

The Working Group Meeting in 2022 (WG2022) of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)
24-25 August 2022, Virtual Meeting

**CONSIDERATION OF THE IG24 PREPARATION (CHAIR, VENUE, AND MODALITY
– ONLINE/IN PERSON HYBRID) (EANET/WG2022/8)**

I. Introduction

1. In line with the Medium Term Plan for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) (2021-2025) (EANET/IG 23/11/rev) and the Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2022 (EANET/IG 23/14/r), the Secretariat, with support from the Network Center, as part of Objective 5: Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration, organizes the necessary arrangements for two annual meetings of the EANET in 2022, namely the Twenty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24) and the Twenty second Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC22).
2. The Twenty-Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24) on the EANET will be held on 24-25 November 2022 and the Twenty second Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC22) will be organized on 18-20 October 2022.
3. On 12 April 2022, the Secretariat for the EANET has sent per email a letter signed by the Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Environment Programme, informing these dates to EANET National Focal Points with a copy to SAC Members.
4. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the past two years, the IG22 and IG23 have been organized in a full virtual mode via an online platform.
5. On 7 July 2022, the Bureau Chair has asked the Secretariat to explore possibilities of organizing the IG24 in a face-to-face or hybrid set-up.
6. This paper describes options on modality for the IG24.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED

7. The Working Group Meeting in 2022 (WG2022) is invited to consider and review the discussion paper on “Consideration of the IG 24 Preparation (Chair, Venue, and Modality – Online/ In-Person Hybrid)” and may wish to discuss, consider, provide guidance, and recommend further actions from the Secretariat, as appropriate.

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Attachment

CONSIDERATION OF THE IG24 PREPARATION (CHAIR, VENUE, AND MODALITY – ONLINE/IN PERSON HYBRID)

1. As part of the Secretariat's task to prepare the necessary arrangements for the IG as defined in the Medium Term Plan for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) (2021-2025) (EANET/IG 23/11/rev) and the Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2022 (EANET/IG 23/14/r), the Secretariat has discussed with Participating Countries and consulted on their possible interest to chair and host the IG24 in 2022.
2. As part of the preparations of the IG meeting, the Secretariat is considering different modality options to be proposed to the Participating Countries for the logistics and technical arrangements of the meeting, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. These options are described below.

Modality

3. There are three possible modalities in holding the IG24, which are fully virtual/ online, fully face-to-face, and hybrid face-to-face/ virtual. Advantages and limitations remain for the different modalities.
4. Over the past two years, due to travel restrictions and to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IG meetings have been organized fully virtually via an online platform. The Secretariat and the Network Center have been able to successfully organize this modality technically and are familiar with various online meeting platforms. In addition, although the IG22 and IG23 meetings have been organized virtually, they have been successful meetings leading to important decisions such as the expansion of the scope of the EANET Instrument (IG22) and the introduction of the Annex to the EANET Instrument (IG23). Participating Countries were able to reach consensus and make important decisions despite the online modalities.
5. Face-to-face IG meetings have been the format of all previous IGs prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. While it is possible for the Secretariat to organize a face-to-face meeting of the IG, the COVID-19 pandemic situation in various countries may limit the participation of certain countries, also depending on where the IG will be held.
6. Hybrid – face-to-face/virtual meetings have not been organized by the Secretariat. A hybrid meeting requires the logistics arrangements of a face-to-face meeting (selection of a venue, travel and hotel arrangements etc...), in addition to the technical arrangements of a virtual meeting. If such modality is selected, and in line with practices followed at international

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online meetings such as UNEA 5.1 and 5.2, to guarantee fair discussions among countries online and offline, all decisions shall be made online.