

The Twenty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)
27-28 November 2024, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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-sixth Session (IG26) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 27 and 28 November 2024, in 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), the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP) hosting the Network Center (NC) for the EANET, as well as observers. The List of Participants is attached to this Report in Annex 1.

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 1]

3. Honourable Datuk Nor Yahati binti Awang, Deputy Secretary General of Environmental Sustainability at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) of Malaysia, delivered the Welcome Remarks on behalf of the Minister of NRES, His Excellency Nik Nazmi bin Nik Ahmad. Honourable Datuk Nor Yahati extended warm regards to all IG26 participants, both online and offline, for their presence at the meeting. She mentioned that it was an honor for Malaysia to host IG26 and recognized the meeting as a critical platform for discussing acid deposition and air pollution in the region. Since the early 1996, Malaysia has collaborated with Participating Countries to establish EANET and has agreed to promote its establishment by carrying out various activities, including monitoring, reporting, and raising public awareness. EANET has produced valuable regional assessment reports to support policymakers. Malaysia has remained committed to addressing acid deposition and has been part of EANET since its early inception in 1996. The country is also grateful for the participation of its young researchers in the fellowship program in 2023 and 2024. Datuk Nor Yahati informed that Malaysia is currently finalizing the National Clean Air Action Plan (2025–2040), the Long-term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT LEDS), and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Roadmap, which aims to reduce air pollution and economy-wide GHG emission intensity by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. She also highlighted preparations for Malaysia's upcoming ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025 and Visit Malaysia 2026. She concluded by wishing all distinguished delegates fruitful discussions and an inspiring experience for a successful IG26 Meeting.

4. Dr. Toshimasa Ohara, Director General of the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), delivered the Welcome Remarks. In his speech, Dr. Ohara mentioned the expanded scope of EANET, noting that it has been advancing its activities not only in the field of acid deposition but also in air pollution, which continues to pose environmental and social risks in East Asia. He highlighted two major pollutants, PM_{2.5} and O₃, whose lifetime poses threats across the entire Asia region. He emphasized the importance of all countries understanding the status and exploring better solutions to address these issues. Dr. Ohara noted that EANET's long-term observations over the past 20 years must be strengthened, particularly considering the Work Programme and Budget (WBP) for 2025 and the development of the Mid-Term Plan (MTP) being discussed at this meeting. He wished the productive discussions during the meeting to determine the future activities of EANET.
5. Mr. Bert Fabian, Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET, delivered the Opening Remarks, highlighting economic development in the region particularly in Southeast Asia, which simultaneously presents challenges in addressing acid deposition and air pollution. He stated that EANET has been transforming itself to better serve PCs in terms of capacity building, knowledge sharing, and addressing acid deposition and air pollution. He mentioned the science-policy interface and that EANET can also be a platform to allow PCs to assess the impact of policy development and the overall effects on acid deposition and air pollution. He informed that the Secretariat had circulated the final draft of Revised Administrative and Financial Management Guidelines for the Secretariat and the Network Center, as well as the EANET Project Fund and Project Guidelines, which are proposed to take effect on 13 December 2024. These guidelines will provide an important basis for developing the next MTP. He expressed hope for the meeting's success and looked forward to the discussions.

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 Mr. Ambun Dindang, Deputy Director General (Operation), Malaysian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), Malaysia as the Chairperson; Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon, Specialised Expert on Air Quality and Noise Management, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, and Dr. Tsatsral Batmunkh, Director, Center Laboratory of Environment and Metrology, National Agency for Meteorology and Environment Monitoring (NAMEM),

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia as Vice-Chairpersons; and Ms. Itsuki Kuroda, Deputy Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, as Rapporteur of the IG26.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA [AGENDA ITEM 3]

7. The Session considered the Draft Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG26/3/1), Draft Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG26/3/2), as well as the Draft Program (EANET/IG26/3/3/REV) of the Session.
8. Major discussions included:
 - A country noted that many meeting documents were not uploaded timely. It was suggested that meeting documents be uploaded earlier, one month in advance, to allow sufficient time to review the document in advance.
 - Regarding the draft Resource Mobilization Strategy sent on September 20, it was suggested to upload countries' comments on the document to the Repository of the EANET site.
 - The Secretariat clarified that comments from China and Japan had been received and would be uploaded to the Repository. It was also confirmed that discussion on the document would be made in a related Agenda later.
9. The Session adopted the Draft Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG26/3/1), Draft Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/IG26/3/2), as well as the Draft Program (EANET/IG26/3/3/REV) of the Session.

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

10. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Core Activities since the 25th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG25) on the EANET in November 2023 (EANET/IG26/4/1), the Draft Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center's Core Activities in 2023 (EANET/IG26/4/2), the Draft Annual Report of the EANET Projects and EANET Project Fund since IG25 (EANET/IG26/4/3), and the Draft EANET Project Completion Report in 2023 (EANET/IG26/4/4).
11. 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 2023 and 2024.
 - The Secretariat highlighted activities which were implemented since IG25, including the organization of EANET meetings (The Informal Meeting on the

Initial Preparation of the Draft MTP (2026-2030) in 2024, The Working Group Meeting in 2024 and SAC24), the EANET Regional Awareness Workshop in 2024, and National Stakeholders' workshops in China and Cambodia, various communication activities (including updating EANET website, email campaigns and newsletters, videos and web stories) as well as consultations with various organizations in developing the Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy.

