

The Working Group Meeting in 2024 (WG2024) on the
Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)
20-21 August 2024, Virtual Meeting

REPORT OF THE SESSION (Adopted)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Working Group Meeting in 2024 (WG2024) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was held virtually on 20 and 21 August 2024.
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. Ms. Marlene Nilsson, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme, delivered the Opening Remarks. On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Nilsson welcomed participants to the EANET Working Group Meeting 2024, highlighting its significance in shaping the upcoming EANET Projects for 2025 and the preparing the next Medium-Term Plan (2026-2030). She emphasized UNEP's support for EANET's revitalized efforts to tackle air pollution in East Asia and underscored the importance of EANET's role in the global cooperation network on air quality, as called for by the recent UNEA resolution. She also pointed out key areas for EANET's possible future focus, including strengthening the science-policy interface, enhancing communication, capacity-building, integrating climate change considerations, and streamlining processes to attract more funding. Finally, she expressed confidence in EANET's contribution to improving regional air quality and wished participants a productive meeting.
4. Dr. Toshimasa Ohara, Director General of Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), delivered the Welcome Remarks. In his speech, Dr. Ohara mentioned that following the expansion scope in the current MTP (2021-2025), EANET has been advancing its activities not only in the field of acid deposition but also air pollution, which continues to pose environmental and social risks in East Asia. In UNEA 6, pollution has been highlighted as one of the three global crises, alongside climate change, and nature and biodiversity loss. The role of EANET is becoming increasingly significant, and there is a need to strengthen its efforts to contribute to atmospheric environment management, using its capacity including long term continuous monitoring and capacity building. From the perspective of atmospheric environment management in East Asia, several activities need to be considered, including climate change, utilization of new monitoring methods, such as low-cost sensors, the

assessment of nitrogen management, the assessment of dust and sandstorm, and the interface of policy making. This meeting will discuss the progress of EANET core and project activities, project proposals for 2025 and the development of the next MTP. Dr. Ohara concluded his remarks by thanking all participants and wishing a fruitful discussion during the meeting.

III. ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS [AGENDA ITEM 2]

5. 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. Nguyen Van Hong (on behalf of Dr. Le Ngoc Cau) Vice Director, Sub-Institute of Hydrometeorology and Climate Change, Viet Nam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam, as the Chairperson; Mr. Lienxay Bounmanyvanh, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Institute of Laos, 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 Atikpakya, Environmentalist, Senior Professional Level, Transboundary Air Pollution Sub-division, Air Quality and Noise Management Division, Pollution Control Department, Thailand, as Rapporteur of the WG2024.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA [AGENDA ITEM 3]

6. The Session considered and adopted the Draft Provisional Agenda (EANET/WG2024/3/1), Draft Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/WG2024/3/2), as well as the Draft Program (EANET/WG2024/3/3) of the Session. The Session agreed to allocate additional time after the meeting for Participating Countries to further consider the meeting document of Agenda 6, which was submitted late to the Session.

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRESS OF EANET ACTIVITIES – UPDATES ON EANET CORE ACTIVITIES IN 2023-2024, AND UPDATES ON EANET PROJECTS IN 2023-2024 [AGENDA ITEM 4]

7. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Report of the EANET Core Activities in 2023 and 2024 (EANET/WG2024/4/1), and the Draft Report of the EANET Projects in 2023 and 2024 (EANET/WG2024/4/2).
8. The key points of the presentations included:
 - The Secretariat highlighted its core activities implemented from October 2023 until July in 2024. These included the organization of EANET meetings in 2023 and 2024 (the SAC24 and IG25 in 2023, and the Informal Meeting on the Initial Preparation of the Draft Medium Term Plan (2026-2030) for the EANET (IM2024) in May 2024); the EANET Regional Awareness Workshop in 2024 held in Bangkok in May 2024, the National Awareness Workshops in China in October 2023 and in Cambodia in March 2024, 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 Secretariat and NC have already started the process to update the country fact sheets. The Secretariat also presented the highlights of its digital data report showcasing analytics from the EANET website and its email marketing platform. In 2023-2024, following the request from the IG25, the Secretariat led the preparation of the Mid-Term Review of the MTP (2021-2025) and the revision of Guidelines on the Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the Network Center and the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline. Numerous participations in events and meetings with other international organizations were presented, highlighting the efforts to better promote the EANET and engage new partnerships.

