

The Eleventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee  
on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia  
12-14 October 2011, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

## **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 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 Secretariat of EANET.
2. SAC7 appointed Dr. Sergey Gromov as the Chairperson of the Task Force on Research Coordination 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 Task Force on Research Coordination.

### **II. Activities**

#### **II-1. First meeting of the Task Force**

3. The NC, as the secretariat, consulted the chair of the Task Force on other experts to be invited as members made arrangements for the first meeting in 2008.
4. The first meeting of the Task Force on Research Coordination was held at the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC) in Japan on 25-26 June 2008.

#### **II-2. Major decisions at the first meeting of the Task Force**

5. The major decisions of the meeting are summarized as follows:
  - The importance for the reports of the joint research activities to be peer reviewed was emphasized, and it was agreed that the NC will in future send the reports to the experts/members of the Task Force prior to the task force meeting for their comments from the scientific aspects. The Meeting suggested that future joint research projects

should be designed with more care and should involve both internal and external experts who could closely supervise the implementation of the project and interpretation of the results.

- The Meeting decided that the list of candidate research themes for fellowship studies for 2008-2010 should be simplified with broader topics. The Meeting agreed on the revised Candidate Research Themes for Fellowship Studies in the Network Center for EANET (2008-2010). The Meeting also agreed that it would review the reports of the research fellows from 2008 since the researchers as well as their supervisors of the previous projects are no longer working in the NC.
- The Meeting suggested that the Bulletin on Science and Technology of EANET should be named EANET Science Bulletin and made other useful comments on the arrangement of the contents.
- The Meeting discussed potential funding sources for EANET research projects and suggested that researchers explore all means available, such as applying for funds from their own organizations and other research grants sponsored by various government ministries, and plan projects with regional scope thus increasing the chances of securing funds from the regional and international donor agencies.
- The Meeting agreed that the list renamed *Potential Future Research Activities (for reference)* should be submitted to SAC for information. This list would be a useful reference for discussions with potential donor agencies, applications for research grants, etc.
- The Meeting agreed to recommend to SAC the implementation of 3 high priority research projects using EANET budget in 2009 as follows:
  - i) Analysis of existing data for improving the understanding of the status of acidification in East Asia
  - ii) Studies on the suitability of various low-cost methodologies, such as passive samplers, for monitoring air concentration
  - iii) Aerosol deposition study in forests for improvement of estimation methods for dry deposition flux
- The Meeting agreed that the following experts shall be the leaders of the priority projects mentioned above and they, in collaboration with the NC, will develop the project briefs for circulation to all the Task Force members: Project i): Dr. Hiromasa Ueda, Project ii): Prof. Wang Ruibin, Project iii): Dr. Pojanie Khummongkol.
- The NC was requested to submit an estimated budget for implementation of the 3 projects to the relevant bodies of EANET for their consideration and approval. The NC will also develop a set of procedures to monitor the progress of implementation of these projects for the consideration of the Task Force and SAC.
- The second meeting of the Task Force will be held in July 2009.

### **II-3. Follow-up actions from the first meeting**

6. NC prepared the minutes of the first meeting of the Task Force and circulated it among the participants of the meeting for their confirmation. As requested by the Task Force the NC

coordinated the preparation of the concept papers of the high priority research projects by the designated project leaders. The NC also prepared a set of draft Guidelines for Selection and Implementation of High Priority Research Project funded by EANET (Annex 1) as requested by the Task Force. The concept papers and set of guidelines were circulated among the members of the Task Force in early September 2008 for their comments.

7. The concept papers and draft Guidelines were revised based on the comments and suggestions from the members. The Task Force agreed to submit the documents to the Eighth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC8) for further review and endorsement.

