

Informal Meeting on the Initial Preparation of the Draft Medium Term Plan (2026-2030)  
for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)  
29 May 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING (IG25) RELEVANT TO THE MTP (2026-2030) PREPARATION**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) expires in December 2025. The Secretariat and the Network Center for the EANET are preparing for the next MTP (2026-2030) for approval by the Participating Countries at the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG27) on the EANET in November 2026.
2. The Informal Meeting on the Initial Preparation of the Draft Medium Term Plan (2026-2030) for the EANET will be held on 29 May 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand, and online. It aims to gather ideas and suggestions to be included for the discussion on the MTP (2026-2030) preparation at the Working Group Meeting (WG2024) in 20-21 August 2024.
3. The Twenty-Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG25) on the EANET was held on 29-30 November 2023, in Hanoi, Viet Nam.
4. The Session of IG25 discussed in Agenda 7, 8, and 9 of its Report of the Session (EANET/IG25/13), relevant issues for consideration in the development of the next MTP (2026-2030). Highlights of the discussion include:
  - i. Draft action points addressing the recommendations from the draft Medium Term Review (MTR) of the Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2026) presented by the Secretariat should align with EANET's scope and be based on consensus.
  - ii. Recommendation 6 from the draft MTR on linking EANET data with policymaking was highlighted as important.
  - iii. Forums for policymakers, tailored reports and online platforms or network meetings, can be organized or developed to better connect EANET scientists/experts and government officials.
  - iv. A Resource Mobilization Strategy was recommended to be developed to enhance funding visibility, including clarifying EANET's Theory of Change to align with other project frameworks.

- v. The importance of the consensus principle was highlighted and reminded to keep within the scope of the EANET.
  - vi. Countries expressed interest in considering climate change and DSS activities in the future MTP for the EANET. It was reminded that the Annex to the Instrument does not include climate-related substances. However, it is acceptable to share information with policymakers on how climate change issues can affect air pollution.
  - vii. Include capacity building in the Core activities of the EANET.
  - viii. Discussion on the increasing cost of EANET's key meetings.
  - ix. Consideration, whether or not, to add budget in the next MTP for equipment replacement or maintenance.
5. The Report of the IG25 (EANET/IG25/13) is found in Attachment 1.

## **II. ACTIONS REQUIRED**

6. The Highlights of the Report on the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG25) Relevant to the MTP (2026-2030) Preparation (EANET/IM2024/3) has been prepared to inform the Session on relevant discussions from the IG25 for the preparation of the Draft Medium Term Plan (2026-2030) for the EANET. The Session may wish to discuss, provide guidance and recommendations, for the initial preparation of the MTP (2026-2030) for discussion at the Working Group Meeting in 2024.

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## **Attachment 1**

### **REPORT OF THE SESSION (ADOPTED)**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Twenty-fifth Session (IG25) in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 29 and 30 November 2023, in a hybrid mode, on-site and online.
2. The Representatives of the Participating Countries, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the 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 (hosted by UNEP), and the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP) hosting the Network Center (NC) for the EANET, attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached to this Report in Annex 1.

#### **II. OPENING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 1]**

3. His Excellency Mr. Le Cong Thanh, Vice Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) delivered the Welcome Remarks. He mentioned that air pollution and acid deposition are dramatic issues in Viet Nam and worldwide which cause negative impacts on ecosystems and human health. The MONRE has developed and issued important legal documents on environmental protection and air pollution control, especially the National Plan on Air quality management for the period of 2021-2025 issued by the Prime Minister. MONRE has been developing the monitoring network for monitoring of air quality and acid deposition. The network has been very important for monitoring the air quality situation in the entire nation and it provides a basis for air pollution control measures. Viet Nam has been actively participating in the EANET since the beginning. For 20 years, the acid deposition monitoring system has been developed nation-wide. HE highly appreciated the EANET network's contributions for monitoring

and controlling air pollution in Viet Nam and in the region. The IG25 is an opportunity to discuss expanding the activities of the EANET to solve air pollution problems in the region. He thanked the Secretariat with close cooperation with IMHEN for organizing the meeting and wished a successful meeting.