- The Network Center (NC) highlighted Core activities conducted by the NC in 2023 and 2024, including the preparation of the 2024 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, and drafting the Data Report 2023.
 - The NC also reported on the progress of EANET Project Activities that NC has successfully implemented 5 projects (2023-02,05,06,07 and 08) in 2023, and continued 4 projects (2023-01, 03, 04) for 2024. The new projects (2024-02, 05, 06, 07, 08, 10 and 12) started in 2024 and are implemented in line with the project plan.
 -
 - Following the request from a country, the Secretariat, the Network Center, and ACAP, as the EANET Project Fund Holder, presented their financial reports for 2023 to inform the prioritization of the project activities in 2025.
 - The Secretariat presented the Interim Financial Report of the EANET Secretariat for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2023. The total income received from PCs in 2023 was USD 421,626, while the total expenditure amounted to USD 519,161, resulting in a negative balance in 2023. Nevertheless, there has been funds accumulated in UNEP since 2015, leaving an available cash balance of USD 901,993. As of 20 August 2024, the total voluntary financial contributions received was only USD 176,290. Considering the earmarked funds from the Chinese in-kind cash contribution (USD 379,429) and expenditure and commitment for 2024, and the operating reserve for the Secretariat in 2025, the resulting total available cash balance will be (-) negative USD 367,520 as of 20 August 2024.
 - The Network Center and the Project Fund Holder (ACAP) presented their financial reports for 2023 and 2024. In 2023, the contributions from PCs to the NC were USD 331,579. For core activities, NC allocated a budget of USD 494,000, with an expenditure of USD 489,107. In 2024, the budget was USD 542,000 and expenditure from January to May 2024 amounted to USD 205,617. For the project activities in 2023, the NC provided a budget of USD 388,000, with an expenditure was USD 383,995. For project activities in 2024, the budget was USD 495,436 and the expenditure until May 2024 was USD 383,995.
9. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to the IG26 on the EANET, as appropriate.
10. Major discussions included:

- (i) Malaysia appreciated the excellent work of the Secretariat, and the NC related to Core and Project Activities and informed its intention to continue to support the implementation of ongoing activities to enhance the awareness raising and capacity building within the EANET. Malaysia informed of its active participation in the EANET by detailing its many activities conducted this year. Malaysia also reported that the Malaysia Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) has registered 3 stations to the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) under WMO Integrated Global Observing System. Regarding the technical studies on low-cost sensors (LCS), Malaysia looks forward to the release of Guidelines on LCS. Malaysia also expressed appreciation for the TNT Capacity Building Programme and the EANET Fellowship programs under the Project Activities, which have been of great benefit for Malaysia in 2023-2024, not only for the individuals but also for the entire organization. Furthermore, Malaysia appreciated the webinar workshop of capacity building on emission inventory on combustion sources held in December 2023 and suggests such webinars to be conducted regularly.
- (ii) The Secretariat reminded that the role of the WG Meeting is to provide recommendations and not to make any decisions.
- (iii) A Participating Country highlighted the importance to improve the financial reporting of the EANET Projects in order to enhance the transparency of the Fund and to attract more donors and partners. They also reminded that the Project Completion Report should align with the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline and requested further explanation regarding the negative financial balance under one project, and surplus under another, advising careful consideration during the implementation. Given the dire financial situation of the EANET, the importance of utilizing the surplus in a more appropriate manner for other project activities was highlighted, ensuring that the use of the remaining balance is in accordance with the Guideline. Finally, they also mentioned the importance of a clear separation of the roles of the Network Center and of the Asian Center for Air Pollution (ACAP) as a Project Fund Holder.
- (iv) The Network Center and the Project Fund Holder (ACAP) clarified that during the implementation stage last year, the negative balance was due to the rising costs of airfare and hotel accommodation, which led to an increase in expenditure and took note of the request of a PC to better report the project balance (negative or surplus) in the Project Completion Report.
- (v) Furthermore, the Network Center as the implementing agency for Core and Project activities explained their intention to align with the approved budget in IG25. The Project Fund Holder (ACAP) reported that in 2023, they managed 8 projects for the total budget was USD 248,000 with expenditures amounting to USD 240,218, leaving a balance of USD 8,282. ACAP also mentioned that the figures of expenditure will be checked again carefully.
- (vi) The Secretariat clarified that they would have available budget to implement Core Activities in 2025, noting that there are still missing over 300,000 USD from voluntary financial contributions from PCs in 2024, and that there will be no available cash balance for Project Activities for 2025.
- (vii) Japan pledged that its contribution to the Secretariat and Network Center for Core and Project activities would be similar to 2024.

(viii) The Network Center informed the Session that the Philippines confirmed their commitment to provide 2,500 USD to support the EANET Project 4.

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

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRESS OF THE ANNOTATED OUTLINE FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN (MTP) FOR THE EANET (2026-2030) AND OF THE DRAFTING PROCESS [AGENDA ITEM 5]

12. The Secretariat presented the Annotated Outline for the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2026-2030) and its Drafting Process (EANET/WG2024/5).

13. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat presented the details of the Draft Annotated Outline including the summary of the proposed content for each section.
- The Secretariat explained the proposed Drafting Process of the MTP for the EANET (2026-2030).

14. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to IG26 on the EANET, as appropriate.

15. Major discussions included:

- (i) A Participating Country supported the inclusion of the new challenges of air quality management in Chapter 2 of the Draft Annotated Outline. They also suggested that Chapter 5 should not only include air pollution but also acid deposition as part of the long-term strategy.
- (ii) A Participating Country highlighted the importance for the new MTP to remain aligned with the Scope of the EANET. Activities should be selected based on the consensus among Participating Countries on cooperation in priority areas, and the management of EANET activities should be in line with the rules and regulations of the Participating Countries. In Chapter 2.2, it was proposed to include additional principles of management, such as “process-based management” and other relevant principles, rather than focusing solely on Results-Based Management. In Chapter 4.2, it was proposed to remove: “philanthropic organizations and foundations” as such organizations do not necessarily exist in all the PCs. In Chapter 5, it was suggested to exclude the reference to a long-term strategy and instead focus on the activities conducted by the EANET over the next five years, considering that the MTP should remain a practical document. In addition, it was clarified that the Instrument for the EANET and its Annex already provide a long-term strategy for the EANET.
- (iii) A Participating Country supported the inclusion of the long-term strategy in the Chapter 5, explaining that air pollution is a complex issue that can vary significantly between regions, making a long-term approach beneficial. Additionally, it would be useful for EANET to seek funding and to position itself in comparison with other regions. However, the country noted the importance and possible challenges of allocating budget to a long-term strategy.
- (iv) A Participating Country suggested to include meteorology and climate change in the long-term strategy because of its effect on air pollution.

- (v) A Participating Country suggested including in the next MTP a strategy for utilizing the data and transforming it into policies, particularly as there is still a lot of work to do on air pollution management and on how to best utilize EANET's accumulated and well-renowned high-quality data.
- (vi) A Participating Country suggested including a cost-benefit analysis of activities in the next MTP, which was not included in the current Mid-Term Review of the MTP (2021-2025).
- (vii) On Chapter 4, a Participating Country informed that the activities should be carried out based on available funds and the ongoing projects prioritized. In addition, Partners should be agreed upon among all PCs.
- (viii) Japan emphasized the importance of the SAC's scientific inputs and views on the content of the next MTP. Additional meetings could take place between the IG26 and the IG27 and would include in-person meetings. Japan offered to support financially the organization of some in-person meetings.
- (ix) A Participating Country suggested that the MTP should include considerations for the arrangement of the Project Fund Holder, noting that ACAP is currently serving as the Project Fund Holder during the transition period, with a need to establish a permanent arrangement for this role. Additionally, the country suggested to link the preparation work of EANET's MTP with the preparation of UNEP's next Medium-Term Strategy (MTS), including how air pollution will be addressed, and how regional issues will be tackled. EANET's role could appear in the next MTS, allowing to level-up EANET and to possibly encourage access to more funding. It was proposed that the Secretariat invites a relevant resource person working on the development of the MTS to EANET key meetings to provide an overview on its development.
- (x) The Secretariat clarified that the Draft Annotated Outline presented during this agenda item would be improved including comments from the WG2024 meeting, and the SAC24 before consideration by the IG26. Based on the decisions of the IG26, the Outline and its drafting process will be further modified as necessary. The IG26 may decide to assign the SAC to develop specific chapters in the full draft MTP. However, the Secretariat explained that the MTP is a practical document, the section on general guidance needs to be practical rather than going into too many details on scientific issues in order not to limit further actions in the future. Finally, the Secretariat reminded that the Work Programme and Budget, adopted every year by the IG, can be a more detailed document.
- (xi) On the Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy to be presented during Agenda 6 of the WG2024, the Secretariat clarified that the Strategy will not become a stand-alone document but will be integrated in the Draft Annotated Outline of the MTP.

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

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY [AGENDA ITEM 6]

17. The Secretariat presented the Draft Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy (EANET/WG2024/6).

18. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat highlighted the key points of the Draft Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy including the current EANET Core and Project Fund resources, a Partners and Resource Mobilization Mapping for Atmospheric Environment Management in the East Asia region, and the proposed Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy for the EANET.
- The Secretariat provided actions for consideration of the Session to support EANET projects and activities tailored for Participating Countries, Bilateral and Multilateral Development Agencies, United Nations Agencies and Intergovernmental Bodies, Foundations and Philanthropies, International and Local NGOs and Research Institutions, and the Private Sector

19. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to the IG26 on the EANET, as appropriate.

