



PEMSEA Meeting Report 7

PROCEEDINGS OF
THE FIRST EAST ASIAN SEAS
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

**Manado City, North Sulawesi
Indonesia**

17–20 July 2007



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Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, 17-20 July 2007

COUNCIL SESSION

A. INTRODUCTION

- i. The First East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council Meeting was held at the Hotel Sedona, Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, from 17 to 20 July 2007. The Ministry of Environment (MOE) of Indonesia and the Provincial Government of North Sulawesi hosted the Meeting.
- ii. The Meeting was attended by delegates from PEMSEA Partner countries namely: Cambodia; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Indonesia; Japan; Lao PDR; People's Republic of China; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Timor-Leste; and Vietnam; as well as delegates from non-state Partners namely: Conservation International (CI) Philippines; Coastal Management Center (CMC); IOC/WESTPAC; Korea Maritime Institute (KMI); Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI); Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF); Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Limited (OSRL/EARL); UNEP/GPA and UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea LME Project.
- iii. Observers represented at the Meeting were: the Government of Thailand; International Ocean Institute (IOI); IUCN Vietnam Country Office; Marine Stewardship Council (MSC); Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP; Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA); and UNEP/GEF South China Sea LME Project.
- iv. The Implementing Agency was represented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Manila. The PEMSEA Regional Programme Office (RPO) served as the Secretariat.
- v. A full list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

B. OPENING CEREMONY

- i. On behalf of the Provincial Government of North Sulawesi, Drs. Sinyo Harry Sarundajang, Governor, North Sulawesi, welcomed all the participants. The Governor emphasized the need to increase efforts on marine management and to empower coastal communities that benefit from the marine environment. The North Sulawesi, being a Marine Protected Area and location of the Bunaken National Park, puts preservation of the coastal and marine environment as a priority concern. The Governor noted that a local ordinance concerning the utilization of the coastal areas of the province, particularly in the regencies of Minahasa, Bolaang Mongondow and Bitung City, has been put into effect. He urged the participating countries and non-government stakeholders to strengthen mutual cooperation on the conservation of

coastal and marine areas, protection of rare marine species, prevention of illegal fishing, and coordination on marine resource utilization. He also informed the Meeting of the World Ocean Conference, which will be held in May 2009 in North Sulawesi. The Governor encouraged PEMSEA to participate in the said endeavor, and wished the Meeting full success.

- ii. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Regional Programme Director and Interim Executive Director, delivered welcoming remarks on behalf of the PEMSEA Regional Programme. Dr. Chua highlighted the significance of the First EAS Partnership Council Meeting whereby both state and non-state partners are gathered together as Partners for the first time, with the objective to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). He further emphasized the strong foundation of regional collaboration, which was built with the support of the GEF, member countries and other collaborators and paved the way for the evolution and continuous growth of PEMSEA membership and activities.
- iii. Dr. Chua expressed confidence that the new PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) was ready to move forward, especially with the recent approval of the Project Document on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA by the GEF, the financial contributions from China, Japan and RO Korea for the operation of the PRF Secretariat Services under the Cost-sharing Agreements with the UNDP, and the construction of a new PRF office building as a contribution by the Philippine government. Special thanks were also extended to the UNDP and the IMO for their support and cooperation over the past 14 years. While PEMSEA has made significant achievements in the past, many challenges lay ahead. To effectively address the remaining and emerging issues in the region, Dr. Chua encouraged all partners to work as one towards the achievement of the goals of the SDS-SEA.
- iv. On behalf of the UNDP, Mr. Kyo Naka, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Manila, congratulated the EAS Partnership Council on its first operational gathering. He noted that the PRF Secretariat Services is progressing towards operationalization, particularly with the initiation of staffing requirements and procedures, and the provision of support by China, Japan and RO Korea for its operations. He further emphasized the critical role of the partners in ensuring the sustainability of the partnership arrangement, and expressed his confidence that the Partners can rise to the challenge of formulating innovative and feasible solutions to financing the various activities related to the implementation of the SDS-SEA. He further noted the growing number of Partners from within and outside the region and hoped for their contribution in facilitating technology transfer and experience sharing. Notwithstanding political constraints or realities, the UNDP expressed its optimism for the success of the new partnership arrangement, and reiterated its continuous support to the endeavors of the region.
- v. On behalf of the Government of Indonesia and Minister of Environment Ir. Rachmar Wiotelar, Dra. Masnellyarti Hilman, Deputy Minister of Environment, Indonesia, expressed a warm welcome to all participants. In recognition of, and as a witness to the detrimental effects of the growing and emerging threats brought about by the continuous degradation of the environment and global warming, Indonesia believes that it is crucial to seek improved coastal and ocean governance. Dra. Hilman informed the Meeting of some of Indonesia's initiatives related to coastal and marine

management, including: the promulgation of Law on Coastal Management (Act No. 27 of 2007); the renewal of the Spatial Planning Act (Act No. 26 of 2007); hosting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Meeting in December 2007; and the organization of the World Ocean Conference in 2009. She further expressed appreciation to PEMSEA for its support and efforts in strengthening integrated coastal management (ICM) practices in Indonesia, as a means to enhancing coastal and ocean governance, as well as bringing the region's various stakeholders together through partnerships. In closing, Dra. Hilman urged all partners to work together to ensure the successful implementation of the SDS-SEA.

- vi. The full text of the Opening Ceremony speeches may be found in Annex 2.

1.0 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- 1.1 Mr. Kyo Naka assumed the position of Interim Chair for the Council Session. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng served as the Secretary to the Meeting.
- 1.2 Dr. Chua introduced the principal reference documents for the Meeting (Annex 3) and briefed the Meeting on general organizational arrangements.

2.0 ADOPTION OF COUNCIL SESSION AGENDA

- 2.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda without modification, as contained in Annex 4.

3.0 ELECTION OF CHAIRS

- 3.1 Dr. Huming Yu, Senior Programme Officer, introduced this agenda item in his capacity as Regional Programme Office (RPO) Team Leader on Consultation for the Election of Council Officers. He briefed the Meeting on the relevant provisions of the Partnership Operating Arrangements (POA) and the Guidelines for the Conduct of the Meetings (the Guidelines) governing the election of Council officers by consensus. He described the consultation process, which had been undertaken by the RPO to build consensus on the nominees among the Partners, in the spirit of compromise, understanding and partnership. As a result of consultation, he then presented the candidatures of Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Mr. Hiroshi Terashima and Dr. Li Haiqing, respectively, for the election of Council Chair, Technical Session Chair and Intergovernmental Session Chair, as derived from.
- 3.2 Participants expressed their appreciation for the RPO's efforts in undertaking the consultation process in accordance with the relevant guidelines, and their support for the identified candidates.
- 3.3 Mr. Yihang Jiang, Project Manager, YSLME, requested clarification on: a. whether the chairpersons to be elected will serve on their personal capacities or on country or partner capacities; and b. as there is only one chairperson to be elected, who will chair the meeting in case the chairperson cannot attend the meeting. Citing the provisions of the Guidelines, Dr. Yu clarified that the chairpersons are to be

nominated on their personal qualifications and do not act as representatives of their respective Partners when working for the Council. He further clarified that in case the Council Chair is unable to attend the Meeting, the Executive Committee will select an Acting Chair from the two officers to chair the meeting.

The Council Session concluded that:

- 3.3 Due processes were accomplished by the RPO Consultation Team in the implementation of the requirements of the POA and the Guidelines for nomination of council officers, consultation and consensus building; and
- 3.4 The outcome of the consultation embodied the consensus of the Partners.

The Meeting elected:

- 3.5 By acclamation, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Mr. Hiroshi Terashima and Dr. Li Haiqing as Council Chair, Technical Session Chair and Intergovernmental Session Chair, respectively, taking into account the results of the consultation.
- 3.6 Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Mr. Hiroshi Terashima and Dr. Li Haiqing each expressed sincere appreciation for the support and trust that they received from the Council Partners. In addition they confirmed their readiness to do their best to perform the roles and responsibilities required of Council officers, and thus contribute to the further development and sustainability of PEMSEA and the implementation of the SDS-SEA. Dr. Chua further informed the Meeting that his role as Council Chair would only start upon his retirement as the Regional Programme Director and Interim Executive Director of the PRF at the end of September 2007.

4.0 COUNCIL MATTERS

Establishment of Executive Committee

- 4.1 Dr. Huming Yu introduced the role of the Executive Committee (EC), as well as its mandate to ensure and oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Council, particularly during the intersessional period. With the election of the Council officers, it was timely for the first Council meeting to put the EC in place.

The Meeting endorsed:

- 4.2 The establishment of the Executive Committee within the framework of the Council, taking into account the relevant requirements of the POA.
- 4.3 The Meeting then had a 10-minute recess to enable the newly established EC to meet and discuss the conduct of the Meeting. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng briefed the Meeting on the results of EC's discussion. Abiding by the relevant provisions of the Guidelines, the EC designated Dr. Li Haiqing as Acting Council Chair because Dr. Chua's role as Council Chair would not start until the end of September 2007. The EC will meet again during the present Council Meeting, and on 14-15 September 2007, in conjunction with the inauguration of the new office building of the PEMSEA

Resource Facility. The EC reminded the Council that the officers of the EC do not act as representatives of their respective Partners when working for the Council. Their services as Council officers are voluntary, receiving no salaries from PEMSEA.

- 4.4 The Acting Council Chair invited the representative of Indonesia, Dra. Masnellyarti Hilman to serve as the Co-chair of the 1st EAS Partnership Council Meeting.

New Partners of the Council

- 4.5 Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo, Senior Technical Assistant, PEMSEA RPO introduced the three stakeholder organizations who had expressed interest to become PEMSEA Partners. In accordance with the provisions of the Partnership Operating Arrangements (POA) on Inclusion of Partners, the three organizations developed agreements with PEMSEA related to the implementation of the SDS-SEA, and submitted requests for consideration as new PEMSEA Partners. The meeting was advised that both IOI and SENSEA had fulfilled the requirements of the POA, while the Letter of Cooperation with NOWPAP was still subject to the confirmation of its member countries.
- 4.6 The three requesting stakeholders provided the Council with a short background of their organization and reiterated their willingness to be included as PEMSEA Partners. The IOI, represented by Prof. Robin South, is an independent, non governmental, non-profit organization that aims to ensure the sustainability of the oceans as the source of life, to uphold and expand the principle of the common heritage, enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to promote the concept of *Pacem in Maribus* – Peace in the Oceans for the benefit of future generations. IOI believes that its expertise in the conduct of various trainings and other activities will contribute significantly to the objectives of the SDS-SEA, particularly in the area of capacity building.
- 4.7 The SENSEA, represented by Dr. Anders Granlund. As an entity promoting regional cooperation for sustainable development of environment in Southeast Asia and strengthened cooperation between the region and Sweden/Northern Europe, SENSEA greatly complements the work and objectives of PEMSEA. Through partnership, SENSEA hopes to strengthen networking in environmental issues with PEMSEA.
- 4.8 The NOWPAP representative expressed the keen interest of the organization to become a new Partner of PEMSEA. Mr. Xiaodong Zhong, Deputy Coordinator, NOWPAP, assured the Meeting that all efforts are being undertaken to finalize the consultation with NOWPAP countries to fast track the signing of the LOC with PEMSEA.

The Meeting concluded that:

- 4.9 IOI, SENSEA and NOWPAP will contribute significantly in the implementation of the SDS-SEA given their expertise and experience in developing, implementing and managing marine environmental programs, projects and initiatives;

The Council Session decided:

- 4.10 To approve the requests of IOI and SENSEA for inclusion as new PEMSEA Partners;
and
- 4.11 To approve in principle the request of NOWPAP for inclusion as new PEMSEA Partner, subject to the signing of the Letter of Cooperation with the PEMSEA Resource Facility.

TECHNICAL SESSION

1.0 ADOPTION OF THE TECHNICAL SESSION AGENDA

- 1.1 The Technical Session adopted the Session's agenda without modification (Annex 4).

2.0 REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME DIRECTOR/INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- 2.1 The Interim Executive Director introduced a working document on PEMSEA activities undertaken since the Inaugural Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council, covering the closure of the Regional Programme, PEMSEA's transformation to a regional mechanism, bridging activities focusing on work programme preparation and various other activities relevant to the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 2.2 Participants highly appreciated the IED's comprehensive report, as well as the efficiency and the amount of work accomplished by the RPO within a 6-month period in wrapping up the second phase of the Regional Programme and planning and preparation for the next phase. Many Partners reaffirmed their support to the Putrajaya Declaration, Haikou Partnership Agreement, Partnership Operating Arrangements and the establishment of implementing mechanisms for the SDS-SEA.
- 2.3 Appreciation was expressed for the contributions made by China, Japan and RO Korea to support the operation of the PRF Secretariat Services, the support of the Philippines in hosting and improving the building structure for the PRF office, the efforts made that led to the approval by the GEF Council of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Regional Project on the SDS-SEA, and the preparation of manuals, guides and codes to aid the countries and other stakeholders in undertaking ICM and other project activities.
- 2.4 The following points were highlighted during the discussion:
- a. The lessons learned from various ICM projects in different parts of the world show that many projects cannot be sustained after donor support has terminated. GEF support only represents seed money meant to catalyze national and local resources for project implementation. In this context, serious efforts have been made in East Asia to develop a working model to demonstrate how the indigenous capacity of local stakeholders and institutional arrangements can help to sustain projects. This type of experience needs to be further distilled and consolidated for dissemination.
 - b. Individually, countries and stakeholders have implemented ICM projects, created "good practices" and encouraged knowledge development. There is a need to consolidate this information in order to learn from each other and join hands in packaging and sharing "good practices" and knowledge, so that the regional intellectual capital, which has accumulated over the years, can be further developed and tapped for ICM capacity building. For example, coastal use zonation has drawn increased attention in the international community as an option for reducing multiple coastal and marine use conflicts. This approach has

been in practice in China for many years, involving inputs from scientific institutions as well as stakeholder participation. The experience and lessons learned from this practice can be screened and collated as a reference material and guidance for dissemination to interested Partners and stakeholders.

