



Acid Deposition Monitoring
Network in East Asia

EANET NATIONAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP IN MYANMAR

EVENT REPORT

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 24-25 February 2020

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BACKGROUND

The Secretariat for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), in collaboration with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), the Myanmar Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC), organized the EANET National Awareness Workshop in Myanmar from 24-25 February 2020 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

A total of 60 delegates and participants from different sectors, such as agriculture, industry, transport, forestry, agriculture, health, and education, as well as policy makers attended the workshop. They consisted of representatives of government officials, civil society organizations, development agencies, universities and the private sector. The two days' workshop aimed at facilitating sharing and learning platforms and to increase understanding of issues related to the prevention of air pollution, as well as increase knowledge and understanding of workshop participants in managing air quality in their work.

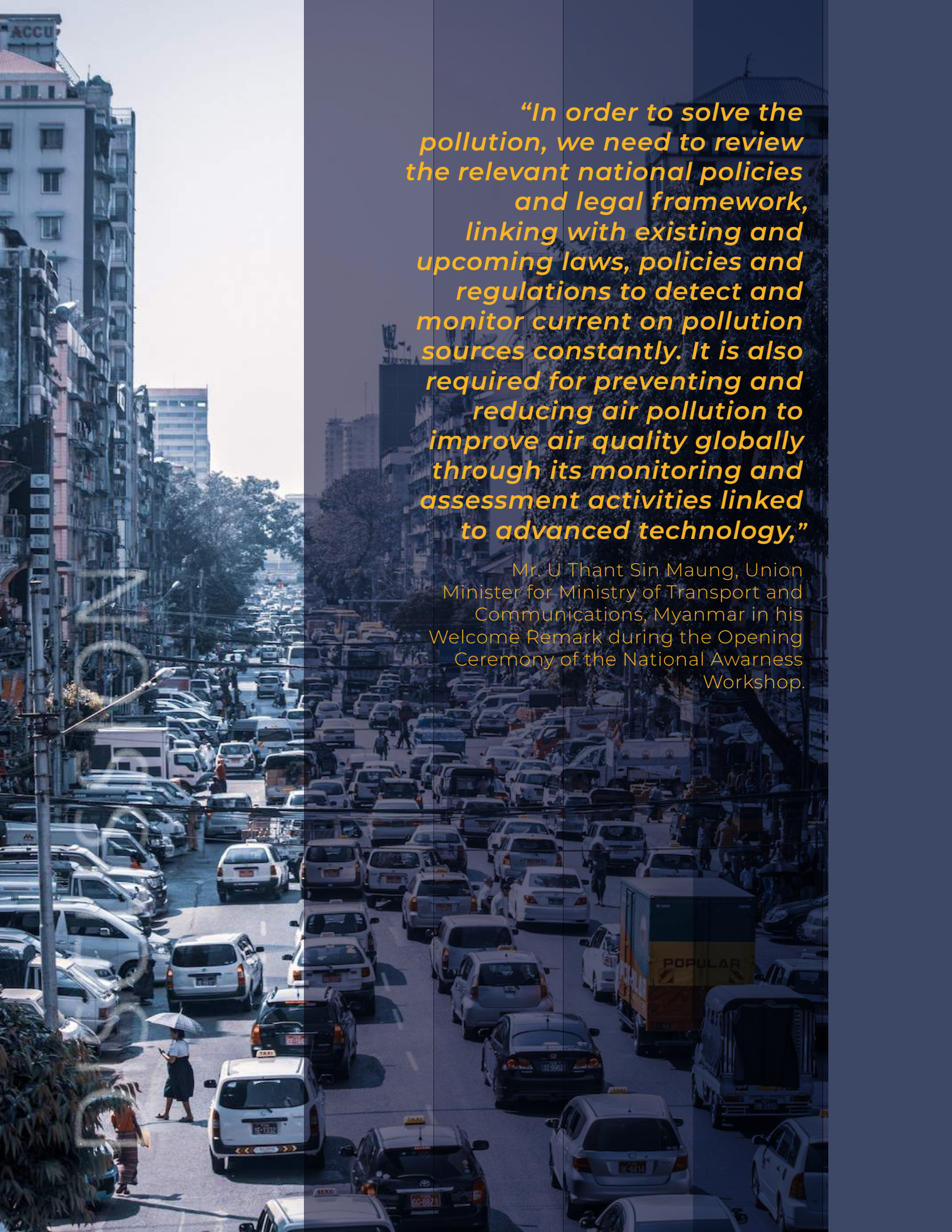
VENUE

Hotel Royal Aster, Nay Pyi Taw
Address: Block 15/16, Taw Win Yadanar Road, National Guest House Compound, Dekhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