20. Major discussions included:

- (i) The Secretariat clarified that the Draft Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy aims to indicate a general direction for the EANET and for the Secretariat and Network Center's work. It should be considered by the SAC24 in October and the IG26 in November 2024 and could be integrated to the new MTP. Before that, it will be reviewed by ACAP and UNEP.
- (ii) Several PCs requested additional time to provide comments on the draft Strategy.
- (iii) Several PCs thanked the Secretariat for developing the Draft Strategy and looked forward to reading the further comments from UNEP and ACAP, and from the SAC24 and IG26.
- (iv) Some PCs suggested to explore working with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- (v) A Participating Country suggested the following modifications:
 - a. Page 5: include the utilization of any surplus from the Secretariat, the Network Center and the Project Fund in the Strategy
 - b. Page 6: add a column on the EANET Projects 2022-2024 to better quantify the in-kind contribution from PCs and show it is increasing over time.
 - c. Page 8: target funding beyond pollution control departments, to also include other departments which may have more resources available.
 - d. Page 9: explain how the highlighted projects were selected.
 - e. Page 12: enhance the part on opportunities to include the private sector, including philanthropic activities.
 - f. Page 13: include the consideration of a cost analysis when proposing new monitoring stations and how to optimize the resources.
 - g. Page 15: add consultations with UNESCAP and UNEP in Nairobi on how to include EANET as an implementation agency of the RAPAP.
 - h. Page 16: select and focus on stakeholders who can actively contribute, such as GEF.

- i. It was suggested to reorganize the draft into two parts - one is a draft strategy ready to be adopted in IG26 and the other is a discussion paper or background document for IG to discuss and consider the draft Strategy.
 - j. General comments: finalize missing figures (add total contributions for 2023) to ensure the document is ready for submission to the SAC24 and IG26 and add a section 4 with a strategy and concrete actions (including by whom, how and when) from the Secretariat and the Network Center which could also be added in the Work Programme and Budget (WPB) of the EANET for 2025.
- (vi) A Participating Country mentioned that activities should be carried out subject to the availability of funds, starting with projects for which funds have already been raised and agreed upon by all the Participating Countries, and the partner agencies should be selected in the interest of and approved by all PCs.
- (vii) The Secretariat clarified that:
 - a. Considering the comments from the WG2024, SAC24, and approval by the IG26, the Draft Strategy will be incorporated into the Draft MTP (2026-2030).
 - b. The surplus shown in Table 2 does not accurately reflect the situation, as information on the approved budget for the WBP and EANET Project Fund does not mean that all the funds were received by the Secretariat and Network Center.
 - c. The draft will be improved, and it is important to receive guidance from the IG26 on specific steps/ actions that the Secretariat and Network Center should follow up on to implement the strategy.
 - d. The current draft document is not intended to be circulated beyond EANET PCs and does not serve as a communication tool for other stakeholders. However, the IG26 could decide such a communication document to be developed.
 - e. On additional air quality monitoring stations, as an example, while monitoring stations in Lao PDR are limited, other projects are funding ground monitoring stations such as the Clean Air for Sustainable ASEAN (CASA) project. Nominating such stations be part of EANET could enrich the EANET data, encourage more activities, and possibly lead to better funding opportunities.
 - f. On involving more national centers and research institutions in the PCs, it is important to recognize that they may have their own funding to study the atmospheric environment, which could benefit EANET. As an example, adding the Research and Innovation Agency/BRIN in Indonesia could be beneficial for EANET, as well as accessing funding from provincial authorities.
 - g. Any cooperation with any organization will need to comply with the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline
- (viii) A Participating Country explained that they submitted the budget of contribution to the EANET to the Ministry of Finance according to the expected amount, however, the Ministry of Finance did not release the exact same amount which includes the budget for the Secretariat and NC.
- (ix) The Secretariat acknowledged this statement and appreciated the efforts from the PCs to meet with government agencies and ministries of finance to support and follow up on the sustainability of the contributions.

- (x) A Participating Country proposed to focus on the main responsibility of the EANET, as outlined in the Instrument and the Annex, such as monitoring acid deposition and air pollutants, as well as conducting research and methodology development, and capacity building activities.
 - (xi) The Secretariat informed the Session that the National Focal Points can share their comments on the draft Strategy until 20 September 2024. Afterwards, the Secretariat will incorporate the comments for submission to SAC24.
21. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 6.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT EANET PROJECT PLANS / PROJECT CONCEPT NOTES FOR 2025 [AGENDA ITEM 7]

