

The Eleventh Session of the Working Group on
Future Development of the EANET
7-8 August 2012, Chonburi, 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 Eleventh Session in Chonburi, Thailand on 7-8 August 2012.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, 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 the EANET, as well as experts from Kanazawa University, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) at Asian Institute of Technology, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) and Advisor of ScandEnvironment Advisory Services, 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 Mr. Christer Holtsberg, Senior Technical Advisor, RRC.AP, Asian Institute of Technology. He welcomed the participants from participating countries of the EANET and expressed his appreciation to the support, efforts and cooperation of all participating countries which has led to the success of the EANET. He emphasized the importance of the WGFD11 as the first formal EANET meeting after the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was operational on 1 January 2012. The operation of the Instrument marks another important historical milestone of the EANET cooperation. He also encouraged the two remaining countries to expedite the internal process for the signing of the Instrument as soon as possible. In addition, he emphasized that the EANET will certainly play an important and key role in the East Asian Region in contributing to the global overarching goal of Sustainable Development, in particular to air quality in the region, following the success of the most recent Rio + 20 on the Sustainable Development held last June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the themes on Green Economy and Poverty Eradication to achieve Sustainable Development.

III. ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS (AGENDA ITEM 2)

4. Referring to the WGFD10 held on 19-20 July 2011 in Pathumthani, Thailand, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Thailand was elected as the Chairperson. Dr. Gary William Theseira, Malaysia and Dr. Chang Lim Seok, Republic of Korea were elected as the Vice Chairpersons. The Bureau members were expected to assume the post for two years (2011-2012), based on the TOR of the WGFD.
5. However, since Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Thailand has taken the Coordinator position of the Secretariat for the EANET since 1 April 2012 and Dr. Gary William Theseira did not participate in this Session, the Meeting elected Dr. Erdenebat Eldev-Ochir, Director, International Cooperation Division, National Agency for Meteorology and Environment Monitoring, Mongolia as Chairperson and Mr. Heng Nareth, Director, Department of Environmental Pollution Control, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia as a new Vice Chairperson. Dr. Chang Lim Seok, Senior Researcher, Atmospheric Environmental Research Division, National Institute of Environmental Research, Republic of Korea, remained as another Vice Chairperson.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 3)

6. The Agenda (EANET/WGFD 11/3/1) was adopted with the modification proposed by the Secretariat to add another sub-item on “Proposal on an Advisor for the Secretariat for the EANET” in the Agenda Item 10.

V. REVIEW ON THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA (EANET) SINCE THE TENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EANET (WGFD11) AND THE DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER IN 2011 (AGENDA ITEM 4)

7. The Secretariat and the NC made presentations on the Draft Report on the Progress of the EANET since the WGFD10 (EANET/WGFD 11/4/1), including the Draft Financial Report of the Secretariat and the NC in 2011 (EANET/WGFD 11/4/2). The Session was invited to review, provide comments and guidance, for endorsement at the next IG in 2012.
8. Major points of the discussions were:

- i. One country pointed out that the requested amount for financial contribution indicated in the letter sent to the country should be the same amount as indicated in the Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contribution to EANET for 2011-2013 (EANET/IG 12/10/2.rev1), which is the primary document for the estimation of country's voluntary contribution to annual EANET budget.
- ii. Due to the budget constraint in 2011, the Workshop on Capacity Building for Information and Communication Technologies for the EANET was cancelled. In addition, in order to make up for the deficit in 2011, the Secretariat sent out letters to the participating countries requesting for additional financial contribution to the EANET budget. For the 2012 budget, the Secretariat and the NC planned to reduce the operating cost by holding the SAC back to back with the IG.
- iii. Taking into account the financial deficit situation in 2011 of the Secretariat and the declining saving amount, one country suggested to suspend the use of the saving of US\$ 50,000 for the Promotion of Public Awareness under the Work Program and Budget in 2012.
- iv. It was suggested that the saving should be used for emergency purposes or responding to unexpected situation, not for supporting the EANET regular activities.
- v. It was suggested to the Secretariat to review the financial situation more frequently for efficient financial management
- vi. The participating countries were encouraged to make financial contribution to the EANET budget as early in the year as possible for the effective implementation of the EANET activities and financial management, in particular to prevent cash flow problem.
- vii. It was pointed out that the main cause of the financial deficit in 2011 was due to some participating countries either did not make the contribution or made the contribution less than the expected amounts. Therefore, the participating countries were encouraged to make voluntary financial contribution to the EANET budget according to the expected amount for each participating country indicated in the document "Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contribution to EANET for 2011-2013 (EANET/IG 12/10/2.rev1).
- viii. Some countries expressed their difficulty with the word "Voluntary" indicated in the letter requesting for financial contribution. It was suggested to the Secretariat to take into account such a request or similar on a country by country basis.
- ix. The NC clarified that the dates, on which technical manuals (adopted at the IG12) will come into effect, will be informed along with their distribution to the National Focal Points.

