

The EANET Awareness Workshop in 2022

FROM DATA TO POLICY

The State of Acid Deposition in East Asia

Event Report



Acid Deposition Monitoring
Network in East Asia (EANET)

JUNE 2022

Table of Contents



01

Overview

03

EANET Awareness
Workshop Highlights

02

Objective and
Participants

04

Participants'
Survey Highlights



Overview

The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was established in 2001 as a regional intergovernmental network to promote cooperation among countries in East Asia to address acid deposition problems. The Network is composed of 13 Participating Countries and its main objectives are:

- to create a common understanding of the state of acid deposition problems in East Asia;
- to provide useful inputs for decision-making at the local, national, and regional levels aimed at preventing, or reducing adverse impacts on the environment caused by acid deposition;
- and to contribute to cooperation on the issues related to acid deposition among the participating countries.

In the last 20 years, the EANET has made excellent progress in acid deposition monitoring cooperation. The Network has fostered a regional acid deposition monitoring methodology and scientific exchange platforms which have contributed gradually to solving acid deposition problems in East Asia.

However, due to rapid economic growth and industrialization, many countries in the East Asia region are still facing serious threats from acid deposition-related pollutants, in a more global context where almost the entire global population (99%) breathes air that exceeds the World Health Organization's air quality limits, hindering populations' right to a healthy environment.

Since 2006, the EANET has been developing Periodic Reports on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSADs), published every four to five years, and aiming at providing high-quality data to be used for research, formulation of policies, and measures to reduce the impacts of acid deposition and related air pollutants on the environment. In 2022, the Fourth Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD4), prepared by a Drafting Committee composed of members from the 13 EANET Participating Countries, will be released.

In November 2021, the IG23 approved the Work Programme and Budget of EANET in 2022, among which Objective 4, Activity 10: Promotion of public awareness on acid deposition, including other priority chemical species.

In this respect, and in line with the efforts to facilitate the sharing of a common understanding of atmospheric environmental issues among the scientific and policy-makers communities, the EANET Awareness Workshop in 2022 was organized virtually on Monday, 20 June 13:00-16:00 (ICT) under the name "The State of Acid Deposition in East Asia – from data to policy".



All Workshop's recordings are available online on the EANET's Secretariat [YouTube channel](#).

Objective & Participants



Objective

The EANET Awareness Workshop “The State of Acid Deposition in East Asia – from data to policy” aimed at increasing public understanding of acid deposition issues, and focused on appreciating the work achieved in the last 20 years by the EANET from the monitoring, research, and policymaking perspectives. Through this event, the EANET wishes to generate collaboration ideas for future EANET Projects, based on the findings and recommendations from the PRSAD4.

Participants

The EANET Awareness Workshop in 2022 was 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. 107 persons registered for the Workshop and 79 single connections joined the virtual event’s online platform. However, this number may be underestimated as several organizations connected to the event with a single account, while gathering many participants in a conference room.

In addition to representatives from the EANET participating countries, participants from Algeria, Bangladesh, India, and France also joined the event.

Survey Results

A survey conducted at the end of the Workshop showed that 36.4% of respondents joined an EANET event for the first time. Over half participants heard about the event through the Secretariat’s emails and were mostly satisfied by the relevance of the content of the Workshop and would recommend it to a friend (4.4 rating out of 5). Topics suggested for the next events mostly included more content on air pollution mitigation. The full results of the survey are available on page 11 of this report.

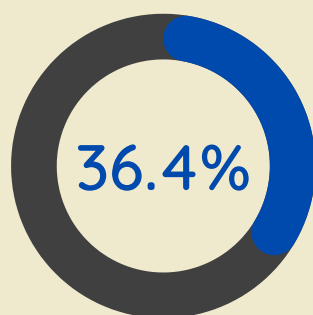


PARTICIPANTS' COUNTRIES



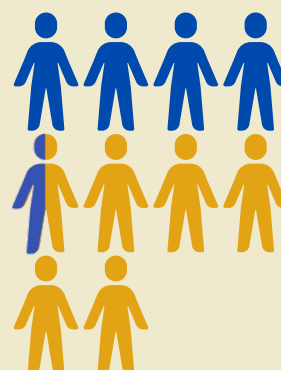
79 participants from 17 countries joined the EANET Awareness Workshop “The State of Acid Deposition in East Asia – from data to policy”

