

Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
19-20 November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

REPORT OF THE SESSION

Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Eleventh Session (IG11) in Bangkok, Thailand on 19 and 20 November 2009.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the Session. Experts from the following international organizations, etc., attended the Session: ScandEnvironment of Sweden, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and United Nations Environmental Programme (Headquarters and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)). A resource person and an observer also attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached as Annex 1.

Opening of the Session (Agenda item 1)

3. The Session was opened by the Secretariat. On behalf of the Secretariat, Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, UNEP Headquarters, delivered the opening address. He pointed out that EANET is an important initiative to address acid deposition, and mentioned that new initiatives are emerging on regional air pollution issues in Asia, Africa and Latin America. He emphasized the need for air pollution and climate change networks to work together and indicated that regional air pollution networks could greatly contribute to addressing major sustainable development issues. He said recent scientific studies show that air pollutants such as black carbon have impacts on climate change, and improvements in air pollution need to be considered as part of a larger sustainable development context.
4. The Second Report for Policy Makers on EANET (RPM2) was launched through the presentation by Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan to His Excellency (H.E.) Pimuk Simaroj, Vice Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand.
5. H.E. Pimuk Simaroj delivered the Keynote Address. He emphasized that the rapid pace of economic growth and development in the Asia region has led to higher energy demand, and generation of large quantities of waste and increased emissions of air pollutants into the atmosphere. Thailand has been actively supporting EANET, and has also made various achievements in dealing with air pollution, by adopting legislation and undertaking many initiatives, including reducing emissions, increasing energy efficiency, participating in

international treaties, and so on. He expressed his hopes for the further development of EANET through this meeting.

Election of Officers (Agenda item 2)

6. The Session elected Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director General, Pollution Control Department, Thailand, as Chairperson of the Session. Mr. Julian D. Amador, Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Philippines, was elected as Vice-Chairperson, and Dr. Kim Jeong-Soo, Division Director, Air Quality Research Division, National Institute of Environmental Research, Republic of Korea, was elected as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda item 3)

7. The Session adopted the Agenda of the Session (EANET/IG 11/3/1).

Consideration of the Revised Draft Text of the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET (Agenda item 4)

8. The Secretariat presented the paper titled “Revised Draft Text of the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET (EANET/IG 11/4)”. It was mentioned that four countries (Japan, Philippines, Russia and Thailand) submitted their comments to the Secretariat before the Session. The Session was invited to discuss, provide guidance and make decisions on the document.
9. The views and comments expressed by the participants focused on five bracketed sections of the text as well as some other important issues. Main points of discussions were as follows:
 - i) The mention of target substances in the preamble should be as simple as possible, and specific definition should be provided in Item 1, “Definition.”
 - ii) There was considerable discussion about designation of the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC). The results are shown in the revised text.
 - iii) There was also considerable discussion about the timetable and modality for signature of the Instrument. The result is presented as Annex 2 of this report for information.
 - iv) The Session discussed the promotion of capacity building and public awareness activities both for the Secretariat and the NC.
 - v) Regarding the financial reports and audit reports to be provided by independent auditing agencies, it was suggested to include them in the task of the Intergovernmental Meeting in Item 10 and Item 14 “Financial Arrangement”, which is reflected in the text of the Instrument.
 - vi) It was clarified that the word “agreed” in the last paragraph of the Preamble of the Instrument does not have legally-binding implication.

10. The Session finalized the revised draft text of the Instrument without any bracket for the purpose of national procedures, which is attached as Annex 3 “Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)” (Draft).

Consideration of the Second Report on Future Development of EANET (Agenda item 5)

11. The Secretariat made presentation on the Second Report on Future Development of EANET (Draft) (EANET/IG 11/5/1). The Secretariat and the NC also presented the Draft Procedures and Guidelines for Contribution to EANET for 2011-2013 (EANET/IG 11/5/2). The Session was invited to review and provide guidance on the documents.
12. The following guidance was provided to improve the documents for further consideration and endorsement at the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12):
 - i) Working Group should extend its terms on an ad hoc basis rather than on a permanent basis.
 - ii) Membership of the Working Group should be decided, taking into account the issues to be discussed.
 - iii) Participants for administrative issues may deal with not only policy and legal matters but also regional arrangements.
 - iv) Issues on expansion of the scope may also be included in the future Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) to be decided at the IG12.
 - v) Effort should be made to reduce the proposed budget for 2011-2013.
 - vi) All budgets and expenditures should be shown in US\$ basis.
 - vii) Scale of salary on the NC may need to be based on international standard.
 - viii) Further clarification of the criteria for core and additional budgets should be provided.
 - ix) Activities should be planned within available budget, keeping in mind that contributions are on a voluntary basis.
 - x) Public awareness raising activities may have multi-layer activities.
 - xi) Timeline for assessment of acid deposition impacts might be shown in an explicit manner in the document.

