

The Seventh Senior Technical Managers' Meeting
of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network
in East Asia
1-3 August 2006, Yangon, Myanmar

Outcomes of the Seventh Session of Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7) and the Third Session of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD3)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) as the decision making body of EANET held its Seventh Session in Niigata, Japan on 21-22 November 2005. Prior to IG7, the First Special Session of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD-S1) was held on 20 November 2005 also in Niigata, Japan to discuss and finalize the reports to be endorsed to IG7 which include: Report on the Review of Performance of the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC); Guidelines on Administration and Financial Management for the Secretariat and NC including Procedures and Guidelines for Financial Contribution on EANET; Report on the Feasibility Study on an Appropriate Instrument to Provide Sound Basis for Financial Contribution on EANET including the Decision 1/IG7; and the Five-Year Medium Term Plan (MTP) for EANET.
2. Third Session of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD3) was held in AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand on 17-18 May 2006 to discuss the topics required and suggested by IG7 and for consideration at the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting.

II. SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR DECISIONS AT THE IG7

2.1. Guidelines on Administration and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center

3. The IG7 endorsed, in principle, the two documents 1) Guidelines on Administration and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center (EANET/IG 7/4) and Procedures and Guidelines for Contribution to EANET (EANET/IG 7/4/1) but noting that certain topics required further consideration.
4. The Session requested the WGFD to consider the following issues and report the results to the next IG session:
 - To review the RRC.AP/AIT system as well as the rules and regulations of the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) and examine the possibility to

- move to the UN system
- To further consider an appropriate mechanism to decide the amount of voluntary financial contributions from participating countries
 - To consider establishment of a trust fund for EANET
5. Based on IG7 decision, the burden sharing for the Secretariat budget should be based on the latest actual expenditures after three years, based on UN assessment scale. It was clarified that it will be practiced until the year 2007.
6. The Session noted the importance of further effort for fund-raising, especially targeting multilateral aid agencies.

2.2. Feasibility Study Report on an Appropriate Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET Activities

7. The Feasibility Study was undertaken in compliance with the decisions taken by IG. The study provides a review of financing arrangements in various international/regional programmes with specific reference to activities relating to atmospheric environment. The study looks into the mandates and provisions made in the relevant international/regional programmes and compares with those of EANET
8. During the discussion, some countries expressed their preference for a framework type instrument, to avoid duplication of efforts. Several countries stated that without a formal instrument for EANET, such as a legally-binding agreement or a government-ratified instrument, it was difficult for their governments to contribute funds to EANET. It was pointed out that scientific evidence on the adverse effect of acid deposition and its national and regional implications should not be the first step to consider the possibility of formulating an appropriate instrument. The Session acknowledged the Feasibility Study Report as presented.

2.3. Decision 1/IG.7 (Niigata Decision)

9. The Chair introduced the latest text of draft Decision 1/IG7.7 developed by the WGFD on November 20, 2005, for consideration by the Session. The Session adopted Decision 1/IG.7 (Niigata Decision), with modifications Niigata Decision is attached as Annex 1. Provisions of the decision are as follows:
- Decides that the participating countries of EANET should begin a process to discuss an appropriate instrument and its legal status to provide a sound basis for financial contribution to EANET and will report the results of the discussion to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting for its consideration, and that the “Feasibility Study Report on an Appropriate Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET

Activities” will be a reference for the process of discussion, but it will not be a necessary basis for the process of discussion;

- Decides that the above-mentioned process should be carried out on the basis of the best available scientific information from EANET on acid deposition and its impacts;
- Decides that the above-mentioned process should be initiated at the earliest and conducted through WGFD;
- Suggests that the discussion process should consider the following:
 - Elements to be included in the instrument;
 - Legal status of the instrument; and,
 - Proposed text of the instrument
- Requests the Secretariat to provide a working paper on the revised schedule of WGFD for discussion immediately after the IG7.

2.4 Report for Policy Makers (RPM)

10. Recognizing that the policy makers have an important role in rendering their leadership support for coordination among the concerned agencies, creation of awareness and promotion of national and regional initiatives to take appropriate measures for acid deposition, the development of the RPM was approved by the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting in 2004. It was first discussed at the Review Workshop for RPM in June 2005. The Secretariat presented the final draft of the “Report for Policy Makers on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia: Goals, Achievements and Way Forward” at the IG7.
11. The Report for Policy Makers was launched at the High-Level Segment later in the day.