VI. REVIEW ON THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER (2010-2011) (AGENDA ITEM 5)

9. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Report on the Review of the Performance of the Secretariat and the NC (2010-2011) (EANET/WGFD 11/5/1 and EANET/WGFD 11/5/2). The Session was invited to review, make comments and provide guidance, for the endorsement of the next IG in 2012.
10. Major points of the discussions were:
 - i. It was suggested to streamline the Report on the Review of the Performance to avoid overlapping content with other reports.
 - ii. It was suggested to cover a broader range of air pollution issues in the public awareness activities, not focusing only on acid deposition.
 - iii. It was clarified that the Report for the Policy Makers is used as a mean to raise awareness of the policy makers on the acid deposition issue.

VII. CONSIDERATION ON THE DRAFT REVISED GUIDELINES ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER (AGENDA ITEM 6)

11. The Secretariat and the NC made presentations on the Draft Revised Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the NC (EANET/WGFD 11/6) including the Draft Criterion for uploading priority documents to the EANET website. The Session was invited to discuss, make comments and guidance on the document, for consideration of the next IG in 2012.
12. Major points of the discussions were:
 - i. The clarification was made on the type of documents that need password in order for the participating countries to access to the documents uploaded in the EANET website.
 - ii. It was suggested to upload the Medium Term Plan for the EANET on the EANET website.
 - iii. It was suggested that the Procedure for Establishing Task Force and Expert Groups under the SAC of the EANET approved at the IG10 should be included in paragraph 13 and 14 of the draft Revised Guidelines.
 - iv. It was raised that because the WGFD and the Senior Technical Managers' Meeting (STM) are not prescribed in the Instrument as the subsidiary bodies,

using regular budget for the WGFD and core budget for the STM should be reconsidered. It was then clarified by the Secretariat and the NC that they are established by the decision of the IG, therefore they are considered as the subsidiary bodies under the Instrument.

- v. A question was raised about the usefulness of the provision to require IG's approval for financial and in-kind contribution from other sources to the Secretariat budget and the NC core budget. It was pointed out that if the participating countries are satisfied with the approval through the National Focal Points, the Secretariat will revise the document accordingly.
- vi. It was suggested to include the explanation of the reasons on the difference between the budget and the actual expenditure in the annual financial reports.
- vii. It was suggested to replace paragraph 68 by "The savings could be used for the activities as decided by the IG" without any specification on public awareness activities.
- viii. It was suggested to use "are encouraged to" instead of "should" in the first line of paragraph 50.
- ix. In order to facilitate the internal process of the participating countries in requesting the financial contribution to the EANET, the flat/fix amount of contribution for the MTP period was suggested regardless of the change of the UN assessment scale of burden sharing.
- x. It was clarified that "majority" in paragraph 10 means more than half.

VIII. REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSTRUMENT FOR STRENGTHENING THE ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA (EANET) (AGENDA ITEM 7)

13. The Secretariat presented Review on the Implementation of the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) (EANET/WGFD 11/7/1) and the Draft Resolution on the Encouragement of the Participating Countries of the EANET to sign the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) (EANET/WGFD 11/7/2) for encouraging the countries not yet able to sign the Instrument to do so as soon as possible. The Secretariat also made a presentation on the issue of renaming the Sessions of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG), the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and the Senior Technical Managers' Meeting (STM) (EANET/WGFD 11/7/3). The Session was invited to review, make comments and guidance, for consideration of the next IG in 2012.
14. Major points of the discussions were:
 - i. It was emphasized that the signing of the Instrument by the two remaining

- countries is at the highest priority. It was suggested that the Secretariat should do its best efforts to facilitate such signing before the next IG in 2012.
- ii. The Secretariat informed that Indonesia expressed its regret for not being able to attend the WGFD11 due to on-going internal consultation on the Instrument.
 - iii. Russia updated the progress on the internal process for the signing of the Instrument.
 - iv. Some participating countries expressed their preference to Option 3 for the nature of involvement of the participating countries that are unable to sign the Instrument but with the possibility to extend the grace period. Others preferred that the decision on the length of the grace period and how countries which have not signed the Instrument will be treated after the grace period should be made at the later stage. However, it was suggested to propose the three Options to the next IG in 2012 for consideration and discussion.
 - v. It was suggested to shorten the preamble part of the Draft Resolution and to delete the operational paragraph 5.
 - vi. It was suggested that the resolution should be used in the most effective manner to accelerate the national process for signature.
 - vii. Regarding the issue of renaming of the IG, SAC and STM, most of the participating countries expressed their preference to Option 1.