22. The Network Centre and the Secretariat presented agenda item 7 “Consideration of the Draft EANET Project Plans / Project Concept Notes for 2025” (EANET/WG2024/7).
23. The key points of the presentation included:
- Considering the Comments from Japan sent per email to the Secretariat on 14 August on the WG Session Agenda, which was posted in the EANET Repository prior to the meeting, a total of 11 project plans in the Document EANET/WG2024/7 were treated in two project groups separately, including first 8 Project Plans newly submitted to the Secretariat seeking approval at IG26 and for discussions at WG Session, and second, 3 Projects Plans already approved by preceding IG Sessions, and not yet completed/on-going projects seeking WG suggestions. The Network Centre presented 9 project plans including: Studies on the effects of atmospheric deposition on ecosystems, from a catchment scale to a regional scale as a methodological study (EANET Project Plan 2025-01); Promoting VOCs related Capacity Building in the EANET (EANET Project Plan 2025-02); Feasibility study on social implementation of new monitoring technology in EANET (EANET Project Plan 2025-03); Relationship between precipitation and particulate matter components in EANET to elaborate monitoring and data analysis methodology (EANET Project Plan 2025-04); The webinar workshop for capacity building on emission inventory for agricultural sources (EANET Project Plan 2025-05); Strengthening Monitoring and Discussion on Nitrogen Cycle and Management within the EANET (EANET Project Plan 2025-06); The collaboration of Technical and Training (TNT) and capacity building program for personnel of the Participating Countries on monitoring (EANET Project Plan 2025-07); Fellowship for building leadership in Atmospheric Environment and Air Quality Management in East Asia (EANET Project Plan 2025-08); and Seminar on utilizing Satellite Monitoring including access to Dust and Sand Storm (EANET Project Plan 2025-10).
 - The Secretariat presented 2 Project Plans including: Development of methodology and guidelines for national emission inventory and capacity building program for Southeast Asia (EANET Project Plan 2025-09) and Regional and national capacity building

program on air quality monitoring and ecological impact assessment in EANET (online and in-person) (EANET Project Plan 2025-11).

24. The Session was invited to review, discuss, and provide guidance, as appropriate.
25. Major discussions included:
 - (ii) Lao PDR was pleased to inform the Session that it would contribute 219 USD to the Secretariat Core Budget for the EANET.
 - (iii) A Participating Country requested the Project Fund Holder to inform the Session of the balance of the Project Fund before considering the proposed project activities in 2025.
 - (iv) The Project Fund Holder (ACAP) informed that the EANET Project Fund Surplus in 2024 (tentative) is estimated to be 27,028 USD in December 2024.
 - (v) Japan pledged tentative support for Project Activities in 2025 in similar scale as in 2024, but noted the amount may vary due to exchange rate issues.
 - (vi) A Participating Country sought additional time to provide comments on EANET Project Plan (EPP) #3 and EPP#4 as these were submitted late. The PC also reminded that if the project is a scientific research and research outputs that will be published in the name of EANET, it should be agreed by all the Participating Countries. Some specific comments on the EPP included:
 - a. EPP#5, on p27 on the second activity, proposed to add livestock farming.
 - b. EPP#6; in “activities”, it is proposed to add the topic of “the potential contribution of ammonia emissions from agricultural sources to nitrogen deposition”. The reason is: ammonia, as a major alkaline gas in the atmosphere, is an important factor affecting air quality, a component of malodor gases from livestock and poultry farming, and an important source of nitrogen deposition. China has proposed in a series of documents to carry out ammonia emission control work and organize relevant pilot projects. It is suggested to add a topic on ammonia and other emissions from agricultural sources, which is conducive to increasing scientific research exchanges and synergistically promoting the work related to nitrogen deposition.
 - c. EPP#10: the project proposal to DSS, on p54 to delete “Discussion on the possible application in accordance with the ground level monitoring in EANET” as it is too early to carry out application of satellite monitoring. A lot of PCs mainly use ground monitoring data e.g.: in China air quality assessment in provinces and cities are carried out by using data from ground monitoring stations, which are authoritative data, some satellite data was highly susceptible to meteorological conditions and differ from ground monitoring stations. Satellite monitoring is only used as an auxiliary means of ground monitoring.
 - (vii) A Participating Country provided comments on the funding sources for projects focused on Southeast Asian countries, specifically EPP# 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11. These projects directly benefit Southeast Asian countries, yet currently lack funding sources. To address this gap, it was suggested that the Project Leads coordinate with EANET

National Focal Points (NFP) to schedule online meetings to reach out to national research agencies and institutions within the EANET which may be able to provide financial or in-kind support.

