The Twenty-eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG28)
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)
24-26 November 2026, Niigata, Japan

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN 2026 (WG2026)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Working Group Meeting in 2026 (WG2026) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was held on 4 and 5 August 2026 via an online platform.

2. The Report of the WG2026 is found in Attachment 1 of this document (EANET/IG28/5).

3. Notable discussion points from the WG2026 Session may be mentioned as follows:

   a) **Agenda item 7 "Consideration of a draft Analysis of the Financial Implication of Inviting Sri Lanka to Join the EANET as a Full Member (tasked by IG27)"** (EANET/WG2026/7).
      - Some countries noted scientific relevance of including Sri Lanka to the EANET, while also expressing that the participation of Sri Lanka could have financial implications for the sustainability of EANET. Several countries stated their preference for Sri Lanka to participate in future meetings online as an observer, until the financial implications could be further assessed and the funding situation appropriately addressed.

   b) In agenda item 8 Other Matters, the "Joint Proposal for Renaming the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)" was presented.

      - Several countries presented a Joint Proposal on renaming the EANET. At the end of the discussion, it was suggested organizing an online meeting with the UNEP legal team to address questions from Participating Countries regarding the proposed renaming process.

4. The Request from Sri Lanka to Join the EANET will be further discussed during Agenda 10 of the IG28 (EANET/IG28/10), and the *Joint Proposal for Renaming the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET),* during Agenda 11, Consideration of the Renaming of the EANET (EANET/IG28/11).

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED

5. The IG28 is invited to consider the Highlights of the Report of the Working Group Meeting 2026 (EANET/IG28/5), and may wish to discuss, consider, provide guidance, and endorse the report, as appropriate.

Attachment 1

REPORT OF THE SESSION (*ADOPTED*)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Working Group Meeting in 2026 (WG2026) for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was held on 4 and 5 August 2026 via an online platform.

2. Representatives of the Participating Countries, namely Cambodia, China, Japan, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, participated in the Session. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat for the EANET, and from the Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the Network Center (NC) for the EANET, also attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached to this Report as Annex 1.

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 1]

3. Ms. Marlene Nilsson, Deputy Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, delivered the Opening Remarks. In her remarks, Ms. Nilsson welcomed participants to the 2026 EANET Working Group Meeting and highlighted its significance as the first major meeting following the adoption of the EANET Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2026-2030. She emphasized the importance of translating the MTP's objectives into practical actions through discussions on programme progress, financial matters, and the 2027 Project Plans. Ms. Nilsson underscored the continuing challenges posed by air pollution and the vital role of regional cooperation, science-based decision-making, and capacity building in addressing them. She also noted EANET's growing regional recognition through its contributions to major air quality forums, commended the Network's achievements ahead of its 25th anniversary, expressed appreciation to Participating Countries and partners, and reaffirmed UNEP's commitment to supporting regional efforts to improve air quality and protect human health and the environment.

4. Dr. Toshimasa Ohara, Director General, Asia Center for Air Pollution Research, delivered the Welcome Remarks. In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Ohara expressed his delight at seeing all country representatives at the virtual meeting and conveyed his sincere appreciation for their continued commitment to EANET. He emphasized that the Working Group plays a vital role in EANET's decision-making process. He noted that, over the next two days, participants would review the progress of ongoing activities, consider project proposals for 2027, review Sri Lanka's request to join

EANET, and discuss the future direction of the network. He highlighted that EANET was implementing its new Medium-Term Plan (MTP), with particular focus on ozone, PM2.5, and nitrogen, as well as enhancing understanding of the impacts of changing meteorological conditions. He also referred to new collaborative initiatives and projects being undertaken under the framework of EANET. He expressed hope that the discussions over the next two days would be constructive and would contribute to evidence-based and data-driven policymaking. He encouraged all participants to actively share their expertise and contribute to the continued success of the meeting.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [AGENDA ITEM 2]

5. The Session elected the same Bureau of Officers as the IG27, composed of Mr. Pichaid Atipakya, Director, Transboundary Air Pollution Sub-division, Air Quality and Noise Management Division, Pollution Control Department, Thailand (replacing Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon), as the Chairperson; Ms. Ngo Thi Van Anh, Senior Researcher, Center for Environmental Research, Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam (replacing Dr. Le Ngoc Cau), and Mr. Sitthideth Nonthaxay, Director of Environmental Quality Analysis Center, Biotechnology and Ecology Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Lao PDR as the Vice-Chairpersons; and Dr. Hiroaki Tomoi, Deputy Director, Office for International Cooperation, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, as the Rapporteur of the Session.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA [AGENDA ITEM 3]

6. The Session considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (EANET/WG2026/3/1/REV), Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/WG2026/3/2/REV), as well as the Draft Program (EANET/WG2026/3/3/REV) proposed by the Secretariat and the Network Center.

7. Major discussions included:
   i. Japan proposed to discuss the Joint Proposal for Renaming the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), shared with Participating Countries on 22 July 2026, during agenda item 8, Other Matters. There were no objections from the Session.

8. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments and closed Agenda item 3.

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRESS OF EANET CORE ACTIVITIES IN 2025 AND 2026 [AGENDA ITEM 4]

9. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Core Activities in 2025 and 2026, including the Progress in the preparation of the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5) and the Outline of the Terminal Review of the Medium Term Plan (2021-2025) of the EANET (EANET/WG2026/4/1), followed by the Financial Report of the Secretariat and Network Center for 2025, including the Draft Mid-year Cash Flow Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center Core Activities in 2026 (EANET/WG2026/4/2/REV2).

10. The key points of the presentations included:

- The Secretariat highlighted its Core Activities implemented from October 2025 until June in 2026. These included the organization of EANET meetings in 2025 (the SAC25 and IG27 in October and November 2025 in Vientiane and Bangkok respectively); the Regional Awareness Workshop Stakeholder Awareness Workshop "Next-Generation Air Quality Monitoring: Technologies, Communities, and Governance for Clean Air," held on 26 November 2025 in Bangkok, as part of Clean Air Week 2025, 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. Highlights of the Digital Data Report showcasing analytics from the EANET website and its email marketing platform were also presented. In addition, the Secretariat presented ongoing preparations for the 2026 International Blue Sky Conference to be held in Seoul on 7 September, co-organized with the National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR) of the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Republic of Korea, UNEP, and the North-East Asian Clean Air Partnership (NEACP); and reported on the delivery of the EANET Statement during the ESCAP's 9th Session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED-9) in Bangkok, Thailand on 2 July 2026, among other important activities.
- The Financial Report of the Secretariat showed that grand-total Secretariat budget for Core Activities in 2025 approved by IG26 is US$ 420,925. The total voluntary financial contributions received from the Participating Countries to the Secretariat's Core budget in 2025 were US$ 476,299. The total expenditures and commitments for the Core Budget of the Secretariat for the EANET in 2025, including Programme Support Cost, were US$ 214,029.

- The Network Center (NC) highlighted Core Activities conducted in 2025 and 2026, including the preparation of the 2026 National Monitoring Plans (NMPs) of the Participating Countries, QA/QC activities such as the Filter Pack Comparison and the Inter-laboratory Comparison (ILC) projects, capacity-building activities including technical training programmes and missions, publication of the Data Report 2024 and preparation of the Data Report 2025, as well as technology

exchange activities and the development of the 5th Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5).

- The Network Center (NC) presented its Financial Report for 2025, including the actual revenue, expenditures, and cash balance for the implementation of EANET Core Activities. The report showed that the NC received voluntary financial contributions from Participating Countries amounting to USD 388,612, together with other revenue of USD 92,170 provided by Niigata Prefecture and Niigata City. Actual expenditures for NC Core Activities amounted to USD 401,792, covering personnel costs and operational expenses related to monitoring activities, data management, assessments, outreach activities, and cooperation and coordination under the EANET Work Programme. The NC also presented the Cash Flow Statement for 2025. Taking into account the carry-over balance from the previous year, contributions received from Participating Countries, support from Niigata Prefecture and Niigata City, actual expenditures, office rental costs, and exchange rate gains, the total surplus cash balance of the NC at the end of Fiscal Year 2025 was reported as USD 14,113.

11. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations to the IG28 on the EANET, as appropriate.

12. Major discussions included:

<u>On the Progress of the Core Activities</u>

i. A country requested the Secretariat to share updates on the resource mobilization conducted for the EANET noting it is essential to gain external fundings.
ii. A country highlighted the importance to develop more outreach material and communication highlighting the number of citations of the EANET research reports, such as the Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment (PRSAE).
iii. Malaysia expressed its sincere gratitude to the Secretariat and the Network Center. Malaysia took note of the progress made in the implementation of activities and congratulated all parties on the achievements attained to date. Malaysia remained committed to supporting the objectives of EANET as outlined in the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) for 2026-2030. Malaysia received the 2025 Inter-Laboratory Comparison (ILC) samples, and the results were submitted following QA/QC verification. Malaysia also stands ready to receive the samples for the 2026 ILC survey.
iv. On the resource mobilization, the Secretariat highlighted that collaboration is ongoing with the government of the Republic of Korea, and the National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR) in organizing an EANET Regional Awareness Workshop as part of the International Blue Sky Conference to be held in Seoul in September 2026. The Republic of Korea is supporting this event and providing generous in-kind support through travel and venue support.

In addition, UNEP successfully co-organized the Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ26) in March 2026 with ADB, ESCAP and Clean Air Asia and the focus of the conference was strongly on mobilizing resources. The Secretariat hopes to share more updates in the coming meetings.

v. A country expressed concerns about the sustainability of the EANET Project Fund and encouraged the Network Center and the Secretariat to make further efforts to mobilize funding to the Fund for its sustainability.

vi. A country welcomed the progress made on the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment (PRSAE5) Final Draft and looked forward to its presentation to the Participating Countries before September 20.

