

The Twenty-first Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting  
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia  
12-13 November 2019, Beijing, China

## **REPORT OF THE SESSION**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Twenty-first Session (IG21) in Beijing, China, on 12-13 November 2019.
2. Representatives of the participating countries, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam participated in the Session. Representatives of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Secretariat and Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the Network Center (NC) for the EANET; Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology (RRC.AP/AIT) attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached to this Report as Annex.

### **II. OPENING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

3. Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People's Republic of China, delivered the opening remarks. He welcomed all representatives of the participating countries. He mentioned that China has been focusing on the solution of air pollution, including acid deposition, as a priority area for improving people's livelihood. He shared three suggestions for the EANET, namely (1) jointly improve regional and global environmental quality using the successful experience of China in the treatment of acid rain and air pollution. The Government of China is willing to exchange and share practical experiences with other countries; (2) coordinate efforts to promote regional environmental cooperation and synergy; (3) strengthen cooperation and jointly build and share the green "Belt and Road Initiative" to jointly promote environmental quality of all countries in the region. He informed the Session that China has successfully reduced acid rain deposition area by 50 percent compared with 2013, and PM2.5 by 45 percent.
4. Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UN Environment, delivered the welcome remarks. She mentioned that in the last two decades, EANET has been continuously working to respond to concerns from participating countries on acid deposition in the region, to provide reliable monitoring data and assessment, strengthen the capacity of relevant officers and policy makers through training, research, awareness forums, and dissemination of communication products. She appreciated the continued support of the participating countries to implement EANET activities. She emphasized that the IG21 Meeting is an important moment for countries to review the

mechanism of the network that could address the critical challenges of the region. She ended her remarks by mentioning that the Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly recognized EANET's contribution to progress in the implementation of resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally through its monitoring and assessment activities.

### **III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

5. The Session elected Mr. Zhou Jun, Deputy Director of Asian, African and Latin American Affairs Division, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China, as the Chairperson, Dr. Batbayar Jadamba, Director, Environmental Monitoring Division, National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, Mongolia and Mr. Heng Nareth, Director General, General Directorate of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, as the Vice-Chairpersons, and Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Director of Transboundary Air Pollution Section, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, as the Rapporteur.

### **IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

6. The Session considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG 21/3/1), Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG 21/3/2), and Draft Program (EANET/IG 21/3/3) proposed by the Secretariat and the NC.

### **V. CONSIDERATION ON THE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA (EANET) SINCE THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING (IG20) ON THE EANET AND THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER IN 2018 (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

7. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Report on the Progress of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) since the Twentieth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG20) on the EANET (EANET/IG 21/4/1) and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2018 (EANET/IG 21/4/2).
8. The key points of the presentation of the Secretariat included:
  - The Secretariat highlighted the implementation of EANET activities since IG20 managed by the Secretariat, including organization of EANET meetings (IG20, SAC19), Working Group Meeting on Preparation of Development of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025), and Awareness Forum on Prevention of Air Pollution in Asia Pacific, renewal of EANET website, and development of the communication materials.

The Secretariat developed the Small-Scale Funding Agreement with the RRC.AP/AIT and the NC.

- The total voluntary financial contribution received by the Secretariat in 2018 is US\$ 500,752. The total expenditures and commitments of the Secretariat in 2018 are US\$ 476,469. The grand-total expenditure of the Secretariat, including the expenses for a 1-year technical consultant (China in-kind contribution), is US\$ 553,979.
9. The key points of the presentation of the NC included:
- The NC highlighted progress of implementation of EANET activities since the IG20 including the administrative arrangements, such as Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects in 2017/2018/2019, publication of Data Report 2017, organization of Clean Air Technology Workshop 2018 in China, individual training at the NC in 2019, provision of technical support including technical missions to the participating countries, implementation of EANET fellowship, research activities in 2018. The Twentieth Senior Technical Managers' Meeting (STM20) organized by the NC in Malaysia was also introduced.
  - The NC introduced that the voluntary financial contributions from the participating countries to the NC core budget in 2018 were US\$ 351,090, and voluntary financial contributions from the organizations in Japan to the NC additional budget and office rental cost in 2018 was US\$ 680,539. The total revenue of the NC for the EANET in 2018 (core and additional budget and office rental cost) is US\$ 1,031,629. The total expenditure for the implementation of the NC activities, including office rental cost in 2018, is US\$ 1,009,177.
10. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and endorse the reports, as appropriate.
11. The major discussion included:
- i. It was suggested that every country should contribute financially at their expected level of contribution as it is important for the stable functioning of EANET.
  - ii. Malaysia will submit its 2019 financial contribution to the Secretariat budget by the end of this year.
  - iii. China informed that they had submitted expected contributions, which included the proportion of in-kind contribution to support 1-year technical consultant working at the Secretariat.
  - iv. Thailand and the Philippines requested technical missions for laboratory and analysis activities.
  - v. The Republic of Korea clarified that due to exchange rate fluctuation, its financial contribution to the Secretariat budget in 2019 is less than the expected amount. The