NEW PARTICIPANTS



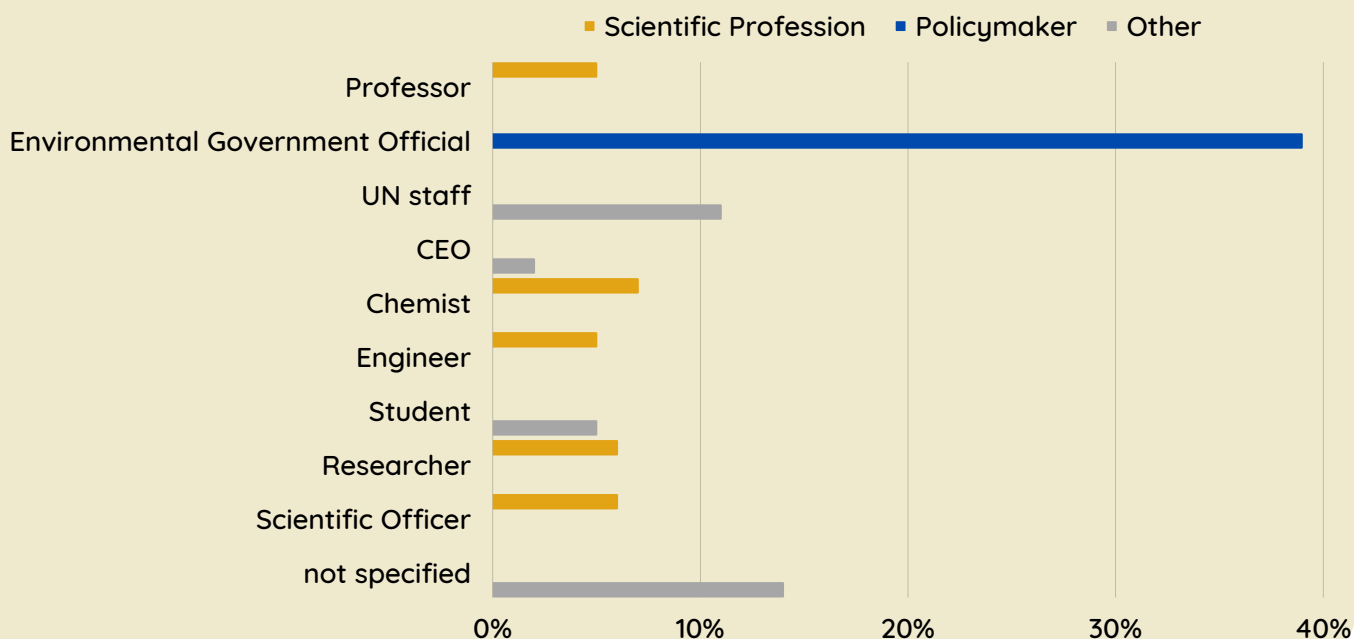
According to the survey sent out after the event, 36.4% of respondents were joining an EANET event for the first time.

