

The Working Group Meeting on Drafting MTP for the EANET (2021-2025)
Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
29-30 June 2020, Virtual Meeting

REPORT OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Working Group Meeting on Drafting Medium Term Plan for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) (2021-2025) was held virtually on 29-30 June 2020.
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 meeting. The Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) for the EANET also attended the meeting. In addition, representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology (RRC.AP/AIT) and resource persons attended the meeting as well. The List of Participants is attached to this Report as Annex.

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 1)

3. Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative, United Nations Environment Programme for Asia & the Pacific, delivered the Opening Remarks. In the remarks, Dr. Tsering mentioned that the global pandemic of COVID-19 has allowed us to reflect and re-assess our actions toward nature. The COVID-19 pandemic also reminds us of the importance of the health of people and the planet. She mentioned that studies are looking at the link between air pollution and COVID-19. The COVID-19 disproportionately affects high-risk people such as the elderly and people with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions. These are the same groups that are most vulnerable to air pollution's impacts. Those facts have shown that there is a potential link between air pollution and its contribution to excess morbidity from COVID-19. Therefore, collective actions to improve air quality and mitigate air pollution might be able to reduce the severity of the problem significantly. She ended her remarks by recognizing the EANET's efforts in the last twenty years.
4. Dr. Shiro Hatakeyama, Director General, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research, delivered the Welcome Remarks. Dr. Hatakeyama mentioned that the Twenty-first Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG21) of the EANET requested the Secretariat to organize two Working Group (WG) Meetings, namely the WG on Drafting the Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) and the WG on Reviewing the Scope of Instrument for the EANET. The IG21 also requested the Secretariat and the NC to develop the draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) in two versions, by referring to the current scope and possible future scope, to be submitted to the Working Group Meeting on Drafting MTP for the EANET (2021-2025). Initially, the WG Meetings were planned to be organized back to back in April 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the meetings were postponed. Since it was not possible to arrange a face to face meeting during this time, the Secretariat organized the WG Meetings virtually with reduced meeting time. Dr. Hatakeyama

mentioned that the WG Meetings are critical events of the EANET to recommend the future direction for the network.

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; Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Director of Transboundary Air Pollution Section, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, as the Vice-Chairperson, and Dr. Batbayar Jadamba, Director, Environmental Monitoring Division, National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, Mongolia, as the Rapporteur.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 3)

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

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR THE EANET (2021-2025) - CURRENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE SCOPE (FIRST DRAFT) (AGENDA ITEM 4)

7. The Secretariat and the NC delivered the presentation on the First Draft Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) - Current Scope and Possible Future Scope (EANET WG 1/4/1 and EANET WG 1/4/2).
8. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The first draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) by referring to the current scope aims to achieve six Objectives, among others: (i) Monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances such as ozone and PM with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC); ii) Promotion of data dissemination and utilization; iii) Promotion of capacity building; iv) Enhancement of outreach activities; v) Promotion of concrete air pollution measures; and, vi) Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration to strengthen cooperative efforts among Participating Countries with other relevant networks and organizations. It consists of 31 activities with the total budget of the Secretariat and the NC of USD 8,970,500 for five years (2021-2025).
 - The first draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) by referring to the possible future scope aims to achieve six Objectives, among others: (1) Monitoring of air quality and acid deposition including related chemical substances such as ozone and PM with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC); ii) Promotion of data dissemination and utilization; iii) Promotion of capacity building; iv) Enhancement of outreach activities; v) Promotion of concrete air pollution measures; and vi) Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration to strengthen cooperative efforts among participating countries, other relevant networks, and

organizations. It consists of 37 activities with the total budget of the Secretariat and the NC of USD 9,549,000 for five years (2021-2025).

9. Prior to the meeting, Japan submitted a presentation on Project-Based Finance Component (PBFC) to the Secretariat (received on 24 June 2020) and explained the presentation after the presentation of the Secretariat and the NC.