4. Ms. Marlene Nilsson, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme, delivered the Opening Remarks. In her Remarks, Ms. Nilsson emphasized the importance of multilateralism in addressing complex environmental challenges such as acid deposition and air pollution which jeopardize human health and biodiversity. She highlighted EANET's pivotal evolution since its expansion of scope, not only monitoring air pollution but actively contributing to policy actions and building capacity for improved air quality. Ms. Nilsson underlined the importance of the Mid-Term Review of the EANET Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2021-2025, showcasing initiatives to enhance monitoring capacities and address air pollution. Ms. Nilsson concluded her remarks expressing gratitude to Viet Nam for hosting the IG25, and to the Participating Countries, the Network Center and Secretariat for the EANET, emphasizing the importance of decisions made at this session in shaping EANET's actions for 2024 and to safeguard our environment.
  
5. Dr. Shiro Hatakeyama, Director General of Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), delivered the Introductory Remarks. In his speech, Dr. Hatakeyama emphasized that the expansion of scope and the Project Fund were adopted two years ago with good results, such as the Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN) project related to the use of Low-Cost Sensors (LCS). He mentioned the importance of data accuracy, attracting a lot of attention in various events worldwide and looked forward to the continued progress of the data analysis in the future. In 2023, the Twenty-fourth EANET Senior Technical Managers Meeting (STM24) and the Twenty-third Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting on the EANET (SAC23) included important discussions related to review of the MTP, data monitoring, and on the revision of Administrative and Financial Guidelines of the Secretariat and the Network Center and Project Fund and Project Guideline. The results of these discussions are tabled in this meeting, and the Session will also discuss important future activities for the EANET. Dr. Hatakeyama wished for sincere discussions and thanked all participants.

### **III. ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS [AGENDA ITEM 2]**

6. In accordance with the Revision of Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center approved at the Twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG23) on the EANET in 2021, the Session elected Dr. Le Ngoc Cau, Deputy Director General, Viet Nam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam, as the Chairperson; Mr. Lonkham Atsanavong, Director General, Natural Resources and Environmental Research Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR, as Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Chandath Him, Deputy Director, Department of Air Quality and Noise Management, General Directorate of Environment Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, Vice-Chairperson; and Mr. Pichaid Atipakya, Environmentalist, Senior Professional Level, Transboundary Air Pollution Sub-division, Air Quality and Noise Management Division, Pollution Control Department, Thailand, as Rapporteur of the IG25.

#### **IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA [AGENDA ITEM 3]**

7. The Session considered and adopted the Draft Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG25/3/1), Draft Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG25/3/2), as well as the Draft Program (EANET/IG25/3/3) of the Session.

#### **V. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECENT PROGRESS OF THE EANET [AGENDA ITEM 4]**

8. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Core Activities since the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24) on the EANET in November 2022 (EANET/IG25/4/1), the Draft Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center's Core Activities in 2022 (EANET/IG25/4/2), the Draft Annual Report of the EANET Projects and EANET Project Fund since IG24 (EANET/IG25/4/3), and the Draft EANET Project Completion Report in 2022 (EANET/IG25/4/4).
9. The key points of the presentations of the Secretariat included:
  - It was emphasized that the implementation of the activities was guided by the Medium-Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) and in accordance with the Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2022 and 2023.

- The Secretariat highlighted activities which were implemented since IG24, including the organization of EANET meetings (The Online Meeting on the Revision of the Guidelines, the Working Group Meeting in 2023, SAC23), the EANET Regional Awareness Workshop in 2023, and National Stakeholders' workshops in Lao PDR, in the Philippines, and in China, as well as various communication activities (including updating EANET website, email campaigns and newsletters, videos and web stories). On administration, in 2022, the Secretariat developed a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with RRC.AP.
  - The grand-total expenditure of the Secretariat approved by the IG24 in 2022 was US\$ 572,600. The total voluntary financial contribution received by the Secretariat in 2022 was US\$ 475,793. In addition, the total expenditures, and commitments of the Secretariat in 2022 were US\$ 427,169. There were no expenditures related to the China in-kind financial contribution towards the costs of a Technical Consultant to work at the Secretariat in 2022.
10. The key points of the presentation of the Network Center included:
- The Network Center highlighted key core activities conducted in 2023 which included, among others, the preparation of the 2023 Summary of the National Monitoring Plans of the Participating Countries, the preparation of several technical manuals and guidelines, QA/QC activities such as the Inter-laboratory Comparison project, drafting the Data Report 2022, and participation and support to the Secretariat for the organization of the Regional Awareness Workshop and the National Stakeholders' workshops in China, Lao PDR and the Philippines.
  - The total voluntary financial contribution received by the NC in 2022 was US\$ 504,603. In addition, the total expenditures, and commitments of the NC for Core budget activities in 2022 were US\$ 465,188.
  - The Network Center presented the Project Activities completed in 2022 and ongoing activities in 2023 and highlighted the completion of research activities, capacity building on various topics including LCS, VOCs, emission inventories, among others.
  - The total implemented Project Budget Expenditure in 2022 for the Network Center was US\$ 310,276.
11. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and endorse the reports as appropriate.