AGENDA

Day 1 - 24 February 2020	Day 2 - 25 February 2020
Opening Ceremony	Session 5 - Acid Deposition and Air Pollution Monitoring Activities in EANET region
Session 1 - EANET: intergovernmental Cooperation – Status and Development	Session 6 – Preventive Air Pollution Measures
Session 2 – Overview: Climate Change, Acid Deposition, and Air Pollution	Session 7 - Group Discussion for Air Quality Monitoring and Improvement
Session 3 - Current Situation and Challenges in Myanmar on Acid Deposition and Air Pollution: Policy Actions to Tackle Acid Deposition Issues in Myanmar	Closing ceremony
Session 4 - Acid Deposition and Air Pollution Monitoring Activities in Myanmar	





“In order to solve the pollution, we need to review the relevant national policies and legal framework, linking with existing and upcoming laws, policies and regulations to detect and monitor current on pollution sources constantly. It is also required for preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally through its monitoring and assessment activities linked to advanced technology,”

Mr. U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar in his Welcome Remark during the Opening Ceremony of the National Awareness Workshop.

Opening Remarks

The Union Ministers for the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Deputy Ministers for the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Permanent Secretaries for the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and, the Ministry of Education, Head of Departments, attended the Opening Ceremony. Representatives from the Secretariat for the EANET, Network Center, government officials, academicians, non-government organizations and representatives from the private sector also participated in the Opening Ceremony.

In his Welcome Remarks, Mr. U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Ministry of Transport and Communications, mentioned that air pollution, especially transboundary haze pollution, has become the most prominent and pressing environmental problem in the ASEAN region. The Minister emphasized the need to take response actions for climate change mitigation measures, raising awareness

to all relevant stakeholders on the importance of capacity building and integrated approaches for national and international cooperation in implementing the sustainable development of the environment. Moreover, he believes that EANET activities are playing a critical role in providing a better understanding of the consequences of air pollution and acid deposition on human health and the natural environment.

Mr. Tomi Haryadi, Coordinator of Secretariat for the EANET, mentioned EANET has been continuously working to respond to rising concerns on the acid deposition. It has been done by providing reliable monitoring data and assessment, strengthening the capacity of relevant officers and policymakers through training, research, awareness events, and dissemination of information. With the strong support of its participating countries, EANET has made various contributions to the improvement of acid deposition in the region.

Session 1 - EANET: inter-governmental Cooperation – Status and Development

Participants learned about EANET, activities and benefits for participating countries, including Myanmar. They also received information on the upcoming development of EANET and how the changes help all participating countries.

Participants were informed that researchers were offered the opportunity to be selected to receive the EAENET Research Fellowship 2020. More information could be obtained from the National Focal Point of Myanmar.

Session 2 - Overview: Climate Change, Acid Deposition, and Air Pollution

Participants learned about:

- The linkages between air pollution and health impact and acid deposition on human health, particularly on the sources, exposure, and health outcome.
- Climate change effects on acid deposition and air pollution in Myanmar. Given the fact that climate change and air quality are closely related, reducing and eliminating various sources of air pollution, would help in mitigating climate change's impact.

- Air quality monitoring linked to public health conducted by the Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Sports, and related research. It was informed that acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites contributed by air pollution are one of the leading causes of morbidity of children under five-year-old in Myanmar (2016).

Session 3 - Current Situation and Challenges in Myanmar on Acid Deposition and Air Pollution: Policy Actions to Tackle Acid Deposition Issues in Myanmar

Participants learned about:

- Air quality monitoring and national environmental policies in Myanmar. Currently, the Environmental Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) are conducting assessment monitoring reports for ambient and emission of air quality in each state, region, and Union territory.

