

The Sixteenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
24-26 October 2016, Pathumthani, Thailand

Progress Report on the Activities of the Task Force on Research Coordination

Chair of the Task Force/NC

I. Background

1. The Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG9) held on 19-20 November 2007 in Vientiane, Lao PDR approved the establishment of the Task Force on Research Coordination (TFRC) together with other Task Forces and Expert Groups based on the recommendation of the Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC7). The establishment of the new task forces and expert groups was to enable more effective implementation of the scientific activities of the Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010) in collaboration with the NC and the Secretariat of EANET.
2. SAC7 appointed Dr. Sergey Gromov as the Chairperson of the TFRC and the Network Center for EANET (NC), as the secretariat. SAC7 also decided that all the chairs of the other task forces and expert groups under the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) should be members of the TFRC.

II. Activities

II-1. Past meetings of the TFRC

3. The first meeting of the TFRC was held at the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC) in Niigata, Japan on 25-26 June 2008.
4. The second meeting of the TFRC was held in Tsukuba, Japan on 13 October 2009, back to back with the Ninth Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC9)
5. The third meeting of the TFRC was held in Pattaya, Thailand on 14 October 2010, back to back with the Tenth Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC10).
6. The fourth meeting of the TFRC was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 11 October 2011, back to back with the Eleventh Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC11).
7. The fifth meeting of the TFRC was held in Yangon, Myanmar on 21 November 2012, back to back with the Twelfth Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC12)

8. The sixth meeting of the TFRC was held in Xiamen, China on 24 September 2013, back to back with the Thirteenth Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC13).

II-2. The seventh meeting of the TFRC

9. The TFRC7 was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 2 September 2014, back to back with the Fourteenth Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC14). Major discussions and recommendations were;

- (1) The chair of the Task Force and the NC as the secretariat for the Task Force made the presentation on the progress of the activity of the Task Force including discussions on relevant topics at SAC13, IG15 and the 6th meeting of TFRC (TFRC6) (September 2013).
- (2) Consideration on the status of the Reviewing Committee (RC) on the Status of Air Pollution in East Asia under TFRC

The Co-chairperson of the RC made the presentation on the “Status of Reviewing Committee on the Status of Air Pollution in East Asia” including the Table of the contents, List of the Lead Authors/Authors/Contributors, List of the final External Reviewers and the finalization schedule. Task Force acknowledged the content of prepared Report. Major discussions were done on the followings:

- i. TFRC agreed to request SAC14 to endorse the Draft Report of the Review of the state of Air Pollution in East Asia.
 - ii. SAC members may provide necessary comments or recommendations for editing, if any, to the NC by 25 September 2014.
 - iii. The report should be published under the name of either EANET or TFRC, SAC, EANET.
- (3) Review of the Reports of Research Fellowship Program in 2013/2014

The NC informed that selection committee of the NC decided to invite two research fellows of 2014 (from Mongolia and Russia) to conduct their studies in ACAP from October for 8 weeks (approximately). Necessary arrangement has been already started.

The Task Force selected Dr. Gromov and Dr. Cau as the reviewers for the expected fellowship reports by Dr. Batmunkh Tsatsral from Mongolia and Ms. Alisa Trifonova-Iakovleva from Russia, respectively.

- (4) Discussion on the progress of “Ad hoc Research Planning Group (RPG)” for creating research proposals

The DDG of the NC being a leader of the group reported the progress of RPG. The task of the activity is to creating research proposals on priority research themes to apply for potential external funding sources or donor agency. The members of the RPG were briefly introduced as well as information on the 1st group meeting. There are two research theme were selected from the list of the potential research activities, and assigned leader are working on proposal development. The Task Force made following recommendations and suggestions.

- i. TF will be kept informed for further development of the initiative research.
- ii. A few suggestions were provided for addressing interests by research funds including necessity of more fundamental research contents of proposals and an importance to involve groups from Southeast Asian countries.
- iii. The NC will develop more comprehensive proposals in October to approach potential funding sources and start contact to them in November.
- iv. The Secretariat of EANET clarified its relaxing in the developing of Strategy on obtaining the external funding due to the absence of decisions on the expansion of EANET scope.

(5) Discussion on EANET Science Bulletin Vol. IV

NC explained the difficulties in the process of collecting manuscripts and materials for volume and necessity to extend the period of its preparation to three years. Some opinions in the discussion concerned questions how to make Bulletin more attractive to submit high quality scientific papers. The idea to transform Bulletin to regular international science magazine had also been discussed.

The Task Force will propose SAC to consider a possible redesign of Science Bulletin with the alternatives:

- i. To combine the Science Bulletin with EANET Newsletter with brief information on scientific outcomes more regularly;
- ii. To keep existing style of Science Bulletin as platform for research reports by Fellowship research and country studies.

(6) Replacement of TFRC members

Because of dissolution of a few Expert Groups and retirement of SAC/TFRC members, the necessity of a replacement or including new member may have to be considered.

