

The Tenth Session of the Working Group  
on Future Development of EANET  
19-20 July 2011, Pathumthani, Thailand

## **REPORT OF THE SESSION**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Tenth Session in Pathumthani, Thailand on 19-20 July 2011.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in the Session. The representatives of the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) for EANET, as well as experts from Kanazawa University, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached as Annex.

### **II. Opening of the Session (Agenda Item 1)**

3. The Session was opened by Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative, UNEP ROAP. He welcomed the participants from participating countries of EANET. He emphasized that the importance of tackling the atmospheric issues needs to be considered since scientific evidence shows that human well-being, especially poverty and equity, are affected by all of the atmospheric environment issues. The progress on related environmental cooperation in this region was shared, including the Jeju Declaration on Environment and Health, the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) on Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration). The adoption of the “Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)” (Instrument) during IG12 in Niigata, Japan in 2010 was recalled. The Instrument was regarded as the milestone of EANET, as well as a good example for South-South Cooperation. He looked forward that EANET could fully achieve the goals ahead.

### **III. Election of the Officers (Agenda Item 2)**

4. Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director General, Pollution Control Department, Thailand was elected as Chairperson. Dr. Gary William Theseira, Deputy Undersecretary Environmental Management and Climate Change Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia, and Dr. Chang LimSeok, Senior Researcher, Atmospheric

Environmental Research Division, National Institute of Environmental Research, Republic of Korea, were elected as Vice Chairpersons.

**IV. Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 3)**

5. The Chairperson emphasized the importance of the Instrument and encouraged the participating countries who did not sign the Instrument to sign the document.
6. The Agenda (EANET/WGFD 10/3/1) was adopted with the modifications proposed as below:
  - Agenda Item 4: Change “Consideration” into “Review” on the Progress of EANET since the Fourth Special Session of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD-S4);
  - Agenda Item 8: Change into “Review on Work Program and Budget of EANET in 2012”;
  - Agenda Item 9 of “Arrangement for the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on EANET (IG13)” should be combined with the agenda item of “Other Issues”.

**V. Review on the Progress of Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) since the Fourth Special Session of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD-S4) and Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2010 (Agenda Item 4)**

7. The Secretariat and the NC made presentations on the Report on the Progress of EANET since the WGFD-S4 (EANET/WGFD 10/4/1), including the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the NC in 2010 and the brief introduction of Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP) (EANET/WGFD 10/4/2). The Session was invited to review, provide comments and guidance, for endorsement at the IG13.
8. Major points of discussions were:
  - i. The presentation on brief introduction on ACAP by the NC was welcomed for enhancing the transparency of the NC.
  - ii. It was suggested that the progress reports, research materials and other related materials could be posted on the website of EANET. It was suggested that the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) will consider and provide guidance on the issue, accordingly.
  - iii. It was raised that paragraphs 43 and 44 of Progress Report (EANET/WGFD 10/4/1) should be put into the part “International Cooperation” instead of “Research Activities”.

- iv. Clarification was made on the “Additional Meetings which were not planned” mentioned in Item 2 of paragraph 8 in the Financial Report (EANET/WGFD 10/4/2). The clarification will be incorporated into the Progress Report.
- v. It was pointed out that the NC could provide detailed information of each item of the expenditure in Table 5, Annex 2 of the Financial Report to improve the transparency of the EANET. The NC will revise the Table 5 for submission to the IG13.
- vi. It was clarified that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Training Course on EANET could not be held without sufficient number of requests from participating countries to JICA. The submission of official requests for 2012 JICA Training Courses on EANET was encouraged.

**VI. Review of the Current Financial Modalities for Further Improvement on Transparency of EANET and the Ceiling of Increase on Financial Contributions (Agenda Item 5)**

9. The Secretariat and the NC made presentations on the Review of the Current Financial Modalities for Further Improvement on Transparency of EANET (EANET/WGFD 10/5), including the ceiling of increase of the contribution. The Session was invited to discuss the financial modalities and the ceiling of increase, make comments and further guidance on the document.
10. Major points of the discussions on current modalities for further improvement on transparency of EANET were as follows:
  - i. The significant gap between the budget and expenditure, in some cases, was pointed out. Opinions were expressed that the ceiling should be set on the deviation of expenditure from budget by each item and reallocation among budget items should be regulated with limitation. On the other hand, the concern of possible negative impacts of strict limitation on the deviation and reallocation of the budget line, and the need for ensuring the flexibility of the budget implementation were expressed.
  - ii. It was indicated that some guidelines should be elaborated to improve the transparency, for instance, to provide the detailed information on the personnel cost of the NC, the frequency of inter-laboratory comparison, and the core budget distribution in budget and financial forms.
  - iii. The indication on the similarity of budgetary system of the NC and Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) Center was provided.
  - iv. More information on the budgetary system in other initiatives was requested to be collected.
11. Major points of the discussions on ceiling of contributions were as follows:

- i. The estimated amount of contribution was reaffirmed for the basis of voluntary contribution based on countries' circumstances.
  - ii. Some countries expressed that the discussion on ceiling should not reopen the negotiation of the present financial modality of EANET regarding Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET for 2011-2013 (EANET/IG 12/10/2.rev1).
  - iii. The present financial modality of EANET regarding Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET for 2011-2013 (EANET/IG 12/10/2.rev1) will be reviewed after 3 years and be revised, if necessary.
  - iv. The significant increase of contribution was not expected when countries adopted the Instrument.
  - v. One country pointed out that the ceiling of increase on contribution inevitably lead to unfair and inequitable consequences.
  - vi. It was requested to collect the information of common practices of other international programs regarding the ceiling of financial contributions.
  - vii. To prevent the current situation of the positive gap between budget and expenditure of the Secretariat for most of the years, the budget and activities should be defined, correspondingly.
  - viii. According to national experience, the proposed budget and approved budget could be different.
  - ix. One country suggested that EANET activities should be focused on the capacity building of the participating countries.
  - x. It was pointed out that the increase of the amount of contributions is attributable to the increase of the budget and that there is already a practice to review and adopt the Work Program and Budget, annually to control the increase of the budget. There is a room for improvement and the rules could be set to review the detailed budget instead of controlling the increase of the budget.
  - xi. It was proposed to fix the budget for 3 years according to the fixed voluntary contributions to prevent the fluctuation.
  - xii. It was suggested on the Secretariat's budget that since extra activities could seek special contributions, the budget could be divided into 2 parts: regular activities and extra activities. The voluntary contributions could then be calculated based on regular activities.
  - xiii. It was summarized that there were 3 options proposed for further discussion on this issue, i.e. ceiling on increase on financial contributions, ceiling on increase of total budget, and fixing budget for 3 years.
12. It was suggested that the Secretariat and the NC draft the guidelines on administrative and financial management for the Secretariat and the NC (2014-2015) for the consideration of the WGFD11 without touching upon the Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET for 2011-2013 (EANET/IG 12/10/2.rev1).

**VII. Consideration on Expansion of the Scope of EANET and Possible Impacts of the Adoption and Operation of the Instrument for Strengthening the EANET (Agenda Item 6)**

13. The NC and the Secretariat made presentations on Consideration on Expansion of the Scope of EANET and Possible Impacts of the Adoption and Operation of the Instrument for Strengthening the EANET (EANET/WGFD 10/6), including the nature of involvement of the countries that are unable to sign the Instrument. The Session was invited to discuss, provide comments and guidance on the document.
14. Major points of the discussions on expansion of the scope of EANET were as follows:
  - i. The Session suggested that the issues contained in the document on “Expansion of the Scope of EANET and Possible Impacts of the Adoption and Operation of the Instrument for Strengthening the EANET” (EANET/WGFD 10/6) should be treated separately in 2 documents reflecting the views and opinions of the participating countries expressed at the WGFD10.
  - ii. It was suggested that the issues and problems related to the expansion of the scope and the extension of monitoring sites should be identified.
  - iii. Some participating countries suggested that higher priority should be set on the capacity building on Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) and further improved the QA/QC mechanism under the Instrument rather than the topic of the “Expansion of the Scope of the EANET”.
  - iv. Some participating countries mentioned that there is no difficulty to increase the monitoring sites in their countries. Some participating countries expressed their difficulties to increase the monitoring species as proposed in the document of EANET/WGFD 10/6.
  - v. It was raised that the mitigation of air pollutants needs further discussion.
  - vi. Some countries suggested that the scientific evidence was regarded as an important basis to consider the future priorities and it was suggested that the expansion issue should be discussed by the Twelfth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC12) and subsequently by the WGFD, outcomes of which should be submitted to the Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14) in 2012, for its consideration. Accordingly, it was proposed that the IG13 should make amendment on the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the WGFD to enable it to take the necessary steps.
  - vii. The cost and the benefit should be taken into consideration of the expansion of scope with regard to priority setting.
  - viii. The relationship between acid deposition and other atmospheric pollution was explained in reference to the United States (US) policy.
  - ix. The Session welcomed any further guidance from the IG on the steps to be taken in order to consider the expansion of scope based on the scientific basis.

