

The Third Session of the Working Group  
on Future Development of EANET  
17-18 May 2006, Pathumthani, Thailand

## **REPORT OF THE SESSION**

### **(Final)**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The Third Session of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD3) of Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was held in AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand on 17-18 May 2006.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam participated in the Session. The representatives of the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) for EANET, as well as expert from international organization, the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) also attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.
3. The Session was opened by the Secretariat. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan delivered an opening remarks.
4. The Session was chaired by Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Deputy Director General, Pollution Control Department, Thailand, and the current Chairperson of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET. The Meeting also elected Ms. Ella Deocadiz, Chief, Research and Development Division of the Environmental management Bureau (EMB), Philippines as a temporary Vice Chair of this Session in view of the fact that two Vice Chairs were not available for this Session.

#### **II. Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 2)**

5. The agenda was adopted as proposed by the Secretariat (EANET/WGFD 3/2/1).

#### **III. Consideration on the Revision of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (WGFD) including the schedule towards the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (Agenda Item 3)**

6. The Secretariat made a presentation on the revision of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) including the schedule towards the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) (EANET/WGFD 3/3 and EANET/WGFD 3/3/1). The Session was invited to discuss, make comments, consider and adopt TOR with modifications, if necessary for approval of the Eight Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8).
7. Major discussions included:
  - Paragraph 2 of the present TOR may need to be revised. In the future, tasks would be related more to the administrative aspects rather than scientific and technical aspects. Since it may be difficult to send same persons to so many WGFD sessions, National Focal Points (NFPs) should have some guidance on how to nominate participants to each WGFD session.
  - New TOR may be proposed rather than revising the present TOR, since some of the tasks under the present TOR have been completed and the others being completed within this year.
  - It was proposed to include capacity building and management issues into the new TOR.
  - It was also suggested that annually one scheduled meeting be held and additional meetings could be undertaken as appropriate after getting consensus among all National Focal Points, while some others suggested to organize more than one scheduled meeting.
  - Without modification of the present TOR, one additional session of WGFD will be convened in August 2006. The topics of the session will include:
    - i. Preparation of the report on ways in obtaining financial support from international funding agencies;
    - ii. Fundamental preparation of the appropriate instrument;
    - iii. Preparation of the time table of the WGFD for the year 2007-2008; and
    - iv. Consideration on the revised Five-Year Medium Term Plan (MTP) for EANET.
  - After the Session in August, one more session could be convened in 2006, if necessary
8. The WGFD Session in November 2005 should be recognized as the First Special Session of the Working Group on Future Development of EANET.
9. The present TOR will terminate at the end of the year 2006. The Session developed a draft new TOR for 2007-2008 based on the document of EANET/WGFD 3/3 as presented in Annex II of this document. There are some remaining issues such as the schedule of WGFD, to be discussed and finalized at the next session in August 2006 (Second Special Session), which are highlighted in the bracket.

**IV. Consideration on Components of the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET (preliminary draft) (Agenda Item 4)**

10. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Draft Components of the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET (EANET/WGFD 3/4 including “Text of the Components of the Instruments” and “Possible options for ensuring the sound basis for financial contribution to EANET”). The Session was invited to discuss and make comments on the draft report, and provide guidance as appropriate.
11. Major discussions included:
- It was clarified that the meaning of “elements” used in the Decision 1/IG7 and “components” in this document are identical.
  - Some countries expressed their preference for a framework-type instrument based on current EANET achievements with a possibility to develop additional instruments such as protocols on future development of EANET.
  - Some others preferred the framework/arrangement based on Tentative Design.
  - Some suggested that the instrument should be based on the original scope of EANET, taking account that major purpose of this work is to strengthen the sound financial basis of EANET, and that it takes time to discuss a framework instrument. Others expressed their views to keep the scope open.
  - It was proposed to discuss possible components to be included in the instrument, and get the idea on the contents of the instrument before discussion on the legal status of the instrument. Some countries suggested that decision should be made on the type of the instrument before defining components of the instrument.
  - Some countries noted that they need capacity building for negotiations on the instrument, including studies on other existing instruments. In this connection, the activity proposed by China for capacity building at IG7, to be included in the work program of 2006, should be considered and finalized as quickly as possible.
  - The in-country procedures for legally binding instruments may differ from country to country, depending on the contents of the instruments and specifics of national legislations.
  - It was suggested to invite experts outside the region to share their experiences, if necessary.
12. The Session requested the participating countries to submit their views and comments on the possible components to be included in the instruments, including those on the possible options for ensuring the sound basis for financial contributions to EANET, by Friday, 30 June 2006 to the Secretariat.

13. The Session requested the Secretariat to prepare a document to provide the present provisions on each item of the possible components in the existing framework of EANET, which will include the Joint Announcement on the Implementation of EANET, the Tentative Design of EANET and other relevant IG decisions, as the starting point for further discussions.