The chairperson of TFRC will propose replacements of empty seats and addition of new members to SAC based on principles of organisation of TF including requests to other Task Force on its representation as well as senior researchers of the NC responsible for fellowships. The list will be prepared and circulated among SAC members after SAC14.

(7) Next steps and schedule

The chair proposed that the members may use any possibility to contact and make exchange for discussion, e.g. through e-mail, as well as get together before proposed next meeting in autumn 2015. It was also suggested to consider holding TFRC meeting separately from SAC meeting.

II-3. Discussion at SAC14 and IG16

10. The SAC14 was held from 2 to 4 September 2014 in Incheon, Korea. The Chair of the TFRC presented the Progress Report on the Activities of the TFRC (EANET/SAC 14/8/2).
11. Major discussions included:
 - Because the number of contributed papers is insufficient, TFRC proposed two options of next EANET Science Bulletin; (1) Combine the Science Bulletin with EANET Newsletter and (2) Maintain the same style of Science Bulletin as a platform for research reports with extension of publication to three years.
 - The NC expressed its preference to publish the next EANET Science Bulletin apart from EANET newsletter and only electronic version.
 - The chair of TFRC and the NC should discuss how to publish the next issue of EANET Science Bulletin, the result will be presented at the next Session of SAC.
 - The chair of TFRC will nominate candidates for new members due to dissolution of a few Expert Groups and retirement of TFRC/SAC members. The list will be circulated among SAC members after SAC14.
12. The Co-chairpersons of the Reviewing Committee (RC) on the Status of Air Pollution in East Asia, which was established under the TFRC, presented the Draft Report of the Review on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia (EANET/SAC 14/9).
13. Major discussions included:
 - It was mentioned that the report did not reflect the view of the SAC so that it could not be the subject of endorsement.
 - It was clarified that the review was initiated by the decision of the SAC and the SAC requested TFRC to prepare. IG and WGFD took note to use it as a reference for discussion on extension of the scope of the EANET.
 - The review is based on the scientific findings on air pollution from the peer-reviewed journal papers and it was reviewed by the international experts and international organization.
 - It was mentioned that from the above reason the review might be endorsed by the SAC.
 - It was pointed out the name of the nature of the report was different from that of the periodic reports in EANET.
 - It was suggested that a disclaimer should be included in the report.

14. The session decided the following:
 - The Report of the Review on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia should be printed under the name of “Task Force on Research Coordination of the Scientific Advisory Commitment of EANET”.
 - The SAC agreed to print the Report and deliver to other bodies of EANET.
 - The list of the authors and contributors should be included in the Report, and appropriate disclaimer will be put at the beginning.

15. The IG16 was held from 25 to 26 November 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) presented the Report on the Outcomes of the Fourteenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC14) in 2014 (EANET/IG 16/6). The Session endorsed the report.

16. Under Agenda Item 7, “Consideration on the Report of the RSAP”, the NC on behalf of the Chairperson of the TFRC presented the Report of the RSAP (EANET/IG 16/7).

17. Major points of discussion were as follows;
 - (1) It was suggested to deliver the Review to other bodies of the EANET. It was also suggested that the Review should be taken into account for the discussion on the scope expansion of the EANET.

 - (2) China emphasized the following issues related to the Review on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia (RSAP).
 - a. The expressions and some graphics and figures related to Taiwan, China in the Review are not consistent with official expressions. China hereby formally requested the revision accordingly and thoroughly.
 - b. The objective of the Review was emphasized, i.e. to provide internal reference for the discussion on the future development within the EANET.
 - c. The review should include a disclaimer, which states that the review is not representing the opinions of the EANET.
 - d. Most research data of discussions related to the air pollution status in China is based on the data before the eleventh-five year plan period (2006-2010), and do not reflect the efforts and progress on the air pollution prevention and control of China in recent years. These should be revised accordingly. The related contents in the conclusion part are under revision by China.
 - e. The working procedure of the SAC is necessary to be revised and improved appropriately. Any report using the name of EANET should be agreed by all participating countries before printing and publishing.

 - (3) The NC acknowledged the concerns of China and will make an effort to make correction accordingly where appropriate.

18. The Session took note of the Report of the Review on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia (RSAP) for consideration on the expansion of the scope of the EANET in Agenda Item 8.2.

III. Progress since the seventh meeting of the Task Force

19. Based on the discussion at the SAC14 and IG16, the contents of the Review Report on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia was revised. The Review Report on the State of Air Pollution in East Asia was printed, distributed to the related persons and uploaded in the website of EANET in February 2015.
20. Based on the discussion at the TFRC6 and SAC14, replacement of TFRC members carried out in 2016.
- Dr. Hajime Akimoto → Dr. Kazuhiko Sakamoto
 - Dr. Hiroshi Hara → Dr. Toshimasa Ohara
 - Dr. Projanie Khummongkol → Dr. Hathairatana Garivait
 - Prof. Wang Ruibin → Dr. Meng Fan (applying for the approval)
21. Based on the discussion at TFRC6 and SAC13, the NC organized the 1st meeting of “Ad hoc Research Planning Group (RPG)” on 23 may 2014 in Niigata, Japan with the aims:
- to finalize a developed research proposal “Monitoring Strategy and Network Program for Spatial Distribution and Collaborative Assessment of PM2.5 in East Asia” for applying to outside funding source (Nov.2014);
 - to identify and continue to find possible funding agencies for research project support.