IX. CONSIDERATION ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EANET (AGENDA ITEM 8)

15. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Future Development of the Secretariat (EANET/WGFD 11/8/1), including the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Future Development of the EANET (2013-2014) (EANET/WGFD 11/8/2). The NC made a presentation on the Future Expansion of the Scope of the EANET (EANET/WGFD 11/8/3), including the possible way to make use of the review on the status of air pollution in East Asia to be conducted by the Task Force on Research Coordination, and the recommendations of the Executive Summary of the Second Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PR SAD2) related to the future development of the EANET. The Session was invited to discuss, provide comments and guidance, for consideration and adoption of the next IG in 2012.
16. Major points of the discussions on the Future Development of the Secretariat for the EANET were:

- i. It was clarified by UNEP ROAP that the new MoU between UNEP and AIT in 2011 has implications on the current arrangement of the Secretariat at RRC.AP at AIT.
 - ii. It was clarified by the Secretariat that this issue has to be brought to the attention of the IG for its consideration and guidance for short-term immediate actions and a long-term solution. The Secretariat will revise the draft document taking into account the views and comments expressed by the participating countries.
 - iii. It was suggested for the IG to request the Secretariat to prepare a review report on the arrangement of the Secretariat taking into account the new MoU between UNEP and AIT for the consideration of the IG in 2013. Such a report should include necessary information for the participating countries to assess the advantages and disadvantages of different options.
 - iv. UNEP ROAP expressed its willingness to support the EANET if it is so decided by the participating countries. UNEP is required to comply with the UN rules and procedures in the provision of the Secretariat to the EANET, and UNEP is willing to discuss with the EANET and AIT to explore possible flexible arrangements through RRC.AP of AIT based on a sound legal basis and in a cost-effective way.
17. Major points of the discussions on the Terms of Reference of the WGFD for 2013-2014 were:
 - i. It was suggested to explicitly mention the issues of the arrangement of the Secretariat and the expansion of the scope of the EANET in the future development of the EANET.
 - ii. It was suggested to either include another task to the WGFD in 2014 to prepare a Terms of Reference of the WGFD for 2015 or extending the term of the WGFD for a period of three years (2013-2015) in order to conform with the current 5-year MTP (2011-2015).
 - iii. The issue was raised on the status of the WGFD whether its main tasks should be reassigned to other existing bodies or it should be a permanent subsidiary body of the IG. It was suggested to further discuss this issue including the renaming of the WGFD in the next sessions of the WGFD.
18. Major points of the discussions on the expansion of the scope of the EANET were:
 - i. One country expressed its appreciation to the proposed expansion of the EANET starting from the review on the status of air pollution in East Asia by the Task Force on Research Coordination and emphasized the importance of ozone, PM_{2.5}, and black carbon (BC), taking account of their impacts to human health and linkage to climate change.
 - ii. It was suggested that the Secretariat and the NC should provide further

information in order that the participating countries could share the common understanding of the current scope of the EANET.

- iii. Another country expressed that the EANET has focused on acid deposition and going beyond the present framework would be difficult. It was suggested since 13 participating countries with different situation work together, focus should be on common interest such as capacity building and improving public awareness and public participation. However, monitoring of ozone and PM_{2.5}, in a step by step approach, could be discussed.
- iv. One country expressed its support to the effort to strengthening the EANET, and suggested to strengthen the EANET through research components, such as further analysis of the impacts of acid deposition.

X. REVIEW ON THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET OF THE EANET IN 2013 (AGENDA ITEM 9)

19. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Work Program and Budget of the EANET in 2013 (EANET/WGFD 11/9). The Session was invited to review, make comments and provide guidance, for the adoption of the next IG in 2012.
20. Major points of discussion were;
 - i. It was suggested that regarding paragraph 11 of the document on cooperation with relevant organizations, some more initiatives or programs, such as Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Initiative (CCAC), Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) Project, Asian Co-benefit Partnership (ACP), could be included in the list of relevant organizations.
 - ii. It was suggested to also include activities indicated in paragraph 8 – 12 to the activities to be implemented by the NC.
 - iii. It was suggested that in light of budgetary situation, some activities such as technical missions, fellowship, communication with other research organization, could be “subject to availability of funds” and that such wording should be inserted accordingly.
 - iv. Due to the financial deficit of the Secretariat, it was suggested to postpone the fellowship program at the NC.
 - v. It was proposed that a paragraph to encourage participating countries to make their contribution should be inserted.
 - vi. The Secretariat suggested that the operation of the Instrument could be used as a basis for the agency responsible for the EANET in requesting budget from the government for the financial contribution to the EANET.

