

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN 2023 (WG2023) RELEVANT FOR SAC23

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Working Group Meeting in 2023 (WG2023) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was held on 22 and 23 August 2023 via an online platform. The Report of the Session, including the recommendations relevant for SAC23, is found in Attachment 1 (EANET/SAC23/5).
2. Discussion points from the WG2023 Session, particularly relevant to the SAC members, may be summarized as follows:
 - i. Regarding the Draft Inception Report of the EANET Mid-Term Review, some key points included: (a) considering the inclusion of capacity building in Core Activities for the next Medium-Term Plan (MTP), (b) looking at addressing climate change-related issues, and (c) measuring indicators to measure the impact of EANET activities on environmental improvement in the region.
 - ii. Regarding EANET publications and research products: there was a proposal to use a disclaimer emphasizing that research projects represent only the opinions of the researchers, unless otherwise decided by the IG.
 - iii. Related to the EANET Project Plans, it was proposed, due to budget limitations, to consider combining projects, where relevant.
 - iv. In relation to the Rules of Procedure of the EANET, discussions raised the possibility of having the IG approve EANET data before public disclosure, as well as Task Force documents, keeping in mind the alignment with the current Guidelines and SAC's mandate.
 - v. Several countries discussed the proposal to use the words "air pollution" with "atmospheric environmental issues" in the Guidelines.
 - vi. Lastly, the Session discussed whether experts from outside the EANET should serve as resource persons rather than full members in Task Forces or Expert Groups.
3. Attachment 1 includes the full text of the Report of WG2023, and recommendations and discussions relevant to the SAC23 are highlighted in yellow.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED

4. The SAC23 is invited to consider the Working Group Meeting 2023 Highlights Relevant for SAC23 meeting (EANET/SAC23/5), from the scientific and technical viewpoints, to assist in the discussions at SAC23 Meeting.

REPORT OF THE SESSION (ADOPTED)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Working Group Meeting in 2023 (WG2023) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was held on 22 and 23 August 2023 via an online platform.
2. Representatives of the Participating Countries, namely Cambodia, China, Japan, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, participated in the Session. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat for the EANET, and from the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the Network Center (NC) for the EANET, attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached to this Report as Annex 1.

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 1]

3. Ms. Marlene Nilsson, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme, was not able to deliver the Opening Remarks herself. Mr. Bert Fabian, Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET, read her speech and welcomed attendees to the 2023 EANET Working Group Meeting, highlighting its importance for refining the guidelines and improving EANET's processes. The Opening Remarks underscored the global air pollution as a crisis and commended efforts in Beijing and the Republic of Korea. Collaboration between governments, private sectors, and UNEP is urged for effective solutions, while upcoming initiatives and health/economic impacts of air pollution are noted. The Opening Remarks concluded by wishing success for the meeting and recognizing participants' contributions to regional air quality enhancement.
4. Dr. Shiro Hatakeyama, Director General, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research, delivered the Welcome Remarks. In his Remarks, Dr. Hatakeyama thanked participants for joining the meeting and explained the upcoming Working Group meeting's focus on updates on EANET Activities and Projects for 2022-2023, assessing progress in the EANET Medium Term Plan,

and discussing new project plans for 2024. Acknowledging the progress in finding new partners for projects tied to the expanded EANET scope, he emphasized the need to secure financial backing, while also reminding the significance of traditional Core Activities. Dr. Hatakeyama mentioned the importance of discussing the revisions to the EANET Project Fund and Project and Administrative and Financial Guidelines. He highlighted the pressing nature of addressing environmental challenges like global warming, acid deposition and air pollution, stressing EANET's pivotal role in combatting these issues. The remarks concluded with Dr. Hatakeyama expressing optimism for insightful discussions and productive outcomes.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [AGENDA ITEM 2]

5. The Session elected the same Bureau of Officers as the IG24, composed of Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul, Assistant Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines, (replacing Engr. Vizminda A. Osorio) as the Chairperson; Ms. Kayoko Gomi, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Office, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan (replacing Mr. Koki Azuma), and Ms. Sojung You, International Cooperation Advisor, Air Quality Division, Air Quality Policy Bureau, Republic of Korea, as Vice-Chairpersons; and Mr. Chandath Him, Deputy Director, Department of Air Quality and Noise Management, General Directorate of Environment Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, as Rapporteur.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA [AGENDA ITEM 3]

6. The Session considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/WG2023/1), Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/WG2023/2), as well as the Draft Program (EANET/WG2023/3) proposed by the Secretariat and the Network Center.