country informed that their financial contribution next year would be transferred as per the expected amount.

- vi. Indonesia informed that it is difficult for the country to financially contribute based on a voluntary basis as it requires a presidential decree to provide such support. Therefore, Indonesia has been continuously provided in-kind support to the Secretariat. Next year, Indonesia considers advancing a presidential decree to allow the country to provide financial support for non-legally binding initiatives such as EANET.

12. The Session endorsed the Report on the Progress of the EANET since the IG20 and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2018.

## **VI. CONSIDERATION ON THE REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC19) (AGENDA ITEM 5)**

13. Dr. Erdenebat Eldev-Ochir, Deputy Director General of ACAP, presented the Report on the Outcomes of the SAC19 (EANET/IG 21/5) on behalf of Dr. Le Ngoc Cau, the Chairperson of the SAC19.

14. The key points of the presentation included:

- As outcomes of the SAC19, the Session acknowledged the Draft Report on the Progress of the EANET since the Eighteenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC18) and the Draft Financial Report in 2018; reviewed and adopted the Data Report 2018 and the Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects 2018; discussed and acknowledged the Updates on the overview of the National Monitoring Plans of the Participating Countries; considered and acknowledged the Report of the Task Forces of the SAC, the Establishment of the DC of the PRSAD4, and Proposed Ideas of the Participating Countries for the Next MTP for the EANET (2021-2025); considered and endorsed the EANET Science Bulletin (Vol.5); considered and acknowledged the Progress on the Cooperation with the WMO/GAW, Preparation of Acid Rain 2020 and Clean Air Week, Joint Research Activities on MICS-Asia, and Progress of EANET National Awareness Workshop in Malaysia; and considered, acknowledged, and made recommendations on the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2020.

15. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and endorse the report, as appropriate.

16. The major discussion included:

- i. It was suggested that the secondary pollutant including PM2.5 and ozone, should be included in the scope of activities when discussing the next MTP.

- ii. It was mentioned the importance of ecological effects monitoring, development of PRSAD4 and the circulation of the nitrogen in SAC. The effects of the acid deposition on the ecosystem are not included in the SAC19 report of the session. It could be considered in the future, and it could be proposed by IG, and later SAC can work on it.

17. The Session endorsed the Report on the Outcomes of the Nineteenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC19).

**VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED IDEAS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES FOR THE NEXT MEDIUM TERM PLAN (MTP) FOR THE EANET (2021-2025) (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

18. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Proposed Ideas of the Participating Countries for the Next MTP for the EANET (2021-2025), based on inputs from the Working Group Meeting on Preparation of Development of the Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) on 20-21 August 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, and the SAC19 Meeting on 8-10 October 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

19. The key points of the presentation of the Secretariat included:

- The Secretariat and the NC presented highlights of the Proposed Ideas of Participating Countries for the Next MTP (2021-2025) presented as a Synthesis Report. The Report was developed by summarizing inputs provided by the Participating Countries at the Working Group Meeting on Preparation of Development of the MTP (2021-2025).
- The Synthesis Report consists of the Framework of the MTP (2021-2025); Objectives of the MTP (2021-2025); Proposed Activities of the MTP (2021-2025); Arrangement of the Budget of the Secretariat and the NC for the EANET; Specific Issue: Proposal to Rename EANET; Points to Be Considered by the Session of IG21 Meeting; Proposed Next Steps of Development of the MTP (2021-2025).