12. Major discussions included:
- (i) Japan, as a major contributor to the EANET Projects, expressed being satisfied with the implementation of the EANET Project Activities in 2022 and 2023 so far.
  - (ii) Several countries expressed appreciation for the Network Center and the Secretariat's work to support the EANET.
  - (iii) Many countries appreciated and thanked Viet Nam for the warm welcome and for hosting the IG25.
  - (iv) In response to a question from the Session, the NC shared additional details on the Core Activity 4 presented in the Progress Report for 2023 and on the collaboration through the Inter-laboratory comparison project with other networks from Europe and USA. The QA/QC activity of the NC showed satisfying results compared to other networks. In addition, it was reminded that the EANET and WMO have signed a MoU on data sharing and collaboration.
  - (v) In response to a question from the Session, the NC clarified that there are currently no guidelines on operating LCS in the EANET region, only few guidelines exist such as from US-EPA. This is why the output of the HAQMN Project is to establish Guidelines on how to combine LCS with conventional networks. The draft Guidelines are targeted to be published by end of 2024.
  - (vi) In response to a question from the Session, the NC clarified that the Revised Technical Manual for Air Concentration Monitoring in East Asia and the Revised Technical Manual on Dry Deposition Flux Estimation in East Asia presented in Core Activity 2, have been approved during last year's SAC22 meeting. However, many comments were made, as such the publications have been delayed and the Revised Technical Manuals should be finalized soon.
  - (vii) Republic of Korea informed that they try to close the gap between their required contribution and actual contribution, such as support through Project Activities like the TNT Capacity building project being emphasized and posed a question on how to best reflect these in-kind contributions in the financial reporting.
13. The Session endorsed the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Core Activities since the 24th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG24) on the EANET in November 2022 (EANET/IG25/4/1), the Draft Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center's Core Activities in 2022 (EANET/IG25/4/2), the Draft Annual Report of the

EANET Projects and EANET Project Fund since IG24 (EANET/IG25/4/3), and the Draft EANET Project Completion Report in 2022 (EANET/IG25/4/4).

**VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN 2023 (WG2023) [AGENDA ITEM 5]**

14. The Secretariat presented the Report of the Outcomes of the Working Group Meeting in 2023 (WG2023), held virtually from 22 to 23 August 2023 (EANET/IG25/5).

15. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat highlighted the main points of the discussions of the WG2023 meeting.

16. The Session was invited to review, discuss, and endorse, as appropriate.

17. Major discussions included:

- (i) A country suggested that since the revision of both the Administrative and the Project Fund Guidelines have been in discussion since 2021, the IG should consider closing this topic in this Session, to allow more discussions on other agenda items in the future, during the coming meetings of the EANET in 2024.

18. The Session considered and endorsed the Report of the Outcomes of the Working Group Meeting in 2023 (WG2023).

**VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC23) [AGENDA ITEM 6]**

19. The Chair of the SAC23 presented the Report of the Outcomes of the Twenty-third Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC23), held virtually from 10 to 12 October 2023 (EANET/IG25/6).

20. The key points of the presentation included:



- The Chair of the SAC23 highlighted the main points of the discussions of the SAC23 meeting.
21. The Session was invited to review, discuss, and endorse, as appropriate.
22. Major discussions included:
- (i) A country noted the discussion during the SAC23 on the draft Administrative and Financial Guidelines for the Secretariat and the Network Center and the Project Fund and Project Guidelines, from scientific viewpoints but expressed different views on data and public disclosure and hoped the Session would seek consensus on these issues in the Agenda 8 on the revision of the Guidelines.
  - (ii) The SAC Chair clarified that an agreement was reached during the SAC on this matter. EANET data is verified before being approved by the SAC and has already met the required EANET quality standards.
  - (iii) The NC explained the process of the dissemination of the data, presented the background of the establishment of the data disclosure procedures and the current procedures. The removal of the 1-year time-lag after approval of the verified raw data by the SAC, was recommended by the SAC23 to the IG25.
  - (iv) A country explained that there is no statement in any document clearly defining the public disclosure of the Data Report.
  - (v) A country explained the current data disclosure procedure, that if the SAC approves the Data Report, then the IG may endorse it.
  - (vi) In addition, it was also highlighted that cooperation for modeling, such as the MICS-Asia, should become a Project activity in developing EANET, however it is difficult to conduct them within the current Rules of projects due to partnerships with scientific groups out of EANET. The SAC might think on how to support the modeling studies and recommend to consider by IG.
  - (vii) Some countries highlighted that monitoring stations in urban areas do not reflect the regional air pollution within the EANET region or in a country. The IG could recommend to the SAC to make estimations on establishing necessary remote and rural sites within country territory or to evaluate on how to maintain the balance between types of the sites to better inform on the regional pollution.
  - (viii) Republic of Korea and Thailand informed that nominations were not correctly reflected in the list of the Task Force members and requested the NC to revise the list.