Consideration of the Medium Term Plan for EANET (2011-2015) (Agenda item 6)

13. The NC presented the Draft Medium Term Plan for EANET (2011-2015) (EANET/IG 11/6). The Session was invited to review, provide comments and guidance on the document.
14. Major points of discussions were as follows:
 - i) Since Medium Term Plan is so important, participating countries were requested to give serious considerations to this document.
 - ii) Clear priority should be set on various activities proposed in the Medium Term Plan.

- iii) Some activities may need to be reviewed since they should be within the scope of the EANET mandates.
 - iv) Assessment on the impacts of acid deposition might receive high priority in the Medium Term Plan.
 - v) Since intensive contribution is needed from the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), a possibility would be explored if the next SAC session be convened before the next WGFD session to better integrate contribution from the SAC to the Medium Term Plan.
 - vi) The NC missions may receive high priority to provide advice for new candidate monitoring sites, etc.
 - vii) Clarification was provided by the NC that all models deal with acid deposition and air pollution issues in an integrated manner.
 - viii) Some additional, detailed comments were also provided to the Secretariat for consideration and further elaboration of the document.
15. The participating countries were invited to provide additional comments to the Medium Term Plan, if any, by the end of December 2009 to the Secretariat.

Consideration of the Mid-Term Report on the Implementation of the Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010) (Agenda item 7)

16. The NC made presentation on the Mid-Term Report on Implementation of the Strategy on EANET Development (Draft) (2006-2010) (EANET/IG 11/7). The Session was invited to review and endorse the document.
17. Major discussions on this topic included:
- i) Clarification was made that the NC will provide the downloadable monthly data in excel format in the EANET web site in 2010.
 - ii) It was suggested that in order to implement the planned activities smoothly the Secretariat and the NC should make effort to find external funding sources.
 - iii) Since there are some activities that implementation dates were adjusted, it was suggested to evaluate the implementation status for the next Medium Term Plan.
 - iv) A comment was made that consideration is needed to avoid future delays on activities due to staff changes and so on and to avoid overload with the consideration of resource availability.
18. The Session endorsed the report (EANET/IG 11/7), subject to the stated revisions.

Consideration of the Report on the Progress of EANET since the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2008 (Agenda item 8)

19. The Secretariat and the NC briefly made presentations on the Report on the Progress of

EANET after the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) (EANET/IG 11/8/1). The Draft Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2008 (EANET/IG 11/8/2) were included in the presentations. The Session was invited to review and endorse the documents.

20. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
- i) It was pointed out that explicit rules should be developed for reallocating the budget among the budget lines.
 - ii) Some revisions in the Draft Financial Report were requested and duly noted.
 - iii) Clarification was made regarding the procedures for starting and implementing joint research project.
21. The Session endorsed both documents, subject to revisions noted in the meeting.

Consideration of the Outcomes of the Ninth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC9) (Agenda item 9)

22. The Chairperson of the SAC9 presented the Outcomes of the Ninth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC9) (EANET/IG 11/9). The Session was invited to review the report, endorse the document adopted by the SAC9 and provide guidance for further development of the activities of the SAC. The Session was invited to consider and approve two proposals: (a) to establish an Expert Group on Preparation of the Technical Manual for Air Concentration Monitoring and (b) to dissolve the Expert Group on Preparation of the Second Periodic Report on State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD2).
23. Major views and guidance from the Session included:
- Clarification was made on the procedures for establishment of task forces and/or expert groups with approval of the IG. Performance review system for Task Forces and Expert Groups was proposed by one country.
24. The Session endorsed the report (EANET/IG 11/9), the proposal to establish an Expert Group on Preparation of the Technical Manual for Air Concentration Monitoring, and the proposal to dissolve the Expert Group on Preparation of the Second Periodic Report on State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD2) were approved.

Consideration of the Work Program and Budget of EANET in 2010 (Agenda item 10)

25. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Work Program and Budget of EANET in 2010 (EANET/IG 11/10). The Session was invited to discuss and adopt the document.
26. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
- i) The Secretariat and the NC were requested to make further effort to reduce budgets

- and improve transparency by, for instance, submitting audit reports.
- ii) Public awareness raising activities should receive priority. In this connection, need to approach multi-layer stakeholders were emphasized.
 - iii) Clarification was provided on the present status of the saving money of the Secretariat, and funding sources of the regional scientific workshops. The Secretariat was requested to prioritize the use of the activities by using the saving money.
27. The Session adopted the Work Program and Budget in 2010 with the following modifications:
- i) Modification of activities to raise awareness by emphasizing approach for multi-layer stakeholders.
 - ii) Integration of item 3.7 (participation to high level meetings) of the Table 1 into item 3.6 (IG).

