

The Fourth Session of the Working Group
on Future Development of EANET
4-6 June 2007, Pathumthani, Thailand

Brief Report on the Capacity Building Course on Future Development of EANET for Officials and Experts of the Participating Countries of EANET

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Capacity Building Course on Future Development of EANET for Officials and Experts in the Participating Countries of EANET was held in Pathumthani, Thailand on 28 May - 01 June 2007. It was organized by the Secretariat for Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) in cooperation with the Network Center (NC) for EANET.
2. The objective of the course was to enhance capacity of officials and experts to contribute to the process of discussion/negotiation by providing them with the relevant necessary knowledge on acid deposition and other transboundary air pollution issues, practical negotiating skills, and information on some international institutional arrangements.
3. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam participated in the Capacity Building Course. Representatives from NC and Secretariat also attended the Course. The Resource Persons were experts from Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan, KLIMA Climate Change Centre of the Philippines, former Head of the Secretariat of UNECE/CLRTAP, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), Pollution Control Department, Thailand, and Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan and the Secretariat and NC of EANET. The List of Participants and Resource Persons is attached as Annex I.
4. The course was opened by Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, Acting Coordinator of the EANET Secretariat.
5. The course was facilitated by the Secretariat.

II. SUMMARY OF THE COURSE

Science of Acid Deposition and other Air Pollution Problems

6. Ms. Leong Chow Peng from NC made a presentation on science of acid deposition and other transboundary air pollution problems, mechanism and major impacts. Her lecture provided basic knowledge on acid deposition and relevant transboundary air pollution issues,

including atmospheric science (atmospheric chemistry, types of air pollutants and their interrelations, emission, transportation and deposition processes of pollutants, monitoring and modeling of acid deposition), impacts of acid deposition and relevant air pollutants (impacts on soil, vegetation, aquatic environments, human health etc. and their mutual effects).

Effects of Acid Deposition and Ozone on Plants

7. Dr. Takeshi Izuta from the Tokyo University Agriculture and Technology presented the effects of acid deposition and ozone on plants including direct effects of acid rain on trees, effects of soil acidification on trees, effects of excessive nitrogen on trees and effects of ozone on crops and trees.

History and Present Status of EANET Activities

8. Ms. Adelaida Roman from the Secretariat briefed on the historical progress and status quo of the EANET activities. She presented a brief overview on discussions at EANET bodies and activities that have been carried out in EANET and other frameworks, on substantive issues, administrative decisions including financial and other arrangements.

Major Outcomes of the Report on the Feasibility Study on an Appropriate Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET

9. Mr. Yoshiyuki Yoichi from NC summarized the major outcomes of the Feasibility Study Report on an Appropriate Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Financial Contribution to EANET Activities. He introduced the various types of Instruments and the components in an Instrument.

Case Study on Kyoto Protocol

10. Atty. Angela Consuelo S. Ibay, Program Manager of KLIMA Climate Change Center, Philippines presented the history of the Kyoto Protocol, what and who are involved (Parties, Targets and Mechanisms) in the Kyoto Protocol, and the prospects for the future of the Protocol.

Case study on Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)

11. Mr. Lars Nordberg the former head of the Secretariat of CLRTAP, UNECE and advisor to the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) delivered a lecture on the negotiated policies of the CLRTAP that included the political background, forum, concern for acidification, Framework agreement, Protocols envisaged later. He highlighted the importance of emission inventories and atmospheric modeling for policy and the cost-benefits. In his conclusion he mentioned that hemispheric concerns for air pollution

will prompt many programmes and networks in North America, Europe and Asia to further increase their collaboration on scientific and, ultimately, policy-relevant matters.

Case Study on Montreal Protocol

12. Mr. Atul Bagai, the Regional Network Coordinator, UNEP ROAP Compliance Action Programme introduced the need to protect the ozone layer, the international response, and overall institutional framework of the Montreal Protocol (Parties, Multilateral Fund, National Ozone Unit). He mentioned the key elements of implementation which include project implementation, institutional strengthening, regulations and compliance.

Case Study of the ASEAN Transboundary Haze Agreement

13. Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director General, Pollution Control Department Thailand described the transboundary haze pollution in Southeast Asia in particular the smoke haze episode in 1997 and the development of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. He further described the open burning controls implemented in Thailand.