- The grand-total expenditure of the Secretariat approved by the IG24 in 2023 was US\$ 637,885. The total voluntary financial contribution received by the Secretariat in 2023 was US\$ 421,626. In addition, the total expenditures and commitments of the Secretariat in 2023 were US\$ 519,161.

12. The key points of the presentation of the Network Center included:

- The Network Center highlighted key core activities conducted in 2024 which included, among others, 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 surveys, drafting the Data Report 2023, and participation and support to the Secretariat for the organization of the Regional Awareness Workshop and the National Stakeholders' workshops in China and in Cambodia.
- The total voluntary financial contribution received by the Network Center in 2023 was US\$ 461,670. In addition, the total expenditures and commitments of the NC for core budget activities in 2023 were US\$ 462,307.
- The Network Center presented the Project Activities completed in 2023 and 2024 and highlighted the completion of research activities, capacity building, training, on various topics including LCS, VOCs, emission inventories, among others.
- The total monetary contribution of EANET Project Fund in 2023 was US\$ 218,644. The total expenditure of EANET Project Fund in 2023 was US\$ 215,589, as reported by ACAP as Project Fund Holder (PFH).

13. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and endorse the reports as appropriate.

14. Major discussions included:

- (i) The NC expressed the appreciation to Japan for their strong continuous support to the Project Fund, Philippines for their contribution to some activities, and Republic of Korea for their co-funding on the TNT capacity building activity.
- (ii) The session agreed to discuss Agenda 4 following the order of the documents.
- (iii) On the Agenda 4.1:
 - A country clarified regarding the communication survey and the Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy document that was developed by the

Secretariat. These two activities are considered important to strengthen the Secretariat and the NC in enhancing outreach and assisting PCs in project development and in seeking resources from external organizations and requested the SEC and the NC to identify measures based on the survey for WPB and MTP.

- A country suggested that EANET could highlight the importance of connecting monitoring data and research results with policymaking, implications, and the legislative process. It would be useful to consider developing brief reports for focal points and PCs, particularly on scientific research data such as O₃ and air pollution, to share with policy makers.
- The Republic of Korea (ROK) encouraged other PCs to be more active in providing technical assistance and capacity building, which will offer critical benefits to all PCs. Currently, ROK is supporting capacity building through in-kind contributions to the TNT project.
- The Secretariat took note of PC's comments and sought support in identifying the person to approach for developing projects. On the communication activities, based on survey results, it was suggested to expand communication channels to include social media to promote EANET activities. The communication strategy and partnership and resource mobilization strategy will be included in the specific section of the MTP.

(iv) On the Agenda 4.2:

- A country raised concern on admin cost and sought clarification regarding the high cost of managing the website, travel, as well as public awareness activities. In addition, the country requested the Secretariat to provide more information on the percentage of admin cost compared to expenditure by January 2025.
- The NC clarified that activities on the website included the management work of monitoring data providing system, which needed a direct expense for the update of the operating system in the server and linked to the EANET sites. The NC prepared website contents, especially for provision of scientific documents. It was also clarified that the travel cost for the STM meeting was covered by the NC and the travel cost for the sessions of SAC and IG was covered by the Secretariat, as indicated in WPB
- The Secretariat took note of the guidance of the session and pointed out that the cost in 2023 is lower than the approved budget because the SAC meeting was held in a virtual manner.
- A country highlighted that the expenditure of the Secretariat in 2023 is higher than actual annual contribution in 2023 which is not sustainable. This situation should be avoided in future by considering policies and measures in the next MTP.
- The Secretariat clarified that the expenditure of the Secretariat is based on the approved budget, not the expected contribution.

(v) On the Agenda 4.3 and 4.4:

- A country inquired about the progress of Project No. 9 (2024/09) and Project No. 11 (2024/11), which were approved at IG25, and requested the progress should be indicated in the completion report.
- The Secretariat clarified that those two projects were approved, but there was no fund to implement the projects.
- A country expressed their gratitude for several projects ongoing in cooperation with ROK, the Philippines, and Fudan University in China.
- Regarding the financial situation of projects, it was emphasized that expenditure and revenue of projects should be balanced, and the remaining amounts should be returned to the EANET Project Fund. Since some completion reports have the remaining balances, if that money was unspent, it should be returned. This should be indicated clearly in the completion report. Projects No. 7 and 8 have the remaining budget but the balance in the presentation of PFH was zero. It was not clear if those remaining funds had been returned to the fund.
- The NC clarified that the completion report shows the comparison between the budget and expenditure. The PFH paid only the actual expenditure on project activities and included the remaining budget in the carryover.
- The NC clarified that the financial report shows the correct figures.
- The Secretariat clarified that the word document in the repository is considered as the official one in the EANET. The discrepancies should be corrected as appropriate.
- The NC as the implementation agency of the projects clarified that the remaining budget would be returned to the PFH. It was proposed to have flexibility on the budget, for example, within 10% change, could be accepted, since the expenditure/budget cannot be completely balanced.
- A country requested the Secretariat and PFH to report on all the projects that were approved by IG, implemented or not, from next year onwards.
- A country recommended that actual expenditure should be shown in the financial report to invite external donor agencies. Thus, the EANET Project Fund needs clearer regulations about how the remaining budget will be returned. It was suggested to have more clarity to get more external funds.
- The Secretariat announced that the revised Administrative and Financial Management Guidelines for the Secretariat and the Network Center and the EANET Project Fund and Project Guidelines have been finalized and sent out to the Participating Countries and expected to be effective on 13 December 2024. It was pointed out that Administrative and Financial Management Guidelines and the EANET Project Fund and Project Guidelines include description of the remaining budget to be returned and the 10% flexibility for the core budget to move across budget categories, respectively. It should be discussed whether this is applied to the project fund

or not. It was also noted that the PFH and project members should follow the regulation of ACAP and implementation agencies, respectively.

- A country suggested that the remaining budget be returned to the Project Fund to comply with the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline.

15. The Session endorsed the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Core Activities since the 25th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG25) on the EANET in November 2023 (EANET/IG26/4/1), the Draft Financial Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center's Core Activities in 2023 (EANET/IG26/4/2), the Draft Annual Report of the EANET Projects and EANET Project Fund since IG25 (EANET/IG26/4/3), and the Draft EANET Project Completion Report in 2023 (EANET/IG26/4/4).

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN 2024 (WG2024) [AGENDA ITEM 5]

16. The Chair of the Working Group Meeting in 2024 (WG2024) presented the Report of the Outcomes of the Working Group Meeting in 2024 (EANET/IG26/5), which was held virtually from 20 to 21 August 2024.

17. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Chair of the Working Group highlighted the main points of the discussions of the WG2024 meeting.

18. The Session was invited to review, discuss, and provide guidance, as appropriate.

19. Major discussions included:

- (i) A country pointed out that WG2024 was held to discuss important points for IG. The report included many important points for preparation of MTP, which could be discussed in the Session. It was confirmed to discuss contents raised WG, MTP, project proposals, and WPB, in the appropriate agenda items.

20. The Session endorsed the Report of the Outcomes of the Working Group Meeting in 2024 (EANET/IG26/5).

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC24) [AGENDA ITEM 6]

21. The Chair of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC24) presented the Report of the Outcomes of the Twenty-fourth Session of the

Scientific Advisory Committee, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 29 to 31 October 2024 (EANET/IG26/6).

22. The key points of the presentation included:
 - The Chair of the SAC24 highlighted the main points of the discussions of the SAC24 meeting.
23. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and endorse as appropriate.
24. Major discussions included:
 - (i) A country suggested to review the recommendations from SAC24 one by one in the Session.
 - (ii) A country expressed their concerns about the three Task Forces (TFs). It was suggested that TFs work effectively with clear targets and work durations, and consider to ease the requirements of membership.
 - (iii) A country pointed out that items No. 1 on TFs and No. 3 on PRSAD4 in the recommendations from SAC24 could not be discussed and approved in this Session, since they were not included in the meeting agenda. It was suggested that an additional IG may be held to discuss these items, if necessary.
 - (iv) A country suggested that WG and SAC meetings discussed substantial issues, which could be taken note at IG. It was suggested that a different wording be used instead of “endorse”.
 - (v) The Secretariat clarified that the NC and the Secretariat cannot move forward without the endorsement of IG. For SAC, many items, including Data Report, need the endorsement of IG. It was pointed out that the recommendations may be endorsed particularly for the data and technical documents of SAC.
 - (vi) The NC pointed out that the functions of SAC and IG are different, as SAC is responsible for scientific issues in the EANET. At the moment, SAC just recommended to launch the Drafting Committee of PRSAD5, not actual contents of the report. It was also pointed out that SAC members were nominated by NFPs as scientific experts.
 - (vii) A country emphasized that IG is the decision-making body of the EANET and can decide on adoption of SAC recommendations. For the items No. 1 and No.3, it needs to be discussed with other departments.
 - (viii) A country explained the experience during the long preparation process of the Instrument. In the process, the meaning of the wordings, such as adoption, endorsement, and acknowledgement, has been confirmed with the native English speaker. The Instrument says that preparation of the periodic report is the task of SAC. So far, in the previous IG meetings, no statement has been made on this issue. For the title of PRSAD5, it is not necessary to approve it

now. If IG endorses the report and takes note concerns, SAC can start the work and consider the points more seriously.

