

The First Session of the Working Group
on Future Development of EANET
19-20 August 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

Work Plan of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET
(Draft)

Background

1. The Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG2) was held in October 2000 in Niigata, Japan. The major decisions included: the successful evaluation of the Preparatory Phase; decided to start the regular phase activities of the EANET from January 2001 based on the Joint Announcement as well as the Tentative Design for EANET; and designated the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the Secretariat and the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC) in Niigata, Japan as the Network Center (NC).
2. The Third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG3), held in November 2001 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, decided the modality of the Secretariat by using the UNEP RRC.AP/AIT options. It also decided that these options should be revised in the future.
3. The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG5), held in November 2003, in Pattaya, Thailand, decided to establish a Working Group on Future Development of EANET (hereinafter referred to as "WGFD"). Taking into account the views and comments expressed at IG5, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of the WGFD as well as the draft work plan for approval by the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG6) in 2004.
4. Major discussion on the establishment of the WGFD included, among others, the following:
 - (i) TOR should include review of the performance of the Secretariat and the NC;
 - (ii) TOR should have timetable of the WGFD activities;
 - (iii) WGFD should be able to consider a possibility of establishing sub-groups since the items on the TOR are broad and composed of varied topics;
 - (iv) institutional link between the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the WGFD should be worked out and so on. Not only the draft TOR but also the work plan of the WGFD should be discussed and worked out at the First Session of the WGFD.

Work Plan

5. During IG5, the participants agreed that the WGFD shall prepare a work plan to be considered and approved at IG6. The proposal for the work plan is described hereunder:

- Task 1: review the performance of the Secretariat and NC and submit the review report to the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG);
- Task 2: review the financial reports of the Secretariat and NC since the start of the regular phase and recommend appropriate sizes of the budgets of EANET, based on the review results;
- Task 3: carry out tasks in line with the decision on further financial arrangement as adopted at IG5;
- Task 4: develop a 4-5 year medium term plan for EANET; and
- Task 5: consider the feasibility of a regional agreement on acid deposition through an analytical work on existing ones such as the ASEAN haze agreement.

Task 1: Review the performance of the Secretariat and NC and submit the review report to IG

Review Report

6. The WGFD has a mandate to draft the report on the review of performance of the Secretariat and NC based on its TOR. It is necessary that the following points are included in the review report:

- Activities done by the Secretariat and NC since the start of regular phase in 2001 which correspond to the request of the IG as well as their budget and expenditures; and
- Timetable of the review.

7. The WGFD shall start to prepare the preliminary review report from the First Session of the WGFD through interim report for IG6 in 2004. In 2005, the draft final report will be prepared by the WGFD to be submitted and considered at the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7).

Task 2: Review the financial reports of the Secretariat and NC since the start of the regular phase and recommend appropriate sizes of the budgets of EANET, based on the review results

a. Financial Report

8. Since 2002, the Secretariat has been managing the financial matters of EANET including the contract with the donor agency. Since the preparatory phase, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan has kindly funded the operation and activities of EANET throughout the regular phase. The financial statement, including both revenue, expenditure and their balance shall be reviewed so as to evaluate the necessary budget both for the Secretariat and NC.

9. The justification of reviewing the performance of the Network is the statement on paragraph 3 of the Decision 1/IG5 on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET. Taking into account the latest actual expenditure figures, the participating countries of EANET will then make an 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 from 2005.

10. The Secretariat and NC will prepare the interim financial review report on their respective activities, specifically indicating the revenue and expenditure for 2002 and 2003. This will be distributed to the participating countries for review and comments before the First Session of the WGFD in 2004, together with a proposal for appropriate sizes of their budgets, especially the budget for the Secretariat. Taking into account the views and comments at the First Session of the WGFD, the revised interim financial review report will be submitted to IG6 for its consideration and guidance.

11. Following the guidance by IG6 in 2004, the Secretariat and NC will prepare a draft final financial review report for consideration and comments by the Second Session of the WGFD in 2005, and submit the final report to IG7 in 2005 for its consideration and necessary actions.

b. Work Program for the next calendar year

12. Another item to be included in the review is the preparation of the work program and budget for the next calendar year. The draft work program should be submitted for consideration at the WGFD and IG. The information on budget and human resources would be detailed for each work item if the participating countries may wish so. The procedure on how to revise the draft work program for the next year should be worked out.

Task 3: Carry out tasks in line with the decision on further financial arrangement as adopted at IG5

13. Recognizing the importance of a long-term secured financial arrangement for EANET, the participating countries adopted a decision, "Decision 1/IG5" on Further Financial arrangement for EANET at IG5 in 2003.

14. As stated in the decision, 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. In addition, adequacy of UNEP RRC.AP/AIT system may also be examined after several years of experience.

15. In 2005, preliminary consideration will be taken with the description in the performance review report. In 2006, the WGFD shall prepare a separate report on further financial arrangement for EANET including a recommendation to be submitted to the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) in 2006 for its consideration.

Task 4: Develop a 4-5 year medium term plan for EANET

16. The activities that were undertaken on EANET are:

- (i) Acid deposition monitoring;
- (ii) Compilation, evaluation, storage and provision of data;
- (iii) Promotion of quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) activities;
- (iv) Implementation of technical support and capacity building;
- (v) Promotion of research activities related to acid deposition problems;
- (vi) Promotion of public awareness activities;
- (vii) Other relevant activities.

17. Based on the suggestion and decision at IG5, the WGFD shall prepare a medium term plan for EANET to be undertaken in the coming 4-5 years. The medium term plan will focus on the whole activities of EANET with clearly stated targets, activities undertaken, and expected results at the end of the mentioned period. This preparation will be conducted for a period of two years by the WGFD together with SAC and NC. Proposed activities and timetable are:

- consideration on the interim report on the medium term plan at the Second Session of the WGFD in 2005;
- consideration on the final report at the Third Session of the WGFD in 2006 to be submitted to IG8 in 2006 for its consideration.

18. The targets of the medium term plan may include:

- to define the measures for improvement of acid deposition monitoring within limited financial resources;
- to increase transparency of EANET development;
- to enhance cooperative efforts among participating countries and with outside organizations; and
- to strengthen policy relevance of EANET activities.

The major activities in the proposed medium term plan may include:

- (i) strengthen the monitoring capabilities and capacity building programs of participating countries including improved QA/QC activities for acid deposition monitoring;
- (ii) assessment of acid deposition in the East Asia region and relevant research activities;
- (iii) development of research on acid deposition and its effects;

- (iv) promotion of emission inventories and modeling in collaboration with existing initiatives;
- (v) communication and cooperation with other relevant organizations and programs,
- (vi) raising awareness;
- (vii) consider the possible regional agreement on the long-range transboundary air pollution in East Asia, etc.

19. The WGFD will request the comments of the members of SAC regarding the report on medium term plan for EANET from scientific and technical viewpoints.

Task 5: Consider the feasibility of a regional agreement on acid deposition through an analytical work on existing ones such as the ASEAN haze agreement

20. In IG5, some countries emphasized difficulties to adopt burden sharing in the absence of any legal bases. In order to address such issue, the feasibility of a regional agreement on acid deposition should be taken into consideration.

21. The proposed activities to achieve this task include:

- review of relevant existing agreements, for example, Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), ASEAN Haze Agreement and others;
- consideration on policy relevance of a possible regional agreement;
- consideration on the scope and objectives of a possible regional agreement; and
- consideration on possible options with components of such agreements.

An interim report of the feasibility study will be prepared and discussed at the Second Session of the WGFD in 2005 in order to be submitted to the IG7.