GENDER



48% participants were women

PARTICIPANTS' PROFESSION



EANET Awareness Workshop Highlights

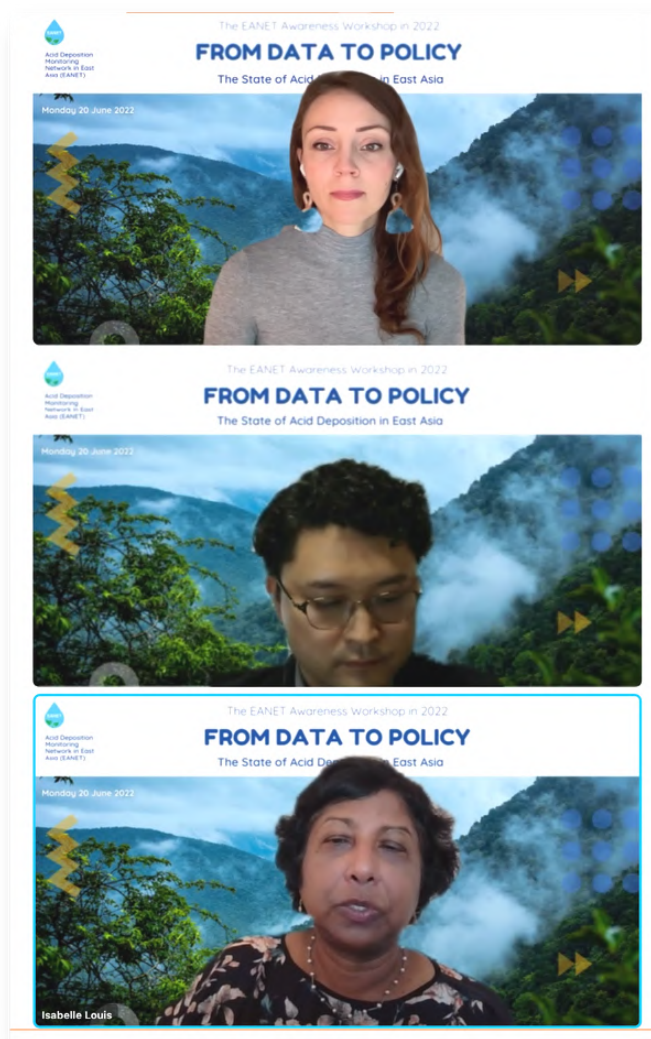
1

Opening Session

Dr. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director of UNEP Asia Pacific office, opened the EANET Awareness Workshop in 2022 by delivering the opening remarks, followed by welcome remarks from Mr. Kenichiro Fukunaga, Deputy Director-General in charge of Administrative Management at the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP).

Key messages conveyed in the remarks celebrated the release of the Fourth Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSad4) and the opportunities ahead for the EANET, in line with the expansion of its scope to air pollution. The launch of the EANET Project Fund was also welcomed and a collective call to action to strengthen the commitment to continued robust data and opportunities for connecting data and policy was made.

The Awareness Workshop in 2021 was facilitated by Ms. Courtney Savie Lawrence, cofounder of The Circular Design Lab based in Bangkok, Thailand, a fellow with the Royal Society of the Arts (RSA), and recently Head of Exploration at UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Innovation Centre.



Watch the recordings of the Opening Session on the EANET's Secretariat [YouTube channel](#).

2

General Lecture Highlights

Prof. Meng Fan, Former Chairperson of the PRSAD4 Drafting Committee and Deputy Director General in charge of the Network Center for EANET, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), presented the General Lecture: Key Findings from the Fourth Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD4).

In this lecture, Prof. Meng Fan explained the context of the release of this important publication produced from the collective work of 58 authors from the EANET Participating Countries and based on data from 2000 to 2019. As an introduction, he explained the specificities of the EANET monitoring sites and detailed the substances measured, while highlighting the importance of high-quality data.

Findings and recommendations from the PRSAD4 highlighted the improvement of sulfur dioxide-related air pollution mostly in North-East Asia, while nitrogen deposition, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and ozone-related pollution were detected at a high level in the EANET region. The importance to continue deploying more monitoring sites was expressed.

At the end of the presentation, a poll was presented to the participants who expressed that, out of the main findings of the PRSAD4, the most relevant message was that "high levels of particulate matter and ozone were measured at some urban sites in the EANET region, and further monitoring and research on air pollution-related substances need to be conducted."