V. UPDATES ON EANET ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS – THE COMPLETION OF EANET PROJECTS IN 2022, AND ONGOING EANET ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS IN 2023 [AGENDA ITEM 4]

7. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented agenda item 4/1: “Updates on EANET Core Activities in 2022-2023”, and the Network Center, Agenda 4/2: “Updates on EANET Projects in 2022 and 2023”.
8. The key points of the presentations included:
 - The Secretariat highlighted its core activities implemented right after IG24 in 2022, and until July in 2023. These included the organization of EANET meetings in 2023 (Online Meeting on the Revision of the Guidelines in May 2023), the EANET Regional Awareness Workshop in 2023 held in Bangkok, the National Awareness Workshops in Lao PDR and in the Philippines, as well as numerous communication activities (including the release of monthly web-stories, videos of webinars, and the publication of the EANET Newsletters), and regular updates of EANET website.
 - The Network Center (NC) highlighted Core and Project activities conducted by the NC in 2022 and 2023, including the Individual Training, the EANET Emission Inventory Webinar Workshop, the MICS-Asia Workshop in 2022. Eight Project Activities started to be implemented in 2023, as described in detail in the “Updates on EANET Projects in 2022 and 2023” (EANET/WG2023/4/2), including, among others, the Meeting of the VOC Advisory Group, held in Manila in May 2023, part of *The Feasibility for Promoting VOCs Related Capacity Building in the EANET* project.
9. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to the IG25 on the EANET, as appropriate.
10. Major discussions included:
 - i. Japan informed the session that the EANET Projects in 2022 have been completed as planned. The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) as the main funding body of the EANET Projects in 2022-2023 mentioned being generally satisfied with the projects. They thanked the Network Center for serving as the Project Fund Holder and highlighted some points for improvements. Japan’s representative informed more details on the proposed improvements would be discussed as part of Agenda 7, in the revision of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline. Among the proposed improvements, it was informed that the current system on reporting on project activities needs to be modified as currently, for example, projects completed in 2022, are only reported one year after, so if issues arise, they are considered after a long period of time, when the details of the project may be forgotten. Proposed operational

arrangements could be set in the form of organizing an ad-hoc IG in March-April or a debriefing session, one month after the project completion.

11. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 4.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRESS OF THE EANET MEDIUM TERM PLAN (2021-2025) MIDTERM REVIEW [AGENDA ITEM 5]

12. The Secretariat and the Evaluator, Mr. Frank Noij, presented agenda item 5: Consideration of the progress of the EANET Medium Term Plan (2021-2025) Mid-Term Review”.

13. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat and the Evaluator presented the Inception Report of the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the EANET MTP 2021-2025.

14. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and recommendations to the IG25 on the EANET, as appropriate.

15. The major discussions included:

- i. A Participating Country shared three important points they considered would need to be revised in the next EANET Medium Term Plan (MTP). First, the capacity building activities are fundamental and should be incorporated in the EANET Core Activities clearly. Second, the question should be raised on how to best deal with the issue of climate change related substances in the next MTP. Third, the country raised the importance of the evaluation during the implementation of core and project activities. For instance, while it is important to pay attention to the successful implementation of projects, it is also key to understand how society has changed as the result of the project activities. They would like to discuss with PCs about concrete countermeasures on how to strengthen this point. They also requested to know the status of the use of EANET data and other materials, to better understand how those are used to improve the air environment in each country.
- ii. The Secretariat informed that a questionnaire prepared by the Evaluator as part of the Mid-Term review of the MTP (2021-2025) was sent out to the National Focal Points by

email. Participating Countries are encouraged to participate in the questionnaire and send their responses by 8 September 2023.

