

## EAS Congress Updates

### President Arroyo Keynotes EAS Congress 2009 Ministerial Forum

**Manila, Philippines** – Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the Keynote Speaker at the opening ceremony of the Third Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009, slated for 26 November in Manila, Philippines.

Over 1,200 participants have registered for the upcoming Congress and are expected to attend the opening of the Ministerial Forum.

A highlight of the EAS Congress 2009, the Ministerial Forum is anchored on the theme "Adaptation to Climate Change through Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management." It focuses on scaling up integrated coastal and ocean management programs at the national and local government levels to enhance social, economic and ecosystem resiliency through adaptation initiatives, including strategies and targets to assist the region's coastal areas, habitats and sectors most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The Ministerial Forum will include reports and updates from the PEMSEA participating countries on their respective actions in line with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). The SDS-SEA provides a framework and various strategies for achieving the goals of key international agreements and plans related to sustainable development and management of coasts, islands and oceans.

Aside from the Ministerial Forum, the EAS Congress 2009 will also feature the International Conference on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development and the Exhibition on Good Practices and Innovative Technologies. Other side events and meetings lined up are the Second EAS Youth Forum, the Corporate Social Responsibility Forum for Coastal and Marine Areas and the Sustainable Development of Manila Bay, and the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) Meeting.

First held in Putrajaya, Malaysia in 2003 and later in Haikou City, People's Republic of China in 2006, the EAS Congress is considered to be a major and crucial coastal and ocean-related event that brings together national policymakers, local governments, environmental and natural resource managers, business communities, academics, NGOs and grassroots organizations. It is described as an intellectual hub for dialogues, knowledge sharing, capacity building, strategic action and partnership building.



The Third Ministerial Forum of the EAS Congress 2009 will be hosted by the Government of the Philippines and co-organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and PEMSEA. It is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

For more information, contact the EAS Congress Secretariat at [congress@pemsea.org](mailto:congress@pemsea.org) or visit [www.pemsea.org/eascongress](http://www.pemsea.org/eascongress).

# The East Asian Seas Congress 2009: Eye on Partnerships and Action on the Ground

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**Manila, Philippines** – The East Asian seas are home to six large marine ecosystems, covering an estimated 30 percent of the entire world's coral reefs and comprising 80 percent of its aquaculture. At the same time, the pressure of escalating coastal populations and rapid economic development are seriously depleting the ecosystem's capacity to sustain productivity levels.

There is an urgent call to collaborative and cooperative action to address these pressing issues. Thankfully, the call is not falling on deaf ears.

The East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress is a triennial regional event that serves as a platform in identifying and addressing the region's existing and emerging issues on coastal and ocean resources and the environment. The Congress gathers representatives from governments, UN agencies, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, industry, academia and the youth, to dialogue, exchange knowledge and forge alliances in line with the sustainable development of marine and coastal areas and resources of the region.

Coming to Manila, Philippines this November, the EAS Congress 2009 is anchored on the theme "Partnerships at Work: Local Implementation and Good Practices." The event will focus on how interregional, interagency and multisectoral partnerships contribute to attaining environmental targets through initiatives undertaken on the ground. It will also look into issues confronting local governments, communities and other stakeholders.

The first Congress was held in Malaysia in 2003, wherein the Putrajaya Declaration was duly signed by 12 Ministers from the region, and from which the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) was adopted. The SDS-SEA is the region's first instrument representing a common platform for regional cooperation in addressing transboundary issues, and is a framework for policy and program development and implementation at the national and local levels.

The 2006 Congress, held in the People's Republic of China, witnessed the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement of the 11-Country Partners and the Partnership Operating Arrangements of 12 non-Country Partners of PEMSEA. These provide for both government and nongovernment stakeholders to stand as Partners and serve as complements of each other in the SDS-SEA implementation initiatives, with the overall goal of catalyzing the sustainable development of large marine ecosystems of East Asia.

Picking up from these achievements, the 2009 Congress will review and evaluate the implementation of the SDS-SEA and will look further into assessing the achievements and challenges that remain, by mapping out future actions to ensure steady advancement. Of significance to the Congress will be the discussion and endorsement of an action agenda for scaling up integrated coastal management (ICM) programs as an on-the-ground approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly at the local level.

Invited to deliver keynote addresses during the opening of the 2009 Congress gatherings are Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos, for the Third Ministerial Forum and the International Conference on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development, respectively. Other special activities and meetings include the Second EAS Youth Forum, the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development Meeting, the Exhibition on Good Practices and

Innovative Technologies, the Corporate Social Responsibility Forum for Coastal and Marine Areas and the Sustainable Development of Manila Bay, and the PEMSEA Partners' Recognition and Awards Ceremony and Partnership Night. Various field visits to coastal projects and sites will also be available.

