

The Second Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems
21 - 22 February 2002, Beijing, China

CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY

1. The Second Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems was held in Beijing, China, from 21 to 22 February 2002, organized by the Network Center for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), in collaboration with the China Forum of Environmental Journalist (CFEJ) and the Environmental Science Research Niigata (ESRN) of Japan.

Attendance

2. The Workshop was attended by approximately fifty participants and observers from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Lao People's Democratic Republic. The list of participants is attached as Annex.

Background and Purpose

3. The Interim Network Center/The Network Center (INC/NC) for EANET has implemented the joint projects with China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam to develop their own brochures/videotape for public awareness since Japanese Fiscal Year 1999. NC held a Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems in February 2001, attended by participants from relevant countries.
4. To further encourage and promote such activities in each participating country, NC undertook the Second Workshop on Public Awareness for Acid Deposition Problems for exchanging of information and sharing of experience.

Opening

5. The Workshop commenced with the opening address by Mr. Mylvakanam

Iyngararasan, Programme Specialist, UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific, serving for the Secretariat for EANET.

6. Dr. Tsumugu Totsuka, Director General of the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center, introduced the Workshop Organization.
7. Mr. Zhang Shigang, Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China, delivered a welcome address.
8. Mr. Xu Zhenglong, Secretary General of CFEJ, gave his welcome address.
9. Prof. Hu Min of China and Mr. Noel Reyes Castelo of the Philippines were elected as Co-chairperson of the Workshop.

Keynote speech

10. The keynote speech entitled "Mobilize the public to cooperate in conquering the devil in the air" was delivered by Mr. Xu Zhenglong. After the introduction of Chinese government's efforts to reduce the atmospheric sulfur dioxide such as "double-control regions" during the "Ninth Five-year", the measures of various effectiveness were indicated as one of the approaches for settlement of the problem to improve the awareness of the public to control and prevent acid deposition. The following points were emphasized as important issues: 1) Fully taking advantage of news medias and movie or TV products, 2) Including contents concerning prevention and control of acid deposition in textbooks of environment-related courses for school children, and 3) Active role of non-governmental environment-protection organization.

Present status of acid deposition in China

11. Mr. Wang Ruibin, China National Environmental Monitoring Center, made his presentation on the present status of acid deposition in China. Institutional arrangement for EANET and monitoring sites in China were showed as well as monitoring tasks and measurement parameters. Then he introduced current monitoring activities and perspectives, priority technical issues, training needs and some problems to be solved in future.

Introduction of the progress of EANET activities on public awareness

12. Introduction of the progress of EANET activities on public awareness was presented by Mr. Jiro Sato, the Network Center for EANET with coverage of the background, short history and institutional arrangement of the EANET.

Presentations on country experience

13. Ms. Jiao Zhiyan made a presentation on various activities on public awareness and development of publicity, education and training in the fields of environmental protection in China. For instance, several important kinds of activities were introduced such as producing documentary on air pollution, holding the Regular National School Students' Environmental Protection Competition, carrying out the GLOBE program and Business Environment Learning Leadership, implementing the national on-the-job training for directors of environmental protection bureaus and China's Green School Program.
14. Ms. Aulia Esti Wijiasih introduced enthusiastic and dedicated NGOs such as Kelompok Peduli Anak Indonesia (KPAI), which has carried out campaigns on highlighting of environment problems in cooperation with the government, institutions of education, other NGOs, private sectors and mass media. Mr. Haneda Sri Mulyanto explained the Continuous Ambient Monitoring Network in Indonesia showing the system framework, monitoring station and public data display.
15. Prof. Munetsugu Kawashima made a presentation on education for solving environmental problems focused on acid deposition problem in Japan. He stressed three ways to promote environmental education: 1) Development of methodology (programs and teaching materials), 2) Training of leaders, 3) Support system for environmental education. The documents "For realization of sustainable recycling society" of Ms. Motoko Egashira, a member of the Committee on Dissemination of Acid Deposition Problems in Japan, was read by Mr. Ken Yamashita.
16. Mr. Sze Fook Lim delivered a presentation on experiences in the fields of monitoring activities, projects, awards and campaigns on public awareness in Malaysia. Many projects have been implemented such as MAWAR 90 project, Wira Alam (Nature's Hero) project, environmental awareness camps, as well as environmental awards such as Langkawi Award and the Prime Minister's Hibiscus Award, and campaigns

like the present “Love Your River Campaign”.

