

The Ninth Session of the Working Group
on Future Development of EANET
7-8 April 2010, Pathumthani, Thailand

REPORT OF THE SESSION

I. Introduction

1. The Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Ninth Session in Pathumthani, Thailand on 7-8 April 2010.
2. Representatives of China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in the Session. The representatives of the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) for EANET, as well as experts from the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP), and Kanazawa University attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached as Annex 1.

II. Opening of the Session (Agenda Item 1)

3. The Session was opened by the Secretariat. Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Interim Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) delivered the Opening Remarks. He acknowledged the significant progress made on the finalization of the Instrument at the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG11). He mentioned that UNEP RRC.AP is considering in the future being the Regional Center of Excellence on Atmospheric Issues in Asia and the Pacific which will possibly comprise four scope of activities, namely: science, policy, knowledge, and capacity building. He also mentioned about the successful outcome of the Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council held in Bali, Indonesia including the historic Joint Meeting of the three chemical related conventions. He emphasized about the linkage of the climate change and air pollution. He mentioned the Meeting of the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific held in March 2010 and the Joint Plan including the workplan (2010-2012) as the major outcome of this Meeting.

III. Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 2)

4. The Session adopted the Agenda (EANET/WGFD 9/2/1) as proposed by the Secretariat.

IV. Consideration on the National Procedures of the Participating Countries and Modalities of the Signature for the Instrument of EANET (Agenda Item 3)

5. The Secretariat made presentation on the National Procedures of the Participating Countries and Modalities of the Signature for the Instrument titled “Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) (Draft)”, together with the comments received by the Secretariat from the participating countries (EANET/WGFD 9/3). The Session was invited to make comments and guidance on the possible modalities of the signature of the Instrument, for consideration and decision.
6. Major points of discussions were:
 - i) The participating countries were encouraged to exert efforts to follow the suggested timetable for the Signature of the Instrument by the IG11, referring to the specific deadline on the approval for signature of the Instrument by end of June 2010 and to inform the Secretariat of the designated or authorized representative for signature by end of August 2010.
 - ii) The Session was informed on the current status of the national procedures for approval of the Instrument as well as their preferred options on the modality of the signature of the Instrument, attached as Annex 2 of this Report.
 - iii) A view was expressed that option 1 will have a strong impact on the international community and the signing ceremony is considered to be a symbolic event to highlight the auspicious occasion on the Tenth Year Anniversary of EANET.
 - iv) Clarification was made that the level of signers will be decided by each participating country, based on national procedure.
 - v) The Session was reminded that the IG11 finalized the revised draft text of the Instrument without any bracket for the purpose of national procedures.
 - vi) It was pointed out that the Instrument does not have a clause on the specific time to be operational. The Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) may decide the timing when the Instrument will be in operation.
7. Considering the results of national approval procedures, possible options for the modalities of the signature of the Instrument were considered by the Session. It was agreed to merge options 2 and 3 to read as “Sign at the IG12 by as many participating countries as possible and others would sign afterwards with submission of a formal Note of Confirmation to the Secretariat prior to the IG12”. The Note may include the information on the timing of the signature of the Instrument.

V. Consideration on the Draft Report on the Review of Performance of the Secretariat and the Network Center (2008-2009) (Agenda Item 4)

8. The Secretariat and the NC made presentations on the Draft Report on the Review of Performance of the Secretariat and the Network Center (2008-2009) (EANET/WGFD 9/4/1 and EANET/WGFD 9/4/2). The Session was invited to discuss, make comments and further guidance, as appropriate, for endorsement at the IG12.
9. Major views and comments expressed by the participants were:
 - i) One country informed that it recently made voluntary financial contribution to the budget of Secretariat and the NC for the year 2009.
 - ii) It was suggested to the Secretariat to manage the work program based on available resources as well as to seek funding support from other international organizations such as Asian Development Bank (ADB).
 - iii) The Session requested the Secretariat and the NC to make revisions according to the stated comments during the Session for submission to the IG12.

VI. Consideration on the Draft Medium Term Plan for EANET (2011-2015) (Agenda Item 5)

10. The NC presented the Draft Medium Term Plan for EANET (2011-2015) (EANET/WGFD 9/5). The Session was invited to discuss, provide comments and guidance on the document, for possible adoption at the IG12 after consultation with the Tenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC10).
11. Major points of the discussions were as follows:
 - i) Clarification was provided on the data verification processes by the NC.
 - ii) It was pointed out that the Medium Term Plan for EANET (MTP) should be in line with the finalized Instrument, especially in the objectives and scope parts.
 - iii) A suggestion was made for the NC to make a survey on the existing emission inventories of air pollutants of participating countries and to provide some guidance and materials for capacity building for emission inventories.
 - iv) It was clarified that transparency of data could be promoted, e.g. through EANET website and publications such as Data Reports.
 - v) Clarification was made on the enhancement of data analysis and assessment.
 - vi) It was requested that some issues should be discussed by the SAC10 such as:
 - Last sentence of the first paragraph of the Introduction (page 3) concerning the aim “to contribute and mitigate regional air pollution problems for sustainable future”.
 - At 2.2 Objectives, second bullet, “Extended assessment of the state of acid deposition including other relevant air pollutants in East Asia, [decided by IG]”.
 - On activity No. 17 of Annex 1, the targets and expected outputs are too ambitious and may need modification.