- (ix) The NC clarified that that PRSAD is prepared every five years and other reports in item No. 4 (Data Report and ILC Report) were published every year as outputs from STM and SAC.
 - (x) The NC clarified that the Drafting Committee members of the PRSAD4 were nominated by NFPs. This is considered as the Drafting Committee was technically endorsed by IG. It was suggested to adopt the SAC report and take note of recommendations/suggestions.
 - (xi) The NC pointed out that this is considered a routine process on drafting PRSAD. The IG can task the SAC to start the preparation for the PRSAD. For this purpose, the Session report may be rephrased as necessary, not to endorse any single points but to seek direction from the IG.
 - (xii) The NC clarified that preparation of the PRSAD has already been mentioned in the Instrument and was also included in the current MTP. To publish the PRSAD5 two years later, the preparation activities should be started next year, therefore, SAC in charge of this task asked IG for endorsement.
 - (xiii) The Secretariat proposed that the summary or action for this agenda in the Report of the Session be discussed with the Bureau members and proposed text will be included when the Report of the Session is discussed.
 - (xiv) A country asked about the situation of the preparation of the HAQMN guideline and the reason why the document was not adopted at SAC24. It was requested to TFAE to prepare the roadmap for adoption of the HAQMN guideline.
 - (xv) A country pointed out that the reasons why the HAQMN was not adopted is found in the item 54 in the SAC24 Report of the Session.
 - (xvi) The NC clarified that TOR of each TF was adopted at IG23 when reformation of TFs was decided, and the activity duration was not decided.
 - (xvii) A country suggested that the draft schedule and discussion on title for PRSAD5 be included as the additional information.
 - (xviii) The NC clarified that Data Report was reviewed and adopted at SAC24 with minor modifications. It was also clarified that change of the PRSAD5 title has not been decided and preparation schedule was circulated among SAC. If necessary, it can be circulated to the IG too.
 - (xix) The NC clarified that establishment of TFs, adoption of Data Report, and further discussion on the HAQMN guidelines are already mentioned in the SAC24 Report of the Session
 - (xx) A country requested the NC to show the preparation schedule of the PRSAD5.
25. The Session considered and discussed the Report of the Outcomes of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC24) (EANET/IG26/6).

26. Furthermore, the Session acted on the Recommendations of SAC24 as follows:
- Took note of the recommendations of the activities of the Task Forces
 - Adopted the following recommendations from SAC24 related to the data and technical reports from SAC24, in particular, the Data Report 2023 and the Report of the Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects 2023, with modifications.
 - Took note of the recommendations related to the drafting process, Annotated Outline of the MTP for the EANET (2026-2030), and the important concepts to be included in the MTP (2026-2030).
 - Agreed to initiate the preparation of the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PR SAD5) in 2025, with the process to be approved by PCs by email in the first quarter of 2025.
 - Took note of the recommendations of further reviewing the Draft Guidelines on establishing HAQMN, and the Manual for Low-Cost Air Sensor Systems Operation.
 - Took note of the recommendations related to the Work Programme and Budget for EANET Core Activities in 2025 and on the 12 projects proposed in the Work Programme and Budget of the EANET Proposed Project Plans in 2025.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNOTATED OUTLINE AND DRAFTING PROCESS OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN (2026-2030) [AGENDA ITEM 7]

27. The Secretariat presented the Annotated Outline and Drafting Process of the Medium-Term Plan (2026-2030) (EANET/IG26/7).
28. The key points of the presentation included:
- The Secretariat presented the Draft Annotated Outline of the Medium-Term Plan (2026-2030) including the proposed Drafting Process and the Draft Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy (PRMS) for the EANET.
29. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and approve as appropriate.
30. Major discussions included:

On the process:

- (i) A country expressed support to the proposed timeline of the Secretariat and the Network Center on the development of the MTP.
- (ii) A country sought clarification on the milestones and additional budget for the additional SAC and WG Meeting. It was also suggested that the budget for an in-person STM meeting be allocated to the additional SAC or WG.

- (iii) The Secretariat clarified that the additional SAC has no budget for an in-person meeting but the additional WG2025 could be held back-to-back with the regional awareness workshop. There is a possibility that the travel budget may be enough to fund at least one person of PCs, to travel to Bangkok.
- (iv) A country requested the NC to draft the concrete possible actions with timeline for the MTP including budget implications and submit before the possible additional SAC meeting.
- (v) A country suggested having a combined additional SAC and WG meeting in June, which would be attended by SAC and WG members to discuss the contents of the next MTP. After the combined meeting, the draft could be made in July before the WG meeting in August.
- (vi) The Network Center shared the short-term schedule of development of the next MTP, including the involvement of the TFs. It would be expected the zero draft of the MTP will be presented during additional SAC from a scientific point of view.
- (vii) A country suggested that the zero draft incorporates all the possible elements identified at the informal meeting held in May 2024, WG meeting in 2024 and SAC24 recommendations with a possible indicative budget on each activity.
- (viii) A country suggested that having an additional SAC before February 2025 will be tight for all PCs. It is suggested to have an additional meeting, consisting of SAC and WG members in June 2025 and that an advanced draft can be discussed at the WG Meeting in August 2025.
- (ix) The NC suggested that the zero draft could be prepared in April 2025. Based on the decision at IG26, the NC and Secretariat could work as appropriate.
- (x) The Secretariat proposed the schedule that the zero draft could be developed by the end of March 2025, reviewed by the countries until the end of April, and then circulated with modification in May 2025.
- (xi) A country pointed out that the EANET successfully expanded its scope after the intensive discussion but the contents of MTP were not fully addressed in the expanded scope. In this context, this is the first time to fully reflect on the expanded scope in the next MTP. Therefore, we need to identify priority areas of the expanded scope and activities, it would take time an additional SAC meeting will be important to get scientific input for the next MTP.

