

Chairperson's Summary  
The First Expert Meeting on Design of Regional Network,  
Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in Northeast Asia  
17-19 August 2005, Tsukuba, Japan

1. The meeting was hosted by Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Asian Development Bank and United Nations Environmental Programme (participants list is attached.)
2. Concept paper prepared based on the master plan by ADB was presented and generally accepted by the participants of the Meeting. The structure of the institutional arrangement was also discussed. Especially the necessity of the steering committee and a technical committee as an advisory body (the expert network as noted in the TEMM+1 meeting last year) to provide technical and scientific research inputs and guidance was emphasized.
3. There were the presentations of country reports from the representatives of participating countries. General findings of the recent ADB-UNEP joint fact finding mission to PRC and Mongolia were also presented. The fact finding mission noted that the data sharing mechanism discussed in regional master plan is technically feasible given the existing communication capacity. The mission also highlighted the proposal received for a study on financing of the operational cost of the network among the parties.
4. The UNEP presented the draft outline of operational manual mainly focused on the technical part. The draft was found useful and relevant as a starting point for development. The meeting emphasized the importance of data sharing as one of the basic functions of the network. Especially, they highlighted the importance of detailed technical aspects of the network cooperation which need to be discussed further. The participants were requested to submit their additional comments on the draft outline by the end of August for consideration.
5. The plan of formation of consultants and experts was presented. It was pointed that the experienced LIDAR expert and the expert of demand side of data (e.g. modeling and forecasting) are necessary to be included in the domestic consultant team. It was also noted that experienced experts in actual monitoring would be suitable, especially in terms of QA/QC. The utilization of the other existing networks' expertise (e.g. EANET) was suggested for possible consideration.
6. Participants agreed that the training of operators for capacity building is essential for monitoring and data sharing. The trained operators should continue their duties as long as possible. The exchange of good experiences under the on-going project (i.e. JICA TA in Mongolia) should be accelerated in order to use the planned monitoring equipment for the training of operators, desirably, in the beginning of next DSS season from the spring of 2006. The meeting noted that both hardware and software need to be considered in the context of capacity building and in consistent with the master plan and country practice. The need for basic operational training for Mongolian operators was highlighted. Mongolia would provide a recommendation for a suitable institute to organize the national training programme.
7. It was emphasized by ADB that consultant engagement and equipment procurement to be financed by ADB/GEF under the project will need to follow ADB guidelines. Proactive action for custom clearance is suggested for import of equipment. Indicative procurement plans are expected from PRC and Mongolia before 10 September.

8. There are several bilateral assistance initiatives on going / under discussion. There is a need to strengthen the coordination among donor/implementation agencies to avoid duplication of installation of monitoring equipment and to improve the efficiency. While recognizing the difference between bilateral cooperation and multilateral network, several participants expressed their willingness to discuss multilateral framework for data sharing, as those agreed in various bilateral projects.