- c. Collaboration among partners in mobilizing resources for the implementation of projects of mutual interest is an important strategy for achieving the SDS-SEA objectives, as the implementation job is huge and resources available are limited.
- d. The development of sustainable financing mechanisms including, for example, the Regional Partnership Fund, is among the most challenging issues confronting PEMSEA. Thus, it merits serious consideration as the Council embarks on the transition stage of PEMSEA's transformation process. In this connection, sharing experience with regard to various options for developing and implementing the Partnership Fund can benefit PEMSEA, PEMSEA partners and other collaborators.
- e. The efforts to develop a Regional Task Force (RTF) and National Task Forces (NTF) composed of professionals to promote ICM and other project activities are commendable, as experienced during the current phase, with an R.O. Korean-based task team assisting with the start-up of the ICM project in Sihanoukville. The RTF and NTF should be further developed and strengthened.
- f. The efforts of PEMSEA and its State Partners to develop operational linkages between ICM and integrated water resource management (IWRM)/watershed/catchment area management were viewed as important, with potential lessons for other countries in the region. Interaction, information sharing and collaboration among the concerned Partners at different levels were encouraged.

The Technical Session concluded that:

- 2.5 The IED's Report adequately covered PEMSEA activities undertaken since the Council's inaugural meeting, as well as challenges, opportunities and follow up actions required.

The Meeting endorsed:

- 2.6 With satisfaction, the IED's Report.

3.0 MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDS-SEA

Framework of Partnership Programmes 2007-2010

- 3.1 Dr. Huming Yu introduced a working document on the Framework of Partnership Programmes 2007-2010, including a proposed template prepared by the RPO as a reference for facilitating information sharing on the SDS-SEA related programmes and activities of Partners.
- 3.2 It was also noted that the template prepared by the RPO was based on the six major strategies and their associated action programmes that comprise the SDS-SEA. It was suggested that the RPO consider the application of the format generated by IW LEARN in facilitating inter-project information sharing. Some participants saw the

utility of the template, but expressed the concern that their specific programme may fit into more than one SDS-SEA strategy. Therefore there could be a duplication of information using the proposed template. Other participants considered that the template should contain more detailed guidance, (e.g., temporal and spatial scales of the programme / activity), otherwise, the information collated would be too general, thus reducing its usefulness. However, it was stressed that the template should be relatively simple and easy to use. It was recognized that the template was only part of initial efforts in preparing the Framework. As such, the template is still subject to further development, testing, revision and refinement, building on the experiences and lessons learned from similar efforts elsewhere.

- 3.3 A question was raised if the non-state Partners would be involved in the collation of Partner activities as the state Partners are the primary implementing force for the SDS-SEA. However, it was pointed out that international organizations and institutions, as non-state Partners of the Council, are undertaking projects and programmes to assist the countries in the SDS-SEA implementation, as well as actions related to the SDS-SEA components that address transboundary issues. Thus, non-state Partners will have input to the Framework as well.

The Technical Session concluded that:

- 3.4 The preparation of the Framework of Partnership Programmes would contribute to the development of synergies among partners, reduce wasteful duplication of effort in the SDS-SEA implementation, and identify gaps in capacity and programme activities;
- 3.5 The proposed template needs to be further developed in order to respond to the aforementioned concerns expressed by Partners.

The Technical Session recommended that the PRF:

- 3.6 Facilitate joint planning among PEMSEA Partners for the preparation and implementation of the Framework of Partnership Programmes;
- 3.7 Further develop the template through testing and consultation with the concerned Partners, taking into account the comments made at the present session, as well as the templates or formats generated by the Partners and other stakeholders for similar purposes; and
- 3.8 Present a revised template, test results, and necessary guidelines and work schedule for preparation of the Framework of Partnership Programmes, to the next meeting of the Council.

Activities by the Partners related to the SDS-SEA implementation

- 3.9 Various interventions were made by the Partners with regard to the programmes and activities related to the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The interventions touched upon the project status, progress and future direction, experiences and lessons learned, and identification of areas of mutual interest, as follows:

Cambodia

The country's commitment to SDS-SEA is embodied in the Sihanoukville Declaration for the Sustainable Ocean and Coastal Development in Cambodia, which was adopted by participants from various sectors and agencies during the National Forum held on March 6, 2006. For 2007-2010, Cambodia is moving towards a new era of coastal management, where improved linkages between and among various stakeholders is being sought, including the implementation of the Joint Statement on Partnerships in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand.

At the local level, the Sihanoukville ICM Project is in the process of drafting a three-year work program to further improve management of coastal and marine resources. As it moves into another phase, projects and activities will engage more beneficiaries in the three districts of Mittapheap, Stung Hav and Prey Nup to scale up existing initiatives and further strengthen institutional capacity to sustain ICM.

China

At national level, the following activities have been undertaken in PR China: 1) the approval of the national marine economic development program by the State Council, emphasizing integrated management and sustainable use of marine resources; 2) the National Marine functional zoning scheme, adopted and implemented, serving as the scientific basis for the sea use management for all coastal provinces of China; 3) a national marine policy for ICM implementation in all coastal provinces; 4) a coastal marine environmental survey program; 5) a new environmental control and management program for Bohai, being developed by State Development and Reform Commission together with the State Oceanic Administration (SOA); and 6) a new version of the "China Marine Policy" being formulated. Moreover, China has undertaken and planned various activities for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, including: 1) contribution to the operational cost of the PRF Secretariat Services; 2) organization of an annual workshop involving 10 ICM parallel sites in China to serve as a forum for all coastal communities in the country to exchange ideas and find solutions to common problems; 3) organization and support to the representatives from the 10 ICM parallel sites to participate in the PNLG Meeting in Danang, Vietnam in September 2007; 4) development of a guide for marine functional zoning scheme, in collaboration with PEMSEA RPO; 5) formulation of a national plan for the implementation of PEMSEA Third Phase; and 6) initiation of a pilot project on the system-wide management of Jiulongjiang River, with assistance from NOAA and PEMSEA, to be put into operation by the end of 2007.

DPR Korea

With the support of national agencies and local government, the National ICM Demonstration Project in Nampho has been successfully completed. The delivery of final outputs for the contracts on the Development and Implementation of Integrated Coastal Environmental Monitoring Program, Integrated Information Management System Network, and the PMO Operation 2006 was made in March 2007. In August 2006, the National Consultation Forum was conducted in Pyongyang, with participation of stakeholders from various national and local agencies, institutes and universities. The Forum discussed future national work program for the

implementation of the SDS-SEA, which outlined priority activities, as follows: 1) ICM scaling up programmes, initially in Taedong River basin and coastal areas of South Pyongan province, and later to the east coastal and marine areas of the country; 2) strengthening of the environmental monitoring programme, including biodiversity and ecosystem indicators; 3) consolidating the achievements in the Nampho ICM project; 4) enhancing the operation of the National ICM Training Center for further ICM education and trainings; 5) promoting technology transfer in sewage treatment and waste management; and 6) promoting other capacity building activities. DPR Korea's successes and experiences gained in the development of Nampho Coastal Strategy, including the ICM implementation in Nampho, and in the prevention and management of water pollution in Taedong River basin have been reported in the EAS Congress 2006. In the first half of 2007, some preparatory activities for the SDS-SEA implementation in line with the completion of the ICM demonstration project have also commenced. The removal of DPR Korea from the GEF/UNDP Project Document on the SDS-SEA has caused unexpected challenges to the country's efforts for the regional implementation of the SDS-SEA. However, DPR Korea will continue to strengthen the partnership with PEMSEA on the basis of the Putrajaya Declaration and Haikou Partnership Agreement and exert best efforts to overcome such difficulties through the partnerships.

Indonesia

Act No. 27 of 2007 on Coastal Management was recently enacted as a legal foundation for ensuring sustainable development and good management of the coastal environment in Indonesia. Another important undertaking was the promotion of integrated approaches to managing watersheds, river basins and coastal areas in Jakarta Bay and Tomini Bay. Indonesia has also embarked on the implementation of marine and coastal resources management projects in 15 provinces, covering 42 district/municipalities, to enhance ICM capacities (2002-2009).

Japan

Recent activities in Japan related to SDS-SEA implementation concern the development and promulgation of the Ocean Basic Law. Enacted in July 2007, the law promotes a comprehensive ocean policy including Integrated Coastal Management. Japan will promote marine environment conservation through implementation of the Basic Ocean Law. Japan's experience with regard to the development of the Basic Ocean Law, as well as its experience regarding pollution reduction and management might be useful information for other Partners who are now facing similar issues and concerns.

Lao PDR

Lao PDR is preparing a three year work program for implementation of the SDS-SEA. The country is currently developing the Xedon Integrated River Basin Management project, with technical support from PEMSEA. The project is designed to develop local capacity in watershed management, pollution prevention and habitat conservation, using the integrated management approach. The project will develop capacity in Lao PDR to manage land-based activities in watershed areas, and to mitigate possible impacts on downstream water uses, including coastal areas.

Philippines

DENR is undertaking a number of SDS-SEA related activities including the following: the development of a plan to preserve the recognized center of marine diversity in the world (i.e., the Verde island passage marine corridor); formulation of Master Plans for 21 priority river basins; implementation of the Manila Bay Coastal Strategic Framework; implementing a “Trees for Life” project, whereby 20 million seedlings will be planted; conducting an ICM resource management project covering 68 coastal municipalities; and undertaking the Manila Third Sewerage project, which supports the objectives of the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy. The Philippine Government has made initial progress concerning the hosting of the EAS Congress 2009 and is in the process of building a PEMSEA Resource Facility office adjacent to the existing building occupied by the RPO.

Republic of Korea

ROK is going to establish and implement a rolling 6-year framework (2007-2012) of partnership programmes for the implementation of SDS-SEA through relevant national policies and action plans (i.e, Ocean Korea 21 and Future Marine Strategy 2020; and the 3rd Action Plan of Marine Environmental Protection). ROK is now operating ICM programmes covering more than 60% of its coastline, and will expand ICM coverage to 100% of its coastline by the end of next year. The 'Coastal Management Act' will be revised to establish a systematic process for monitoring, evaluating and reporting the effectiveness of national and local ICM programs within the period of 2007-2010. The ROK government will launch the functional secretariat for the “Twinning Network” by the end of this year and make it operational through a specialized research institute, Korea Maritime Institute. MOMAF will provide the necessary budget and man-power. Progress has been made in addressing tidal wetland management issues, such as those posed by the Jang-Hang reclamation area for an industrial complex. ROK wishes to share experience and lessons learned with its PEMSEA Partners and collaborators.

Singapore

Singapore will continue cooperating with East Asian countries to render technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, via the Small Island Developing States Technical Co-operation Programme and other Singapore Cooperation Programme initiatives. Singapore has conducted several courses on waste water management and the accession to international instruments, like the MARPOL Convention and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances. To prepare itself for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, Singapore has introduced a series of activities and new initiatives including the systematic documentation of marine biodiversity in Singapore waters, and research on the ecology of marine habitats and organisms. A project to study the taxonomy and distribution of marine sponges in Singapore waters has been initiated by the National Parks Board.

Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste has implemented activities relating to the SDS-SEA in spite of its young and early statehood. Some of the major activities to be implemented include the conduct of surveys on water catchments, a baseline study on coastal habitats, a preliminary study on marine resources, and a study on the impact of sedimentation on marine productivity and coral reefs. Moreover, the Coastal/Marine Habitat Mapping for Tourism and Fisheries Development Project intends to promote sustainable management and development of eco-tourism in the country. Planned activities include the conduct of a detailed study, including identification of species and mapping of coastal resources (within 5 NM from the coast) to design an appropriate strategy to preserve and protect its reefs and marine and coastal environment. The draft work plan for the SDS-SEA implementation in the country has been prepared through stakeholder consultation and is still under review.

Vietnam

The country's SDS-SEA related activities include: 1) incorporation of marine environment protection issues into law, particularly into the Law on Environment Protection (i.e., Articles 55, 56, 57 and 58); 2) the development of the National Sustainable Development Strategy for the Sea of Viet Nam; 3) the approval of the National Master Programme on Basic Survey and Management of Marine Natural Resources and Environment in 2006; 4) the adoption of the National Strategy on Integrated Coastal Zone Management; 5) the preparation of the National Plan on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response; 6) the establishment of three Regional Centers for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response (i.e., North, Central and South), as well as the establishment of a National Steering Committee and its Office within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; 7) the expansion of Integrated Coastal Management; and 8) cooperation with Thailand and Cambodia for the implementation of the Joint Statement on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand.