More than a thousand participants are expected to attend the regional event, including participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Representatives from more than 20 countries outside of the region are also expected to attend.

The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 will take place from November 23 to 27 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila, the Philippines. It is hosted by the Philippine Government and co-organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and PEMSEA, and supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

To learn more about the East Asian Seas Congress 2009, contact the Secretariat at [congress@pemsea.org](mailto:congress@pemsea.org) or visit [www.pemsea.org/eascongress](http://www.pemsea.org/eascongress).

# EAS Congress 2009 Special Events and Meetings

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The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 kicks off in Manila this November, with a line-up of special events and meetings set to take place simultaneously with the Third Ministerial Forum and International Conference, the event's main highlights.

## **Second EAS Youth Forum (YF2) (November 23 to 26)**

YF2 is targeted at and designed for the young environmental enthusiasts of the region. It aims to provide a hub for learning more about pressing issues in the marine and coastal environment, strengthening the participants' role in addressing these issues and providing practical skills that are applicable at the community level. Carrying the theme "Youth, Oceans and Climate Change," the Forum promotes awareness on the potential impacts of climate change and how the youth can actively participate in addressing this pressing concern.

## **PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG) Meeting (November 19 to 21)**

This Meeting aims to gather PNLG members in a common setting that allows for learning and mentoring, facilitation of information exchange and practical experiences, skills and management expertise, and promotion of LGU networking with donors, the private sector and other relevant agencies and stakeholders.

## **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Forum for the Coastal and Marine Area and the Sustainable Development of Manila Bay (November 25)**

Positioned to be a venue for the corporate sector to highlight, review and evaluate its contribution to the coastal and marine environment, this Forum will also open the opportunity for new initiates in support of rehabilitation of Manila Bay and the implementation of the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy, a roadmap for the sustainable development of the Bay area.

## **Workshops on Meeting Human Resource Requirements in Coastal and Ocean Governance: Formal and Informal Training (November 26)**

The workshop will follow up on the topics covered in the Discussion Group Meeting on Capacity Development on Coastal and Ocean Governance, held in the EAS Congress 2006. Focus will be on initiatives taken in line with capacity development in the region. Some topics to be covered are efforts to maximize regional intellectual capital towards coastal and ocean development, short-term informal training programs, contribution of regional and international initiatives in the promotion of capacity development, and human resource requirements of the region and available services.

The workshop will review the outcome of a training needs assessment survey conducted by PEMSEA as well as the possible development of an ICM post-graduate curriculum.

## **Partnership Night (November 27)**

This evening of celebration and recognition will give honor to the efforts made by participants in the government and non-government sectors, the Congress co-convenors, collaborators and sponsors, with the objective of strengthening ties among countries and non-country entity partnerships for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

## **SEAnergies: Exhibition on Innovative Technologies and Good Practices (November 23 to 26)**

The Exhibition will showcase innovative environmental technologies, approaches and good practices that promote sustainable development of marine and coastal areas. It will also feature interactive sessions of various Conference workshops. Selected exhibit displays will be used for interactive presentations and discussions.

### **Meeting of Partner Organizations**

The EAS Congress 2009 will allot rooms and timeslots for Partners who plan to conduct side meetings in line with the sustainable development of the East Asian Seas.

### **Field Visits**

Field visits to coastal communities and sites will be available to all Congress participants.

Started in 2003 and held every three years thereafter, the East Asian Seas Congress aims to bring together the region's policymakers, environmental and natural resource managers, business communities, academics, NGOs, local and grassroots organizations for knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, strategic action and cooperation and dialogue on trends, issues and concerns related to coastal and ocean governance.

For more information on the EAS Congress, contact the Secretariat at [congress@pemsea.org](mailto:congress@pemsea.org) or visit [www.pemsea.org/eascongress](http://www.pemsea.org/eascongress).

# EAS Congress 2009 Workshop Series: Coastal and Ocean Governance

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The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 will be holding a series of workshops on the theme "Coastal and Ocean Governance," from November 23 to 25 in Manila.

The seven workshops, each taking on an individual sub-topic, belong to the first of six major Conference themes to be taken up in the triennial regional event. All themes cover essential aspects of sustainable coastal and ocean development.