On the Financial Report of the Network Center and the Secretariat

vii. A country highlighted that the Participating Countries' voluntary contributions are the biggest source of funding of the EANET and urged all Participating Countries to continue contributing to the EANET.

viii. Responding to a question from a country on the personnel cost and status of recruitment of the coordinator, the Secretariat clarified that the coordinator Job Opening is closed and that more than 130 applications were received. The assessment is ongoing, and the coordinator could be onboard from October 2026. For this reason, only 3 months of the salary of the coordinator are included in the table showing the personnel cost in the Financial Report's mid-year cashflow table.

ix. Responding to a question on its Core Budget, the Network Center clarified that its Core Activities budget for 2025 totaled approximatively 600,000 USD as shown in the Expenditures for 2025 Table.

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

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRESS OF EANET PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN 2025 AND 2026 [AGENDA ITEM 5]

16. The Network Centre presented agenda item 5 "Consideration of the Progress of EANET Project Activities in 2025 and 2026", including the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Projects in 2026 (EANET/WG2026/5/1), the Draft Project Completion Reports in 2025 (EANET/WG2026/5/2), the Draft Annual Report of EANET Projects (AREP) and Draft Annual Report of the EANET Project Fund (AREPF) in 2025 (EANET/WG2026/5/3).

17. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Network Center presented the implementation progress of the eleven EANET Project Plans (EPP) approved by IG27 in November 2025 which include: (2026-01) Accumulation of atmospheric nitrogen deposition data for sustainable nitrogen management in existing EANET monitoring sites; (2026-02) Fellowship

for building leadership in Atmospheric Environment and Air Quality Management in East Asia; (2026-03) Collaboration of Technical and Training (TNT) and capacity building program for personnel of the Participating Countries on monitoring; (2026-04) Webinar for understanding of influences by changing climate on air quality over East Asia; (2026-05) Capacity building webinar workshop on application of satellite observation for atmospheric environmental management; (2026-06) Methodological Study on PM2.5 Source Identification and Capacity Enhancement in EANET with Emphasis on Southeast Asia; (2026-07) Strengthening EANET Capacity in Financing Strategies for Project Planning and Advanced Methods for Monitoring of Air Pollution and Emissions; (2026-09) Enhancing Regional Understanding of PM2.5 Pollution Using Integrated Monitoring for EANET Countries; (2026-10) International Training on Air Quality Improvement for Government Officials from South and Southeast Asia; (2026-11) Knowledge exchange and capacity strengthening on sustainable agricultural practices for clean air in Mekong region; and (2026-12) Strengthening capacity on air quality legislation: Capacity building workshop on Law and Air Quality for EANET.

- The Network Center then presented the draft Project Completion Reports (PCR) of seven EANET Projects implemented in 2025. These projects also include the multi-year EANET Project Activity (2025-10): Studies on the effects of atmospheric deposition on ecosystems, from a catchment scale to a regional scale as a methodological study (2023-2025), and the EANET Project Activity (2025-12): Fellowship for building leadership in Atmospheric Environment and Air Quality Management in East Asia (2024-2025) were also completed and came to an end in 2025.
- Finally, the Project Fund Holder (ACAP) presented the Draft Annual Report of EANET Projects (AREP) in 2025, which summarized the implementation, completion status, and expenditures of eight EANET projects undertaken during the year. The report indicated that the projects were implemented in accordance with the approved Work Programme and Budget for 2025 and provided an overview of their outputs, implementation status, and actual expenditures, including activities supported through the EANET Project Fund and co-financing arrangements. The Project Fund Holder (ACAP) also presented the Draft Annual Report of EANET Project Fund (AREPF) in 2025. The report showed that total contributions to the EANET Project Fund amounted to USD 192,141, including contributions from Participating Countries, a transfer from the EANET Fund, and carry-over funds from the previous fiscal year. Total expenditure from the EANET Project Fund in 2025 amounted to USD 107,423, covering project implementation costs and the operational costs of the Project Fund Holder. As a result, the balance of the EANET Project Fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2025 was reported as USD 84,718.

18. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations, as appropriate.

19. Major discussion included:
    i. A country noted that, in document EANET/WG2026/5/3/REV, "Consideration of the Draft Annual Report of EANET Projects (AREP) and Draft Annual Report of the EANET Project Fund (AREPF) in 2025", some of the Network Center's project expenditures appeared to exceed the budgets initially approved by the IG. The country emphasized that it is inappropriate that the excess expenditure had been covered by another funding source within the Network Center. It was requested that the Network Center take the necessary measures to prevent such occurrences in the future and ensure greater transparency in budget implementation and reporting.
    ii. Malaysia took note of the progress of the Project Activities and expressed its appreciation for the efforts made in their implementation. Malaysia conveyed its sincere appreciation for the inclusion of a representative from Malaysia in the Fellowship Programme, as well as for the participation of Malaysian representatives in Project 2025-12 on satellite data research and in Project 2026-03 under the first session of the TNT Programme. Malaysia also expressed its gratitude for the prioritization of Project 2026-09, which was supported by the EANET Project Fund, and looked forward to its successful completion. Malaysia noted that these initiatives would contribute to strengthening technical capacity and enhancing knowledge. It welcomed these valuable initiatives and encouraged continued capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities in the future.
    iii. ACAP expressed their sincere gratitude to Malaysia for their active participation to all EANET activities and presented apologies on behalf of the Project Fund Holder on the delay in the Project Fund transfer to Malaysia as it was the first time that such a process was conducted.

