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

REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE SAC26 MEETING ON THE EANET INCLUDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SAC26 TO IG28

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Twenty-sixth Session (SAC26) from 20 to 22 October 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2. This Report informs the outcomes of the SAC26 to the 28th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG28) on the EANET.

3. The Report of the Session of the SAC26 (EANET/SAC26/16) is provided as **Attachment 1** to this Report.

4. Annex 2 of the Report of the Session of the SAC26 (EANET/SAC26/16) includes the **Recommendations from SAC26 to IG28**:

   I. ***"On the Activities of the Task Forces and Expert Groups under the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC),*** *the SAC26 recommends that IG28:*
   - *a. Acknowledge the activities conducted by the TFAE, including the outcomes of the three meetings held during 2025-2026, and that SAC26 adopted the "Strategy Paper on the Future Direction of Monitoring and Data Evaluation for Air Pollutants and Atmospheric Deposition in East Asia (2027-2032)", which was developed by the TFAE.*
   - *b. Acknowledge the activities conducted by the TFEE, including the outcomes of its 3rd meeting, and that SAC26 adopted the "Strategy Paper for Future Direction of EANET on Monitoring of Effects on Agricultural Crops, Forest and Inland Water by Acidifying Species and Related Chemical Substances", which had been updated by the TFEE for the new MTP (2026-2030).*
   - *c. Acknowledge that TFAEM is planning to develop a new strategy paper to enhance the atmospheric environment quality management in East Asia so that complex atmospheric phenomena can be considered comprehensively including air pollution and climate change as the co-benefit approach.*

   II. ***The SAC26 adopts the Data Report 2025 and the Report of the Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects 2025, with modifications*** *and recommends that IG28 endorse these Reports for publication.*

   III. ***The SAC26 adopts the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5), with modifications on a condition that the drafts are appropriately revised to address the comments from SAC members*** *and recommends that IG28 review and approve it for publication.*

   IV. ***The SAC26 adopts the Technical Training Guidance for Ambient VOCs Monitoring under EANET*** *with necessary minor modifications and recommends that IG28 endorse it.*

   V. ***On the 2027 Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET and Proposed Project Plans,*** *the SAC26 recommends that IG28:*

a. Consider and approve the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET Core Activities in 2027.
b. Consider and approve the 10 EANET Proposed Project Plans in 2027, considering the allocation of sufficient funds and the discussions held at SAC26."

5. This Report (EANET/IG28/6/1) is part of Agenda Item 6: Consideration of the Report on the Outcomes of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC26) and precedes the documents "Consideration of the Technical Training Guidance for Ambient VOCs Monitoring under EANET" (EANET/IG28/6/2) and "Consideration of Strategy Papers developed by Task Forces under the SAC" (EANET/IG28/6/3).

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED

6. The Twenty-eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG28) on the EANET is invited to review "The Report on the Outcomes of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the EANET" (EANET/IG28/6/1) 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 Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Twenty-sixth Session (SAC26) from 20 to 22 October 2026, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and in a hybrid format. The Session was organized by the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) for the EANET and hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Malaysia.

2. The Session was attended by the members of the SAC and/or their alternates and other nominated persons from the Participating Countries of the EANET, namely: Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (online), Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, Viet Nam, the Secretariat, and the Network Center. Representatives from Sri Lanka participated during Agenda Item 14 as observers. The List of Participants is attached in Annex 1.

II. Opening of the Session [Agenda Item 1]

3. Dr. Mohd Hisham Bin Mohd Anip, Director General of the Malaysian Meteorological Department, (MET) Malaysia, welcomed participants to SAC26 and expressed appreciation to EANET, its Secretariat, and organizers for the opportunity to host the meeting in Kuala Lumpur. He highlighted Malaysia's pride in hosting an important gathering of researchers, technical experts, and regional representatives working to address acid deposition and air quality challenges. He emphasized the critical role of the Scientific Advisory Committee in providing scientific guidance, improving monitoring strategies, and advancing atmospheric environment management across East Asia. He thanked the EANET Secretariat, Network Center, and Participating Countries for their continued commitment to data sharing, technical cooperation, and regional collaboration, noting that reliable scientific data is essential for effective environmental management and policymaking. The Director General reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to EANET, stressing that the network's monitoring data and scientific findings support national efforts to address growing air pollution and climate-related challenges. He noted that the success of EANET relies on its scientific strength and expressed appreciation to the SEC, NCs, and all PCs for sharing monitoring data and expertise. He stressed that transparency and data sharing are the backbone of its success, and that effective cross-border collaboration between science and air quality management remains essential for sound decision-making. Looking ahead, he noted that SAC26 would focus on key agenda items including the Data Report 2025, PRSAE5, updated National Monitoring Plans, the Technical Training Guidance for Ambient VOC Monitoring, and the review of EANET's 2021–2025 Medium-Term Plan. These discussions are expected to help shape EANET's future work and priorities through 2027. In closing, He also highlighted the opportunity for participants to visit MET Malaysia, share technical experiences, and participate in a traditional High Tea programme. In addition, he expressed sincere appreciation to the EANET SEC, NCs, the Organizing Committee, and all participants for their dedication and contributions. He stressed that continued collective efforts would strengthen regional cooperation, address air quality challenges, reduce the impacts of transboundary pollution, and contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable future for East Asia. Finally, he thanked all participants for their contributions and

expressed confidence that the session would strengthen scientific cooperation, support regional efforts to address transboundary air pollution, and contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable future for East Asia.

4. Dr. Toshimasa Ohara, Director General of Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), delivered the Introductory Remarks. In his remarks, he welcomed all participants to the 26th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC26) and expressed appreciation for their attendance. He also conveyed his sincere gratitude to Malaysia for the invaluable support in organizing the meeting. He noted that East Asia remains a global hotspot for air pollution and atmospheric deposition, including nitrogen deposition. Against this backdrop, he emphasized that effective atmospheric environmental management has become a priority. In this context, he stressed that the role of EANET is more vital than ever and that continued support for its efforts is essential. He explained that the role of the SAC is to support the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) and facilitate informed decision-making by member countries. He noted that important matters, including the Data Report, national monitoring plans, and the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of the Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5), would be examined from scientific and technical perspectives. He expressed hope that the SAC's valuable inputs would contribute to discussions at IG28 in Niigata, Japan, and help shape EANET's future activities. He further noted that this year marks the 25th anniversary of EANET. Over the past quarter century, EANET has made significant contributions to addressing acid deposition issues in the region. At the same time, he observed that climate change is creating new challenges, requiring new approaches to atmospheric environmental management that take climate considerations into account. In closing, he expressed his sincere hope that the decisions and recommendations of the SAC would help establish a shared direction for the future management of the atmospheric environment in East Asia.

5. Ms. Yujeong Kim, the Ad Interim Coordinator for the Secretariat for the EANET delivered the Opening Remarks on behalf of the EANET Secretariat and UNEP, Ms. Yujeong Kim welcomed participants to the 26th Session of EANET's Scientific Advisory Committee and thanked Malaysia for hosting the meeting. She noted that air pollution continues to pose significant challenges to health, ecosystems, agriculture, and economies across the region, emphasizing the need for strong scientific cooperation and evidence-based action. She highlighted UNEP's recent *Hidden Assets: The Economic and Health Case for Climate and Clean Air Action* report, which demonstrates that investments in clean air deliver substantial economic and health benefits. She also reaffirmed EANET's nearly 25-year contribution to regional cooperation through monitoring, data generation, and capacity-building. A major focus of SAC26 is the review of the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of the Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5), which assesses pollution trends and impacts and supports policy decision-making. The meeting will also consider key technical reports, monitoring plans, and guidance documents to strengthen air quality monitoring and technical capacity. As the first year of the EANET Medium-Term Plan 2026–2030, the session will help shape future activities, priorities, and budgets. Ms. Kim concluded by emphasizing the importance of regional collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and active participation to advance cleaner air and healthier ecosystems across East Asia.

III. Election of the Officers [Agenda Item 2]

The Secretariat introduced the previous system of 3-year fixed term bureau members of the SAC. The 3-year fixed term of the SAC bureau members was implemented since the Fifteenth Session of the SAC (SAC15). The Session elected the SAC bureau members composed of one Chairperson, two Vice-chairpersons, and a Rapporteur. The elected Bureau members in 2024 were: Dr. Joonyoung Ahn, Senior Researcher, Air Quality Research Division, Air Quality Research Department, National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER), Republic of Korea, as the Chairperson; Dr. Sergey A. Gromov, Deputy Director, Institute of Global Climate and Ecology (IGCE), Roshydromet, Russia, and Ms. Ma. Fatima Anneglo R. Molina, Chief Science Research Specialist, Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division (ERLSD), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines as the Vice-Chairpersons and Mr. Chandath Him, Deputy Director, Department of Air Quality, Noise and Vibration Management, General Directorate of Environment Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, as the Rapporteur of the Session. Mr. Chandath Him was replaced by Mr. Raksmey Yim, Deputy Director, Department of Air Quality, Noise and Vibration Management in this role.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda [Agenda Item 3]

6. The Session considered and adopted the Draft Provisional Agenda (EANET/SAC26/3/1), Draft Annotated Provisional Agenda (EANET/SAC26/3/2), as well as the Draft Program (EANET/SAC26/3/3) of the Session.