"Coastal and Ocean Governance" will underscore the importance of coasts and oceans as life-support systems while covering central- and local- level initiatives related to the development and implementation of ocean and coastal governance and the economic contribution of marine activities in East Asia.

The series will take up various transboundary environmental issues and ocean and coastal sciences, including scientific education and how it is utilized to improve efficiency. The series will also serve as a venue to discuss programs that adopt an ecosystem-based approach and land and sea-use zoning strategies in preventing and managing natural disasters brought about by climate change.

Keynote speaker to the Theme 1 workshop series is Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador-at-Large and Chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies and the National Heritage Board, Tommy Koh.

Professor Koh holds a First Class Honors degree in Law from the University of Singapore, a Master's degree in Law from the Harvard University in the USA and a post-graduate Diploma in Criminology from the Cambridge University, the UK. He received the UNEP Champion of the Earth Award and the inaugural "President's Award for the Environment" in 2006, and was President of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea from 1980 to 1982. He served as Chairman to the Preparatory Committee for the Main Committee of the UN Conference on Environment and Development from 1990 to 1992.

## **Workshop 1: Coastal / Ocean Policy and Legislation: Implementation and New Initiatives**

Underscoring the importance of protecting coasts and oceans as life-support systems, the workshop will look into practical initiatives in developing and implementing ocean and coastal governance, lessons learned and future related actions.

## **Workshop 2: Contributions of Marine Economic Sectors to Regional and National GDP in an Uncertain Climate**

The workshop aims to identify the current initiatives and outcomes in assessing marine economic sectors contributions to regional and national GDPs, share policies and strategies that strengthen marine economic sectors during environmental externalities, and designate potential areas of collaboration in mainstreaming mitigation and adaptation measures into coastal and ocean development programs.

### **Workshop 3: The Continental Shelf: Post-May 2009 Perspectives**

Country submissions on an extended continental shelf as of May 2009 will be discussed and shared, including potential cooperative arrangements and opportunities in shared marine areas.

### **Workshop 4: Addressing Transboundary Issues through Regional / Sub-regional Seas Cooperation: Initiatives in East Asia**

The workshop will be a venue to discuss various transboundary environmental issues and their implementing mechanisms, particularly on governance, and aims to identify good practices and areas of collaboration among the stakeholders involved.

### **Workshop 5: The Science in Ecosystem-based Management**

A highlight of the workshop will be the utilization of the various ocean and coastal sciences, including scientific education, to improve ocean and coastal governance efficiency. The workshop will also demonstrate how ecosystem-based programs have contributed to interdisciplinary research promotion.

### **Workshop 6: Land and Sea-use Zoning: Challenges and Opportunities**

Recognizing the significance of land and sea-use zoning as a strategy in preventing and managing natural disasters caused by climate change and in the promotion of sustainable use of coastal and marine areas and resources, the workshop will be a venue for sharing ideas and strategies on how existing zoning plans can be strengthened, enforced and implemented at the local level.

### **Workshop 7: Mainstreaming of Marine and Coastal Issues into National Planning and Budgetary Processes: Sharing of Cross-regional Experiences**

The workshop will focus on policy development while exploring links between the management of coastal and marine resources, and poverty reduction and economic growth. Invited guests from Asia, Africa and the Wider Caribbean will present how the conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems contributes to poverty alleviation and the achievement of the MDGs. Also, countries that have embarked on the development of a coherent policy framework to address these challenges will share their experiences.

Legislators, policymakers, NGOs, the academe, the private sector and the UN and other international organizations are invited to participate in these workshops.

The EAS Congress 2009 is hosted by the Government of the Philippines and co-organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and PEMSEA. It is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Coastal Management Center (CMC).

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# **EAS Congress 2009 Workshop Series: Natural and Manmade Hazard Prevention and Management**

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The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 will be holding a series of workshops on the theme "Natural and Manmade Hazard Prevention and Management," on 23 to 25 November in Manila, Philippines.

The four workshops, each taking on an individual sub-topic, belong to the second of six major Conference themes to be taken up in the triennial regional event. All themes cover essential aspects of sustainable coastal and ocean development.

## **Workshop 1: Natural and Hazard Prevention and Management**

The workshop will tackle the major issues currently faced by East Asian countries in line with preparedness, response and cooperation in combating oil and chemical pollution. Emphasis will be given to pollution response in East Asia's high-risk areas, issues on regional government industry cooperation for spill response; lessons learned and good practices; integration of regional, national and local stakeholders for spill preparedness and response; and recent developments in Claims and Compensation for Oil Spills.

