

Twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
24-25 November 2021, Virtual Meeting

OUTCOMES OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS IN 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Report provides the Outcomes of the Working Group Meetings in 2021 (WG2021). It has been prepared by following the discussions at the WG2021-1 and WG2021-2, comments from Participating Countries, “Proposed Next Steps after the Twenty-second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG22) on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)” (EANET/IG 22/10) and “Decisions of IG22”.
2. The Secretariat organized the Working Group Meeting in 2021 Session 1 on 22-24 April 2021. The Session discussed: 1) the Workplan for Expansion of Scope of EANET and EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline; 2) Expansion of Scope of EANET (Findings from the Questionnaire: Review of Efforts of EANET Participating Countries in Tackling Acid Deposition/Air Pollution Problems, Activities in Line with Expansion of Scope of EANET, and Elements for Supplementary Document to the EANET Instrument: Addressing Air Pollution within EANET Framework(first draft)); 3) EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline; 4) Revision of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) and; 5) draft Summary of the Twentieth Anniversary of EANET.
3. The discussions continued at the WG2021-2 held on 18-20 August 2021. The Session discussed: 1) the Revision of Draft Text Supplementary Document (Annex) to EANET Instrument (2nd draft); 2) EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline; 3) Revision of Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center for the EANET; Revision of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET; Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2022 and; Draft Summary of the Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET. The WG2021-2 provided comments on the Second Revision of the Draft Text for the Supplementary Document (Annex) to EANET Instrument submitted to the Meeting. Furthermore, the Session requested the Secretariat to prepare the Third Draft document based on inputs received at the meeting. The Session agreed to have an additional meeting, “Continued discussions of WG2021-2,” on 2 November 2021, for a four-hour session focusing on the Revised Draft Text of Supplementary Document (Annex) to EANET Instrument. The WG2021-2 made several recommendations to IG23 based on its discussion (see [Annex](#)).
4. With the approval of the Chairperson, the WG2021-2 proposed to organize the Friends of the Chair Meeting after the WG2021-2 to discuss inputs for the Third Draft informally. As a result, on 14 September 2021, the Chair of WG2021-2, Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon (Thailand), convened the Friends of the Chair Meeting in order to discuss the draft text and help the Participating Countries in reaching a common understanding of the content of the draft text. Some Participating Countries, among others Japan, Myanmar, Philippines,

Russia, and Thailand, attended the meeting. In addition, China attended the meeting as an observer.

5. Following the Friends of Chair Meeting, the Third Revision of Draft Text for Supplementary Document (Annex) to EANET the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)” was circulated by the Secretariat to the National Focal Points in September 2021 for review and comments. Subsequently, the Secretariat received comments from three Participating Countries, namely Japan, China, and Malaysia.
6. Based on the received comments, the Preliminary Fourth Draft Text for Supplementary Document (Annex) to EANET the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was prepared by the Secretariat. Subsequently, it was submitted to the SAC21 Meeting held from 26-28 October 2021. The SAC21 made several comments on the draft from scientific and technical viewpoints (See Annex 1). Based on the received comments, the Preliminary Fourth Draft Text for Supplementary Document (Annex) to EANET the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was prepared to accommodate the views of the Participating Countries.
7. By the deadline to submit comments on the Preliminary Fourth Draft (29 October 2021), two countries, namely China and Japan, submitted their comments/ suggestions. Based on the received comments, the Consolidated Preliminary Fourth Draft Text for Supplementary Document (Annex) to the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was prepared and submitted to the Continued WG2021-2, held on 2 November 2021. The Session recommended the text for the Fourth (final) Draft Text for Supplementary Document (Annex) to the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) (**to be presented under Agenda item 8**).

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED

8. The IG23 is invited to review the Report on the Outcomes of the Working Group Meetings in 2021 (EANET/IG 23/6), including the Recommendations of the WG2021-2 to IG23, and may wish to consider, discuss, provide guidance, and endorse the document, as appropriate.

Annex

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WG2021 TO IG23

The Working Group Meeting in 2021 (WG2021) recommends the twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG23) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) to make its decisions, including the following elements:

1. Recalling the mandate given by the 22nd Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG22) of the EANET regarding the expansion scope of EANET.

Therefore, the Working Group recommends the IG23 to:

- a. Discuss, consider, and finalize the text Draft Supplementary Document (Annex) to EANET Instrument for the purpose of national procedures to approve, as appropriate.
- b. Discuss, consider, and approve the revision of the Medium Term Plan for the EANET (MTP) (2021-2025), aiming to add relevant information related to the expansion scope of the EANET Instrument to the document following the discussion at the Working Group Meetings in 2021, subject to the approval of the Draft Supplementary Document (Annex) to EANET Instrument.
- c. Task the Secretariat and the NC to take the necessary actions, including organizing the Working Group Meetings in 2022, as a follow-up from sub-paragraph (a) as instructed by the IG23.

2. Recalling the mandate given by the IG22 regarding the Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025).

Therefore, the Working Group recommends the IG23 to:

- a. Discuss, consider and approve the Revision of the MTP (2021-2025), the Revision of Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat, and the Network Center for the EANET and Work Programme and Budget in 2022 (WP&B 2022) that were prepared through discussions at the Working Group Meeting sessions and relevant follow-up discussions, as appropriate, with the common understanding:
 1. Core Activities specified in the Draft MTP (2021-2025) are in line with the current scope and agreed expanded 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 2022 were recommended by the Working Group Session and follow-up process before IG23 that reflect Participating Countries' priorities and interests, ready to implement in 2022 once necessary budget to each activity is secured.

3. Encourage Participating Countries to provide their voluntary contributions to the Core Budget to fully operationalize the Core Activities specified in WP&B 2022 and continue to provide their voluntary contributions to the Core Budget for the MTP (2021-2025).
- b. Discuss, consider, and adopt the final Draft EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline as appropriate, which may take effect immediately following the decision of IG23, with the common understanding:
 1. The EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline will be implemented as a transition period for one or two years following the approval of IG23.
 2. During the transition period, the proposed Non-Core activities (Project Activities) to be implemented in 2022 will be selected through a similar process as in 2021.
 3. The implementation of full project proposal submission for Project Activities will be implemented in 2022 following the decision of IG23.
 4. The proposal to designate ACAP as Project Fund Holder during the transition period (for one or two years) is approved by the IG23.
 - c. Encourage Participating Countries to express the pledge to provide additional voluntary contributions, including in-kind contributions to the Non-Core Activities and EANET Project Fund, to secure necessary resources to implement Non-Core Activities specified in WP&B 2022, and the idea of Non-Core Activities received by 10 September 2021.
 - d. Task the Secretariat and the NC to organize the Working Group Meeting[s] after IG23 to discuss and prepare relevant documents defined in sub-paragraphs (a and b).
 - e. As the Summary of the Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET will be launched during the IG23 meeting and going to be used as an outreach material at the side event of IG23, WG2021 recommend IG23 to discuss, consider and endorse the final Summary of the Twentieth Anniversary of the EANET, subject to the approval of all participating countries. The first day of IG23 is preferred to endorse the final Summary prepared by the SAC.