

The Fifth Session of the Working Group
on Future Development of EANET
12-14 September 2007, Pathumthani, Thailand

REPORT OF THE SESSION

I. Introduction

1. The Working Group on Future Development (WGFD) of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Fifth Session in Pathumthani, Thailand on 12-14 September 2007.
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 experts from the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and Kanazawa University also attended the Session. The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

II. Opening of the Meeting (Agenda Item 1)

3. The Session was opened by the Secretariat. Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan, Acting Coordinator of the Secretariat, delivered the opening remarks. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of increasing awareness on air pollution issues by highlighting recent findings on impacts of climate change, ozone, Atmospheric Brown Clouds and aerosols, especially health impacts of air pollution.

III. Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 2)

4. The Session adopted the Agenda (EANET/WGFD 5/2/1) as proposed by the Secretariat.

IV. Consideration on the Draft Text of the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET (Agenda Item 3)

5. The Secretariat made a presentation on the two versions of the Draft Text of the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET, a legally binding and a non-legally binding text (EANET/WGFD 5/3). The Session was invited to discuss, make comments on, and consider the draft texts and elements which should be contained in the report to the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG9) in November 2007.

6. Major discussion included:

- Brief explanation was provided to clarify the previous discussions in accordance with the Terms of Reference (TOR) of WGFD and guidance from the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG).
- It was pointed out that the starting point of the discussion was to address the difficulties of some participating countries to provide financial contribution to EANET activities. It was also pointed out that the objectives of the instrument cannot be just to provide financial basis for EANET.
- Some countries reiterated their needs for a legally binding instrument for their financial contributions. It was pointed out that a legally binding instrument would also strengthen the basis for national activities for acid deposition problems.
- Regarding the scope of the instrument,
 - One country, with the support from another country requested the Secretariat to prepare a text strictly following the Joint Announcement (JA) and the Tentative Design (TD) adopted at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG2) and other IG decisions.
 - One country pointed out that the instrument should have a room to accommodate future activities which will facilitate the air quality management in East Asia.
- The principles of the instrument (simple, flexible and open for the future) as agreed in the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) were reconfirmed. However, it became clear that there was different interpretation of these principles among the participating countries. China noted its interpretation of the principle "Being flexible and open for the future" is that the instrument itself should be flexible and the institutional arrangement of the EANET should be open for the future.
- It was encouraged for all participating countries to consult the draft instrument with their legal and diplomatic authorities. In this connection, it was requested to UNEP to continue sending its legal expert to WGFD meetings.
- Japan submitted its preliminary comments in a written form on the current version of draft texts with a view to further facilitating discussion among participating countries.
- One country proposed to simplify the financial article, while another insisted that the financial article should include more detailed provisions.
- One country pointed out that the instrument should not place undue financial burden on participating countries in accordance with the decision by the IG8. The Secretariat and NC were requested to clarify financial implications of the instrument in their core budget activities. It was noted that financial estimates depend on future planned activities which should be decided by the IG.

7. The Session agreed that the report to the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG9) should contain the following items:

- Two versions of the draft text (legally binding and non-legally binding) with brackets;

- Cost estimates of the core budget activities of the Secretariat and of NC, based on the current texts; and
 - Compilation of the comments on the draft text from the participating countries (including those to be submitted by the second week of October 2007).
8. Guidance required from the IG should include, among others:
- Scope of substances (regional air pollution, acid deposition, etc.);
 - Scope of activities (control and prevention, monitoring, etc.); and
 - Legal status of the instrument (legally binding or non-legally binding).

