

The Fourteenth Session of the Working Group
on Future Development of the EANET
16-18 June 2015, Rayong, 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 Fourteenth Session in Rayong, Thailand on 16 - 18 June 2015.
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 the EANET, as well as experts and resource persons from Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP ROAP), Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and Kanazawa University 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 Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP ROAP on behalf of the Secretariat for the EANET. In his opening address, he welcomed the participants from the participating countries of the EANET to the Fourteenth Session of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD14) of the EANET. He highlighted the new global sustainable development Goals (SDGs) expected to be agreed by all UN Member States in September 2015 and the related areas of the work of the EANET with SDGs. He informed participants of Joint Forum on Clean Air in Asia and the Pacific being organized by UNEP in November 2015 and scheduled to be back to back with the Seventeenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG17) on the EANET and encouraged the EANET countries to participate. He expressed the commitment of UNEP in its functions as the EANET Secretariat from May 1st, 2015 and the ongoing process to recruit the Coordinator. He thanked the RRC.AP team at AIT for their tremendous support to the EANET.
4. Dr. Kazuhiko Sakamoto, the new Director General of the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), introduced himself and expressed his willingness to serve for the EANET on behalf of the NC.

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, the Chairperson (Dr. Chang Lim Seok from Republic of Korea) and the two Vice-chairpersons (Dr. Duong Hong Son from Vietnam and Engr. Jean N. Rosete from Philippines) were elected at the Twelfth Session of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD12) of the EANET in 2013 for a three year term (2013-2015) of the WGFD sessions including the WGFD14 in 2015.
6. However, Dr. Chang Lim Seok and Dr. Duong Hong Son were not able to participate in this WGFD14, therefore Dr. Batbayar Jadamba from Mongolia and Dr. Patcharawadee Suwanathada from Thailand were nominated and elected by the Session as the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson for the WGFD14, respectively.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 3)

7. The Session considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/WGFD 14/3/1), the Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/WGFD 14/3/2) and the Draft Program (EANET/WGFD 14/3/3) of the WGFD14 as proposed by the Secretariat in consultation with the NC.

V. REVIEW ON THE DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER IN 2014 (AGENDA ITEM 4)

8. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Financial Report of the Secretariat and the NC in 2014 (EANET/WGFD 14/4). The Session was invited to review and make comments, suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and endorsement of the IG17 to be held in November 2015 in Thailand.
9. The Session agreed to submit the Draft Financial Report of the Secretariat and the NC in 2014 to the IG17 for consideration and endorsement, as appropriate.

VI. REVIEW ON THE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE EANET SECRETARIAT AT UNEP (AGENDA ITEM 5)

10. The Secretariat presented the Report on the Progress of the Arrangements of the EANET Secretariat at UNEP (EANET/WGFD 14/5). The Session was invited to review, make comment and acknowledge the Report.

11. It was pointed out that the basis used for calculating voluntary financial contributions expected from the participating countries should be clearly stated in the “Procedures for Financial Contributions to the EANET Fund to support the Activities of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia”, not just referred to as a footnote, to assist the countries to justify to their Governments on the amount of their contributions.
12. The Session acknowledged the Report on the Progress of the Arrangements of the EANET Secretariat at UNEP.

VII. REVIEW ON THE REVISION OF THE REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER (AGENDA ITEM 6)

13. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Revision of the Revised Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center (EANET/WGFD 14/6). The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide comment and guidance, and make suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and approval of the IG17.
14. Major points of discussion were:
 - i. Japan proposed the modification of Paragraph 31 and 73 on the use of the scale of assessment for apportionment as follows,

“The yearly flat/fix amount of the voluntary financial contribution of each participating country will be estimated by applying the latest scale of assessment for apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, as may be adopted periodically by the United Nations General Assembly”
 - ii. Some countries supported to use the yearly flat/fix amount of the voluntary financial contribution of each participating country which will be estimated based on the scale of assessment for apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, as may be adopted periodically by the United Nations General Assembly, in one year before each MTP.
 - iii. Some countries supported the proposal to have the amount of voluntary financial contribution fixed during the MTP period which would enable countries to secure the budget allocation over 5 years.
 - iv. Several countries proposed to use fixed amount of annual EANET budget for the duration of MTP but to apply the latest UN scale for estimation of countries’ contribution with possible changes together with UN scale.