10. The Session was invited to review, discuss and provide guidance.

11. The major discussion included:

- i. In reference to Japan's presentation, it was suggested to focus on the co-financing for new activities of the MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) as part of the project fund of the possible future scope of EANET. The scheme, called "project fund" or "Project-Based Finance Component" (PBFC), could be introduced to bring additional budget as project fund, which could be a co-financing mechanism for Participating Countries, donor agencies, in-kind and other funding sources.
- ii. It was clarified that the PBFC would differentiate itself from the core budget and allow countries to develop projects with the support of other funding mechanisms, including funds from donor agencies and co-financing funding sources. PBFC could be focusing on the requirements of the Participating Countries.
- iii. It was clarified that the existing additional budget in the current MTP (2016-2020) is allocated based on a fixed budget (of the NC), which is different from the newly introduced project fund. It is not mandatory for the Participating Countries to contribute to the project fund. The project fund allows more flexibility in receiving funds and in the implementation of the activities.
- iv. It was informed that the Instrument provides options to bring new funds from other sources, such as from in-kind contributions or various sources as additional financial resources for the EANET.
- v. It was requested to clarify some terminologies used in the draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025), such as "air pollution", "air quality", and "emission sources" before the development of the next draft of the MTP (2021-2025).
- vi. It was clarified by the NC that activities 6 and 7 of Objective 1 on the possible future scope, such as "data", "air quality", and "air pollution", were suggested by the Participating Countries. The detailed activities would require further discussion with the respective Participating Countries.
- vii. It was suggested that the proposed projects and activities in the draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) could be discussed among the SAC members to identify their priorities based on the requirements of the Participating Countries before the IG22.
- viii. It was suggested to allocate some of the capacity building activities from project-fund to core budget.
- ix. It was clarified that the activity of Development and Submission of Emission Inventories is included in the present draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) - possible future scope by

referring to the Report Proposed Ideas of the Participating Countries for the Next Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) submitted to the IG21. In addition to that, the submission of national monitoring data (Activity 6 of draft MTP - possible future scope) would apply only to the agreed Participating Country (Countries), about the agreed sites and the agreed items.

- x. It was requested to review some activities that might already be beyond the scope of the Instrument by flagging those activities to be revised in the next draft MTP (2021-2025).
 - xi. It was clarified that the MTP is a mid-term guiding document for the EANET in elaborating detailed activities as the work plan of the network in five years.
 - xii. It was suggested to include issues related to the air pollution both in urban areas and in remote areas. The activities could consist of technical support and maintenance of equipment needed for atmospheric monitoring including dry deposition monitoring, as well as the impact on agricultural activities. Considering the Covid-19 situation, the training of personnel could be done virtually.
 - xiii. It was suggested to rethink the Objective 5 of the First Draft of the MTP - Possible Future Scope related to the 25 Solutions for Clean Air Measures.
12. The Session requested the Secretariat and the NC to develop a detailed document to explain the nature of the PBFC to be distributed to all Participating Countries for comments and inputs before the Twenty-Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG22).
13. The Session acknowledged the First Draft of Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) and recommended the Secretariat and the NC to continue working on revising the draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025), taking into account the discussion and suggestions at the session, particularly on clear categorizing activities.

VI. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

14. The Secretariat delivered the presentation on Proposed Next Steps After the Working Group Meeting on Drafting Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) (EANET WG 1/5). The presentation focused on the timeline of the finalization of the draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025).
15. The Session was invited to review, discuss and provide guidance, as appropriate.
16. The major discussion included:
- i. It was suggested to reschedule the 20th Session of the SAC (SAC20) and the IG22 to September/October and November 2020 respectively, taking into consideration the results of the WG Meeting on Reviewing the Scope of Instrument for the EANET. Details of Next Steps, including the finalization of Report of the Session of the WG Meeting on Drafting MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) and Reviewing the Scope of Instrument, and the Timeline of Development of draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025), could be revised by considering

the discussion of the WG Meeting on Reviewing the Scope of the Instrument for the EANET (1-2 July 2020).

- ii. The next Working Group Meeting could be organized after the SAC20 to refer to comments from the SAC20 before the IG22.

VII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 6)

17. The Session expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, the Rapporteur, the participants, the representatives from international organizations, and resource persons for their efforts, cooperation, and contribution to the Session.
18. The Chairperson appreciated the participants, the Secretariat, and the NC for their contributions and declared the Working Group Meeting on Drafting Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) officially closed.

Annex

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