Case Study on Malé Declaration

14. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, Senior Program Officer of UNEP ROAP provided information on the concept (issue, needs, approach), policy dialogue and the implementation (Phase I, Phase II and Phase III) of the Malé Declaration.

Country Presentations

15. Participants from member countries of EANET made presentations on their major expectations from the Instrument and constraints they may face relating to the negotiating process and possible ways of overcoming the constraints. Some of the participants expressed that the instrument should be simple, flexible and open for future development of EANET.

Cambodia

The participant from Cambodia expressed the lack of law, regulation and national decrees, poor institutional arrangements and cooperation among involved ministries, lack of expertise, experience, facilities, monitoring stations and need of capacity building particularly for policy makers. Funding source is insufficient.

China

The participant from China informed that the Instrument should comply with the initial goal of establishing the Instrument and the actual situation of participating countries should be considered, specifically the needs of developing countries. Capacity building is very important for developing countries. The participant mentioned that the scope of the instrument should be in line with the Joint Announcement and Tentative Design.

Indonesia

The participant from Indonesia mentioned that Indonesia is supporting the EANET Instrument establishment. They hoped that the instrument could encourage the commitment and strengthen the negotiation procedure of the policy maker in relation with the contribution proposal. It was also mentioned that the lack of awareness of the policy makers and the government policy should be addressed.

Japan

The participant from Japan, referring to increasing risk of regional air pollution, indicated that an international Agreement could facilitate the countries to make financial contribution, diversify the financial resources to include international organizations and contribute to the capacity building in East Asia.

Lao PDR

The participant from Lao PDR informed that in view of insufficiency of equipment for monitoring air pollution including acid deposition in Lao PDR, technical assistance including capacity building for technical staff is necessary and cooperation and exchange of information among participating countries and international organizations on air pollution management are important.

Malaysia

The participant from Malaysia mentioned the need for more capacity building when considering an Agreement. Time is required to coordinate further with all the national stakeholders and it is important to obtain strong political support.

Mongolia

The participant from Mongolia highlighted the need for capacity building, difficulty to attract policy makers and constraints of limited financial resources for monitoring activities and country contribution.

Myanmar

The participant from Myanmar described the present status of acid monitoring activities at the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology in Myanmar. The pollution control activities in Myanmar were highlighted.

Philippines

The participant from Philippines expressed their support to the EANET objectives and the Instrument. Regulations implemented in the Philippines to control emissions of air pollution were described.

Russia

The participant from Russia mentioned that although some equipment have been purchased for monitoring of acid deposition, additional domestic funds are necessary to maintain the high quality analyses and support the operation of the station at Primorskaya and open new EANET sites. That would only be possible if Russia signs a legally binding Instrument.

Thailand

The participant from Thailand reported on major common interest expected in the instrument such as research activities, education and training, public awareness and exchange of information. Monitoring and reporting as well as international cooperation are also important.

Viet Nam

The participant from Viet Nam informed that EANET activities should not be limited to only monitoring but should be oriented towards control and management. The budget should be contributed by members as well as from other sources such as NGOs, business sectors and international organizations.

International Negotiations: Basic knowledge required for negotiations

16. Prof. Norichika Kanie from the Tokyo Institute of Technology Japan provided basic information and knowledge generally required for international negotiations. Strategies and process management towards agreement in international negotiations and the multiple actors involved in environmental negotiations are mentioned in his lecture. He also introduced the basic principles and checklist on principled negotiation.

Legal Aspects of International Negotiations

17. Mr. Manjit Iqbal, Legal Consultant to UNEP ROAP informed the course on the importance of pre-negotiation preparations and the general negotiation techniques for an international Agreement. The principal provisions of an Agreement and the binding nature of Agreements are explained.

Exercise on International Negotiations

18. A role-playing exercise on negotiations was held among the participants, based on internationally-developed materials on negotiations. This exercise provided the participants with principled negotiation skills that can be applied to international negotiations.

References and Discussions

19. All presentations were submitted and circulated to the participants in the form of power point presentation, papers and documents as listed in the proceedings.
20. Each presentation was followed by discussions. The participants actively participated in the discussion, exchanged views and experiences during the Session and the exercise on international negotiation.

