

The Thirteenth Session of the Working Group
on Future Development of the EANET
1-2 October 2014, Ayutthaya, 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 Thirteenth Session in Ayutthaya, Thailand on 1 - 2 October 2014.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in the Session. The representatives of United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP); the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) for the EANET; as well as Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP); and experts from Kanazawa University and Senior Fellow of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES); attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached as Annex 1.

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 1)

3. The Session was opened by Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Coordinator of the Secretariat for the EANET. He welcomed the participants from the participating countries of the EANET to the Thirteenth Session of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD13) of the EANET held in Ayutthaya, the former capital city of Thailand, exactly two months after the Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG-Ex) on the EANET held at the same place. He conveyed the regards from Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Deputy Director of RRC.AP/AIT who was attending another meeting in Malaysia and was unable to participate in the WGFD13.
4. Mr. Henk Verbeek, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, delivered the opening address on behalf of UNEP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. He welcomed all the delegates to the historic city of Ayutthaya. He emphasized that the deliberations at this meeting will be important for the future development of the EANET as the meeting will discuss the next Medium Term Strategy, the expansion of the scope, and the arrangements for the establishment of the EANET Secretariat at UNEP ROAP. He informed the meeting that the first United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) held in June 2014 adopted a resolution on air pollution. This Resolution strengthens UNEP's existing work on air pollution and calls for strengthened global and regional cooperation. In line with the UNEA Resolution, a Joint Forum on clean air is

being planned for the Asia and the Pacific Region. A consultation meeting on the Joint Forum is scheduled to take place in November in Colombo, Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Better Air Quality (BAQ) Conference. He encouraged all the participating countries to attend this important consultation.

III. ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS (AGENDA ITEM 2)

5. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) of the EANET (2013–2015) adopted at the Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG14) on the EANET in November 2012, one Chairperson and two Vice-chairpersons will be elected at the first Session of the WGFD for three years term (2013-2015) of the WGFD sessions which was the Twelfth Session of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD12) of the EANET held in October 2013.
6. The Bureau of Officers elected for the WGFD12 in October 2013 consisting of Dr. Chang Lim Seok from Republic of Korea as the Chairperson and Dr. Duong Hong Son from Vietnam and Engr. Jean N. Rosete from Philippines as the two Vice Chairpersons will then continue to serve as the Bureau of Officers of the WGFD13 and the Fourteenth Session of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD14) of the EANET in 2015.
7. However, Dr. Chang Lim Seok and Engr. Jean N. Rosete are not able to participate in this WGFD13, therefore the Session elected Dr. Erdenebat Eldev-Ochir from Mongolia and Dr. Patcharawadee Suwanathada from Thailand to be the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson for the WGFD13, respectively, whereas Dr. Chang Lim Seok and Engr. Jean N. Rosete will still serve as the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the WGFD14 in 2015, respectively.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 3)

8. The Session considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/WGFD 13/3/1), the Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/WGFD 13/3/2) and the Draft Program (EANET/WGFD 13/3/3) of the WGFD13 as proposed by the Secretariat and the NC.

V. REVIEW ON THE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA (EANET) SINCE THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (WGFD12) OF THE EANET AND THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER IN 2013 (AGENDA ITEM 4)

9. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Report on the Progress of the EANET since the WGFD12 (EANET/WGFD 13/4/1), including the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the NC in 2013 (EANET/WGFD 13/4/2). The Session was invited to review and make comments, suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and endorsement of the Sixteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG16) on the EANET to be held on 25 - 26 November 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

10. Major points of discussion were:

- i. An expression was made that PM_{2.5} and ozone are currently serious problem in East Asia however they have not been monitored widely in East Asia and that it is expected that monitoring of PM_{2.5} and ozone will be widely conducted at the EANET sites.
- ii. It was suggested to revise and reallocate Para 52 of the Report on the Progress of the EANET on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollutants in Northeast Asia (LTP) Project to be another bullet in Para 53 under Cooperation with Other Networks/Initiatives/ Forums in Asia.

11. The Session agreed to submit the Report on the Progress of the EANET and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the NC in 2013 with revisions suggested by the Session to the IG16 for consideration and endorsement, as appropriate.