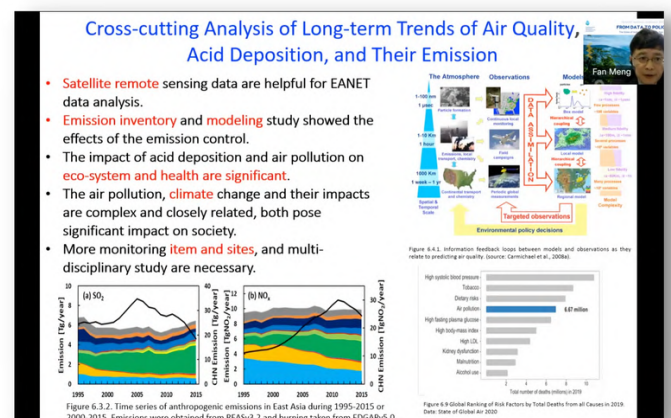
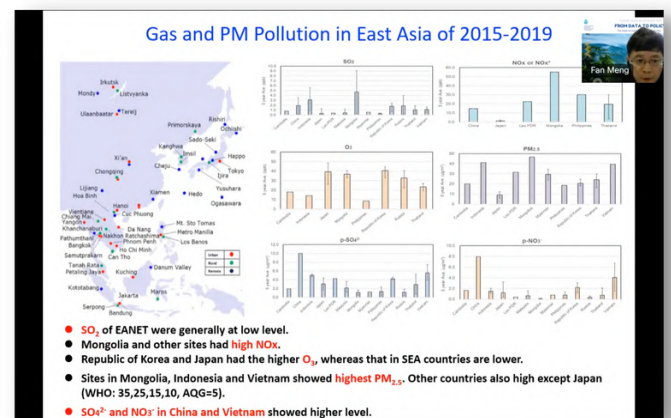
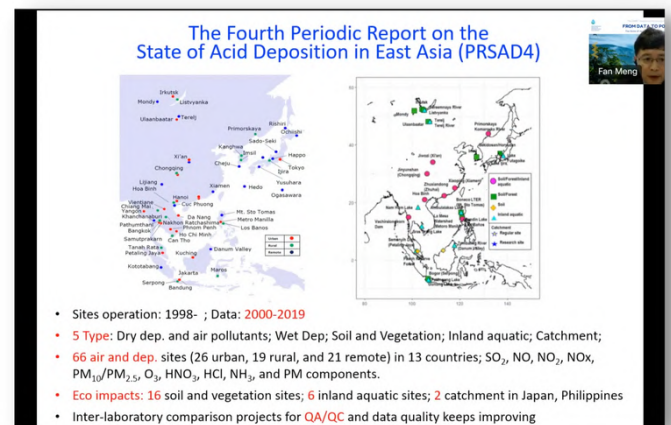
The Fourth Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD4)

	PRSAD1	PRSAD2	PRSAD3	PRSAD4
Publication	2006	2011	2016	2021
Target period	2000~2004	2005~2009	2010~2014	2000~2019

Year	Month	Activities/Events	Deliverables
2020	April	ICADAP/PRSA4	ICADAP/PRSA4
2021	October	ICADAP/PRSA4	Comments from the IC meeting
2021	March	ICADAP/PRSA4	Comments from the IC and the LA meetings
2021	August	ICADAP/PRSA4	Comments from the IC and the LA meetings
2021	October	ICADAP/PRSA4	Final draft of PRSAD4 and Executive Summary
2021	November	ICADAP/PRSA4	Final draft of PRSAD4 and Executive Summary to be submitted to the IC

