The Working Group Meeting in 2022 Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia 24-25 August 2022, Virtual Meeting

REPORT OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Working Group Meeting in 2022 (WG2022) of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was organized virtually during 24-25 August 2022.
- 2. Representatives of the Participating Countries, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, participated in the meeting. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Secretariat and Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the Network Center (NC) for the EANET; Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology (RRC.AP/AIT) attended the meeting as well. The List of Participants is attached to this Report as Annex.

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 1)

- 3. Mr. Bert Fabian, Coordinator of the Secretariat for the EANET, welcomed all virtual meeting participants and facilitated the opening of the session as well as the election of officers. Subsequently, he invited Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme for Asia & the Pacific, to deliver the Welcome Remarks, and Dr. Shiro Hatakeyama, Director-General, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research, to deliver the Opening Remarks.
- 4. In her remarks, Dr. Tsering welcomed all EANET Participating Countries. She congratulated all Participating Countries for the adoption of the Supplementary Document Annex to the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia and the approval of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline, last November at IG23. Dr. Tsering reminded participants of the mandate of the IG to organize the WG2022 and wished that the new EANET Project Fund mechanism would greatly contribute to EANET's MTP for 2021-2025 and increase the EANET's impact to reduce acid deposition and air pollution in the region.
- 5. In delivering the Opening Remarks, Dr. Shiro Hatakeyama thanked all participants for attending the Working Group Meeting in 2022. He highlighted the key discussion points of the meeting, in line with the mandate and Decisions of IG23 and with the Medium- Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025). Dr. Hatakeyama also stressed the importance of the results of this Working Group meeting as these will

contribute to defining the role EANET will play in the future according to its newly expanded scope.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (AGENDA ITEM 2)

6. The Session elected Mr. Koki Azuma, Counsellor for Transboundary Pollution Analysis, General Affairs Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, as the Chairperson; Ms. Jacinta David, Deputy Undersecretary, Environmental Management Division, Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia and Dr. Le Ngoc Cau, Director, Center of Environmental Research, Viet Nam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change, Viet Nam as the Vice-Chairpersons; and Dr. Batbayar Jadamba, Director, Environmental Monitoring Division, National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM), Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia, as Rapporteur of the WG2022.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 3)

7. The Session adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/WG2022/3/1), Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/WG2022/3/2), and Program Agenda (EANET/WG2022/3/3) of the Session proposed by the Secretariat and the Network Center.

V. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT EANET PROJECT PLANS/ PROJECT CONCEPT NOTES SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER (AGENDA ITEM 4.1)

- 8. The Network Center presented the "Consideration of draft EANET project plans/ project concept notes submitted to the Secretariat and the Network Center (EANET/WG2022/4/1)".
- 9. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The Network Center and the Secretariat summarized the eight draft EANET Project Plans for 2023 that have been submitted to the Secretariat.
 - The Network Center and the Secretariat showed the results of the screening review of the Project Plans.
 - After the WG2022, Project Plans will be submitted to SAC22 for technical review and consideration, and to IG24 for review, consideration, and approval.
- 10. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments, and provide guidance and make recommendations to the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24) on the EANET.