Field visit

21. On the last day of the course, the participants visited the Bio-Solar House in Thailand by the Chulalongkorn University.

Wrap-up of the course

22. In the wrap-up of the course participants provided their feedback regarding the arrangements and contents of the course:
 - i) The participants informed that the course is very useful and very interesting and expressed their gratitude to the Secretariat and NC for organizing this course and for the resource persons for their great contributions.
 - ii) The participants expressed that this is the first training course in EANET, so there is a need to have more short-training courses, twice a year depending on the availability of funds and to be back to back with other meetings.
 - iii) Duration of the training courses could be minimized.
 - iv) Presentation materials are suggested to be made available among the resource persons before the training to avoid possible duplication.
 - v) In order to ensure the continuity and to train more officials, a module-approach was proposed.

- vi) The participants suggested that the venue of the future courses can be in other EANET participating countries, upon request.
 - vii) It is suggested that the number of participants to be invited from each country be more than two.
23. The course was closed by Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP.

Annex 1

List of Participants

Participating Countries

Cambodia

Mr. Ken Choviran
Deputy Director
Department of Pollution Control
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Thiv Sophearith
Chief of Air Quality, Noise and Vibration
Management Office
Department of Pollution Control
Ministry of Environment

China

Ms. Gu Li
Program Officer
Regional Environmental Cooperation Division
International Cooperation Department
State Environmental Protection Administration
(SEPA)

Mr. Zhou Jun
Engineer, Institute for International
Environmental Policies
Policy Research Center for Environment and
Economy
State Environmental Protection Administration
(SEPA)

Indonesia

Dr. Ignasius Dwi Atmana Sutapa
Senior Researcher
Inland Water Productivity Department
Research Center for Limnology
Indonesian Institute of Sciences

Ms. Kusmulyani
Officer-in-charge for Acid Deposition
Assistant Deputy for Climate Change Impact
Control
Ministry of Environment

Ms. Astutie Widyarissantie
Staff
Assistant Deputy for Climate Change Impact
Control
Ministry of Environment

Japan

Mr. Toshikazu Hashimoto
Official
Global Environmental Issues Division
Global Environmental Bureau
Ministry of the Environment

Lao PDR

Ms. Sisouphanh Luangrath
Director of Environment Quality Monitoring
Center
Environment Research Institute
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Ms. Darounny Vilaythong
Technical Officer
Environment Quality Monitoring Center
Environment Research Institute
Science Technology and Environment Agency

Malaysia

Ms. Siti Mariam Sumari
EANET Committee Member (Malaysia) /
Lecturer
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Mongolia

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Ms. Bulgan Tumendemberel
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Myanmar

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Ministry of Transport

Ms. Nyein Nyein Naing
Staff Officer
Meteorological Division
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Ministry of Transport

Philippines

Engr. Cesar S. Siador, Jr.
Chief, Air Quality Management
Environmental Quality Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources

Russia

Ms. Marina Mishchuk
Chemist
Laboratory of Monitoring of Atmosphere and Soil
Pollution
Environmental Monitoring Center of
Primorsky Krai

Thailand

Dr. Kessinee Unapumruk
Environmental Officer
Ambient Air Quality Division
Air Quality and Noise Management Bureau
Pollution Control Department

Mr. Pichaid Atipakya
Environmental Officer
Ambient Air Quality Division
Air Quality and Noise Management Bureau
Pollution Control Department

Vietnam

Dr. Duong Hong Son
Director, Center for Environmental Research
Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Resource Persons

Dr. Takeshi Izuta
Associate Professor
Institute of Symbiotic Science and Technology
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology
Japan

Prof. Norichika Kanie
Associate Professor
Graduate School of Decision Science and
Technology
Tokyo Institute of Technology
Japan

Attorney Angela Consuelo S. Ibay
Program Manager
KLIMA Climate Change Center
Philippines

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana
Director General
Pollution Control Department (PCD)
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Mr. Atul Bagai
Regional Coordinator (Networking), South Asia
Network
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Mr. Lars Olof Nordberg
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ScandEnvironment
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Secretariat

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