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

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT EANET PROJECT PLANS FOR 2027 SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NETWORK CENTER [AGENDA ITEM 6]

21. The Network Centre presented agenda item 6 "Consideration of the draft EANET Project Plans for 2027 submitted to the Secretariat and the Network Center" (EANET/WG2026/6).

22. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Network Center presented five Proposed EANET Project Plans (EPP) in 2027 including: EPP (2027-01) Enhancement of ammonia monitoring for sustainable nitrogen management in the EANET region; EPP (2027-02) Capacity building webinar workshop on application of satellite observation for atmospheric environmental management; EPP (2027-03) Fellowship for building leadership in Atmospheric Environment and Air Quality Management in East Asia; EPP (2027-04) The collaboration of Technical and Training (TNT) and capacity building program for personnel of the Participating Countries on monitoring; and EPP (2027-05) Integrated Capacity Building for Urban Ozone and VOCs under EANET.
- The Network Center also presented EPP (2026-06), a continued EANET Project Plan from 2026, "Methodological Study on PM2.5 Source Identification and Capacity Enhancement in EANET with Emphasis on Southeast Asia".
- In addition, the Secretariat received on 31st July four additional Project Concept Notes which were presented during the meeting by China.

23. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations, as appropriate.

24. Major discussion included:

i. A country welcomed all proposed projects overall. For the research projects, it noted that the results should represent only the views of the researchers and emphasized that all projects should remain within the scope of EANET. It was also reminded that VOCs monitoring and assessment activities are not within the scope of EANET. For Project 2027-05, the country observed that some proposed activities appeared to be outside the scope of EANET and recommended their reconsideration. It also suggested revising the terminology by replacing "applied" with "verified in selected Participating Countries."

ii. The NC clarified that VOCs were included mainly for capacity-building purposes. The NC also clarified that the proposed project would be implemented within the framework of capacity building, research, education, and information exchange activities under the EANET Instrument. The descriptions related to the collection, integration and evaluation of VOC monitoring data would be revised to avoid any misunderstanding that these activities constitute official EANET monitoring or evaluation activities. The revised Project Plan will be submitted to the SAC and IG after incorporating the comments from the Working Group.

25. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments, guidance, recommendations, and closed Agenda item 6.

VIII. OTHER CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT ANALYSIS OF THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATION OF INVITING SRI LANKA TO JOIN THE EANET AS A FULL MEMBER (TASKED BY IG27) [AGENDA ITEM 7]

26. The Secretariat presented agenda item 7 “Consideration of a draft Analysis of the Financial Implication of Inviting Sri Lanka to Join the EANET as a Full Member (tasked by IG27)” (EANET/WG2026/7).

27. The key points of the presentation included:

- In line with the Decisions of IG27 (EANET/IG27/12/Annex2/VI.), the Secretariat presented the overview of the financial implication of inviting Sri Lanka to join as a full member of the EANET.

28. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations, as appropriate.

29. Major discussion included:

i. A country expressed appreciation for the financial analysis prepared by the Secretariat and reviewed the provisions under the Instrument, particularly Item 17. Based on internal review, it noted that Sri Lanka is located in South Asia and that its inclusion could set a precedent for countries beyond the current geographical scope of EANET to join the network. The country recognized the scientific relevance of including Sri Lanka, noting that air mass movements could influence certain Participating Countries. However, it also highlighted the financial implications of such participation. While supporting Sri Lanka’s involvement in project-based initiatives, it noted that the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) had already established air quality monitoring and management capacities. The country further expressed the view that policy and institutional impacts, as well as financial and technical considerations and long-term capacity implications, should be carefully assessed. It looked forward to reaching a collective decision on the matter.

ii. Another country noted that the collective efforts of EANET had strengthened knowledge and understanding of acid deposition in the region. It recognized Sri Lanka’s interest in joining EANET; however, it emphasized the need to consider the finite financial resources of the network and to ensure its long-term sustainability. The country further observed that the geographical characteristics of South Asia differed from those of the current EANET region, raising questions regarding the relevance and coherence of expanding the network’s membership. It also questioned whether Sri Lanka’s participation reflected a broader interest from other South Asian countries and whether such a decision could lead to an extension of EANET’s scope to another region. The country encouraged careful consideration of these implications before a decision was made.

iii. Several countries expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the financial analysis and noted that the participation of Sri Lanka could have financial implications for the sustainability of EANET. They stated their preference for Sri

Lanka to participate in future meetings online as an observer, until the financial implications could be further assessed and the funding situation appropriately addressed.