2.5 Five-Year Medium Term Plan for EANET

12. Based on the suggestion and decision at IG5, the WGFD prepared a Medium Term Plan (MTP) for EANET to be undertaken for the coming 5 years (2006-2010). Five-Year MTP will focus on the whole activities of EANET with clearly stated targets, activities to be undertaken and expected results at the end of the mentioned period. The preparation of MTP is conducted by WGFD together with NC within a period of one year. The consideration of draft report on a Five-Year MTP for EANET was done at the Second Session of the WGFD in June 2005. The comments and guidance by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the National Focal Points (NFPs) were used and a revised document has to be submitted to IG7 in 2005 for its consideration. Major points of the discussion during IG7 were as follows:
 - The plan should provide more information about (1) cost estimates for activities listed, (2) information about possible financial sources, (3) risk analysis (i.e., what happens if

- funds do not materialize), measures to secure the necessary resources, and (4) strategies to strengthen partnerships with donor agencies.
- Budget information should be presented in terms of (1) core budget activities and (2) additional budget activities.
 - It is recommended to consider cost estimates for activities by both the Secretariat and Network Center.
 - Some clarifications were offered on views of how to deal with some aspects of institutional expansion (e.g., new centers or sub-centers).
13. The Session endorsed the general framework of the Five-Year MTP for EANET (paragraphs 1 through 7), with the suggestion that concerns raised by participants about the evaluation of activities be incorporated. The WGFD is charged to elaborate from paragraph 8 until the end of the document in order to present a revised Five-Year MTP in one year to the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) for its approval.

2.6 High Level Segment

14. Chairperson Mr. Kazuhiko Takemoto of Japan welcomed participants to this segment. Her Excellency Ms. Yuriko Koike, Minister of the Environment of Japan gave opening remarks, confirmed Japan's continued commitment to EANET, and applauded efforts to strengthen its foundations.
15. The meeting was briefed on the major outcomes of IG7 to this point, emphasizing the Niigata Decision to provide a sound basis for EANET, and the launch of the Report for Policy Makers.
16. The speakers congratulated the EANET on its achievements to date and expressed appreciation for the efforts to establish and strengthen the network so far. They described how EANET has strengthened their own nations' or organizations' efforts to address acid deposition issues. And they expressed their ongoing commitment to help the EANET develop further, as well as their hopes and expectations for the network in the future.

2.7 Review of the Progress of EANET after SAC4 and IG6

17. The Secretariat and the NC made presentations on the "Report of the Progress of EANET after the Fourth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC4) and the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG6)", which were held in November 2004 in Siem Reap, Cambodia and the "Financial Report of the Secretariat and NC in 2004".

2.8 Consideration of the Outcomes of SAC5

18. Prof. Mohammad Bin Awang made a presentation based on the “Report of the Outcomes of the Fifth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee on EANET”, held from 1 to 3 September 2005 in Niigata, Japan.

19. The Session endorsed the report.

2.9 Consideration of the Work Program and Budget in 2006 for EANET

20. The Session adopted the document in principle, with the understanding that the Secretariat will make the requested revisions to fully reflect those discussions including consideration on details of the MTP, revisions relating to base year and estimated contributions in the Annex of Table 2 of the Work Program and Budget in 2006, etc. and circulate the document to the National Focal Points as soon as possible for final endorsement.

2.10 Consideration of Report on the Review of the Performance of the Secretariat and the Network Center

21. The Secretariat and the NC presented the draft reports on the “Review of the Performance of the Secretariat and the Network Center” as well as their financial reports from 2002 to 2004. The Session was invited to make comments.

22. The Session accepted the report.

2.11 Other Issues

23. The Session decided unanimously to welcome Myanmar as a member of EANET.

2.12 Updates of other international organizations/programs on acid deposition and transboundary air pollution

24. Dr. Keith Bull of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), provided information on recent activities under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution.

25. Dr. Alexander Tkalin, representing the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP expressed interest in maintaining contact with EANET, because atmospheric deposition of nutrients and contaminants to the marine and coastal environments is of major concern for NOWPAP.

III. OUTCOME OF WGFD3

3.1 Revision of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD) including the schedule towards the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting

26. New TOR was proposed rather than revising the present TOR, since some of the tasks under the present TOR have been completed and the others being completed within this year. It was proposed to include capacity building and management issues into the new TOR.
27. It was also suggested that annually one scheduled meeting be held and additional meetings could be undertaken as appropriate after getting consensus among all National Focal Points, while some others suggested organizing more than one scheduled meeting. Without modification of the present TOR, one additional session of WGFD was convened on 30-31 August 2006. The draft TOR was attached as Annex 2. There are still issues which remained in bracket at the new TOR wherein the Second Special Session of the WGFD on 30-31 August 2006 will discuss these issues.

3.2 Components of the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET (preliminary draft)

28. As the Decision adopted by IG7 in November 2005 stated that that the participating countries of EANET should begin a process to discuss an appropriate instrument and its legal status to provide a sound basis for financial contribution to EANET and will report the results of the discussion to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting for its consideration, the Secretariat prepared a documents on the "Components of the instrument" and was discussed at the WGFD3.
29. The WGFD3 requested the Secretariat to prepare a document to provide the present provisions on each item of the possible components in the existing framework of EANET, which will include the Joint Announcement on the Implementation of EANET, the Tentative Design of EANET and other relevant IG decisions, as the starting point for further discussions.