- (ix) Viet Nam and Myanmar enquired about the results, data, and progress of the LCS activities conducted in their countries and requested the Network Center to communicate on this progress with the EANET NFPs, as they also need to report on these projects with their respective ministries.
  - (x) A country requested the NC to provide information on how the NC defines the low or high pH criteria in the Data Report 2022.
  - (xi) Several Participating Countries supported the decision to remove the 1-year time-lag before sharing EANET verified raw data outside of the EANET, to facilitate the utilization of the data in the scientific communities, and to bridge this existing gap which represents a significant depreciation of EANET data. The PCs agreed by consensus to delete the 1-year time-lag before sharing EANET verified raw data outside of the EANET in the Data Dissemination Procedures.
23. The Session considered and endorsed the Report of the Outcomes of the Twenty-third Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC23).

#### **VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE EANET MTP 2021-2025 [AGENDA ITEM 7]**

24. The Secretariat and the Evaluator, Mr. Frank Noij, presented agenda item 7 “Consideration of the Draft Mid-Term Review of the EANET MTP 2021-2025” ((EANET/IG25/7).
25. The key points of the presentation included:
- The Evaluator presented the Draft Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the EANET MTP 2021-2025, including the goal of the Review, the methodology, the findings and proposed recommendations.
  - In addition, the Secretariat presented proposed Action Points, suggested by the Secretariat and the Network Center and for the IG25’s consideration, to implement the recommendations from the Draft Review in the future MTP.
26. The Session was invited to review, discuss, and provide guidance, as appropriate.
27. Major discussions included:

- (i) A country expressed considering that the report reflects the personal views of the evaluator, is a reference document for the future activities of the EANET. The report is being submitted for the first time for discussion as only the inception was reviewed during the WG2023. There were some different understandings of expressions such as new pollutant assessment, climate change related substances, and transboundary issues and suggest that the draft evaluation report be endorsed in accordance with the EANET management procedure after all expressions are acceptable to all PCs after consultation. With regard to the action points drafted by the Secretariat, first the follow-up actions should be within the scope of the EANET. Second, the actions should be based on the consensus of the PCs on cooperation in priority areas.
- (ii) The evaluator explained that the Draft Mid-Term Review followed the methodology of evidence-based evaluation, resulting from the gathering of data from primary and from secondary information, later analyzed with evaluation tools.
- (iii) A country highlighted the importance of recommendation 6 on the linkage between EANET data and policymaking and asked the Evaluator to provide suggestions to better link scientists and policymakers, similarly to other international practices such as with the IPCC's recommendations for instance. In addition, the country asked about Recommendation 8: on the online community of practice.
- (iv) The Evaluator explained that monitoring and policymaking linkages are key and suggested the conduct of bi-annual (every two years) forums for policymakers to meet with the EANET scientists. The Evaluator mentioned the EANET Periodic Reports on the State of Acid Deposition (PRSAD) are very important scientific reports, which are however difficult to understand from the policymakers' perspective. He further advised to pursue the publication of the EANET Reports for Policy Makers (RPM). On the community of practice, this could be done through an online platform or meetings with other networks such the APCAP or other organizations.
- (v) A country enquired about strategies for recommendation 7 related to the financial sustainability and on how to diversify the resources for the Project Fund.
- (vi) The Evaluator explained that a Resource Mobilization Strategy could be useful to analyze where to find funding and to define the positioning of the EANET for funding agencies to know the EANET better. In addition, the EANET's Theory of Change could be presented to development partners, and it could allow to

present how the EANET relates to other project frameworks, for the EANET to be more visible to development partners.