On the substantial points:

- (xii) It was suggested to revisit the SAC24 recommendation in the MTP.
- (xiii) A Country expressed its support for the SAC24 recommendation on the important three concepts recommended by SAC24.
- (xiv) It was suggested that at least the main directions and positions be clarified before drafting the MTP by the Secretariat and the NC, because there are different opinions on climate change, satellite, capacity building, etc. For

these complex issues, main positions should be discussed online, hybrid, or any formats.

- (xv) The NC clarified that for the nitrogen cycle monitoring and assessment, EANET has accumulated the data on atmospheric nitrogen and its cycle in forest ecosystems. The EANET data on reactive nitrogen in rainwater, gaseous/particulate matter, and inland water appear to be informative for the global issue on sustainable nitrogen management.
- (xvi) It was pointed out that the next MTP should be within the current scope. BC cannot be discussed for the next MTP, since we have concluded this issue before.
- (xvii) A country emphasized that monitoring and reporting are the main work of the EANET as shown in the Instrument and its Annex. It was also suggested to discuss how to improve monitoring, since many countries still have problems with heavy air pollution, biomass burning etc. The activities of the following fields in the MTP were suggested. Regarding the monitoring, it could include enhancing QA/QC, upgrading monitoring equipment, developing new monitoring technologies, improving monitoring data quality with new technology such as AI and etc. Regarding air pollution control, it could include cooperation on environmental policy, environmental planning, environmental regulation, and enforcement of regulations. Regarding research, it could include how to control biomass burning, capacity building on relevant methodology, etc. Regarding the technology, it could include cooperation on air pollution treatment method of cement, steel industry, mobile sources.
- (xviii) A country confirmed that the co-benefit on air pollution aspect could be considered, especially considering the discussions at COP29. On satellite monitoring issue, methodological exchange could be accepted but nitrogen cycle monitoring and assessment may need some more detailed explanation.
- (xix) As for the nitrogen cycle monitoring and assessment, the NC clarified that the EANET has accumulated substantial data on atmospheric nitrogen and its cycle in forest ecosystems. The EANET data on reactive nitrogen in rainwater, gaseous/particulate matter, and inland water appear to be informative for the global issue on the sustainable nitrogen management.
- (xx) A country emphasized that the cost of each core activity should be clarified in the zero draft in order for prioritization activity. Therefore, it is suggested that the Secretariat refer to other environmental convention processes that include budgeting using multiple scenarios, for example, three scenarios – possible actual revenue scenario, zero nominal, 5% scenario, and 10% scenario budget increase.
- (xxi) A country requested the Secretariat to prepare the Resource Mobilization Strategy in a timely manner as part of the MTP development.

- (xxii) The Secretariat clarified that since the Strategy will be part of the next MTP, more comments are welcomed. The Secretariat asked the Session to submit comments by January.
 - (xxiii) Additional comments may be sent by email to the Sec and NC to develop the zero draft of the MTP.
31. The Session discussed and considered the Draft Annotated Outline and Drafting Process of the Medium-Term Plan (2026-2030) (EANET/IG26/7).
32. Furthermore, the Session agreed on the following:

On process:

- Task the Secretariat and the Network Center to prepare a Gantt Chart to facilitate the progress of developing the MTP from IG26 up to the IG27 and submit to NFPs by end of December 2024.
- Task the Secretariat and the Network Center to prepare the Zero draft of the next MTP and submit to NFPs and SAC for review, a month before the possible additional online consultation on the Zero draft of MTP (2026-2030) in April 2025, that include NFPs, SAC and TF members.
- The zero draft of the next MTP consist of the detailed scientific and technical activities, and Secretariat tasks, with possible indicative budget that can be considered under different scenarios.
- Task the Secretariat and the Network Center to revise the Zero draft and produce a First draft for the possible additional WG meeting in May/ June (can be held back-to-back with in-person regional meeting)
- Task the Secretariat and the Network Center to prepare the Second draft considering the recommendations from the possible additional WG meeting and submit to NFPs with a copy to SAC at least one month before the WG meeting in August 2025.
- Task the Secretariat and the Network Center to prepare the final draft for submission to IG27 one month before the meeting.

