

The First Session
of the Scientific Advisory Committee
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network
in East Asia
14-16 November 2001, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Proposal on the Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for EANET

The Second Intergovernmental Meeting for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), held in October 2000 in Niigata, Japan issued "Joint Announcement on the Implementation of EANET (EANET/IG 2/5/2rev.)" and "Tentative Design of EANET (EANET/IG 2/5/3)". Sub-paragraph 5 of the paragraph 3 of the Tentative Design indicates "the data and other information compiled through the network activities may be provided to individuals, organizations and non-member countries, in accordance with specified procedures."

The attached document is prepared by the Interim Secretariat (IS) and the Network Center (NC) as a draft of the specified procedures on data and information disclosure, for consideration and possible adoption at the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting. This draft describes the necessary procedures for the Network Center and relevant organizations/persons to disclose and disseminate the data and information that are obtained through the EANET activities.

IS sent this document to the National Focal Points and heads of National Centers of respective participating countries for their comments. So far, IS received no comments.

IS presented the proposal at SAC1, asking comments and recommendation of SAC to the Intergovernmental Meeting (the recommendation of SAC is attached as Annex of this document). The revised draft was prepared by IS and NC, taking into account the recommendation of SAC. IS will present the revised draft at the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting for its consideration and possible adoption with modifications as appropriate.

Attachment

**Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure
for
the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)
(Revised Draft)**

(Objective)

1. The Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) (hereinafter referred to as the “Procedures”) aims at specifying the necessary procedures for disclosing data and information that are obtained through the EANET activities.

(Adoption/amendment)

2. The Intergovernmental Meeting on EANET (IG), in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), will adopts/amends the Procedures.

(Application of the Procedures)

3. The Procedures are applied to the Network Center (NC) and others who obtained data and information through the EANET activities.

(Principles for data and information disclosure)

4. All the data and information that are obtained through the EANET activities should be disclosed after verification and confirmation/endorsement by SAC, unless otherwise decided by IG.

5. Each participating country is able to disclose its data and information by its own decision.

6. A participating country of EANET is entitled to receive all the data and information that are reported to NC from other participating countries through the EANET activities.

(Data and/or information that should not be disclosed)

7. If a participating country does not wish to disclose specific data and/or information that are reported to NC through the EANET activities, the National Center

of the country should request NC not to disclose the specified data and/or information. Such request should be made in a written document [with specific reasons why they should not be disclosed].

[8. In this case, NC should inform IG of the request and ask IG for its decision whether the specified data and/or information be disclosed or not.]

[9. IG should then decide whether the specified data and/or information be disclosed or not, in consultation with SAC, and inform its decision to NC, all the participating countries and other relevant bodies as appropriate.]

(Data and information disclosure by NC)

10. NC, in accordance with the Procedures, will disclose the data and information that are obtained through the EANET activities.

11. NC can refuse disclosure of data and information under the following categories:

- Data and information that are in a process of data verification and before confirmation/endorsement by SAC;
- Data and information that were requested not to disclose through the procedure defined in paragraph 7 above; and
- [Data and information that a participating country requested not to disclose in accordance with the Procedures, and the decision on the request has not been made by IG.]

12. NC should provide any data and/or information that are obtained through the EANET activities other than those described in paragraph 10 to participating countries upon the requests by [National Focal Points/National Centers] in a written document. In this case, NC should inform this to the [National Focal Points/National Centers] in the relevant countries

(Restriction of data and information disclosure by others)

13. Restriction described in paragraph 11 applies to those who obtained data and information through the EANET activities.

Annex

**Recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee at its First Session
on
the Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for EANET
(EANET/SAC 1/6/2)**

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered at its First Session the "Proposal on the Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for EANET (EANET/SAC 1/6/2)" from scientific and technical viewpoints, and recommends that the following issues should be taken into account when the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) considers the Procedures at its Third Session.

1. Most participants in SAC at its First Session consider that, from scientific and technical viewpoints, data and information obtained through EANET activities (data and information) should, in principle, be disclosed.
2. However, some participants consider that there may be some other factors to make participating countries cautious about disclosing data. They feel that such issues should be discussed by IG rather than SAC.
3. Some participants emphasize that ownership of the data should be respected and that data should not be disclosed when the relevant countries do not wish it to be disclosed. In this connection, they suggest that paragraphs 7 through 9 of the Draft Procedures should be carefully examined by IG.
4. It was pointed out that the data obtained through EANET activities are quite valuable in promoting understanding of acid deposition phenomena in the East Asia region.
5. Sharing of data and information among the participating countries and disclosure of data and information to the public should be clearly distinguished. In this connection, paragraphs 6, 10 and 11 need to be further elaborated.
6. A procedure for data verification should be developed and considered by SAC apart from these Draft Procedures.
7. Some participants suggest that some processed data, such as annual data reports, may be disclosed as a first step toward wider disclosure.