- i. Participants first discussed the content of the EANET Project Plans (EPP).
- ii. Following a question on Project 5, *Promotion of capacity building for personnel of the participating countries on monitoring*, the Network Center (NC) clarified this project would be the continuation of the past EANET Individual Training and explained the "site visits" would include visits of the EANET monitoring sites in Japan. The NC further explained site visits are very important for trainees to understand how to operate and maintain monitoring equipment.
- iii. The NC also clarified, for Project 7, Seminars for Acid Deposition/Air Pollution effects on human health and ecosystem, the reference to Europe. As part of the capacity building activities of Project 7, the experience from European organizations such as UNECE's Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRAP) will be used, including references to integrated assessment models to learn from the European experience in the field on reducing emissions, and conducting regional assessments to understand effects of atmospheric pollution on ecosystems and human health.
- iv. A Participating Country suggested that the EPPs should remain within the current scope of the EANET, while another country highlighted the possibility to go with the expanded scope for certain projects in the next year, allowing the EANET to work on more innovative projects.
- v. It was suggested by several countries to set a priority list of projects that seem most relevant to the Participating Countries (PCs) so that the IG can consider the allocation of EANET Project Fund.
- vi. Specific modifications on the EPPs were shared during the meeting from a country and the Secretariat circulated them to all Participating Countries (PCs). In general, these suggested that the EPPs should be within the scope of the Annex which was adopted in the last IG23 and to be implemented once the Annex is operational. It was clarified that the Annex of the Instrument will become operational for the Countries who have adopted it by end of October 2022. The projects could be implemented in sequence and given implementation priority according to the PC's interest.
- vii. The results and the conclusions of the EANET projects are suggested to represent the views of the researchers only, unless approved by all PCs.

- viii. It was reminded that Partner Organizations (POs) can be organizations from outside of the EANET Participating Countries, as stated in the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline.
 - ix. A country suggested to incorporate Project 8, *Research Fellowship Program*, to the core budget of the EANET.
 - x. Republic of Korea expressed interest to consider future collaborations with the Korean National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER), through their Technical Training program, under future EANET Projects. This collaboration could be in the form of an in-kind contribution and more details will be shared with the SEC and the NC after the WG2022 meeting.
 - xi. Participants then discussed the budget of the Project Plans.
- xii. Some countries raised the question of the available funds in the EANET Project Fund.
- xiii. The NC and the SEC explained that the EANET Project Fund is a new initiative and that no pledges had been confirmed at the moment.
- xiv. A country suggested to revise the budget of Project 6, *The webinar workshop for capacity building on emission inventory for combustion sources*, as this current proposed budget seemed high for a webinar.
- xv. The SEC and the NC clarified that the EANET Project Fund is independent from the core fund of the EANET (from voluntary contributions of PCs). The EANET Project Fund is the fund used for EANET Projects which are not part of the EANET core activities.
- xvi. It was explained that the distribution and allocation of the EANET Project Fund to the EANET Projects is up to the IG.
- xvii. Japan has informed the Session that they are considering contributions to the EANET Project Fund, with particular interest for Projects 2 (*The Feasibility for promoting VOCs related Capacity Building in the EANET*) and 3 (*Methodology Study for Development of LCS Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN*)). On the other hand, Japan expressed less interest and has no budget to fund Projects 5 (*Promotion of capacity building for personnel of the participating countries on monitoring*) and 8 (*Research Fellowship Program*).
- xviii. Viet-Nam clarified that their contribution to Project 3, *Methodology Study for Development of LCS Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN)*, would be an in-kind contribution.

- xix. The NC explained that some projects only showed in-kind contributions as the co-financing organizations were still being contacted.
- xx. On project 3, Methodology Study for Development of LCS Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN), the NC clarified that the duration of the project is for 2 years so far, and that an extension proposal could be submitted if needed in the future.
- 12. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 4.1.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE REVISION OF THE EANET PROJECT FUND AND GUIDELINE (AGENDA ITEM 4.2)

- 13. The NC presented "Consideration of the revision of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline (EANET/WG2022/4/2)".
- 14. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The presentation showed the proposed revisions of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia based on Japan's proposal sent to the Secretariat and Network Center on 1 July 2022.
- 15. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments, and provide guidance and make recommendations to the IG24 on the EANET.
- 16. The major discussion included:
 - i. A Participating Country raised the question of measuring the impact of the EANET Projects on the beneficiaries, the EANET PCs, since one the key criteria for the selection of the EANET Project Plans (EPP) is that more than half of the EANET PCs benefit from the projects.
 - ii. A country suggested to let the PCs express their opinion during the IG meeting on their inclusion as beneficiaries of an EPP.
 - iii. The NC explained on the beneficiaries of an EPP, and that documents, such as technical manuals, could be produced at the completion of the projects, to make sure projects are replicable in various PCs and benefit a greater number of countries.