3.3 Revised Draft Five-Year Medium Term Plan (MTP) for EANET and Relevant Budget Information for Its Implementation

30. The IG7 approved the general framework of MTP5 and requested that suggestions by participants about the evaluation of activities be incorporated. Among the major discussions during the WGFD3 include the following:
 - The opinion was expressed that more scientific researches are needed before actually preparing emission inventories and modeling because the actual implementation of these

activities require a lot of tasks and cost. It was pointed out that text of IG is to promote the studies in these areas

- It was pointed out that task 30 may not require establishment of working group. In addition, it was noted at the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7) that the word “sub-center” was inappropriate.
- While some participating countries referred to the importance to secure the financial sources for implementing MTP, it was suggested that since many activities are on-going in participating countries, their outcomes could be used to reduce the expenses.
- Medium term plans used in some UN agencies are often adopted without any specific financial sources. MTP of EANET also could be adopted for the purpose of fund raising and communication with donor agencies.
- It was pointed out that activities of the new direction are based on additional budgets and largely depend on the future efforts of NC and the Secretariat to get financial support from funding agencies, therefore they are encouraged to make further efforts.

3.4 Review of the RRC.AP/AIT system to examine the possibility for the Secretariat to move to the UN system and overview on the rules and regulations of the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) for NC, applicable to EANET

31. The Secretariat made a presentation on the draft report on review of the RRC.AP/AIT system to examine the possibility for the Secretariat to move to the UN system (EANET/WGFD 3/6/1). NC provided information and explanations on the rules and regulations of the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) for NC, applicable to EANET (EANET/WGFD 3/6/2). The Session was invited to discuss, make comments and recommendations for further consideration.
32. The Session considered that more detailed information is needed on advantages and disadvantages to move to the UN system, including the following items:
 - Summary of the previous discussions at IGs and WGFDs;
 - Improvement in transparency of the network;
 - Improvement in management of the network including issues related to administrative, financial and recruitment aspects;
 - Comparison with other international experiences especially in Europe;
 - Other possible options including mix of the two systems;

3.5 Revision of Procedures and Guidelines for Contribution to EANET to propose appropriate mechanism on voluntary financial contributions for EANET

33. The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG5) held in Pattaya, Thailand in 2003 reached consensus on the Decision on the Further Financial Arrangement for EANET. The decision stated, “Decides that the participating

countries of EANET should make effort, on a voluntary basis, to make financial contributions to NC and the Secretariat budget up to 2004. Taking into account the latest actual expenditure figures, countries will then make effort on a voluntary basis to contribute to the budget to be directly spent by the Secretariat using fully the latest UN assessment scale-based burden sharing as the first step. After three years, the performance and transparency of the Network should be reviewed to explore the possibility of strengthening and extending the burden sharing. The possibility of introducing minimum contribution amount from the participating countries should also be explored.” Please refer to Annex 2.

34. The IG7 approved the contribution of the participating countries for the Secretariat budget based on expenditures after three years ago and will be practiced until the year 2007. It also suggested considering an appropriate mechanism to decide the amount of voluntary financial contributions from participating countries. In response to the request of the IG7, the Secretariat prepared this report that discusses mechanisms for providing voluntary contributions to EANET and presented to WGFD3.

35. Major discussions during the WGFD3 are as follows:

- Effort should be continued to narrow the gaps between budgets and actual expenditures.
- Some participating countries need a legal basis to provide contribution to EANET.
- Many participating countries have difficulty with yearly fluctuation of their contributions and wished to have yearly flat amounts for their contribution for certain period (3-5 years).
- Some countries expressed that the contributions on a voluntary basis should be based on the actual expenditures in previous years in accordance with the decision 1/IG5 and its subsequent modifications while some others expressed that they shall postpone their decisions until the gaps between the budget and actual expenditures are narrowed down.
- In-kind contribution should be appreciated as well as cash contribution.
- Guidelines may be developed to provide flexibility to the participating countries to make contribution, depending on their country conditions

3.6 Draft Report on Establishment of a Trust Fund for EANET

36. As per the Framework on the Establishment of the Secretariat of Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will arrange for the establishment and management of a trust fund for EANET through the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific/Asian Institute of Technology (UNEP, RRCAP/AIT) system, as decided by the Third Session of the Intergovernmental

Meeting (IG3) in 2003, separately from other accounts and under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Meeting. The IG7 requested the WGFD of EANET to consider establishment of trust fund. Major discussions during the WGFD3 include:

- It should be made clear that there are at least three options – to use existing operational account, to establish a new trust fund in AIT, to establish a new trust fund in UNEP (Nairobi). The differences among these options as well as advantages and disadvantages of these options should be included in the report.
- Attention should also be paid to the transparency and accountability.
- The Secretariat should modify the current operational account name in the report from AIT to the UNEP RRC.AP EANET.
- Procedures to establish a new trust fund in AIT should be established, if necessary and presented to WGFD, taking into account the experiences of other trust funds in AIT.
- Information on the experiences of other networks, especially NOWPAP and EMEP, should be provided to WGFD.