IV. The eighth meeting of the Task Force

The eighth meeting of TFRC was organized on 24 October 2016 during the Sixteenth Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC16), in Pathumthani, Thailand to observe and review the progress of EANET research activity in line with tasks in its TOR. The topics of reviewing, major discussions and recommendations are summarized in the Draft Minutes of the Meeting (Annex 1) to be elaborated later.

ANNEX 1

Draft Meeting Minutes

1. Opening remarks

The Director General of the ACAP (the Network Center for EANET: the NC) welcomed the members of the Task Force on Research Coordination (TFRC) of the EANET Scientific Advisory Committee at the Asia Airport Hotel in Pathumthani, Thailand.

2. Introductory remarks by the Chair of the Task Force

The Chair briefly introduced the agenda of the meeting with the reference to main tasks of the TFRC. He also greeted the new members of TFRC. The 4 new members introduced themselves by turn.

3. Report on the progress since the seventh meeting of the Task Force

The NC as the secretariat for the Task Force made the presentation on the progress of the activity of the Task Force including discussions at SAC14, IG16 and the 7th meeting of TFRC (TFRC7) (2 September, 2014).

During the discussion on experience of “Ad hoc Research Planning Group (RPG)” been formed upon the request to prepare proposals on valuable research for applying the external funding the major suggestions were:

- (1) It was clarified that at the meeting in 2014 held in the NC the 7 themes were selected and discussed, than finally the research proposal was developed on the promotion of PM2.5 monitoring on the 5-year period for applying to outside funding source at the regional level. The NC made efforts to get funds and visited a few agencies; however, it was not successful.
- (2) It was recommended that the NC should further continue the efforts to develop a research proposal for applying to outside funding source with the involvement of participating countries, and should look also for new themes of prospective directions such as:
 - application of satellite monitoring systems and their results for the regional studies;
 - on effects of structural changes of fuel for power generation in some EANET countries on acid deposition;
 - integration assessment of input (or implementation) of new technologies on the changes of atmospheric and environmental pollution.

- (3) It was also recommended that the NC should consider the possibility to make proposals to some investment banks in region, like Asia International Investment Bank (AIIB, China).

4. Review of the Reports of Research Fellowship Program from 2014 to 2016

The NC made the presentation on the implementation of research fellowship program in 2014-2015 with the information on its results.

The NC also informed that one research fellow were decided by the selection committee of the NC from the several proposals in 2016 in accordance with their quality and correspondence to research directions, and the researcher from China will start her study on 31st October for approx. 8 weeks. In respond of Chair to identify a reviewer of study report the TFRC selected Dr. Toshimasa Ohara as the reviewer for the fellowship report of Ms. Cuihong Chen.

On the implementation of the Research Fellowship Program some issues were discussed as follows;

- (1) Likely many of the past fellowship researchers were selected with the research topics on atmospheric science. It was clarified that studies on ecological impacts mostly took longer time than the fellowship duration (two months), and their completion could be assured if researcher will prepare samples and materials, as well as some routine analysis in advance, before coming to NC;
- (2) It was suggested that the schedule on the call for proposal should be considered carefully, with the possibility to put the announcement (or information) on the fellowship program together with research topics and necessary preparation on the EANET website in advance, for example, immediately after the adoption of the annual Work Program and Budget for EANET.

5. Consideration on the EANET Science Bulletin (Vol.4)

The NC presented the brief of prepared EANET Science Bulletin (Vol.4) with the information on its content and selected breakdowns. It was clarified that this issue is on the same level of paper collection even it is still difficult to advice researchers to submit their contributions. According to implementation plan it will be published in December 2016.

6. Other issues

The Chair informed that the EMEP and WGE (Working Group of Effects) under the UN ECE Convention on Long Range transport of Air Pollution (CLRTAP) had finalized the separate reports on trends in atmospheric pollution and its effects in Europe for the period of

1990-2014. Those reports were adopted by Steering Body and WGE and could be downloaded from web sites of mentioned bodies.

Also, with the reference to the new WMO-GAW Strategy the new GAW Scientific Advisory Group on Total Atmospheric Deposition (TAD) was highlighted as the scientifically oriented driver of network coordination and cooperation world-wide. Two of EANET SAC members were the members of previous WMO SAG on precipitation Chemistry which are transformed into new group. The usefulness and possible benefit for SAC and TF RC of the participation of EANET SAC representative at this WMO-GAW scientific coordination and discussion group (SAG TAD) was mentioned by the Chair.