Consideration of the Implementation for Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific (Agenda item 11)

28. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan of UNEP presented the outcomes of the Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental Networks on Regional Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific Region held in Pathumthani, Thailand on 09 March 2009. The Joint Meeting, participated by all the regional air pollution networks present in Asia-Pacific, agreed in principle on cooperation and coordination among the networks and requested the secretariat to conduct gap analysis and develop implementation plan. He also presented the draft implementation plan for comments and suggestions from the IG11.
29. The participating countries were invited to provide comments on the implementation plan to UNEP before the end of December 2009.

Updates on Activities of Other International Programs on Acid Deposition and Transboundary Air Pollution (Agenda item 12)

30. Dr. Catherine Masson of UNECE reported on the activities carried out under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) in 2009. She explained the work undertaken to revise the three most recent protocols of the Convention, namely on POPs, Heavy Metals & Gothenburg. The revision of the POPs Protocol was almost completed and it was likely that the revised text would be adopted by the Executive Body at its upcoming annual session in December 2009. Dr. Masson also informed of two other major activities in 2009, i.e. the revision of the overall strategic framework of the Convention and the development of several capacity-building projects to prepare countries in transition of Eastern part of Europe to ratify the above-mentioned most recent protocols of the Convention.

Other issues (Agenda item 13)

31. Japan announced the possibility of hosting the IG12 and High Level Segment.

Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Session (Agenda item 14)

32. The Report of the Session (EANET/IG 11/14) was considered and adopted.

Closing of the Session (Agenda item 15)

33. The Session expressed its deepest gratitude to the organizers of IG11. The Session also appreciated the efforts by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Rapporteur, and representatives from international organizations, etc.
34. The Chairperson closed the Session, thanking the participants, the Secretariat and the NC for the contributions.

List of Participants

Participating Countries

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Annex 2

Suggestions on the Signature of the Instrument

A. Timetable for the Signature of the Instrument

1. The final draft text of the Instrument will be circulated to the National Focal Points (NFPs) for the internal process for signature by mid-December 2009.
2. The participating countries will inform the Secretariat on their views on the modality of signature by end of February 2010.
3. The Ninth Session of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD9) will be held in March 2010.
4. The participating countries will inform the Secretariat on the approval for signature by end of June 2010.
5. The participating countries will inform the Secretariat of the designated or authorized representatives for signature by end of August 2010.

B. Possible Modalities on Signature

The Instrument is adopted officially and signature is committed by the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12).

Option 1 - Sign at the High Level Segment in conjunction with the IG12 by all participating countries of EANET;

Option 2 - Sign at the IG12 by some participating countries and others might sign before (pre-signing) or after the IG12; and

Option 3 - Sign by all participating countries after the IG12.

Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
(EANET)

(DRAFT)

The Participating Countries to this Instrument,

Recognizing that East Asia is facing the risks of problems related to acid deposition,

Recalling that Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, stated that the experience of the programs on transboundary air pollution in Europe and North America needed to be shared with other regions of the world,

Acknowledging the successful operation of the preparatory-phase activities of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), which was undertaken by ten countries in East Asia from 1998 to 2000, following the common understanding expressed at the First Intergovernmental Meeting, on 19-20 March 1998 in Yokohama, Japan,

Recognizing that EANET was established in January 2001 as an important initiative for regional cooperation, aiming at creating a common understanding on the state of acid deposition problems, at providing useful inputs to policy makers at various levels, and at contributing to cooperation on the issues related to acid deposition among the participating countries,

Acknowledging that thirteen countries in East Asia are participating in EANET and have been successfully working together to conduct acid deposition monitoring and to implement other activities for EANET, based on the Joint Announcement on Implementation of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (JA) adopted by the participating countries and Tentative Design of EANET (TD) referred to in JA,

Emphasizing that activities of the cooperative network on the acid deposition in East Asia under EANET have been developed by taking a step-wise approach by the participating countries on a voluntary basis,

Recognizing the need to promote cooperation for the monitoring acid deposition in East Asia,

Also recognizing that the Instrument should be simple, flexible, open for future development and be based on the JA, TD and other decisions of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG),

Emphasizing the importance of appropriate financial arrangement for the sound operation of the

