

Adoption of the ICM Concept for Management of Coastal Areas in Singapore

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There is little dispute that increased integration among stakeholders will lead to more effective management of coastal areas. As early as the mid-1980s, work by academics from the National University of Singapore was done to champion Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in Singapore under the auspices of the ASEAN-US Coastal Resources Management Project, culminating in several substantive publications. Explicit adoption of ICM did not appear to follow, even though projects like the cleaning up of the Singapore River demonstrated many basic components of an ICM approach. The ICM concept is not new, having been first developed in the 1960s. However, there are often misconceptions about what ICM is, and what it is not. Lessons learnt in the lead-up to ICM adoption in Singapore will be shared – these lessons in fact illustrate application of some of the key approaches of ICM.

