

The Twenty-second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia  
25-26 November 2020, Virtual Meeting

## **REPORT OF THE SESSION**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Twenty-second Session (IG22), virtually, on 25-26 November 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 Session. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Secretariat and Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the Network Center (NC) for the EANET; and the Asian Institute of Technology, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT RRC.AP) attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached to this Report as **Annex 1**.

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

3. Mr. Thalearnsak Petchsuwan, Deputy-Director General, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, delivered the Welcome Remarks. In his remarks, Mr. Petchsuwan thanked UNEP and the Secretariat for organizing the IG22 meeting, a key forum for EANET Participating Countries, to exchange views and discuss the expansion of the scope of the EANET. Mr. Thalearnsak Petchsuwan reaffirmed Thailand's concern and commitments towards air pollution, including the Plan on Installing Air Quality Monitoring Stations nationwide within 2024, the development of emission standards, and the promotion of Electric Vehicles (EV). He concluded his remarks by reaffirming Thailand's engagement toward expanding the scope to air pollution as an important future goal for the EANET.
4. Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme, delivered the Opening Remarks. Dr. Tsering congratulated the Participating Countries for the progress in finalizing the Draft Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) and appreciated the efforts, hard work, and strong ambition to support EANET and, most of all, to contribute to improving the region's air quality. She mentioned the task devolved to the participants of the IG22 is paramount for the future of the Network. The MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) will shape the future role that Participating Countries want the Network to play at the regional and global levels.
5. Dr. Shiro Hatakeyama, Director General, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research, delivered the Remarks. Dr. Hatakeyama mentioned following the request of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG21) in Beijing, November 2020, two Working Group Meetings on Drafting MTP for the EANET have been organized. The MTP (2021-2025) was also discussed at the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC20) Meeting. It is time for the IG22 to finalize the MTP (2021-2025) to determine future activities of EANET.

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

6. The Session elected Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Director of Transboundary Air Pollution Subdivision, Air Quality and Noise Management Division, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand as the Chairperson, Dr. Batbayar Jadamba, Director Environmental Monitoring Division, National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, Mongolia as Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Ma. Fatima Anneglo R. Molina, Supervising Science Research Specialist, Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Environmental Management Bureau, Philippines, as Rapporteur of the IG22.

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

7. The Session considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG 22/3/1), Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG 22/3/2), and Draft Program (EANET/IG 22/3/3) 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 TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING (IG21) ON THE EANET AND THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER IN 2019 (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

8. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Report on the Progress of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) since Twenty-first Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG21) on the EANET (EANET/IG 22/4/1), including the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2019 (EANET/IG 22/4/2).
9. The key points of the presentation of the Secretariat included:
  - The Secretariat implemented various EANET activities as part of the Work Programme and Budget in 2020, approved by IG21, including organization of EANET meetings (IG21, SAC20), Working Group Meetings on Drafting Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) and Reviewing the Scope of Instruments, Working Group Session 2, Development of the Draft MTP (2021-2025), organized the National Awareness Workshop in Myanmar, developed various communication materials, managed EANET website, and many more. The Secretariat also managed the administration and financial arrangement to support implementation activities, including managing Participating Countries' financial contribution, developed the Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with the RRC.AP/AIT and the NC, and other administration work.
10. The key points of the presentation of the NC included:
  - Various activities have been implemented and ongoing, which include acid deposition monitoring including QA/QC activities, compilation, verification, evaluation, storage & provision of data and relevant information, Task Forces and Expert Groups established under the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), technical support and capacity building activities, EANET research activities, and EANET meetings.

- The current status of the “Voluntary Financial Contribution to the NC from the Participating Countries in 2020” was reported.
11. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and endorse the reports, as appropriate.
  12. Major discussions included:
    - i. Republic of Korea informed that even though the EANET Awareness Forum, supposed to be held in Suwon, Republic of Korea, in 2020, was canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Republic of Korea still intends to host it in 2021.
    - ii. It was informed that in 2021, awareness activities might be mostly virtual (such as webinars). However, face-to-face activities could also be considered at the end of 2021, depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.
    - iii. It was suggested to develop an output-based type of progress report from next year onwards to evaluate activities more accurately.
    - iv. It was suggested that the terminology “in-kind financial contribution” could be modified in the next MTP documents for financial and administrative reporting purposes.
  13. The Session endorsed the Report on the Progress of the EANET since the IG21 and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center in 2019.