- (vii) Japan welcomed the term “results-based management” described in the report and informed the Session of its intention to organize a results-based management training through an online seminar.
  - (viii) Responding to a question from the Session, the Evaluator explained the meaning of UNEP firewalling its function from its role serving as Secretariat for the EANET. He clarified that UNEP needs to clearly separate the strategies from UNEP from the strategies of the EANET. Firewalling can be done from the Human Resources perspectives, from the financial aspect (for instance EANET’s Trust Fund within UNEP can only be used for the purpose of EANET), to improve accountability.
  - (ix) A country expressed concerns over the principle of consensus appearing diminished in the Draft Mid-Term Review and some expressions are out of the scope of the EANET.
  - (x) The Evaluator clarified that the Review reflects the results of the discussions with various stakeholders when conducting the data gathering. One suggestion during the discussion with the stakeholder was to propose more flexibility for the EANET through agreement by the majority or obtaining a “no objection” to allow the EANET to make decisions. However, the Evaluator reminded that this is up to the PCs to decide.
  - (xi) A country proposed for other PCs to consider, when drafting the next MTP, to include new climate-related substances in the scope of the EANET, such as Methane and Black Carbon as they are also important air pollutants.
  - (xii) A country suggested to include Capacity Building as part of the Core activities of the EANET in the next MTP.
  - (xiii) A country expressed concerns over including climate change substances to the Annex. Since PM<sub>2.5</sub> and DSS have recently been added to the Annex, the focus of EANET should be on these recently added substances.
28. The Session considered and took note of the Draft Mid-Term Review of the EANET MTP 2021-2025 and to explore the possibility to include the findings and recommendations, which can be accepted by all PCs for future EANET activities.

## **IX. CONSIDERATION OF THE REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL GUIDELINES OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER AND**

**THE EANET PROJECT FUND AND PROJECT GUIDELINE AND FURTHER ACTION [AGENDA ITEM 8]**

29. The Secretariat presented agenda item 8 “Consideration of the Revised Administrative and Financial Guidelines of the Secretariat and the Network Center and the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline and Further Action”.
30. The key points of the presentation included:
- The Secretariat reminded the participants on the process of the revisions since 2022 and presented both the draft revised Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center (EANET/IG25/8/1), and the draft revised EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline (EANET/IG25/8/2), including the proposed modifications of Participating Countries, as discussed and proposed during the EANET Online Meeting on the Revision of Guidelines in 2023 (OM2023) held on 10 May 2023, the Working Group Meeting (WG2023) of EANET in 2023 held online on 22-23 August 2023, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Advisory Committee on the EANET (SAC23) organized online from 10-12 October 2023.
  - The Secretariat and the NC proposed 3 options on how to finalize the Revised Guidelines: 1) by email and obtaining no objection from NFPs. If any NFPs express objections, there will be further revised versions until the Draft is accepted and no objections are received; 2) by organizing an extra-ordinary IG in early 2024 to discuss and approve the Guidelines, and the option 3) to include the discussions on the Guidelines in the EANET key meetings in 2024.
31. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and approve the document, as appropriate.
32. Major discussions included:
- On the revised Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center:
- (i) Several countries preferred option 1 for the next steps of revision of the Guidelines.

- (ii) China shared several comments and questions and informed the Session the comments would be shared with all PCs per email after the Session, for the Secretariat to upload to the IG25 Repository.
- (iii) A country stated the principles of revision of Guidelines. First, keep the principle of consensus. Second as the IG is the highest decision-making body of the EANET, important documents such as findings, draft guidelines, strategies, working scope, rules of procedure, etc. developed by TFs and Expert Groups should be in line with the Instrument and follow the routine procedure of SAC review and IG approval.
- (iv) The NC clarified some aspects related to the Task Forces (TF) and Expert groups, including that experts from outside of the EANET can only be resources persons and not elected as members. The NC also emphasized the role of the STM and SAC to inform the IG on the technical and scientific matters and to provide scientific guidance to the IG. In a similar way to the common practice followed in other international organizations such as CLRTAP for instance, the IG may endorse technical reports already approved by SAC.
- (v) Responding to a question from the Session, the Secretariat clarified an organigram detailing all the different bodies (SAC, TF, Expert Groups, etc) could be presented in an Annex to the Guidelines.

On the EANET Project Fund and Project Guidelines:

- (vi) Japan explained to the Session its intention when proposing a revised version of the Annex of the Project Fund and Project Guidelines. The current version is very complex, and the rationale is to simplify the existing format, to follow international formats and practices, and to incorporate results-based management. The resource allocation should be based on the project output. In line with this, the MOEJ proposes to host an online seminar tentatively in February 2024 to build capacities on project management.
- (vii) China informed the Session that additional comments and proposed revisions on the Project Fund and Project Guideline would be shared by email for all PCs consideration after the Session.
- (viii) On the co-financing and requirement of a necessary minimum of 50% for co-financing, the session agreed to delete this criterion from the Project Fund and Project Guideline, considering as confusing and not necessary.
- (ix) A country outlined the importance of keeping the principle of consensus in the Guideline.