Conservation International (CI)

CI agreed to collaborate in the implementation of the SDS-SEA through its Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape (SSS) Project implemented with an alliance of partners from three countries. CI expressed interest in collaborating in the aspects of species and habitat conservation linked to human well-being, focusing on marine biodiversity conservation corridors of transboundary significance, employing strategies such as establishment of network of MPAs based on science, enhancing marine law enforcement, strengthening governance and capacity, and developing strategies for engaging the private sector at the local, national and tri-national levels. CI uses the Sulu-Sulawesi Ecoregion Conservation Plan, which was adopted by Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines, as its policy framework for the SSS Project and is a member of the Tri-National Committee for Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion formed over 20 partners collectively contribute to the implementation of the ECP, which is aligned to the SDS-SEA.

Coastal Management Center (CMC)

CMC activities in partnership with PEMSEA and SIDA/SAREC include: 1) the publication of the Tropical Coasts magazine; 2) sponsorship of some scholars for participation in lectures during ICM Training; 3) development and publication of the Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment (IEIA) Training Manual; 4) conduct of IEIA trainings at the National University of Singapore and the City University of Hong Kong; 5) drafting of a Project Development and Management manual; and 6) co-sponsorship of the Youth Forum at EAS Congress 2006. The CMC will carry on the partnership with PEMSEA by contributing to the following: publishing of Tropical Coasts; co-convening the EAS Youth Forum; and helping in the promotion of public awareness on SDS-SEA implementation.

IOC/WESTPAC

Adhering to IOC next biennial strategy adopted by its 24th Session, WESTPAC aims at setting up a new programme structure, incorporating new projects and upgrading its current projects to enhance the application of Marine Science and Service in the Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Through a decade of development of its HAB, remote sensing and other programmes, it is possible for WESTPAC to work with PEMSEA through the identification of joint pilot substantial activities at several selected demonstration sites, such as publication of handbook or manual on HAB, the application of high resolution remote sensing products for coastal marine environmental monitoring, etc. A handbook, published by IOC, in cooperation with U.S National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department for Fisheries and Oceans of Canada, could provide some useful inputs for the capacity building of PEMSEA in integrated coastal area management. The 7th WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium will be on 21-25 May 2008, hosted by Malaysia. This symposium will focus on marine environmental changes in relation to natural hazards and identify possible measures and actions for preventing and mitigating the impacts of those natural hazards in this region.

International Ocean Institute (IOI)

IOI hosts a bi-annual conference, Pacem in Maribus. For the past 26 years, the IOI has offered a 10-week course on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, held at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. Other training courses are offered throughout IOI's network, coordinated under IOI-Ocean Learn. IOI has operational centres in Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and China. IOI looks forward to working with PEMSEA partners and to sharing its experience and expertise to mutual benefits over the coming years.

Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)

With the strong partnership established with PEMSEA over the years, KMI wishes to participate in research on the issues concerning socio-economic valuation of the national contribution of the coastal and marine sector, or developing a manual on coastal use zoning. KMI has initiated discussions with the Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute (KORDI) and others to encourage the development of training programs for marine environment and marine policy. KMI is making efforts to develop

educational material and a curriculum for graduate students, in collaboration with the National Maritime University, to strengthen active participation in the PEMSEA Task Force, and to consider a personnel exchange program with PEMSEA. KMI is interested in, and will support the activities related to the 3rd EAS Congress and State of Coast reporting system, together with MOMAF and other research institutes, including KEI and KORDI.

Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

NOWPAP is seeking opportunities to collaborate with PEMSEA on sharing information and expertise in the field of ICM, among others. NOWPAP will invite PEMSEA participation in the newly launched activity on integrated coastal and river basin management, including the participation of an expert from PEMSEA in a working group meeting in Vladivostok, Russia, in October 2007, to share successful experiences in ICM.

Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF)

OPRF collaborated with the PEMSEA Secretariat and other Partners to organize the theme session on the concept of "Securing the Oceans" at the EAS Congress 2006. A conference of ocean think-tanks in East Asia is being planned this fiscal year to discuss ocean and coastal management, and to stimulate further collaboration among ocean policy think-tanks toward sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia. OPRF made substantial commitment to formulating the draft of the recently enacted Basic Ocean Law through policy advocacy and coordinating stakeholders. "Co-existence of Ocean and Humankind" is the central concept of the Basic Ocean Law. The Basic Ocean Law is regarded as an important step to establish trans-sectoral coordination in addressing ocean issues, as well as to enhance regional and global cooperation. It will also stimulate stakeholders in Japan to further strength collaboration and partnership in the Seas of East Asia.

Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Limited (OSRL/EARL)

OSRL/EARL will be continuing its commitment as a partner of the EAS Partnership Council by providing technical advice and support for oil spill preparedness and response activities in the region. It recognizes the importance of the public-private partnership framework in developing the capacity for oil spill preparedness and response in the region, which can be achieved through close partnership with relevant stakeholders from both the government and oil and gas industry at the regional, national and local levels.

SENSA

SENSA, the Swedish Secretariat for Asia is a knowledge base entity within the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), which promotes regional cooperation for environmentally sustainable development in Southeast Asia. SENSA has no resources of its own to fund projects, but it is able to recruit consultants, organize workshops and function as a think-tank. The aim of SENSA in the region is to improve and increase environmental collaboration in Southeast Asia, facilitate networking between environmental activities in the different countries of the

region, strengthen interaction between appropriate organizations in Southeast Asia, as well as with Sweden, etc. The partnership between SENSEA and PEMSEA will further increase networking between East Asia and northern Europe on environmental issues.

UNEP/GPA

The UNEP/GPA strategic approach involves working with relevant stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels to develop a coherent approach that addresses poverty reduction and economic growth related concerns, while ensuring environmental integrity and sustainability of the coastal and marine resources. The main tool advocated to achieve this is the development of National Programmes of Action (NPA), which provide a framework to formulate iterative and affordable short, medium, and long-term activities to achieve these goals. The ICM is considering a vehicle to implement NPA. In view of the global awareness and consensus on the realities of climate change, UNEP/GPA recognizes the importance of integrating the development of climate change adaptation in relation to the management of coastal and marine resources. UNEP/GPA would be interested to work with the countries to facilitate the process of assessment and adaptation to climate change at the national and sub-national levels within the framework of NPA and ICM.

UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project (YSLME)

The UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project (YSLME) expressed its strong willingness to establish linkage between the implementation of SDS-SEA and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the YSLME. The political framework established by PEMSEA would provide good mechanism for the preparation and implementation of the YSLME SAP. It was expected that there would be discussion to certain details on the implementation of SDS-SEA during the Partner Council meeting. As the discussion was focused on the mechanism of PEMSEA, it is hoped that further discussion on the detailed implementation, and appropriate co-ordination of SDS-SEA could be discussed later.

Work Programme of the EAS Partnership Council 2007-2010

Project Document

- 3.10 Mr. Adrian Ross, Senior Programme Officer, presented the GEF/UNDP Project Document, entitled Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), to the meeting. He informed the meeting that the three-year project was approved by GEF Council on 15 June 2007, and that efforts were currently underway to respond to comments from GEF Council members concerning the project's objectives and work program. The revised Project Document, inclusive of responses to the Council members' comments, will be resubmitted to GEF in August 2007, for endorsement by the CEO.
- 3.11 The meeting was apprised of the GEF Indicators of Success that had been identified in the Project Document. Some of the key indicators as approved by GEF included:
 - a. A fully functional EAS Partnership Council;

- b. A Plan of Action adopted for the follow-on transformation stage (2010-2013);
 - c. ICM policies and legislation catalyzed in at least 5 countries covering national ICM scaling up programs;
 - d. ICM coverage of 5% of the region's coastline by 2010;
 - e. Reduction in nutrient loadings ranging from 10% to 50% in targeted coastal areas;
 - f. Measurable reductions in risk to human health from unsafe drinking water sources and untreated sewage discharges;
 - g. Sustaining/increasing community livelihoods, especially coastal fisheries and aquaculture; and
 - h. Implementation of strategic action plans within ICM framework resulting in:
 - i. 5% to 10% of habitats in specific ICM sites identified as protected areas and/or undergoing restoration
 - ii. Improvements in fisheries management and stabilization of some coastal fisheries stocks.
- 3.12 The meeting was informed that the project is scheduled for start-up in October 2007. At present, UNDP Country Offices are in the process of securing the endorsement of the Project Document by UNDP national focal agencies in the 8 GEF-eligible countries.
- 3.13 Members of Council raised the following points during the discussions on the Project Document:
- a. The GEF indicators of success, as identified in the Project Document, were ambitious. In order to ensure delivery of such outputs, it is essential that the work programs of countries be developed in collaboration with the PRF, taking stock of what countries are doing, and incorporating the results into country-based MOAs on the implementation of the project;
 - b. Not all countries and project sites can be expected to deliver outputs at the same rate (e.g., development and adoption of ICM legislation within the three-year timeframe of the project). Account must be taken of the different legislative and institutional processes and varying capacities of participating governments, as well as individual project sites (i.e., local government capacity);
 - c. Some State partners have already made good progress toward the achievement of the project targets. These countries can assist countries that are embarking on similar processes through sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices (e.g., RO Korea's ICM legislation; China's coastal use zoning experience and legislation; Indonesia's coastal law; and Japan's ocean law);
 - d. As a regional project focused on implementation of the SDS-SEA, the available budget should be allocated to support of national priorities and country-driven activities. The project budget should be used to leverage national resource commitments, as well as commitments from other stakeholder and partners, for SDS-SEA related initiatives, targets and outcomes;
 - e. Non-State partners of Council have an important role to play in the delivery of the project outputs that benefit the region, particularly with regard to information and knowledge-sharing and the transfer and replication of good

- practices (e.g., CI initiatives in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas; IOI/FAO training courses on responsible fisheries);
- f. The revolving fund initiative with the GEF/World Bank project is an important component of the project and, ultimately a major contribution to the establishment of a long-term, sustainable regional mechanism. If PEMSEA is to leverage investment in pollution reduction facilities and services in coastal areas over the next three years, the revolving fund needs to be developed and tested at the country, sub-regional or regional level, as appropriate; and
 - g. The transformation strategy and implementation process that have been included in the project design (i.e., the 3+3+4 transformation strategy) is innovative, and well-timed with respect to global interests and initiatives (e.g., ICM as a key to adaptation issues for climate change; progress and achievements 20 years after Rio (2012); MDG and WSSD targets and timeframe). This approach and the region's progress towards sustainable development of its marine and coastal resources need to be shared globally.

The Technical Session concluded that:

- 3.14 Further effort is required to develop the work programs of participating countries for implementation of the SDS-SEA to ensure that practical and effective outputs can be achieved within the three-year timeframe;
- 3.15 By working together, State and non-State partners are more likely to achieve the challenging project outputs, particularly by sharing knowledge and transferring capacity to stakeholders and projects where experience concerning specific issues is less developed;
- 3.16 The revolving fund project is a key component of PEMSEA's Strategic Partnership arrangement with the World Bank, and integral to the scaling up of pollution reduction investments at the local, national and regional levels.

The Technical Session recommended:

- 3.17 The endorsement of the Project Document to participating countries, along with a request to the concerned National Focal Points to facilitate the signature of the Project Document by the respective UNDP national focal agencies as early as possible.

The Technical Session requested:

- 3.18 The RPO to revise the Project Document, taking into consideration the comments of GEF Council members, and to submit the document to the GEF CEO for endorsement of the project, on or before 15 August 2007;
- 3.19 The UNDP to proceed with securing the signatures of the respective UNDP national focal agencies in GEF-eligible countries, with a view to having the budget approval in place for project start-up in October 2007;
- 3.20 The UNDP to facilitate the implementation of the feasibility study for the regional revolving fund in collaboration with the World Bank as soon as possible, in order to

allow development and testing of the proposed mechanism within the three-year timeframe of the PEMSEA project.

PEMSEA Partnership Fund

- 3.21 The PEMSEA Partnership Fund was introduced by Mr. Ross, as a key component of the regional implementing mechanism for the SDS-SEA, as adopted by countries with the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement. The meeting was informed that the Partnership Fund was being developed for the purposes of:
- a. Supporting capacity development initiatives among and within PEMSEA participating countries in order to enhance SDS-SEA implementation efforts;
 - b. Undertaking specific activities/assistance earmarked by donors/grantors, as related to SDS-SEA implementation; and
 - c. Serving as a financial mechanism for the establishment of a sustainable PRF operation.
- 3.22 Furthermore, the meeting was reminded that the recently approved GEF/UNDP project on SDS-SEA implementation stipulated three related outputs, namely:
- a. establishing of a self-sustaining PRF;
 - b. setting up a PEMSEA Partnership Fund; and
 - c. developing and adopting a plan of action for the transformation of PEMSEA into a long-term, self-sustaining regional mechanism (2010-2013).
- 3.23 The interlinkages between the three required outputs were reviewed, as follows:
- a. PEMSEA does not have a legal personality and, as such, is not able to set up a trust account outside of the legal framework of the UN;
 - b. Although the UN framework has served the countries well over the past 14 years of GEF assistance, the matter of PEMSEA's sustainability following the eventual exit of GEF sponsorship is a matter requiring the attention and action of the Partners; and
 - c. The possibility of accessing GEF support for the transformation stage of the 10-year project (2010-2013) would be jeopardized if the three outputs identified above are not achieved.
- 3.24 The meeting was presented with three different modalities for creating PEMSEA's "legal personality" outside of the UN framework, namely: a regional convention or treaty; multilateral recognition of juridical personality; and a non-stock, not-for-profit organization. It was noted that the regional convention option had been discussed extensively among countries during the formulation of the Haikou Partnership Agreement. Indications were that countries did not favor this option in the short-term.
- 3.25 The multilateral recognition of juridical personality requires at least three countries to recognize the status of the PRF as an international organization, with a legal personality, pursuing its goals and objectives in a manner consistent with its Charter and in accordance with the laws and regulations of the parties signing the recognition agreement. The recognition places no obligations on the part of the countries signing the agreement. With the legal personality, as established through this

intergovernmental procedure, the PRF would be able to set up a trust account, and enter into agreements with governments and other organizations, including a host agreement with the concerned State. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) was noted as one well-known international organization that was established through a multilateral recognition agreement.