**VI. REVIEW OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC20) MEETING OF EANET IN SEPTEMBER 2020 AND THE WORKING GROUP MEETING SESSION 2 (WGS2) ON DRAFTING MEDIUM TERM PLAN (MTP) FOR THE EANET (2021-2025) AND REVIEWING THE SCOPE OF INSTRUMENT FOR THE EANET(WGS2) IN OCTOBER 2020 (AGENDA ITEM 5)**

- 1) SUMMARY DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SAC20 TO THE IG22 REGARDING THE MTP FOR THE EANET (2021-2025)**
  - 2) SUMMARY DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WGS2 TO IG22**
14. The Secretariat presented the Summary Discussions and Recommendations from the SAC20 to the IG22 regarding MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) (EANET/IG 22/5/1) and the Summary Discussion and Recommendations of the WGS2 to IG22 (EANET/IG 22/5/2).
  15. The key points of the presentation included:
    - Summary Discussion and Recommendations from the SAC20 to IG22: The SAC20 reviewed from scientific and technical viewpoints and acknowledged the submitted documents related to the development of the MTP for the EANET (2021-2025), among others: Survey Results (Matrix) of Categorization of the EANET Activities; Preliminary 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft MTP (2021-2025) of the EANET; Revision of Task Forces and Expert Groups of the EANET; Consideration of Improvement of the EANET Reports; Consideration of Improvement of the EANET Technical Guidelines and Manuals; Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2021. In addition, the Session agreed to attach the “Recommendations from SAC20 to IG22”.

- Summary Discussion and Recommendations from the WGS2 to IG22: The WGS2 reviewed and acknowledged the documents related to MTP (2021-2025): Survey Results (Matrix) of Categorization of the EANET Activities; 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft MTP (2021-2025) of the EANET; Revision of Task Forces and Expert Groups of the EANET; Consideration of Improvement of the EANET Reports; Consideration of Improvement of the EANET Technical Guidelines and Manuals; Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2021. In addition, the Session agreed to attach the “Recommendations of WGS2 to IG22”.
16. The Session was invited to discuss, make comments, and approve both documents, as appropriate.
17. Major discussions included:
- i. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to support the Bureau of Officers in preparing the Draft Decisions of IG22 by referring to the Recommendations of the Working Group Meeting Session 2 (WGS2) to IG22, and share with the IG22 participants after the first day of the meeting for review by the Session under agenda item 10, on the second day of the meeting.
18. The Session endorsed the Summary Discussion and Recommendations from the SAC20 to IG22 and the Summary Discussion and Recommendations from the WGS2 to IG22.

**VII. CONSIDERATION ON THE FINAL DRAFT MEDIUM TERM PLAN (MTP) FOR THE EANET (2021-2025) (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

19. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Final Draft Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) (EANET/IG 22/6).
20. The key points of the presentation of the Secretariat and the NC included:
- The Final Draft MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) provides general guidance and a framework for the EANET operations to plan and implement its activities for the coming five years from January 2021 to December 2025. It consists of Core Activities that all Participating Countries consider indispensable, priority, and essential for achieving EANET objectives, and beneficial for all Participating Countries directly and indirectly. A detailed draft plan of Core Activities and draft Budget plan in 2021-2025 was also introduced.
21. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and approve, as appropriate.
22. Major discussions included:
- i. Following a query regarding the increase of NC’s core budget, it was clarified that the NC has been in deficit for several years. Furthermore, this new budget is proposed to implement new activities by referring to the finding of the Survey Matrix formulated based on views of the Participating Countries. In addition, the increasing number of monitoring sites require more human resources at NC.