V. Highlights of the Working Group Meeting in 2026 (WG2026) relevant for SAC26 [Agenda Item 4]

7. The Secretariat presented the Highlights of the Working Group Meeting of the EANET in 2026, held virtually from 4 to 5 August 2026, with a focus on discussion points relevant to SAC26 (EANET/SAC26/4).

8. The key points of the presentation included:
   - The Secretariat highlighted the discussions during WG2026 on the Consideration of a draft Analysis of the Financial Implication of Inviting Sri Lanka to Join the EANET as a Full Member;
   - The Secretariat mentioned the Joint Proposal for Renaming the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) which was discussed during the WG2026.

9. The Session was invited to review and discuss the Highlights of the Working Group Meeting in 2026 (WG2026) relevant for SAC26 for consideration at the Session.

10. Major discussions included:

(i) A country commented on the proposed renaming of EANET, noting that the process must begin at the national level. It emphasized the need for a clear message from EANET countries, supported by a request from EANET for National Focal Points to express their intentions, and a formal request from the IG to convey these intentions to governments. The country further noted that, in its case, it could not approach the government without a written statement of intent.

(ii) The Chair noted that the situation is different in all countries and stated that the NFPs need to report their opinions on the renaming to the EANET at the IG. The Chair also requested SAC members to explain this issue to their respective NFPs before IG28.

(iii) A country asked whether the Secretariat could share an update on what was discussed during the Online Meeting with the UNEP legal team on 8 October 2026. The Secretariat clarified that the Secretariat and UNEP Law Division are working on the meeting summary and on a simplified one-page document on the process to rename the EANET. These two documents will be circulated after the SAC meeting.

(iv) A country commented on the process of the renaming proposal and asked about the purpose of discussing this issue at the SAC, noting it should be discussed by the IG rather than the SAC.

(v) The Chair explained that the Working Group had discussed this issue and that it had therefore been included in the meeting document to inform the SAC. The Chair clarified that the SAC is not expected to make any decision on the matter. Rather, the role of the SAC is to consider how its work could be made more efficient and whether the renaming would contribute to this objective. The Chair suggested that the scientific viewpoints be summarized and reported to the IG meeting next month.

11. The Session acknowledged the Working Group Meeting 2026 Highlights (WG2026) relevant for SAC26.

VI. Review on the Progress of the EANET since the Twenty-fifth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC25) [Agenda Item 5]

12. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Core Activities since SAC25 (**EANET/SAC26/5/1**); the Draft Financial Report of the Core Activities in 2025 including the Draft Mid-year Cash Flow Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center Core Activities in 2026 (tasked by IG27) (**EANET/SAC26/5/2**); the Draft Progress Report of EANET Projects in 2025 and 2026, the Draft Project Completion Reports in 2025, the Draft Annual Report of EANET Projects (AREP), and the Draft Annual Report of EANET Project Fund (AREPF) in 2025 (**EANET/SAC26/5/3**); and the Technical Training Guidance for Ambient VOCs Monitoring under EANET (**EANET/SAC26/5/4**).

13. 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 (2026-2030) and in accordance with the Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2025 and 2026.
- As of September 2026, the Secretariat strengthened science-policy engagement and regional cooperation on air pollution by supporting EANET's contribution to policy dialogues and facilitating collaboration with key partners. In particular, the Secretariat worked with NAIR, UNEP, and NEACAP to incorporate EANET scientific findings into the 2026 International Blue Skies Symposium, held in Seoul on 7 September 2026. The Secretariat enhanced EANET's international profile by organizing the EANET Regional Awareness Workshop at the 2026 International Blue Skies Symposium, which included a session led by UNEP's Law Division on environmental law and policy and attracted over 150 participants, while the event recording received more than 900 views.
- In addition, the Secretariat organized several key EANET meetings including the WG2026 meeting (4–5 August 2026) and led the preparations for SAC26 and IG28.

- The Secretariat strengthened EANET's resource mobilization, partnerships, visibility, and outreach by launching an online Funding Opportunities Calendar and expanding collaboration with regional and international organizations.
- It also coordinated and delivered the EANET Statement at ESCAP's CED-9 and promoted EANET at major regional events including during the BAQ2026 in March 2026 in Bangkok.
- In communications and outreach, the Secretariat published 14 web stories, distributed stakeholder updates to 761 subscribers, released EANET Newsletter Vol. 37, and implemented communications activities, including a draft EANET Flyer and 25th anniversary logo. It also co-organized a national awareness workshop in Indonesia on 4th September 2026 and continued supporting technical cooperation and knowledge exchange across the EANET network.

- The grand-total Secretariat budget for Core Activities in 2025 approved by IG25 was 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.

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

- 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.

15. The Session was invited to review, from the scientific and technical viewpoints, the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Core Activities since SAC25 (**EANET/SAC26/5/1**); the Draft Financial Report of the Core Activities in 2025 including the Draft Mid-year Cash Flow Report

of the Secretariat and the Network Center Core Activities in 2026 (tasked by IG27) (**EANET/SAC26/5/2**); the Draft Progress Report of EANET Projects in 2025 and 2026, the Draft Project Completion Reports in 2025, the Draft Annual Report of EANET Projects (AREP), and the Draft Annual Report of EANET Project Fund (AREPF) in 2025 (**EANET/SAC26/5/3**); and the Technical Training Guidance for Ambient VOCs Monitoring under EANET (**EANET/SAC26/5/4**).

16. Major discussions included:

General discussion:

(i) The NILU filter-pack holder, which had been used in the EANET, would not be newly produced anymore. Therefore, an alternative filter-pack holder should be identified for continuous monitoring. A country asked, with regard to the filter pack holder, which type had been used in the comparison with the NILU filter pack holder.

(ii) The NC explained that testing had been conducted over a two-month period to compare the NILU filter pack and a filter pack made in Japan. It was reported that the agreement was generally good for sulfate and nitrogen, although discrepancies were observed for some particles, such as sea-salt components. The NC noted that it was difficult to draw a conclusion for all parameters, but that sulfate and nitrogen compounds, which are most important for EANET monitoring, showed good agreement. The NC added that further surveys would be needed and that more information could be provided if required.

(iii) A country asked whether the results were included in the presentation and the NC clarified that the results had not been included in the presentation but could be highlighted at the next SAC meeting as part of the discussion on the monitoring methodology.

(iv) The Chair suggested that some nylon filters could be considered and asked about the results of sodium ion, and the NC responded that some discrepancies for sodium had been observed in their studies.

(v) A country commented on the presentation regarding digital data and communications and commended the progress being made in engaging the public and policymakers. It was noted that this would provide a good opportunity to highlight EANET's work on air pollution mitigation, particularly in relation to haze issues, and to showcase the work currently being undertaken by the Secretariat and the Participating Countries.

(vi) The Secretariat thanked the country for the comment and stated that efforts to raise awareness of air pollution issues in the region would continue.

(vii) The NC noted that, in September, the NC and the Secretariat conducted a courtesy visit to the ASEAN Secretariat and discussed leveraging cooperation on transboundary haze pollution in the region.

(viii) A country raised a question regarding data publication, technological exchange, and the 2026 survey results. Reference was made to discussions at SAC25 concerning the website, and consideration was suggested for the use of DOI for publication materials including monitoring data.

(ix) The NC acknowledged the importance of DOI but noted that there had been no official discussion on the matter to date. The NC added that there were also budgetary considerations, including responsibility for establishing and managing the DOI.

On the Draft Progress Report of EANET Projects in 2025 and 2026, the Draft Project Completion Reports in 2025, the Draft Annual Report of EANET Projects (AREP), and the Draft Annual Report of EANET Project Fund (AREPF) in 2025 (**EANET/SAC26/5/3**):

(x) Regarding the project, “Fellowship for building leadership in Atmospheric Environment and Air Quality Management in East Asia”, the NC explained that the fellows submitted research papers as outputs of the project for publication on the EANET website and were encouraged to share their experiences with colleagues in their countries.

(xi) The annual contributions to the EANET Project Fund in 2025 and 2026 were made only by Japan. It was clarified that, for some projects, other countries and external organizations also contributed as co-financers.

(xii) The Network Center noted that Project Activities are very important for Participating Countries and raised the issue of their sustainability. The Network Center asked the Secretariat whether there was any way to encourage Participating Countries to contribute more to the Project Fund.