**V. Consideration on the Revised Draft Five-Year Medium Term Plan (MTP) for EANET and Relevant Budget Information for Its Implementation (Agenda Item 5)**

14. NC made a presentation on revised Draft Five-Year Medium Term Plan (MTP) for EANET (EANET/WGFD 3/5/1) as well as estimation of expected workload and costs, and possible financial sources (EANET/WGFD 3/5/2). The Session was invited to discuss and make comments on the draft and provide suggestions/guidance as appropriate.
15. Major discussions included:
- The opinion was expressed that more scientific researches are needed before actually preparing emission inventories and modeling because the actual implementation of these activities require a lot of tasks and cost. It was pointed out that text of IG is to promote the studies in these areas. In this regard, it was proposed to convert the tasks 22-24 into the research activities under the category (vi).
  - It was pointed out that task 30 may not require establishment of working group. In addition, it was noted at the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG7) that the word “sub-center” was inappropriate.
  - It was suggested that the tasks from 22-25 may not be appropriate to be included in the plan.
  - While some participating countries referred to the importance to secure the financial sources for implementing MTP, it was suggested that since many activities are on-going in participating countries, their outcomes could be used to reduce the expenses.
  - Medium term plans used in some UN agencies are often adopted without any specific financial sources. MTP of EANET also could be adopted for the purpose of fund raising and communication with donor agencies.
  - It was pointed out that activities of the new direction are based on additional budgets and largely depend on the future efforts of NC and the Secretariat to get financial support from funding agencies, therefore they are encouraged to make further efforts.
16. The participating countries were requested to send comments and recommendations by Monday, 19 June 2006 to NC. NC will revise the present MTP with compiled comments, taking into account what tasks and paragraphs need more discussions at the next session of WGFD.

**VI. Review of the RRC.AP/AIT system to examine the possibility for the Secretariat to move to the UN system and overview on the rules and regulations of the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) for NC, applicable to EANET (Agenda Item 6)**

17. The Secretariat made a presentation on the draft report on review of the RRC.AP/AIT system to examine the possibility for the Secretariat to move to the UN system (EANET/WGFD 3/6/1). NC provided information and explanations on the rules and regulations of the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) for NC, applicable to EANET (EANET/WGFD 3/6/2). The Session was invited to discuss, make comments and recommendations for further consideration.

18. The Session considered that more detailed information is needed on advantages and disadvantages to move to the UN system, including the following items:

- Summary of the previous discussions at IGs and WGFDs;
- Improvement in transparency of the network;
- Improvement in management of the network including issues related to administrative, financial and recruitment aspects;
- Comparison with other international experiences especially in Europe;
- Other possible options including mix of the two systems;

19. The Session requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft report for consideration at the next session in August 2006, taking into account the views and comments expressed at this Session which include:

- Information on the items presented in paragraph 15; and
- Draft recommendations on this topic.

**VII. Consideration on the Revision of Procedures and Guidelines for Contribution to EANET to propose appropriate mechanism on voluntary financial contributions for EANET (Agenda Item 7)**

20. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Revision of Procedures and Guidelines for Contribution to EANET to propose appropriate mechanism on voluntary financial contributions from participating countries (EANET/WGFD 3/7). The Session was invited to discuss, review the report and make comments, as appropriate for consideration at the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8).

21. Major discussions are as follows:

- Effort should be continued to narrow the gaps between budgets and actual expenditures.

- Some participating countries need a legal basis to provide contribution to EANET.
  - Many participating countries have difficulty with yearly fluctuation of their contributions and wished to have yearly flat amounts for their contribution for certain period (3-5 years).
  - Some countries expressed that the contributions on a voluntary basis should be based on the actual expenditures in previous years in accordance with the decision 1/IG5 and its subsequent modifications while some others expressed that they shall postpone their decisions until the gaps between the budget and actual expenditures are narrowed down.
  - In-kind contribution should be appreciated as well as cash contribution.
  - Guidelines may be developed to provide flexibility to the participating countries to make contribution, depending on their country conditions.
  - It was noted, with appreciation that Malaysia expressed their willingness to contribute from 2006 and Indonesia would make effort to contribute from 2008.
  - It was proposed to start considering method for making contributions to cover the core budget of NC after 2008, in this working group.
22. The Session requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft report for consideration at the next session in August 2006, taking into account the views and comments expressed at this Session.

