

The Second Session of the Working Group
on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET
11-12 August 2003, AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand

REPORT OF THE SESSION

I. Introduction

1. The Working Group on Further Financial Arrangement for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Second Session at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Pathumthani, Thailand on 11-12 August 2003.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam participated in the session. The representatives of the EANET Secretariat and the Network Center (NC), as well as experts from international organizations, namely: the United Nations University/Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/AIS) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also attended the meeting. The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

II. Opening of the Meeting (Agenda Item 1)

3. The Session was opened by the Secretariat. Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Director, UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) delivered the opening remarks on behalf of the Secretariat. The remarks included: the trends on environment and sustainable development; the need for a quantitative base for sound decision making; the importance of EANET for prevention of air pollution; and the progress of the Secretariat's discussion with participating countries. He requested the Working Group to seriously look at financial sustainability of the network.

III. Election of the Officers (Agenda Item 2)

4. Ms. Ella S. Deocadiz, Chief Science Research Specialist, Research and Development Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Philippines was elected as Chairperson; Mr. Tokuya Wada, Deputy Director, Global Environment Issues Division, Ministry of the Environment, Japan as Vice-Chairperson; and Dr. Nguyen Kien Dzung, Vice Director, Environmental Research Center, Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Viet Nam as Rapporteur.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 3)

5. The Session adopted the Agenda as proposed by the Secretariat (EANET/WG 2/3/1).

V. Brief Report on the Progress since the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (Agenda Item 4)

6. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the progress since the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG4), held on 28-29 November 2002, Bangkok Thailand. (EANET/WG 2/4)

7. Major discussions on these agenda items included the following:

- Mr. Suzuki informed the participants, as the former Director of the Interim Secretariat, that the country-focused JICA training course on EANET was extended for five more years, based on the strong support by the participating countries, and appreciated their cooperation and support for the course.
- It was suggested that NC may consider sharing the reports of its technical missions with the host countries.
- NC clarified the details of MICS Asia activities in response to the questions raised by a participant.
- The Secretariat also clarified various opportunities to share research results by participating countries, such as sessions of the Senior Technical Managers' Meeting and the Scientific Advisory Committee.
- NC explained that there are various funding sources for financing EANET-related research activities.

VI. Report on the Previous Discussions on Further Financial Arrangement (Agenda Item 5)

8. The Secretariat made a presentation on the previous discussions on financial arrangement for EANET (EANET/WG 2/5). It included the discussions at the previous sessions of the Intergovernmental Meeting and other relevant meetings.

9. Major discussions on this agenda item included the following:

- In response to the questions by the participants, the Secretariat mentioned the present status of discussions with the Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) on a possibility to get financial support for EANET activities.
- It was explained in detail on the previous discussions and steps for consensus building towards IG5.

- It was also clarified that WG2 would try to arrive at the most acceptable options for further consideration by the participating countries and not to make final decision in the absence of some participating countries (Republic of Korea and Russia). The objective of consensus building is not to set the obligation but to agree on the target figures for making effort to reach the targets.
- Some countries re-emphasized the importance of voluntary nature of financial contribution and step-by-step approach.

VII. Review of the national expenses of participating countries on monitoring activities and current arrangement of their countries for contribution to EANET (Agenda Item 6)

10. The Secretariat made the presentation on the estimated expenses of the Secretariat as well as the estimated expenses of NC in 2003.
11. Representatives of participating countries made presentation on their national expenses on monitoring activities in 2002 as well as current arrangement of their countries to provide contribution to EANET. The reports of the participating countries are summarized as follows:

Country	Annual expenses for national monitoring (in US\$)
Cambodia	Figures not available
China	135,000
Indonesia	22,000
Japan	874,000
Lao PDR	Figures not available
Malaysia	248,000
Mongolia	11,000
Philippines	24,000
Republic of Korea	125,000
Russia	37,000
Thailand	69,000
Viet Nam	16,000

12. Major discussions on national expenses included the following:
 - While the report provides good idea on how much spent for national monitoring for respective countries, there are differences among participating countries on how to estimate the annual expenses for national monitoring. Some countries included salary for personnel, while others not. Some included various activities related to national monitoring while some others strictly limit expenses for monitoring. The Secretariat explained that it had been requested from a few countries to provide a format to estimate

the annual expenditure for national monitoring, but could not be done due to complexity of the issue and diversity of countries' situation.