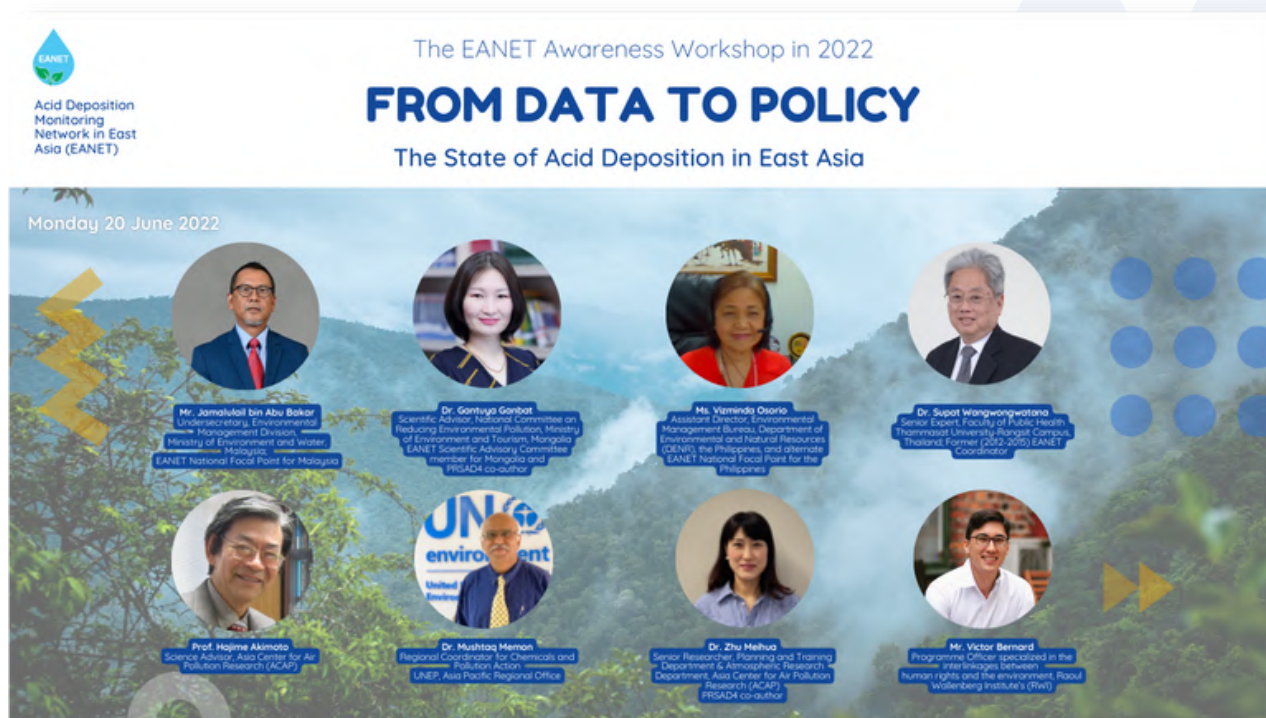
Part1 : Regional Assessment Report
Part2 : National Assessment Report
Part3 : Executive Summary

- Drafting Committee
- Totally of 58 authors for regional report
- Authors for national reports.



3 ▶▶

Panel Discussion



The Panel Discussion: "From data to policy, good practices for evidence-based and data-driven policies in East Asia" included eight speakers:

Mr. Jamalulail bin Abu Bakar, Undersecretary, Environmental Management Division, Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia and EANET National Focal Point for Malaysia; Dr. Gantuya Ganbat, Scientific Advisor, National Committee on Reducing Environmental Pollution, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia and EANET Scientific Advisory Committee member for Mongolia and, PRSAD4 co-author; Ms. Vizmindia Osorio, Assistant Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippines; and alternate EANET National Focal Point,

Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Senior Expert, Faculty of Public Health Thammasat University-Rangsit Campus, Thailand; Prof. Hajime Akimoto, Science Advisor, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP); Dr. Mushtaq Memon, Regional Coordinator for Chemicals and Pollution Action, UNEP, Asia Pacific Regional Office; Dr. Zhu Meihua, Senior Researcher, Planning and Training Department & Atmospheric Research Department, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), PRSAD4 co-author; and Mr. Victor Bernard, Programme Officer specialized in the interlinkages between human rights and the environment, Raoul Wallenberg Institute's (RWI).

The panel discussion was facilitated by Ms. Courtney Savie Lawrence.

Panel Discussion Highlights

Multilateralism

Panelists discussed the importance of regional cooperation and multilateralism to address the triple planetary crisis - climate, nature, and pollution - reflecting on the establishment of UNEP when governments came together in Stockholm during the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to address global environmental problems including acid deposition and air pollution.

Periodic Reports on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia

Since the early 2000s, the EANET has accomplished great efforts to understand acid deposition and air pollution impacts on ecosystems and the environment in East Asia, as shown in the previously published Periodic Reports on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSADs).