### **III. Discussion at SAC8**

8. The SAC8 was held from 15 through 17 October 2008 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The NC presented the Draft Procedures for Establishing Task Forces and Expert Groups under SAC. The Session was informed on the necessity to develop a new set of guidelines for establishment and working procedures of the task forces and expert groups under SAC for consideration and approval of the IG.
9. The Session agreed to the revised draft Procedures for Establishing Task Forces and Expert Groups under SAC including the respective Terms of Reference (TOR) and memberships (as of October 2008). The Session agreed that the procedures as well as the revised TOR will be submitted to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) to be held in November 2008 for endorsement.
10. SAC agreed to the three high priority research projects recommended to IG for funding using EANET budget:
  - i) Analysis of existing data for improving the understanding of the status of acidification in East Asia
  - ii) Studies on the suitability of various low-cost methodologies, such as passive samplers, for monitoring air concentration
  - iii) Aerosol deposition study in forests for improvement of estimation methods for dry deposition flux
11. The concept papers of these projects with the estimated cost have been prepared by the respective project leaders. Detailed implementation plans for each project would be prepared upon approval of the budget by the IG. SAC agreed that the duration of the research projects could be extended beyond a year depending on the objectives.
12. SAC adopted the set of guidelines for selection and implementation of high priority research projects and took note of the list of potential future research activities (for reference) prepared by the task force.

**IV. Discussion at IG10**

13. The IG10 was held from 20 to 21 November 2008 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Session approved the “Procedures for Establishing Task Forces and Expert Groups Under the Scientific Advisory Committee of EANET (DRAFT)” (Annex 2 of EANET/IG 10/7), and the “Terms of Reference of the Task Forces and Expert Groups (revised)” (Annex 4 of EANET/IG 10/14 Report of the Session).
14. The Session endorsed the three high-priority research projects proposed by SAC (Annex 1 of EANET/IG 10/7).

**V-1. Second meeting of the Task Force**

15. The NC, as the secretariat, consulted the chair of the Task Force on other experts to be invited as members made arrangements for the second meeting in 2009.
16. The second meeting of the Task Force on Research Coordination was held in Tsukuba, Japan on 13 October 2009, back to back with the Ninth Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC9).

**V-2. Major decisions at the second meeting of the Task Force**

17. The major decisions of the meeting are summarized as follows:
  - The minimum level of dissemination of the results obtained through the use of Research Fellowship Program has to be a scientific report ready for publication in EANET Science Bulletin. The preparation and submission of scientific paper for international journals was recommended and highly welcomed.
  - It was pointed out that current duration of the period of research in ADORC (of 2 months) seemed too short to conduct and complete researches with preparation of the report or paper of suitable quality, however, the Guidelines for the Fellowship in NC (EANET/IG 7/4, Annex 6) provides NC the flexibility on study duration and number of fellows within allocated budget.
  - The TF requested NC that the level of scientific proposals and candidate qualification should be clarified and explained in the annual invitation letter and rules of application as well as, if possible, the limits of duration of the study in NC.
  - It was decided that a few scientists should review the reports of the Research Fellow in 2008 after the revision under the supervising by NC researchers before publication: Dr. Khodzher and Dr. Jesada would review the report of Ms. Yani Summarriani, and Prof. Hara and Dr. Chang would review the report of Ms. Soontree Khuntong. Some recommendations for draft improving were done during the consideration.

- TF indicated the achievements of the on-going projects and their usefulness for the PRSAD2.
- For the implementation of the project of risk assessment, the GIS spatial data on few kinds of seedlings and harvesting of crops are necessary to assess the harmful effects (yield loss), though it was mentioned that it might be difficult to obtain the precise data in East Asia.
- It was explained that ADORC was involved into new extensive program as the collaborator with the understanding that the inter-linkage of science and policy has to be developed to provide the scientific and useful information to make environment related activity effective/efficient to policy by science.
- It was explained that the external fund for the research activities on the risk assessment in East Asia was obtained in this year with the condition to start research in this year. So, due to continuation of the studies for the several years it was proposed to include them into the list of research activities of the NC from the next year.
- It was pointed out that the priority of the projects should be considered carefully taking into account of the human resources as well as budgetary resources in the NC.
- The meaning of co-benefit was clarified as the relationship of approach between climate change and air pollution problems.
- The chair recalled that the list of the future research areas of EANET was created at the 1st meeting of TFRC and submitted to SAC8 already. Due to absence of any comments from SAC and IG, the TF proposed to refer to this list during the selection of the possible future researches (both jointly and in-kind).
- It was noted the necessity to involve TFRC member into the preparation of next bi-annual EANET Science Bulletin.
- The importance for the reports of the joint research activities to be peer reviewed was emphasized, and it was agreed that the NC will in future send the reports to the experts/members of the Task Force prior to the task force meeting for their comments from the scientific aspects. The Meeting suggested that future joint research projects should be designed with more care and should involve both internal and external experts who could closely supervise the implementation of the project and interpretation of the results.

