

The Third Session of the Working Group
on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET
9-10 October 2003, 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 Third Session at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Pathumthani, Thailand on 9-10 October 2003.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, 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 Session. 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. In his opening remarks, Mr. Shrestha pointed out the serious potential threat by air pollution/acid deposition due to rapid economic growth and urbanization in Asia, clear message from scientists to policy makers and emphasized the importance of exploring external resources for EANET, and partnership with the private sector. In this connection he mentioned the recent effort to mobilize resources from the Asian Development Bank.

III. Election of the Officers (Agenda Item 2)

4. Ms. Mingquan Wichayarangsaridh, Director, Air Quality and Noise Management Bureau, Pollution Control Department, Thailand was elected as Chairperson; Ms. Chow Peng Leong, Director, Environmental Studies Division, Malaysian Meteorological Service, Malaysia as Vice-Chairperson; and Mr. Chrin Sokha, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Pollution Control, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, as Rapporteur.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 3)

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

V. Consideration on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (Agenda Item 4)

6. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Report on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (EANET/WG 3/4). The Session was invited to review the report and provide comments and guidance, as appropriate, for further development on this topic.
7. Major discussions on this agenda item included the following:

(Burden sharing options)

- Seven countries, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines and Russia expressed their preference on Option 6, which is to be fully based on UN assessment scale. Two countries, namely Japan and Vietnam preferred modified Option 6, fundamentally to be based on Option 6 and to introduce minimum contribution for any participating country. Vietnam suggested a minimum amount from USD 500 to USD 1,000 to be implemented over 3 years period (from 2004-2006).

(Stepwise approach)

- It was pointed out that there was consensus to take step-wise approach but no consensus on the modality of the step-wise approach.
- Two additional proposals had been made from China and Thailand, in addition to the proposal by the Secretariat.
- China proposed a three step approach: voluntary contribution without target amounts as Step 1, burden sharing for the budget to be directly spent by the Secretariat based on the UN assessment scale within certain years of grace period as Step 2, burden sharing for the Network core activities as Step 3 (to be further negotiated).
- Thailand proposed, supported by the Republic of Korea, a different three step approach: a participating country responsible for expenses for participation in all EANET meetings and its national monitoring activities as the first step, as the second step responsible for financial contribution to the budget to be directly spent by the Secretariat in addition to the expenses for participating in meetings, and as the third step responsible for financial contribution to all the EANET activities.

(National monitoring)

- With regard to the expenses for national monitoring mentioned, it was clarified that figures in Annex 2 were those submitted from the participating countries and that the basis of estimation differs from country to country. The Secretariat and the Network Center were requested to develop a format for expenses on national monitoring with detailed information and undertake more detailed investigation in the coming years.
- It was suggested that expenses for national monitoring could be used to demonstrate willingness of participating countries to contribute to EANET activities.

(Voluntary nature of contribution)

- It was clarified that the Secretariat had proposed to set future targets of burden sharing on a voluntary basis and that they were not mandatory.

(Medium-term plan)

- There was a proposal to develop a 4-5 years medium-term plan for EANET activities.
- The Secretariat and NC were requested to consider developing such a plan, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of this approach.

VI. Arrangement for the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (Agenda Item 5)

8. The Secretariat made a presentation on the proposed date, venue, agenda items, program, and other arrangements for the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting and the Third Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (EANET/WG 3/5). The Session was invited to consider and comment on this topic.
9. Major discussions on this agenda item included the following:
 - It was pointed out that this agenda item should be changed to include the arrangement for SAC3.
 - One of the agenda items of SAC3 should be changed from “Review of the progress of other international programs on acid deposition” to “Updates of other international programs on acid deposition”.

VII. Elaboration of the Report on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (Agenda Item 6)

10. The Draft Report on Further Financial Arrangement, taking account of comments raised by the participants, was presented for further elaboration.
11. There were some discussions on the Draft Report and some modifications were further suggested.
12. The Session agreed to submit the revised draft report (EANET/WG 3/4 rev.1) with modifications suggested by the participants to IG5 for its consideration.

VIII. Other Issues (Agenda Item 7)

13. The Secretariat mentioned a possibility to send a request for a regional technical assistance project to the Asian Development Bank. In this connection, the participating countries were requested to send their requirements for assistance to the Secretariat by Friday, 7 November 2003, so that the Secretariat could compile the requests and submit a concept proposal to ADB before IG5.

IX. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Session (Agenda Item 8)

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

X. Closing of the Meeting (Agenda Item 9)

15. The Session was officially closed.

Annex 1

List of Participants

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