- iv. A country mentioned that since the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline has just been newly adopted in IG23, it suggested to wait for its implementation for at least one year before revising it, to avoid multiple revisions.
- v. The NC explained that based on Japan's request for the revision, and while preparing EPPs, several inconsistencies and duplications were found, in particular in the Concept Note and Project Plan template, which explained this request for a revision.
- vi. A country suggested to further revise the template of the completion report based on standards from other international organizations, more specifically on the provision of bi-annual financial reports.
- vii. A country proposed the text and language of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline to be revised and clarified, in particular, regarding the use of the same language for the PC's "voluntary contribution" made to the core budget and to the EANET Project Fund. Instead, it was suggested to use different wordings in the Guideline, in order to make sure there is no confusion between the voluntary contribution to the EANET core-budget and the voluntary contribution to the EANET Project Fund.
- 17. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 4.2.
- VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REVISION OF GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER FOR THE EANET (AGENDA ITEM 5.1)
 - 18. The Secretariat and the NC jointly presented the "Consideration of the revision of guidelines on the administrative and financial management for the Secretariat and the Network Center for the EANET (EANET/WG2022/5/1)".
 - 19. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The history of the past revisions of the Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center.
 - The proposal from Japan to further revise the Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center, received per email by the Secretariat and the Network Center on 1 July 2022.
 - 20. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments, provide guidance, and make recommendations to the IG24 on the EANET.

- 21. The Chair invited Japan to explain their comments on Agenda item 5.1.
- 22. Japan presented the key points of their proposal to revise the Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center, focusing on better accountability and cost-efficiency of operations, in the perspective of future fundraising strategies.

- i. A country proposed that the Guidelines can be considered for revision after they have been implemented for a period of time, depending on the effectiveness of its implementation.
- ii. Several Participating Countries have expressed general support to Japan's proposal.
- iii. Several PCs asked about the financial status of the SEC and NC and possible unused budget given that in the past years most activities were conducted, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- iv. It was suggested to include Japan's requested revised points for the SEC and NC in the draft Work Program and Budget (WPB) to be submitted to SAC22 and IG24 and to test their efficiency before making modifications to the Guidelines.
- v. It was suggested to include the unused budget of the SEC and NC in the WPB draft to be submitted to the SAC22 and IG24.
- vi. The SEC and NC clarified that no changes would be made to the core budget.
- 24. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 5.1.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE BEST APPROACH TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITY OF THE SECRETARIAT TO ADDRESS THE EXPANDED SCOPE AND THE NEW EANET PROJECT FUND MECHANISM (AGENDA ITEM 5.2)

- 25. The Secretariat presented the "Consideration best approach to strengthen the capability of the Secretariat to address the expanded scope and the new EANET Project Fund mechanism (EANET/WG2022/5/2)
- 26. The key points of the presentation included:

- The context of the expansion of the scope of the EANET following IG23's Decision, and the new EANET Project Fund mechanism.
- The request from Japan to prepare a discussion paper on the best approach to strengthen the capability of the Secretariat
- The details of the Secretariat's operations, current and future functions in the context of the expansion of scope.
- 27. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments, provide guidance, and make recommendations to the IG24 on the EANET

- i. Several PCs requested the SEC to share more details on the provisional human resources' budget of the SEC, the increased workload and activities, the number of required staff and the current financial situation, to best understand the need to expand the capacity of the SEC, within the budget as defined by the MTP.
- ii. The SEC informed the Session that more information on the plan to expand the capacity of the SEC will be provided as part of the WPB 2023 to be submitted to the IG, in collaboration with the PCs.
- 29. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 5.2.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF ACCELERATING THE INVOLVEMENT OF EANET PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE EANET PROJECT PLAN SUBMISSION PROCESS (AGENDA ITEM 6.1)

- 30. The Secretariat presented the "Consideration of accelerating the involvement of EANET Participating Countries and other organizations in the EANET Project Plan submission process (EANET/WG2022/6/1)".
- 31. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The request from Japan sent on 1 July 2022 to the Secretariat and the Network Center to prepare this discussion paper.
 - Immediate actions that can be undertaken by the Secretariat and the Network Center within the mandate of the IG's decisions
 - Future short-term and mid-term actions to be approved by the IG.
- 32. The Session was invited to review and make comments, provide guidance, and make recommendations to the IG24 on the EANET.