### **V-3. Follow-up actions from the second meeting**

18. NC prepared the minutes of the second meeting of the Task Force and circulated it among the participants of the meeting for their confirmation. As requested by the Task Force the NC coordinated the revision of the reports of the Research Fellow in 2008 by the comments of a few scientists. The revised papers will be issued in the second Science Bulletin of EANET.

**VI. Discussion at SAC9**

19. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Ninth Session (SAC9) from 14 to 16 October 2009 in Tsukuba, Japan. The Chairperson of the Task Force on Research Coordination presented a Progress Report on the Activities of the Task Force on Research Coordination (EANET/SAC 9/8/6).
20. It was informed that the researchers involved in the high priority research project “Analysis of existing data for improving the understanding the status of acidification in East Asia” that was presented in the RSW2009 are Prof. Hiroshi Hara, Dr. Kazuhide Matsuda, Dr. Wilfredo Carandang and Dr. Apolonio Ocampo.

**VII. Discussion at IG11**

21. The IG11 was held from 19 to 20 November 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Chairperson of the SAC9 presented the Outcomes of the Ninth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC9) (EANET/IG 11/9), and the Session endorsed the report.

**VIII-1. Third meeting of the Task Force**

22. The NC, as the secretariat, consulted the chair of the Task Force on other experts to be invited as members made arrangements for the third meeting in 2010.
23. The third meeting of the Task Force on Research Coordination was held in Pattaya, Thailand on 14 October 2010, back to back with the Tenth Session of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC10).

**VIII-2. Major decisions at the third meeting of the Task Force**

24. The major decisions of the meeting are summarized as follows:
  - Following the proposal of the chair of TFRC, the reviewers for the fellowship report for 2009 and 2010 were selected: Prof. Cho and Dr. Ohizumi would review the report of Dr. Rattapon Onchang in 2009, Dr. Phillip and Dr. Ohizumi will review the report of Ms. Sopittaporn Sillapapiromsuk in 2010, and Dr. Gromov and Dr. Akimoto will review the report of Mr. Pham Van Sy in 2010.
  - It was pointed out that in order to improve the efficiency and support of EANET research, the co-benefit approach between climate change and air pollution should be utilized. One of the possibilities could be studies on short-live greenhouse substances like Black Carbon, Methane and Ozone as a part of EANET research activity.

- It was also pointed out that Socio-economics aspects should be more focused in the scope of EANET research activity. Cooperation with initiatives within Asia-Pacific region such as Male Declaration and Joint Forum of Atmospheric Environment was proposed as more important than exchange of result with initiatives in other regions.
- In order to help countries of EANET to organize cooperation projects, the guideline should be developed. It was mentioned that possibilities to effectively realize participating counties willingness to support research activities by national resources under the formal framework of research cooperation. It was pointed out, however, the mechanisms of research fund raising may be different country by country. The chair requested the contributions from members to develop the mentioned guideline.
- Dr. Akimoto suggested to discuss the possibility on special EANET session during Acid Rain 2010 to present EANET activities more widely.
- The secretariat of EANET informed that innovative and closely-related projects could be submitted to Global Environment Facilities. The relevant template may be distributed by the secretariat of EANET for the preparation of project proposals.
- It was decided to extend the list of potential future research projects of EANET should include co-benefit approach studies and socio-economic aspect of regional air pollution. The chair asked to give input if any research activities to be added to the list.
- It was recommended to evaluate the applicability of the list based on the implemented activities since the start of Task Force to be presented at the next meeting. It was commented that Promotion of Emission Inventory could be a good start to use this list.