- (x) A country pointed out that there was no definition in the Guideline of what a “small” or “big” project is.
33. The Session discussed the draft revised Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center (EANET/IG25/8/1), and the draft revised EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline (EANET/IG25/8/2), and agreed to:
- (i) Task the Secretariat to collect further modifications on the Guidelines from all PCs by the end of 2023 and UNEP by early 2024;
  - (ii) Task the Secretariat to share the revised Guidelines incorporating all modifications from all PCs and UNEP/ ACAP by email in early 2024;
  - (iii) Obtain no objection from all PCs on the revised Guidelines. If any country expresses objections, there will be further revisions until no objections are received;
  - (iv) Disseminate the final draft of the revised Guidelines to all PCs by email; and
  - (v) Furthermore, the Session agreed to extend the role of ACAP as the Project Fund Holder, after the current transition period ending in 2023 is over, and at least until the Revised Project Fund and Project Guideline is accepted.

**X. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE EANET CORE ACTIVITIES IN 2024 [AGENDA ITEM 9]**

34. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET for the Core Activities of the EANET in 2024 (EANET/IG25/9).
35. The key points of the presentation included:
- i. It was highlighted that the Core Activities of the EANET in 2024 reflect the expanded scope of the EANET and the related Project Fund activities.
  - ii. The estimated voluntary financial contributions in 2024 for the Secretariat are US\$ 607,200, and US\$ 548,799 for the Network Center.
  - iii. The estimated Available Cash Balance from the EANET Trust Fund in UNEP is US\$ 140,795.
  - iv. In 2024, the Core Budget of the Secretariat is US\$ 632,235 and the Network Center’s Core Budget is US\$ 647,738.
  - v. The total estimated revenue of the Network Center in 2024 is US\$ 655,325.

- vi. The NC informed that they will hold the Senior Technical Manager (STM) meeting in person in 2024.
  - vii. The NC will continue to provide technical support to the PCs in line with the WPB.
36. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and approve the document, as appropriate.
37. Major discussions included:
- (i) A country pointed out the annual budget from the Secretariat should be kept within the agreed amount in the MTP (2021-2025) and asked the Secretariat to explain the reasons of the difference and its strategy to cover this shortage.
  - (ii) The Secretariat explained that when the EANET adopted the MTP (2021-2025) the expansion of scope and additional related tasks were not included. In addition, the travel costs (air fares) compared to pre-pandemic have increased. The budget to cover the key EANET meetings is also increasing. However, to cover this increased budget, the SEC plans to use its available cash balance. As this is not sustainable, the SEC is planning to raise funds to supplement the budget of the SEC. If the IG agrees and decides to revise this in the Administrative and Financial Guidelines, the budget of the SEC could be flexible and be complemented by funds from the EANET Project Fund. This year, the SEC worked on saving travel costs and combined events such as stakeholder awareness events and the VOC meeting which took place in the Philippines, for instance. This practice could be replicated to reduce the cost of events. In 2024, travel funds could be used both for a regional awareness and for a strategic meeting to discuss the next MTP preparation for instance. If more funds are saved from the core budget, then it could be allocated for the Project Fund. On the increase in cost of the EANET key meetings, the UN scale of assessment in the voluntary contributions will also be discussed when preparing the next MTP.
  - (iii) A country supported the suggestion to allow the SEC budget to be flexible and its Core Budget could be supplemented by the Project Fund, if approved by the IG.
  - (iv) The country which had raised the question on the sustainability of the SEC budget informed the session that the proposed budget is acceptable though it is slightly over the MTP 2021-2025 recommended budget.
  - (v) Several PCs mentioned that Capacity Building Activities should be included in the EANET Core Activities in the next MTP.