#### **VIII. Consideration on the draft Report on Establishment of a Trust Fund for EANET (Agenda Item 8)**

23. The Secretariat made a presentation on the Draft Report on Establishment of a Trust Fund for EANET (EANET/WGFD 3/8). The Session was invited to discuss, review the report and make comments, as appropriate for consideration at IG8.
24. Major discussions included:
- It should be made clear that there are at least three options – to use existing operational account, to establish a new trust fund in AIT, to establish a new trust fund in UNEP (Nairobi). The differences among these options as well as advantages and disadvantages of these options should be included in the report.
  - Attention should also be paid to the transparency and accountability.
  - The Secretariat should modify the current operational account name in the report from AIT to the UNEP RRC.AP EANET.
  - Procedures to establish a new trust fund in AIT should be established, if necessary and presented to WGFD, taking into account the experiences of other trust funds in AIT.
  - Information on the experiences of other networks, especially NOWPAP and EMEP, should be provided to WGFD.

- It was clarified that UNEP RRC.AIT-based administration system could work with an UNEP trust fund in Nairobi. It should be clarified if a trust fund in AIT could be used for UN-based administration system.

25. The Session requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft report for consideration at the next session in August 2006, taking into account the views and comments expressed at this Session.

#### **IX. Other Issues**

26. NC introduced a new booklet, titled "Tropospheric Ozone, A Growing Threat" that NC compiled in cooperation with some Japanese experts including Dr. Akimoto, and distributed two copies to each participant.

27. Chinese delegation introduced the capacity building program with the contribution from Chinese government, which is to be included as part of the work program of 2006, to enhance the capacity of the participating countries of the network, especially the negotiation capacity. Based on the concept paper drafted by the Secretariat, China drafted the work program for the program as the in-kind contribution. The Secretariat and NC are requested to implement the program as soon as possible within this year.

28. It was proposed to give special consideration for supporting newly participating countries, not only for negotiation capacity but also for technical capacity.

29. NC made some announcement as follows:

- Monitoring data and inter-laboratory comparison data should be submitted to NC as soon as possible.
- NC asked participating countries to apply for fellowship in 2006.
- The Seventh Senior Technical Managers' Meeting (STM7) will be held in Yangon, Myanmar in early August.

30. The Session expressed its deepest appreciation to the Secretariat and NC for excellent preparation and support for this Session.

#### **X. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Session (Agenda Item 10)**

31. The Session considered and adopted the Report of the Session with modifications.

#### **XI. Closing of the Session (Agenda Item 11)**

32. The Session was closed by the Chairperson.

**Annex I**

**List of Participants**

*Participating Countries*

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Mr. Hang Dara  
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*Resource Persons*

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**Annex II**

**Terms of Reference  
for  
the Working Group on Future Development of EANET for 2007-2008  
(Draft)**

1. In line with the decision at the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG5) on Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held in Pattaya, Thailand, on 27-28 November 2003, the Working Group on Future Development of EANET (hereinafter referred to as the “Working Group”) is established on an ad hoc basis.
2. **[Upon the expiration of TOR (2004-2006) adopted by IG6, WGFD is directed by IG7 to be continued].**
3. The members of the Working Group shall be nominated by the National Focal Points of the participating countries (NFPs). NFPs shall nominate two participants for each session, taking into account the topic of the session. NFPs are recommended to consult with national members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in nominating their Working Group members for scientific and technical aspects.
4. One Chairperson and two Vice-chairs will be elected for two year term of the Working Group sessions.
5. The Working Group will, under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG):
  - (i) discuss an appropriate instrument and its legal status to provide a sound basis for financial contribution for EANET and report the results of the discussion to the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG10) for its consideration;
  - (ii) **[review the performance of the Secretariat and NC and submit the review report to IG];** and
  - (iii) carry out other tasks requested by IG **[including capacity building activities].**
6. The tentative schedule of the Working Group sessions is based on the document EANET/WGFD3/3 and will be developed at the next WGFD session in August 2006 are set as follows:
  - [ (i) **First Session: April – May 2007**
    - **Development of the text on the instrument**
    - **Drafting of the report for IG10 (index and abstracts of each chapter of the report/instrument itself)**

- (ii) **Second Session: June – August 2007**
  - **Preparation of the proposed text on the instrument and its legal status.**
  - **Preparation of the draft report for IG10**
  
- (iii) **Third Session: October 2007**
  - **Discussion on the documents which will be submitted to IG9 from WGFD**
  
- (iv) **Fourth Session: April – May 2008**
  - **Revision of the draft report for IG10**
  
- (v) **Fifth Session: June- August 2008**
  - **Consideration of the final draft report for IG10**
  
- (vi) **Sixth Session: October 2008**
  - **Discussion on the report which will be submitted to IG10 from WGFD]**

Depending on the requests of the IG, additional tasks may be included in the sessions specified, as appropriate.

7. The Working Group may establish sub-working group and/or hold ad-hoc meetings for specific areas considering that the items of TOR contains varied topics.