20. The key points of the presentation of the NC included:

- The Participating Countries proposed various activities to be included in the next MTP (2021-2025). The proposed activities of the next MTP (2021-2025) by the participating countries consists of 33 categories in the 6 proposed objectives. A large number of activities proposed are relevant to air quality monitoring, emission inventory, and data analysis/interpretation, etc.
- The participating countries also expressed their view that implementation of the next MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) may face some difficulties such as inadequate financial commitment to tackle acid deposition and air pollution issues, lack of technical staff to

undertake these activities, etc. In this regard, collaboration with partners is suggested to fill the gap of resources on capacity, programs, and finance.

21. The Session was invited to discuss, make comments and decisions on (i) proposed activities of the EANET in the next MTP (2021-2025); (ii) scope expansion of the EANET activities beyond acid deposition to include air quality in the next MTP (2021-2025); (iii) the proposal to rename the EANET and; (iv) the proposal of arrangement of budget of the Secretariat and the NC for the EANET.
22. Japan submitted a proposal on the decision of IG21 to Secretariat on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and subsequently introduced its proposal at the meeting, such as the schedule of the working groups and the contents of the next MTP, including scope expansion of the EANET, flexibility of new activities, rename of the EANET, and diversification of funds.
23. Taking into account the discussion at the meeting, the Session reviewed the report on the Proposed Ideas of the Participating Countries for the Next MTP (2021-2025). The Session agreed to establish two working groups in 2020 as follows:
  - The Working Group on Reviewing the Scope of Instrument: to discuss the objectives and scope expansion of the Instrument, and the possibility, options, and consequences of how to address air pollution with a view to it being addressed in the Instrument.
  - The Working Group on Drafting the MTP (2021-2025): to develop two versions of the MTP (2021-2025) by referring to the current scope and possible future scope.
  - The two working groups are encouraged to coordinate their work, as appropriate. The Participating Countries will be invited to attend the working group meetings. The Secretariat informed the Participating Countries that the back to back working group meetings are expected to be held in Bangkok, April 2020, and prepare the documents for the discussion before the working group meetings.

#### **VIII. CONSIDERATION ON THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE EANET IN 2020 (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

24. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2020 (EANET/IG 21/7).
25. The key points of the presentation of Secretariat included:
  - In 2020, the Work Programme and Budget of the Secretariat includes administrative and financial arrangements of the Secretariat for the EANET; enhancement of intergovernmental cooperation; provision of policy relevant information; promotion of public awareness; enhancement of cooperation and collaboration.

- The total budget proposed for the Secretariat activities in 2020 is US\$ 765,914. The adjustment of the estimated budget of the Secretariat in 2020 higher than the allocation as per MTP is proposed to cover the cost of organizing two proposed Working Group Meetings on Preparation of Development of the Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) in 2020, additional costs for organizing High-Level Segment, re-allocation of two additional unspent fellowships in 2019 to 2020 and budget support for compliance to UN project review process.

26. The key points of the presentation of NC included:

- In 2020, the Work Programme and Budget of the NC includes administrative and financial arrangements of the NC for the EANET; acid deposition monitoring including QA/QC activities; promotion of activities other than monitoring; promotion of public awareness; enhancement of intergovernmental cooperation; enhancement of cooperation and collaboration; promotion of public awareness and so on.
- Based on the MTP for the EANET (2016-2020), the proposed annual budget of the NC in 2020 is estimated to be US\$ 1,170,000, including personnel and administrative costs consist of US\$ 477,000 required for the core budget activities, US\$ 573,000 required for the additional budget activities. US\$ 120,000 is for the rental fee of the ACAP building.

27. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and approve, as appropriate.

28. The major discussion included:

- i. Republic of Korea announced its offer to host the national awareness forum in 2020 in Gyeonggi province. Myanmar also submitted the offer to host the national awareness forum in 2020. The Secretariat will further discuss with both countries.
- ii. The SAC20 Meeting in 2020 is to be informed to participating countries by early 2020, with the possibility to be organized towards the end of August 2020 or in September. The decision on the dates will take into account the situation of the submission of data from the participating countries.
- iii. One Task Force meeting will be organized back to back with the SAC20 meeting.
- iv. The Secretariat clarified that the detailed meeting budgets (IG and SAC) will be included in the submission of the AIT financial report at the end of the year.
- v. The Secretariat clarified that the allocation of fellowship budget is US\$ 10,000 per fellow.
- vi. The request for financial contribution in 2020 will be shared by the Secretariat and the NC to the participating countries as soon as possible after IG21.