On substantial points:

- Consider the technical discussions at the IM2024, WG2024, SAC24, and IG26, particularly in reference to the Instrument and the Annex of the EANET.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE EANET CORE ACTIVITIES IN 2025 [AGENDA ITEM 8]

33. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET Core Activities in 2025 (EANET/IG26/8).
34. The key points of the presentation included:

- 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.
 - The estimated voluntary financial contributions in 2025 for the Secretariat are US\$ 607,200, and US\$ 548,799 for the Network Center.
 - The estimated Available Cash Balance from the EANET Fund in UNEP is - (negative) US\$ 92,575.
 - In 2025, the Core Budget of the Secretariat is US\$ 550,875 and the Network Center's Core Budget is US\$ 705,162.
 - The total estimated revenue of the Network Center in 2025 is US\$ 655,327.
 - The Network Center will continue to provide technical support to the PCs in line with the WPB.
35. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and approve the document, as appropriate.
36. Major discussions included:
- (i) A country pointed out that the NC's financial statement has been improved but the 2024 information should be included in this WPB document and not the financial report in 2023. It was pointed out that the current estimate was based on the contributions from all the countries and exceeded the actual income of this year. It was suggested to keep the budget taking into account the estimated actual income, and it requested activities that can be removed should be identified.
 - (ii) A country pointed out the Secretariat's balance is in the red. More information is needed for their in-country reporting process and clarify the situation. For staff cost, it is requested the Secretariat to keep the consulting contract modality and to delete footnote 1.2 of Table 2 of the WPB in 2025.
 - (iii) The Network Center clarified that the estimated discrepancy in the revenue of USD 50,000 is estimated by calculating the estimated revenue and MTP activities. It is specified in the MTP and included in the WPB. As an example, reduce the number of NC members attending meetings, and public awareness activities can be reduced next year.
 - (iv) The Secretariat clarified that there is a reserve for next year, as such, technically it is not in the red as mentioned. The Secretariat requests the IG for the approval of the WPB with conditions, as this is the basis of extending contracts of staff. The Secretariat takes note of the proposed deletion of footnote 1.2. The Secretariat also cited the example of IG last year where the WPB was revised and sent to NFPs with the proposed modifications, which may be considered for this year as well.
 - (v) UNEP clarified that it is not a surplus as such, but working capital for next year.
 - (vi) A country asked clarification about the technical document on LCS, and asked for PC's attention on procedure of approval of the document, which is

to be approved by the IG according to the Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management of the Secretariat and the Network Center. Request the NC to pay attention to the EANET's scope such as for human health, only methodology and research activity may apply. And the wording be revised as methodological exchange on human health issues. The NC accepted the proposed revision.

- (vii) The NC clarified that SAC24 will consider to review the current technical documents of LCS next year. The technical documents will be modified according to the comments by SAC and the modified contents will be discussed by the TFAE and SAC in 2025.
- (viii) The NC also clarified that the HAQMN Project would finish by the end of 2024, and the elaboration of the current Technical Documents on low-cost sensors would be conducted under the core activity because LCS are associated with less expensive monitoring methods. After adoption of the Technical Documents, the NC will disseminate to the PCs which have an interest on LCS. All PCs are not necessary to use LCS for regular air quality monitoring.
- (ix) The NC also clarified that the strategy paper on health effects examines the methodology of how to utilize scientific knowledge on the health effects of air pollution, such as the WHO air pollution guidelines, in the evaluation of EANET's monitoring results. It is not a paper for EANET to consider conducting epidemiological research on its own. The process of creating this strategy paper will also lead to capacity building regarding the concept of health effects.
- (x) A country requested the NC and the Secretariat to update the Tables 2 and 3 in the document EANET/IG26/8 based on the actual revenue and report back to NFPs in a timely manner after IG26.
- (xi) The Secretariat proposed that the IG approve the WPB under condition that the expenditure is within the revenue as proposed. Considering the actual revenue last year, the Secretariat is expected to receive USD 420,000 and the NC USD 370,000 in 2025. The Secretariat and the NC will submit to all IG participants by email the revised WPB based on the expected actual revenue. The implication might be that the SAC Meeting will be online, and IG will be in person.
- (xii) The NC clarified that the current activity is a concrete activity that is already defined under MTP such as QA/QC and training. Thus, the NC strongly encouraged that PCs to contribute the full voluntary financial contribution so the activities can be delivered as planned.
- (xiii) A country tasked the NC and the Secretariat to define the activities that have not been implemented under the MTP, and return the resources if the activities have not been implemented.
- (xiv) The Secretariat clarified that MTP is a guidance document, however, the basis for the Secretariat and the NC is WPB that is approved annually by the

IG. Referring to the MTP, the annual budget for the Secretariat is about USD 600,000 every year.

37. The Session approved the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET for the Core Activities of the EANET in 2025 (EANET/IG26/8) with proposed modifications and the condition that the Secretariat and the NC will submit a revised budget and workplan (Tables 2 & 3 of the WPB 2025) within one month after the IG.

X. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE EANET PROJECT PLANS IN 2025 [AGENDA ITEM 9]

38. 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 2025 (EANET/IG26/9).

