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EANET NEWSLETTER ACID DEPOSITION MONITORING NETWORK IN EAST ASIA



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Together We Can Beat Air Pollution!

EANE

2020 is a key year, marking the 20th anniversary of the EANET, to be celebrated in October in Niigata, Japan.

During these past 20 years, the EANET's main achievements have been the establishment of national monitoring sites, while making progress in addressing acid deposition and air pollution, fostering a regional acid deposition monitoring methodology and scientific exchange platform, linking 13 countries.

The fight against air pollution requires everyone's support. To maximize its contribution, the EANET prioritized activities in 2020 that give significant impact to a better air quality and acid deposition in the region.

Curious? Discover more inside!

EDITORIAL PAGE

By Tomi Haryadi Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET

The year 2020 is an essential year for EANET. It marks two decades of EANET's presence in the region. It is a significant moment for EANET to reflect how far the network has been progressing towards the achievements of its objectives.

The Fourth Report for Policy Makers of EANET (RPM4) titled "Towards Clean Air for Sustainable Future in East Asia through Collaborative Activities" was launched on the margins of the IG21 in Beijing, China, in November 2019. The report lists the achievements of EANET since the establishment of the network. One of the most significant achievements in two decades, of course, the fact that all participating countries have established and are operating national monitoring sites following the EANET technical manuals and guidelines. The participating countries have been submitting data regularly to the Network Center (NC) for regional assessment. In addition to that, the network has passed the knowledge of acid deposition and air pollution to other stakeholders through its capacity building activities.

At the same time, the participating countries have been showing various progress in addressing acid deposition and air pollution. Collectively, the Third Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia has been showing significant improvement in SO2 concentration in many urban sites in the Southeast Asia region since 2000. The report indicated that the improvements could have been linked to the pollution reduction policy applied in most cities in the region.

In addition to that, the report on the Proposed Ideas of the Participating Countries for the Next Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) mentioned the acknowledgment of the participating countries on excellent progress of EANET in acid deposition monitoring cooperation. EANET has fostered a regional acid deposition monitoring methodology and scientific exchange platform in recent years and contributed to solving acid deposition problems in East Asia gradually.

After two decades and considering the success of EANET in tackling the acid deposition problem, we are looking forward to seeing the potential role that EANET could do in the future. This role should be reflected in the next MTP for the EANET (2021-2025).



National Awareness Workshop in Myanmar



The Secretariat for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), in collaboration with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC), Myanmar organized the EANET National Awareness Workshop in Myanmar from 24-25 February 2020 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Union Ministers for the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Deputy Ministers for the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Permanent Secretaries for the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and, the Ministry of Education, Head of Departments. In addition, representatives from Secretariat for the EANET, Network Center, government officials, academicians, non-government organizations, and private sectors also attended the opening ceremony.

A total of 60 delegates and participants from different sectors, such as agriculture, industries, transport, forestry, health, and education, as well as policy makers attended the workshops. They consisted of representatives of government officials, civil society organizations, development agencies, universities, and private sectors. The two days' workshop aimed to facilitate sharing and learning platforms and to increase understanding of issues related to the prevention of air pollution and increase knowledge and understanding of workshop participants in managing air quality in their work.

In his Welcome Remarks, Mr. U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Ministry of Transport and Communications, mentioned that air pollution, especially in transboundary haze pollution, has become the most prominent and pressing environmental problem in the ASEAN region.

"In order to solve the pollution, we need to review the relevant national policies and legal framework, linking with existing and upcoming laws, policies and regulations to detect and monitor current on pollution sources constantly. It is also required for preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally through its monitoring and assessment activities linked to advanced technology," says the Minister.

The Minister mentioned the need to take response actions for climate change mitigation measures, awareness-raising to all relevant stakeholders, capacity building, and integrated approaches for national and international cooperation in implementing sustainable development of the environment. He believed that EANET activities are playing a critical role in providing a better understanding of the consequences of air pollution and acid deposition on human health and the natural environment.

During the workshop, the experts from EANET and invited participants made the presentations and discussion on the current status and development of acid deposition and air pollution monitoring activities in EANET member countries, effects of climate change on acid deposition and air pollution, group discussion on the current situation, challenges and effective implementation for mitigation of air pollution. The participants had the opportunity to discuss challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions on air pollutions and acid deposition problems from different sectors.

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21st Intergovernmental Meeting of EANET



EANET organized the 21st Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG21) on the EANET in Beijing, China, during 12-13 November 2019, attended by representatives of thirteen participating countries.

Representatives of the participating countries, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam attended the IG21. Besides the countries, representatives of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Secretariat and Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP), the Network Center (NC) for the EANET; Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology (RRC.AP/AIT) also participated in the Session by invitation. As the outcomes of the Session, the IG21 endorsed progress activities of EANET in 2019, as well as approved work programme and budget in 2020, and provided guidance and consideration on the future direction of EANET in tackling acid deposition and air pollution issues in this region.

In that occasion, the Vice Minister Zhao Yingming, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People's Republic of China, delivered the opening remarks. He welcomed all representatives of the participating countries. He mentioned that China has been focusing on the solution of air pollution, including acid deposition, as a priority area for improving people's livelihood.





Awareness Forum on Prevention of Air Pollution in Asia Pacific: Together, we can beat air pollution!

EANET, together with partner organizations and initiatives, successfully organized the Awareness Forum on Prevention of Air Pollution in Asia Pacific from 25 to 27 June 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. More than 130 participants from 16 countries, including representatives of government officials, civil society organizations, academicians, international organizations, and private sectors, participated in this sharing and learning event.