Annex 1

(Annex 2 of IG7 Report of the Session)

DECISION 1/IG.7 (The Niigata Decision)

The Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), on 21-22 November 2005 in Niigata, Japan,

Recognizing that the East Asian region faces increasing risks of problems related to acid deposition,

Recognizing that the EANET has been established as an important initiative for regional cooperation, aiming to create common understanding on the state of acid deposition problems and to provide useful inputs to policy makers at various levels,

Recalling the agreements reached at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting through Decision 2 and paragraph 2 of the Joint Announcement on the Implementation of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET),

Recognizing that EANET Decision 1/ IG5 clearly states to review the possibility of developing an international agreement to provide a sound basis for financial contribution, and the importance of long-term, secured financial arrangement for the EANET activities,

Taking into account the discussions at the sessions of the Intergovernmental Meeting as well as the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) of EANET,

Considering that in some countries the negotiations on the new financial arrangement with national financial bodies require legal status and mandate,

1. Confirms that the principles that were agreed at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting should remain as the basic policy of the EANET activities;
2. Decides that the participating countries of EANET should begin a process to discuss an appropriate instrument and its legal status to provide a sound basis for financial contribution to EANET and will report the results of the discussion to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting for its consideration, and that the “Feasibility Study Report on an Appropriate Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET Activities” will be a reference for the process of discussion, but it will not be a necessary basis for the process of discussion;
3. Decides that the above-mentioned process should be carried out on the basis of the best available scientific information from EANET on acid deposition and its impacts;

4. Decides that the above-mentioned process should be initiated at the earliest and conducted through WGFD;

5. Suggests that the discussion process should consider the following:

- Elements to be included in the instrument;
- Legal status of the instrument; and,
- Proposed text of the instrument;

6. Requests the Secretariat to provide a working paper on the revised schedule of WGFD for discussion immediately after the IG7.

Annex 2

(Annex II of the WGFD3 Report of Session)

**Terms of Reference
for
the Working Group on Future Development of EANET for 2007-2008
(Draft)**

1. In line with the decision at the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG5) on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held in Pattaya, Thailand, on 27-28 November 2003, the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (hereinafter referred to as the “Working Group”) is established on an ad hoc basis.
2. **[Upon the expiration of TOR (2004-2006) adopted by IG6, WGFD is directed by IG7 to be continued].**
3. The members of the Working Group shall be nominated by the National Focal Points of the participating countries (NFPs). NFPs shall nominate two participants for each session, taking into account the topic of the session. NFPs are recommended to consult with national members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in nominating their Working Group members for scientific and technical aspects.
4. One Chairperson and two Vice-chairs will be elected for two year term of the Working Group sessions.
5. The Working Group will, under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG):
 - (i) discuss an appropriate instrument and its legal status to provide a sound basis for financial contribution for EANET and report the results of the discussion to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) for its consideration;
 - (ii) **[review the performance of the Secretariat and NC and submit the review report to IG];** and
 - (iii) carry out other tasks requested by IG **[including capacity building activities]**.
6. The tentative schedule of the Working Group sessions is based on the document EANET/WGFD3/3 and will be developed at the next WGFD session in August 2006 are set as follows:
 - [(i) **First Session: April – May 2007**
 - **Development of the text on the instrument**
 - **Drafting of the report for IG10 (index and abstracts of each chapter of the**

- report/instrument itself)
- (ii) **Second Session: June – August 2007**
 - **Preparation of the proposed text on the instrument and its legal status.**
 - **Preparation of the draft report for IG10**

 - (iii) **Third Session: October 2007**
 - **Discussion on the documents which will be submitted to IG9 from WGFD**

 - (iv) **Fourth Session: April – May 2008**
 - **Revision of the draft report for IG10**

 - (v) **Fifth Session: June- August 2008**
 - **Consideration of the final draft report for IG10**

 - (vi) **Sixth Session: October 2008**
 - **Discussion on the report which will be submitted to IG10 from WGFD]**

Depending on the requests of the IG, additional tasks may be included in the sessions specified, as appropriate.

7. The Working Group may establish sub-working group and/or hold ad-hoc meetings for specific areas considering that the items of TOR contains varied topics.