- (vi) Republic of Korea (ROK) informed the Session of several projects led by ROK related to capacity building which could be of interest for the EANET. PCs could consider collaboration on these projects. ROK could also consider contributing to the EANET core budget for capacity building, through the TNT Capacity Building project, in partnership with NIER.
- (vii) On the satellite monitoring, the NC mentioned this activity is very important and could be included in future activities. Satellite monitoring can be combined with ground monitoring and modeling.
- (viii) A country raised the issue of the state of the monitoring instruments in various PCs which require maintenance or replacement, to maintain the quality of the data.
- (ix) Several countries considered adding budget in the next MTP for equipment replacement or maintenance.
- (x) The NC clarified that in principle, and based on the EANET Instrument, the cost of repairing the monitoring equipment is the PCs' responsibility. However, if the IG agrees, the Core Budget could be allocated to support some PCs. In addition, the NC has been supporting the PCs with technical advice and with consumables.
- (xi) A country expressed disagreement on the use of the Core Budget for equipment maintenance even in the next MTP. However, they suggested to task the NC to prepare a detailed document that includes a priority list to present the state of the monitoring equipment among the PCs. Financial support can be sought from other bilateral and multilateral funding organizations.
- (xii) Several countries expressed interest in DSS-related activities and suggested to include activities related to DSS in the next MTP.
- (xiii) On the DSS, NC informed the Session that China, ROK and Japan are also conducting DSS activities, and that collaboration could be sought with the Tripartite mechanism. A country mentioned the importance to tackle DSS with the inclusion of Mongolia.
- (xiv) A country suggested the NC to develop a concept note on DSS.

38. The Session approved the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET for the Core Activities of the EANET in 2024.

**XI. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE EANET PROJECT PLANS IN 2024 [AGENDA ITEM 10]**

39. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET for the Proposed Project Plans of the EANET in 2024 (EANET/IG25/10).
  
40. The key points of the presentation included:
  - viii. It was highlighted that 2023 is the second year of implementation of the EANET Project Fund mechanism.
  - ix. Twelve project plans and/or concept notes were submitted for consideration and discussion to EANET NFPs at the Working Group Meeting on 24-25 August 2023 and at SAC23 from the scientific perspective.
  - x. The Proposed Projects include: (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; (2024-03) Methodology Study for Development of LCS Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN); (2024-04) PM<sub>2.5</sub> source apportionment in pilot cities in EANET for recommendations on feasible reduction policy; (2024-05) The collaboration of Technical and Training (TNT) and capacity building program for personnel of the Participating Countries on monitoring; (2024-06) Webinar 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 (non-funded project); (2024-10) Stocktaking and Methodological Assessment of Emissions Inventories and Source Apportionment of Air Pollution in Southeast Asia; (2024-11) Webinars on the application of Space-Based Instruments for Air Quality Monitoring; and (2024-12) Seminar on Sustainable Nitrogen Management.
  
41. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and approve the document, as appropriate.
  
42. Major discussions included:
  - (i) Japan shared additional information on the pledge for 2024 including the requirement to pledge in Japanese Yen. The total pledge is 36,681,690 Japanese Yen.

- (ii) Republic of Korea offered that regarding the Project Plan 2024-03, they could share experience on LCS as they are the only government with QA/QC certification on LCS.
- (iii) Several countries expressed interest in linkages between climate change and air pollution and suggested to consider these for future EANET project opportunities.
- (iv) A country suggested that, for project 7, it would be very relevant to expand the invitation to the ASEAN Secretariat Environment Division to participate in this webinar, as the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control was just established in Jakarta in 2023.
- (v) Myanmar suggested to conduct the LCS training in Myanmar in 2024 in person or online (preferably in-person). They also thanked the NC for providing technical support and pro bono consumables during their field visit in Myanmar.
- (vi) NC informed they would consider organizing the LCS training in Myanmar for next year. They also mentioned that there are many challenges in Myanmar related to conducting and continuing the regular monitoring activities.
  
- (vii) Responding to a question from the Session, the NC clarified that for the Project Activity on the catchment scale, the field studies would be conducted in Japan mainly, however some collaboration with EANET PCs could be expected, such as with the Philippines, though the La Mesa watershed.
- (viii) The NC provided more information on the VOC project and confirmed reception of Viet Nam's plan and informed that more information on the national standards may be needed for the design of the monitoring activity. The NC reminded that this activity is a capacity building activity, and the NC will not conduct the monitoring in place of the PCs but may provide training and technical support. VOCs are complicated substances to monitor. For next year, trial and implantation will be conducted in the Philippines and in Mongolia, and training conducted in Japan.
- (ix) Mongolia requested the NC to share more information on project 4 regarding the selection of the target cities.
- (x) The NC explained that the project 4 mainly targets Southeast Asian countries. In 2024, a regional workshop will be organized, and the NC will invite the Korean researchers collaborating on the project and working on Mongolia, to present the results from their research in Mongolia.
  
- (xi) A country pointed out that the EANET Projects should be within the scope of the EANET. As for the nature of the project outputs, if the project is scientific research,

project outputs shall only represent the researchers' opinions and if the project outputs will be published in the name of the EANET the content should be agreed by all PCs.

