Chinese Experience in the Reduction of Pollution in the Rivers and Coastal Zones using ICARM Approaches

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The Chinese marine parts in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) mainly refer to the Yellow Sea, which is influenced by six rivers. The sea water quality standards are used to evaluate water quality of China seas. Based on the sea water quality standard, water quality are divided into four categories - Grade I is the best as marine fisheries water. In 2008, the percentages of Grade I and II of the Yellow Sea was 92.6%, 7.4% higher than that of 2007. Two kinds of sea pollution were identified based on the pollution sources – direct discharged pollution, and land-based pollution, which is brought by rivers into the sea. It was established that the latter had greater influence on sea pollution. In the past two years (2007-2008), among the six rivers influencing the Yellow Sea, the water quality of Yangzi River was good. However, Songhua River was lightly polluted, Yellow River, Huai River and Liao River were moderately polluted, and Haihe River was heavily polluted.

The main target of Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) in China is to control land-based pollution. In 2007, the State Council promulgated the "China National Environmental Protection Plan in the Eleventh Five-years (2006-2010)". In order to reduce sea pollution, the plan definitely proposed five targets. These targets include: 1) reducing amounts of land-based pollution, 2) quickening the steps of important sea environmental protection, 3) protecting the sea from port and watercrafts pollution, 4) strengthening marine ecology environmental protection the establishment, including establishment marine conservation areas and 5) avoiding sea environmental disasters. Since 2007, all the related national ministries, provincial governments and municipalities have actively done much work to improve local sea environmental protection. This presentation will introduce three achievements about land-based

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pollution control and ecology conservation constructions, fishery ecology environmental management and watercrafts environmental management.

At the same time, many programs about river-pollution control have been undertaken. The State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) promulgated the "Songhua River Water Pollution Prevention Plan (2006-2010)" and the "Huai River, Liao River, Chao Lake, Dianchi Lake, Upper and Middle Reaches of the Yellow River Water Pollution Prevention Plan". The targets of these two plans are as follows: before 2010, key industrial enterprises will be able to meet pollutant emission standards; the capacity of the municipal wastewater treatment system can be evidently improved; the total quantity of sewage can be effectively controlled; and the capability of environmental supervision and emergency monitoring can be distinctively enhanced. Related provincial Government, autonomous regions and municipalities are responsible to implement these two plans.

In conclusion, the keystone to protect sea water is to control land-based pollution. The effective control of land pollution sources is not only a national concern, but a local concern as well, especially since local governments play more important roles in environmental protection. It is also essential to provide adequate focus on training and public awareness for environmental protection workers.