Several panelists, who co-authored the PRSAD4 report, explained how the PRSAD4 regroups high-quality peer-reviewed data from the EANET region gathered in the last 20 years.

Data and findings show acidity in the rainwater has decreased gradually in East Asia, while soil and trees did not necessarily react to the reduction of acid deposition. However, lakes and streams in forest areas revealed symptoms of recovery from acidification. In addition, panelists discussed that relatively high levels of calcium carbonate in Southeast Asia could be providing a buffer on the impact of acid deposition on soils and inland waterways. However, levels of sulfates are considered to be significantly high compared to the US and Europe, and high levels of particulate matter and ozone were measured in urban sites in the EANET region.

Right to clean air and to information

Air pollution or the right to clean environment was recently included as a human right by the United Nations. Persistent poor air quality impacts a wide range of human rights to which all countries are committed, including the right to life, water, food, and an adequate standard of living. Access to clean air particularly affects children, women, and indigenous people, who are the most vulnerable to air pollution. Diseases related to air pollution are more common within poor and marginalized communities.

Through its framework, the EANET may help fill the gap of the right to information on air pollution. This can be done by ensuring insights on air quality data are available to those in charge of communicating the risks affected communities face in the EANET region.

Policies and capacity-building

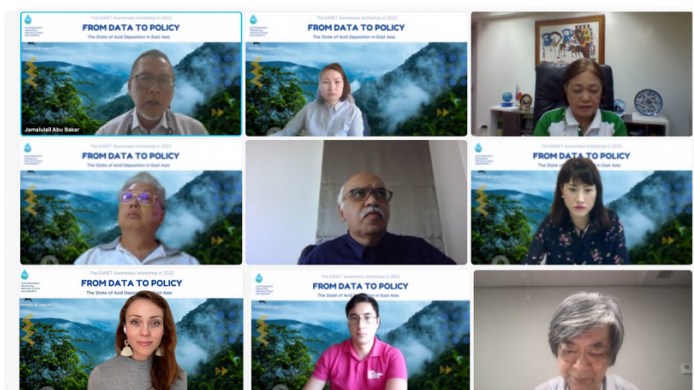
Knowing that acid deposition causing chemical compounds of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides also influence air pollution, policies aimed at reducing sulfur emissions in mobile and industrial sources were developed in EANET countries, such as in Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

Most panelists highlighted the incredible capacity-building efforts led by the EANET in the past twenty years, on emission inventories, acid deposition regulations, and monitoring support which have indirectly contributed to the development of regional policies. Indeed, EANET has supported 135 trainees and 27 research fellows from the Participating Countries to improve their capacity in monitoring and policymaking to address acid deposition.

Ways Forward

Both policymakers and scientists among the panelists agreed on the need to continue deploying more monitoring stations in the EANET region. EANET could assist Participating Countries in particulate matter and ozone monitoring trainings and produce more data in addition to acid deposition data. As particulate matter monitors are expensive, low-cost sensors could be used if standardized.

Panelists finally emphasized the new role the EANET, through its expansion of scope to air pollution related activities, would play in the future, and welcomed the new EANET Project Fund, a mechanism to promote more actions to reduce acid deposition and improve air quality in Asia.



The importance of the science-policy interface was also reminded, and the EANET's capacity-building efforts, including the use of EANET data as baseline information in some countries, were highlighted as a lever for policymaking and to ensure the right to information in the region.

Closing Session

The Workshop's summary and conclusion were presented by Ms. Courtney Savie Lawrence, the facilitator of the Workshop.

Closing Remarks were provided by Mr. Bert Fabian, Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET, who thanked all speakers, experts, and participants for joining the Workshop.



Watch the recordings of the panel discussion and closing session on the EANET's Secretariat [YouTube channel](#).

Survey Highlights

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



"7- Were there any technical issues that prevented you from seeing or hearing the EANET Awareness Workshop? If so, what were they?"