EANET with a view to sustaining the development of the EANET, strengthening the financial mechanism of the EANET and providing a sound basis for financial contribution to the EANET and enhancing capacity building of acid deposition monitoring for all the participating countries of the EANET,

Noting the fact that the effective realization of the EANET activities since the commencement of the EANET activities have been supported by voluntary contributions of some participating countries, covering the activities of the EANET Secretariat and the core activities of the Network Center which annually consisted of about one million US dollars and expressing great appreciation to the Governments of these countries,

Noting that the participating countries of the EANET will be guided, in the implementation of this Instrument, by the principles that the use of financial contribution should produce effective outcomes, that the related executive bodies should take necessary measures to improve efficiency of contribution,

Determined to renew their willingness to continue the activities of EANET as set out in the TD,

Have agreed as follows:

Item 1

Definition

“Acid deposition” in this Instrument means deposition of major acidifying species and related chemical substances.

Item 2

Objectives and Scope

1. The objectives and scope of this Instrument are:
 - a) to create a common understanding of the state of acid deposition problems in East Asia;
 - b) to provide useful inputs for decision-making at local, national and regional levels aimed at preventing or reducing adverse impacts on the environment caused by acid deposition; and
 - c) to contribute to cooperation on the issues related to acid deposition among the Participating Countries.
2. The scope of this Instrument may be extended, as decided by the IG.

Item 3

Principles

1. The Participating Countries will, in the spirit of solidarity and partnership and in accordance with their respective needs, capabilities and situations, strengthen cooperation to monitor acid

deposition.

2. The Participating Countries will be encouraged to take appropriate measures to monitor acid deposition to minimize its adverse impacts, taking into account the precautionary principle.
3. The Participating Countries will promote active participation, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation for effective implementation of the activities under this Instrument.

Item 4

Monitoring and Reporting

1. The Participating Countries will implement and strengthen their monitoring activities in line with this Instrument.
2. Each Participating Country will designate a national center, which is responsible for implementing the monitoring activities provided for in this Instrument.
3. Each Participating Country will develop and implement its national monitoring plan. Monitoring of acid deposition will be implemented in accordance with the monitoring guidelines, technical manuals and other technical documents adopted by the IG.
4. Each Participating Country will report the monitoring data and other relevant information to the Network Center (NC), in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the IG.
5. In order to obtain high quality monitoring data, the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) programs adopted by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), will be implemented by the NC in full collaboration among the Participating Countries for monitoring activities under this Instrument.
6. The monitoring data and other information submitted by the Participating Countries will be compiled, stored and analyzed by the NC.
7. The data and other information compiled through the EANET activities will be provided to individuals, organizations and non-member countries, in accordance with the procedures adopted by the IG.

Item 5

Assessment

1. The monitoring data and other information submitted by the Participating Countries will be analyzed, evaluated and assessed.
2. Periodic assessment reports on the state of acid deposition in East Asia will be prepared based on the data reports, disseminated and made available to the public.

Item 6

Research Activities

1. The Participating Countries will promote studies on scientific issues related to acid deposition.
2. Research activities should be mutually reinforcing and supportive with existing regional, sub-regional and national initiatives in East Asia. Collaboration should be promoted with other

international monitoring networks and programs.

Item 7

Education and Training

The Participating Countries, in collaboration with the NC and the Secretariat, will promote and cooperate in developing and implementing education/training programs to implement this Instrument.

Item 8

Public Awareness

The Participating Countries will promote and cooperate in:

- 1) development and implementation of public awareness programs on acid deposition; and
- 2) improvement of public access to information on acid deposition and its effects.

Item 9

Exchange of Information

The Participating Countries will promote and cooperate in the exchange of information related to acid deposition including scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and legal information as well as information on administrative measures,

Item 10

Intergovernmental Meeting

1. The IG, composed of the representatives of all Participating Countries, is the decision-making body of the EANET. The tasks of the IG include, among others, the following:
 - a) review and approval of the work program and budget of the EANET;
 - b) review of implementation of the work program;
 - c) review and approval of periodic assessment reports on the state of acid deposition in East Asia;
 - d) establishment of subsidiary bodies as necessary and appropriate;
 - e) review and approval of scientific, technical, administrative and financial matters including financial reports for the management of the EANET and the scope of administrative and operation costs of the Secretariat and the NC for their respective EANET activities;
 - f) provision of necessary instructions and guidance to the Secretariat and the NC based on the audit reports provided by independent auditing agencies;
 - g) adoption of the rules of procedures for the IG and subsidiary bodies, including the SAC;
 - h) provision of necessary instructions and guidance to the subsidiary bodies, the Secretariat and the NC on their activities; and

- i) decision on other matters related to the management of the EANET and implementation of the work program.
2. The IG will meet annually, unless otherwise decided.