- ii. A Participating Country suggested using the correct placement of the words: “air quality” and “air pollution” in relevant sections of the MTP. It was clarified that this terminology would be revised in line with the discussion on the expansion of the scope.
- iii. Based on discussion and consensus of the Participating Countries, the capacity building activities would be a part of the Non-Core Activities in 2021.

23. The Session approved the Final Draft Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025), with modification.

**VIII. CONSIDERATION ON THE REVISION OF THE GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER FOR THE EANET (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

24. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Revision of the Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center for the EANET (EANET/IG 22/7).

25. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Revision of Administrative and Financial Arrangement for the Secretariat and the Network Center is proposed to accommodate matters related to financial contribution to the Core Budget of the Secretariat and the NC from the Participating Countries and introduction of Non-Core Activities of EANET starting in the next MTP (2021-2025), etc.

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

27. Major discussions included:

- i. Regarding para 35 and 70 of the Revised Guidelines, the Session agreed to modify the word “should” to “are encouraged”.
- ii. It was clarified that in-kind contribution could be an input for both core and non-core activities.
- iii. It was suggested to amend para 27 by modifying with “*the Secretariat’s surplus will be allocated annually to core and/or non-core budget by referring to IG decision*”.
- iv. It was clarified that the Secretariat’s surplus only includes contributions that were not previously attributed to a specific purpose.

28. The Session considered and approved the Revised Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center for the EANET, with modification.

**IX. CONSIDERATION ON THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE EANET IN 2021 (AGENDA ITEM 8)**

- 1) **FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY ON PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES’ SUPPORT IN IMPLEMENTING SELECTED NON-CORE ACTIVITIES OF THE EANET IN 2021**
- 2) **THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE EANET IN 2021**

29. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Findings of the Survey on Participating Countries' Support in Implementing Selected Non-Core Activities of the EANET in 2021 (EANET/IG 22/8/1) and the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2021 (EANET/IG 22/8/2).
30. The key points of the presentation included:
- Findings of the Survey on Participating Countries' Support in Implementing Selected Non-Core Activities of the EANET in 2021: All Participating Countries participated in the Survey. The results show different views among Participating Countries regarding which activities are considered within the EANET Instrument scope or beyond. Among 27 Non-Core Activities proposed to be implemented in 2021, seven activities are considered by all Participating Countries within the Instrument scope. In addition, Japan is the only country that has the intention to provide a financial contribution to Non-Core Activities in 2021. A few countries also expressed their intentions to provide in-kind contributions to support some Non-Core Activities in 2021.
  - The Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2021: The Core Activities of the EANET in 2021 will be implemented by the Secretariat and the NC, in line with the Final Draft Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025). Core Activities consist of activities that all Participating Countries consider indispensable, priority, and essential for achieving the EANET's objectives, and beneficial for all Participating Countries directly and indirectly.
31. The Session was invited to discuss, make comments, and approve both documents, as appropriate.
32. Major discussions included:
- i. Japan informed the Session of its intention to contribute to Non-Core Activities up to 750,000 US\$ for selected activities. Japan thanked other Participating Countries for the intention to provide in-kind contributions.
  - ii. Philippines reconsidered their responses to the Survey by considering activity 24 as within the scope of Instrument for the EANET.
  - iii. Based on the Survey results, seven activities are considered within the scope of the Instrument of the EANET and can be implemented in 2021.
  - iv. China proposed to revise the title of activity 4 to: "Research on analysis of long term trend of acid deposition including related chemical substances by using monitoring data of EANET accumulated so far" and the Session agreed on this revision.
  - v. The Session agreed to implement nine Non-Core Activities in 2021, including Activities No. 4, 6, 15, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27 in 2021, with confirmed financial support from Japan.
  - vi. The Session approved the Secretariat's suggestion concerning activities 20 and 26 to be co-financed with the Secretariat's surplus.
  - vii. It was suggested to discuss during the next IG23 whether activities 15,16 and 20 (related to the capacity building) could be moved to the core budget of the MTP, which will

result in an increase of voluntary financial contributions from the Participating Countries through an amendment to the MTP in 2022.

