

An aerial photograph of a lush green hillside with a winding asphalt road that snakes through the terrain. The hills are covered in dense vegetation, and the road is bordered by low stone walls. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

THE 20TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE EANET AND  
THE SCIENCE &  
POLICY DIALOGUE

# Event Report

NOV. 2021



Acid Deposition Monitoring  
Network in East Asia (EANET)

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# Overview

The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) is a regional intergovernmental network established in 2001 to create a common understanding of the state of acid deposition problems in East Asia, provide useful inputs for decision-making at various levels, and promote cooperation among Participating Countries. 13 Participating Countries in East Asia, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, Philippines, and Viet Nam, compose the EANET.

In the last 20 years, the Network has made excellent progress in acid deposition monitoring cooperation. It has fostered a regional acid deposition monitoring and scientific knowledge exchange platform and has contributed to solving acid deposition problems in East Asia through its scientific inputs.

Following the decision of the Twenty-second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG22) on the EANET, held in November 2020, the EANET Participating Countries' representatives have been working on the process to expand the scope of the EANET, from acid deposition to also include a wider scope of atmospheric environment-related substances.

Subsequently, in a landmark decision, 20 years after the creation of the Network, the Twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG23) on the EANET has adopted the text of the Supplementary Document (Annex) to the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia.

In sequence with the IG23, the EANET organized two events on 26 November 2021: the [celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET and the EANET Science and Policy Dialogue](#).

These events aimed to celebrate the EANET's twentieth anniversary and launch the release of the publication "Summary of The Twentieth Anniversary of The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)". They also aimed to provide opportunities for policymakers and scientists to consider expectations and potential roles for the EANET.



***[Watch the events' videos on the EANET Secretariat's YouTube channel.](#)***

# Objectives

## The Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) hosted the Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET virtual celebration in commemoration of the significant milestones of the EANET in its twenty years of contribution.

The objectives of the event were to commemorate the turning point of the EANET in its twentieth anniversary and launch the "Summary of The Twentieth Anniversary of The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)".

Accumulating the progress of the EANET in the last 20 years, the publication "Summary of The Twentieth Anniversary of The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)," was developed targeting policymakers and relevant stakeholders in the region.

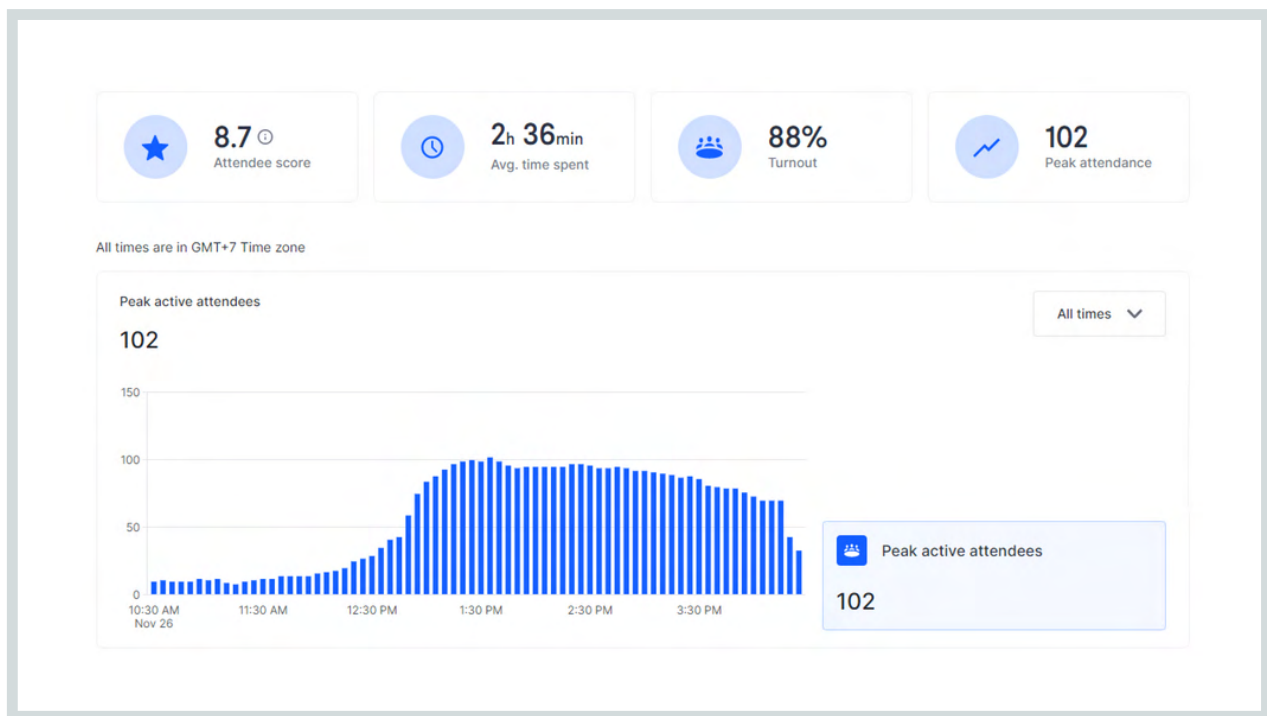
[Download the publication "Summary of The Twentieth Anniversary of The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia \(EANET\)".](#)