Item 11
Secretariat

1. The Secretariat, for the effective management of the EANET and to facilitate cooperation among the Participating Countries in a transparent manner, will carry out the following tasks under the guidance of the IG:
 - a) necessary administrative arrangements for the meetings of the IG, the SAC, and other subsidiary bodies;
 - b) necessary administrative and financial arrangements for managing the EANET;
 - c) communication and cooperation in administrative and policy aspects as the focal point of the EANET;
 - d) promotion of capacity building and public awareness in cooperation with the NC; and
 - e) other necessary tasks as requested by the IG.
2. The entity currently serving as the Secretariat for EANET is designated as the Secretariat, unless otherwise decided by the IG.

Item 12
Scientific Advisory Committee

1. The SAC, composed of scientific and technical experts from the Participating Countries, will advise and assist the IG with various scientific and technical matters related to EANET activities as mandated to it by the IG. These matters will include the following:
 - a) scientific and technical aspects for EANET;
 - b) development and revision of the monitoring guidelines and technical manuals;
 - c) matters related to the selection of monitoring sites, QA/QC programs, data reporting procedures and formats;
 - d) matters related to collection, evaluation, assessment and analysis of monitoring data;
 - e) preparation of periodic assessment reports on the state of acid deposition in East Asia, based on, but not limited to the data compiled by the NC;
 - f) matters related to studies on acid deposition; and
 - g) other scientific matters as requested by the IG.
2. If the Committee considers necessary for fulfilling its objectives, experts from countries other than the Participating Countries may be invited to assist the Committee.

Item 13

Network Center

1. The NC, to handle scientific and technical matters of the EANET activities and to facilitate cooperation among the Participating Countries in a transparent manner, will carry out the following tasks under the guidance of the IG:
 - a) central compilation, evaluation, storage and analysis of monitoring data and related information;
 - b) preparation of data reports on acid deposition in East Asia;
 - c) dissemination of monitoring data and other relevant information;
 - d) provision of technical assistance to the Participating Countries in implementing the EANET activities;
 - e) implementation and coordination of QA/QC activities;
 - f) development and implementation of education/training programs for those engaged in the EANET activities;
 - g) implementation of research activities on acid deposition;
 - h) provision of scientific and technical support for the IG, the SAC and other subsidiary bodies;
 - i) promotion of capacity building and public awareness in cooperation with the Secretariat; and
 - j) other tasks as requested by the IG.
2. The entity currently serving as the NC for EANET is designated as the NC, unless otherwise decided by the IG.
3. Other entities could be designated as Network Centers for EANET by the decision of the IG, as the need arises.

Item 14

Financial Arrangement

1. The administrative and operational cost of the national monitoring activities within each country will be borne by each country as contribution to EANET.
2. The administrative and operational costs of the Secretariat and the NC for their respective EANET activities will be financed by voluntary contributions from the Participating Countries.
3. Participating Countries are encouraged to make voluntary financial contributions, taking into account their economic and financial circumstances, in accordance with the respective national laws and regulations and within the limit of their respective budgetary appropriations. The Participating Countries may provide additional financial and in-kind contributions on a voluntary basis.
4. The Participating Countries are invited to draw attention to estimated financial amount in order to implement the activities under this Instrument, and burden sharing practices in the United Nations systems.
5. Procedures and guidelines for the transfer of financial contributions will be developed and

adopted by the IG. The financial contributions and the interest from financial contributions will be administered by the Secretariat under the guidance of the IG.

6. EANET will be open to financial and in-kind contributions from other sources including international and regional organizations and NGOs, subject to the approval of the IG for the implementation of EANET activities.
7. The annual financial reports, and annual audit reports prepared by independent audit agencies will be submitted to the IG by the Secretariat and the NC for their respective EANET activities.

Item 15

Revisions or Modifications

1. Any revisions, modifications to any part of this Instrument may be proposed in writing by any Participating Country to be considered and adopted by the IG in consensus.
2. Subject to the official written consent by all Participating Countries, the revision or modification adopted by the IG will form part of this Instrument.

Item 16

End of Participation

A Participating Country may cease its participation in the EANET at any time by giving official written notice of such intention to the Secretariat.

Item 17

Participation of Other Countries

Countries in East Asia, which includes Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, not participating in the EANET, may subsequently submit to the Secretariat an application for participation, which is subject to approval by the IG.

In accordance with the laws and regulations of the respective Participating Countries, this Instrument is signed by the designated or authorized representatives hereunder:

Signature

Title

Government Organization

Country

Date