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

IX. OTHER MATTERS [AGENDA ITEM 8]

31. 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".

32. The major discussions included:

i. Japan was invited to present *the Joint Proposal for Renaming the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)* (sent to the Secretariat on 22 July by email), co prepared with Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Viet Nam.

ii. The Network Center updated the session on the programme of the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the EANET to be held alongside IG28 in Niigata, Japan, in November 2026. The Network Center also requested the following actions: 1) Participating Countries that wish to deliver a congratulatory address at the EANET 25th Anniversary Ceremony are requested to notify the EANET Secretariat of their intention as early as possible, and no later than 4 September 2026; 2) Each Participating Country will be allocated two minutes for its congratulatory remarks; therefore, countries are encouraged to identify a speaker and prepare a concise statement that can be delivered within the allotted time. The expression of interest should be submitted directly to the EANET Secretariat at the earliest convenience.

iii. The Secretariat informed the WG2026 about several awareness events coming up including the National Awareness Workshop in Indonesia, in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 4 September, and the International Symposium on Blue Skies, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 7 September 2026.

<u>On the Joint Proposal</u> <u>for Renaming the EANET</u>:

iv. A country recognized the need to revise the name of EANET to reflect its expanded scope and suggested the title "*Atmospheric Environment and* ***Ecosystems Effects*** *Monitoring in East Asia*" as a more accurate representation of EANET's functions. It noted that EANET monitored not only atmospheric pollution but also its effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and emphasized that ecosystem monitoring should not be regarded as a secondary component of the network's work. The country expressed support for EANET's integrated approach and highlighted the importance of strengthening policy development through closer links with monitoring activities. It stressed that acid deposition should remain a fundamental aspect of EANET's

mandate and that ecosystem monitoring should continue to be maintained. The country further emphasized that the new name should be more inclusive and reflective of EANET's overall mandate and activities.

v. Another country shared views that the present name was consistent with and aligned with EANET's mandate. It noted that the current name had not hindered the implementation of EANET's activities. The country further recalled that the Annex to the Instrument had only recently been approved in 2021 and emphasized that renaming the network could impose an additional financial burden on all Parties.

vi. The Secretariat provided an update on the Technical Note and reported that it had been working with the UNEP Law Division on its preparation. However, the document was still undergoing review and could not be shared during the meeting. The Secretariat indicated its intention to circulate the final Technical Note to the Participating Countries by email once the review process was completed. The Secretariat further explained that the Technical Note would provide an overview of the background to the proposed renaming, outline the steps that would be required should the Participating Countries agree to the name change, and describe the implications for existing documents and the Instrument.

vii. A country reported that, following internal discussions with its National Focal Point it required additional time to consider the institutional implications of adopting a new name for EANET. The country noted that different financial and administrative systems were used to support EANET participation at the national level. In some countries, the Instrument was treated as an intergovernmental agreement, and EANET's name was formally reflected in legal and financial frameworks. As a result, a name change could potentially require the Instrument to be re-signed, even if the abbreviation "EANET" remained unchanged. The country stated that it did not oppose discussions on how EANET could be presented under a new name and reflect better the expanded scope. However, it was not in a position to formally adopt a new name at the current IG28 session, as the timeframe before IG28 had been too short for adequate consideration. It emphasized the need for further discussion on the proposed name change and a clearer understanding of the institutional implications and procedural requirements associated with renaming the network. The country also highlighted the need to better understand the financial implications, particularly if the renaming process could affect the mechanisms through which financial contributions were provided. Consequently, it stated that it was not in a position to support the formal adoption of a new name during the IG28. Nevertheless, it supported initiating discussions at IG28 to better understand the process and consequences of renaming EANET.

viii. A country expressed support for the rationale behind the proposed name change and recognized the importance of ensuring that EANET's name reflected its evolving role and expanded activities. However, it considered the proposal to be premature at this stage. The country noted that, although EANET had broadened its scope since 2021, its monitoring network remained primarily focused on acid deposition, and the capacities and capabilities of Participating Countries varied considerably. It therefore

emphasized the importance of first strengthening the network and consolidating the implementation of the expanded scope under the 2026-2030 Medium-Term Plan (MTP). The country suggested that discussions on a potential name change could be revisited around 2028-2029, once further progress had been made in implementing the MTP and strengthening the network's activities across Participating Countries.

ix. Japan expressed appreciation for the comments and feedback provided by all Participating Countries on the Joint Proposal. It acknowledged the concerns raised regarding the timing of the proposed name change and agreed that further consideration was needed. Japan proposed that discussions on this issue continue at IG28 and subsequent Intergovernmental Meetings. It also thanked the Secretariat for preparing the Technical Note and considered it to be a useful contribution to the future discussion. Furthermore, Japan suggested organizing an online meeting with the UNEP legal team to address questions from Participating Countries regarding the proposed renaming process. It proposed that Participating Countries submit their questions in advance of the meeting to facilitate a focused and productive discussion.