39. The key points of the presentation included:

- Eleven EANET Project Plans (EPP) were submitted for consideration and discussion to the EANET National Focal Points at the Working Group Meeting (WG2024) on 20-21 August 2024, and an additional Project Plan was submitted after the meeting. Twelve EPPs were submitted to SAC24 for consideration and discussion considering their scientific and technical perspectives. Among the EPPs, nine EPPs are newly proposed, and three EPPs are submitted as continued EANET projects.
- The Proposed Projects include: (2025-01) Comprehensive study on developing PM_{2.5} measurement techniques, source apportionment, and capacity building within EANET; (2025-02) Investigating the impact of precipitation on particulate matter components: Enhancing monitoring and data analysis in EANET; (2025-03) The webinar workshop for capacity building on emission inventory for agricultural sources; (2025-04) Strengthening Monitoring and Discussion on Nitrogen Cycle and Management within the EANET; (2025-05) The collaboration of Technical and Training (TNT) and capacity building program for personnel of the Participating Countries on monitoring; (2025-06) Development of methodology and guidelines for national emission inventory and capacity building program for Southeast Asia; (2025-07) Seminar on utilizing Satellite Monitoring including access to Dust and Sand Storm; (2025-08) Regional and national capacity building program on air quality monitoring and ecological impact assessment in EANET (online and in-person); (2025-09) Sharing information on early warning for local and regional air pollution for the Mekong sub-region; (2025-10) Studies on the effects of atmospheric deposition on ecosystems, from a catchment scale to a regional scale as a methodological study; (2025-11) Promoting VOCs related Capacity Building in the EANET;

and (2025-12) Fellowship for building leadership in Atmospheric Environment and Air Quality Management in East Asia.

40. The Session was invited to review, discuss, provide guidance, and approve the document, as appropriate.
41. Major discussions included:
 - (i) A country suggested delivering the EPP in streamline manner since those EPP were already presented during WG2024 and SAC23.
 - (ii) Japan proposed to secure the contingency fund for the EANET Project Fund of above USD 100,000 to be able to implement the EPPs since the depreciation of the Japanese yen.
 - (iii) A country highlighted that the priority of the approved EPPs should be given to the continued projects, the available co-financier, and then other projects based on the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline and the criteria and it requested PFH and Secretariat to inform the result of criteria checking when they present the EPPs.
 - (iv) Several countries highlighted that the in-kind contribution should be reported. Currently ROK provides support under NIER that may have in-kind contribution but is not acknowledged in the financial report. In 2025, there are supported projects by JSPS and Fudan University and this is also not reflected in the report. If the in-kind contribution cannot be calculated in monetary indicators, it can be put on the footnote. The acknowledgement is important as a courtesy to their contribution as well as encourage other organizations in supporting EANET.
 - (v) A country suggested that there is a mechanism to monitor the projects upon completion and how the projects benefited the countries.
 - (vi) A country commented on EPP#1 since the submission was late and quite different from what was presented in previous meetings. It was focused on monitoring and the revised version focuses more on PM_{2.5} source apportionment.
 - (vii) The NC clarified for EPP#1; the NC is expected to receive input from China one week after the IG. One week after that, the NC will circulate the revised version and to all PCs and if there is no more comments and the budget is available, the project can be implemented.
 - (viii) A country shared that all EPPs are comprehensive and with regards to EPP#4 that will lead to better understanding on agriculture and application of national wet and dry deposition data.
 - (ix) Thailand is supportive of all 9 new EPPs and requested that, if the result of the Project Activities are published as a scientific paper, Thailand would like to make the result of the project to be more understandable for policy makers, to support policy formulation. It is proposed that the session approve all EPPs under the condition of the availability of the fund.

42. The Session tentatively approved the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET for the Proposed Project Plans of the EANET in 2025 (EANET/IG26/9) including the 9 newly proposed projects to be conducted in 2025 and with a condition of the allocation of the funds for 12 projects to be determined later in the first quarter of 2025, and with proposed modifications in particular EPP#1 to be submitted to NFPs two weeks after the IG26.

XI. OTHER MATTERS [AGENDA ITEM 10]

43. The Chairperson invited participants to share announcements or updates, as part of agenda item 14: “Other matters”.
44. The Secretariat, with the support of UNEP’s Legal Officer, presented the Proposed Response to Non-EANET Countries’ Request to Join the EANET (EANET/IG26/10/1) including the details of four proposed options of response, and their legal implications: Option 1) Advise the Country to participate in selected EANET Projects/ Activities only; Option 2) Accept their request to participate in the EANET as an observer country; Option 3) Decline the request; Option 4) Accept the interested country as the fourteenth EANET Participating Country.
45. Mr. Matthew Perkins, Economic Affairs Officer, UN ESCAP, delivered a on potential cooperation with EANET in the context of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution. He mentioned two specific ESCAP projects (“Building the Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution information” and “Regional Approaches to Reduce Pollution in Transboundary Airsheds”) with opportunities for cooperation as the project countries are also EANET participating countries. One of the deliverables of ESCAP’s project is an agreed data protocol which could be through EANET, as it has served as a gold standard considering its long experience of monitoring and reporting. Within its project, with project pilot countries Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Bhutan, ESCAP indicated that there are about US\$ 30,000 per country/city available for support. He indicated that the EANET EPP 1, 3, 7 and 9 are most aligned with the ESCAP project objectives. He also mentioned as Bhutan is one of the pilot countries supported by ESCAP and if there is interest, and depending on the procedural guidance, ESCAP may be able to support Bhutan’s engagement with EANET during the duration of the project.
46. The NC presented the information on EANET Seminar for Particulate Matter Problem including Haze in Southeast Asia that will be organized on 20 December 2024. The seminar will collaborate with ASEAN Secretariat and invited EANET PCs to join and more information is available online at the EANET website.
47. Dr. Ram Lal Verma of Clean Air Fund presented their activities on addressing air pollution globally, especially in 5 geographies and 14 mega cities. He explained