- i. A country suggested the new activities of fundraising may be added in the draft Work Programme and Budget if there is sufficient budget.
- ii. A country suggested to emphasize collaboration with other initiatives to popularize the EANET Project Fund.
- iii. A country suggested that when disclosing materials for the promotion of the EANET, these should be agreed upon by all Participating Countries. The same approach should be taken for the selection of partner organizations.
- iv. A country suggested to replace the word "can" by "could" in this document as the process is voluntary-based and considers respective national conditions and capabilities.
- v. A country mentioned that the output from this Agenda item would be the addition of new activities related to the promotion of the EANET Project Fund to the Draft Work Programme and Budget.
- vi. Japan expressed support on the proposed activities, in principle, as long as the they are in line with the budget defined by MTP and do not lead to increasing the EANET's core budget.
- vii. Japan also added that the proposed short-term actions should be reflected in the WPB2023 with detailed information (justification, relevance, financial background and to be included for IG consideration)
- 34. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 6.1.

X. CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES FOR THE EANET PROJECT FUND (AGENDA ITEM 6.2)

- 35. The Secretariat presented the "Consideration of future fundraising strategies for the EANET Project Fund (EANET/WG2022/6/2)".
- 36. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The request from Japan sent on 1 July 2022 to the Secretariat and the Network Center to prepare this discussion paper.
 - An analysis of the potential contributors and/or co-financers

- The description of the potential utilization of unused budget or surplus funds from the Secretariat and the Network Center.
- Immediate actions that can be undertaken by the Secretariat and the Network Center within the mandate of the IG's decisions
- Future short-term and mid-term actions to be approved by the IG.
- 37. The Session was invited to review and make comments, provide guidance, and make recommendations to the IG24 on the EANET.

- i. A country mentioned that the increase of the voluntary contributions would need to be reviewed and approved by all the Participating Countries.
- ii. A country suggested the EANET should remain a technical and not policy driven network to avoid contentiousness and recommended rephrasing the word "politically" by "amenable" in the document: Consideration of future fundraising strategies for the EANET Project Fund (EANET/WG2022/6/2).
- iii. Several countries requested the SEC and NC to present their current financial situation, including the figure of the annual surplus by the end of 2021, the unused budget, to better understand how this unused budget will be utilized and to show potential co-financers the healthy management of the EANET budget.
- iv. A country encouraged other PCs to send their contributions in time.
- v. A country requested the SEC and the NC to share a concrete plan of the future outreach activities and encouraged other PCs to actively conduct outreach activities.
- vi. A country reminded these activities are voluntary, and as such the word "can" in the document may be replaced by "could".
- vii. A country mentioned that the proposed activities should have a secured budget.
- viii. A country suggested that when disclosing materials for the promotion of the EANET, these should be agreed upon by all Participating Countries. Partner organizations that provide financial and in-kind support for EANET activities should be to the interest of and agreed by PCs.
 - ix. A country emphasized that the balance of earmarked funding cannot be converted for another purpose, as the usage of funding is generally defined by countries' Ministry of Finance when sending a contribution.

