

The Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems

23 February 2001, Niigata, Japan

## CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY

1. The Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems was held in Niigata, Japan, on 23 February 2001, organized by the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC), in collaboration with Niigata Prefecture and Niigata City.

### Attendance

2. The Workshop was attended by approximately twenty participants and observers from China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Russia. The list of the participants of the Workshop is attached as the Annex.

### Background and Purpose

3. ADORC developed brochures and videotapes to promote public awareness in Japan in 1998. In the next year, 1999, it implemented the joint brochure projects with China and Thailand to develop their own brochures for public awareness. In 2000 similar joint projects with Malaysia and the Philippines began, and the project with China was continued for developing videotapes.
4. The major purpose of the Workshop is to exchange information and share experience, mainly through the implementation of projects in Japan and the joint projects that we have done with China, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

### Opening

5. The Workshop was commenced with opening address by Dr. Tsumugu Totsuka, Director General of ADORC.

6. Dr. Munetsugu Kawashima was elected as Chairperson of the Workshop.

#### Keynote speech

7. The keynote speech titled "Education for Solving Acid Rain Problems: How to Develop Teaching Materials and Support Strategies for Schools and Lifelong Education Programs" was delivered by Dr. Kawashima. Some actual cases of environmental education practice in schools in Japan were reported. Acid rain problems were found to be suitable education materials because they were relatively easy to handle and to demonstrate the problems and were familiar item to daily life of children. It was emphasized that students should have as much opportunity as possible to contact and realize natural and social environments, to understand the phenomena scientifically through experiments, and to enjoy and continue studies of the environment through "scientific eyes".

#### Presentations on country experiences

8. Ms. Shang Hui and Ms. Cui Dandan introduced the activities in China for public awareness on the environment. Their targets are ranging from children to general public. The videotape developed by the joint project with ADORC was presented.
9. Mr. Ken Yamashita made a presentation on the projects to enhance public awareness on acid deposition problems in Japan and Asia, conducted by ADORC. Mr. Kouichi Mori introduced the experience of environmental studies using brochures at three model schools in Japan.
10. Mr. Adib Rahman introduced environmental awareness programs in Malaysia from a viewpoint of macro perspective. Mr. Zubaidi Johar presented experiences of promoting environmental education, public awareness and information dissemination in Malaysia, using results from studies on "The Public Awareness of Science and Technology Malaysia".
11. Mr. Noel Reyes Castelo made a presentation on the development of the acid deposition brochure for grade school students in the Philippines. Ms. Anna Maria Santos Torres presented on the draft brochures of the Philippines that

they have been developed and elaborated with pretests in grade school and workshop attended by school teachers.


12. Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana introduced the activities of public awareness in Thailand. Ms. Kanjana Suaysom made a presentation on public awareness program on acid deposition in Thailand such as development of Thai brochure, and workshop to disseminate the brochure and enhance public awareness, with air pollution data and information including adverse impacts by Mae Moh power plant in Thailand.

#### Wrap-up

13. Dr. Hiroshi Hara made a presentation titled “Environmental Education on Acid Deposition – a perspective of an atmospheric chemist –“. He emphasized that close cooperation and collaboration in the field of environmental education among experts in education, science and social studies are necessary in order to form comprehensive public consent against the acid deposition problem.
14. All participants and observers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the effort by the organizer of the Workshop.

23 February 2001

Niigata, Japan



Munetsugu Kawashima

Chairperson

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