V. **Consideration of the Revised Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET (Agenda Item 4)**

9. The Secretariat and NC made presentations on the Revised Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET (EANET/WGFD 5/4). The Session was invited to discuss and make comments on the report for consideration and adoption at IG9.
10. Major discussions were as follows:
- One country mentioned that it is ready to make contribution to EANET.
 - In response to an inquiry from one country, the Secretariat agreed to explore the possibility of transferring the money to the local currency bank account for the Secretariat budget.
 - It was suggested that deadline should be indicated for the transfer of contribution to EANET. Further, it was clarified that each country may have different disbursement procedures, situations and conditions.
 - It was agreed that definition of “Additional Budget Activities” for NC be revised as follows:
 - The additional budget: The cost for strengthening the Network by providing technical assistance to the participating countries and by promoting further research activities and which are approved by the Intergovernmental Meeting.
 - With regard to the difference between the 2005 expenditures and budget under the item “Attendance to the EANET meetings” in NC Core budget activities, it was clarified that the expenditure also included the cost of organizing some EANET meetings in Niigata, Japan with direct additional financial contribution from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and other relevant organizations in Japan.
 - It was clarified that the increase of the budget of “Miscellaneous” in NC Core budget activities in 2009 and 2010 was in conjunction with the new activities such as preparation of the next medium-term plan which were described in the Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010) (EANET/IG 8/7/1 rev), and further elaborated in the document “Workload and Cost for Implementing the Strategy on EANET Development

(2006-2010)” (EANET/IG 8/7/2 rev).

11. The Session agreed to submit the proposals contained in the report Revised Procedures and Guidelines for Voluntary Financial Contributions to EANET (EANET/WGFD 5/4) including the proposal to start of voluntary financial contribution from the participating countries to the NC Core budget from 2008 for consideration and adoption at IG9.
12. Regarding the mode of voluntary financial contribution from the participating countries to NC Core budget, the Session agreed to submit the two options for consideration and approval of IG9 to transfer contribution: i) through the Secretariat AIT bank account or ii) directly to Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) bank account for NC.

VI. Consideration of Priority Projects for Submission to Potential Funding Agencies (Agenda Item 5)

13. NC made a presentation on the Priority Projects for Submission to Potential Funding Agencies (EANET/WGFD 5/5). The session was invited to discuss and make comments on the document.
14. The Session considered the concept papers on the four priority projects as follows:
 - Establishment of new monitoring sites to improve the capability for EANET monitoring in the participating countries;
 - Capacity Building Workshops for the policy makers of the participating countries of EANET;
 - Investigation on potential effects of acid deposition and oxidants/ozone on ecosystem including agriculture; and
 - Pilot project on emission inventories for interested participating countries.
15. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
 - It was agreed that the title of the concept paper on emission inventory pilot project will be changed to “Pilot Project on Emission Inventories for Interested Participating Countries”.
 - It was suggested by one country that the concept paper on “Capacity Building Workshops for Policy Makers of the Participating Countries” should focus on acid deposition issues rather than regional air pollution issues. However, some others pointed out that acquiring scientific knowledge on other regional air pollution issues is also important for capacity building as air pollution issues are inter-related.
 - As the number of countries interested in participating in the “Pilot Project on Emission Inventories for Interested Participating Countries” is not known at this stage, the number of countries should not be mentioned in the concept paper.

- It was suggested that the last line of paragraph 2 under the heading of Scope/Activities of the concept paper on “Pilot Project on Emission Inventories for Interested Participating Countries” should not mention the collection of relevant national activity data.
- It was informed that the revised concept papers will be circulated to the National Focal Points for their endorsement.
- It was requested that the detailed project proposal on “Establishment of New Monitoring Sites to Improve the Capability for EANET Monitoring in the Participating Countries” should mention the existing capacities in the countries concerned and willingness of the countries to make cash or in-kind contributions towards the establishment of the monitoring sites in their countries.

VII. Report on the Progress of EANET after the Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC6) and the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) and the Financial Reports in 2006 (Agenda Item 6)