(xiii) The Secretariat explained that resource mobilization, including contributions to the Project Fund, is part of the Secretariat’s work. It was noted that a resource mobilization strategy is included in the Medium-Term Plan and that further efforts on resource mobilization are planned. The Secretariat reported that discussions had been initiated this year with development partners, including ADB. These discussions aimed to explore investment opportunities for EANET and to diversify funding sources for the Project Fund.

(xiv) A country commented on the project on strengthening and advanced methods for monitoring. The country noted the importance of engaging stakeholders and linking monitoring activities with health-related issues. The country expressed interest in learning from other projects that examine the impacts of air quality on health and the agricultural sector, emphasizing the importance of these areas for enhancing the work being undertaken by EANET.

(xv) A country noted that one of EANET’s key functions is the establishment of common measurement techniques and quality control. It was stated that many projects aim to strengthen this function and that this is very positive. However, the country emphasized that long-term continuous monitoring is essential and that strengthening the ACAP function is very important. The country asked how this strengthening could be achieved through the Project Fund. It was noted that the workload of ACAP is increasing, while the ACAP budget is not increasing and is therefore not sustainable. The country stressed the need for increased long-term project support to sustain both ACAP and EANET. It was further observed that, although each activity is increasing, the connection among the activities is not effective. The country also raised the question of how these activities should be discussed within the SAC.

(xvi) The Chair noted that participation in inter-laboratory studies has been decreasing every year and expressed concern that this may reduce the Network Center’s impact and capacity building efforts.

(xvii) The Network Center noted that ACAP is facing the same problem of budget limitations as other international organizations. It was reported that efforts are being made to explore more opportunities with donors. In this regard, a strategic dialogue was organized in May with development organizations, including ADB and GIZ, to explore opportunities for funding, budget support, and cost-sharing for more activities under EANET and ACAP. The Network Center noted that this is a forward-looking approach.

(xviii) A country asked whether it would be possible for the NC to engage temporary staff for specific projects, with the costs supported by the project budget. It was noted that simply providing additional funding would not necessarily result in additional personnel being available to conduct project activities, as the same staff would continue to undertake the

work. The country suggested that the fund should allow the engagement of temporary staff to support the implementation of specific projects and proposed that this possibility be explored.

(xix) The Network Center expressed appreciation for the understanding shown by Participating Countries regarding the difficult situation and challenges being faced. The Network Center emphasized the importance of contributions from Participating Countries to support the NC. It was noted that, without sufficient funding, the NC cannot recruit additional staff, whether temporary or permanent. While capacity building for Participating Countries remains important, the Network Center stressed that capacity building for the NC is also essential.

(xx) Additional funding is needed to increase staffing and to secure a more diverse range of expertise in order to support Participating Countries more efficiently. The Network Center encouraged SAC members to communicate with their NFPs regarding the importance of making contributions.

(xxi) It was noted that some Participating Countries have not provided their contributions for a considerable period of time. The Network Center further noted that, despite the adoption of the new MTP and the increase in activities, only about half of the expected contributions from Participating Countries have been received, making it very difficult for the NC to carry out its monitoring and assessment activities.

(xxii) The Network Center also emphasized the importance of the functions of the SAC. Referring to the EANET projects, the Network Center agreed with the observation made by a country that there may be some duplication among activities. At the same time, it was noted that different Participating Countries may have an interest in leading particular activities. To make more efficient use of available funds and avoid duplication, the Network Center requested guidance from the SAC. SAC members were also invited to provide scientific guidance on the proposed project plans for 2027.

(xxiii) The Network Center added that the development of a strategy paper for sustainable monitoring is one of the very important tasks for the NC. It was reported that discussions are currently underway on a paper on strategic monitoring, which will provide important guidance for the future monitoring activities of EANET. The Network Center requested scientific advice and input on the process of developing the strategic paper.

On the Technical Training Guidance for Ambient VOCs Monitoring under EANET (EANET/SAC26/5/4):

(xxiv) A country expressed appreciation to the drafting team for the preparation of the guidance document, noting that VOCs are precursors to particulate matter. It was noted that some Participating Countries have pilot monitoring projects, including VOC monitoring in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and the monitoring of VOCs and ozone together in Southeast Asia to analyze ozone formation. The country emphasized that VOCs consist of hundreds of compounds and that the way they are analyzed is important. It was noted that there are many methods available, including sampler-based and online approaches, and that the analysis of the resulting data will be very important. The country acknowledged the significant contributions of Dr. Li Hong and Prof. Meng from CRAES and expressed strong support for the guidelines.

(xxv) The Network Center expressed its appreciation for the significant contribution of CRAES to this project and thanked Dr. Li Hong and Prof. Meng Fan for their expertise. The Network Center also expressed its hope for continued close cooperation with CRAES,

noting that VOCs and PM are closely linked and that continued collaboration would therefore be beneficial.

(xxvi) A country welcomed the Technical Guidelines, especially in view of the present haze conditions.

(xxvii) Several countries suggested an alternative title of the Technical Guidelines, instead of the Technical Training Guidelines, because the document is useful for research and monitoring as well as training.

(xxviii) The Network Center explained that the term "training" was included because it reflects the scope of the Instrument and needs to be linked to training activities to remain consistent with that scope. It was also noted that "training" is included in the project title. The Network Center stated that additional documents will be developed next year and that the guidance will continue to be expanded step by step. The Network Center further noted that VOC monitoring is intended to support both capacity-building and research purposes.

(xxix) In addition, the Network Center congratulated those involved for their hard work. It was noted that scientists need to work beyond monitoring and data collection and should consider how the data can be utilized. The Network Center emphasized the importance of exploring how Participating Countries can apply the data for policymaking.

17. The Session acknowledged the Draft Progress Report of the EANET Core Activities since SAC25 (**EANET/SAC26/5/1**); the Draft Financial Report of the Core Activities in 2025 including the Draft Mid-year Cash Flow Report of the Secretariat and the Network Center Core Activities in 2026 (tasked by IG27) (**EANET/SAC26/5/2**); the Draft Progress Report of EANET Projects in 2025 and 2026, the Draft Project Completion Reports in 2025, the Draft Annual Report of EANET Projects (AREP), and the Draft Annual Report of EANET Project Fund (AREPF) in 2025 (**EANET/SAC26/5/3**) and provided comments, suggestions, and recommendations from the scientific and technical viewpoints for consideration and approval at the IG28 of EANET. **The Session adopted the Technical Training Guidance for Ambient VOCs Monitoring under EANET (EANET/SAC26/5/4) from the scientific and technical viewpoint and to be further endorsed at IG28.**

VII. Adoption of the EANET Data Report 2025 [Agenda Item 6]

18. The Network Center presented the Draft EANET Data Report 2025 (**EANET/SAC26/6**).

19. The key points of the presentations included:

Dry deposition:

- The NC explained that there are 41 sites for filter pack (FP) sampling, 29 sites for automatic monitoring, and 2 sites for passive sampling in 2025.
- The NC explained the changes in the methodology for estimating dry deposition; The proportions of forest and grassland were previously assumed individually for each estimation site, but under the revised methodology, all estimation sites were assumed to be 100% forest; a bug in the Excel calculation sheet was fixed; and when cloud cover data are unavailable, atmospheric stability is assumed to be neutral, rather than discontinuing the calculation. In Data Report 2025, Table 4.3 presents the ratios used for flux calculations from 2012 to 2024. In addition, the Supplementary Tables include the calculation results based on these ratios. It was

communicated that EANET Participating Countries were encouraged to submit their dry deposition estimates and that the NC would provide support as needed.

Wet deposition:

- Data from 56 sites were expected to be submitted for the Data Report 2025, while some data from Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Thailand were determined not to be submitted. As for pH, part of Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, and Vietnam had low pH sites. As for acidic substances, many of the sites demonstrated decreasing trends, while some sites demonstrated increasing trends. Spatial distribution of total nitrogen deposition (NO_3^- $+NH_4^+$) as well as pH and each major ion was presented.

Soil and Vegetation:

- Soil and vegetation monitoring data from seven sites in China and Japan were submitted to the network. The long-term data indicate that soil chemical properties did not respond immediately to changes in atmospheric deposition of acidic substances. The observed changes in soil and tree conditions may have been influenced not only by atmospheric deposition but also by other environmental factors.

Inland aquatic environment:

- The inland aquatic environment monitoring data in 2025 were submitted from 15 sites from 9 countries. A decreasing trend in sulfate ion concentrations has been observed at some sites.

Catchment-scale:

- Monitoring was conducted in two catchments: Lake Ijira catchment (IJR) and La Mesa Watershed (LMW). In IJR, nitrate concentrations continued to decline, suggesting a gradual alleviation of nitrogen saturation, while TOC concentrations increased significantly. In LMS, significant increasing trends were detected for nitrate concentrations, and seasonal analysis indicated higher sulfate concentrations during the rainy season than during the dry season.