XI. OTHER ISSUES (AGENDA ITEM 10)

21. It was suggested to report the luncheon presentations by the CAI-Asia on Propagating Air Quality and Climate Change Practices Across Asia and by the ACAP on the Proposal of Asia Science Panel on Air Quality (ASPAQ) under this Agenda Item.

XI.1 Arrangement for the next Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the next Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting in 2012

22. The Secretariat presented the Arrangement for the next SAC and the next IG in 2012 on EANET (EANET/WGFD 11/10/1), including the proposed dates and provisional agenda items for the IG and venue for the IG and the SAC. The Session was invited to discuss, provide comments and guidance, if any.
23. The Session expressed its sincere appreciation to the government of Myanmar to host the next sessions of the SAC and the IG in November 2012.
24. Noting that no other participating countries have expressed interest in holding the SAC meeting and that the NC confirmed that the only document to be submitted by the SAC to the IG would be the Report of the SAC, the Session agreed that for this year, the SAC and the IG would be held back to back with further consultation with the government of Myanmar. It was pointed out by one country that it may contradict with the Work Program and Budget for the EANET in 2012 adopted by the IG13.
25. One country suggested, in a long term the IG could consider holding the SAC back to back with the WGFD in order to manage the financial deficit, if necessary.
26. It was proposed that updates on the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific and the Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) should be included under the agenda on information of update of other international programs and that this agenda item should be placed in the early part of the IG. The Secretariat confirmed that the proposed draft agenda will be revised accordingly.

XI.2 Proposal on an Advisor for the Secretariat for the EANET

27. The Secretariat presented the Proposal on an Advisor for the Secretariat for the EANET (EANET/WGFD 11/10/2). The Session was invited to review, make comments and provide guidance, for the adoption of the next IG in 2012.

28. The process for the appointment of an advisor was clarified that the National Focal Points would be consulted regarding the candidate for the advisor to be recommended to the IG for approval.

XI.3 Propagating Air Quality and Climate Change Practices Across Asia

29. Ms. May Ajero, representing the CAI-Asia presented a brief overview on the state of air quality in the Asian region and the emerging global issues that impact on the air quality management in the region in the next few years. The presentation stressed that a majority (7 of 10) cities from developing countries have air pollution levels (PM₁₀) that do not meet the WHO Interim Target 1. Most countries have adopted ambient air quality standards and are starting to adopt PM_{2.5} standards. She also shared CAI-Asia's activities in which the EANET participating countries can participate, in particular the Better Air Quality 2012 conference to be held in Hong Kong on 5-7 December 2012 and the 4th Governmental Meeting on Urban Air Quality which will be held in November/December together with UNEP.
30. The Session expressed its appreciation to the works of the CAI-Asia which would provide a good opportunity for the collaboration with the EANET.

XI.4 Proposal of Asia Science Panel on Air Quality (ASPAQ)

31. Dr. Hajime Akimoto, Director General of the ACAP, made a presentation on the proposal of Asia Science Panel on Air Quality (ASPAQ) (EANET/WGFD 11). He mentioned that ASPAQ was proposed aiming at the synthesis of scientific knowledge on air pollution in Asia. He stressed that establishment of common understanding among scientists and policy makers is a prerequisite to achieve an international agreement for a framework of atmospheric management, and that reflection of the Asian scientists' view to the international initiatives such as hemispherical air pollution mitigation and Short-Live Climate Pollutants (SLCP) co-benefit/co-control approach would be important.
32. It was emphasized that the scientific findings should be disseminated in such a manner that general public and decision makers can take full advantage of them.

XI.5 Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABC) Programme

33. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, UNEP, briefed the Session on the progress regarding the Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABC) Programme. Over the last years, the ABC has helped to develop scientific consensus on the impacts of the ABCs and effectiveness of available emission reduction technologies. With these developments, national, regional, and global level activities have been initiated to reduce the

emissions. Lack of implementation is one of the obstacles developing countries are facing. In view of this, the next ABC Science Team meeting, scheduled for September 2012, will discuss transforming the ABC Programme into knowledge-to-action network. He encouraged the participants to send their comments on how the ABC Programme can support the national level activities and the EANET activities.

XI.6 Financial Contribution from Lao PDR and Vietnam for 2012

34. The financial contribution for 2012 was delivered to the Secretariat and the NC from Lao PDR and to the NC from Vietnam during the Session by the representatives of Lao PDR and Vietnam.
35. The Session expressed its sincere appreciation to Lao PDR and Vietnam for their financial contribution to the EANET.

XII. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 11)

36. The Report of the Session (EANET/WGFD 11/11) was considered and adopted.

XIII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 12)

37. 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.
38. The Secretariat expressed its sincere appreciation to the Pollution Control Department, Thailand in providing its support to the Secretariat in organizing the Session.
39. The Session was officially closed by the Chairperson.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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