## **Workshop 2: Meeting Challenges of Climate Change at the Local Level through ICM**

Focusing on the local government-level, the workshop will outline the various challenges posed by climate change and illustrate the application of the ICM framework and process in facing such challenges. Recommendations for furthering the ICM implementation will be developed, taking into consideration the climate change threats and necessary adaptation measures.

## **Workshop 3: Impacts of Climate Change at the Coastal and Ocean Areas of the East Asian Seas Region**

The workshop aims to understand the types, level and severity of the adverse social and economic impacts of climate change. Open discussion will occur among various sectors including tourism, fisheries, shipping and maritime industries and insurance companies on climate change issues and impacts in East Asia. The workshop will summarize good practices and measures within and outside the EAS region related to climate change adaptation strategies.

## **Workshop 4: Development and Advances on Marine Bio-safety in the Context of the Convention on Biodiversity**

Marine biosafety is an emerging concern in East Asia, as the region is vastly recognized as a main source of translocated species and a center of biological diversity. The workshop will cover relevant aspects on marine biosafety in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity from the maritime perspective. Specifically, it will focus on international instruments addressing the threats of invasive aquatic species and ballast water management, advances in mitigation technologies, global efforts in enhancing awareness on marine biosafety-related challenges, risk assessment and risk management, and prospects within an East Asian setting.

Legislators, policymakers, NGOs, the academe, the private sector and the UN and other international organizations are invited to participate in these workshops.

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# **EAS Congress 2009 Workshop Series: Habitat Protection, Restoration and Management**

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The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 will be holding a series of workshops on the theme "Coastal and Ocean Governance," from 23 to 25 November in Manila, Philippines.

The three workshops, each taking on an individual sub-topic, belong to the third of six major Conference themes to be taken up in the triennial regional event. All themes cover essential aspects of sustainable coastal and ocean development.

## **Workshop 1: Networking of Marine Protected Areas: Benefits, Good Practices, Standards and Next Steps**

The workshop will serve as a venue for building cooperation and harmonizing across various initiatives, strategies, action plans and partnerships in MPA networking that have been and are currently being developed in East Asia. It aims to highlight the benefits of managing MPAs, showcase good practices and lessons learned in MPA networking, and develop recommendations for partnership and collaborative efforts in managing MPA networks for submission and consideration by national governments.

## **Workshop 2: Indigenous Approaches to Habitat Protection and Restoration: Experiences in Sato-umi and other Community Initiatives**

The workshop will tackle the invaluable indigenous knowledge acquired by communities along rivers, coastlines and small islands, which traditionally make them live in harmony with nature and allowed for a sustainable and continuous supply of natural resources without compromising the habitats and ecosystems. Related case studies that have seriously damaged the integrity of ecosystems and specific habitats, such as unregulated and indiscriminate exploitation of primary produce and rapid economic development over the decades, will also be discussed.

The workshop will also conduct information-sharing on community-based innovative approaches and good practices of habitat prevention, restoration and management initiatives applying low-cost technologies.

## **Workshop 3: Innovation in Biodiversity and Habitat Conservation: Lessons Learned**

The workshop aims to discuss lessons and experiences in project activities implemented in wetland protection and management, including public awareness and capacity-building activities. Information will be shared related to demonstration sites selections, problems, targets, management solutions and achievements. Possibilities will also be explored and tackled for cooperation and coordination of the relevant project activities through the formation of a network of sites or protected areas.

Legislators, policymakers, NGOs, the academe, the private sector and the UN and other international organizations are invited to participate in these workshops.

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# EAS Congress 2009 Workshop Series: Water Use and Supply Management

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The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 will be holding two workshops under the theme "Water Use and Supply Management," on November 23 to 25 in Manila.

The two workshops, each with its individual focus, belong to the fourth of six major Conference themes to be taken up in the triennial regional event. All themes cover essential aspects of sustainable coastal and ocean development.

## **Workshop 1: Alternative Energy - A Solution for Energy Security for Islands and Remote Areas**

The use of alternative energy is a key element to economic development and the improvement of quality of life. To date, much of the world's energy is produced and consumed in a non-sustainable manner. Small islands and remote areas surrounded by abundant sources for alternative energy are still facing difficulties in securing the energy supply needed for their growth.

The workshop will look into the feasibility of introducing alternative energy in small islands and other remote areas of the region. It will engage participants to share good practices, policies and technologies on alternative energies, while providing practical information on good financing mechanisms.