VI. REVIEW ON THE REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER (2012-2013) (AGENDA ITEM 5)

12. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Report on the Review of the Performance of the Secretariat and the NC (2012-2013) (EANET/WGFD 13/5/1 and EANET/WGFD 13/5/2). The Session was invited to review, make comments, suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and endorsement of the IG16.

13. The Session agreed to submit the Report on the Review of the Performance of the Secretariat and the NC (2012-2013) to the IG16 for consideration and endorsement, as appropriate.

VII. REVIEW ON THE REPORT OF THE REVIEW ON THE STATE OF AIR POLLUTION IN EAST ASIA (AGENDA ITEM 6)

14. The NC on behalf of the Chairperson of the Task Force on Research Coordination (TFRC) presented the draft Report of the draft Review on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia

(EANET/WGFD 13/6) which the Fourteenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC14) on the EANET held in September 2014 agreed to print and deliver to other bodies of the EANET. The Session was invited to review, take note and make use of the Report for the review and discussion on the Draft Report of the Prefeasibility Study on the Expansion of the Scope of the EANET under Agenda Item 7.2 and the subsequent feasibility study.

15. During the discussion, the WGFD13 recalled the SAC to put the original name of the document developed by the reviewing committee, namely “Review on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia (RSAP)” as decided at the Twelfth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC12) on the EANET.
16. Major points of discussion were:
 - i. The Session expressed appreciation to the TFRC.
 - ii. An expression was made in supporting the decision made by the SAC14 to print and deliver to other bodies of the EANET.
 - iii. A request was made that the Review should be disseminated among the policy makers.
 - iv. One country reconfirmed that the Review should be printed under the name of the reviewing committee.
 - v. It was requested that the draft disclaimer should be circulated to the participating countries for comments before the Review is printed.
 - vi. It was reaffirmed that the objective of the Review was to provide an internal reference within the EANET for discussion on the future development of the network.
 - vii. It was suggested that the Review should be handled carefully and properly.
 - viii. It was clarified that although the members of the reviewing committee were not nominated by the participating countries but they are high quality experts invited to develop the Review and the information in the Review was taken from the peer reviewed papers published in international journals.
17. The Session took note of the draft Report of the draft Review on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia. The draft Review will be revised according to the views and comments of the participating countries and will be submitted to the IG16.

VIII. REVIEW ON ISSUES ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EANET (AGENDA ITEM 7)

VIII.1 REVIEW ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE EANET

SECRETARIAT AT UNEP UNDER OPTION 1B (UNEP AS THE EANET SECRETARIAT WITH THE COORDINATOR AT THE UN-P4 LEVEL AND SOME FUNCTIONS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH RRC.AP/AIT) (AGENDA ITEM 7.1)

18. The Secretariat presented the progress of the Arrangements of the Secretariat for the EANET at UNEP under Option 1B (UNEP as the EANET Secretariat with the Coordinator at the UN-P4 Level and some functions implemented through RRC.AP/AIT) (EANET/WGFD 13/7/1) which were developed in consultation with United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP) and considered by the Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG-Ex) on the EANET in August 2014.
19. UNEP ROAP informed the Session that it has progressed well in the preparation for the establishment of the Trust Fund and the EANET coordinator position in UNEP and looked forward to finalizing the remaining three documents as soon as possible so that the EANET Secretariat can be established at UNEP early next year.
20. After the IG-Ex, China sent comments on the three remaining documents on the new arrangements of the EANET Secretariat in writing to the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the participating countries, the Secretariat, and the NC on 24 September 2014 with regard to;
 - Procedures for Financial Contributions to the EANET Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the EANET
 - Terms of Reference of the Coordinator of the Secretariat for the EANET
 - Framework Agreement on the Arrangements of the Secretariat for the EANET between UNEP and the EANET
21. The Secretariat arranged a consultation between UNEP ROAP and China on the above three documents. The Secretariat distributed the UNEP comments to the participants during the Session for discussion as EANET/WGFD 13/7/1/add.1/rev.1, EANET/WGFD 13/7/1/add.2/rev.1, and EANET/WGFD 13/7/1/add.3/rev.1.
22. Major points of discussion were;
 - i. It was suggested that the Procedures for Financial Contributions to the EANET Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the EANET should include “The voluntary financial contributions to the NC(s) through the Trust Fund will be discussed after the transition period”.
 - ii. Some countries expressed their preference to have additional document on the Procedures for Financial Contribution to the NC budget separately from the Trust Fund.