## The Science and Policy Dialogue

Following the decision to expand the scope of the EANET by the IG22 in 2020, the Network continuously prepared all necessary arrangements in 2021, aiming to ensure its readiness to implement the activities and strengthen the impacts of its activities through the collaboration with partners. In line with that, the EANET Science and Policy Dialogue was organized virtually with the theme "The Potential Role of EANET in Line with its Expansion of Scope".

The objectives of the Science and Policy Dialogue were to introduce the scope of the EANET and its collaboration mechanisms. They also aimed to present and discuss the expected and potential roles of the EANET in bridging science and policy as a reference for policymakers. In terms of the outreach of the EANET, the goal was to bridge dialogue among Participating Countries and regional/international initiatives and strengthen cooperation between the EANET and other regional and international initiatives.

# Participants



The celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET and the EANET Science and Policy Dialogue in 2021 were attended by the EANET National Focal Points, EANET Scientific Advisory Committee members, policymakers and national researchers, and scientists of the Network's 13 Participating Countries, as well as representatives of partner organizations working on acid deposition and air pollution-related issues. The event was also attended by scholars, professors, journalists, and representatives of civil society.

In addition to the EANET's network of representatives from the EANET's 13 Participating Countries, the event attracted participants from outside of the East Asia region, such as from South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan), Africa (Ivory Coast, Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, Sierra Leone, and Zambia), Europe (Austria, France, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, and the UK), as well as from South and North America (Colombia and the USA).

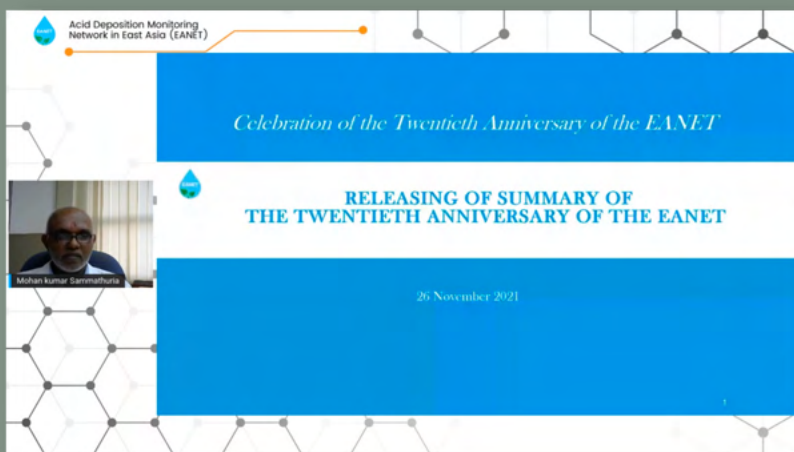
204 participants registered for the events and 102 joined the actual virtual events online. However, this number is underestimated as several organisations connected to the event with a single account, while gathering many participants in a conference room.