(xii)The Network Center mentioned that considering the co-control perspective of climate change and air pollution could allow to find more funding for future project activities.

(xiii)The NC explained that the TOR of the Task Force (TF) on Atmospheric Environment Quality Management also includes the discussion of future possible activities related to climate change, from the technical and scientific aspects.

43. The Session approved the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET for the Proposed Project Plans of the EANET in 2024 (EANET/IG25/10).

## **XII. OTHER MATTERS [AGENDA ITEM 11]**

44. The Chairperson invited participants to share announcements or updates, as part of agenda item 14: "Other matters".

45. Major discussions included:

### On climate change related issues:

(i) The Chair of the Task Force (TF) on Atmospheric Environment Quality Management clarified that the TOR not only includes climate change issues in relation with atmospheric pollution issues. Co-benefits and anthropogenic impacts from climate change and air pollution could be discussed by the TF as it is an important matter for the EANET.

(ii) Several PCs expressed interest in considering climate change activities in the future MTP for the EANET.

(iii)A country reminded that the Annex to the Instrument was adopted to reflect the substances to be included in the EANET scope, which does not include climate-related substances, and it is not acceptable to conduct the activities of climate change. The work of EANET should aim to achieve the objectives of the Instrument, which is clearly focusing on acid deposition. However, it could be acceptable to share information with policymakers on how climate change issues can affect air pollution, but this does not mean including climate change substances in the Annex and

expanded scope. The EANET Project Fund mechanism could be used to raise more funds, but the content of projects should not go beyond the scope.

- (iv) Several countries mentioned that revising the Annex is not necessarily needed to focus on the co-benefits of air quality and climate change mitigation and PCs could consider including such activities to seek climate funding.
- (v) A country mentioned that air pollution is still severe in developing countries, and for developed countries the climate change may be a more urgent issue. Evidence shows the co-benefits of the reduction of climate change and air pollution. This could benefit the EANET PCs.
- (vi) Several countries mentioned they would like to continue this discussion for the next MTP preparation.

On IG26:

- (vii) Malaysia was pleased to announce its intention to host the IG26 in Kuala Lumpur next year. Further information will be shared in due course.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution:

- (viii) China shared some highlights from the recent 10<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held on 20 Sep 2023.
- (ix) Japan expressed sincere thanks to the colleague for China for his presentation and expressed supporting the information-sharing practice during IG and other meetings.

- 46. The Session acknowledged the updates shared in Agenda Item 11: “Other matters”.

**XIII. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS [AGENDA ITEM 12]**

- 47. The Secretariat presented the Proposed Next Steps after the IG25 (EANET/IG24/12).

- 48. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat presented the next steps from the IG25 to the IG26, including a Working Group Meeting in 2024 in early August 2024, the STM25 in September 2024, SAC24 in October 2024, and finally the IG26 in November 2024.

- 49. Major discussions included:

- (i) A country asked about the final evaluation of the current MTP.

- (ii) SEC and NC will take into consideration the findings and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the current MTP when drafting the next MTP.
- (iii) The SEC clarified that the Mid-Term Review presented to the IG25 will no longer be revised. It will not be adopted or endorsed by PCs, but only acknowledged. The findings and recommendations could be considered in the Draft of the next MTP.
- (iv) The SEC also clarified that the MTP (2021-2025) was adopted in 2020. The SEC also referred to the last page of the MTP (2021-2025) where the schedule for the preparation of the next MTP is described.

- 50. The Session acknowledged the Next Steps and tasked the Secretariat and Network Center to organize a Working Group Meeting in 2024 to review the 2025 Project Plans, among others.

#### **XIV. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 13]**

- 51. The Secretariat presented the draft Report of the Session. The Chairperson invited participants to review the draft Report of the Session.
- 52. The Report of the Session (EANET/IG25/13) was considered and adopted.

#### **XV. CLOSING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 14]**

- 53. Ms. Marlene Nilsson, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme, delivered the Closing Remarks. In her remarks, she congratulated the Bureau of Officers of IG25, the host country and participants on the success of the meeting. She reaffirmed the continued support of the UN Environment Programme to the EANET in providing secretariat functions, technical expertise, and administrative support.
- 54. Dr. Le Ngoc Cau thanked all participants on behalf of the host country.
- 55. The session expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, the Rapporteur, the participants, and the representatives from international organizations for their efforts, cooperation, and contribution to the Session.

56. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat, and the Network Center for their contributions, declared the Twenty-fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia officially closed.

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