VII. Consideration on the Draft Second Report on Future Development of EANET and the Draft Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET for 2011-2013 (Agenda Item 6)

12. The Secretariat and the NC made presentations on the Second Report on Future Development of EANET (Draft) (EANET/WGFD 9/6/1) and the Draft Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET for 2011-2013 (EANET/WGFD 9/6/2). The Session was invited to discuss, provide comments and guidance on both documents, for consideration and adoption at the IG12.
13. Some modifications were suggested on paragraphs 27 and 28 of the Second Report on Future Development of EANET (Draft) and the draft Terms of Reference (TOR). The revised TOR of the WGFD is attached as Annex 3 of this Report.

VIII. Arrangements for the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) (Agenda Item 7)

14. The Secretariat presented the Draft Report on Arrangements for the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) (EANET/WGFD 9/7). The Session was informed on the proposed dates, venue, and provisional agenda items for the IG12. The Session was invited to make comments and provide guidance, if any.
15. Japan informed its willingness to host the IG12 and High Level Segment on 23-24 November 2010 in Niigata, Japan. The Session welcomed Japan's proposal and accepted it.

IX. Other Issues (Agenda Item 8)

16. The Secretariat informed the Session on the major outcomes of the Meeting of the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific. It was mentioned that the Joint Forum is an informal gathering of the different networks. Some questions were raised and clarified.
17. One country informed of the change of its National Focal Point (NFP) and requested that all communication including technical and research issues should be sent to the new NFP.

X. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Session (Agenda Item 9)

18. The Report of the Session (EANET/WGFD 9/9) was considered and adopted.

XI. Closing of the Session (Agenda Item 10)

19. The Chairperson expressed its sincere appreciation to all participants for their contributions, active participation and great cooperation during the Session. He also thanked the Secretariat and the NC for the preparation of this important Session. He appreciated the efforts and assistance of the two Vice-chairpersons for chairing the Session.
20. The Session was officially closed by the Chairperson.

Annex 1

List of Participants

Participating Countries

China

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Annex 2

Current Status of the National Process for Approval of the Instrument and the Preferred Options

Participating Country	Approval	Preferred Options
Cambodia	On-going	Option 1
China	On-going	Option 2
Indonesia	Approved	Option1, Option 3 also acceptable
Lao PDR	On-going	Option 1, Option 3
Japan	On-going	Option 1
Malaysia	Attorney General's Chambers approved the Instrument, subject to approval of cabinet	Option 3
Mongolia	On-going	Option 1
Myanmar	On going at the department level, thereafter at the minister level	Option 1
Philippines	Approved	Option 1
Republic of Korea	On-going (basically approved by the Ministry of Environment)	Option 2
Russia	On-going	Option 1 or Option 3
Thailand	On-going	Option 1, Option 3 also acceptable
Vietnam	On-going	Option 2

Annex 3

**Terms of Reference
for the
Working Group on Future Development of Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in
East Asia (EANET) (2011-2012)
(Draft)**

1. In line with the decision at the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) on EANET held in November 2010, the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (hereinafter referred to as the “Working Group”) is established on an ad-hoc basis.
2. Upon the expiration of the Terms of Reference (TOR) (2009-2010) adopted at the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10), the Working Group was directed by the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG11) to be continued.
3. The members of the Working Group shall be nominated by the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the participating countries, taking into account the issues to be discussed. In principle, two members of the working group shall be nominated, one for discussions on policy and administrative aspects including a regional agreement on acid deposition and the other for discussions on scientific and technical aspects. The NFPs are recommended to consult with national members of the SAC in nominating their Working Group members for scientific and technical aspects.
4. One Chairperson and two Vice-chairpersons will be elected at the Working Group Session.
5. Under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG), the Working Group shall carry out the following tasks:
 - i) Review the Final Report on the implementation of the Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010);
 - ii) Review the performance of the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) (2010-2011) including the financial reports and the audit reports;
 - iii) Develop guidelines on administrative and financial management for the Secretariat and the NC for 2014-2015;
 - iv) Discuss the issues of expansion of the scope of EANET, considering cooperation with other existing international programs;
 - v) Review the implementation of the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET); and
 - vi) Carry out other tasks as requested by the IG.

6. The tentative schedule of the Working Group Sessions based on the decision of IG12 are set as follows:
 - i) Tenth Session: July-August 2011
 - Review the Final Report on implementation of the Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010);
 - Discuss the issues of expansion of the scope of EANET; and
 - Other tasks to be requested by the IG.
 - ii) Eleventh Session: July-August 2012
 - Review of the performance of the Secretariat and the NC (2010-2011);
 - Review the implementation of the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET);
 - Develop guidelines on administrative and financial management for the Secretariat and the NC (2014-2015); and
 - Other tasks to be requested by the IG.
7. Depending on the requests of the IG, additional tasks may be included in the Sessions specified, as appropriate.
8. For fulfilling the tasks of the Working Group, additional experts from outside of the participating countries may be invited to attend the Working Group Sessions, as appropriate.