102  
participants

30  
countries

# The EANET's 20th Anniversary

*Hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan*



# The EANET's 20th Anniversary

*Hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan*

## 1

### Opening Remarks

H.E. Mr. Yutaka Shoda, the Vice-Minister from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, opened the celebrations and delivered the Opening Remarks. He congratulated the EANET for its historical achievements during the IG23 and reminded of the great expectations the Network will now meet, to improve the environment in the East Asia Region.

## 2

### Welcome Remarks

Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative, UN Environment Asia, and the Pacific Office shared the event's Welcome Remarks, emphasizing the great importance of the EANET's new strategic role.

## 3

### Congratulatory Remarks on the 20th Anniversary of the EANET

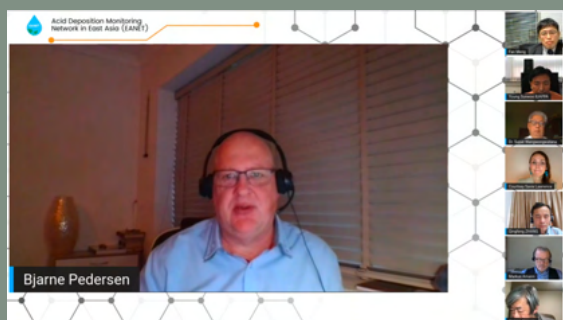
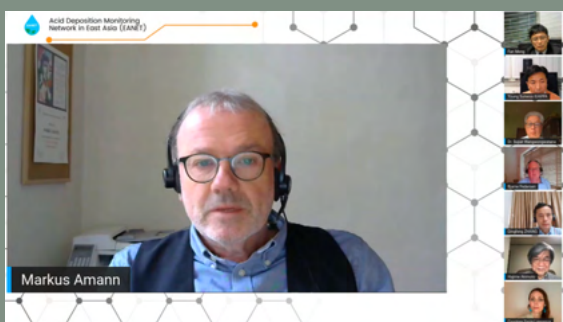
EANET National Focal Points from Malaysia, Thailand, and China expressed their Congratulatory Remarks. These were shared by Mr. Jamalulail bin Abu Bakar, Undersecretary, Environmental Management Division, Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia; Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Director of the Transboundary Air Pollution Subdivision, Air Quality and Noise Management Division, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand and by Mr. Zhou Jun, Director, Division of Asian, African and Latin American Affairs, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China.

## 4

### The Release of the Summary of the Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET

Mr. Mohan Kumar Sammathuria, Principal Assistant Director of the Atmospheric Sciences, and Cloud Seeding Division, Malaysian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia and Chairperson of the EANET Scientific Advisory Committee for 2021–2023, presented the newly launched publication "Summary of the Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET".

# EANET Science & Policy Dialogue



# EANET Science & Policy Dialogue

## Opening Session

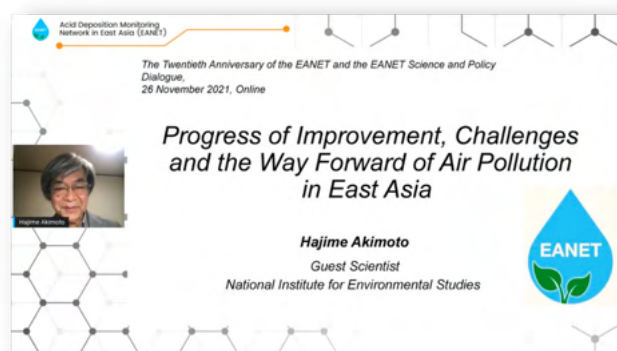
Mr. Koki Azuma, Counsellor for Transboundary Pollution Analysis, General Affairs Division, Environmental Management Bureau, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) inaugurated the EANET Science & Policy Dialogue Opening Session. In his presentation, he explained the decisions made by the IG23 and presented the details of the expanded scope of the EANET.

The Science & Policy Dialogue virtual event was moderated by Ms. Courtney Savie Lawrence, cofounder of the Circular Design Lab, and a Climate Innovation researcher with UNICEF's Global Office of Innovation.



## Keynote Speeches

Dr. Hajime Akimoto, Guest Scientist at the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan, and also former Director-General of the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), presented the first Keynote Speech entitled: "Progress of Improvement, Challenges, and the Way forward on Air pollution Management in East Asia".