15. Major points of the discussions on possible impacts of the adoption and operation of the instrument including the nature of involvement of the countries that are unable to sign the Instrument were as follows:
- i. The countries that have not signed the Instrument informed the status of their national procedures on signature of the Instrument to the meeting. All of them expressed that they are making efforts to complete the national procedures to sign the Instrument and their willingness to continue the EANET activities.
  - ii. The participating countries expressed their views and opinions on this issue:
    - The Secretariat should remind and urge the countries that are unable to sign to inform their willingness to continue the participation in EANET activities in writing.
    - The monitoring cost within the territory of participating countries has been borne by respective countries. If the countries that are not able to sign will be treated differently, the data reporting and other activities of EANET would possibly be affected. Thus, the concern was raised about the possible distinction in the future.
    - It was reminded that EANET is a voluntary framework of cooperation. For the time being, the distinction between countries that signed and that have not signed the Instrument should not be undertaken. It was suggested that the involvement of all the participating countries into the decision making procedure is necessary at the current stage. The distinction could only hinder the solidarity of EANET as a framework.
    - It was suggested to set some grace period for the countries that are not able to sign the Instrument.
    - Considering the responsibilities and the benefits issues, specific distinction might be necessary in the future.
    - It was clarified that countries that are unable to sign could contribute financially to EANET.
16. The Session recalled that the countries that will not be able to sign the Instrument are encouraged to express their willingness to continue their EANET activities in writing before the IG13 according to the Decision 1/IG 12. It was suggested that the Secretariat shall collect all views discussed at the WGFD10 and other possible options on the nature of involvement of the countries that are unable to sign for the submission to the IG13 after the circulation among members of the WGFD.

**VIII. Final Report on Implementation of the Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010)**  
**(Draft) (Agenda Item 7)**

17. The NC presented the Final Report on Implementation of the Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010) (Draft) (EANET/WGFD 10/7). The Session was invited to discuss and make comments, for endorsement by the IG13.
18. There were no specific points raised from participating countries for this agenda item. The Session agreed to submit the report to the IG13 without modifications.

**IX. Review on the Work Program and Budget of EANET in 2012 (Agenda Item 8)**

19. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Work Program and Budget of EANET in 2012 (EANET/WGFD 10/8). The Session was invited to discuss and make comments, for adoption by IG13.
20. There were no specific points raised from participating countries for this agenda item.

**X. Other Issues (Agenda Item 9 )**

**X.1 Arrangement for the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13)**

21. The Secretariat presented the Arrangement for the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) on EANET (EANET/WGFD 10/9). The Session was invited to discuss and make comments, if any.
22. It was suggested to postpone the date of the IG13 to 30 November-1 December 2011 in order to secure time for preparation of the Executive Summary of the Second Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PR SAD2) to be endorsed by the IG13.
23. It was proposed to put the “Consideration on Review of the Current Modality for Further Improvement of the Transparency of EANET” and “Consideration on Expansion of the Scope of EANET and Possible Impacts of the Adoption and Operations of the Instrument for Strengthening the EANET” under the new underlined bullet of provisional agenda of “For Consideration/Discussion/Guidance”, and split the second issue into two issues: “Consideration on Expansion of the Scope of EANET” and “Consideration on the Nature of Involvement of the Countries that unable to sign the Instrument” under the bullet.
24. The Secretariat will revise the agenda items of the IG13 based on the discussions at the WGFD10.

**X.2 Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific**

25. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, UNEP Headquarters, presented on the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific (Joint Forum) including its progress.

26. The Session took note of the information provided.

### **X.3 Asian Co-benefits Partnership**

27. Mr. Katsunori Suzuki, resource person, Kanazawa University, presented on Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP). He informed the Session about the background, objectives, targets and the progress of the ACP.

28. The Session took note of the information provided.

### **X.4 EANET Logo**

29. The Secretariat presented the draft EANET logos. The Session was invited to discuss and make comments, for endorsement of the IG13.

30. The preference was expressed on the former draft version of EANET logo.

31. The suggestion was expressed to replace the map with the abbreviation of EANET.

32. It was suggested to simplify the draft logo.

33. The Secretariat will revise the draft EANET logo based on the suggestions from the Session, including simple leaves and EANET abbreviation within the rain drop, and circulate to the National Focal Points (NFPs) for their comments and finalization.

### **X.5 Vacancy Announcement of the Coordinator of the Secretariat**

34. The Secretariat informed that the vacancy for the Coordinator position will be announced in August 2011. The participating countries will be invited to nominate appropriate candidates for this post. The term of the new Coordinator will start from January 2012.

## **XI. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Session (Agenda Item 10)**

35. The Report of the Session (EANET/WGFD 10/10) was adopted.

## **XII. Closing of the Session (Agenda Item 11)**



36. The Chairperson expressed his sincere appreciation to all participants for their constructive contributions, active participation and great cooperation during the Session. He also thanked the Secretariat and the NC for the preparation of this important Session. He appreciated the efforts of two Vice Chairpersons on co-chairing the Session.
37. The Session was officially closed by the Chairperson.

**Annex**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Participating Countries

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