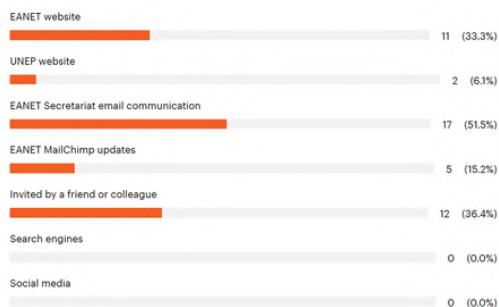
Unknown contact said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"The workshop was held without any technical glitch. Kudos to the organizer and ICT Team."

"2- How did you find out about the EANET Awareness Workshop?"



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

Unknown contact said:

"."

Unknown contact said:

"How to promote and develop the EANET Fund, a new funding mechanism."

Unknown contact said:

"Acid rains and changes in anion content in river water"

Unknown contact said:

"more on air quality management"

Unknown contact said:

"Strategy for secondary pollutants mitigation in east Asia"

Unknown contact said:

"Possible impact of increasing trend of air pollutions and how to mitigate them."

Unknown contact said:

"Some science oriented workshop for scientists of acid deposition and its related disciplines in the region"

Unknown contact said:

"More on Ambient Air Quality and Source Emission Testings in Japan"

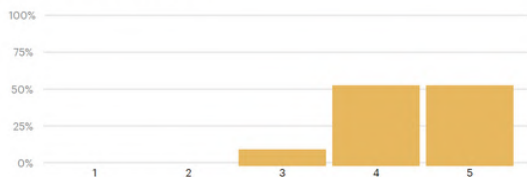
Unknown contact said:

"Linkage of acid deposition to black carbon, climate change, ocean acidification, extreme typhoons, and environmental/public health impacts"

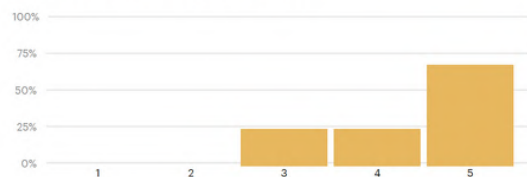
Unknown contact said:

"more on PM"

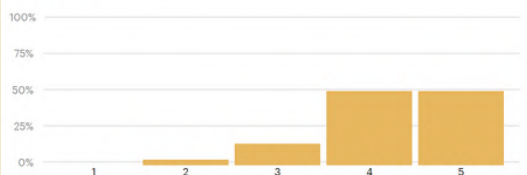
"3- Overall how satisfied were you with the EANET Awareness Workshop?"



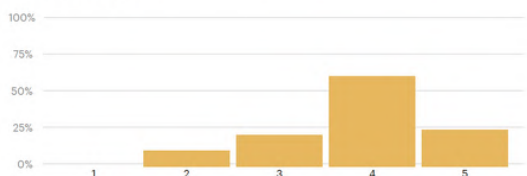
"4- How relevant did you find the content of the EANET Awareness Workshop to your work?"



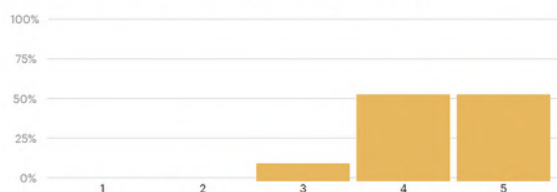
"5- How informative did you find the EANET Awareness Workshop?"



"6- Would you say that the EANET Awareness Workshop was interactive?"



"9- How likely would you recommend this EANET Awareness Workshop to a friend or colleague?"



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

Unknown contact said:

"Very good presentation "

Unknown contact said:

"Good MCI"

Unknown contact said:

"Nil"

4.4

Average satisfaction rating on a scale of 5

4.4

Average relevance rating on a scale of 5

4.2

Average informative rating on a scale of 5

We thank you for your ongoing support

Secretariat for the EANET

United Nations Environment Programme
Asia and the Pacific Office

2nd Floor, United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue,
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

+662 288 1627
+662 280 3829 (Fax)

www.eanet.asia
eanetsecretariat@un.org



Acid Deposition Monitoring
Network in East Asia
(EANET)