<u>On the 25th Anniversary of the EANET Celebrations</u>:

x. Japan was pleased to inform participants that Japan, the Network Center, Niigata Prefecture, and Niigata City have been working diligently to prepare for and host IG28 in November. Japan noted that the meeting would mark the 25th anniversary of EANET and looked forward to welcoming all participants to this milestone event.

<u>Other Business</u>:

xi. The Network Center informed the meeting that the current Deputy Director General in charge of the EANET would be leaving ACAP in November 2026 and that the recruitment process had already been initiated. It reported that the job description had been circulated to all National Focal Points in July.

33. The Chairperson thanked participants for their comments and closed Agenda item 8.

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

34. The Secretariat presented the Proposed Next Steps after the WG2026 (EANET/WG2026/9).

35. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Secretariat presented the next steps from the WG2026 to the Twenty-eighth Intergovernmental Meeting on the EANET (IG28) including: the Twenty-seventh Senior Technical Managers' Meeting (STM27) in Jakarta, Indonesia on 2-3 September, the Twenty-sixth Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting on the EANET (SAC26) on 20-22 October 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the IG28 on 24-26 November 2026 in Niigata, Japan.

- The Secretariat also informed the Session on the process of approval of the Report of the Session of the WG2026, to be sent to NFPs by email by 10 August 2026, for their review by 17 August 2026.

36. The Session was invited to review, discuss, make comments and suggestions, and make recommendations, as appropriate.

37. Major discussion included:
    i. No comments were made.

38. The Session considered and acknowledged the Proposed Next Steps after the WG2026 (EANET/WG2026/9).

XI. CLOSING OF THE SESSION [AGENDA ITEM 10]

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

40. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat, the NC and the Participating Countries to share some final words.

41. The Secretariat thanked the Bureau, the Participating Countries, ACAP, and UNEP for their active participation and ongoing support.

42. The Chairperson, appreciating the participants, the Secretariat, and the Network Center for their contributions, declared the Working Group Meeting in 2026 (WG2026) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia officially closed.

ANNEX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CAMBODIA

Mr. Chhay Por Ing
Chief Office
Office of Pollution Management from Mobile Sources
Department of Air Quality, Noise and Vibration Management
Ministry of Environment The Heritage Techo Building (Lot 503) Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmorn
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: +855-86-221826
Email: ing.chhaypor@moe.gov.kh; ing.chhaypor@gmail.com

CHINA

Mr. Ding Shineng
Deputy Director
Division on Asian, African, and Latin American Cooperation
Foreign Environmental
Cooperation Center (FECO)
Ministry of Ecology and Environment
No. 12 East Chang'an Road, Beijing, China
Tel: +86010-82268273
Email: ding.shineng@fecomee.org.cn

Ms. Huang Yijia
Deputy Consultant-Director
Division of Asian, African and Latin American Affairs
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Ecology and Environment
No. 12 East Chang'an Road, Beijing, China
Tel: +86-10-65645827
Email: huang.yijia@mee.gov.cn

Ms. Zhou Junhan
Program Manager
Division of Asian, African and Latin American Affairs
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Ecology and Environment
No. 12 East Chang'an Road, Beijing, China
Tel: +15007161175
Email: zhou.junhan@fecomee.org.cn

Dr. Duan Kuiquan
Assistant Director
Atmospheric Integrated Observation Research Section
Institute of Atmospheric Environment
Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, No.8 Dayangfang Anwai Beiyuan, Chaoyang District
Beijing, China
Tel: +86-10- 15941187173
Email: duankuiquan@craes.org.cn

Dr. Wang Xiaofei
Professor of Engineering
Department of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring
China National Environmental
Monitoring Centre
No.8 AnwaiDayangfang, ChaoYang District, Beijing, China
Tel: +86-10-84943080
Email: wangxf@cnemc.cn

Dr. Wang Shuai
Professor of Engineering
Department of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring
China National Environmental
Monitoring Centre
No.8 AnwaiDayangfang, ChaoYang District, Beijing
Tel: +86-10-84943119
Email: wangshuai@cnemc.cn

Mr. Xue Minjie
Monitoring Network Management Division
Department of Ecological Environment Monitoring
Ministry of Ecology and Environment
No. 12 East Chang'an Road, Beijing, China
Tel: +86-10-65646237
Email: wangluochu@mee.gov.cn

Ms. Jin Wenjing
Senior Engineer
Emission Inventory Research Section
Institute of Atmospheric Environment
Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, No.8 Dayangfang Anwai Beiyuan, Chaoyang District
Tel: +86-10- 18600909956
Email: jin.wenjing@craes.org.cn

Prof. Xiaoyang Yang
Research Professor
Atmospheric Integrated Observation Research Section, Institute of Atmospheric Environment, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences
Tel: +86-10- 13811837696
Email: yangxy@craes.org.cn