- 3.26 The non-governmental organization option entails the submission of standard documentation to the Philippines Securities and Exchange Commission, for registration as a non-stock, not-for-profit organization in the Philippines. With the approval of the application, the NGO would be created with the legal personality to open a trust account, and to enter into contracts.
- 3.27 In both cases, a Board of Trustees, comprised of selected members of the EAS Partnership Council (e.g., the Executive Committee plus other partners) would be set up to manage the trust account, as well as to administer the Partnership Fund, as may be defined in the Charter of the organization. It was further clarified that the PRF would continue to function under the UN legal framework during the transition stage, until such time as the PRF's legal personality and the financial mechanism had been established.
- 3.28 During discussion of the agenda item, a number of issues were raised by the Partners:
- a. PEMSEA was developed and established as an intergovernmental mechanism, and serves as a driving force for governments for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The conversion of the PRF to an NGO would, in all likelihood, reduce the momentum that has been created among governments of the region for SDS-SEA implementation;
 - b. The principal source of funding for implementation of the PRF is likely to be the government partners. Non-state partners may provide some financial support in the future, but not likely sufficient to cover the operating costs of the PRF;
 - c. The multilateral recognition of the PRF encourages government partners to contribute to the PEMSEA Partnership Fund, as an intergovernmental mechanism. The NGO option, while simpler to achieve, could have a negative affect on the operation of the PRF and the Partnership Fund;
 - d. The multilateral recognition agreement does not bind governments to financial contribution, privileges, immunities or other benefits to the PRF, similar to the NGO option. Benefits and contributions would be negotiated between the PRF and the concerned States individually.
 - e. The NGO option serves as an alternative, in case the multilateral recognition option does not work out;
 - f. In the short-term, the depositary for the PEMSEA Partnership Fund can be the sponsoring UN agency, as agreed in the Partnership Operating Arrangements;
 - g. Other appropriate models for the creation of PEMSEA's legal personality may be available (e.g., SPREP; PISCES; NOWPAP; COBSEA; Mediterranean Regional Sea Programme; etc.); and
 - h. The status of non-state partners in the multilateral recognition option requires further consideration, with due consideration to the intergovernmental, multi-sectoral partnership approach to sustainable development of marine and coastal resources that PEMSEA has developed and nurtured over the past 14 years.

The Technical Session concluded the following concerning the PEMSEA Partnership Fund:

- 3.29 After 14 years of financial support from the GEF, and management and administrative assistance from UNDP and IMO, it is time for countries to seriously look at options for a long-term, self-sustaining regional mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
- 3.30 Multilateral recognition of the PRF as an international organization would provide the PRF with the legal personality required to establish the Partnership Fund, while maintaining the intergovernmental character of PEMSEA;
- 3.31 The NGO option, while easier to achieve, may have a negative impact on government support to the Partnership Fund, and reduce the momentum that has been gained for SDS-SEA implementation under the current intergovernmental, multi-sectoral partnership arrangement;
- 3.32 There may be more appropriate alternatives for establishing PEMSEA's legal personality, some of which were cited during the discussion. These options, and others, warrant further assessment before Council comes to a final decision;
- 3.33 Whatever option is selected to provide PEMSEA with a legal personality, it should be cost-effective, flexible and sustainable, and maintain the partnership relationship among governments and non-government stakeholders, as established in the Haikou Partnership Agreement and Partnership Operating Arrangements;
- 3.34 The Foreign Affairs departments of participating countries will need to be engaged in the process of graduating PEMSEA from the UN framework to an independent legal personality. Countries can play an active role in determining the most appropriate option by finding out the processes available, and what can be done to achieve PEMSEA's legal personality, within the policies and legal framework of their respective governments.

The Technical Session recommended that the Executive Committee, with secretariat and technical support from the PRF:

- 3.35 Be requested to guide the further assessment of viable options for establishing PEMSEA's legal personality, setting up the PEMSEA Partnership Fund, and moving toward the goal of a long-term sustainable regional mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation;
- 3.36 Invite interested Partners (State and non-State) and experienced individuals to participate in assessment process;
- 3.37 Interact with countries to determine the options and processes that are required in their respective governments to recognize the legal personality of PEMSEA; and
- 3.38 Report the progress and results to the next meeting of the EAS Partnership Council.

State of the Coasts Reporting System

- 3.39 Ms. Nancy Bermas, Technical Officer for Research, PEMSEA RPO, introduced the State of the Coasts reporting system. She referred to the Framework for Sustainable Development of Coastal Areas through ICM Implementation as the basis for developing the draft framework and template for SOC reporting. Ms. Bermas informed the meeting that the template is being tested using available information from Batangas and Xiamen. The proposed reporting process was also presented including the timeline for the development of the first regional SOC report, which is being targeted for release in 2009.
- 3.40 Dr. Chua discussed in detail the key elements of the aforementioned Framework. He showed the linkages of the various components of the Framework and how they can be used to demonstrate progress made at the local level in terms of achieving the targets related to WSSD, MDG, Agenda 21 and the SDS-SEA.
- 3.41 The following clarifications and comments were provided by the Council members during the discussion:
- a. The proposed SOC reporting will be designed to complement and add value to existing reporting systems. Unlike the State of Environment reports, which cover various aspects of the environment, the SOC reporting will be focusing on the coasts;
 - b. The framework is designed to measure the progress made at the local level (i.e., ICM sites), which is usually not covered in other reporting processes;
 - c. National ICM scaling up programs will extend the opportunities to expand SOC reporting along the coastline of the region over time;
 - d. In view of the ongoing efforts related to the Assessment of Assessments (AOA), integrating the SOC reporting system with the AOA may have value;
 - e. The actual impact of global and regional marine assessments may be limited, since they cover very broad topics and rolled up values. The SOC reporting system needs to consider this concern when designing the reporting methodology;
 - f. A general guideline needs to be prepared in order to promote the application of the SOC reporting system in other non-PEMSEA ICM sites;
 - g. The SOC reporting system should be further developed in collaboration with 1 or 2 appropriate State partners who are interested in working with the PRF.

The Technical Session concluded that:

- 3.42 The SOC reporting system is essential in order to effectively monitor the implementation of the SDS-SEA and to provide information and knowledge in support of policy development and refinement.
- 3.43 The SOC reporting will add value by focusing on local efforts, particularly by building SOC reporting into ICM programs. The reporting process is expected to guide the local governments in identifying the gaps and assessing the impacts of management interventions.

- 3.44 There are a number of challenges in getting the necessary information, and efforts should be focused on using the IIMS as a tool for storing and accessing available information that can be used in SOC reporting.

The Technical Session recommended that the PRF:

- 3.45 Test the application of the framework and template using available information from Batangas and Xiamen ICM sites;
- 3.46 Circulate the Batangas and Xiamen SOC reports to National Focal Points, ICM sites and other interested partners and collaborators to serve as case studies to guide the preparation of their respective SOC reports; and
- 3.47 Promote the application of the framework and template at the sub-regional level, if proven to be working at the local level.

The Technical Session recommended that State and non-State Partners:

- 3.48 Participate in the consultation process that is being organized by the PRF in order to develop and achieve consensus on the concept, framework and template, and feasibility of a regional SOC report, and the preparation process for the first SOC report in 2009.

EAS Congress 2009 and the 3rd Ministerial Forum

- 3.49 Ms. Gallardo introduced the main objectives, features, status of preparations, and challenges of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009 and the Third Ministerial Forum. Ms. Gallardo also urged the Partners to participate and support the organization of the EAS Congress 2009 and requested input to ensure the sustainability of the EAS Congress.
- 3.50 The Philippine representative informed the Meeting that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as the host agency of the EAS Congress 2009, has already submitted the endorsement letter to the President of the Philippines and allocated budgetary support for the organization and conduct of various activities of the Congress.
- 3.51 The representative of UNEP/GPA expressed his commitment and support for the Congress and encouraged Partner countries to ensure the support and participation of their Ministers to the Ministerial Forum. The role of Ministers was seen as crucial in order to bring the issues and recommendations discussed at the Congress to the attention of national leaders.
- 3.52 The representative of CI reiterated her organization's support and interest to convene a session on the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas during the EAS Congress 2009.
- 3.53 The Members of the Council raised the following points, during the discussion on the EAS Congress 2009:

- a. The Ministerial Forum is an integral component of the EAS Congress and the regional mechanism as a whole. The Council needs to consider the role of Ministers during the Ministerial Forum in 2009, in order to secure their early commitment to participate in the event;
- b. The EAS Congress serves as a “market place for knowledge” and an endeavor that will put to test the spirit of partnership among the PEMSEA members. In order to sustain the EAS Congress, it is important for both state and non-state partners to undertake joint planning and implementation;
- c. To uphold the momentum of the Congress Regular workshops or forums may be established. The triennial cycle of the Congress provides regularity and reasonable period to establish and monitor action programs;
- d. Instead of individual reporting, it would be worth considering including reporting by LME, so as to learn more about subregional seas projects’ contributions and the actions taken towards the implementation of the SDS-SEA and in compliance with relevant international environmental instruments.

The Technical Session concluded that:

- 3.54 At this stage of the planning process, some State and non-State Partners require further consultation within their respective organizations or institutions in order to develop concrete commitments and support for the conduct of the EAS Congress 2009, and for its sustainable operation in the future.
- 3.55 In formulating the EAS Congress theme, approaches such as organizing a contest for the best theme for the EAS Congress 2009 may be considered.

The Technical Session recommended that:

- 3.56 Partners be invited to proactively participate in the planning and organization of workshops, seminars and forums for the EAS Congress 2009, in order to ensure momentum and sustainability of the event; and
- 3.57 Partner countries be requested to inform the PRF Secretariat Services of national contact persons for the EAS Congress 2009 preparations at their earliest convenience.

Technical Cooperation and Collaboration

- 3.58 Mr. Rainier Requinala, Senior Technical Assistant, PEMSEA RPO, reported on the activities undertaken by PEMSEA from January to June 2007 involving technical cooperation with various organizations. The organizations identified in the report included: Louis Berger Group Inc., Sustainable Coastal Tourism in Asia (SCOTIA) and the Municipality of Puerto Galera, Philippines regarding establishment of a municipal sewerage system using the PPP process; Xiamen City Government, UNDP and State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China, regarding the conduct of World Ocean Week 2007; Danang, Vietnam, regarding the PEMSEA Network of Local Government (PNLG) Forum in September 2007; IOC/UNEP regarding Assessing Marine Assessments in the East Asian Seas; Coastal Habitats and Resources Management (CHARM), Thailand, regarding ICM networking and information sharing; and the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia Pacific (NACA) and Southeast Asian

Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) regarding achieving sustainable growth of fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

- 3.59 Three Council observers, namely, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), the World Conservation Union and the GEF South China Sea (SCS) project presented their activities related to the implementation of the SDS-SEA:

3.59.1 MSC noted that in response to the Sustainable Fisheries workshop held during the EAS Congress 2006, it was now embarking on a new program that would: assist fisheries currently unable to meet the MSC standard; support fisheries agencies with the application of the MSC process and improve their management programs; and enable more countries to access the dual benefits (i.e., economic; environmental) of certified sustainable fisheries.

3.59.2 The IUCN Mangroves for the Future project includes various activities that contribute to the adopted vision of creating a healthy, prosperous and secure future for all sections of coastal populations in Indian Ocean countries. Activities include building a collaborative platform for multiple stakeholders to work together, addressing long term threats to coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, and promoting investments in ecosystems as development of “infrastructure”.

3.59.3 The SCS project reported on the outcomes for sustainable environment management in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand. The revised Strategic Action Programme (SAP) has been finalized for approval of the Inter-ministerial Project Steering Committee. The SAP proposes a framework for regional cooperation in order to create an environment for cooperation and partnership between all stakeholders and at all levels, and to enhance the capacity of the participating governments. The network of the 20 demonstration sites was established with broad involvement of stakeholders at the local level. Common actions at demonstration sites include the development and operation of multi-sectoral management boards, preparation and adoption of management plans for sustainable use, involvement of local stakeholders in planning and enforcement, monitoring of habitat health and living resources, capacity building for habitat and resource management and rehabilitation, enhancement of public awareness and development, and application of mechanisms for financial sustainability. The South China Sea Meta-database was also showcased and was referred to as a “living” database that can be revised and updated online, providing habitat, fisheries and land-based pollution managers with a tool they can collaboratively build and share within the region. In addition, characterization information of 136 habitat sites is made available online in the South China Sea GIS.