17. Ms. Tsatsral Batmunkh introduced the air pollution problems in the urban area in Mongolia together with acid deposition monitoring sites as well as the results of their monitoring. Some of their activities on public awareness were advertisement of air quality by mass media, publishing of the present state of air quality, carrying out the ecological class in schools, holding “Environmental protection monthly campaign” twice a year and creating of appropriate web-site. The future plan for public awareness was also presented.
18. Mr. Nelson Panganiban Honrado made his presentation on the development of the brochure on acid deposition. He presented the outlines of EANET Public Awareness Workshop on Acid Deposition for Academe, Government Agencies, Media, NGOs and Private Sector, and future public awareness campaign activities in the Philippines. Another workshop for grade school teachers was undertaken and they prepared a lesson plan for the Science subject and a teaching guide for Science and Health. Both of them were for the Grade 5 students in the elementary schools. These plan and teaching guide were introduced in detail.
19. Mr. Jun Dae Park presented the overview of air quality information service system using Web/GIS in Korea. This system was developed to provide people with environmental information and enhance public awareness for air pollution problems. The general features of the system such as functions, configuration and construction were introduced by displaying of screen images. Future development was mentioned in direction to create real time air quality information service system and integrate it with environmental risks and water quality Web/GIS system.
20. Dr. Sergey Gromov presented the overview of the current status of public awareness for acid deposition problems in Russian Federation. Although the acid deposition problem has been tackled on a basis of the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Atmospheric Pollution in Europe long time ago, the appropriate activities on public awareness had not been fully implemented except for publishing of a few environment reports and recent actions of some scientists and NGOs. General ways were mentioned to stimulate public awareness in future such as developing of educational programs and textbooks as well as closer cooperation with NGOs and foundations to prepare scientific brochures.
21. Mr. Prapat Pentamwa introduced the public awareness program on acid deposition in Thailand. The brochures on acid deposition problems were developed with

guidance of Thai Executive Committee on public awareness program followed by a workshop for the brochure dissemination. The Web site for dissemination of the air pollution data and information on acid deposition problems to public was also introduced.

22. Dr. Vu Van Tuan made his presentation on the development of the public awareness program on acid deposition in Viet Nam. A Video Compact Disk (VCD) on outlines of acid deposition problems produced in cooperation with Viet Nam Television was introduced and displayed during his presentation. He reported that the development of the brochure on acid deposition problem was currently on-going.

Discussion on promotion of public awareness activities on acid deposition problems

23. Under the consideration of the presentations made by experts and participants from countries, the following three points were raised to enhance public awareness on acid deposition problems: 1) Capacity building of NGO leaders and school teachers, 2) Cooperation with NGOs, 3) Development of related web sites. It was also, however, pointed out that many countries have difficulties in promotion of public awareness and environmental education due to various problems and constraints such as lack of suitable materials and appropriate teachers. The participants conducted the discussion how to improve these situations. The views and comments expressed by the participants included the followings: 1) It is useful and helpful to share the experiences and information among the participants, 2) Knowledge and enthusiasm of NGOs are necessary to access new environmental issues, and 3) Dissemination of accurate environmental information to the public as well as decision makers is very important to develop public interest and for them to take the necessary actions.

Wrap-up

24. Dr. Hiroshi Hara, National Institute of Public Health, Japan, made a presentation titled "Lessons from a Swedish Scientist - *Where will we go? -*". After overview of history of the access to acid deposition problems initiated by Prof. Svante Oden of Sweden, Dr. Hara emphasized the significant aspects of a dose relationship with EANET activities which need long term records and Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC), as well as accountability of an expert to translate scientific issues into common language for the general public and school children. The important

role of scientists and teachers in public awareness was especially pointed out as two interfaces for understanding of scientific evidence by school children.

25. All participants and observers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the efforts made by the organizers and the host country for arrangement of this important Workshop.

22 February 2002

Beijing, China



Hu Min



Noel Reyes Castelo

Co-Chairpersons

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