- (viii) A country questioned the selection of the Project Plans where no funding is secured and suggested to prioritize projects including co-leads and co-financers. In addition, it was requested to add the missing budget from the EANET Project Plans before submission to the SAC24.
- (ix) The Secretariat clarified that new Project Plans are reviewed based on the Project Criteria, as described in the current EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline.
- (x) Several countries discussed whether haze monitoring, as an atmospheric phenomenon resulting from PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, could be included in the Project Activities.
- (xi) A Participating Country reminded that Project Activities should remain in line with the Annex to the EANET Instrument.
- (xii) The Chair invited representatives from the Participating Countries to share their views on important topics and/or necessary activities within their country:
 - a. Mongolia explained that this is their first time attending an EANET meeting since their appointment as the new EANET NFP. They emphasized that air pollution is a critical issue in Mongolia and highlighted the importance of not only air pollution control but also capacity building, along with air quality monitoring and management, to effectively address the problem.
 - b. Myanmar noted the use of satellite images on monitoring as part of the project activities. Myanmar as a member of EANET contributes to the EANET voluntary financial contribution annually.
 - c. The Philippines emphasized the importance of project activities related to field studies and VOCs and expressed continued support to the EANET.
 - d. The Republic of Korea acknowledged many important proposed projects. ROK appreciated EANET's capacity building programs, particularly for the next generation in East Asia, and highlighted the need for more programs in this area. Further, it is crucial to link the project activities to the upcoming MTP and address important aspects of the Annex to the Instrument. Additionally, ROK pointed out the value of satellite monitoring in the region, especially for long term monitoring on ozone and PM_{2.5}.
 - e. Thailand suggested that the project activities for capacity building and activities that involve more PCs to be prioritized. EPP#10 is important not only benefiting EANET, but also other regions.
 - f. Viet Nam acknowledged the significance of the 11 project activities, with particular emphasis on EPP#2 related to VOCs. VOC analysis is a relatively new area for certain PCs. For EPP#4, Viet Nam suggested to consider additional components beyond precipitation, such as wind and meteorology since they also influence PM.

(xiii) The Secretariat took note of all the comments and informed they would be incorporated in the next iteration of the EANET Projects.

26. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 7. All project plans, with modification based on the discussion at the session, were recommended to be considered further by SAC24 and IG26.

IX. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPOSED BY THE EANET PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, THE SECRETARIAT, OR THE NETWORK CENTER [AGENDA ITEM 8]

27. The Chairperson invited participants to share announcements or updates, as part of agenda item 8: “Other matters as proposed by the EANET Participating Countries, the Secretariat, or the Network Center”.

28. Major discussions included:

(i) The Secretariat received a letter from Sri Lanka expressing interest in becoming a member of EANET. The Secretariat sought guidance on how to respond to Sri Lanka’s request.

- a. A Participating Country suggested that this matter should be brought to the attention of IG26, ensuring it remains within the network's provisions.
- b. A Participating Country advised against revising the Instrument, as it requires complex internal processes and time.
- c. The Secretariat confirmed it would seek the guidance of the IG26 on this matter and proposed to prepare possible options on how to respond to Sri Lanka, for consideration of the IG26.

(ii) Following the enquiry by a Participating Country, the Secretariat informed the Session of the publication of the Project Pipeline repository on EANET website in the “EANET Projects” webpage.

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

X. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS [AGENDA ITEM 9]

30. The Secretariat presented the Proposed Next Steps after WG2024 (EANET/WG2024/9).

31. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat presented the next steps from WG2024 to the IG26.
- The Report of the Session will be sent out on 27 August for review before 3 Sept.
- **Based on the discussions during the two days of the WG2024, 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 SAC24 and subsequently presented for

endorsement to the IG26. Documents for SAC's review will be sent by September 30, 2024.

- (ii) The MTP (2026-2030) Draft Annotated Outline will be enriched using the discussions from the IM2024, including the additional steps beyond IG26 towards IG27 for consideration, and the discussions from the WG2024 which will be submitted to SAC24 on 30 September 2024. Further revisions will be made integrating recommendations from SAC24 for submission to IG26.
- (iii) The Draft Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy will be further developed for consideration of SAC24 and IG26. UNEP and ACAP will be requested to review and provide their input. PCs will provide written comments on the document by September 20, 2024, before submission to SAC before September 30, 2024.
- (iv) Following the process for development and approval of EANET Project Plans/ Project Concept Notes, the Secretariat and the Network Center, in close consultation with other Project Leads and co-financiers, will work to finalize the EANET Project Plans considering the comments from the WG2024 and for further review by SAC24 and consideration for approval by IG26.
- (v) Based on the discussions during Agenda Item 8 "Other Matters", the letter from Sri Lanka will be further communicated to IG26 for further consideration and discussions.

32. Major discussions included:

- (i) A Participating Country proposed that the recommendations from the WG2024 to the IG26 should ensure that the WBP 2025 includes additional activities to support the preparation of the MTP.
- (ii) A Participating Country proposed that the IG26 task the SAC25 to work on technical objectives of the MTP. In addition, they proposed, for the IG26's consideration, the organization of one or two SAC meetings after IG26, and two Working Group meeting sessions to accelerate the development process of the MTP. The STM26 meeting could be organized online which would allow to have an additional SAC meeting in person instead.
- (iii) Malaysia was pleased to inform the Session of the ongoing preparation of the IG26 in Kuala Lumpur in November 2024 and looked forward to welcoming the representatives of the Participating Countries in Malaysia.