- 3.60 Dr. Chua expressed his appreciation to the observers for providing information regarding their respective activities, which would help the Council achieve SDS-SEA implementation goals and targets. The sharing of information would further facilitate technical cooperation and assistance among Council members and observers. The linkage of web sites was cited as an early initiative that would facilitate information sharing among partners and collaborators.

The Technical Session requested the PRF:

- 3.61 To continue to develop new partnerships and collaborative activities with organizations and institutions in the region and outside of the region, within the available resources of the programme, to facilitate knowledge-sharing and innovation in the development and implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 3.62 To pursue the linkage of websites among all partners and collaborators, as well as to explore other effective means to enhance information and knowledge sharing for improved implementation of the SDS-SEA.

4.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- 4.1 The Meeting took up the issue of the date and venue of the succeeding EAS Partnership Council Meetings. It was suggested that while the POA stipulates that EAS Partnership Council Meetings be held every 18 months, succeeding Council Meeting schedules be adjusted so as to enable the 3rd EAS Partnership Council Meeting to coincide with the EAS Congress 2009.
- 4.2 The representative of Japan expressed his country's interest to host the 2nd EAS Partnership Council Meeting, subject to the approval of the government. In consideration of Japan's celebration of Maritime Day, the 2nd EAS Partnership Council Meeting was tentatively scheduled for the week of July 13 or 21, 2008, subject to confirmation by the Government of Japan.

The Technical Session recommended that:

- 4.3 The schedule of the next two EAS Partnership Council Meetings be modified so that the 3rd EAS Partnership Council Meeting will coincide with the 3rd EAS Congress, scheduled for November 2009;
- 4.4 The 2nd EAS Partnership Council meeting be convened in July 2008, hosted by the Government of Japan, subject to confirmation by the Government of Japan, and in consultation with the PRF.

5.0 ADOPTION OF THE TECHNICAL SESSION REPORT

- 5.1 The Meeting adopted the Technical Session Report at 3pm, 19 July 2007.

6.0 CLOSING CEREMONY

- 6.1 Dr. Li Haiqing commended Mr. Hiroshi Terashima for his able leadership of the Technical Session.
- 6.2 Mr. Hiroshi Terashima encouraged all Partners to share information as well as report their future activities as part of the implementation of the SDS-SEA. Mr. Terashima declared the Technical Session closed at 3:30 pm, 19 July 2007.

ANNEX 1

List of Participants

Council and Technical Session

**1st EAS Partnership Council Meeting
Hotel Sedona
Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia
17 – 20 July 2007**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Council and Technical Session**

PARTNER COUNTRIES

CAMBODIA

Dr. Mok Mareth
Senior Minister
Ministry of Environment
48 Semdech Preah Sihanouk
Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmon
Phnom Penh
Cambodia
Tel: +855 23 214 027
Fax: +855 23 219 287

Mr. Long Rithirak
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Environment
48 Samdech Preah Sihanouk
Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmon
Phnom Penh
Cambodia
Tel: +855 23 214-027
Fax: +855 23 219-287
Email: moeimo@bigpond.com.kh
moeimo@online.com.kh

CHINA

Dr. Li Haiqing
Director General
Department of International Cooperation
State Oceanic Administration (SOA)
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing, 100860
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 6804-2695/6803-2211;
685271665
Fax: +86-10 6803-0799
Email: hqli@soa.gov.cn
Website: www.soa.gov.cn

Mr. Liang Fengkui
Director
International Organization Division
International Cooperation Department
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 68019791
Fax: +86 10 68048051
Email: fqliang@soa.gov.cn
fengkui@yahoo.com

Prof. Li Wenhai
Bohai Sea Environmental Management
Project Office
International Cooperation Department
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 68048051
Fax: +86 10 68030799
Email: bsemp@tom.com

DPR KOREA

Mr. Ri Jun Ho
Director
General Bureau for Cooperation with
International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Trade
Jungsong-dong, Central District
Pyongyang, P. O. Box 504
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Tel: +8502 381-5926
Fax: +8502 381 5827
Email: gbcio@co.chesin.com

Mr. Kim Su Hong
Senior Programme Officer
General Bureau for Cooperation with
International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Trade
Jungsong-dong, Central District
Pyongyang, P. O. Box 504
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Tel: +8502 381-5926
Fax: +8502 381 5827
Email: gbcio@co.chesin.com

INDONESIA

Dra. Masnellyarti, Hilman, M.Sc.
Deputy Minister
Nature Conservation Enhancement and
Environmental Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment
Building A, 6th Floor
Jalan D.I. Panjaitan No.24
Kebon Nanas, Jakarta Timur 13410
Indonesia
Tel/Fax: +62 21 8590-4923
Email: nelly@menlh.go.id

Dr. Indroyono Susilo
Chairman
Agency for Marine and Fishery Research
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

Mrs. Wahyu Indraningsih
Assistant Deputy for Marine and Coastal
Destruction Control
Ministry of Environment
Jalan D.I. Panjaitan No. 24
Kebon Nanas, Jakarta Timur 13410
Indonesia
Tel. +62-21 8590 5638
Fax: +62-21 8590 4929
Email: pkepl@bapedal.go.id

Ms. Ida Kusuma
Director of Marine and Coastal Affairs
Directorate General of Marine, Coasts and
Small Island Affairs
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur no. 16, 10th floor
Jakarta, Indonesia

Tel: +62 21 351-9070 loc. 1041
Fax: +62 21 352-2059
Mobile: +62816721516
Email: ida-k@centrin.net.id
Website: www.dkp.go.id

JAPAN

Mr. Toru Nakahashi
Deputy Director
Ocean Policy Division
Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and
Transport
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8918
Japan
Tel: +81 (0)3 5253 8266
Fax: +81 (0)3 5253 1549
Email: nakahashi-t2je@mlit.go.jp
: ocean-p@mlit.go.jp

Mr. Ichio Motono
Senior Deputy Director
National Planning Division
National and Regional Planning Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and
Transport
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8918
Japan
Tel: +81 (0)3 5253 8356
Fax: +81 (0)3 5253 1570
Email: motono-i2vz@mlit.go.jp

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. Phonechaleun Nonthaxay
Director General
Water Resources Coordination Committee
Secretariat
Science Technology and Environment
Agency
Prime Minister's Office
P.O. Box 2279, 3rd Floor, Science
Technology and Environment Agency
Building

Nahaidieo Road, Sisavath Village
Chantabouly District, Vientiane
Lao PDR
Telefax: +856 21 218737
Email: wrccs@etllao.com;
nonthaxay@yahoo.com;

Mr. Souphasay Komany
Assistant Director
Water Resources Coordination Committee
Secretariat
Science Technology and Environment
Agency
Prime Minister's Office
P.O. Box 2279, 3rd Floor, Science
Technology and Environment Agency
Building
Nahaidieo Road, Sisavath Village
Chantabouly District, Vientiane
Lao PDR
Telefax: +856 21 218737
Email: souphasaykomany@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINES

Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh
Assistant Secretary for Foreign-Assisted &
Special Projects (FASPO)
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel: +63 2 929-6626 loc. 2055
Fax: +63 2 926-8074
Email: analiza@denr.gov.ph

Engr. Nilo C. Marayag
Director III
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel: +63 2 929-6626 loc. 2231 / 924-2540

RO KOREA

Mr. Woo, Dong-Sik
Director

Marine Environment Policy Team, Marine
Environment Planning Office
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
(MOMAF)
140-1 Gye dong, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110734
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 2 3674-6540
Fax: +82 2 3674-6546
Email: dwoo0047@momaf.go.kr
Website: www.momaf.go.kr

Mr. Hong, Sun-Bae
Assistant Director
Marine Environment Policy Team, Marine
Environment Planning Office
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
(MOMAF), ROK
140-1 Gye dong, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110734
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 2 3674-6545
Fax: +82 2 3674-6546
Email: hong0610@momaf.go.kr
Website: www.momaf.go.kr

SINGAPORE

Mr. Eng Tiang Sing
Director
International Relations Division
Ministry of the Environment and Water
Resources
Environment Building
40 Scotts Road, #23-00
Singapore 228231
Tel: +65 67319878
Fax: +65 67384468
Email: Eng_Tiang_Sing@mewr.gov.sg

Dr. Nigel Goh
Assistant Director, Marine
National Parks Board
Singapore
Tel: +65 6472-2319
Fax: +65 6467-1912
Email: nigel_goh@nparks.gov.sg
Website: www.nparks.gov.sg

TIMOR-LESTE

Mr. Acácio Guterres
National Director of Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries
Timor-Leste
Tel: +670 723-328
Fax: +670 332-5121
Email: accguterres@yahoo.com

Mr. Narciso Almeida de Carvalho
Director for Fisheries Resource
Management and Environment Aquatic &
Focal Point for PEMSEA Timor-Leste
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries
Tel: +670 723-6180 / 332-5121
Fax: +670 332-5121
Email: narcisoalmeida@yahoo.com

VIETNAM

Mr. Le Dai Thang
Official
Vietnam Environment Protection Agency
(VEPA)
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment (MONRE)
67 Nguyen Du Str, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: +84-4-8224419
Fax: +84-4-8223189
Email: ldthang@nea.gov.vn
Website: <http://www.nea.gov.vn>

Mr. Hoang Xuan Huy
Official
International Cooperation Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment
83 Nguyen Chi Thanh Street
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: +84 4 773-4527
Fax: +84 4 835-2191
Email: hxhuy@monre.gov.vn

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Huan
Director General

Office of the National Steering Committee
Master Project Marine Resources and
Environment Survey and Management
83 Nguyen Chi Thanh Street
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: 0913210940

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Coastal Management Center (CMC)

Dr. Rogelio O. Juliano
Executive Director
Coastal Management Center
2603 D Tektite Towers 1
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Philippines
Telefax: +63 2 635-5065
Email: coastal_mgt_ctr@yahoo.com
rogerj@pltdsl.net

Conservation International (CI)

Ms. Evangeline B. Miclat
Marine Program Coordinator
Conservation International – Philippines
6 Maalalahanin St., Teachers' Village
West
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: +63 2 924-8235 / 433-5129
Fax: +63 2 435-6446
Email: emiclat@conservation.org
Website: www.conservation.org

IOC/UNESCO Regional Secretariat for WESTPAC

Mr. Wenxi Zhu
Project Expert
IOC/UNESCO Regional Secretariat for
WESTPAC
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment, 92 Phaholyothin 7 Road,
Samsennai
Bangkok 10400
Thailand

Tel: +662 2982637
Fax: +662 2986313
Email: z.wenxi@unescobkk.org
Website: www.unescobkk.org

Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)

Dr. Kim, Jong Deog
Planning and Coordination Division
Korea Maritime Institute
Soo Am Bldg., 1027-4, Bangbae 3-dong
Seocho-gu, Seoul 137-851
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 2 2105-2770
Fax: +82 2 2105-2730
Email: jdkim65@kmi.re.kr
Website: www.kmi.re.kr

Dr. Yook, Keun Hyung
Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)
Soo Am Bldg., 1027-4 Bangbae 3-dong
Seocho-gu, Seoul 137-851
Republic of Korea
Tel: 02-2105-2757
Fax: 02-2105-2779
Email: ykh690@kmi.re.kr

Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI)

Dr. Sik Huh
Head – International Cooperation Division
Principal Research Scientist
Korea Ocean Research and Development
Institute (KORDI)
Ansan P.O. Box 29
Seoul 425-600
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 31 400-6269
Fax: +82 31 406-6925
Email: sikhuh@kordi.re.kr

Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF)

Mr. Hiroshi Terashima
Executive Director

Ocean Policy Research Foundation
Kaiyo Senpaku Bldg.,
1-15-16 Toranomom, Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-0001
Japan
Tel: +81-3 3502-1834
Fax: +81-3 3502-2033
Email: h-terashima@sof.or.jp
Website: www.sof.or.jp

Ms. Ayako Okubo
Research Fellow
Ocean Policy Research Foundation
Kaiyo Senpaku Bldg.,
1-15-16 Toranomom, Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-0001
Japan
Tel: +81-3 3502-1907
Fax: +81-3 3502-2127
Email: a-okubo@sof.or.jp
Website: www.sof.or.jp

Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Limited (OSRL/EARL)

Mr. Declan O'Driscoll
Regional Director
Oil Spill Response and East Asia
Response Limited
2 Jalan Samulun
Singapore 629120
Tel: +65 6266 1566
Fax: +65 6266 2312
Email: declanodriscoll@osrlearl.com
Website: www.osrlearl.com

UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project (YSLME)

Mr. Yihang Jiang
Project Manager
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project
KORDI Compound, 1270, Sa-2dong
Sangrok, Ansan, Gyeonggi 426-744
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 31 400-7825
Fax: +82 31 400-7826
Email: yihang@yslme.org
Website: http://www.yslme.org

UNEP-GPA

Dr. Anjan Datta
Programme Officer
GPA Coordination Office
United Nations Environment Programme
Kortenaerkade 1
25 18 AX The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 70 311 4468
Email: a.datta@unep.nl
Website: www.gpa.unep.org

SPONSORING AGENCY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Manila

Mr. Kyo Naka
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP Manila
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Philippines
Tel: +63 2 901-0224
Fax: +63 2 901-0200