- viii. Republic of Korea informed the Session about its intention to provide the training programs through the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER), which was welcomed by the Participating Countries.
- ix. The Session agreed to extend the period of EANET Fund until the next IG, subject to the Executive Director of UNEP's approval.

33. The Session considered and approved the Findings of the Survey on Participating Countries' Support in Implementing Selected Non-Core Activities of the EANET in 2021 and Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2021, with modification.

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

- 1) PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF "SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVEMENTS OF EANET ON ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY"**
- 2) PROPOSED QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY TO FORMULATE NON-CORE ACTIVITIES OF THE EANET**

34. The NC presented the proposed Development of "Summary of Progress Achievements of EANET on Its Twentieth Anniversary" (EANET/IG 22/9/1) and "Questionnaire Survey to Formulate Non-Core Activities of the EANET (EANET/IG 22/9/2).

35. The key points of the presentation included:

- Summary of Progress Achievements of EANET on Its Twentieth Anniversary: This Report is developed due to the need to evaluate data accumulated by the EANET over the past 20 years from the scientific point of view and presented concisely. In addition, the Report would be able to capture that information in a way that is understandable and helpful in creating a common understanding of the acid deposition situation in East Asia. The Report is expected would be a reference for the policymakers, general public, and potential partners of EANET. As supplementary material for this Report, a pamphlet would be developed as a summary reflecting the 20 years of EANET monitoring data and achievements.
- Questionnaire Survey to Formulate Non-Core Activities of the EANET: Funded by Japan as an additional budget to be implemented by the NC, the Survey aims to find out relevant information, such information on atmospheric information of the countries and its national situations as consideration to select future Non-Core Activities of EANET.

36. The Session was invited to discuss, make comments, as appropriate.

37. Major discussions included:

- i. The Participating Countries are invited to comment on the Summary of the Twentieth Anniversary of EANET and the draft of the "Questionnaire: Review of Efforts for Acid Deposition/Air Pollution".

- ii. Regarding EANET IG22/9/1, it was informed that the Seven Questions will be shared with Participating Countries before circulation to the SAC for comments and scientific viewpoints, and to be finalized before the IG23.
- iii. Regarding EANET IG22/9/1, it was informed that the NC will develop the responses through discussion with the Drafting Committee for PRSAD4 and based on the inputs from the Participating Countries as well as the outputs made so far by EANET activities.
- iv. Regarding EANET IG22/9/1, it was suggested to give focus on acid deposition on question 2 of the Seven Questions, *“How (to what extent) has the EANET helped to solve air pollution problems in the East Asian region?”*.

38. The Session acknowledged and approved the development of the Summary of Progress Achievements of EANET on Its Twentieth Anniversary and Questionnaire Survey to Formulate Non-Core Activities of the EANET.

#### **XI. WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

39. The Secretariat presented the Proposed Next Steps after the IG22 (EANET/IG 22/10), including the Draft Decision of IG22, by referring to the Session discussion. The Chairperson, with support from the Secretariat, facilitated the discussion.

40. The key points of the presentation included:

- The proposed Next Steps after the IG22 is a tentative plan developed by the Secretariat and the Network Center by taking into account potential necessary actions related to MTP, expansion of the scope of Instrument and Work Programme and Budget for the EANET in 2021.

41. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, approve, and adopt the documents, as appropriate.

42. Major discussions included:

- i. The NC informed the Session that the deadline to submit answers to the Questionnaire will be extended to the end of January 2021, although Participating Countries are encouraged to send their answers as soon as possible.
- ii. Comments and revisions from China on the MTP (2021-2025) have been incorporated and shared with the Participating Countries.

43. The Session approved the Proposed Next Steps after the IG22 and adopted the Decisions of IG22 (**Annex 2**).

#### **XII. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

44. The Session considered and adopted the Report of the Session (EANET/IG 22/11).

### **XIII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

45. Dr. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme, for Asia and the Pacific delivered the Closing Remarks. In her remarks, she congratulated the Participating Countries for the hard work during the development of the MTP and Work Programme and Budget. After finalizing key documents for future activities, EANET is expected to play more role in tackling acid deposition and air pollution issues.
46. 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.
47. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat, and the NC for their contributions, declared the Twenty-second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia officially closed.