- vii. The Secretariat clarified that communication and outreach for UN Environment Assembly would have no financial implication to the budget of the Secretariat.

29. The Session considered and adopted the Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2020.

**IX. UPDATES ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ACID DEPOSITION AND AIR QUALITY:  
(AGENDA ITEM 8)**

**Progress of Preparation of Clean Air Week**

30. The NC presented updates on the preparation of Clean Air Week that will be organized in Niigata, Japan, October 2020.

31. The key points of the presentation included:

- International meetings/events on air pollution, including the Third Joint Forum of the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), will be held in Toki Messe in Niigata, Japan in 2020 in the same week in parallel with the Acid Rain 2020 as the Clean Air Week.

32. The Session was invited to discuss and provide guidance, as appropriate.

33. Major discussion included:

- i. Japan extended its warm welcome to participating countries to Niigata 2020.

**Progress of Preparation of Acid Rain 2020**

34. The NC presented updates on the preparation of Acid Rain 2020 that will be organized in Niigata, Japan, October 2020.

35. The key points of the presentation included:

- Session topics for abstract submission and keynote speakers of the Acid Rain 2020 were presented. Abstract submission, registration, and call for sponsors were opened in October 2019.

36. The Session was invited to discuss and provide guidance, as appropriate.

37. There is no question on this agenda item.

**Progress of Preparation of the High-Level Segment of the EANET and APCAP**



38. The Secretariat presented updates on the preparation of the High-Level Segment of the EANET and APCAP
39. The key points of the presentation included:
- The High-Level Segment is aimed to disseminate information to policy makers on the latest evidence on and invites a call for action to beat air pollution and acid deposition. The High-Level Segment will be organized jointly between EANET and the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) on the morning of 20 October 2020 in Niigata, Japan. The High-Level Segment is also an integrated program of the Third Joint Forum of APCAP.
40. The Session was invited to discuss and provide guidance, as appropriate.
41. The major discussion included:
- i. It is agreed that the High-Level Segment will be combined with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EANET and it will be renamed as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EANET. The concept of the event will be revised, and it will be an open forum.

#### **Progress of Preparation of the 20th Anniversary of EANET**

42. The Secretariat presented updates on the preparation of the 20th Anniversary of EANET.
43. The key points of the presentation included:
- To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of EANET, the Secretariat and the NC plan to host a small ceremony on the margins of the 22nd Session of the Intergovernmental (IG22) Meeting on EANET in Niigata, Japan. The concept note of the event will be revised in keeping with paragraph 41.
44. The Session was invited to discuss and provide guidance, as appropriate.
45. The major discussion included:
- i. It was clarified that the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EANET will be attended by invitees from Niigata Prefecture and the city of Niigata.

#### **Progress of Preparation of EANET National Awareness Workshop in Malaysia**

46. The Secretariat presented updates on the preparation of EANET National Awareness Workshop in Malaysia.
47. The key points of the presentation included:

- EANET National Awareness Workshop in 2019 will be held from 26 to 28 November 2019 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. This Workshop is co-organized jointly by Secretariat for the EANET and the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), Malaysia.

48. The Session was invited to discuss and provide guidance, as appropriate.

49. There is no question on this agenda item.

50. The Session acknowledged the updates on activities related to acid deposition and air quality.

**X. OTHER ISSUES (AGENDA ITEM 9)**

51. The Session was invited to discuss and consider other issues to be raised by the participants, the Secretariat and/or the NC, if any.

52. There is no question on this agenda item.

**XI. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

53. The Session considered and adopted the Report of the Session (EANET/IG 21/10).

**XII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

54. The Session expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, the Rapporteur, the participants, the representatives from international organizations, and resource persons for their efforts, cooperation, and contribution to the Session.

55. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat and the NC for their contributions, declared the Twenty-first Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia officially closed.

**Annex**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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