- x. A country suggested to include more details on the expected cost of the immediate actions presented in the discussion paper. Proposed activities shall be carried out on the basis of enough funding, and projects with enough funds and consensus among all parties can be carried out first.
- xi. A country suggested to use the surplus of the SEC and the NC for the EANET Project Fund and to explain the percentage of the surplus which could be allocated to the EANET Project Fund, as the EANET has limited experience raising funds.
- xii. SEC and NC informed the Session they will share more information on the unused budget in the WPB to be submitted to SAC and IG.
- xiii. A country proposed to request the SEC and NC for the short-term actions to be reflected in the WPB together with detailed information (e.g. justification, relevance, budget background, etc), for IG's consideration.
- xiv. A country suggested to see the draft WBP before the preparation to SAC.
- 39. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 6.2.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF THE REORGANIZATION OF TASK FORCES IN LINE WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE SCOPE OF THE EANET ADOPTED BY IG23 (AGENDA ITEM 7)

- 40. The NC presented the "Consideration of the reorganization of Task Forces in line with the expansion of the Scope of the EANET adopted by IG23 (EANET/WG2022/7)".
- 41. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The request from Japan sent on 1 July 2022 to the Secretariat and the Network Center to prepare the proposed revisions of the EANET Task Forces.
 - The TOR of the current Task Forces (TF), activities, and outcomes
 - The proposed revision of the Task Forces, in line with the MTP 2021-2025 for the EANET
- 42. The Session was invited to review and make comments, provide guidance, and make recommendations to the IG24 on the EANET.
- 43. The major discussion included:

- i. A country suggested to prepare a presentation to SAC to explain the reference to the Annex to SAC members and link the new TFs to the Annex.
- ii. A country sent suggested specific modifications on the TF's activities to the SEC and NC via e-mail, and in general the principles to the TFs activities include: first, the activities should be within the scope of the EANET, priority concerns of PCs could be focused on, and some activities which reach the consensus may be carried out first. Second, since human health risk research is quite sensitive, a step-by-step approach is suggested to be taken, starting by developing a methodology on research activities, followed by capacity building activities. It is suggested that TFs don't need to cover everything in the activities and ecosystem impact research could be conducted first. Third, since it is very difficult to reach consensus on methodology research, based on past experiences, it is suggested to be more feasible to start with conducting a methodology research pilot project.
- iii. The NC confirmed the TFs' activities should remain within the scope of the EANET.
- iv. The NC clarified that according to EANET the Rules of Procedures, the SAC can establish a new Task Force and assign the Chairperson of this new TF, followed by the IG's endorsement. Members of the TF will be nominated by PCs, once the TFs are endorsed by IG. The results of the nominations will then be circulated early in 2023 and the activity of the TF may start afterwards. These new activities shall also be included in the WPB for 2024, based on approval from SAC and IG.
- v. The Chairperson suggested that a presentation be prepared and presented at the next SAC meeting by NC to explain the TF reformation process.
- 44. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 7.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF THE IG24 PREPARATION (CHAIR, VENUE, AND MODALITY – ONLINE/IN PERSON HYBRID) (AGENDA ITEM 8)

- 45. The Secretariat presented the "Consideration of the IG24 Preparation (Chair, venue, and modality online/in person hybrid) (EANET/WG2022/8)".
- 46. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The different options on the modality of organizing the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24) on the EANET in a face-to-face or hybrid set-up.

47. The Session was invited to review and make comments, provide guidance, and make recommendations to the IG24 on the EANET.

48. The major discussion included:

- i. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a country mentioned it would be very difficult to join in a face-to-face modality and the online or hybrid modality would be preferred.
- ii. The Philippines announced they would be honored to host the 24th IG in November 2022 in any modality. In case of a hybrid modality, the Philippines would be happy to help with the logistics of the meeting.
- iii. Japan welcomed the Philippines' willingness to host IG24.
- iv. Several countries expressed their preference to have a face-to-face IG meeting with the option for a hybrid modality depending on the situation of the travel bans due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 47. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 8.

XIII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPOSED BY THE EANET PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, THE SECRETARIAT, OR THE NETWORK CENTER (AGENDA ITEM 9)

49. The Chairperson invited the Session to discuss the "Other matters as proposed by the EANET Participating Countries, the Secretariat, or the Network Center (EANET/WG2022/9)" and propose discussion points.