- iii. A country suggested that the current results' indicator for Objective 2, the number of papers and research papers published by the EANET, is not an appropriate indicator to determine the use of data dissemination. It is more important to consider how the data is used by Participating Countries to contribute to their air quality improvement.

16. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 5.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT EANET PROJECT PLANS / PROJECT CONCEPT NOTES FOR 2024 [AGENDA ITEM 6]

17. The Secretariat presented agenda item 6: "Consideration of the draft EANET Project Plans / Project Concept Notes for 2024".

18. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Network Center and the Secretariat presented 12 EANET Project Plans for 2024. These included continued projects from last year and new proposed projects. The projects proposed are the following: [2024-01] Studies on the effects of atmospheric deposition on ecosystems, from a catchment scale to a regional scale as a methodological study (continued from 2023); [2024-02] Promoting VOCs related Capacity Building in the EANET (Feasibility study was done in 2022); [2024-03] Methodology Study for Development of LCS Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN) (continued from 2023); [2024-04] PM2.5 source apportionment in pilot cities in EANET for recommendations on feasible reduction policy (continued from 2023); [2024-05] The collaboration of Technical and Training (TNT) and capacity building program for personnel of the participating countries on monitoring (continued from 2023); [2024-06] The webinar workshop for emission inventory of VOCs and its application for policy consideration; [2024-07] Seminar for Particulate Matter Problem including Haze in Southeast Asia; [2024-08] Next Generation Leadership Program in East Asia; [2024-09] Integrating Southeast Asian perspectives into the EANET Capacity Building Program; [2024-10] Stocktaking of Emissions Inventories and Source Apportionment of Air Pollution in Southeast Asia focusing on Transport; [2024-11] Webinars on the use of

Space-Based Instruments for Air Quality Monitoring; [2024-12] Seminar on Sustainable Nitrogen Management -sharing global movement.

19. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to the IG25 on the EANET, as appropriate.

20. The major discussions included:

- i. The NC clarified that a partner organization from outside of the EANET can be a project lead, if nominated or liaised by an EANET Participating Country.
- ii. A country proposed that outputs of research projects should only represent the researchers' opinion and suggest adding a statement in the publication, informing the views represent only the researchers' views. In addition, it was reminded that all publications in the name of the EANET should be approved by IG. The Network Center concurred with these suggestions.
- iii. On Project 10, "Stocktaking of Emissions Inventories and Source Apportionment of Air Pollution in Southeast Asia focusing on Transport", the Secretariat explained the outcome of the project would be a compilation of existing relevant emissions inventories from Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, and other countries from Southeast Asia.
- iv. A country suggested to modify the title of Project 10 to reflect that it will focus on research on emission inventories' methodology.
- v. The Network Center clarified what the launch period from Project 3, "Methodology Study for Development of LCS Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN)", from July to December 2024, refers to monitoring activities that would be implemented at that time, but the funding so far is not secured. The output will consist of technical knowledge and documents such as a manual and a guideline.
- vi. A country suggested to revise the terminology "launch" as this phase of the project 3 seems to refer more to a fundraising phase.
- vii. On Project 7, "Seminar for Particulate Matter Problem including Haze in Southeast Asia", a country requested for the status of the confirmed participation of partner organizations mentioned in the project plan, such as WHO, ASEAN Secretariat, etc.
- viii. The Network Center clarified that discussions are undergoing with partners such as the ASEAN Secretariat, and that more progress would be reported to the SAC23 and IG25.
- ix. A country highlighted the importance to seek for more partners outside of the EANET through the EANET Project Fund mechanism.