33. The Session considered and acknowledged the Proposed Next Steps after WG2024.

XI. CLOSING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 10]

34. 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.

35. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat, and the Network Center for their contributions, declared the Working Group Meeting in 2024 on the EANET officially closed.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CAMBODIA

Mr. Chou Monidarin
Deputy Director-General
Environmental Protection General Directorate
Ministry of Environment

Mr. Chandath Him
Deputy Director
Air Quality, Noise and Vibration
Management
Ministry of Environment

CHINA

Mr. Zhou Jun
Director
Division of Asian, Africa and
Latin American Affairs
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Ecology and Environment

Ms. Shi Chuan
Deputy Section Chief
Division II
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center
Ministry of Ecology and Environment

Dr. Tian Jingyu
Officer
Division of Monitoring Network Management
Department of Ambient Air Quality
Monitoring
China National Environmental
Monitoring Center
Ministry of Ecology and Environment

Prof. Hong Li
Chief Expert in the Research Area of
Atmospheric Environment Observation and
Causes
Research Section of Atmospheric Complex
Pollution Causes
Institute of Atmospheric Environment
Chinese Research Academy of Environmental
Sciences

Dr. Wang Xiaofei
Senior Engineer
Department of Ambient Air Quality
Monitoring
China National Environmental
Monitoring Center

INDONESIA

Mr. Marhasak Denny T Silaban
Head of Sub Directorate of Protecting and
Planning of Air Quality Management
Directorate for Air pollution Control
Directorate General for Controlling Pollution
and Environmental Damage
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

JAPAN

Mr. Yu Kamei
Director
Environmental Management Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Ministry of Environment, Japan

Ms. Itsuki Kuroda
Deputy Director
Environmental Management Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Ministry of Environment, Japan

Mr. Takashi Ohmura
Senior Fellow
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

LAO PDR

Mr. Lienxay Bounmanyvanh
Director General
Natural Resources and Environment Institute
Ministry of Natural Resources and Institute

Ms. Darounny Vilaythong
Director of Environmental Laboratory
Natural Resources and Environment Institute
Ministry of Natural Resources and Institute

Mr. Sitthideth Nonthaxay
Deputy Director of Environmental Laboratory
Natural Resources and Environment Institute
Ministry of Natural Resources and Institute

MALAYSIA

Mr. Mahadi Bin Sukarno
Deputy Undersecretary
Environmental Management Division
Ministry of Natural Resources,
Environmental Sustainability

Ms. Mazrini Binti Mohmad
Principle Assistant Secretary
Environmental Management Division
Ministry of Natural Resources,

Ms. Dini Fajrina Binti Mohd Hussain
Assistant Secretary
Environmental Management Division
Ministry of Natural Resources,
Environmental Sustainability

Ms. Siti Athira Binti Ahmad Zailan
Assistant Secretary
Environmental Management Division
Ministry of Natural Resources,
Environmental Sustainability

Dr. Mazarudin Bin Mohamed Ibrahim
Lab Manager
Environmental Quality Division
Drinking Water Food and Environmental
Safety Analysis Centre
Department of Chemistry

Ms. Haliza Hasan
Scientific Officer
Environmental Quality Division
Drinking Water Food and Environmental
Safety Analysis Centre
Department of Chemistry

Dr. Ahmad Fairudz Bin Jamaluddin
Director
Atmospheric Sciences and Cloud Seeding
Division
Malaysian Meteorological Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environmental Sustainability (NRES)

Mr. Mohan Kumar Sammathuria
Principle Assistant Director
Atmospheric Sciences and Cloud Seeding
Division
Malaysian Meteorological Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environmental Sustainability (NRES)

Ms. Norazlinda Binti Ismail
Head of Asst Director
Air Division
Department of Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environmental Sustainability (NRES)

Ms. Hernifita Binti Abd Ahani
Senior Asst Director
Air Division
Department of Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environmental Sustainability (NRES)

MONGOLIA

Dr. Tsatsral Batmunkh
Director
Center Laboratory of Environment and
Metrology,
National Agency for Meteorology and
Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM)
Ministry of Environment and Tourism

MYANMAR

Dr. Kyu Kyu Sein
Deputy Director
Hydrological Division
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Ms. Wittyi Soe
Assistant Director
Hydrological Division
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Ministry of Transport and Communications