about the CAF as philanthropic organization that addresses air quality issues including super pollutants that are non-CO₂ climate forcers that have significant impacts on climate change and air quality as well as addressing the tropospheric ozone which is under the EANET's scope.

48. The Session was invited to review, discuss and provide guidance, as appropriate.

49. Major discussions included:

On the Proposed Response to Non-EANET Countries' Request to Join the EANET

- (i) A country informed that it needs more time to understand the legal and financial implications of the request.
- (ii) The Secretariat clarified that the distinction between observer participants and the observer countries should be understood.
- (iii) Mr. Gerhard Kreutzer of UNEP explained that there are several terminologies for specific meetings including country observer status, permanent status that has been practiced in UNEA Assembly. Option 2 that was presented by the Secretariat brings an implication that permanent observer status from outside the region will take an IG decision.
- (iv) Several countries requested more information regarding the benefit of having new countries as a Participating Country of EANET. There is no information regarding the monitoring data and monitoring capacity of interested countries, so it was suggested that the Secretariat provide that information to be reviewed by SAC. Based on the SAC's review, the next IG can make a consideration
- (v) A country informed that a decision that expands the EANET may require an internal approval process.
- (vi) The Secretariat sought guidance from the IG to communicate further with interested countries and will find more information in this regard.

On UN ESCAP's presentation

- (i) A country sought clarification regarding the possibility of UNESCAP supporting the EANET activities and available funds.
- (ii) Mr. Perkins informed that the possible collaboration of UNESCAP and EANET is under EPP#1, 3, 7 and 9. The available fund is USD 30,000 for each country, however, there is no detail how to implement the budget allocation at this moment.
- (iii) Japan suggested that the Secretariat and the NC follow up on the discussion with ESCAP for collaboration. As a co-financier of the project activities, Japan suggested if there is a need to look at air quality monitoring QA/QC system, and the collaboration could also be under core activities. Then the funds allocated to support core activities could be allocated to other activities.

On CAF Presentation:

- (i) A country inquired about how CAF disburses the USD 200 million fund.
- (ii) Dr. Verma responded that CAF was approached by cities to support the activities, including the capacity building and strengthen the policy development at certain cities.

50. The Session took note of the updates shared in Agenda Item 11: “Other matters” and tasked the Secretariat to follow up with interested countries to find more information on the monitoring data and capacity of the interested countries.

XII. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS [AGENDA ITEM 11]

51. The Secretariat presented the Proposed Next Steps after IG26 (EANET/IG26/11).

52. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat presented the step after IG26.

53. Major discussions included:

- A country supported the overview of key meetings presented by the NC and requested that the documents be ready well in advance. However, as raised by other PCs to have one meeting, it is suggested to have two additional meetings but discussed only one document.
- A country requested to include a monitoring report on the status of previous projects in the future.
- The NC proposed that specific topics be included on the WG and SAC Meeting, however, there is PCR, so the suggestion can be included under the WG meeting and SAC meeting.
- A country suggested to combine the WG and SAC meeting.
- The Secretariat seeks guidance on the technical activities before preparing the zero draft.
- The NC informed that for some countries, the SAC Member and WG member overlap. Regarding zero version, as tasked by IG that NC can take the leadership, it is not only the scientific part, however, there is also Secretariat’s part, such as financial mechanism, resource mobilization, so it will be joint effort of the Secretariat and the NC.
- A country mentioned that allocation of funds has to be discussed and tasked NC and Secretariat to discuss with ESCAP for possible allocation in coordination with co-financiers and possibly the Bureau.

54. The Session discussed the Next Steps from IG26 to IG27.

**XIII. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION
[AGENDA ITEM 12]**

55. The Secretariat presented the draft Report of the Session. The Chairperson invited participants to review the Report of the Session.
56. The Report of the Session (EANET/IG26/12) was considered and adopted.

XIV. CLOSING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 13]

57. Mr. Ambun Dindang as Chairperson of IG26 delivered the Closing Remarks. In his remarks, he congratulated the Bureau of Officers of IG26, the host country, and participants on the success of the meeting.
58. 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.
59. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat, and the Network Center for their contributions, declared the Twenty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia officially closed.

Annex 1

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