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**DECISIONS OF IG22**

The Twenty-second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG22) on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), to make its decisions including following elements:

**1. Recalling the recommendations made by the Working Group on Reviewing the Scope of Instrument for the EANET.**

Therefore, the IG22 decide to:

- a. Recognize that some activities relating to air pollution are a major interest to Participating Countries but may be beyond the current scope of the EANET. This includes types of activities and/or substances or targets areas that are related to air pollution beyond acid deposition.
- b. Therefore, agree to start to expand the scope of the Instrument.
- c. Request the Secretariat and the NC to engage in the necessary actions, that include the preparation of working documents that will define clearly the expanded scope in order to address activities mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) above in addition to the Instrument's current scope, which may include the necessary adjustment to Instrument, noting the supplementary type option is preferred by some countries.

**2. Recalling the recommendations made by the Working Group on Drafting Medium Term for the EANET (2021-2025).**

Therefore, the IG22 decides to:

- a. Approve the Medium Term Plan (MTP) (2021-2025) as well as the Work Programme and Budget in 2021 (WP&B 2021) that are prepared through the discussion at the Working Group Meeting sessions and relevant follow-up discussions, with following common understanding:
  1. Core Activities specified in the MTP (2021-2025) and in WP&B 2021 are in line with current scope of the Instrument and consist of activities that all Participating Countries consider indispensable, priority, and essential for achieving EANET objectives, and beneficial for all Participating Countries directly and indirectly.
  2. Non-Core Activities described in the WP&B 2021 that are reflecting Participating Countries' priorities and interests, in line with current scope of the Instrument, and thus, ready to implement in 2021 once necessary budget to each activity is secured.
  3. Some of the Non-Core Activities described in the WP&B 2021 are new and will be implemented in initial phase and implementation of such activities will be reviewed continuously to improve their performance.
  4. The MTP (2021-2025) could be revised by adding supplementary information, then separately approved at following IG to incorporate the discussions and conclusions on scope expansion in 2021, as appropriate.

- b. Encourage Participating Countries to provide their voluntary contributions to the Core Budget for fully operationalization of the Core Activities specified in WP&B 2021 and continue to provide their voluntary contributions for the Core Budget for the period of MTP of 2021-2025.
- c. Encourage Participating Countries to provide additional voluntary contributions including in-kind contributions to the Non-Core Activities to secure necessary resources to implement Non-Core Activities specified in WP&B 2021.
- d. Use some portion of the surplus accumulated in the Secretariat for the Non-Core Activities identified in MTP (2021-2025), setting aside remaining portion of the surplus necessary for contingency and running the daily operations of the EANET to absorb a time-gap between necessary expenditures and installation of voluntary contributions from Participating Countries.
- e. Agree with the basic concept of Project Fund described in MTP (2021-2025) and that early development of the Project Fund Mechanism is essential, and to request the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) to develop the detailed the Project Fund Mechanism and supporting documents, such as the Guidelines on Project and Functioning and Funding Process to be discussed at the working group meetings before IG23 for its consideration and adoption.
- f. Task the Secretariat and the NC to organize the working group meetings after IG22 to discuss and prepare relevant documents defined in sub-paragraph (e) above by IG23 for its consideration and adoption.
- g. Note the Recommendations of SAC20 to IG22 (EANET/SAC 20/13 Annex 2) as a reference, and request the Secretariat and NC to consider to incorporate them in EANET operations, and reflect them in preparation of the draft WP&B 2022 for IG23 for its consideration, taking into account comments made at IG22.
- h. Request the Secretariat and the NC to prepare a draft document which summarizes the common understanding of the state of acid deposition problem gained through the EANET 20 years operations for further discussions and scientific inputs from SAC, with the intention to finalize it by IG23, with the view that such document would be useful to attract potential partners of EANET.