

The Fourth Session
of the Intergovernmental Meeting
on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network
in East Asia
28-29 November 2002, Bangkok, Thailand

REPORT OF THE SESSION

Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Fourth Session from 28-29 November 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the session. Representatives of Lao PDR and Myanmar attended the meeting as observers. Experts of the international organizations namely: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROAP), as well as the Chairperson of the Second Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of EANET attended the Session. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

Opening of the Meeting (agenda item 1)

3. The meeting was opened by the Secretariat for EANET. Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) delivered the opening address. Mr. Shrestha made a report on the progress of the institutional arrangements including recruitment of Secretariat staff. He also provided a brief on similar initiatives on transboundary air pollution in other sub-regions in Asia, such as regional environmental action plan of Central Asia, legal framework on transboundary haze in ASEAN, and Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its

Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia and the Asian Brown Clouds (ABC) study in Asia. He highlighted the commitments of UNEP in each programme and mentioned that EANET could extend its activities beyond acid deposition to other atmospheric issue in the future.

Election of Officers (agenda item 2)

4. Ms. Leong Chow Peng from Malaysia was elected as Chairperson, Mr. Gunardi from Indonesia as Vice-Chairperson, and Dr. Dzhumshid Dzhangirov from Russia as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 3)

5. The Session adopted the agenda as proposed by the Secretariat (EANET/IG 4/3/1).

Consideration of the Outcomes of SAC2 (agenda item 4)

6. Dr. Hiroshi Hara, Chairperson of the Second Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC2) presented the outcomes of SAC2 held from 25 to 27 November 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand.
7. No special comments were made on this topic.
8. The session took note with appreciation the Report of the Second Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (EANET/SAC 2/13).

Review of the progress of EANET activities (agenda item 5)

9. The Secretariat and the Network Center presented the progress of EANET since the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 19 to 20 November 2001.

10. Major discussions on this agenda item included the following:
- It was clarified that the names of laboratories in inter-laboratory comparison projects will be disclosed, based on the discussion at SAC2.
 - It was emphasized that the JICA Training Course on EANET had been particularly useful and the session requested the Government of Japan to make its utmost effort to continue the course for the coming years.

Consideration of Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (agenda item 6)

11. The Secretariat made a presentation on this agenda item with major focus on preliminary report on further financial arrangement for EANET (EANET/IG 4/6).
12. China informed the session, that the Government of China would voluntarily contribute to the budget of EANET starting from this year 2002 in the amount of US\$ 15,000 annually. The session expressed sincere gratitude to the announcement of China for the voluntary contribution to EANET.
13. Major discussions on this agenda items included the following:
- It is important for all countries to contribute to EANET budget. On the other hand, the problems faced by the participating countries need to be recognized and a practical solution on this topic needs to be worked out.
 - UN assessment scale with ceiling and floor was suggested as an additional option.
 - The following three principles were emphasized as guidelines in discussion on further financial arrangement for EANET, in particular for the upcoming Working Group meetings:

- voluntary participation and contribution;
 - step-wise approach;
 - transparency of the network.
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- Some countries informed their difficulty in providing cash contribution and requested special consideration for their specific situations.
 - Some countries specifically expressed their difficulties to provide cash contribution unless there is an international agreement and/or legal instrument on this topic and expressed their willingness to make in-kind contribution.
 - All the expenses relating to the network activities, including operational expenses for national monitoring should be presented. The secretariat was requested to provide such information to the next Working Group meeting.
 - The Secretariat was requested to send an official letter to the national focal points inviting comments on the document EANET/IG 4/6 and participating countries are requested to provide their comments by the end of February 2003.

Consideration of Future Development of EANET (agenda item 7)

14. The Secretariat presented the document on Future Development of EANET (EANET/IG 4/7).
15. The application of the Lao PDR to participate in EANET was considered and approved by the IG. The representative from Lao PDR expressed gratitude to IG on approval of the application. She requested the Secretariat to send an official letter to her government informing the decision by IG, so that the country could start necessary institutional arrangements to participate in EANET activities.

Consideration of Work Program and Budget in 2003 (agenda item 8)

16. The Secretariat and the Network Center made a presentation on the Draft Work Program and Budget in 2003 (EANET/IG 4/8).
17. Clarification was made on the budget and manpower of the Network Center.
18. Clarification was also made by the Secretariat that after the approval of the Work Program and Budget in 2003, the Secretariat will seek necessary financial resources.
19. Some countries expressed their interest to review the financial condition of preparing EANET meetings with a purpose to consider hosting one of the meetings.
20. The session adopted the Work Program and Budget in 2003 for EANET.

Other Issues (agenda item 9).

21. The IGES representative expressed his willingness for further collaboration with EANET. He proposed that consideration may be given for collaboration in capacity building, particularly in the area of e-learning.
22. With regard to the venue of the next EANET meetings, the Secretariat will liaise with the participating countries interested in hosting the meetings and inform the participating countries on the proposed venues and dates.

Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Session (agenda item 10)

23. The Session adopted this Report.

Closing of the Session

24. The Session was officially closed.

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