- v. It was clarified that the minimum amount of USD 200 will be applied even if the estimated voluntary financial contribution for any participating country calculated from the scale of assessment is less than USD 200.
 - vi. China suggested that the working procedure of the SAC is necessary to be revised and improved appropriately. Any report using the name of the EANET should be agreed by all participating countries before printing and publication. And the members of Drafting Committee on these reports should be nominated by all participating countries.
15. The Session requested the Secretariat to draft a document on the basis to be used for calculating voluntary financial contributions expected from the participating countries. .

VIII. REVIEW ON THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE EXPANSION OF THE SCOPE OF THE EANET (AGENDA ITEM 7)

16. The NC presented the Draft Report of the Feasibility Study on the Expansion of the Scope of the EANET (EANET/WGFD 14/7). The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide comment and guidance, and make suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and endorsement of the IG17.
17. Major points of discussion are presented in Annex 2.
18. The Session discussed and concluded on Category 1 and 2, as classified in the Draft Report of the Feasibility Study on the Expansion of the Scope of the EANET. The results of the discussion are shown below.

Category 1 : Strengthening current monitoring activities

- 1) Promotion of the monitoring of ozone and PM_{2.5} including research cooperation and communication on the results as appropriate;
- 2) Capacity building activities especially for ozone and PM_{2.5} monitoring;
- 3) Increasing number of EANET monitoring sites; and
- 4) Strengthening understanding and capacity for monitoring of meteorological parameters and reporting on these as appropriate

Category 2 : Promotion of activities other than monitoring

- 1) Promotion of information exchange
 - Information exchange on clean air technologies and regional impact assessment through workshops, seminars, etc.
- 2) Promotion of research and technical cooperation on emission inventory to support the capacity building
 - Research on technical guidelines on emission inventory to support the capacity

- building; and
 - Capacity building for emission inventories.
- 3) Promotion of research activities
- Research activities on regional impact assessment to plants and ecosystems; and
 - Research activities on measurement methodology for elemental carbon (EC) and organic carbon (OC).
19. It was agreed that the extended activities listed above will be incorporated into the next MTP (2016 -2020). The revised Draft Report of the Feasibility Study on the Expansion of the Scope of the EANET will be shared with the Fifteenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC15) on the EANET.

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

20. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Medium Plan for the EANET (2016 – 2020) (EANET/WGFD 14/8). The Session was invited to review, discuss, comment, and make suggestions and/or recommendations for the consideration and approval of the IG17.
21. Major points of discussion were;
- i. It was suggested to restructure the draft MTP (2016-2020) to clearly link with the objectives of the EANET, so that policy makers can easily understand the need for the activities under the draft MTP (2016-2020) to fulfill the objectives of the EANET.
 - ii. It was suggested that MTP should have flexibility to have mid-term review and revision if deemed necessary.
 - iii. All participating countries were encouraged to provide their voluntary financial contributions to the EANET, especially to the NC core activities for full implementation of the MTP (2016-2020).
 - iv. It was suggested to the Secretariat to explore cost saving measures and the possibility of using part of the programme support cost (PSC) to support the EANET activities.
 - v. It was pointed out that the revised draft MTP (2016-2020) should be circulated to the National Focal Points (NFPs) for their review and comments.
 - vi. Malaysia suggested that the objectives of the MTP should not explicitly mention ‘any other relevant air pollutants’ if PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀ and ozone have been proven that it contributes to acid deposition.

22. It was agreed that the extended activities in Category 1 and 2 concluded in the Agenda Item 7 will be incorporated into the revised draft MTP (2016-2020) and that Category 3 will not be included. The revised draft MTP (2016-2020) will be submitted for the consideration and approval of the IG17, after consultation with the NFPs and the SAC15.

X. REVIEW ON THE FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA (EANET) BETWEEN UNEP AND THE EANET (AGENDA ITEM 9)

23. The Secretariat presented the Framework Document on the Arrangements of the Secretariat for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) between UNEP and the EANET (EANET/WGFD 14/9) and the Secretariat Draft Complied Version. The Session was invited to review, provide comment and guidance, and make suggestions/recommendations for the consideration and adoption of the IG17.
24. The Framework Document [Attachment 4 of document EANET/WGFD 14/9] was reviewed and discussed. It was agreed that
- The revised draft will be distributed to the NFPs by the Secretariat by mid July 2015.
 - The participating countries and UNEP will consult their legal experts and send comments to the Secretariat, if any, by the end of September 2015.
 - The Secretariat will circulate comments as received from the NFPs to all participating countries.
 - Japan is flexible to delete Paragraph 15 “Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to be legally binding” under the three conditions,
 - The title of the document is “Framework”.
 - The word “shall” in the document is changed to “will”.
 - The signer of the document is the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental meeting of the EANET.
 - The Secretariat will consolidate comments from the NFPs to the revised draft and circulate it to the NFPs one month before the IG17 for consideration and adoption.