## **Workshop 2: Addressing Water Crisis in Rapidly Growing Cities**

Many growing cities in the region are faced with the problem of inadequate water supplies. This issue is often associated with pollution, population growth, management failures, such as disparities between supply and demand, ineffective regulations and enforcement, inefficient water use and inadequate pricing, and depletion of groundwater facilities. Adding to these are the adverse impacts of climate change. There is an urgent need to address the problems of sustainable water supply if sustainable development is to be achieved.

The workshop aims to discuss current water problems present in many growing cities of the region, while providing examples of readily replicable solutions including innovative technologies. It will also demonstrate how an integrated approach, such as the ICM, can be applied to provide a management framework in addressing water issues.

The East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress takes place every three years. It is a pioneering region-wide platform for knowledge sharing, capacity-building, strategic action, partnership building, and a forum for dialogues between policymakers, environmental and natural resource managers, business communities, academics, NGOs, local governments, and grassroots organizations.

The EAS Congress 2009 is hosted by the Government of the Philippines and co-organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and PEMSEA. It is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

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# EAS Congress 2009 Workshop Series: Food Security and Livelihood Management

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The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 will be holding a series of three workshops under the theme "Food Security and Livelihood Management," on November 23 to 25 in Manila.

The three workshops, each with its individual focus, belong to the fifth of six major Conference themes to be taken up in the triennial regional event. All themes cover essential aspects of sustainable coastal and ocean development.

## **Workshop 1: Addressing Food Security through Sustainable Aquaculture**

The workshop will focus on the development of the aquaculture industry, which is widely considered to be a solution to issues on food security and employment for more than a billion people worldwide. Among the topics to be tackled are good practices and technologies in aquaculture production and application, contributions of aquaculture to livelihood management and food security, and the integration of aquaculture in integrated coastal planning.

## **Workshop 2: The Future Role of Fisheries in an Urbanized World**

Recognizing the impacts of population growth and the emerging demographic trend of migrations from rural to urban areas, particularly in coastal zones, the workshop will tackle issues on how coastal fisheries are affected by this phenomenon, and how they can contribute to food security.

## **Workshop 3: Livelihood Management and Sustainable Coastal Tourism**

The workshop will discuss sustainable coastal tourism as a poverty alleviation mechanism for local communities. Topics to be taken up include local livelihoods and community benefits from sustainable coastal tourism activities; conservation and management initiatives as a mechanism to promote sustainable coastal tourism; public-private partnership for promotion, international and national initiatives on certification programs; and the impact of climate change on sustainable coastal tourism.

Legislators, policymakers, NGOs, the academe, the private sector and the UN and other international organizations are invited to participate in these workshops.

The East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress takes place every three years. It is a pioneering region-wide platform for knowledge sharing, capacity-building, strategic action, partnership building, and a forum for dialogues between policymakers, environmental and natural resource managers, business communities, academics, NGOs, local governments, and grassroots organizations.

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# EAS Congress 2009 Workshop Series: Pollution Reduction and Waste Management

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The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 will be holding two workshops under the theme "Pollution Reduction and Waste Management," on November 23 to 25 in Manila.

The two workshops, each with its individual focus, comprise the last of six major Conference themes to be taken up in the triennial regional event. All themes cover essential aspects of sustainable coastal and ocean development.

## **Workshop 1: Transboundary Pollution Reduction in River Basins and Coastal Areas**

Many coastal and marine areas in the region face ecological problems mainly due to transboundary transport pollutants carried through rivers. The reduction of these pollutants through an integrated approach is thus seen as an imperative.

The workshop will conduct presentations, case studies and sharing of good practices and experiences on varied topics covering transboundary pollution reduction in rivers and coastal areas using integrated management approaches. It aims to highlight the benefits as well as issues of integrated approaches and come up with recommendations on strategies and good practices.

## **Workshop 2: Innovative Policies and Practices in Water Supply, Sanitation and Pollution Reduction**

Recently, a number of bilateral and multilateral projects have been implemented in East Asia, all aimed at developing and demonstrating innovative strategies, policies and practices in water supply, sanitation and reducing the generation and discharge of pollutants from land-based human activities. These new projects' progress and results will be reviewed in the workshop, together with the policies being adopted by proponents in order to generate the needed financing to cover costs and meet expectations.

Among other highlights, the workshop will introduce upcoming projects and look into areas of potential application of identified good practices. It will also serve as a venue for dissemination of information on the latest developments in project financing.

Legislators, policymakers, planners, environmental and resource managers, NGOs, the academe, the private sector, financial institutions, and the UN and other international organizations are invited to participate in these workshops.

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