- Air pollution is one of the leading environmental issues in Myanmar due to pollutants from automobiles, industrialization, transboundary haze and others. The release of several harmful gases from such sources is causing the whole atmospheric air pollution. To overcome, it requires coordination and cooperation with the relevant multi-stakeholders and organizations to mainstream environmental consideration into all of the development processes, enhancement capacity, environmental sound, innovative technology and institutional strengthening to mainstream environment preservation.

Session 4 - Acid Deposition and Air Pollution Monitoring Activities in Myanmar

Participants learned about:

- Clean Development Mechanism of Myanmar. It was informed that the increasing number of vehicles in Myanmar has increased traffic congestion in Yangon, resulting in a growing number of air pollutants such as NO_x, CO, PM, and HC.

- Participants learned about acid deposition and air quality monitoring activities in Myanmar conducted by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Myanmar. As part of EANET, Myanmar has been conducting acid deposition monitoring on different sites, including wet, dry, PM_{2.5}, and atmospheric mercury monitoring. In the future, Myanmar would like to extend some of its monitoring stations, develop monitoring of inland and aquatic environment and soil and vegetation. To improve the performance, Myanmar needs support on equipment for measurement of acid deposition and air quality, and capacity building for responsible staff.

- Participants learned about engaging the private sector in the environmental management processes and relevant agencies to be involved in the public consultation process.

Session 5 - Acid Deposition and Air Pollution Monitoring Activities in EANET region

Participants learned about EANET acid deposition and air pollution monitoring activities in the region, major air pollutants measured by EANET, monitoring sites, data analysis and reporting. Participants also learned about the activities of the Network Center and the benefits for the participating countries.

Session 6 - Preventive Air Pollution Measures

Participants learned about:

- Preventive air pollution measures based on China's experience and from their own experience.

- The recent evidence on the health impacts of air pollution (from APCAP training module), the 25 Clean Air Solutions and how APCAP works with countries to tackle air pollution problems.

- The source of air pollutants from the agricultural sector and the impact on the crop yield.

Session 7 - Group Discussion for Air Quality Monitoring and Improvement

Participants shared and discussed the challenges, opportunities and potential solutions on air pollution and acid deposition problems on the ground.