### **VIII-3. Follow-up actions from the third meeting**

25. NC prepared the minutes of the third meeting of the Task Force and circulated it among the participants of the meeting for their confirmation. As requested by the Task Force the NC coordinated the revision of the reports of the Research Fellow in 2009 by the comments of a few scientists. The revised paper was issued in the second Science Bulletin of EANET.

### **IX. Discussion at SAC10**

26. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Tenth Session (SAC10) from 13 to 15 October 2010 in Pattaya, Thailand. The Chairperson of the Task Force on Research Coordination presented a Progress Report on the Activities of the Task Force on Research Coordination (EANET/SAC 10/8/7).

### **X. Discussion at IG12**

27. The IG12 was held from 23 to 24 November 2010 in Niigata, Japan. The Chairperson of the SAC10 presented the Outcomes of the Tenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC10) (EANET/IG 12/8), and the Session endorsed the report.

**XI. Fourth meeting of the Task Force**

28. The fourth meeting of the Task Force on Research Coordination was held at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 11 October, 2011, before the session of SAC11.
29. The major discussion of the meeting are summarized in Annex. It will be finalized in detail later.

**ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA  
(EANET)**

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE  
TASK FORCE ON RESEARCH COORDINATION  
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) OF EANET**

**Victory Hotel, Room D  
Ho Chi Minh City, 11 October 2011**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**16:00-16:05**

1. Opening remarks

Dr. Akimoto

**16:05-16:15**

2. Introductory remarks by the Chair

Chair

**16:15-16:45**

3. Report of progress since the third meeting of the Task Force  
including SAC10 and IG12 decisions relevant to the Task Force

Chair and NC

**16:45-17:15**

4. Review of the Reports of Research Fellowship in 2010

NC

**17:15-17:55**

5. Review of the current research projects of NC

NC

**17:55-18:35**

6. Discussion on the future research areas of EANET

Chair and NC

**18:35-18:45**

7. Proposal to establish the Expert Group on Review of Present  
Status of Air Pollution in East Asia under TFRC

NC

**18:45-19:00**

8. Summary of discussion, next steps and schedule

Chair

**19:00**

Close

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Opening remarks

The Director General of the ACAP welcomed the members of the Task Force on Research Coordination of the EANET Scientific Advisory Committee at the Victory Hotel, Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam. He emphasized the importance of scientific activities in EANET. To enhance it, scientists from countries were invited to conduct some scientific research activities such as modelling and inventory study. He also mentioned the EANET high priority research projects will finish this year.

### 2. Introductory remarks by the chair

The chair reminded the TOR of Task Force and briefly introduced the agenda of the meeting.

### 3. Report on the progress since the third meeting of the Task Force

The chair of the Task Force made the presentation on the progress of the activity of the Task Force including discussions at SAC10, IG12 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of TFRC (TFRC3) (14 October, 2010).

The chair mentioned the discussion at TFRC3 that the list of potential future research projects should be extended to include co-benefit approach studies and socio-economic aspect of regional air pollution, and evaluate the applicability of the list.

### 4. Review of the Reports of Research Fellowship Program in 2010

The NC made the presentation on the brief history of research fellowship program in 2010.

During the appeared discussion on the nature of research fellowship in NC it was clarified and agreed that this fellowship program was designed for a full-scientific research activity, not for training purposes though the program is effective to enhance the capacity building for young researchers. In relation to the comment of a reviewer for the report of research fellow that the quality of report was poor and should be revised intensively, it becomes evident that in order to make a good report NC takes a systematic help and uses approach to extend the study after the finish of fellowship duration. It was also suggested that considering the budget limitation and making the stay at the NC effectively, the research fellows should start their research projects a few months before they come to the NC, and continue their research after they come back to their countries. From other side, to get higher skilled and motivated fellow the list of proposed topics could be more narrow and be informed far beforehand. The special preselecting procedures and period could be

established in near future. The chair of TFRC and the NC were requested to revise the procedures and themes of the program for the research fellowship based on the discussion of TFRC4 in-line with following approaches: to consider the nomination of one (or two, as maximum) topic for the year with following rotation; to develop procedures of early announcement, pre-selection of willingness, consideration of research plan for the period before and staying in NC, selection criteria for the final decision, etc. Requested documents will be circulated among members, and results have to be reported to the next TFRC.