The two-day forum highlighted that air pollution is currently one of the top priority concerns at the regional and global level, which proved that no single country could solve this problem alone. It requires collaboration from all stakeholders to take action in making significant impacts.

EANET organized the forum as a two-day Forum and one day Site Visit to Automotive Emission Laboratory of Pollution Control Department, Thailand, and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. It provided an opportunity for countries to share experience and at the same time, to gain specific content information that can strengthen their capacity.

The forum was the avenue to discuss various aspects of the prevention of air pollution.



It included the current status of air pollution, forecasting air pollution based on air quality monitoring program, designing air pollution program that gives significant impacts and designing awareness raising of air pollution programs, as well as potential efforts in strengthening partnership amongst stakeholders.

To support Thailand in tackling air pollution problems, Thailand Air Pollution Session was organized on the margins of Regional Forum on Prevention of Air Pollution in Asia Pacific on 25 June 2019. Seventy Thailand provincial officers attended this event. The Thailand Air Pollution Session highlighted the issue of the prevention of air pollution in the national/provincial context. Learning from other countries' experiences, a few representatives of EANET participating countries shared their experience in tackling air pollution problems at the city or provincial level.







EANET National Awareness Workshop in Malaysia

The Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), Malaysia, and the Secretariat for the EANET organized the National Awareness Workshop in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 26 to 28 November 2019. EANET organized the workshop to facilitate sharing and learning platforms and to increase understanding of issues related to the prevention of acid deposition and air pollution that contribute to the achievement of EANET objectives.

More than 100 national participants from government officials, academicians, non-government organizations, and private sectors attended the workshop. The workshop encouraged the participants to disseminate knowledge and information towards their peers or other potential groups.

In her Opening Remarks during the Opening Ceremony, Ms. Noorsham Binti Abdul Latip, Senior Undersecretary, MESTECC, emphasized the importance of international cooperation for the solution in tackling acid deposition problems.

The workshop provided information about EANET and activities as well as specific information about the impact of air pollution on health. The workshop also highlighted other air quality related issues, such as e-mobility and early warning systems of air pollution.





19th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of EANET

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of EANET held its 19th Session (SAC19) from 8-10 October 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) for the EANET organized the Session in collaboration with the General Directorate of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia. The SAC members from 13 participating countries attended the meeting.

The Session acknowledged the following reports, among others: Report on the Progress of the EANET since the Eighteenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC18) and the Financial Report of the Secretariat and the NC in 2018. The Session also adopted the following reports, among others: EANET Data Report 2018; Report on Inter-laboratory Comparison Projects 2018.

The Session discussed and made suggestions/ recommendations on the following reports, among others: Updated National Monitoring Plans of the Participating Countries; Progress Report on the Activities of the Task Force on Monitoring for Dry Deposition; Progress Report on the Activities of the Task Force on Soil and Vegetation Monitoring; Consideration of the Establishment of the Drafting Committee (DC) of the Fourth Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD4); Consideration of the Proposed Ideas of the Participating Countries for the Next Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) from the scientific and technical viewpoints; Consideration of the EANET Science Bulletin (Vol.5); Consideration of the Report of Progress on the Cooperation with World Meteorological Organization, Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO/GAW); Consideration of the Draft Work Programme and Budget of the EANET in 2020 from scientific and technical viewpoints.

The Session was updated on the Relevant Scientific Activities on the progress of Preparation of Acid Rain 2020 and Clean Air Week; Joint Research Activities on Model Inter-Comparison Study in Asia (MICS-Asia); and Preparation of EANET National Awareness Workshop in Malaysia.



Working Group Meeting on Preparation of Development of the MTP for EANET (2021-2025)

The Secretariat for the EANET organized the Working Group Meeting on Preparation of Development for the next Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021-2025) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 to 21 August 2019. The meeting was attended by the National Focal Points of EANET or representatives from 13 participating countries.

The meeting served as the avenue to collect ideas and suggestions from countries on the needs as well as on activities to be included in the next Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET, which will be started in 2021. The process of development of the MTP will continue in 2020 and to be finalized and approved at the 22nd Intergovernmental (IG) Meeting (IG22) on the EANET towards the end of 2020.

In order to allow the participating countries to provide ideas to be included in the development of the next Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025), the Secretariat organized the Working Group Meeting on Preparation of Development of the Medium Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025). Thailand. Representatives of the participating countries, namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam (except for Philippines and Republic of Korea) participated in the meeting. Representatives of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Asia and the Pacific Office; the Secretariat and the Network Center (NC) for the EANET: Periodal Resource Center for Asia and the Report on the Implementation of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2016-2020); Ideas of participating countries for the Next MTP for the EANET (2021-2025); Small Group Thematic Discussion, Report from Small-Group Thematic Discussion and Wrap-Up, and Next Steps.

Through the discussion above, the draft document "Proposed Ideas of the Participating Countries for the Next Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET" was developed for further comments from the participating countries as well as the Report of the Meeting. For the promotion of the discussion at the Sessions of the SAC19 and IG21, the Synthesis Report on Proposed Ideas of Participating countries for the Next MTP (2021-2025) for the EANET summarizing all proposed ideas of the participating countries has been prepared.

In order to discuss future potential collaboration with the EANET, following relevant international organizations also attended and presented their ideas of future potential collaboration, among others: Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP); Secretariat for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP); Secretariat for Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration); Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC); Integrated Program for Better Air Quality (IBAQ), Clean Air Asia (CAA); North-East Asia

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