INDONESIA

Mrs. Annisa Zahara
Environmental Impact Controller
Air Quality Planning and Management
Environmental Pollution and Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. C11-14. Kuningan, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Tel: +62811 1311307
Email: annisazhraa@gmail.com

JAPAN

Dr. Hiroaki Tomoi
Deputy Director
Office of International Cooperation
Environmental Management Bureau
Ministry of Environment
1-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-8975, Japan
Tel: +81-335-813-351
Email: HIROAKI_TOMOI@env.go.jp

LAO PDR

Mr. Sitthideth Nonthaxay
Director of Environmental Quality Analysis Center
Environmental Quality Analysis Center
Biotechnology and Ecology Institute
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
PO Box: 7864, Nongbuatong Nue, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel: +85620-52220202
Email: S_nonthaxay@yahoo.com

MALAYSIA

Ms. Mazrini binti Mohmad
Principle Assistant Secretary
Environmental Management Division
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Level 5, Block F11, Complex F, Lebuh Perdana Timur, Precinct 1, Federal Government Administrative Center,
62000 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603-8091 7048
Email: mazrini@nres.gov.my

Ms. Noratirah Shazlin binti Muhamad Adyab
Assistant Secretary
Environmental Management Division
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Level 5, Block 11, Complex F, Lebuh Perdana Timur, Presint 1, Federal Government Administrative Center, 62000 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Email: atirah.adyab@nres.gov.my

Ms. Khadijah binti Rosli
Assistant Secretary
Environmental Management Division
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Level 5, Block 11, Complex F, Lebuh Perdana Timur, Presint 1, Federal Government Administrative Center, 62000 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Email: khadijah@nres.gov.my

Ms. Norazlinda Binti Ismail
Principle Assistant Director
Air Division
Department of Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Jalan Sultan, 46667, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: +60388712000
Email: norazlinda@doe.gov.my

Mr. Anas Afiq Bin Abd Razak
Atmospheric Science and Closed Seeding Division
Malaysia Meteorological Department (MET Malaysia)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Jalan Sultan 46667, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: +603-79678068
Email: anas@met.gov.my

Ms. Shahrul Aini Binti Mohd Sharif
Meteorological officer
Atmospheric Science and Cloud Seeding Division
Malaysian Meteorological department
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Jalan Sultan 46667, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: +603-79678096
Email: shahrulaini@met.gov.my

Ms. Nur Syafiqa Natrah Binti Mohmad Johar
Assistant Director
Atmospheric Science & Cloud Seeding
Malaysian Meteorological Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Jalan Sultan 46667, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: 03-79678219
Email: syafiqa@met.gov.my

Ms. Azirah Binti Samsudin
Meteorological Officer
Atmospheric Science and Cloud Seeding Division
Malaysian Meteorological Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Jalan Sultan, 46667, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: +603-79678219
Email: azirah@met.gov.my

MONGOLIA

Dr. Tsatsral Batmunkh
Director
Central Laboratory of Environment and Metrology
National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM)
Mongolia
Tel: +976-99971759
Email: tsatsa999@gmail.com; tsatsral@clem.namem.gov.mn

MYANMAR

Ms. Wittyi Soe
Assistant Director
Hydrological Division
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Office No.5, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Email: soewittyi@gmail.com

Ms. Wai Lwin Than
Staff Officer
Hydrological Division
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Office No.5, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Email: w.lwin1973@gmail.com

Ms. Thinzar Nwe
Deputy Superintendent
Hydrological Division
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Office No.5, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Email: cherrykoko05@gmail.com

Ms. Zin Nwe Than
Deputy Superintendent
Hydrological Division
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Office No.5, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Email: morningzinnwe@gmail.com

PHILIPPINES

Mr. Roger C. Evangelista, Jr.
Supervising Science Research Specialist
Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: (02) 8539-4378, Loc. 137
Email: roger_evangelista@emb.gov.ph

Mr. Erick C. Rubi
Senior Science Research Specialist
Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: (02) 8539-4378, Loc. 137
Email: erick_rubi@emb.gov.ph

Ms. Saiym Faustine M. San Jose
Science Research Specialist 2
Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Email: saiym_sanjose@emb.gov.ph

Ms. Ma. Fatima Anneglo R. Molina
Chief Science Research Specialist
Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: (02) 8539-4378, Loc. 137
Email: fatima_molina@emb.gov.ph

Mr. Geronimo Linjoe B. Orogo
Chemist 2
Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: (02) 8539-4378, Loc. 137
Email: geronimo_orogo@emb.gov.ph

Ms. Maria Cristina A. Francisco
Chief, Environmental Management Specialist
Environmental Education and Information Division
Environmental Management Bureau – DENR
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: +63 929 780 6008
Email: cristina_francisco@emb.gov.ph

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Ms. Jin Hwang
International Cooperation Specialist
Air Quality Division
Air Quality Policy Bureau
Ministry of Climate,
Energy and Environment
Republic of Korea
Tel: +821037445774
Email: jhwang00@korea.kr