Ms. Amelia Dulce Supetran
Portfolio Manager –Environment
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Philippines
Tel: +63 2 901-0224
Fax: +63 2 901-0200
Email: amelia.supetran@undp.org

OBSERVERS

THAILAND

Dr. Bamroongsak Chatanantawej
Director
Division of Marine Resources
Conservation Promotion

Office of Marine and Coastal Resources
Conservation
Thailand
Email: bamroonc@yahoo.com
Website: www.dmcrgo.th

Mr. Somsak Piriayota
Director
Division of Mangrove Resources
Extension and Development
Office of Mangrove Resources
Conservation
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 298-2627
Email: dmred_01@yahoo.com

International Ocean Institute (IOI)

Prof. G. Robin South
IOI (Australia)
Advisor for Australia & the Western Pacific
Coordinator, IOI-OceanLearn
P.O. Box 1539
Townsville, QLD 4810
Australia
Tel: +61 7 4781-4704
Email: robin.south@jcu.edu.au

IUCN Vietnam Country Office

Mr. Bernard O'Callaghan
Programme Coordinator
IUCN Vietnam Country Office
Villa 44/4, Van Bao Street, Hanoi City
Vietnam
Tel: +844 726-1575
Fax: +844 726-1561
Mobile: +84 (0) 913368764
Email: thuyanh@iucn.org.vn
Website: <http://www.iucn.org.vn>

Marine Stewardship Council

Mr. Matthew Fox
Representative, Asia Pacific Region
Marine Stewardship Council
10/46-48 Uranga Parade Miranda

NSW 2228
Australia
Tel: + 61 41 739-9226
Fax: + 612 9524 8900
Email: matthewfox@mail.com
Website: www.msc.org

2nd Floor, Block B, Rajdamnern Avenue,
Bangkok
Thailand 10200
Tel: +66 2 288 2084
Fax: +66 2 288 1094
Email: vo@un.org

Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

Mr. Xiaodong Zhong
Deputy Coordinator
NOWPAP of UNEP
408-1 Shirang-ri, Gijang-up, Gijang-gun
Busan 619-902
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 51 720-3000
Fax: +82 51 720-3009
Email: xiaodong.zhong@nowpap.org
Website: www.nowpap.org

Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA)

Dr. Anders Granlund
Counsellor
Senior Regional Environment Advisor
Swedish Environmental Secretariat for
Asia
17 Floor, Unit 1706, One Pacific Palace
140 Sukhumvit Road
(Between Soi 4 & 6)
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 263-7258 / 7251
Fax: +66 2 263-7255
Mobile: +66 (0)89 968 4505
Email: anders.granlund@sida.se
Website: www.sida.se

UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project

Dr. Vo Si Tuan
Senior Expert
UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project
Project Coordinating Unit
United Nations Building

PEMSEA SECRETARIAT

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng
Regional Programme Director
Tel: +63 2 426-3849 / 920-2211 loc. 9
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: chuate@pemsea.org

Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross
Senior Programme Officer for Technical
Programme Operations
Tel: +63 2 926-9712 / 920-2211 loc. 6
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: saross@pemsea.org

Dr. Huming Yu
Senior Programme Officer for Coastal and
Ocean Governance Services
Tel: +63 2 926-3752
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: humingyu@pemsea.org

Ms. Nancy Bermas
Technical Officer - Research
Tel: +63 2 920-2211 loc. 10
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: nbermas@pemsea.org

Mr. Rainier Allan Requinala
Senior Technical Assistant
Monitoring and Evaluation
Tel: +63 2 920-2211 loc. 15
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: rrequinala@pemsea.org

Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo
Senior Technical Assistant for Coastal and
Ocean Governance Services
Tel: +63 2 920-2211 loc. 15
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: krgallardo@pemsea.org

Ms. Diwata Cayaban
Secretary for Environmental Management
Services
Tel: +63 2 920-2211 loc. 2
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: dcayaban@pemsea.org

Regional Programme Office

Visiting Address:

Regional Programme on Building
Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of East Asia
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2502,
Quezon City 1165, Philippines

Email: info@pemsea.org

Website: www.pemsea.org

LOCAL COMMITTEE

Ms. Rosita Maria
Email: rositamaria@woc2009.org

Ms. Melissa Repi
Email: melissarepi@woc2009.org

Ms. Claudia Darissa
Email: claudiadarissa@woc2009.org

Rensy Manarisip
Email: rensymanarisip@woc2009.org

Riffel Pakasi
Email: riffelpakasi@woc2009.org

Everly Rawung
Email: everlyrawung@woc2009.org

Grandy Rawung
Email: grandyrawung@woc2009.org

LOCAL SECRETARIAT

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Ms. Zulhasni
Ministry of Environment
Jl. D.I. Panjaitan, Kebon Nanas
Jakarta 13410, Indonesia
Email: zulhasni@menlh.go.id

Ms. Anggi Kusumah
Ministry of Environment
Jl. D.I. Panjaitan, Kebon Nanas
Jakarta 13410, Indonesia
Email: anggikusumah@gmail.com

Mr. Iswahyudi
Ministry of Environment
Jl. D.I. Panjaitan, Kebon Nanas
Jakarta 13410, Indonesia
Email: iswahyudi_yudhi@yahoo.com

ANNEX 2

Full Text of Speeches

Opening Ceremony

Opening Remarks of Hon. Sinyo Harry Sarundajang Governor, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

H.E. Minister of Environment of Cambodia;
H.E. Secretary Reyes of the Philippines;
Hon. PEMSEA Coordinator, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng;
Hon. Officials from the East Asian Countries;
Officials of the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia;
The participants of East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting;
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

First of all, on behalf of the Government and people of North Sulawesi, please allow me to extend a warm welcome to the guests and participants of the 1st Council Meeting of the Partnership of Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia to the Province of North Sulawesi. We are very grateful that North Sulawesi was entrusted to host this significant event.

We are all aware that there are marine great potentials that must be well managed and utilized, but most of all they should be well preserved and kept. In this regard, there must be efforts and commitments to apply the marine management decisions, among others, the use of selective, environmental friendly fishing equipments.

North Sulawesi is among the marine protected areas, in which we have the Bunaken National Park that must be preserved. It should be emphasized that the ocean must not be the final place for waste dump. At present, there is local ordinance concerning the utilization of the coastal areas of North Sulawesi, particularly in the regencies of Minahasa, Bolaang Mongondow and Bitung City.

In the meantime, it is essential that the coastal communities be empowered, because the majority are living below the average poverty rates. There are many small islands, especially in the border areas (there are 11 outer islands in North Sulawesi), and they are open to investments as well.

Currently, researchers have found the ancient fish “coelacanth” (*Latimeria Manadoensis*) in the waters of North Sulawesi. And there are still undergoing researches to find out more about this special and rare species, as it is proposed to be the mascot of North Sulawesi. There is so much more that need to know about this fish: its habitat, population, nutrition, etc. This will enrich our knowledge about this rare fish and it will be a significant addition to our marine biodiversity.

Another important issue that must be considered is the mutual cooperation between the countries that should include the conservation and preservation of certain water areas, protection of rare marine species, illegal fishing prevention and coordination of marine utilization for various needs.

The countries involved should respect the border areas of the respective countries, while fighting against IUU Fishing.

In May 2009 North Sulawesi will be hosting an event called the World Ocean Conference. This is a high level conference bringing together heads of states, dignitaries, researchers and NGOs from many different countries to discuss the problems of the ocean due to the effects of global warming and climate changes. It is hoped that through this Conference we will be able to find to renew our commitments to overcome these problems for the benefit of us all, especially the coastal communities.

In this opportunity, I would strongly encourage PEMSEA's involvement by reaching out to the areas with the highest marine diversity, in this case the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas, which is a part of the PEMSEA area and as a support to the WOC 2009 Activities of PEMSEA in North Sulawesi.

I hope that this Meeting will be fruitful and can be a great contribution to environmental management for the Seas of East Asia in particular.

Please enjoy your stay in North Sulawesi and have a successful meeting.

Thank you.

**Opening Remarks of Dr. Chua Thia-Eng
Regional Programme Director and Interim Executive Director,
PEMSEA Resource Facility**

The Honorable Deputy Minister, Mrs Masnellyarti Hilman, Ministry of Environment
The Honorable Governor of North Sulawesi, Mr. Sinyo Harry Sarundajang
Mr. Kyo Naka, Deputy UNDP Coordinator Manila
The Hon. Dr. Mok Mareth, senior minister for environment, Cambodia
Dr. Indrayono Susilo, chairman, Agency for Marine and Fishery Research,
Distinguished National and Regional Official Leaders
Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of PEMSEA, I welcome all of you, state and non-state partners, and observers to the First East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting. I also thank the media for being present today.

On behalf of the participants, I wish to thank the Government of Indonesia and the provincial government of North Sulawesi and the city government of Manado for hosting this very special event, in particular to the Ministry of Environment through the personal support of Mrs. Hilman and Ms Wahyu Indraningsih for the preparation of this important meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen

This is a Significant Event. It is the first meeting of the Partnership Council. It is the first time that the state and non-state members participating as partners. It marks the transformation of PEMSEA Regional Programme Office into PEMSEA Resource Facility. PEMSEA is now a partnership framework involving both state and non-state partners interested in the well being of the seas of East Asia. It focuses on implementing one marine strategy, i.e., the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

The organization and conduct of the meeting is somewhat different from the past. The organization and conduct of the meeting is guided by the Partnership Operating Arrangement. The agenda item will be focusing on matters related to the implementation of the SDS-SEA including any partner program if presented to the Council for information or guidance. As this is the first meeting, efforts will also be made in strengthening the operational structure of the Council and that of the PEMSEA Resource Facility. The conduct of meeting will also be guided by the spirit of the Putrajaya Declaration and the Haikou Partnership Agreement. However, it will take some time for all of us to get use to the running of the council meetings.

A strong foundation for regional cooperation and partnership has been laid with the support of GEF, governments and other collaborators.

As most of you are aware, PEMSEA evolved from a regional project of the Global Environmental Facility implementing marine pollution problems in the seas of East Asia. The pilot project was implemented by UNDP and executed by IMO. GEF contributed US\$8 million for project operations.

With the continuous support of GEF, the pilot project gave rise to a bigger project focusing on building intergovernmental, interagency and multi-sector partnerships for addressing environmental management problems of the seas of East Asia. GEF contributed \$16.2 million for strengthening these partnerships for environmental management of the seas of East Asia. This partnership is commonly known as PEMSEA. UNDP and IMO continued to function as the implementing and executing agencies respectively.

Not all countries in the region participated in this regional initiative. At the inception meeting held in Xiamen, China in December 1993, only 5 countries participated. The number has grown to 11 a year later. In the second phase, Japan joined the group making a total of 12 countries.

A notable output of the second phase is the development and adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. This marine strategy provides a comprehensive frameworks and programs for participating countries and non-state partners/collaborators to implement projects and programmes that could contribute to the sustainable development of the coasts, oceans and small islands. It also provides a platform for regional collaboration in contributing to achieving the goals and targets of several international agreements such as the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD.

During the current phase of PEMSEA, the partnership has been strengthened in terms of scope of activities and more active participation of several non-state organizations and regional programs. Efforts had been made to invite the participation of Myanmar, Laos and Timor-Leste during the last three years. They have responded favorably by attending our Project Steering Committee meetings and were kept in formed of PEMSEA activities. Co-financing for the first and second phase of the PEMSEA project has increased from US\$12.5 million to US\$28 million, mostly by countries and non-state partners/collaborators. We are pleased that a major bulk of the co-financing came from the local governments through the implementation of the ICM projects. The project has also been able to leverage more than 1.2 billion in environmental investments in the region.

The process of transformation from project-based operation to a self-sustaining operating arrangements will continue. We have entered a third and critical phase of our partnership and this is the transformation of our current operating arrangements into a long-term, self sustaining mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. I am pleased to inform the assembly here that GEF has approved our proposal on the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The new GEF contribution will enable us to proceed with the transformation process through the establishment of the PEMSEA Resource Facility and the East Asian Seas Partnership Fund as well as the implementation of activities to strengthen strategic partnerships with state and non-state partners, scaling up of integrated coastal management, reduce the technical and management capacity gaps between and within countries, facilitate environmental investment to reduce pollution of our coasts and oceans.

As part of the transformation, I am pleased to report to you that China, Japan and RO Korea have agreed to provide financial contributions to support the PEMSEA Resource Facility Secretariat Services. More importantly, they have all kept to their promise in remitting the funds to the Secretariat through UNDP under cost-sharing agreements.

Of equal significance is the contribution made by the Government of the Philippines in providing the much needed office space and facilities for the operation of the projects since

1994. Through the effort of Secretary Reyes of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippine Government has recently constructed an adjacent two-storey building which integrate the current project office into a new PEMSEA Resource Facility office.

With the new GEF funding, and the contribution of China, Japan and RO Korea and the new office building contributed by the Philippines, the PEMSEA Resource Facility is now set to move vigorously into its new endeavor.

On behalf of all of you, I wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to GEF, the Governments of China, Japan, Philippines and RO Korea for their significant contributions. We also wish to thank all participating countries and non-state partners for their good cooperation and support during the course of the development of PEMSEA.

I would like to thank UNDP for its continue support and cooperation for the past 14 years and certainly look forward to a stronger relationship in the implementation of the next phase activities.