Consideration of the revision of the structure of the Data Report:

- The NC explained the reason for switching the order of the chapters on Wet Deposition Monitoring and Air Concentration and Dry Deposition Monitoring in the Data Report 2025. Under the MTP (2026–2030), EANET's priorities have shifted from acid deposition to air pollution and atmospheric deposition, and accordingly, the importance of air concentration monitoring has increased.
- For the Data Report 2026 onward, the NC proposed further reviewing the chapter structure, particularly the detailed structure of the chapter on Air Concentration Monitoring.

20. The Session reviewed the monitoring data of the Participating Countries in 2025 for consideration and adoption at the Session.

21. Major discussions included:

Dry deposition:

(i) A country raised a question regarding the calculation of dry deposition. The country noted that they had tried to use the excel file provided for the calculations at their monitoring sites and asked whether the meteorological information on an hourly basis was used for calculation by the Network Center. The country also asked whether filter

pack data for particulate matter had been used in the dry deposition calculations with hourly meteorological data.

(ii) The Network Center clarified that the filter pack sampling duration at the Japanese sites is approximately two weeks. For the dry deposition calculations, the same monitoring period and the same concentration values were applied as a two-week average. The Network Center further noted that hourly meteorological data were used in the calculations.

(iii) The Network Center welcomed other Participating Countries to submit their data to the NC for analysis and summarization, while emphasizing the need for data quality checking. It was noted that Participating Countries may submit their meteorological data to the NC for calculation of dry deposition or alternatively conduct the calculations themselves.

(iv) A country expressed agreement with the proposed dry deposition estimation method, which assumes 100% forest cover. The country noted that the previous method was based on an old approach developed by the US EPA/CASTNET and is no longer widely used. The country stated that the new estimation method is much better and added that it has been used in Japan for the publication of several scientific articles.

(v) The Chair noted that inventory estimation methods are updated periodically, and that methods and parameters may change over time. The Chair suggested that the results obtained using the new method for calculation of dry deposition should be compared with those derived from the old method.

(vi) The Network Center responded that a comparison with the old method of dry deposition calculation would be conducted and that the results would be presented.

Wet deposition:

(vii) The Chair noted that concentrations at the Jeju site were very low and explained that the old site may have been affected by sea salts and that it had been relocated to a position approximately eighty meters above the original site. The Chair commented that the observed low concentrations were therefore somewhat unexpected.

(viii) A country asked whether it would be possible to estimate total nitrogen deposition, including both dry and wet deposition, for all sites in order to assess eutrophication. The country suggested that estimate of total sulfur deposition could also be considered.

(ix) The Chair noted a potential limitation of such an approach, explaining that the spatial representativeness of monitoring sites would need to be taken into account when calculating total nitrogen deposition. The Chair pointed out that, in the Republic of Korea, there are 44 monitoring sites with high levels of dry deposition and nitrogen deposition analytics, whereas some Participating Countries have only one monitoring site. The Chair therefore noted that comparisons may not be directly relevant across all Participating Countries.

Soil and vegetation, inland aquatic environment, and catchment-scale:

(x) A country asked why data had been submitted by only two Participating Countries. The country emphasized that soil information is very important and expressed the hope that more Participating Countries would submit their data.

(xi) The Network Center emphasized that soil monitoring is very important for discussions on forest health and for providing reliable data to analyze atmospheric deposition over time. At the same time, the Network Center noted that soil monitoring is very labour-intensive and requires significant human resources, while the analytical work involved

is very complicated. The Network Center further noted that the EANET Technical Manual recommends that soil and vegetation monitoring be conducted every three to five years. It was observed that some Participating Countries may be able to restart monitoring activities at their existing monitoring plots and that, in some cases, monitoring can be resumed even after a gap of ten years. The Network Center therefore encouraged Participating Countries to consider restarting monitoring activities at their existing plots.

(xii) A country raised the question of how much EANET data is actually used by Participating Countries, particularly from the perspective of the NFPs. It was noted that there may be limited interest in EANET activities depending on the extent to which the data are utilized. It was emphasized that there is a need to demonstrate the value and usefulness of the data and to better promote EANET's work at both the national and regional levels in order to generate greater interest among partners and networks.

(xiii) A country noted that trends in major species, including sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium, are used to assess the situation in East Asia. The country also stated that EANET data are used to cross-check national data. It was noted that many countries use these data. Acknowledging the limited time available for discussion, the country encouraged participants to respond to the question raised by the Network Center.

(xiv) A country asked about the method of analysis used for Chlorophyll A. The Network Center indicated that recommended methods have been shown in the technical manual.

(xv) The Network Center explained that pH may be related to ion concentrations of sulfate and nitrate, but that other ion concentrations also influence pH conditions. It was noted that, while trends can be compared, pH cannot be evaluated solely on the basis of sulfate and nitrate concentrations. The Network Center emphasized the need to accumulate data over several decades, compare long-term trends, and then discuss the implications of those trends.

(xvi) A country asked whether the sampling strategy of additional parameters, such as chlorophyl A and phosphate, was different from other major parameters.

(xvii) The Network Center explained that some additional parameters were included for lake water chemistry. It was noted that, compared with rivers, lakes have longer retention times and that phytoplankton, vegetation, and other nutrients are closely related to the concentrations of various ions. For this reason, these parameters are included in the monitoring activities. The Network Center further explained that parameters such as nitrite, phosphate, and ions listed in the table are monitored only once a year. These measurements are intended to serve as reference data for discussing acidification phenomena and are considered supporting data.

On the catchment scale monitoring:

(xviii) A country asked about the increasing trends of nitrate and potassium observed in the La Mesa Watershed.

(xix) The Network Center responded that there is currently no clear explanation for these trends. However, it was suggested that the decomposition of organic matter may contribute to the increase in potassium concentrations. The Network Center noted that further analysis is needed, including comparison with vegetation data and consideration of factors such as severe droughts or sudden storm events.

Consideration of the revision of the structure of the Data Report:

(xx) A country expressed appreciation to the drafting team for their hard work in preparing the Data Report. However, the country expressed a different view regarding the two chapters. It was noted that there have been no recent changes to EANET wet deposition monitoring and that wet deposition monitoring is more established and extensive than dry deposition monitoring. The country further noted that, although the scope of EANET has been extended to atmospheric environmental substances, the technical results and methodologies related to dry deposition monitoring still require further development. It was observed that dry deposition monitoring is not as comprehensive as wet deposition monitoring. The country also noted that a similar situation exists with regard to the inter-laboratory comparison (ILC) activities.

(xxi) With regard to the Data Report, the Network Center explained that the current approach is in line with discussions held at PRSAD5, where air concentration was given priority based on previous SAC discussions.

(xxii) A country agreed with the observation made by a country regarding the structure of the Data Report. The country noted that dry deposition monitoring depends largely on filter pack measurements, whereas the concept of air concentration monitoring also includes automatic monitoring methods and passive samplers. In this context, the country considered the current order, with wet deposition presented before dry deposition, to be reasonable.

(xxiii) Several countries preferred the proposed options from the 2025 report, while some disagreed.

(xxiv) In support of the proposed change, it was highlighted that atmospheric concentrations and dry deposition are precursors to wet deposition. This was considered to provide justification for the revised order, which follows the suggestion made during the 2025 discussions.

(xxv) A country noted that, if there is no agreement to change the structure, the current format could be retained for the 2025 Data Report. The country further stated that, for future reports, the history of EANET should be respected and that wet deposition should continue to be presented before dry deposition.

(xxvi) The SAC decided to retain the current structure of the Data Report and the Report of Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects for this year. The issue will be discussed further by email and at a future meeting.

22. The Session, in principle, **adopted the Data Report 2025** with modifications.

VIII. Adoption of the Report on the Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects 2025 [Agenda Item 7]

23. The Network Center presented the Draft Report on the Inter-laboratory Comparison (ILC) Projects 2025 (**EANET/SAC26/7**), which included the results of the wet deposition, dry deposition (filter pack method), soil and vegetation, and inland aquatic environment ILC Projects carried out in 2025.

24. The key points of the presentations included:

Dry deposition:

- The NC distributed 22 sets of ILC dry samples and received results from 18 laboratories. Among 18 participating laboratories, one outlier each was found for sulfate, chloride, and ammonium.
- Around 78% of the reported results met the DQOs for both samples. Sample 252d showed slightly better agreement with the prepared values than Sample 251d, as indicated by the smaller number of Flag X results.

Wet deposition:

- 31 participating laboratories submitted their analytical results of the artificial rainwater samples to the NC. 89.7% and 83.7% of submitted data met the Data Quality Objective (DQO) of EANET for high and low concentration samples, respectively. The yearly trend (1998–2025) in the percentage of data meeting the DQO was presented. A tendency for potassium ion (K^+) results to deviate from the prepared value was observed, and a review of the analytical and QA/QC procedures in each participating laboratory was recommended.