The NC also informed that two research fellows of 2011 had already decided by selection committee of NC, and they will start their research activities from the end of October. For the process of report review, the chair proposed to select two reviewers. The reviewers for the fellowship reports for 2011 were selected: Dr. Tamara Khodzher and Dr. Pojanie Khummongkol would review the report of Dr. CHU Baolin, Dr. Ocampo (member of TF for Soil and Vegetation) and Dr. Jesada Luangjame would review the report of Dr. Susilawati KASIM.

Review process should be started immediately after the completion of the draft report by the research fellows.

5. Review of the current research projects of NC

The NC presented the review of the current research projects of NC. Current status of 2 high priority research (HPR) projects will be presented during SAC11 by project leader and the NC. Dr. Akimoto introduced the research project on transboundary air pollution regarding co-benefit approach between climate change and air pollution by, and also explained that the cost-benefit/effectiveness analysis would be implemented by using GAINS model of IIASA and AIM model of NIES.

6. Discussion on the future research areas of EANET

The NC made a presentation on the future research areas of EANET with its revised list of research area. It was recognised that presented document provides the good overview of activities with reference to completed studies, on-going research and those identified in MTP (2011-2015). However, due to general goal of the document to provide information on necessary (important) investigations for those who want to contribute to EANET research it was decided that the research themes under the category “done” should not be deleted from the list because completed studies cannot covered whole recognized research areas.

Because the high priority research projects will finish in this year, the discussion was done how to identify new necessary research studies of high priority among the future research areas to be carried out in EANET. In order to utilize the expertise and capacity of other EANET sub-bodies and participating countries, TFRC requested other Task Forces

(on Dry Deposition Monitoring, on Soil and Vegetation Monitoring, on Monitoring Instrumentation) to identify one of research topic per each TF to be discussed as future HPR project. This proposal should be clear formulated with the similar format and budget estimation as previous HPR project proposals (like papers submitted to TFRC 2 in 2009) and, as desirable, to provide a possibility to mobilize the budget from interested EANET countries.

TFRC requested the Secretariat for EANET to prepare document on possibility and measures to establish an EANET research fund to be discussed in the next WGFD. This paper could include the possible ways how to mobilize funding from potential funding sources and agencies, countries for research activities along with implementation of “Instrument for the Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)” and other possibilities under UNEP. It was also discussed and decided to request the Secretariat for EANET to consider establishing a small expert group for creating research proposals for donor agencies such as ADB, GEF, etc.

7. Proposal to establish the Expert Group on Review of Present Status of Air Pollution in East Asia

The NC made a presentation on “Review of Current Status of Air Pollution in East Asia” including draft proposal on establishment of a new Expert Group (EG) on Review of Present Status of Air Pollution in East Asia under the TFRC with the reasons to continue reviewing a status of regional air pollution in East Asia and to meet a request from WGFD about scientific discussion on extension of EANET scope.

During the discussion on purpose, procedure of establishing and TOR of proposed EG, TFRC agreed that in contrast with TF the expert group (as well as other working group) has some specific subjects and limited tasks with termination of its work when subjects and tasks are completed. In this connection the name of the proposed EG is not appropriate if review should be done periodically. A possibility was suggested that the drafting committee for PRSAD can take this role on reviewing, but some problems could be raised related the interval of PRSAD (5 years) preparation, and the extension of targeted research results as well as procedures for DC.

While the report of WGFD10 held in 2011 mentioned the necessity of reviewing the present status of air pollution in East Asia with the purpose to propose an extension of EANET scope, and it was also suggested at WGFD10 that the expansion issue should be discussed at the Twelfth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC12) and subsequently by the possibility of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD), TFRC recognized it was still unclear that what SAC can do for the report to next IG13 or further. The procedures for establishing such group, its TOR and timetable should respond to

entrusted tasks. At this moment it was concluded that TFRC had no clear opinion about this proposal, and ask SAC to discuss and resolve this issue.

8. Next steps and schedule

The chair proposed that the members may use any possibility to get together for discussion, e.g. through e-mail, before proposed next meeting in autumn 2012.

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