2) and the proposal submitted by Japan (EANET/WG 5/8/3) to designate the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center as the Network Center.

28. Several countries expressed their general support for the Japanese proposal. However, the Meeting suggested that Japan should improve the presentation of its proposal at the Second Intergovernmental Meeting taking into account the comments at the Meeting on such matters as mixed national center and network center functions, transparency in its organizational

rules and staff composition, job descriptions for staff members involved in network center activities, the functions of each department, and auditing.

Consideration of the work program and budget of the Network for the year 2001 (agenda item 9)

29. IS presented the draft work program and budget of the Network for 2001 (EANET/WG 5/9), referring to the discussion made on the document at the Third ISAG Meeting.

30. Major discussion on this topic included the following:

- Chapters should be added to describe the activities of the Intergovernmental Meeting and the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- The Secretariat should neither supervise the activities of the Network Center nor plan the future development of EANET (para. 13);
- Breakdown of the itemized budget for the Network Center should also be provided;
- The way in which voluntary contributions are to be made should be described; and
- Long-, medium- and short-term objectives of the Network activities should be clarified.

31. The participants were requested to further review the document and provide the Interim Secretariat with their further comments if any, no later than 18 August, 2000.

Other issues (agenda item 10)

32. The other issues raised during this session are described in the relevant previous paragraphs of this report.

Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting
(agenda item 11)

33. The Meeting expressed its deep appreciation for the warm hospitality and effective assistance provided by the host country, the Republic of the Philippines and, in particular, its Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The meeting also thanked the government of Japan for its support, and IS and INC for their hard work in organizing the Meeting.

34. The Meeting adopted this report.

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Draft Report on the Review of the Preparatory-Phase ActivitiesI. Feasibility of the designed Network activities and relevant technical documents

1. The designed Network activities were implemented successfully during the preparatory phase, in terms of the following aspects:

- Interim bodies such as ISAG, IS and INC were successfully established;
- The quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) programs of the Network were adopted by ISAG, and great efforts were made by the participating countries to carry out QA/QC activities;
- Training programs related to the Network were developed and implemented;
- Preparatory-phase national monitoring was implemented by all the participating countries;
- Monitoring data and other information were successfully compiled and stored, and the data report during the preparatory phase was prepared and disseminated among the participating countries;
- The report of the acid deposition monitoring of EANET during the preparatory phase was prepared; and
- Cooperative relationships with other global, regional and national activities were promoted.

2. However, activities on QA/QC and capacity building, in particular, should be continued and further strengthened. It was observed that more attention had been paid than before to the QA/QC activities in most of the participating countries. QA/QC has been much improved in some countries, while others still need further improvement. It is expected in the future that the participating countries will facilitate the further development of their national QA/QC programs and Standard

Operating Procedures for their respective laboratories.

3. During the preparatory-phase, participating countries were expected to take into consideration as much as possible the monitoring guidelines and technical manuals developed by the Expert Meeting on EANET. In the process of trying to follow these technical documents, it was revealed that some of the monitoring guidelines and procedures in the technical manuals might not be suitable for all parts of the diverse East Asian Region. Revised technical documents were developed and adopted at the Second ISAG Meeting in March 2000.

II. Provision of time to develop national monitoring systems for the Network

4. It is considered to be remarkable progress that in total 38 Network monitoring sites started their operation during the short period of the preparatory-phase. However, there seems to be much room for further improvement on geographical distribution of monitoring sites and adequacy of site selection. Effort is expected to be continued in developing and revising the national monitoring plans after the preparatory phase.

5. In most participating countries, existing budgets seem to have been used for the preparatory-phase activities, since the EANET activities were implemented together with existing activities. Most participating countries did not increase their staff for the EANET activities, but reorganized the assignments of their existing staff. It was observed that some countries, such as the Philippines, had initially received financial assistance from INC due to the lack of their budgets for the preparatory-phase activities, and had later obtained their own budgets for their national monitoring activities. Thus, the principle of internal funding for national monitoring activities has been largely successful during the preparatory phase, but flexibility has been and may continue to be helpful in facilitating further development of national monitoring.

6. There are various relevant agencies on acid deposition

monitoring in a country, because acid deposition monitoring includes a wide range of activities such as monitoring for wet deposition, dry deposition, soil and vegetation and inland aquatic environment. It was observed in some countries that the coordination and cooperation among relevant agencies had not worked well. To overcome this problem, some countries established an inter-agency committee on acid deposition or transboundary air pollution problems.

7. Regarding the technical matters on the Network monitoring, progress has been achieved and some recommendations were made as follows:

- The national systems for wet deposition monitoring in the participating countries have been much improved and most countries are ready for the regular activities of the Network. However, further improvement is needed, in particular in site selection.
- Automatic instruments, filter packs, denuders and low volume air samplers are used for dry deposition monitoring in the participating countries. It was agreed to establish and/or reorganize the Task Force on Dry Deposition Monitoring that will further elaborate the monitoring methodologies suitable for the East Asian Region. Dissemination of information and training for recently introduced methodologies such as filter packs should be continued and further strengthened.
- Identification and exchange of information among the soil and vegetation specialists and relevant institutions were promoted during the preparatory phase. Some experiences on the soil and vegetation survey for the network were also obtained. It was also agreed to establish the Task Force on Soil and Vegetation Monitoring to elaborate the methodologies suitable for the East Asian Region, and the networking of the specialists.
- The participating countries have just started to accumulate experiences on the monitoring for inland aquatic environment. At present, no specific difficulties have been found to carry out the monitoring, if the monitoring sites be adequately selected. The results of the monitoring during the preparatory phase should be carefully reviewed in the

future. Training for QA/QC activities, similar to those for wet deposition monitoring, should be undertaken in this field.

III. Formulation of policy recommendations for further development of the Network

8. The Fourth WG Meeting in March 2000 discussed further steps of implementation of EANET, including the form of the document to be adopted, and institutional and financial arrangements. Subsequent WG meetings are expected to further elaborate these issues, and develop documents on future activities of EANET.

9. Regarding technical issues, ISAG adopted the strategy paper for dry deposition monitoring. The Task Force on Soil and Vegetation Monitoring is expected to develop a strategy document on soil and vegetation monitoring.

IV. Overall evaluation

10. Based on the above discussions, WG considers that the participating countries have developed the basis to start the acid deposition monitoring as regular activities, although there are still diversities in the national arrangements and many problems for further improvement in the region as a whole.