Soil:

- Seven laboratories from four countries participated in the 27th Inter-laboratory Comparison (ILC) Project on soil analysis. Outliers were detected for several measurement items. However, the small number of participating laboratories made it difficult to perform robust statistical analyses and identify possible sources of data variability. Nevertheless, the participating laboratories successfully analyzed the parameters using their standard procedures.

Inland aquatic environment:

- 21 laboratories participated in the 26th ILC project on inland aquatic environment, and 20 laboratories submitted their analytical data. The NC pointed out that 93.4% of the results were within the DQOs. However, outliers were detected for several measurement items.

25. The Session was invited to review, make comments, and provide guidance for consideration and adoption at the Session.

26. Major discussions included:

On the dry deposition:

(i) A country noted that it had submitted results, but that these results were not reflected in the report. The country further noted that results submitted by other Participating Countries were also not reflected.
(ii) The Network Center responded that the graph would be revised to include all Participating Countries in the presentation, as well as in the report itself.

On wet deposition:

(i) The Chair noted that potassium concentrations appeared to be increasing this year and asked whether the concentration levels were similar to those observed in the previous year.
(ii) The Network Center responded that the concentration levels were slightly lower than those of the previous year, but that the difference was not significant. It was noted that the levels have remained relatively stable over the past ten years. The Network Center added that the

trend is not very favorable for Participating Countries and encouraged Participating Countries to review relevant activities that may be influencing the results.

(iii) The Network Center further noted that the observed peak in ammonium may have an influence on potassium concentrations. It was suggested that the concentrations may depend on prevailing conditions and that, during periods of smog or forest fires, potassium concentrations may increase significantly. The Network Center emphasized that these factors should be taken into consideration when interpreting the results.

On the soil and inland aquatic environment:

(i) A country asked whether there were any reasons why other Participating Countries could not join the monitoring activities for soil. The Network Center clarified that many soil monitoring plots in Participating Countries are currently not being monitored and that this situation is reflected in the report.

(ii) Regarding inland aquatic monitoring, a country commented that the results were interesting and insightful and asked to what extent the causes of the high percentage of flagged NH_4^+ data are understood.

(iii) The Network Center responded that the actual causes are difficult to identify. It was noted that ambient ammonia concentrations or local laboratory conditions may have contributed to the results; however, this remains speculative and the exact causes are difficult to determine.

(iv) A country remarked that it would be interesting to discuss the trends in analytical errors and asked whether the results could be published as an official publication.

(v) The Network Center noted that inter-laboratory comparison (ILC) activities are also conducted within European and United States monitoring networks. The Network Center further noted that, through collaboration with ICP Forests in Europe, a scientific paper based on ILC results was published approximately ten years ago.

27. The Session **adopted the Report on the Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects 2025** with modification.

IX. Consideration of the Activities of the Task Forces and Expert Groups under the SAC [Agenda Item 8]

28. The Chairpersons of the Task Forces reported the progress of activities in the respective Task Forces (**EANET/SAC26/8/1**, **EANET/SAC26/8/2**, and **EANET/SAC26/8/3**).

29. The key points of the presentation included:

- The Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment of Atmospheric Environment (TFAE) conducted three meetings during 2025-2026 to review progress and discuss future priorities for EANET's monitoring and assessment activities. Based on these discussions, TFAE developed the draft "*Strategy Paper on the Future Direction of Monitoring and Data Evaluation for Air Pollutants and Atmospheric Deposition in East Asia (2027-2032)*". The proposed strategy aims to strengthen and harmonize atmospheric monitoring networks, enhance QA/QC systems, improve atmospheric deposition estimation and long-term data evaluation, and provide policy-relevant scientific information. Priority areas include monitoring of $PM_{2.5}$ components, ozone (O_3), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and ammonia (NH_3), as well as supplementally use of satellite observations, model analyses, and low-cost sensors. The strategy further promotes long-term

trend assessments, high-time-resolution measurements, capacity building, and collaboration with regional and global networks. SAC26 is invited to consider the Strategy Paper for adoption.

- Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental Effects (TFEE) held its 3rd Meeting on July 1, 2026. The update of the *"Strategy Paper for Future Direction of EANET on Monitoring of Effects on Agricultural Crops, Forest and Inland Water by Acidifying Species and Related Chemical Substances"* and the implementation plan for information exchange of human health were mainly discussed at the 3rd Meeting. Regarding the Strategy Paper on ecological impacts, specific activities for the period from 2026 to 2030 were mainly updated. SAC26 was invited to consider the updated Strategy Paper for adoption.

- The Task Force on Atmospheric Environment Quality Management (TFAEM)'s Chairperson reported on the major activities of the Task Force, focusing on its 3rd online meeting (TFAEM3), held on 25 September 2026. The meeting reviewed the progress of TFAE and TFEE, including their respective Strategy Papers, and discussed the Draft Concept of the Strategy Paper for Atmospheric Environment Quality Management in East Asia. The Draft Concept proposes a framework consisting of five interconnected stages: (1) Observation and Information, (2) Scientific Understanding and Assessment, (3) Development and Assessment of Management Options, (4) Policy Making and Implementation Support, and (5) Evaluation and Feedback. It also envisages an integrative role for TFAEM in utilizing scientific outputs from TFAE and TFEE, together with emission inventories, modeling, technologies, and policy experience. The discussions at TFAEM3 highlighted the importance of addressing regional priorities, strengthening sustainable monitoring systems and capacity building, promoting regional modeling and integrated assessment, and clarifying coordination among the three Task Forces. The Chairperson explained that the full Strategy Paper would be further developed in 2027 through additional meetings and consultations, with the aim of submitting it to SAC27 and IG29 for consideration and adoption.

30. The Session was invited to make comments, suggestions, and recommendations from scientific and technical viewpoints.

31. Major discussions included:

<u>On the Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment of Atmospheric Environment (TFAE):</u>

(i) No comments were made.

<u>On the Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental Effect (TFEE)</u>

(ii) A country noted that, while the impacts on human health are important, there are also serious impacts on ecosystems that need to be addressed. It was emphasized that this is part of the mandate provided by the IG and that these activities therefore need to be completed.

(iii) The Network Center explained that the TFEE has two aspects. The first is the development of strategies related to ecological impacts, based on EANET data and relevant scientific knowledge. The second is information exchange on human health

issues. The Network Center noted that, in accordance with the decision of the IG, the Task Force is concentrating on information exchange related to human health and is not undertaking human health assessments itself. The Network Center further noted that additional expert support and broader scientific knowledge may be required and welcomed the nomination of additional experts in this field to support the study.

(iv) A country stated that three activities had been adopted by the IG in 2023. The country noted that, while there is concern regarding human health, many institutions, including WHO, are already working in this area. The country expressed the view that, if the role of the Task Force is limited to information exchange on human health, greater emphasis should be placed on in-depth research related to ecosystem impacts. The country emphasized that EANET has more than 20 years of monitoring data, generated through local sampling and analysis, which are highly valuable for assessing impacts on ecosystems. Reference was also made to discussions at the recent Biodiversity COP in Armenia, and the country suggested that EANET data could be used more effectively to support policymaking in this area. Drawing on experience in the development of air quality standards, the country noted that there is relatively limited information available on ecological impacts compared with human health impacts. The country therefore stressed that ecosystem assessment should be a key priority for the future and suggested that the Task Force continue to focus on the mandate adopted by the IG.

(v) The Network Center expressed appreciation for the encouragement regarding work on ecological impacts. The Network Center agreed that there is a need to enhance the assessment of EANET data in relation to ecological impacts and noted that the Task Force has an important role in this area, which is reflected in the strategic paper. At the same time, the Network Center noted that human health is also included in the mandate and therefore needs to be addressed. However, it was clarified that the Task Force's role in this area is limited to information exchange and does not include conducting human health assessments. The Network Center emphasized that this approach is fully within the scope of EANET and consistent with the mandate of the Task Force as decided by the IG.

(vi) A country asked whether the work is aligned with existing international conventions and how the results could be communicated to policymakers. The country also asked, with regard to recovery from acidification and eutrophication, whether the assessment considers the adaptation processes of the environment or focuses only on the recovery phase itself.

(vii) The Chair of the Task Force responded that the activities are taking into consideration the results and experiences of relevant international conventions and that these will be considered in future activities. In response to the second question, the Chair confirmed that environmental recovery from acidification and eutrophication is being considered. However, it was noted that activities in this area are still in the planning stage and will be further developed in the future.

(viii) A country asked whether the strategy paper would be revised based on the comments received during the meeting. The Network Center clarified that the TFEE strategy paper does not include human health effects. It was explained that human health is discussed within the Task Force only for information exchange purposes and is not included in the strategy paper.

(ix) A country further noted that references to human health activities appear elsewhere in the document, including in the implementation plan, and observed that human health is mentioned several times.