- iii. UNEP clarified that the voluntary financial contribution to the NC could be made either directly to the NC or through the EANET Trust Fund.
 - iv. Concern was made on the minimum amount of US\$500 for financial contribution indicated in the document.
 - v. In response to a query, UNEP clarified that the principle of voluntary financial contributions is acknowledged by UNEP and it will accept any minimum amount agreed by the IG. However, UNEP suggested that the participating countries, taking account of their economic and financial circumstances, should consider to agreeing on a level of minimum amount which would make the contribution financially meaningful.
 - vi. Concerns were raised on the rise of voluntary contributions in 2015 since the budget allocation for the financial contributions to the EANET have been made by the governments in accordance with the MTP (2011-2015) therefore it will not be possible to increase the contribution to meet the expected amount required for the new arrangements of the Secretariat at UNEP.
 - vii. A request was made to the Secretariat and UNEP ROAP to explore the cost saving measures and to recover a certain portion of the 13% Programme Support Cost to use specifically for the EANET Secretariat.
 - viii. It was pointed out that the NCs mentioned in the documents should be singular to reflect the current situation in the EANET while different view was expressed that it should be plural form to be open for the future. It was suggested to use the "NC(s)".
 - ix. It was requested to develop three working documents which include China's original comments and comments of UNEP on China's comments and circulated for further comments.
 - x. The issue on the signers of the Framework Agreement was discussed with different options.
23. The Session took note of views and comments of the participating countries on the three documents and agreed to provide any additional comments on the three documents in writing to the Secretariat by 20 October 2014. Subsequently, the three documents will be revised according to comments from the participating countries and will be submitted for the consideration and decision of the IG16, as appropriate.

VIII.2 REVIEW ON THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREFEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE EXPANSION OF THE SCOPE OF THE EANET (AGENDA OITEM 7.2)

24. The NC presented the Draft Report of the Prefeasibility Study on the Expansion of the

Scope of the EANET (EANET/WGFD 13/7/2). The Session was invited to review, make comments, suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and decision of the IG16, as appropriate.

25. Different views were made on the expansion of the scope of the EANET as presented in Annex 2.
26. The Session took note of views and comments of the participating countries which will be submitted together with the Report of the Prefeasibility Study on the Expansion of the Scope of the EANET for the consideration and decision of the IG16, as appropriate.

IX. REVIEW ON THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE NEXT MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR THE EANET (2016-2020) (AGENDA ITEM 8)

27. The NC presented the Preliminary Draft Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2016-2020) (EANET/WGFD 13/8). The Session was invited to review, make comments, suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and further guidance of the IG16.
28. Major points of discussion were;
 - i. It was expressed that it would be best to focus on the prefeasibility study first to finalize the issue on the expansion of the scope of the EANET and then drafting of the new MTP (2016-2020) based on the approved prefeasibility study. Some countries expressed that the new MTP (2016-2020) should focus on the current scope, since the decision on the expansion of the scope is not yet made.
 - ii. It was clarified that the new MTP (2016-2020) will have to be approved by the IG17 in 2015, so it will not be possible to finalize the feasibility study and then develop the new MTP, therefore the feasibility study and the new MTP will have to be developed simultaneously.
 - iii. UNEP suggested that the draft MTP should be developed in such a way that the following three categories were segregated, namely 1) within present scope including PM_{2.5} and ozone, 2) including other activities than monitoring, and 3) expansion of the scope from acid deposition to air pollution. Once the IG makes decision on the expansion of the scope of the EANET, the draft MTP will be finalized accordingly.
29. The Session took note of views and comments of the participating countries and requested the NC to revise the Preliminary Draft MTP for the EANET (2016-2020) accordingly before submitting to the IG16 for consideration and further guidance, as appropriate.

X. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING (IG17) ON THE EANET IN 2015 (AGENDA ITEM 9)

30. The Secretariat presented rationales for holding the High Level Segment in conjunction with the IG17 in 2015 (EANET/WGFD 13/9). The Session was invited to discuss, make comments, suggestion and/or recommendations for the consideration and decision of the IG16.
31. It was suggested that there might not be any event which is significant enough to hold the High Level Segment in conjunction with the IG17 in 2015.

XI. REVIEW ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF THE EANET LAUREATE CANDIDATES FOR THE EANET AWARDS OF RECOGNITION (AGENDA ITEM 10)

32. The Secretariat reported the progress of the nomination and the selection of the candidates for the EANET Laureates for the EANET Awards of Recognition their contributions to the EANET (EANET/WGFD 13/10). The Session was invited to review, make comments, suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and approval of the IG16.
33. Major points of discussion were;
- i. It was suggested to include the country making the nomination as one of the vote for the Other Nominee nominated by that country.
 - ii. The Secretariat suggested that the awards will be delivered to the selected EANET Laureates by mail taking into account the financial constraint of the EANET.
 - iii. It was suggested that it might be possible to present the EANET Awards in person to some of the selected EANET Laureates who will participate in the IG17.
 - iv. The Secretariat requested the remaining members of the Selection Committee who have not made the selection to submit the selection to the Secretariat by 15 October 2014.
34. The Session took note of views and comments of the participating countries which will be submitted together with the result of the selection of the final EANET Laureates candidates (following the approved selection procedures) to the IG16 for consideration and decision, as appropriate.

XII. REVIEW ON THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET OF THE EANET IN

2015 (AGENDA ITEM 11)

35. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Work Program and Budget of the EANET in 2015 (EANET/WGFD 13/11). The Session was invited to review, make comments, suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and approval of the IG16.
36. Major points of discussion were;
- i. It was requested that the budget of the Secretariat in 2015 should follow the current MTP (2011-2015) and the increase in the budget of the Secretariat in 2015 due to the new arrangements at UNEP should be covered by the savings at the Secretariat.
 - ii. UNEP was requested to explore the cost saving plan for the contractual amount to prevent unnecessary double charges of the PSC (13% by AIT and 13% by UNEP).
 - iii. The Secretariat was requested to make appropriate revision of the budget in 2015 and submit the revised budget to the IG16.
 - iv. It was suggested that the estimated amount of the contribution to the NC through the EANET Trust Fund should be removed from Table 6 in the proposed budget of the NC in 2015. Appropriate explanation of the 13% PSC by the Trust Fund could be made in the footnote.
37. The Session took note of views and comments of the participating countries which will be submitted together with the draft Work Program and Budget of the EANET in 2015, with revision, to the IG16 for consideration and approval, as appropriate.

XIII. OTHER ISSUES (AGENDA ITEM 12)

XIII.1 ARRANGEMENT FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING (IG16) ON THE EANET IN 2014

38. The Secretariat presented the arrangement for the IG16 (EANET/WGFD 13/12/1) including the proposed dates and venue, the draft Provisional Agenda, the draft Annotated Provisional Agenda, and the draft Program for the IG16. The Session was invited to discuss, provide comments and guidance.
39. The Secretariat informed the Session that the General Information Sheet for the IG16 is under finalization with Indonesia and will be circulated to the NFPs by the end of next week and requested the participating countries to send the nomination by 15 October 2014 so that the logistic arrangements for the nominated participants can be made timely and properly. The nominated participants who need visa to enter Indonesia are requested to send a copy of their passport to the Secretariat by the end of October.

40. The Session congratulated Indonesia for the decision to sign the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) during the IG16 and expressed sincere appreciation to Indonesia for hosting the IG16 as an in-kind contribution to the EANET.
41. The draft Provisional Agenda, draft Annotated Provisional Agenda, and the draft Program with revisions suggested by the Session will be circulated to the National Focal Points for finalization.