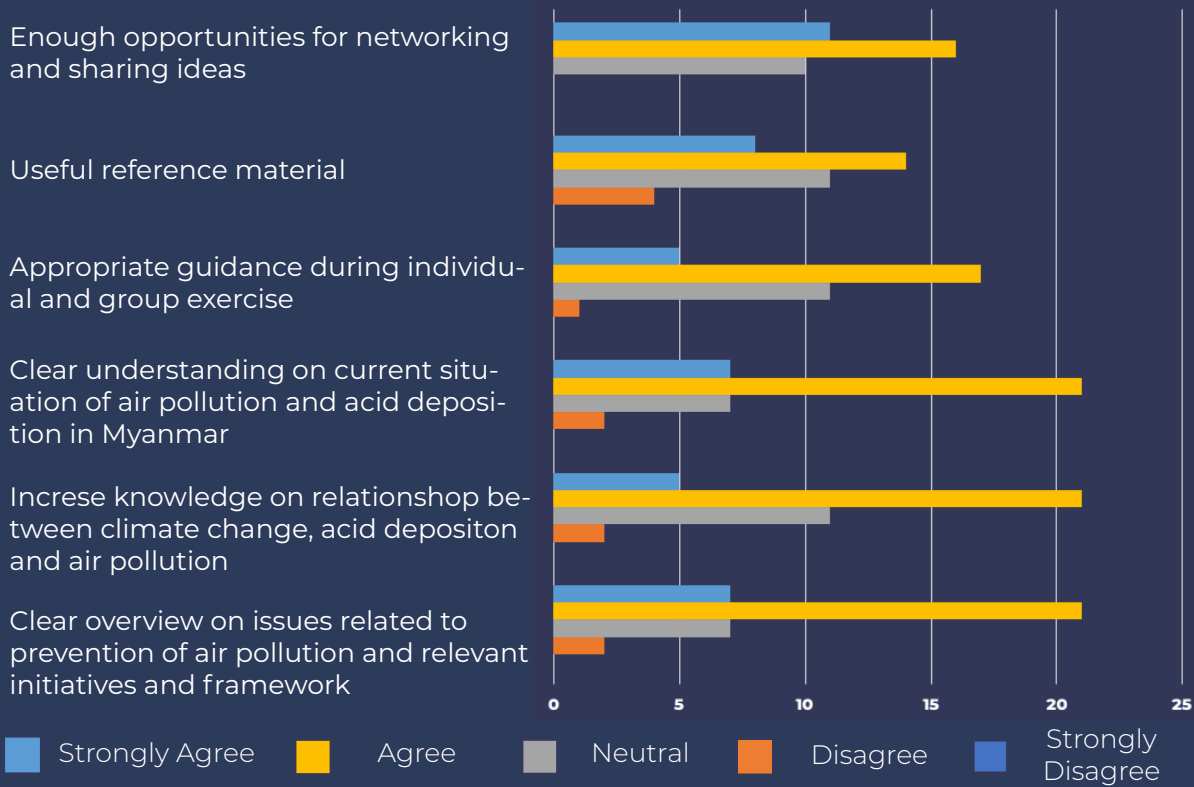
EVALUATION

Based on workshop evaluation results, in general, participants were satisfied with the workshop design and approach, particularly on the duration, time allocation, balance between presentation and discussion, and development of topics of the sessions.

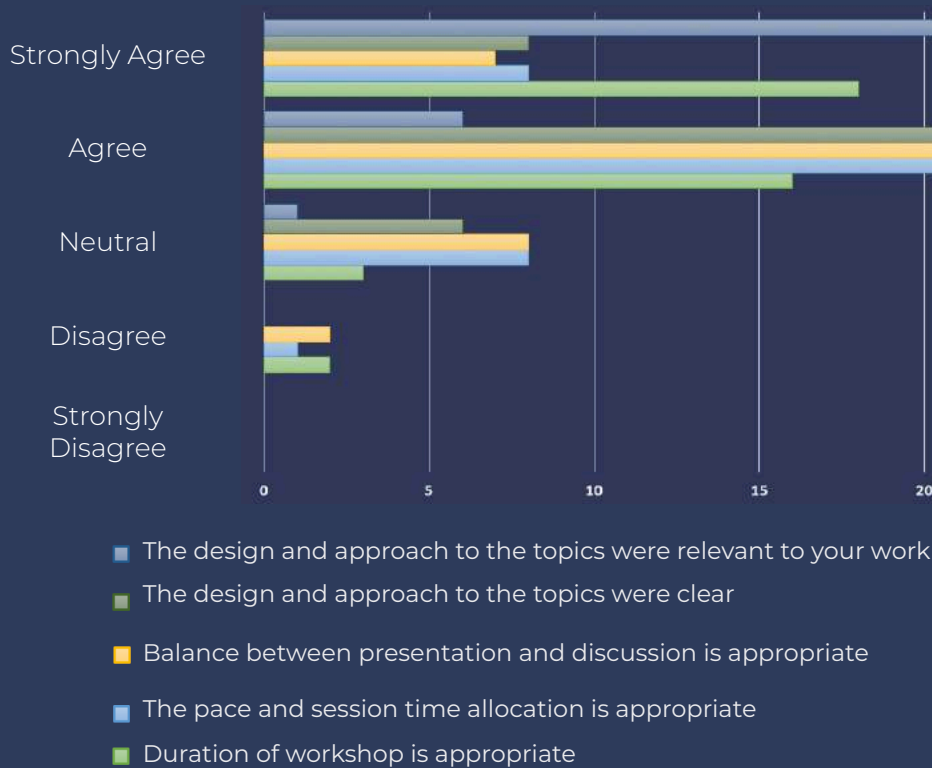
The majority of the participants also viewed that there was a clear overview of the issues related to the prevention of air pollution and relevant regional/ national/ local initiatives and framework.

A suggestion was made to include in the presentations more practical examples of air quality-related work on the ground, particularly concerning Myanmar's scope and context.

Workshop Content



Workshop Design and Approach



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