Over the last 14 years, IMO has served as our executing agency. It is with regret that IMO will no longer executing the next GEF project but instead UNOPS will take its place. However, IMO has assured me that it will continue to be one of our strong UN partners in the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

PEMSEA will continue to face old and new challenges but should also be able to seize the opportunities that are emerging I must admit that during the course of the 14 years of operation, there are also numerous difficulties and obstacles which reflect in some way our weakness and inadequacies. First, not all the concerned countries in the region are able to join the PEMSEA family although majority of the countries are now full state partners. Some of these difficulties are political in nature and are beyond our control. Others may be due to our failures in convincing them the usefulness and significance of the new initiatives. However, PEMSEA's door should always be opened to all state and non-state partners who are willing to working together towards achieving our common vision as stated in the SDS-SEA. I am confidence with a little more patience and persuasion, we will be able to have all state-partners included in the big family.

The region is facing a strong challenge to sustaining the biological, ecological, and socio-economic benefits that it has derived from the natural assets that Mother Nature has given us. In particular, its ability to response to the challenges of climate change, loss of biodiversity, increased pollution and threats to food and livelihood security and safety at seas. The solution lies in how we can work as one to resolve the new and old challenges that threaten our and our children and their children's future.

Finally, I wish to mention that our partnerships over the last 14 years has reached a tipping point at which PEMSEA can contribute more positively, dynamically and collectively towards better and sustainable use of our coastal and ocean resources as well as achieving the goals of the SDS-SEA.

Thank you and a pleasant good morning.

Opening Remarks of Mr. Kyo Naka Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Manila

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to address this very distinguished body on such a historic occasion as the first operational meeting of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council. On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme, let me take this opportunity to congratulate this partnership for getting off to a prompt start. Indeed, after its establishment last December, it is but fitting that the Council buckle down to work because our coasts and oceans in this part of the world can wait no longer. The collective action which the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia represents was needed yesterday. I am, therefore, very glad that we are gathered here in this beautiful city of Manado to do precisely that.

The UNDP is glad to note that the Partnership Secretariat, with the generous support of the Governments of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, is now staffed and ready to carry out the wishes of the Council. With the approval of the GEF Council of the project on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA, the Technical Component of the Partnership Resource Facility (PRF) will soon be operational as well. In the meantime, among the urgent tasks that confront us is the choice of the leadership of the various elements of this Partnership: the Chair of the Council proper itself, the Technical Session Chair and the Chair of the Inter-governmental Session. We understand that consultations among you have been conducted and the results to be formalized in the election of your chosen representatives. We hope that with the assumption of these chosen leaders of their roles in the EAS Council, the Partnership can now begin to focus on what needs to be done.

In the context of sustainability, this Partnership also needs to look at how the interventions prescribed in the SDS-SEA could be financed. Our imagination can only be limited by our programmatic constraints. But as in other issues like structure, we are confident that the stakeholders comprising this partnership can once again rise to the challenge of formulating innovative but feasible solutions. Initial ideas are put forward in this meeting; as in the past, UNDP stands ready to assist in making the feasible concepts operational.

We note with enthusiasm the growing number of participants to this Partnership, an important indicator of its usefulness and importance for stakeholders even beyond this region. It is just as well, because solutions to the complicated problems of our seas in this part of the world, would benefit from the experiences and technical and financial support of our partners throughout the globe. We hope in particular, that they can facilitate the transfer of technology from their, to this part of the world. To these new partners, therefore, our very warm welcome.

Lastly, as this Meeting approves the work programme of the Partnership for the next three years till 2010, we hope that such will truly lay the foundation for a longer, more lasting relationship to which we are all committed, notwithstanding the political realities. For example, perhaps the scientific and operational collaboration that this Partnership can agree on in this meeting, will mean a lot in terms of moving forward on solutions to the complex problems of our seas in this region. Most of the technical interventions will be available to us and the cost we will always be able to put up. But the political will to come together and its

significance to the plight of our future generations will be, as that famous credit card commercial puts it, “priceless.”

We hope that we can all muster that collective political will for the “priceless” sustainable development path of our children.

Thank you and good day.

**Opening Remarks of Ir. Rachmar Witoelar
Minister, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Indonesia**

Excellencies Ministers: Dr. Mok and Mr. Reyes,

The Honorable Governor of North Sulawesi Province, Mr. Sarundajang

Distinguished Regional Programme Director and Interim Executive Director of PEMSEA,

Distinguished delegates of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council,

Distinguished observers of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, to welcome all of you to Minahasa, North Sulawesi, Indonesia to the First East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting.

As we understand together that humanity's future will continue to depend on the oceans, on the intricate interchanges between land and water. On the other hand, the state of the world's seas and oceans is deteriorating. Most of the problems identified decades ago have not been resolved, and many are worsening. New threats keep emerging and the traditional uses of the seas and coasts and the benefits that humanity gets from them have been widely undermined.

Global warming is probably the best known phenomenon affecting the seas and coasts. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, average sea level is expected to rise between 13 and 94 centimeters. The oceans will both profoundly affect the rate of climate change and be profoundly affected by it. In Indonesia, climate change is also a key challenge to face in the coming years. President of Indonesia also mentioned in the Inter Parliamentary Union Meeting in Bali on April 2007, that the impact of climate change would be fundamental, severe and very costly, it would change not only geography but also the distribution of human population.

All this is happening because human activities are increasing and extending over wider areas. Unplanned coastal development is one of the main driving forces behind the environmental problems of the oceans. Apart from over-fishing, the greatest harm is caused by what we do on land, particularly at the coast rather than at sea.

Integrated coastal management (ICM), encompassing associated freshwater catchments, is increasingly recognized as an effective approach to managing and protecting the marine and coastal environment. Recently, Indonesia promulgated a law on Coastal Management (Act No. 27 of 2007). This law is being a legal instrument for Indonesia to promote co-ordinated, cross sectoral, and holistic approaches to managing coastal environmental resources and amenities taking full account of environmental, public health, economic, social and political consideration. In addition, the spatial planning Act also recently renewed (Act No. 26 of 2007).

Indeed, international cooperation and assistance, including the transfer of knowledge, experience, technology and financial resources, benefits both developed and less developed countries and it is essential in boosting capabilities of developing countries to protect the environment. Hence, a genuine partnerships and collaboration between donor agencies or donor countries with the recipient countries are crucial to developing and sustaining successful environmental programmes.

I am glad to inform you all that Indonesia will host two important events in relation to the coastal and ocean environment; those are the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Meeting on 3 - 14 December 2007 in Bali, Indonesia and World Ocean Conference in 2009. On this occasion, I would like also to invite all of you to attend the meeting and sharing experiences and practices for managing some of the adverse impacts of current climate variability.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is obvious, that over the last ten years PEMSEA Regional Programme together with the pilot-phase MPP-EAS Regional Programme have contributed in strengthening coastal and ocean governance at the regional, national and local levels. The regional and national initiatives and achievements in coastal and marine resource management have been packaged and moved forward toward ensuring a better coastal and ocean governance through development of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) that was adopted during the East Asian Congress in Putrajaya, Malaysia in November 2003. Indonesia envisions the SDS-SEA as the manifestation of common vision, goals and objectives of the countries in East Asian region in managing the seas for the present and future generations.

In that regard, I would like to express my appreciation to PEMSEA Regional Programme for its remarkable efforts in bringing together the East Asian Seas countries and other stakeholders in the region to build partnerships and mobilize commitments toward achieving our common goal of sustainable development.

I am most heartened and encouraged to see the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia started being implemented. At this juncture, I would like to take the opportunity to urge all of partners to work together and ensure the successful implementation of the Regional Strategy.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

To end my speech, I would like to once again congratulate all of partner countries and other partner members for their hardwork in caring for the achieving of Sustainable Development in the East Asian Seas. My congratulation also to the organizers of the First EAS Partnership Council Meeting, including PEMSEA Secretariat, Local Government of North Sulawesi, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and my staffs within the Ministry of Environment to make this event success. I hope that this meeting could produce productive results. I herewith officiate the First EAS Partnership Council Meeting.

Thank you and have an enjoyable time in Minahasa and Manado.

ANNEX 3

List of Documents

**1st EAS Partnership Council Meeting
 Hotel Sedona
 Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia
 17 – 20 July 2007**

List of Documents

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT	DOCUMENT NUMBER
Council Session			
1.0	Organizational Matters	List of Documents	PC/07/DOC/01
		List of Participants	PC/07/DOC/02
2.0	Adoption of Council Session Agenda	Provisional Agenda	PC/07/DOC/03
		Annotated Agenda	PC/07/DOC/04
3.0	Election of Chairs	Election of Chairs	PC/07/DOC/05
4.0	Council Matters		
4.1		Establishment of Executive Committee (EC)	PC/07/DOC/06
4.2		New Partners of the Council	PC/07/DOC/07
Technical Session			
1.0	Adoption of Technical Session Agenda		Same as Council Session 2.0
2.0	Report of the Regional Programme Director/ Interim Executive Director	Report of the Regional Programme Director/ Interim Executive Director	PC/07/DOC/08
3.0	Matters Pertaining to the Implementation of the SDS-SEA		
3.1	Framework of Partnership Programmes 2007-2010	Framework of Partnership Programmes 2007-2010	PC/07/DOC/09
3.2	Work Programme of the EAS Partnership Council 2007-2010	GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Regional Project: Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia	PC/07/DOC/16
3.2.1		Establishment and Operation of the PEMSEA Partnership Fund	PC/07/DOC/10
3.2.2		State of the Coasts Reporting System	PC/07/DOC/11
3.2.3		EAS Congress 2009 and the 3 rd Ministerial Forum	PC/07/DOC/13

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT	DOCUMENT NUMBER
Council Session			
3.3	Technical Cooperation and Collaboration	Technical Cooperation and Collaboration	PC/07/DOC/12
Intergovernmental Session			
1.0	Adoption of Intergovernmental Session Agenda	Intergovernmental Session Agenda	Same as Council Session 2.0
3.0	PRF Secretariat Services	PRF Secretariat Services	PC/07/DOC/14
4.0	Work Plan and Budget for the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA	Work Plan and Budget for the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA	PC/07/DOC/15
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS			
		Putrajaya Declaration	PC/07/REF/01
		Haikou Partnership Agreement	PC/07/REF/02
		Partnership Operating Arrangements	PC/07/REF/03
		Guidelines for the Conduct of Meetings	PC/07/REF/04
		GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project Document	PC/07/REF/05

ANNEX 4

1st EAS Partnership Council Agenda

**1st EAS Partnership Council Meeting
Hotel Sedona
Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia
17 – 20 July 2007**

MEETING AGENDA

17 July 2007, Tuesday

0800 Registration

0900 Opening Ceremony

0920 Group Photo

0940 Coffee Break

A. COUNCIL SESSION

1000 1.0 Organizational Matters

2.0 Adoption of Council Session Agenda

1010 3.0 Election of Chairs

3.1 Election of Council Chair, Technical Session Chair, and
Intergovernmental Session Chair

1040 4.0 Council Matters

4.1 Establishment of Executive Committee

4.2 New Partners of the Council

B. TECHNICAL SESSION

1130 1.0 Adoption of Technical Session Agenda

1135 2.0 Report of the Regional Programme Director/Interim Executive Director

1230 Lunch

1430 Continuation of Agenda Item 2.0

1530 Coffee Break

1630 3.0 Matters pertaining to the implementation of the SDS-SEA

3.1 Framework of Partnership Programmes 2007-2010

1730 Adjournment of Session

18 July 2007, Wednesday

0830 Continuation of Agenda Item 3.1

0930 3.2 Work Programme of the EAS Partnership Council 2007-2010

1030 Coffee Break

1100 3.2.1 Establishment and Operation of the PEMSEA Partnership Fund

1230 Lunch

1330 3.2.2 State of the Coasts Reporting System

1430 3.2.3 EAS Congress 2009 and the 3rd Ministerial Forum

1530 Coffee Break

1600 3.3 Technical Cooperation and Collaboration

1700 4.0 Other Business

1730 Adjournment of Session

19 July 2007, Thursday

0830 Field Trip

1230 Lunch

1330 5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

1430 6.0 Adoption of Minutes

1530 Close of the Session and Coffee Break

C. Intergovernmental Session

1600 1.0 Adoption of Intergovernmental Session Agenda

1615 2.0 Adoption of conclusions and recommendations of the Technical Session

1730 Adjournment of Session

20 July 2007, Friday

0830 3.0 PRF Secretariat Services

0930 4.0 Work Plan and Budget for the GEF/PEMSEA Project on the Implementation of
the SDS-SEA

1000 Coffee Break

1030 Continuation of Agenda Item 4.0

1100 5.0 Other Business

1120 6.0 Conclusions and Decisions

1145 7.0 Adoption of the Minutes

1230 Close of Session

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION

**Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia
20 July 2007**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, 17-20 July 2007

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION

A. INTRODUCTION

- i. The Intergovernmental Session of the 1st EAS Partnership Council Meeting was held at the Hotel Sedona, Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia on 20 July 2007. The Intergovernmental Session was hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Provincial Government of North Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- ii. The Intergovernmental Session was attended by representatives from eleven Partner countries of PEMSEA, including: Cambodia; China; DPR Korea; Indonesia; Japan; Lao PDR; Philippines; RO Korea; Singapore; Timor-Leste; and Vietnam.
- iii. The Intergovernmental Session was also attended by the representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office in Manila. The PEMSEA RPO served as the Secretariat.
- iv. A list of participants is attached as Annex 5.

