International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2021: What Does It Mean for EANET?

Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon
Director, Transboundary Air Pollution Subdivision Air Quality and Noise Management Division, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
EANET National Focal Point of Thailand
“HEALTHY AIR HEALTHY PLANET”
International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
7 September 2021
THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN AIR FOR OUR LIVES

- Improve health and well-being
- Promote better environment
- Boost innovation, job creation and economic growth
AIR POLLUTION: THE SILENT KILLER

Air pollution is an environmental risk to human health and an avoidable cause of death and disease worldwide.

92% of our world is exposed to polluted air causing an estimated 7 million premature deaths every year.

Environmental health is in fact, inextricably linked to human health.

Improving our air quality will bring health, development and environmental benefits.

Source: WHO (2021)
EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTION

Source: [https://www.iqair.com/unep](https://www.iqair.com/unep)
Air pollution could potentially put people at risk during COVID-19 global pandemic.
AIR POLLUTION: DESTROYS THE ECONOMY

Reduces people’s ability to work and contributes to labor income and welfare losses

- Reduces ability of ecosystems to perform functions such as provision of food and water security
- High recovery costs for remediation, restoration of human health and healthcare
- Damages many development sectors, such as tourism
- Damages the infrastructure, cultural heritage and historical buildings

Source: https://unece.org/air-pollution-and-economic-development
Global Call to Action on Air Quality: UN Environment Assembly

- Highest-level decision-making body on the environment; universal membership of 193 UN Member States
- Involvement of UN organizations, specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector

1st UNEA 2014:
Resolution 1/7 Strengthening UN Environment’s role in promoting air quality

3rd UNEA 2017:
Resolution 3/8 Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally

UNEA calls: Air pollution: a top priority requiring immediate action and member countries are requested by the UN Environment to support national and local efforts in addressing air pollution issues
Efforts have been made worldwide, and they continue.

**Seoul, Republic of Korea:** 5G-enabled autonomous robots scan industrial complexes to monitor air quality, while a satellite monitoring system offers real-time air quality data to the public.

**Bogota, Colombia:** imposed strict emissions standards on trucks and other heavy-polluting vehicles; develop a fully electric metro rail system capable of transporting its 8 million residents and add an additional 60 kms to the existing 550 km bicycle.

Source: UNEP (2021)
Considerable pollution reduction has been achieved!

Current policies have reduced air pollution and decoupled emissions from economic growth

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR EANET?
WHAT CAN EANET DO?
Establishment of the EANET
An intergovernmental regional network established by the countries in East Asia to promote and facilitate intergovernmental cooperation to address acid deposition problem.

Development of First MTP
Strategy on EANET Development was developed as the first MTP (2006-2010) for the EANET, providing more well-established, longer-term planning for the network.

East Asian experts in 1993 conducted review of the acid deposition issue and realized the needs to have collectively actions to manage this regional threat.

MTP (2016-2020)
Implementation of EANET Medium Term Plan (MTP) (2016-2020) and the start of arrangements of EANET Secretariat at UNEP.

Instrument for the EANET
IG12 in November 2010 in adopted the Decision 1/IG12 on "Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), and MTP (2011-2015)."
PROGRESS OF EANET 2001-2020

- Monitoring area coverage expands across network
- Quality control and assurance efforts yield high-quality datasets
- Continuous engagement with other initiatives
- Raises public awareness of acid deposition issues
- Country capacities and skills boosted by training and regular workshops
- State of acid deposition in East Asia reports provide crucial polity input

- Raises public awareness of acid deposition issues
- Continuous engagement with other initiatives
- Country capacities and skills boosted by training and regular workshops
- State of acid deposition in East Asia reports provide crucial polity input
- Monitoring area coverage expands across network
- Quality control and assurance efforts yield high-quality datasets
Greater action on air pollution will require greater uptake by decision makers.

There is a need to link exposure and health impacts to pollution sources.

It is essential to implement clean air measures in consideration of a co-benefit approach to achieve the SDGs.
WHAT EANET COULD POSSIBLY DO MORE?

INCREASE EANET DATA USERS
Encourage more users to access EANET data for research and study

TAILOR ITS EXPERIENCE
Intergovernmental processes, scientific support of EANET, diverse group of entities and partners

SHARE THE LESSONS LEARNED
Implementation of activities, research and publication, unity in diversity

CONNECT THE DOTS
Make any connections with relevant acid deposition issues, respond to challenges

CREATE SYNERGY
Work together to create synergy with other like-minded organizations and institutions
PARTNERSHIP IS KEY TO ACHIEVE
HEALTHY AIR HEALTY PLANET!
THANK YOU

Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon
Email: rungsiyanons@gmail.com
or to eanetsecretariat@un.org