- x. A country requested additional time to consider project 12, “Seminar on Sustainable Nitrogen Management -sharing global movement”, since the project proposal was received only the day before.
- xii. On Project 12, a country enquired about nitrogen management and if the project would include emissions impacting the water and soil only, or also Nitrogen dioxide.
- xiii. MOEJ, the Project Lead for Project 12, clarified that the project would focus on the air quality aspects of Nitrogen.
- xiii. The Network Center, as the implementing organization of Project 12, further clarified that so far, the EANET has already been measuring Nitrogen compounds. Nitrogen cycles are found in the soil, and forests and are important to be investigated. Project 12 will focus on the compounds derived from the atmospheric deposition, air quality nitrogen compounds, and the behavior of the deposited compounds in the soil or in the inland water, which have already been monitored for a long time within the EANET framework.
- xiv. A country mentioned that the UNEA resolutions mentioned in the Project Plan 12, are only related to water, and soil, and not related to air quality, so this may need to be revised.
- xv. A country welcomed the first project plans from the Secretariat.
- xvi. A country warned that there might be some overlap between project plans. Given the limited funding and this overlap, it may be relevant to combine some projects and to prioritize them.
- xvii. A country emphasized the importance of Project 8: “Next Generation Leadership Program in East Asia”, aiming at developing the capacity building of the EANET leaders and suggested the NC could conduct hearings with National Focal Points to understand the criteria of selection of the candidates and present the results during the IG.
- xviii. The Network Center, as the Project Lead of Project 8, invited National Focal Points to share their opinion on the criteria of selection of the candidates suggested in the Project Plan.
- xix. A country suggested to combine projects 7 and 9, [2024-07] “Seminar for Particulate Matter Problem including Haze in Southeast” and [2024-09] “Integrating Southeast Asian perspectives into the EANET Capacity Building Program”.
- xx. Another country suggested, to combine projects 5 and 9, [2024-05] “The collaboration of Technical and Training (TNT) and capacity building program for personnel of the participating countries on monitoring” and [2024-09] “Integrating Southeast Asian

perspectives into the EANET Capacity Building Program”, as both projects are focusing on capacity building and links could be made between NIER and AIT.

xxi. In addition, they explained that considering the current budget limitation, it is unlikely that the current funds will be sufficient to cover all 2024 project proposals. However, considering the relevancy of all proposals, Participating Countries could choose whether 1) to combine some project proposals with similar objectives or 2) to prioritize proposals pledging available funds.

xxii. The Network Center informed they note the suggestion to combine Projects 5, 7 and 9, and will discuss this further with NIER and the Secretariat.

xxiii. The Network Center shared additional information on Project 8, the successor project of the EANET Research Fellowship Programme. In 2023, for the 3 available Fellowship positions, 13 applicants from 7 countries applied, showing a real interest from Participating Countries for the Research Fellowship Programme. However, some Participating Countries have indicated that the activities led by researchers are not the main focus of the EANET. Responding to this, the Network Center decided to expand Project 8 beneficiaries to government officers allowing, for example, candidates working on emissions standards, to apply. This is why the project is now slightly different from the Research Fellowship Programme.

xxiv. Korea mentioned they would consult with NIER on the possible combination of Projects 5 and 9, although it may be complicated.

xxv. A country suggested that Participating Countries share more thoughts on the criteria of selection of candidates for Project 8, or any other feedback, per email to the Network Center, if any.

21. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 6. All project plans, with modification based on the discussion at the session, were recommended to be considered further by SAC23 and IG25.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE MODIFICATIONS OF THE REVISED EANET PROJECT FUND AND PROJECT GUIDELINE [AGENDA ITEM 7]

22. The Secretariat presented agenda item 7: “Consideration of the modifications of the Revised EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline”.

23. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat presented the current EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline (EANET/IG23/9/rev) against the proposed modifications of Participating Countries.

24. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to the IG25 on the EANET, as appropriate.