XIII.2 THE FIRST UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA) – DISCUSSION AND DECISION RELATED TO AIR POLLUTION – AND REGIONAL PROCESS

42. Mr. Iyngararasan Mylvakanam, Programme Officer (Chemicals and Wastes), UNEP ROAP, briefed the Session on the First United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) – Discussion and Decision Related to Air Pollution (EANET/WGFD 13/12/2), including the planned way forward by UNEP.
43. He highlighted the adoption in June 2014 of a resolution on air quality by the first United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA). Key elements of the Resolution include strengthened cooperation, capacity building, awareness raising, and regional assessment. In Asia and the Pacific region, UNEP is initiating a regional initiative entitled “Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP)”. APCAP aims to bring together many existing initiatives to promote scaled up action to combat air pollution. APCAP will have three main pillars: a Joint Forum on clean air in Asia and Pacific, a Science Panel comprising eminent scientists and a science-policy synthesis report. The science – policy synthesis report will be completed by 2016 as requested by the UNEA Resolution. He also highlighted the importance of the Minamata Convention for clean air and the progress in signature and ratification of the Convention.

XIII.3 STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE TO PROMOTE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL IN ASIA AND THE WAY FORWARD

44. Prof. Katsunori Suzuki, Kanazawa University and the Senior Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) briefed the Session on the Strengthening the International Cooperation Framework and Science-Policy Interface to Promote Air Pollution Control in Asia and the Way Forward.
45. He introduced a new UNEP project on Asia and Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan. The APCAP include two major

components, namely, (i) the Scientific Assessment on Air Pollution in Asia, and (ii) the Joint Forum on Regional Atmospheric Environment Issues in Asia and the Pacific. A scientific panel on air quality, comprising eminent scientists in the region is proposed to provide scientific basis for better policy decisions. A high-level Scientists Meeting (Asian Scientists Panel on Air Quality: ASPAQ) will be held to develop the assessment report. The report will bring together the considerable information that exists at sub-regional, regional and global levels (in a summary and holistic form) focusing on developing clear policy options for policy actions.

46. It is envisaged to establish a Forum on Air Quality in Asia, which will be built upon existing initiatives such as the “Joint Forum on Regional Atmospheric Environment Issues in Asia and the Pacific”, “Governmental Meeting on Urban Air Quality in Asia”, etc. with an aim to coordinate and make efficient use of various initiatives on air pollution. A regional consultative meeting for the Joint Forum will be held on 17-18 November 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, for which EANET participating countries will be invited.
47. The Session was invited to discuss and provide views and comments. Major points of discussion were;
 - i. One opinion was that the EANET could cooperate with other networks on air pollution in Asia through a Joint Forum Platform and Asia Science Panel on Air Quality that will be coordinated by UNEP ROAP.
 - ii. It was mentioned that it is one of the tasks of the Secretariat and the NC specified in the MTP (2011-2015) to coordinate with other networks under the guidance of the IG.

XIII.4 ASIAN CO-BENEFIT PARTNERSHIP (ACP)

48. Prof. Katsunori Suzuki, Kanazawa University, the Senior Fellow of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the Co-chairperson of the Asian Co-benefit Partnership (ACP) Advisory Group briefed the Session on the activities and progress of the ACP.
49. He introduced the major outcomes of the recent ACP Advisory Group Meeting in July 2014 in Yokohama, Japan. He briefed the history of ACP and highlighted the major outcome in ACP Work Plan 2012-2013 with special emphasis on the publication of the First ACP White Paper in March 2014, as an ACP flagship publication. He also briefly introduced the ACP Work Plan for 2014-2015 will be issued in 2016.

XIII.5 OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

50. The Secretariat was requested to report the status of the Third Report for Policy Makers (RPM3). The Secretariat informed the Session that after the IG15 the Secretariat has continued the consultation with the NFPs for the finalization of the RPM3 and responded to views and comments from some participating countries, and the Secretariat was informed by China that the RPM3 is in the approval process.
51. No other issue raised by the participating countries.

**XIV. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION
(AGENDA ITEM 13)**

52. The Report of the Session (EANET/WGFD 13/13) was considered and adopted.

XV. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 14)

53. The Chairperson expressed his sincere appreciation to all participants and resource persons 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.
 54. The Session was officially closed by the Chairperson.
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