16. The Secretariat and NC briefly made presentations on the report on the progress of EANET after the Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC6) and the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG8) (EANET/WGFD 5/6/1). The “Financial Report of the Secretariat and NC in 2006 (EANET/WGFD 5/6/2)” was also presented. The Session was invited to comment on the reports.
17. Discussions included the following major points:
 - One country strongly requested the Secretariat and NC to develop the list of countries which have made and have not made contributions to EANET according to the UN assessment scale-based burden sharing.
 - It was clarified that the current financial arrangement is on a voluntary basis; therefore it may not be appropriate to list the countries that have not made contributions at the present stage. The Session also agreed that the information on in-kind contribution, for instance hosting of meetings by any participating country, shall be included in the table.
 - It was agreed that title of Table 3 of the document EANET/WGFD 5/6/2 “Revenue of the Secretariat in 2006” be changed to “Contributions of the Participating Countries in 2006”.
 - Regarding the “Capacity Building Course on Future Development of EANET”, it was agreed to add an additional phrase “As suggested by China” at the beginning of the first sentence of paragraph 42 of the progress report.
 - It was agreed that the progress report should include an additional item on challenges encountered by EANET.
 - It was clarified that the high expenditure for “Attendance at the EANET meetings” as reported in the Expenditure of the Network Center in 2006 (Core Budget activities) included the cost for organizing the Third Session of the Working Group on Future

Development of EANET (WGFD3). It was agreed that “Attendance to the EANET Meetings” should be revised to “Attendance to the EANET Meetings (IG, SAC, WGFD etc.)”. In the future, costs related to organization of EANET meetings (except STM meeting) will be reported in a new item entitled “Organization of Meetings” under item “9. Other activities” in the Additional budget of NC.

VIII. Draft Work Program and Budget in 2008 for EANET (Agenda Item 7)

18. The Secretariat and NC presented the Draft Work Program and Budget in 2008 for EANET (EANET/WGFD 5/7). The Secretariat suggested that the words “new activities” of the Secretariat in the “Work Program and Budget of EANET in 2008” should be changed to “supporting activities”. The Session was invited to discuss the report and make comments for consideration at the IG9.
19. Major points of the discussion were as follows:
 - It was pointed out that high level segment may not be necessary at IG10. It was agreed that this issue will be discussed at IG9.
 - Regarding the invitation for the high level segment, it was suggested for the Secretariat to consult the National Focal Points (NFPs) to identify the appropriate persons to invite for this event.
 - It was clarified that the final version of the Strategy of EANET Development (2006-2010) (EANET/IG 8/7/1 rev) was included in the IG8 Proceedings. The three activities in paragraph 7 of the document EANET/WGFD 5/7 :“Discussion on promotion of modeling activities and emission inventories”, “Promotion of capacity building for model application on urban, national and regional scales” and “Establishment of the framework for reviewing substances to be monitored including other air pollutants and monitoring parameters” did not have asterisks.
 - It was agreed that Strategy on EANET Development (2006-2010) be printed separately.

IX Arrangements for the Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC7) and the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG9) (agenda Item 8)

20. The Secretariat presented the Report on Arrangements for SAC7 and IG9 (EANET/WGFD 5/8). The report included the proposed dates and venues, agenda items, and other arrangements for SAC7 and IG9.

21. Major discussions included:
- Regarding the first agenda item for IG9, it was agreed to change the title to “Consideration of the WGFD Progress Report on the Instrument to Provide a Sound Basis for Contribution to EANET”.

X. Other Issues (Agenda Item 9)

22. Russia provided the Secretariat and NC copies of the “Environmental Pollution in Russian Federation at the end of the XX Century and the Beginning of the XXI Century: Status and Tendencies”.
23. NC reported that the Secretariat did not have the budget to fund the Research Fellowship Program in 2007 as the regular budget of the Secretariat in 2007 did not include this activity. In 2005 and 2006 the Research Fellowship program was funded by savings of the Secretariat as approved by the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental meeting (IG6). As the Research Fellowship program is an important activity for enhancing capacity of scientific research, NC would submit a request to MOEJ to fund this activity directly, only for 2007. The Secretariat will circulate the proposal to amend the Work Program and Budget in 2007 for EANET to the NFPs for their endorsement.

XI. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Session (Agenda Item 10)

24. The Report of the Session (EANET/WGFD 5/10) was adopted.

XII. Closing of the Session (Agenda Item 11)

25. The Session was officially closed by the Chairperson.

Annex 1

List of Participants

Participating Countries

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