25. The major discussions included:

- i. Grammatical suggestions were generally agreed upon by Participating Countries.
- ii. Some Participating Countries provided general comments which could be addressed after consultation or advice from ACAP and UNEP, **these include the intellectual property matters**, improvement of the evaluation aspects in the entire document, the possibility to submit the Project Completion Reports as soon as possible after the completion of the projects, the suggestion to prioritize projects related to acid deposition, and finally the need to require financial contribution other than the EANET Project Fund and in-kind contribution for projects requiring resources below 30,000USD.
- iii. A Participating Country asked for further clarification about the proposed modification from China on the selection of Partner Organizations, and Co-Financers, Part 1, section 3 and 4. China clarified that this can be obtained through an “e-mail to National Focal Points obtaining no objection by all Participating Countries”.
- iv. A country expressed concerns in modifying Part 5, section 4 “Co-Financers” with reference to the need to have a least one Co-Financer identified for a project.
- v. Several Participating Countries agreed to delete in “2. Approval Stage” para. 2.5, on the organization of an extra-ordinary IG, as the conditions to organize such a meeting are already described in the Rules of Procedure of the EANET in the Administrative and Financial Guidelines for the Network Center and the Secretariat.
- vi. A country highlighted the importance of having a minimum participation of more than one Participating Country in an EANET Project since EANET is a regional intergovernmental mechanism, and the Project should benefit at least three Participating Countries.
- vii. **Related to the publication of the outcome of projects (para. 4.5, in 4 “Completion Stage”), a country explained, that although they supported the publication of project-related outputs, all the articles written by project experts may only represent their personal opinions. Project outputs should be only published in the name of the EANET with prior approval of the IG.**
- viii. A Participating Country suggested to include Co-Financers (CF) in the Annexes.

- ix. Japan proposed to prepare a new draft of the Annexes to better integrate important evaluation components, also including the suggestion to add sections related to the Co-Financers. This new draft could be sent out per email within a month after the WG2023 to other Participating Countries for review and comments.

26. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 7.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF THE MODIFICATIONS OF THE REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER [AGENDA ITEM 8]

27. The Secretariat presented agenda item 8: “Consideration of the modifications of the Revised Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center”.

28. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat presented the current Administrative and Financial Management Guidelines against the proposed modifications of Participating Countries.

29. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to the IG25 on the EANET, as appropriate.

30. The major discussions included:

- i. Japan explained the rationale behind the modified comments shared prior to WG2023. Because the first set of comments on the Administrative and Financial Management Guidelines were initially submitted at the WG2022 meeting in 2022, they were sometimes outdated. The newly submitted comments before the WG2023 have been updated and simplified.
- ii. A Participating Country proposed to revise the Guidelines’ Rules of Procedure in several sections, by using the expression “approved by all Participating Countries” instead of “a majority (more than half) of the Participating Countries”, to comply with the principle of consensus specified in the Rules of Procedure for EANET, which is a valid and important fundamental document of the EANET, implemented since IG3, while some other Participating Countries expressed different views, and

preferred to keep the current version of the Rules of Procedure in the guideline allowing a majority only of Participating Countries to approve a decision, such as for the organization of an extra-ordinary IG for example.

- iii. On the Dissemination of Data and Information (1.2) it was suggested to combine proposals from several Participating Countries and from the Network Center, including incorporating the content of Annex 2: “Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for the EANET” and Annex 3: “Criteria for Uploading Priority Documents to the EANET Website”.
- iv. A Participating Country suggested that, after the data is submitted to SAC, the IG approves the EANET data before public disclosure.
- v. A Participating Country reminded that it is important to also keep in mind the existing Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure where it is mentioned that the data can only be disclosed outside of the EANET after verification and endorsement by the SAC. This is the SAC’s mandate, and it should not be required for the IG to review the data again.
- vi. Another Participating Country stated that Data Report is a key output of the EANET and should be approved by the IG before public disclosure. The Participating Country explained that the data was not real-time monitoring data, and the IG and SAC were convened only one month apart which would not affect the efficiency of data disclosure.
- vii. Several Countries agreed that regarding the dissemination of communication and promotional materials such as the EANET Newsletters, these may be published without prior approval by the IG. It could be useful to include an easier approval process by PCs, such as a ‘no-objection’ process per email or any other process, to ensure that the approval process does not hinder the bi-monthly publications of newsletters.
- viii. A similar process per email could be followed for the participation of the SEC and NC to international conferences.
- ix. It was suggested to clarify the terminology “reserved funds”.
- x. A Participating Country suggested the fund for the Secretariat and NC’s operation could be set aside and included in the annual work plan. However, it was suggested not to introduce a new concept designated as “reserved funds”.
- xi. It was suggested to add “capacity building” in the proposed draft section defining the “Core Activities”.