- It was suggested to itemize expenses such as salary for personnel and so on. In this connection, it was pointed out that level of salary differs from country to country and they may not be directly comparable with each other.

13. Major discussions on current arrangement of the participating countries on contribution to EANET included the following:

- Several countries, namely Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines and Vietnam expressed their preference on Option 6, which is to be fully based on UN assessment scale, subject to the approval of their national authorities. Cambodia selected Option 6.
- One country suggested excluding Option 1 and Option 6 from options.
- One country suggested a new option that all participating countries should bear travel expenses for all EANET meetings and make voluntary contribution for the rest.
- China expressed its willingness to continue annual contribution of US\$15,000 on a voluntary basis.

VIII. Consideration of Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (Agenda Item 7)

14. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Report on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (EANET/WG 2/7). The participating countries are requested to provide their views and comments on this document.

15. Major discussions on this agenda item included the following:

- One country expressed its view that fundamentally all countries should make contribution, taking into account the economic and other conditions for burden sharing.
- Some countries suggested Options 5 and 6 for further consideration.
- One country stressed voluntary contribution mechanism at the initial state of the regular phase of EANET and seconded the other country suggestion that the minimum voluntary contribution should be taken into consideration.
- It was suggested that the comments of the Republic of Korea should also be taken into account to the extent possible without their representation. Republic of Korea suggested to promote voluntary contribution and proposed 3-step approach.
- Russia also sent a comment expressing their preference on Option 6.
- It was suggested to revise the documents with more precise wording, based on the discussion at this meeting.
- Many countries reiterated their preference to Option 6, while one country insisted Option 5 to remain for further consideration. Modified Option 6 with minimum contribution was also suggested as an option. One country expressed to remain an option for bearing travel expenses by all participating countries as the first step.

- It was pointed out that discussion may be held on strengthening the legal basis of EANET, taking into account the difficulty of providing financial contribution without a legal instrument. It was suggested that such discussions could be held in the future after IG5.
- It was also important to consider who would participate in IG5. The Secretariat clarified that one senior official was expected to participate in IG5, on the top of working level participants.
- Regarding the memorandum on more efficient and transparent activities of NC (Annex 1 of the document), it was agreed that the participating countries would send their comments to the Secretariat by 15 September 2003. It was clarified that this document would possibly be reported to IG5 and SAC3 for its endorsement.
- The report on national monitoring expenses might be attached as an Annex of the revised report on further financial arrangement for information to IG5.
- The participating countries made specific suggestions on the Draft Report as presented below. The Secretariat would integrate them into the revised draft report for further consideration at the next WG Meeting.
 - o para. 12 the last 2 sub-para. should be integrated;
 - o para. 13 and 17 should be revised, based on the discussions during WG2;
 - o para. 15 and 16 should be changed with each other;
 - o the second sub-para. of the new para. 16 should stop after EANET and delete the rest;
 - o more precise wordings should be used to express exact meanings reflecting the situation.
- Participating countries expressed their sincere appreciation to the contribution of Japanese Government and relevant foundations on network and capacity building, and hope it could continue.
- It was suggested that in kind contribution such as hosting of meetings be taken into consideration.

IX. Arrangement for the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (Agenda Item 8)

16. The Secretariat made the presentation on the Arrangement for the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (EANET/WG 2/8). During the presentation the Secretariat informed that IG5 will be held in Thailand during the last week of November 2003.
17. Major discussions on this Agenda item included the following:
 - Amendment of agenda item for IG5 was suggested to change from “ Review of the progress of EANET activities since IG4” to “Review of the progress of EANET activities since IG4 and financial report”. It was agreed to continue discussions on the modality of the better presentation of the financial report.

- It was also suggested to delete the phrase “such as emission inventory studies and numerical modeling” from the agenda item of SAC3 on the “Consideration of research activities on acid deposition”.

X. Other Issues (Agenda Item 9)

18. No issues were raised from the floor on this agenda item.

XI. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Meeting (Agenda Item 10)

19. The report of the meeting was considered and adopted with some modifications as suggested by the participants.

XII. Closing of the Meeting (Agenda Item 11)

20. The Session was officially closed.

Annex 1**List of Participants***Participating Countries*

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