

NORTH EAST ASIAN CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DATA AND TRAINING

Expert Group Meeting on Capacity Building and Data Intercomparability for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring in North East Asia

24-26 April 2002

Incheon, Republic of Korea

Recommendations and Conclusions

The Expert Group Meeting on Capacity Building and Data Intercomparability for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring in North East Asia was held from 24 to 26 April 2002, Incheon, Republic of Korea. The Meeting formulated the following conclusions and recommendations for the future development of capacity building and data intercomparability for ambient air quality monitoring in the countries of North-East Asia.

1. The Meeting noted that the NEACEDT Workplan, including the both short-term and long-term activities, had been established by January 2002 after circulation among the participating countries. With the view of its efficient and steady implementation being an urgent concern, it was emphasized that the NEACEDT should primarily concentrate on implementing the short-term activities, which were earlier agreed upon by the Meetings of Senior Officials, and demonstrating concrete outcome of these activities. The Meeting recommended that NFPs should continue playing a primary role in coordinating the implementation among participating countries.
2. The Meeting acknowledged the steady progress in the data collection activity by NEACEDT. It was recognized that data collection should be further pursued by the Centre taking into consideration differentiated situation on data availability in each participating country and its readiness to participate in the data collection activity. It was also pointed out that data collection itself is not a goal, but merely a step to enable subsequent activities of data comparability analyses by NEACEDT. In this context, the Centre was requested to put more emphasis on delivering value-added outputs from data collection, in particular, in terms of comparative analysis of air quality data from different countries, that should feed back tangible benefits to participating countries.
3. Based on the presentations made by representatives of four participating countries, views were exchanged on the preliminary assessment on the intercomparability of air quality data from those countries. The Meeting welcomed the Centre's offer to develop a report on more comprehensive assessment on the intercomparability of air quality data, for possible NEACEDT publication, of

which draft would be circulated among participating countries for review and additional inputs. The report would include, among others, identification of both common and differentiated components of the air quality standards in participating countries.

4. As for capacity building on ambient air quality monitoring in North East Asia, it was suggested that an on-site assessment workshop would possibly be organized in China in 2002 -2003. The Meeting encouraged the Chinese NFP, NEACEDT and ESCAP to continue communication to define modalities to organize this event.
5. The Meeting recognized the importance of NEACEDT function to collect and disseminate information on training opportunities in the field of air quality monitoring and data management in North East Asia. NEACEDT was requested to communicate with NFPs for requesting information on existing training opportunities in the respective countries.
6. Among the components for NEACEDT's long-term activities, the Meeting noted the presentation of preliminary concepts being developed by NEACEDT experts covering inter alia the following components:
 - a) Application of Web/GIS-based technology for analyzing air quality and microclimate data
 - b) Long-term on-the-job training for experts from participating countries

The meeting noted that these subjects were important and relevant, and requested NEACEDT to continue elaborating the proposal of future NEACEDT activities in these areas in close consultation with NFPs and to include it in the forthcoming report on its preparation for the long-term activities.

7. The Meeting recommended that the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation in the NEACEDT activities should be further encouraged.
8. The Meeting recommended that the Eighth Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-east Asia, to be held in Ulaanbaatar, in June 2002, should further consider the use of the Core Fund and enable its disbursement to the project implementation, including the conduct of future NEACEDT activities.
9. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the National Institute of Environmental Research, Republic of Korea for its support to the organization of this Expert Group Meeting.
