

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

Report on the Performance of the Secretariat Activities in 2003

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is the report prepared by the Secretariat of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) to explain the Secretariat activities in 2003 to the First Session of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD1). This is in accordance with the request from the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG5) held in Pattaya, Thailand, in November 2003. The Secretariat activities in 2003 have been carried out based on the "Work Program and Budget in 2003 for EANET, adopted at the Fourth Session of IG (IG4) held in Pathumthani, Thailand in November 2002.

II. INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECT

2. In March and December 2003, the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) of Japan and the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) signed an agreement regarding Japanese contribution in 2003 for the EANET activities; including both the Secretariat and the Network Center budget. Similarly, the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) and the UNEP RRC.AP finalized Agreements for the transfer of budget for the implementation of the Network Center core activities and additional budget activities in 2003.

3. Based on the China's announcement at the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG4) on its annual voluntary contribution in the amount of US\$ 15,000 starting from 2002, the Secretariat sent a letter to China expressing its sincere gratitude to China's announcement and informing the Government of China on the EANET account for transmission of its contribution to EANET activities. The Secretariat requested China for the transfer of the total amount of US \$30,000, as total for 2002 and 2003 to the UNEP dollar account via electronic transfer.

4. The Secretariat communicated with National Focal Points (NFPs) regarding the institutional aspects of EANET in the participating countries specifically for updating the lists of the National Focal Points (NFPs), Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members, QA/QC Managers, National Centers, members of Task Force on Dry Deposition Monitoring, Task Force on Soil and Vegetation Monitoring, and Network on Soil and Vegetation Specialists. As of November 2003, the Secretariat received new nominations and changes from some participating countries such as: Cambodia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Philippines.

5. As agreed upon during IG4, the Secretariat sent an official letter to NFPs to invite comments on the document EANET/IG 4/6 "Preliminary Report on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET" by the participating countries. This preliminary report was to be discussed at the Second Session of the Working Group on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (WG2).

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING/ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

III-1. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING AND THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6. In March and May 2003, the Secretariat communicated with NFPs to ask for any country that would be interested in hosting the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG5) and the Third Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC3). None of the participating countries posed interest in hosting said two meetings. However, some countries mentioned their interest to host other future meetings of EANET.

7. IG5 and SAC3 were held in Pattaya, Thailand, on 27-28 November 2003 and 24-26 November 2003, respectively. The Secretariat made the necessary arrangement for SAC3 and IG5. Such arrangement includes: preparation of meeting documents, sending invitation letters, reporting, logistic services, preparation for conference facilities and so on.

III-2. WORKING GROUP ON FURTHER FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

8. The Secretariat arranged for WG2 which was held on 11-12 August 2003 in AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand. The meeting mainly discussed the contents of Report on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET. It was clarified that WG2 would try to arrive at the most acceptable options for further consideration by the participating countries and does not make final decision in the absence of some participating countries (Republic of Korea and Russia). During WG2, representatives of the participating countries made presentation on their national expenses on monitoring activities as well as current arrangement of their countries to provide contribution to EANET.

9. Likewise, the Secretariat made the necessary arrangement for the Third Session of the Working Group on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET which was held in AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand on 9-10 October 2003. WG3 elaborated the draft Report on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET for consideration and endorsement at IG5 in 2003.

IV. PARTICIPATION IN EANET MEETINGS AND OTHER RELATED MEETINGS

10. The Secretariat participated in EANET related workshops and meetings in 2003 as follows: 1) Third and Fourth Workshop on Public Awareness in Niigata, Japan, from 20-21 February 2003 and 19-20 December 2003, respectively; 2) Fourth Senior Technical Manager's Meeting on 1-3 October 2003 in Niigata, Japan; and 3) Better Air Quality in Asia Workshop 2003 from 17-19 December 2003 in Manila, Philippines. The Secretariat made a poster presentation at BAQ2003.

V. COMMUNICATION WITH PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, NETWORK CENTER AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES

11. The Secretariat maintained close communication with the participating countries in all of the related activities of EANET. Funding for EANET was being sought and communication is still on-going for a possible regional technical assistance from international funding donors such as the Asian Development Bank.