- xii. It was suggested to add a definition in the guidelines on the recruitment of the staff of the Secretariat, in agreement with the IG, and within the limits of the Core Budget of the Secretariat.
- xiii. A Participating Country suggested Secretariat staff could also be funded by Project Fund activities, although another Participating Country found it more relevant for staff to be funded by the Core Budget.
- xiv. Various comments on the budget were proposed such as the obligation to use earmarked funds only for their initially agreed purpose, and the possibility for the SEC and the NC to use from 10 to 20% of their core budget for other budget lines within the Core Budget, without prior approval from IG, if deemed necessary.
- xv. Various PCs agreed to encourage the use of the terminology “atmospheric environmental issues” rather than “air pollution” in the document.
- xvi. A Participating Country proposed that experts from outside of the EANET may only be resource persons in Task Forces or Expert Groups and not “members”.
- xvii. Another Participating Country and the NC highlighted that this would mean that the distinction between members and resource persons would affect the budget to manage the Task Forces and Expert Groups.
- xviii. On the Working Procedures of the Task Forces and Expert Groups, a Participating Country suggested that important documents such as guidance documents, strategic reports, findings, or suggestions, etc... developed by Task Forces in addition to being submitted to SAC, should also be submitted to the IG for approval. Several Participating Countries shared different views and expressed concerns that the proposed changes may not be consistent with the mandate of the SAC. It was suggested the Network Center to advise and share guidance on this matter.
- xix. Several Participating Countries agreed on the idea to have a disclaimer written in the beginning of publications or reports not endorsed by the EANET, explaining the views are those of the authors and not those of the EANET Participating Countries.
- xx. The Secretariat will provide further guidance on the drafting of such a disclaimer.
- xxi. In general, it was suggested that all comments proposed for the Secretariat would be applied similarly to the NC.
- xxii. Several sections were considered unclear and Participating Countries required the ACAP and UNEP to advise on the proposed changes.
- xxiii. The Session agreed to task the Secretariat and the Network Center to prepare a new draft based on the discussions at the WG2023, for further review by the PCs.
- xxiv. The Secretariat clarified that the next draft combining the proposed changes from the Participating Countries based on the discussions at the WG2023 would be shared as

part of the meeting documents for SAC23, shared with Participating Countries one month before the meeting.

xxv. It was informed that the Secretariat and the Network Center will ask UNEP and ACAP to share comments on this new draft, ideally before SAC, although more time may be required.

31. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 8.

X. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPOSED BY THE EANET PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, THE SECRETARIAT, OR THE NETWORK CENTER [AGENDA ITEM 9]

32. The Chairperson invited participants to share announcements or updates, as part of agenda item 9: “Other matters as proposed by the EANET Participating Countries, the Secretariat, or the Network Center”.