Dr. Markus Amann, Scientist from the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) Science Panel, and former Program Director at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), presented the second Keynote Speech entitled: "Bringing Science and Policy in Tackling Air Pollution: Lessons Learned from Europe and Asia".



**Watch the events' videos on the EANET Secretariat's [YouTube channel](#).**

# Panel Discussion

The Panel Discussion "Bridging Science and Policy: The perspective of Future Cooperation on Air Pollution in the Region" was moderated by Ms. Savie Lawrence and gathered the following expert panelists and commentators:

- **Dr. Fan Meng**, Deputy Director General, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP);
- **Prof. Young Sunwoo**, Director General of the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA);
- **Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana**, Senior Instructor of the Faculty of Public Health, Thammasat University, Thailand;
- **Mr. Bjarne Pedersen**, Executive Director, Clean Air Asia (CAA);
- **Dr. Qingfeng Zhang**, Chief of the Rural Development and Food Security Thematic Group, and OIC/Chief of the Environment Thematic Group at the Asian Development Bank (ADB);
- **Dr. Markus Amann**, Scientist, Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) Science Panel,
- **Dr. Hajime Akimoto**, Guest Scientist, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan (NIES).

## 1

### The Role of Science in Air Pollution Management

During the discussions, the keynote speakers and panelists agreed that science has been proven to be a key source of information for air quality management throughout the years. Thanks to science it was possible to identify the diversified sources and characteristics of pollutants, the relevant sectors involved, and the impacts of air pollution. Sound science-based approaches provide options for the most appropriate ways to manage air pollution and help policymakers to set rules and regulations related to air quality management.

Science also allows providing cost-effective solutions for air quality management through technological improvements available for a greater diversity of users throughout the world.

Data has shown that the most affected countries by the harmful impact of air pollution are low-income countries. Therefore, cost-effective solutions for air pollution problems are essential to ensure affordable and applicable solutions.

Science, through data collection and prediction analytics, could minimize threats and prevent potential catastrophes due to air pollution.

However, bridging science and policy is challenging. The scientific information may not be communicated to policymakers properly and a gap needs to be filled. The scientific knowledge, data, and results must be communicated properly and in a simple language. Panelists mentioned that targeted publications, such as the EANET PRSADs, are excellent tools to facilitate this communication.

# 2

## Air Management Key Actors to Bridge Science and Policy

Identifying the relevant actors and their roles is essential to bridge effectively science and policy.

- **Scientists and researchers** have the ability to surface facts and solutions to air pollution problems, and most importantly, communicate the findings. Their role also is to provide cost-effective options for policymakers.
- **Policymakers.** Greater action on air pollution requires uptake by policymakers based on scientific and economic findings on the impacts of pollution. Therefore, efforts made by the scientific community to improve uptake by communicating policy-relevant findings in a clear, effective, and credible way should be taken as key inputs in the decision-making process.
- **Sectorial actors.** Strategies may also be developed tailored to specific sectors, such as the agriculture sector as, for example, Ammonia contributes to a large portion of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass.
- **Regional and international collaborative platforms.** To magnify impacts and mitigate air pollution thoroughly requires cooperation and collaboration of different stakeholders and making use of their larger resources. In this context, regional collaboration networks, such as the EANET, play a vital role in bringing all actors to work under the same objectives by creating synergy. This collaboration ensures the cost-effectiveness of cooperative solutions, utilizes various benefits of different actors, and intensifies the impacts to beneficiaries.
- **Funding agencies or donors.** Efforts in mitigating air pollution problems may only be made with available funds. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the interest of funding agencies and donors in supporting air pollution efforts. The sustainable dimension of funding mechanisms is one of the aspects to be considered. The collaboration package should allow to reach out to wider beneficiaries affected by air pollution problems.

# 3

## Creating Synergy Among Science, Actors, and Funding

Panelists argued that it is important to pay attention to the air pollution management's current and future cooperation strategies in the region and beyond. Air pollution is a transboundary problem in nature, and therefore, it implies collective interventions beyond the nations' physical borders. It requires a collaborative platform with collective objectives to lead various stakeholders to improve air quality. In the case of EANET, the decision to expand the scope to tackle wider air quality issues is timely and strategic. For example, the importance to develop local and regional strategies on ozone and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), among others, were discussed, including the suggestion to establish a working group, under the EANET, specifically on ozone action.