RUSSIA

Dr. Sergei Gromov
Deputy Director
Yu.A. Izrael Institute of Global Climate and Ecology (IGCE)
Glebovskaya street, 20-B, Moscow 107258 Russia
Tel: +7 926 353 4645
Email: sergey.gromov@igce.ru;
Gromov.eanet@gmail.com

Dr. Ekaterina Zhigacheva
Researcher
Department of Measurements of Background Chemical Pollution of Continental Natural Systems
Yu.A. Izrael Institute of Global Climate and Ecology (IGCE)
Glebovskaya street, 20-B, Moscow 107258 Russia
Tel: +7 926 336-57-11
Email: kosjatko@gmail.com

THAILAND

Mr. Pichaid Atipakya
Director
Transboundary Air Pollution Sub-division Air Quality and
Noise Management Division,
Pollution Control Department
Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment
92 Phahon Yothin 7, Phaya Thai, Khet Phaya Thai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Email: pichaid.a@pcd.go.th

VIET NAM

Ms. Ngo Thi Van Anh
Senior Researcher
Center for Environmental Research
Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
No. 23/62, Nguyen Chi Thanh, Dong Da, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: +84-98-378-8035
Email: vananhmd@gmail.com

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

United Nations Building, 9th Floor
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Ms. Marlene Nilsson
Deputy Regional Director
Email: marlene.nilsson@un.org

Mr. Mohamed Elharati
Senior Administrative Officer
Tel: +66 2288-1977
Email: elharati@un.org

NETWORK CENTER FOR THE EANET

Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)
1182 Sowa, Nishi-ku
Niigata-shi 950-2144, Japan
Fax: +81-25-263-0566

Dr. Toshimasa Ohara
Director General
Tel: +81-25-263-0550
Email: tohara@acap.asia

Ms. Siwaporn Rungsiyanon
Deputy Director General
Tel: +81-25-263-0550
Email: rungsiyanon@acap.asia

Dr. Toru Hayashi
Deputy Director General
Tel: +81-25-263-0550
Email: toru_hayashi@acap.asia

Dr. Meihua Zhu
Head, Planning and Training Department
Tel: +81-25-263-0556
Email: mhzhu@acap.asia

Dr. Keiichi Sato
Head, Atmospheric Research Department
Tel: +81-25-263-0558
Email: ksato@acap.asia

Dr. Hiroyuki Sase
Head, Ecological Impact Research Department
Tel: +81-25-263-0560
Email: sase@acap.asia

Dr. Junichi Kurokawa
Head, Data Management Department
Tel: +81-25-263-0562
Email: kurokawa@acap.asia

Dr. Ken Yamashita
Senior Research Fellow
Email: kyamashita@acap.asia

Mr. Junji Matsushita
Senior Technical Officer, Planning and Training Department
Email: matsushita@acap.asia

Ms. Miho Tamura
Program Officer, Planning and Training Department
Email: tamura@acap.asia

Mr. Katsuyoshi Uehara
Administrative Staff, Planning and Training Department
Email: uehara@acap.asia

Dr. Mingqun Huo
Senior Researcher, Atmospheric Research Department
Email: mqhuo@acap.asia

Ms. Satomi Sugahara
Senior Researcher, Atmospheric Research Department

Dr. Akie Yuba
Senior Researcher, Atmospheric Research Department
Email: yuba@acap.asia

Ms. Mari Futami
Senior Researcher, Atmospheric Research Department
Email: futami@acap.asia

Ms. Eri Furukawa
Technical Staff, Atmospheric Research Department
Email: furukawa@acap.asia

Dr. Masayuki Morohashi
Senior Researcher, Ecological Impact Research Department
Email: morohashi@acap.asia

Ms. Azusa Sakaue
Senior Researcher, Ecological Impact Research Department
Email: sakaue@acap.asia

Mr. Hiroyuki Sasaki
Senior Researcher, Data Management Department
Email: sasaki@acap.asia

Dr. Yusuke Kiriyama
Senior Researcher, Data Management Department
Email: kiriyama@acap.asia

Dr. Pham Kim-Oanh
Researcher, Data Management Department
Email: pkimoanh@acap.asia

Ms. Kumiko Nakamura
Senior Technical Officer, Data Management Department
Email: nakamura@acap.asia

Mr. Akihito Morizumi
Manager, General Affairs Department
Email: morizumi@acap.asia

Ms. Eriya Tsuchiya
Administrative Staff, General Affairs Department
Email: tsuchiya@acap.asia

SECRETARIAT FOR THE EANET

UNEP Asia and Pacific Office
9th Floor, UN Building Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200 Thailand

Ms. Yujeong Kim
Ad Interim Coordinator
Email: yujeong.kim@un.org

Ms. Aurélia Lemoine
Communication and Institutional Support Consultant
Email: aurelia.lemoine@un.org

Ms. Sirinart Suanyam
Programme Management Assistant
Email: suanyam@un.org