33. The major discussions included:

- i. The Secretariat reminded Participating Countries that, as previously informed per email to National Focal Points, the SAC23 will be held online from October 10 to 12 2023. The IG will take place in a hybrid form, and the in-person meeting will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 29 to 30 November 2023.
- ii. A Participating Country enquired about the survey conducted by the Network Center on air quality data in the EANET. They encouraged other Participating Countries to participate and respond to this questionnaire, as it will allow to understand the status of the monitoring stations and equipment in the EANET Participating Countries. They also reminded that the maintenance of the equipment is the responsibility of the Participating Countries.
- iii. The Network Center informed that they were aware that there might be some issues in some Participating Countries related to monitoring activities. The Network Center highly appreciates the Participating Countries’ important efforts and capability to carry out monitoring data activities for over two decades. Thanks to these efforts, EANET data is comparable to data from networks in Europe and USA. But some problems exist such as malfunctions in equipment or sites, so to assess these problems the Network Center is conducting a questionnaire survey related to the the maintenance of the monitoring and laboratory equipment. While it is true that the

replacement of the equipment is the responsibility of the Participating Countries, the Network Center recognizes that it might be difficult for some Participating Countries to fix the issues, so based on the results from the survey, the results/issues can be discussed during SAC23 or even STM24 meeting next week, on 29-30 August, in Niigata.

34. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments and closed Agenda item 9.

XI. WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS [AGENDA ITEM 10]

35. The Secretariat presented the Proposed Next Steps after the WG2023 (EANET/WG2023/10).

36. The key points of the presentation included:

- i. The Secretariat presented the next steps from the WG2023 to the IG25, including the process of approval of the Report of the Session of the WG2023, to be sent to NFPs by 25 August, and sent back to the Secretariat by 7 September 2023.
- ii. Based on the discussions during the two days of the WG2023, the following next steps have been identified by the Session:
 - i. Following the EANET IG process, the Progress Report on the EANET Core and Project Activities will be updated and presented to SAC and subsequently presented for endorsement to the IG25.
 - ii. Following the process for the Mid-Term Review of the EANET MTP (2021-2025), the Evaluator presented the schedule for the completion of the review with the target to present for endorsement to the IG25.
 - iii. Following the process for development and approval of EANET Project Plans/Project Concept Notes, the Secretariat and the Network Center will work to finalize the EANET Project Plans considering the comments from the WG2023 and for further review by SAC23 and consideration for approval by IG25.
 - iv. The Secretariat and the Network Center will prepare the next iteration of the Guidelines, considering the discussion at the WG2023, to be submitted to NFPs for SAC23 and IG25 (UNEP and ACAP will also receive the next iteration of the Guidelines for their review).

37. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to the SAC23 and the IG25 on the EANET, as appropriate.

38. Major discussion included:

- i. No comments were made.

39. The Session considered and acknowledged the Proposed Next Steps after the WG2023 (EANET/WG2023/10).

XII. CLOSING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 11]

40. Prof. Meng Fan, Deputy Director General in charge of the Network Center for EANET, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research, delivered the Closing Remarks. In his Remarks, Prof. Meng Fan expressed gratitude for the successful meeting and acknowledged the dedication of participants. He highlighted EANET's commitment to addressing air pollution and acid deposition issues, emphasizing the opportunities and challenges they were facing. The meeting convened representatives from the 13 Participating Countries to discuss crucial matters, including project updates, plans for 2024, the mid-term review of the MTP, and modification of guidelines related to and administrative aspects and EANET Projects. Prof. Meng Fan underscored the importance of these discussions for EANET's development and preparation for the upcoming IG25. He extended appreciation to the Participating Countries, the Secretariat, and to the Network Center for their contributions and conveyed well wishes for everyone.

41. The session expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, the Rapporteur, the participants, for their efforts, cooperation, and contribution to the Session.

42. A Participating Country thanked the Secretariat for having succeeded in preparing the meeting and particularly in combining Participating Countries' comments on complex administrative and financial matters. They highlighted the importance of EANET meetings, and particularly the discussion times, and of in-person meetings, when possible. They thanked the Secretariat, the Network Center, and all participants, and mentioned being impressed by the collective hard work.

43. The EANET Coordinator commended the commitment and passion of everyone working at the EANET. He mentioned it will be important to find more opportunities for discussion in the future and looked forward in seeing all EANET members in person at the next IG in Hanoi.

44. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat, and the NC for their contributions, declared the Working Group Meeting in 2023 (WG2023) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) officially closed.