(x) The Network Center clarified that the updated strategy paper had been attached to the report of the Task Force activities and the minutes of the 3rd meeting and that this arrangement might have caused confusion regarding the scope of the strategy paper. It was further clarified that the strategy paper focuses on ecological impacts and does not include human health effects.

On the Task Force on Atmospheric Environment Quality Management (TFAEM)

(xi) The Chairperson of TFAEM emphasized that the proposed scope in the draft concept Strategy Paper was commented by the TF members as broad and ambitious, and that priorities and milestones should be established for its stepwise development. He also stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation among the three Task Forces to ensure complementary activities and avoid unnecessary overlaps.

(xii) The Chairperson of TFAEM invited SAC members to provide written comments and suggestions on the Draft Concept of the Strategy Paper. He explained that the comments received would be shared with TFAEM members and considered in the further development of the Strategy Paper in 2027.

Overall comments for the three Task Forces

(xiii) A country noted that future climate change scenarios should take into account adaptation measures and the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events. The country asked how these factors would be measured and whether sufficiently robust data would be available to support such assessments.

(xiv) The Network Center noted that climate change and changing meteorological conditions cannot be ignored. However, it was emphasized that EANET is currently focused on atmospheric deposition. At the same time, the Network Center acknowledged that the influence of climate change and meteorological conditions on atmospheric deposition and related assessments are important to take into consideration.

(xv) The Network Center thanked the three Task Forces for their support to EANET and invited them to consider the future direction of the Network. Noting that the environment is changing continuously, the Network Center asked the Task Forces to reflect on whether EANET's perspectives and methodologies should be revised in the future and, if so, when such revisions should be undertaken. The Network Center suggested that this issue be considered as part of future discussions.

(xvi) The Chair noted the Session follows proposal from the Chair of the TF to adopt the strategy papers according to the plan.

32. The Session discussed the Activities of the Task Forces under the SAC and provided comments, suggestions, and recommendations from the scientific and technical viewpoints. **The Session adopted the "*Strategy Paper on the Future Direction of Monitoring and Data Evaluation for Air Pollutants and Atmospheric Deposition in East Asia (2027-2032)*", which was developed by TFAE** and **the "*Strategy Paper for Future Direction of EANET on Monitoring of Effects on Agricultural Crops, Forest and Inland Water by Acidifying Species and Related Chemical Substances*"**, which was updated by TFEE. To avoid any further confusion, the TFEE report will not be attached to the updated strategy paper.

X. Overview of the Updated National Monitoring Plans of the Participating Countries [Agenda Item 9]

33. The Network Center presented an overview of the National Monitoring Plans of the Participating Countries (**EANET/SAC26/9**) based on the latest information submitted by the Participating Countries.

34. The key points of the presentation included:
- The National Monitoring Plan (NMP) is a fundamental document for EANET monitoring activities and every year. the Participating Countries are requested to review and submit the NMP after necessary revisions.
- The NMPs 2026 of each Participating Country were reported at the STM27 and re-submitted after the second revision process for finalization.
- The finalized NMPs in 2026 were reported focusing on the number of monitoring sites for each category, the site classification, methodology, current problems of monitoring, and changes from the NMPs 2025. In addition, status of monitoring of $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 in each Participating Country was focused.

35. The Session was invited to discuss the National Monitoring Plans of the Participating Countries and provide necessary comments and guidance as appropriate.

36. Major discussions included:
(i) The Philippines noted that the information on Metro Manila II (tentative name) needed to be updated. Metro Manila UP IESM (Institute of Environmental Science & Meteorology) was proposed as the new site name. Monitoring at UP IESM commenced in April 2026, not at Ateneo De Manila University as presented. It was also indicated that soil and vegetation was conducted at La Mesa Watershed not Benguet, in 2026. The Philippines would submit as soon as possible its updated NMP for 2026.
(ii) The Republic of Korea informed that, as indicated in NMP 2026, the monitoring frequency for gases has been changed to once every six days.
(iii) Malaysia explained that University Putra Malaysia(Bintulu) site should be officially removed from the soil and vegetation monitoring network due to the lack of staff available to continue monitoring activities. Malaysia pointed out that the classification of the Pasoh site should be revised from “urban” to “rural”.
(iv) Mongolia stated that the site location had been changed several times due to the expansion of residential areas. It added that the proposed site name Terelj 2 was appropriate, as the new location is only 1 km from the original site. The NC confirmed that a common understanding of the site information of the new Terelj site had already been established before this meeting, except for the name. The site name was thus also confirmed.
(v) The Chair noted that the geographical characteristics of a replacement site should be similar to those of the original site and added that monitoring at the new site may need to be conducted in parallel for one year, if necessary, to confirm its suitability.
(vi) The NC explained that the site information sheet on the EANET website would be updated based on the information provided in the NMP 2026 after this meeting.

37. The Session acknowledged the updates on the overview of the National Monitoring Plans of the Participating Countries.

XI. Consideration of the Development the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5) [Agenda Item 10]

38. The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee (DC) of the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5) with Network Center presented the draft of the PRSAE5. (**EANET/SAC26/10**).

39. The key points of the presentation included:

- The NC explained the background and general process of preparing the PRSAE5 including the establishment of the DC, change of the title and format, Lead Authors and Contributing Authors, and the implementation plan.
- The Chairperson of the DC presented a summary of each chapter of the Regional Assessment (Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 2: Monitoring Data Quality; Chapter 3: Gas and Aerosol Concentrations in East Asia; Chapter 4: Wet and Dry Deposition in East Asia; Chapter 5: Impacts on Ecosystems in East Asia; and Chapter 6: Summary and Recommendations for Future Activities), as well as the Annex (Introduction of the EANET Project and Related Information), three Boxes, and the Executive Summary, with a focus on the Summary for Policymakers.

40. The Session was invited to review the final draft of the PRSAE5 and provide comments and suggestions for necessary revisions to be adopted with modification by SAC26 and approved for publication by IG28.

41. Major discussion included:

(i) The Chair noted the consideration to harmonize emission inventories (EI) at the national level. The Chair explained that international programmes such as EMEP have established manuals and guidelines for emission inventory calculations and suggested that similar approaches could be considered as part of a future EANET strategy.

(ii) The Chair also noted that EANET currently does not have clearly defined modelling activities. The Chair suggested that initiatives such as Model Inter-Comparison for Asia (MICS-Asia), initiated in partnership with IIASA, and activities with the GAINS model could be incorporated into messaging and outreach efforts targeting policymakers.

(iii) The Chair informed that EANET National Activity Center in IGCE, Roshydromet of the Russian Federation is initiating a new modelling exercise specifically based on EANET data and region.

(iv) The Chair highlighted efforts by Korean scientists to promote the use of satellite data to improve spatial coverage across East Asia. The Chair noted that satellite-derived products could support capacity-building activities and emphasized the importance of ensuring temporal consistency and maintaining data use over an appropriate period.

(v) The Chair noted that expanding the scope of EANET studies to include human health impacts, in addition to ecological impacts, could be considered as a future enhancement.

(vi) The Chair observed that policymakers may not read the full PRSAE5 report and encouraged Participating Countries to provide relevant inputs to Executive Summary if they might decide as needed.

(vii) A country highlighted that the point on satellite data is very important, noting the limitations of ground-based measurements. While satellite data can help address these limitations, it also has its own constraints. The country noted that the density of satellite data has increased significantly with availability of GEMS data from Korea, Himawari data from Japan and China based satellite data. The country further observed that the increasing density of satellite data has changed its utilization and suggested that AI could be used alongside these data. At the Southeast Asian level, satellite data could be presently used to track the movement of transboundary haze over time and support source apportionment based on haze particles.

(viii) A country informed the meeting that GEMS data is publicly available. However, the data may not always be up to date, with data availability possibly limited to 2022.

(ix) A country pointed out that satellite observations are not direct measurements, as satellite data are based on aerosol optical depth (AOD) and still require ground-based measurements for calibration and validation. The country highlighted that the main advantage of satellite data is its ability to cover larger geographical areas and agreed that such data should be used as complementary information in the Report.

(x) A country noted that AI and other emerging analytical tools could support the analysis of EANET's extensive datasets and help identify interesting findings. However, the country emphasized that analytical tools cannot replace scientific judgement and that expert interpretation remains necessary to derive meaningful conclusions and formulate messages for policymakers.

(xi) Regarding the summary of the Report, a country pointed out that while declines in $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2, and NO_x in East Asia were highlighted, previous chapters also showed a declining trend in PM_{10}, which could likewise be reflected in the summary.

(xii) A country observed that surface ozone and biomass burning remain significant challenges but suggested that these issues should be presented separately, with surface ozone discussed as an air quality issue and biomass burning as an emission source challenge.