It also was suggested that air pollution and climate change are closely interlinked and that climate change mitigation and air pollution mitigation cannot be treated separately. In the future, it may be relevant for the EANET to focus on climate change. In addition, linking EANET activities with climate change, such as including Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) in its scope, could offer a good opportunity to attract climate change related funds to the EANET.

Secondly, feeding scientific insights into decision-making requires a systemic perspective within the government and involving policymakers. Ideally, the policymaking process should always be supported by science as its evidence. Communication between sectors is the key.

In addition, scientific knowledge to support the epistemic community is considered a critical element for successful environmental cooperation among countries.

Funding is also crucial to make all efforts in air quality management effective. Therefore, support from funding agencies and donors for various air quality projects is important. To make air quality projects attractive, efforts such as introducing technology transformations, linking science to policies, and more, are essential.

Finally, with its new role, EANET could utilize its strengths, such as its large number of countries and its longevity, to play a stronger role in bringing science and policy. EANET could reach out to other organizations at a local and international level, to learn and share experience and expand the reach of its collaboration.

# Conclusion & Closing Remarks

From the various EANET 20th Anniversary and Science and Policy Dialogue discussions, four key conclusion points emerged:

1. Science plays a considerable role in air pollution management, in particular in providing diverse sources of information to policy makers, but also in allowing access to cost-effective solutions for all, and in enabling tools to forecast trends and prevent potential future air pollution-related issues.

2. Bridging science and policy requires cooperation and effective communication between different sectors and actors to surface facts and solutions for policymaking. The collaboration of different stakeholders, in larger cooperation networks such as the EANET, provides multiple benefits such as larger resources, a strong epistemic community, and greater impacts for larger groups of beneficiaries.

3. To create a synergy among science, multisectoral actors, and available funding, it is important to understand the interests of funding agencies and donors. Feeding scientific insights into decision-making requires a systemic perspective within the government and with the policymakers.

4. EANET could utilize its strengths, such as its large number of countries and its longevity, to play a stronger role in bringing science and policy. EANET could reach out to other organizations, to review and share their potentials for collaboration and increase the reach of its actions.

## Closing Remarks

Dr. Shiro Hatakeyama, Director General of the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), shared the Closing Remarks where he congratulated the EANET Participating Countries for their past achievements and looked forward to the continued cooperation to address a wider range of atmospheric environmental issues.

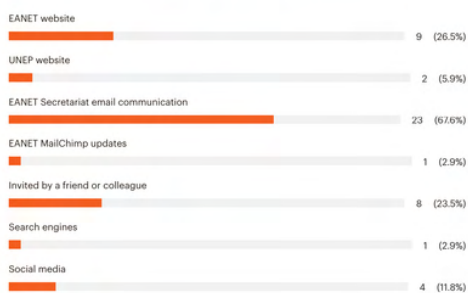


# Survey Results

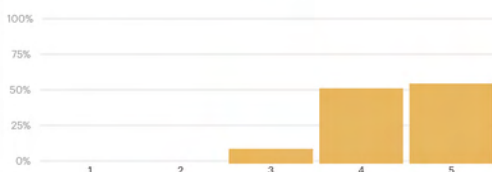
"1- Is this the first EANET event that you attend?"



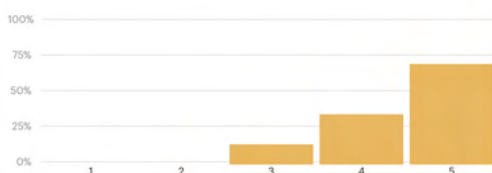
"2- How did you find out about the EANET 20th Anniversary and Science & Policy Dialogue?"



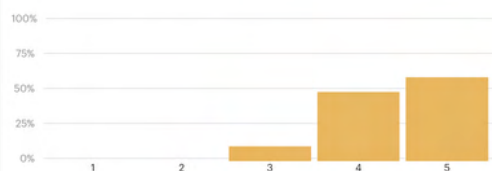
"3- Overall how satisfied were you with the 20th Anniversary and Science & Policy Dialogue?"