50. The major discussion included:

- i. The NC invited all PCs to join the EANET Seminar: Learnings on Reducing Emissions from Open Burning to be held online on 6 September 2022.
- ii. A country asked the SEC to update the Session on the status of approval of the Annex among PCs.
- iii. The SEC informed that Japan has informed the SEC by e-mail in Nov 2021 that Japan is adopting the Annex upon approval at the IG23. Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia have sent their consent letters as of today, while other PCs are still working on their consent letters.

- iv. Indonesia informed that they are facing the difficulty to implement monitoring activities in Indonesia mainly due to domestic reorganization related to EANET activity.
- v. The NC mentioned to Indonesia that the NC is pleased to support Indonesia technically to continue EANET activity. Some countries also had difficulty to continue the EANET activity, but the NC support to overcome it in the past.
- vi. The Secretariat also offered its support to Indonesia.
- 47. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 9.

XIV. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS (AGENDA ITEM 10)

- 51. The Secretariat presented the "Wrap-up and next steps of the EANET Participating Countries, the Secretariat, or the Network Center (EANET/WG2022/10)".
- 52. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The next steps following the WG2022 and towards SAC22 and IG24.
- 53. The Session was invited to review and make comments, provide guidance, and make recommendations to the IG24 on the EANET.
- 54. The major discussion included:
 - i. Japan shared a document, 'Proposal by Japan Key elements for each agenda item incorporated in the report of the session' per email to the Secretariat to be incorporated in the report of the session and Secretariat circulated it to all Participating Countries (PCs).
 - ii. A country responded that such a document should not be included in the report of the session because the report of the session is the record of what we discussed in the Working Group, not documents. Japan announced to change their proposal and distribute it as the Statement by Japan for the WG2022 (Annex III).
 - iii. A country recognized the importance to set new TFs but also emphasized the importance for the EANET to try to minimize any duplication with other organizations and conserve the unique nature of the EANET's TFs.
 - iv. A country suggested to organize an interim meeting before SAC22 to discuss further the Agenda 6.2 and better understand what documents would be

- submitted to IG regarding the financial situation and the unused budget of the SEC and the NC.
- v. The SEC informed the Session it would be possible to set this meeting as soon as the budget information is available, which would be by mid-September, in the preparation of the SAC meeting to be held on 18-20 October 2022 but must be specified as extension of this WG to be within the mandate of IG.
- vi. Japan proposed that after receiving information on the budget, PCs may discuss the necessity of organizing an interim meeting.
- 55. The Session considered and approved the Proposed Next Steps after the WG22.
- 56. The Session discussed and adopted the WG2022's Recommendations to SAC22 and IG24.
- 57. The Session considered and adopted the Report of the Session of the WG2022.
- 58. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 10.

XV. CLOSING OF THE SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 11)

- 59. Dr. Isabelle Louis congratulated the participants for the successful meeting. She appreciated the great contribution of participants to all agenda items and thanked the EANET representatives for their ongoing support.
- 60. The Session expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, the Rapporteur, the participants, the representatives from international organizations, and resource persons for their efforts, cooperation, and contribution to the Session.
- 61. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat, and the NC for their contributions, declared the Working Group Meeting in 2022 of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia officially closed.

ANNEX I – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WG2022 TO IG24 (adopted)

Recalling the mandate given by the 23rd Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG23) of the EANET in its Decisions, to "task the Secretariat and the NC to take the necessary actions, including organizing the Working Group Meetings in 2022, which may include the function of reviewing the projects as stated in the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline",

Further recalling the Decisions of IG23, the adoption of the finalized text for the Supplementary Document (Annex) to the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, and the approval of the revised MTP (2021-2025) at IG23,

The Working Group Meeting in 2022 (WG2022) held from 24-25 August 2022 recommends the twenty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) to make its decisions, taking into account the statements by Participating Countries outlined within the Report of the Session of the Working Group 2022, including the following elements:

- 1. Consider the approval of the EANET Project Plans, in light of the review and recommendations and statements made by all Participating Countries in the Working Group on the 8 Draft EANET Project Plans and with consideration to the recommendations from SAC22 and the securing of funds.
- 2. Consider, discuss, and provide guidance on the process for revision of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline by the Participating Countries, and Revision of the Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center, taking account of opinions from Participating Countries, including review by the Secretariat and the Network Center.
- 3. Consider, discuss and approve the trial implementation of recommendations on modification of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline and Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center for at least one year, following alignment with UN Rules and Regulations and based on the consent of all Participating Countries. Effective revisions will be submitted to the following IG for consideration, discussion, and approval.
- 4. Consider, discuss, and provide guidance on the proposal of strengthening the capability of the Secretariat to address the Expanded Scope and the new EANET Project Fund Mechanism.
- 5. Consider, discuss, and provide guidance on accelerating the involvement of EANET Participating Countries and other organizations in the EANET Project Plan submission process.

- 6. Consider, discuss, and provide guidance on the proposal of future fundraising strategies for the EANET Project Fund, such as, involving interested organizations and donor agencies, arranging co-finance or in kind-contribution, and actively performing outreach activities.
- 7. Consider tasking the Secretariat and the Network Center to take the necessary actions, including organizing the Working Group Meetings in 2023 and preparation of documents considering the inputs of Participating Countries.

ANNEX III – Statement by Japan for WG 2022

August 26, 2022

As mentioned in the Agenda 10: Wrap-up and Next Steps of the Working Group 2022 (WG), Japan would like to submit a statement which Japan could not share in our intervention because of time constraint. Japan requests the Secretariat (SEC) to treat this statement as same as interventions in the WG and other statements from participants and to incorporate this statement into the Report of the Session of the WG.

1. Japan request SEC and the Network Center (NC) to prepare draft decisions and take necessary actions as following for consideration and approval of the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24).

A) EANET Project Proposals

- ✓ To further develop EANET Project Plans and the draft Work Programme and Budget (WPB), including priority for budget allocation for EANET Project Plans as appropriate, considering the comments and inputs made at WG2022 to prepare draft documents for SAC and IG24.
- ✓ To secure resources for the proposed projects as a part of the draft WPB for 2023, working together with the Project Lead and Participating Countries (PCs) and to consider utilization of the unused budget of the Core Budget, if needed.

B) Revision of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guidelines and Revision of the Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center of the EANET

- To consider how to reflect the paragraph 3. of the Recommendations of the WG2022 to IG24 into draft decisions in order to commence the trial implementation in 2023.
- ✓ To incorporate proposed principles, idea, and some of draft texts and tables in "Revision of the Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center of the EANET" into the draft WPB2023.

C) Best Approach to Strengthen the Capacities of the Secretariat to Address and the New EANET Project Fund Mechanism

✓ To propose relevant activities with more detailed information such as rationale, review of activities in past five years, and implication to the future budget for the Secretariat, and reflect them to the draft WPB2023.

D) Accelerating the Involvement of the EANET Participating Countries and Other Organizations in the EANET Project Plan Submission Process.

✓ To propose relevant activities with more detailed information such as rationale, review of activities in past five years, and implication to the future budget for the Secretariat, and reflect them to the draft WPB2023.

E) Future Fundraising Strategies for EANET Project Fund

- ✓ To propose relevant activities with more detailed information such as rationale, review of activities in past five years, and implication to the future budget for the Secretariat, and reflect them to the draft WPB2023
- 2. Japan request SEC and NC to consider further and to develop the strategies as well as actual activities for the consideration of IG in its future sessions, in relation to the midterm review of the implementation of Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025 on C), D) and E).
- 3. Japan invites PCs to provide voluntary financial and/or in-kind contributions to the EANET Project Fund and/or each proposed EANET Project.