(xiii) The country sought clarification on a presentation slide indicating declines in $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2, and NO_x in China while the slide title referred to East Asia, and asked whether the findings applied only to China or to East Asia as a whole. The country further commented on the summary of the Report, referring to a statement that decreases in PM concentrations in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand were partly attributable to reductions in emissions from China. The country expressed disagreement with this interpretation and suggested that the statement be deleted. In addition, the country questioned references to springtime ozone and long-range transport from China, noting that these findings did not appear to be derived from the current Report and therefore should not be included.

(xiv) A country stressed the importance of ensuring that conclusions are supported by sufficient data. The country noted that some analyses appeared to be based on limited data sources and suggested revising the presentation of results where data availability is insufficient to demonstrate robust trends, with a view to improving the overall quality of the Report.

(xv) A country emphasized that the report conclusions should be based on EANET monitoring data. The country further noted that any findings cited from external publications should be used with caution and interpreted carefully. It also stressed the need to reach consensus on the key messages for policymakers and suggested removing any content that had not yet been agreed upon during the meeting.

(xvi) The Chair clarified that the report conclusions should be based on EANET findings and that external data may be referenced only if it is consistent with EANET data. The Chair emphasized that conclusions should not be drawn solely from external sources. Given the limited time available, the Chair suggested focusing further discussions on improving the policymakers' report rather than reviewing the entire report, and invited the session to consider adopting the report content while allowing further refinement of the policymakers' report.

(xvii) A country expressed its wish to submit additional comments on the draft. The NC responded that the comments should be submitted as soon as possible, as the revised draft needed to be circulated to the NFPs without delay.

(xviii) The NC took note of the comments and indicated that the matter would be discussed with the chapter leads for revision.

42. The Session **adopted the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5) with modification on a condition that the drafts are appropriately revised to address the comments from SAC members**.

XII. Consideration of the 2027 Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET and Proposed Project Plans in 2027 from the scientific and technical viewpoints [Agenda Item 11]

(1) Core Activities of the EANET in 2027

43. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the Draft Work Programme and Budget for the Core Activities of the EANET in 2027 (**EANET/SAC26/11/1**).

44. The key points of the presentation included:

- It was highlighted that the Draft Work Programme and Budget for Core Activities in 2027 is in line with the MTP for the EANET (2026-2030).
- Activities were presented by outcome, including Outcome 1: Understanding on the state of air pollution in priority areas and atmospheric deposition in East Asia is built through strengthened monitoring; Outcome 2: Decision-makers at local, national and regional levels have increased access to evidence-based policy relevant information; and Outcome 3: Cooperation on the issues related to air pollution in the priority areas and atmospheric deposition in East Asia is increased.

- The estimated voluntary financial contributions in 2027 for the Secretariat are US$ 607,200, and US$ 633,500 for the Network Center.
- The provisional Core Activities budget in 2027 for the Secretariat is US$ 577,976 and US$ 633,500 for the Network Center.

45. The Session was invited to make comments, suggestions, and recommendations from scientific and technical viewpoints for consideration and approval at the IG28 of EANET.

46. Major discussions included:

(i) The Chair sought clarification on Activity 14 and asked whether it would serve as the basic information-gathering activity for emission inventory work, as well as how the activity would be implemented technically.

(ii) In response, the Secretariat explained that Activity 14 had already been agreed upon under the current MTP. The Secretariat noted that a survey is currently being drafted to identify priority sectors, including steel, cement, and the agricultural burning of crop residues, based on the needs and interests of Participating Countries. The Secretariat further explained that the survey results would be used to plan technical exchanges and facilitate the sharing of expertise from UNEP, external experts, and EANET experts.

(iii) The NC explained that, under Output 3 of the MTP, Activity 14 had originally been proposed by the Chinese Government to showcase China's experience in this area. The NC further noted that the Secretariat and NC would maintain close consultation with Chinese experts in implementing the activity.

(2) Proposed Project Plans in 2027

47. The Secretariat and the NC presented the Proposed Project Plans in 2027 (**EANET/SAC26/11/2**) for the Session's consideration from the scientific and technical viewpoints.

48. The key points of the presentation included:

- Five newly proposed EANET Project Plans (EPPs) for 2027, one continued EANET Project Plan from 2026 and four Project Concept Notes (PCNs) were submitted for consideration and discussion to the Working Group Meeting in 2026 (WG2026) which was virtually held from 4-5 August 2026. Four additional EANET Project Plans were submitted after WG2026. There are ten Project Plans to be reviewed by the SAC26 from the scientific perspective.
- The Proposed Projects include: (2027-01) Enhancement of ammonia monitoring for sustainable nitrogen management in the EANET region; (2027-02) Capacity building webinar workshop on application of satellite observation for atmospheric environmental management; (2027-03) Fellowship for building leadership in Atmospheric Environment and Air Quality Management in East Asia; (2027-04) The collaboration of Technical and Training (TNT) and capacity building program for personnel of the Participating Countries on monitoring; (2027-05) Integrated Capacity Building for Urban Ozone and Ambient VOCs under EANET; (2027-06) Integrated Early Warning System (IEWS) Feasibility Study for Heat Stress and Air Pollution in the Mekong Sub-region; (2027-07) Research on Spatiotemporal Evolution Patterns and Driving Mechanisms of Regional Acid Deposition Based on Artificial Intelligence; (2027-08) Roundtable Dialogue on Innovative Investment and Financing for Air Pollution Prevention and Control and Green Economy Incentive Policies (online + offline); (2027-09) Leveraging the AQMx platform for building capacity of EANET Participating Countries; and the continued EPP (2026-06) Methodological Study on PM2.5 Source Identification and Capacity Enhancement in EANET with Emphasis on Southeast Asia.

49. The Session was invited to make comments, suggestions, and recommendations from scientific and technical viewpoints for consideration and approval at the IG28 of EANET

50. Major discussions included:

(i) The Chair asked which countries would be included as beneficiaries under Project 2026-06 and NC explained that, in 2026, the project included collaboration with Cambodia and and with a research institution in Indonesia adding that related research activities were ongoing.

(ii) A country inquired about the relationship between the proposed projects and the three Task Forces. It was suggested that the projects be classified according to their focus areas, such as capacity building and training, data analysis to support reporting, resource mobilization, and other categories. It was further noted that such classification could help assess how resources are allocated across different areas.

(iii) The NC explained that the Task Forces cover both project-based and core activities. In particular, Project 2027-01 was identified as being closely linked to the TFEE and TFAE. Furthermore, the NC considered it highly relevant to link activities to the Task Forces and suggested that projects be classified by type in order to assess, on an annual basis, which areas receive greater support from Participating Countries.

(iv) The NC further noted that the project template already includes a section on the relevant scope, which serves as the project category.

(v) The Chair observed that the proposed projects appeared to be well balanced and emphasized the importance of supporting the capacity building of Participating Countries.

(vi) A country noted that the nine proposed projects cover key EANET priority areas, including capacity building, the nitrogen cycle, satellite data, transboundary air pollution, artificial intelligence, and modelling. The country considered that the projects adequately cover both the EANET scope and the activities of the Task Forces.

(vii) Regarding references to artificial intelligence in project titles, the Chair suggested that the term "machine learning" may be more appropriate, noting that such tools support analysis while the underlying technical work and document preparation remain the responsibility of experts.

51. The Session acknowledged the Draft Work Programme and Budget for the Core Activities of the EANET in 2027 and the proposed EANET Project Plans in 2027 and made comments and recommendations from scientific and technical viewpoints for consideration and approval at the IG28 of EANET. **The Session recommended for all Project Plans to be considered by the IG28.**

XIII. Consideration of the Draft Terminal Review of EANET MTP (2021-2025) [Agenda Item 12]

52. The Secretariat and the Evaluator presented the Draft Terminal Review of EANET MTP (2021-2025) (**EANET/SAC26/12**).

53. The Session was invited to discuss the Draft Terminal Review of EANET MTP (2021-2025) and provide necessary comments and guidance as appropriate.

54. Major discussion included:

(i) NC noted that the review was very comprehensive. It was enquired if the goal of this Review is to improve the next MTP since the new MTP was already in place, raising the question of how the review findings could be incorporated. NC also asked how impact assessments should be conducted for the next cycle and how

capacity-building efforts could be made sustainable. The Secretariat was encouraged to create a platform to consolidate all information generated from the training activities.

(ii) The Secretariat explained that the next step would be to revise the review report to incorporate the SAC comments and then submit it for IG28 consideration and approval. The Secretariat also indicated that guidance would be sought from the IG on directions for follow-up actions. The outcomes could then be integrated into the Work Programme and Budget approved annually. Regarding impact assessment, the Secretariat noted that discussions would be needed during the IG meeting to determine how it could be conducted efficiently. On the review of the current MTP, the Secretariat clarified that only a terminal review of the MTP would be undertaken. With respect to training, the Secretariat noted that the relevant information was available on the EANET website and YouTube channel.