PHILIPPINES

Mr. Geri Geronimo R. Sañez
Division Chief
Environmental Quality Management Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Ms. Fatima Anneglo R. Molina
Chief Science Research Specialist
Environmental Research and Laboratory Services
Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Mr. Jundy T. Del Socorro
Supervising Environmental Management
Specialist
Environmental Quality Management Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Mr. Roger C. Evangelista, JR.
Senior Science Research Specialist
Environmental Research and Laboratory Services
Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Mr. Sammy L. Aytona
Senior Science Research Specialist
Environmental Research and Laboratory Services
Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Ms. Karen Ann Foster Pacpaco
Supervising Environmental Management
Specialist
Environmental Quality Management Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Mr. Erick C. Rubi
Science Research Specialist II
Environmental Research and Laboratory
Services Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Mr. Chadbert Nikko D. Aquino
Engineer II
Environmental Quality Management Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Ms. Marie Joe A. Cristobal
Planning Officer II
Policy, Planning and Program Development
Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)

Ms. MA. Concepcion V. Esteleydes
Information Officer III
Environmental Education and Information
Division
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
Environmental Management Bureau

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Ms. Sojung You
International Cooperation Advisor
Air Quality Division
Air Quality Policy Bureau
Ministry of Environment

Dr. Jinsoo Park
Senior Researcher
Air Quality Environment Research Division
Climate and Air Quality Research Department
National Institute of Environmental Research
(NIER)

Dr. Joonyoung Ahn
Senior Researcher
Air Quality Environment Research Division
Climate and Air Quality Research Department
National Institute of Environmental Research
(NIER)

RUSSIA

Dr. Kotlyakova Marina
Deputy Head
Environmental Pollution Monitoring
Department
Russian Federal Service for
Hydrometeorology and Environmental
Monitoring

Dr. Sergei Gromov
Deputy Director
Yu.A. Izrael Institute of Global Climate and
Ecology (IGCE)

THAILAND

Ms. Kesinee Unapumnuk
Director, Transboundary Air Pollution
Subdivision
Air Quality and Noise Management Division
Pollution Control Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment

Mr. Pichaid Atipakya
Environmental, Senior Professional Level
Air Quality and Noise Management Division
Pollution Control Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment

Ms. Chantiraporn Tanguwan
Environmental Professional Level
Air Quality and Noise Management Division
Pollution Control Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment

Ms. Temduean Chanatorn
Environmentlist
Climate Change and Environmental Research
Center (CERC)
Department of Climate Change and
Environment (DCCE)

VIET NAM

Dr. Nguyen Van Hong
Vice Director
Sub – Institute of Hydrometeorology and
Climate Change
Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology
and Climate Change

UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Ms. Marlene Nilsson
Deputy Regional Director

OBSERVERS

Dr. Ram Lal Verma
Head, Air Pollution Cluster

Mr. Myatthu Kyaw
Programme Officer

NETWORK CENTER FOR THE EANET
Asia Center for Air Pollution Research
(ACAP)

Dr. Tohara Ohara
Director-General

Prof. Fan Meng
Deputy Director-General

Dr. Ken Yamashita
Head, Planning and Training Department

Dr. Keiichi Sato
Head, Atmospheric Research Department

Dr. Hiroyuki Sase
Head, Ecological Impact Research
Department

Dr. Junichi Kurokawa
Head, Data Management Department

Dr. Meihua Zhu
Principal Senior Researcher, Planning and
Training Department

Ms. Miho Tamura
Administrative Staff, Planning and Training
Department

Mr. Katsuyoshi Uehara
Administrative Staff, Planning and Training
Department

Dr. Mingqun Huo
Senior Researcher, Atmospheric Research
Department

Mr. Yuuta Nanba
Senior Researcher, Atmospheric Research
Department

Dr. Akie Yuba
Senior Researcher, Atmospheric Research
Department

Ms. Mari Futami
Researcher, Atmospheric Research
Department

Ms. Eri Furukawa
Researcher, Atmospheric Research
Department

Dr. Rieko Urakawa
Senior Researcher, Ecological Impact
Research Department

Mr. Hiroki Yotsuyanagi
Senior Researcher, Ecological Impact
Research Department

Mr. Masayuki Morohashi
Senior Researcher, Ecological Impact
Research Department

Mr. Hiroyuki Sasaki
Senior Researcher, Data Management
Department

Dr. Yusuke Kiriya
Researcher, Data Management Department

Dr. Pham Kim-Oanh
Senior Researcher, Data Management
Department

Ms. Kumiko Nakamura
Researcher, Data Management Department

Mr. Akihito Morizumi
General Affairs Department

Ms. Ayako Aoyagi
General Affairs Department

Ms. Eriya Tsuchiya
General Affairs Department

SECRETARIAT FOR THE EANET
United Nations Environment Programme
Asia and Pacific Office

Mr. Bert Fabian
Coordinator

Ms. Aurélie Lemoine
Communication and Institutional Support
Consultant

Ms. Sirinart Suanyam
Programme Management Assistant

Ms. Alfi Syakila
Technical Consultant EANET Project Fund