"4- How relevant did you find the content of the 20th Anniversary and Science & Policy Dialogue to your work?"



"5- How informative did you find the 20th Anniversary and Science & Policy Dialogue?"



"6- Would you say that the 20th Anniversary and Science & Policy Dialogue was interactive?"



"7- Were there any technical issues that prevented you from seeing or hearing the 20th Anniversary and Science & Policy Dialogue? If so, what were they?"

Unknown contact said:  
"None"

Unknown contact said:  
"There was disconnection while I delivered the remarks."

Unknown contact said:  
"I think my internet connection wasn't that good for a moment but it was fine afterwards."

Unknown contact said:  
"No"

Unknown contact said:  
"None. The event was planned carefully and the moderator/host was there whenever there was internet glitch."

"8- Are there any topics you'd like to see covered in future EANET Awareness events?"

Unknown contact said:  
"I want you to take up a lot of raw opinions of field personnel in developing countries."

Unknown contact said:  
"I hope more dialogues and discussions between scientists and policy makers, as well as EANET/air pollution community and climate community, if possible."

Unknown contact said:  
"role of transboundary issues in solving regional pollution problems"

Unknown contact said:  
"Interaction and co-benefits between air pollution and climate change"

Unknown contact said:  
"Results form PRSAD4"

Unknown contact said:  
"The topics presented were all informative and timely. Keep it up."

Unknown contact said:  
"Trend of air quality in northern hemisphere including future prospective."

Unknown contact said:  
"Involvement of more policy makers from the countries should done to know their point of views, problems, and challenges as it is important for scientists to know what informations policymakers need from scientists."

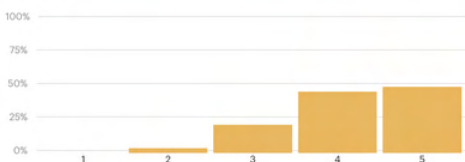
Unknown contact said:  
"Scientific understanding and supporting policy for the pollution control"

Unknown contact said:  
"co-benefit with SLCP"

Unknown contact said:  
"I cannot think of an specific one as of the moment."

Unknown contact said:  
"Methane and Black Carbon are 2 important SLCP"

"9- How likely would you recommend this 20th Anniversary and Science & Policy Dialogue to a friend or colleague?"



## 4.4

Average satisfaction rating on a scale of 5

## 4.5

Average relevance rating on a scale of 5

## 4.4

Average informative rating on a scale of 5

"10- Do you have any other comments or feedback?"

Unknown contact said:  
"None"

Unknown contact said:  
"The event was a good opportunity to reflect the past and talk about the future. It would have been better if there had been more audience and the event had been interactive."

Unknown contact said:  
"Thank you for organizing this webinar!"

Unknown contact said:  
"No"

Unknown contact said:  
"Thanks & congratulations to EANET colleagues for putting up a very successful event! Very knowledgeable & well-experienced speakers, very informative sessions... excellent outcome overall! More power in the next events!"

Unknown contact said:  
"Keep up the good work."

Unknown contact said:  
"None"

Unknown contact said:  
"Thank you for the hard work undertaken on the preparations for the EANET 20th Anniversary and Science & Policy Dialogue."

Unknown contact said:  
"With the strong cooperation of UNEP, we look forward to activities to promote scientific research and increase opportunities to appeal to UNEP with the aim of increasing spending on environmental measures in each country."

Unknown contact said:  
"Nothing"

Unknown contact said:  
"Thank you very much."

Unknown contact said:  
"Since I left EANET activities in a few years, I am happy to know the latest progress of EANET. I hope EANET could form a basis for the Asian Hub of global atmospheric management in the future."

Unknown contact said:  
"no"

Unknown contact said:  
"None"

Unknown contact said:  
"Round table discussion of policymakers and scientists. Policymakers should be encouraged to share their problems and challenges they face in policymaking at the country levels."

Unknown contact said:  
"expect next PA event"

Unknown contact said:  
"None"

# We thank you for your ongoing support

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Network in East Asia (EANET)