(iii) A country commented that it was important to demonstrate clear successes to the Participating Countries. Continuous monitoring and quality control conducted in East Asia were of great significance. It was noted that the atmospheric environment had changed in East Asia and that findings from PRSAE5 could be used to demonstrate the value of EANET data, emphasizing that PRSAE5 was particularly important. A country further stressed that continued financial contributions were vital for sustaining EANET and that support from SAC members in encouraging the IG to maintain this support was equally important.

(iv) NC thanked the Evaluator for the extensive work undertaken. NC noted that the impact of capacity-building activities was difficult to quantify and asked, from the perspective of utilizing the review findings, how the capacity-building programme could be measured.

(v) The Evaluator responded that one possible indicator was whether the individuals who had received training remained in their positions and continued to apply the knowledge and skills acquired. However, the Evaluator acknowledged that measuring this was challenging.

(vi) NC emphasized that contributions were the most important aspect. NC noted the need to make the network more attractive by strengthening both its inputs and outputs. NC added that support could be mobilized from outside Participating Countries through the EANET Project Fund. As a next step, NC suggested developing strong indicators and seeking greater contributions from partners based on those indicators.

(vii) A country noted that the work of EANET was very crucial and suggested that impact assessment should be further examined through focused group discussions. Regarding outreach, it was emphasized that efforts should also target policymakers and serve as a stepping stone for other countries to rely on EANET and strengthen links with other networks.

(viii) NC emphasized that the linkage between policy and science under EANET was very important. NC asked whether any information could be shared on the status of contributions from scientific activities to policymaking in the Participating Countries based on the Review results.

(ix) The Evaluator responded that this specific aspect had not been examined as part of the Review.

(x) The Chair noted that the linkage between science and policymaking was addressed in the MTP 2026–2030 under Outcome 2 and emphasized that efforts to strengthen this linkage should be pursued through the current MTP.

(xi) A country noted that capacity-building was difficult to assess. It was further observed that many capacity-building activities depended on the Project Fund and therefore suggested developing a long-term capacity-building plan for EANET.

(xii) A country noted that, with regard to the TNT, assessing the efficiency of the programme was subjective and not straightforward. However, it was suggested that NC could subsequently liaise with Participating Countries and conduct annual follow-ups to determine whether the trainees remained in relevant positions.

(xiii) Republic of Korea noted that the TNT programme for the current year might include a more specific curriculum.

(xiv) NC explained that they were also co-organizing the TNT in partnership with the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) of the Republic of Korea and that the programme could be adjusted according to the trainees' level of expertise to make it more suitable and effective.

55. The Session acknowledged the Draft Terminal Review of EANET MTP (2021-2025) and made comments and recommendations from scientific and technical viewpoints for consideration at the IG28 of EANET.

XIV. Consideration of the Relevant Scientific Activities of the EANET [Agenda Item 13]

56. The Network Center presented Consideration of the Relevant Scientific Activities of the EANET (EANET/SAC26/13).

57. The key points of the presentations included:

- The presentation reported the progress of the EANET project on PM2.5 source identification and capacity enhancement in Southeast Asia (2026-06), highlighting a joint workshop held in June 2026 to exchange experiences on PM2.5 monitoring, chemical composition analysis, source apportionment, and policy applications in East Asian countries. Discussions emphasized the importance of integrating monitoring, satellite observations, and modeling; prioritizing major emission sources such as transportation and biomass burning; strengthening scientific evidence for policymaking; and enhancing regional cooperation and capacity building. The presentation also introduced hands-on technical training conducted in Cambodia and outlined the development of two technical documents on PM2.5 component measurement and source apportionment to support standardized methodologies and data quality management in the EANET region.

58. The Session was invited to make comments from scientific and technical viewpoints.

59. Major discussions included:

(i) A country asked whether a technical document would be drafted and if it would be considered by the Task Force.

(ii) NC confirmed that a technical document would be prepared and that the draft would be considered by the Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment of Atmospheric Environment (TFAE) members.

(iii) A Participating Country asked whether it would be possible for all Participating Countries to measure elemental and organic carbon.
(iv) NC responded that this could be considered in the future, as the situation differed across Participating Countries in terms of capacity and the availability of equipment.

60. The Session acknowledged the Consideration of the Relevant Scientific Activities of the EANET (EANET/SAC26/13) and provided comments, suggestions from the scientific and technical viewpoints.

XV. Presentation by Sri Lanka on Its Interest in Joining EANET [Agenda Item 14]

61. A Representative from Sri Lanka presented the Interested from Sri Lanka in Joining the EANET (**EANET/SAC26/14**).

62. The Session was invited to discuss and ask questions from scientific and technical viewpoints.

63. Major discussion included:
(i) NC asked about the air quality monitoring network in Sri Lanka and inquired whether atmospheric deposition monitoring were being implemented.
(ii) Sri Lanka responded that such measurements had not yet been initiated.

64. The Session acknowledged the Presentation by Sri Lanka.

XVI. Other Matters [Agenda Item 15]

65. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat and the Network Center, as well as the participants, to share announcements or updates, as part of agenda item 15: “Other matters”.

66. The key announcements included:
(i) The NC presented the strategy “Reframing of EANET Capacity Building” in line with the MTP 2026-2030.
(ii) The Secretariat was pleased to announce that Thailand’s Mahidol University has submitted a letter on 19 October expressing its interest in hosting SAC27 in Bangkok next year, in connection with the 80th anniversary of the Faculty of Public Health of Mahidol University.
(iii) Thailand’s Pollution Control Department, as the National Focal Point, welcomes this proposal and will work closely with Mahidol University in supporting the preparations of the next SAC27.

67. The Session was invited to make comments, suggestions, and share guidance and recommendations from the scientific and technical viewpoints to IG28.

68. Major discussions included:
(i) A country highlighted the importance of developing indicators to assess the effectiveness of EANET activities. It was suggested that the SAC could develop indicators and quantitative measures to better understand the impact of capacity-building activities. It was also mentioned whether fellows remained in the same roles after completing the training and emphasized the value of having clear indicators.
(ii) NC agreed that an evaluation strategy was very important to ensure that trainees could apply the knowledge and skills gained in their work. NC noted that the Work Programme and Budget

could be updated if a course was not applicable to Participating Countries' policies and that training courses should be tailored to the needs of the Participating Countries.

(iii) A country asked when this approach would be applied to the TNT training on PM2.5 and ozone and the NC responded that the strategy had already been applied from the current year under the MTP 2026–2030.

XVII. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Session [Agenda item 16]

69. The Secretariat presented the draft Recommendations from SAC26 to IG28 found in Annex 2 and the Report of the Session. The Chairperson invited participants to review the draft Recommendations from SAC26 to IG28 and the draft Report of the Session.

70. The Report of the Session (EANET/SAC26/16) was considered and **adopted**.

XVIII. Closing of the Session [Agenda Item 17]

71. The Session expressed its appreciation to the efforts made by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, and the Rapporteur in making the SAC26 Session fruitful and successful.

72. The Session was officially closed by the Chairperson, thanking all the participants for their valuable contributions.

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Annex 2

Recommendations from SAC26 to IG28

The Twenty-sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC26) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, from the scientific and technical viewpoints, recommends to the Twenty-eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG28) on the EANET the following:

I. **On the Activities of the Task Forces and Expert Groups under the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC),** the SAC26 recommends that IG28:
   a. Acknowledge the activities conducted by the TFAE, including the outcomes of the three meetings held during 2025-2026, and that SAC26 adopted the "*Strategy Paper on the Future Direction of Monitoring and Data Evaluation for Air Pollutants and Atmospheric Deposition in East Asia (2027-2032)*", which was developed by the TFAE.
   b. Acknowledge the activities conducted by the TFEE, including the outcomes of its 3rd meeting, and that SAC26 adopted the "*Strategy Paper for Future Direction of EANET on Monitoring of Effects on Agricultural Crops, Forest and Inland Water by Acidifying Species and Related Chemical Substances*", which had been updated by the TFEE for the new MTP (2026-2030).
   c. Acknowledge that TFAEM is planning to develop a new strategy paper to enhance the atmospheric environment quality management in East Asia so that complex atmospheric phenomena can be considered comprehensively including air pollution and climate change as the co-benefit approach.

II. **The SAC26 adopts the Data Report 2025 and the Report of the Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects 2025, with modifications** and recommends that IG28 endorse these Reports for publication.

III. **The SAC26 adopts the Fifth Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment in East Asia (PRSAE5), with modifications on a condition that the drafts are appropriately revised to address the comments from SAC members** and recommends that IG28 review and approve it for publication.

IV. **The SAC26 adopts the Technical Training Guidance for Ambient VOCs Monitoring under EANET** with necessary minor modifications and recommends that IG28 endorse it.

V. **On the 2027 Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET and Proposed Project Plans**, the SAC26 recommends that IG28:
   a. Consider and approve the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET Core Activities in 2027.
   b. Consider and approve the 10 EANET Proposed Project Plans in 2027, considering the allocation of sufficient funds and the discussions held at SAC26.