XI. OTHER ISSUES (AGENDA ITEM 10)

XI.1 SCHEDULE FOR THE EANET MEETINGS IN 2015 INCLUDING THE STM16, THE SAC15 AND THE IG17/[HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT]

25. The Secretariat presented the Schedule for the EANET Meetings in 2015 which include the Sixteenth Senior Technical Managers (STM16) meeting, the SAC15 and the IG17/[HLS] (EANET/WGFD 14/10/1). The Session was invited to take note of the schedule of the EANET meetings in 2015 and to discuss, consider and conclude whether or not to hold the High Level Segment (HLS) in conjunction with the IG17 in November 2015.
26. Major points of discussion were;
 - i. Russia requested information regarding the Joint Forum on Clean Air in Asia and the Pacific, which will be held back to back with the IG17 and requested UNEP to clarify whether Russia could participate in the Joint Forum. Information on the Joint Forum was provided and Russia is welcome to participate in the Joint Forum, although Russia is not in the Asia and the Pacific geographical area of UNEP.
 - ii. It was clarified by the Secretariat that the EANET will benefit financially from organizing the IG17 back to back with the Joint Forum as the travel cost of the participants attending both meetings could be shared.
 - iii. It was suggested that the HLS is not to be convened in conjunction with the IG17 since there is no important or significant matter or event to convene the HLS.
27. The Session took note of the schedule of the EANET meetings in 2015 and concluded that the HLS will not be held in conjunction with the IG17 in November in Thailand.

XI.2 OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

28. On the issues of setting new network centers, China would like to play an active role and is developing feasibility studies of hosting. Participating countries were encouraged to set new network centers with their own advantages.

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

29. The Report of the Session (EANET/WGFD 14/11) was considered and adopted.

XIII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 12)

30. 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 the Session. He appreciated the efforts of two Vice Chairpersons on co-chairing the Session.
 31. The Session was officially closed by the Chairperson.
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Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Annex 2

Major Points of Discussion in Agenda Item 7

- i. Member countries agreed that the ‘expansion of scope’ should be replaced with ‘extension of activities’.
- ii. It was suggested to prioritize strengthening current monitoring activities and promotion of the activities on a voluntary basis among members of the EANET.
- iii. Some countries informed the Session that at present they have difficulty in monitoring especially for PM_{2.5}.
- iv. Republic of Korea informed that it will launch an Environment Satellite in 2019 which has the capability to monitor NO₂, SO₂, O₃, HCHO and aerosols and suggested that the EANET should consider utilization of satellite data.
- v. Some countries expressed their difficulty to develop emission inventories especially on a regular basis and emphasized that capacity building should be the main focus of the emission inventory activities during the next MTP period.
- vi. Malaysia suggested that for category 2 promotion of emission inventory should not include, development of emission inventory guideline and even so, it should be more of a voluntary from each members and suggested to focus on capacity building for emission inventories only.
- vii. It was clarified that emission inventory guidelines are technical guidelines and are not intended to request the countries to strictly follow, but to provide information on various useful methodologies to develop an emission inventory and to be used for capacity building purposes.
- viii. It was also stressed that emission inventory activities should be promoted on a stepwise basis taking into account the capacity of respective countries.
- ix. It was pointed out that capacity building is particularly important for Lao, Myanmar and Cambodia, especially on PM_{2.5} monitoring, and that specific support programmes should be developed for these countries.
- x. It was pointed out that the expansion of the scope of the EANET would need changes to the Instrument and therefore Category 3, which would require the expansion of the scope, should not be included in the next MTP.
- xi. Malaysia pointed out that Category 3 has significant impact to the interpretation of the signed agreement which was aimed specially at acid deposition only. This leads to policy implication towards existing signed instrument. Therefore Category 3 shall not be elucidated in the MTP.
- xii. It was suggested that public awareness activities may remain additional activities, rather than moving them to core activities of the NC.
- xiii. It was clarified that the number of EANET monitoring sites should be increased in the next

MTP period since the current number of EANET monitoring sites are not enough to provide sufficient information for the assessment.