1.0 ADOPTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION AGENDA

- 1.1 The Regional Programme Director and Interim Executive Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng informed the Meeting of the principal reference documents for the Intergovernmental Session.
- 1.2 It was proposed to add an agenda item on Other Business to include other issues that were not covered by the proposed agenda. The Meeting adopted the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session as amended.

2.0 ADOPTION OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL SESSION AGENDA

- 2.1 The Philippine representative delivered a statement on behalf of Hon. Angelo Reyes, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines. The Philippines congratulated the PEMSEA RPO for the successful closure of the activities, initiation of activities for the transition phase, and the approval of the GEF/UNDP Project Document on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA. The Philippines reiterated their commitment and offer to continue hosting the Regional Programme Office or the new PEMSEA Resource Facility Office, and invited all Partners to the EAS Congress 2009 to be hosted by the Philippines. Moreover, the Philippines urged all Partners to rally behind the institutionalization of the Partnership into a sustainable regional mechanism.

- 2.2 Dr. Chua Thia-Eng conveyed his sincere thanks to the Government of the Philippines, the DENR, and Sec. Reyes for their support to the Regional Programme. He reiterated the efforts made by the Philippines to gather the support of various government agencies and the identification of targets for ICM scaling up, which provides a model to all countries.

EAS Congress 2009

- 2.3 The Meeting took up the need to make the EAS Congress an engaging event for Ministers of the PEMSEA countries. It was emphasized that the role of various focal agencies is integral in ensuring that their respective Ministers are well informed of the Congress, its activities, objectives and benefits to the region. Specific activities that focus on urgent issues such as climate change, coastal land reclamation, etc. need to be identified to attract the attention of Ministers.

Legal Identify of PEMSEA

- 2.4 The Meeting further discussed the issue pertaining to the legal identity of PEMSEA as well as the requirement of the GEF for the PEMSEA Regional Programme to develop into a self-sustaining mechanism, as indicated in the Project Document. The Meeting expressed confidence that through Partnerships the region will be able to identify various options and funding sources in the future. The PRF with the assistance of UNDP will explore other options. The Executive Committee will also meet on 14 and 15 September 2007 to tackle this matter. The EC welcomed other Partners to participate in exploring various possibilities.

GEF/UNDP Project Document

- 2.5 In line with the discussions on the GEF/UNDP Project Document on the SDS-SEA, the DPR Korea representative mentioned that DPR Korea wants to continue its participation to regional collaborative activities for the implementation of the SDS-SEA as signatory to the Putrajaya Declaration and Haikou Partnership Agreement, and shall exert its best efforts for the implementation of SDS-SEA.

Twinning Arrangements/Workshop

- 2.6 The RO Korea delegation opened the invitation to other entities to be involved in the Twinning Arrangements/Workshops. It was emphasized that as a Forum, the twinning workshop is a working and operational implementation meeting that is open to all interested entities that are conducting or are planning to engage in ecosystem-based management of river basins, estuaries and coastal seas.
- 2.7 In the spirit of cooperation and support, the RO Korea delegation informed the Meeting of the country's initiative to bid for the EXPO 2012. The RO Korea developed their theme in line with sustainable coastal and ocean development. Through a short promotional video, the RO Korea representative presented their plans for the EXPO 2012. RO Korea requested the support of all PEMSEA countries for this important endeavor.

2.8 The Meeting adopted the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Technical Session as amended.

3.0 PRF SECRETARIAT SERVICES

3.1 Ms. Amelia Dulce Supetran, Portfolio Manager on Environment, UNDP Manila, introduced the item on PRF Secretariat Services, focusing on the functions of the PRF Secretariat Services, the management and financial arrangements, and process and status of staffing and recruitment.

3.2 To ensure transparency and to form a strong PRF Secretariat, the UNDP representative emphasized the rigorous and competitive recruitment procedure being applied to all applicants including the current PEMSEA staff who applied for various positions.

3.3 The Meeting emphasized the following points:

- a. Apart from working experience it is important to take into consideration the experience and familiarity of applicants for PRF posts, as well as their knowledge of the region. In line with this, the Meeting expressed appreciation and confidence for the existing PEMSEA staff and encouraged the current PEMSEA staff to apply for the PRF posts;
- b. UNDP and UNOPS need to ensure the timely completion of recruitment of staff so as not to hamper the operations of the Secretariat Services and Technical Services of the PRF;
- c. The PRF Secretariat and Technical Services need to operate as one unit, thereby requiring strong PRF staff who are highly capable and knowledgeable in both technical and secretariat work or operations;
- d. The PRF should continue to provide opportunities for countries to participate in and learn from the PRF operation, by accommodating associate experts or interns sent by countries at their own cost;
- e. It was highlighted that in view of the changing situations, i.e., overhead cost of 8% from UNDP; strengthening of the Philippine peso; and recent increase in UN international salaries of about 5%, the estimated budget for the Secretariat Services is showing a deficit/shortfall of US\$82,708. The Meeting was encouraged to assist the Secretariat in identifying other options in acquiring additional budgetary support.

4.0 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE GEF/PEMSEA PROJECT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDS-SEA

4.1 Mr. Adrian Ross, Senior Programme Officer, PEMSEA RPO, introduced the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Implementation of the SDS-SEA Work Plan and Budget for 2007-2010. In particular, the major project outputs for 2007 as well as the GEF budget distribution by components and co-financing by project components were presented.

- 4.2 A clarification was sought with regard to the Corporate Social Responsibility as one of the key components of the Project. The Meeting was informed that this component aims to scale up activities of PRF with corporate sector in developing ICM-related project activities. It was identified as a separate component so as to highlight strong involvement of private sector or corporate social responsibility in environmental activities, as promoted in the ISO 26000.
- 4.3 On the Twinning Arrangement component, it was suggested that a work programme be developed in the forthcoming workshop, with RO Korea taking the leadership role as Secretariat for the Twinning Arrangements. The work programme may focus on two levels of activity/development, namely: 1) sharing of information; and 2) establishment of sites. Other successful sites from within and outside the region may be invited to participate in the workshops so as to share good practices, experiences and knowledge in ecosystem-based management of river basins, estuaries, and coastal seas.
- 4.4 The Meeting also highlighted the significant role of countries in leading some of the major activities. Apart from the Twinning Arrangements, the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) was also identified as a key activity, whereby Xiamen, China, serving as Secretariat, stepped up efforts for the organization of the World Ocean Week.
- 4.5 It was clarified that while the GEF Council has endorsed the Project Document, the work plan and budget would still require further review and refinement prior to submission to the GEF CEO for final approval. The UNDP has already initiated actions to secure the endorsement of countries. The Meeting encouraged countries included in the Project Document to take the lead in informing and following up with their respective UNDP focal points and encourage them to submit their endorsement of the Project Document by September 2007. Three countries are required to submit their endorsement before the project can be operationalized. In case the approval of the Project Document would not push through as planned, the Council will authorize the RPO and UNDP to identify other options.

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- 5.1 The Meeting underscored the significance of encouraging both state and non-state Partners to undertake joint planning and implementation. The Technical Session provides an opportunity for all Partners to cover specific issues and activities in which joint efforts are critical.
- 5.2 The strong involvement of all Partners in the reporting of progress made, as well as in the identification and development of agenda for future EAS Partnership Council Meetings, are also seen as important. By submitting Partners' reports and issues one month prior to the scheduled meeting of the Council, a more effective Council session can be ensured, making the Meeting a venue for solving practical issues/concerns.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted:

- 6.1 The statement of the Secretary of DENR, Philippines, delivered by the delegate of the Philippines, which reaffirmed further support by the Government of the Philippines to PEMSEA, particularly with regard to hosting the PRF.
- 6.2 Continued participation of DPRK as a Partner of EAS Partnership Council in the implementation of the SDS-SEA despite the current change of status within the GEF/UNDP Project Document on the SDS-SEA.
- 6.3 The importance attached by the RO Korea to the international cooperation in sustainable coastal and ocean development and the SDS-SEA implementation in its preparation for the EXPO 2012, and the recommendation that RO Korea consider the possibility of hosting the EAS Congress 2012 in conjunction with the EXPO 2012.
- 6.4 With appreciation, the efforts made by the UNDP in coordination with RPO in undertaking the recruitment process for the establishment of the PRF Secretariat Services, and the efforts by the RPO particularly in facilitating the preparation of work programmes and budgets for implementing the new GEF project.

The Meeting concluded that:

- 6.5 PEMSEA's traditional spirit of cooperation, mutual assistance and partnership has enabled the participating countries and other stakeholders over the past decade to work together in achieving their common objectives. This spirit needs to be carried forward and further strengthened to enhance the capability of the Partners in overcoming obstacles and find win-win solutions in resolving the many difficult issues and broaden the scope of country participation in the process of the SDS-SEA implementation.
- 6.6 The legal status of PEMSEA is an important issue for the participating countries with regard to their future policies on the development and sustainability of the PEMSEA.
- 6.7 The PRF is an important component of implementing mechanisms for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The PRF Secretariat Services and Technical Services need to operate in an integrated manner, when discharging their respective responsibilities. The PRF staff recruitment process should be conducted in timely manner, including the recruitment of the PRF Executive Director.
- 6.8 The Twinning component of the GEF/UNDP Project Document on the SDS-SEA needs to cover the experience and lessons learned as part of the current regional programme in addition to taking on those new activities as mentioned in the Project Document, as appropriate.
- 6.9 Understanding the region, and the ability to build consensus and address policy and technical issues needs to be part of the Terms of Reference of PRF national and international staff.

- 6.10 Reporting by the Partners of their respective programmes and activities related to the SDS-SEA is important for promoting partnership in the SDS-SEA implementation.
- 6.11 Joint programme planning and implementation for the SDS-SEA among the Partners should be undertaken in the manner of mutual understanding, mutual assistance and mutual benefits.
- 6.12 Future Council Meetings need to focus on strategic issues which will facilitate the establishment of a long-term self-sustaining regional mechanism supporting the implementation of the SDS-SEA, including:
 - a. Preparations for the eventual exit of the GEF as a major sponsor after six years, and how to access required levels of funding for the PRF operations;
 - b. Developing a more focused agenda for EAS Partnership Council Meetings to address practical issues in implementation and barriers/constraints faced by state and non-state partners;
 - c. Ensuring that the partnership arrangement is a two-way arrangement so that both state and non-state Partners receive mutual benefit.
 - d. Addressing transboundary issues between countries and how the implementation of SDS-SEA can more effectively address such issues within the LMEs covered by the SDS-SEA.
- 6.13 Countries have made substantial contribution both in-kind and in-cash to the SDS-SEA and this aspect needs to be highlighted to the GEF and other concerned stakeholders.

The Meeting decided:

- 6.14 To adopt the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Technical Session as amended;
- 6.15 The EC and PRF need to involve State- and Non-state Partners in the consultation process concerning the assessment and identification of future options with regard to the PRF legal status;
- 6.16 PRF will prepare concrete and effective agenda for the Ministerial Forum of the EAS Congress 2009, in order to facilitate the participation of high level policy makers in the EAS Congress 2009, and further mobilize political support for the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
- 6.17 To adopt the project budget in principle, as presented in the Project Document, and to request the RPO to duly finalize the budget, with due consideration to the respective work programmes of the Partners. The RPO is also requested to make budget revisions, as necessary, for the current Regional Programme, and take into account timelines for the signing of the SDS-SEA project document, in the finalization of the work programmes;
- 6.18 To request the countries to forward their comments and recommendations to the RPO/PRF with regard to the critical issues on the national, subnational and regional

levels related to the SDS-SEA implementation as basis for the RPO/PRF to prepare the agenda for Council meetings;

- 6.19 To request the Secretariat to prepare and disseminate a template and guidance on the reporting by the Partners at future Council meetings, including in-kind and in-cash support;
- 6.20 To request the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated regional report on National Work Programmes and contributions for the SDS-SEA implementation on an annual basis for submission to the Council;
- 6.21 To request participating countries to submit their reports one month prior to the Council Meeting as per the POA;
- 6.22 At the end of three years, a special session will be held at the EAS Congress at which country partners will highlight their progress with regard to the SDS-SEA implementation.

7.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

- 7.1 The Meeting adopted the conclusions and decisions of the Intergovernmental Session at 12:15 on 20 July 2007.

8.0 CLOSING REMARKS

- 8.1 Dr. Li Haiqing expressed his sincere thanks to all the participants, particularly to Indonesia, the Ministry of Environment and the Provincial Government of North Sulawesi for their warm hospitality. He also expressed appreciation to the co-Chair throughout the Council meeting, Dra. Masnellyarti Hilman, for her assistance and support. He thanked the PEMSEA RPO staff and Dr. Chua Thia-Eng for their dedication and hard work, highlighting the significant achievements made by the Regional Programme in the past six months. He reiterated the need for all Partners to undertake joint efforts to successfully address the new challenge that comes with the transformation of PEMSEA.
- 8.2 The various representatives of Country Partners and the representative of UNDP Manila congratulated the Council Chairs for their election and able leadership all throughout the conduct of the Meeting. They also accorded special appreciation to the Government of Indonesia and the Provincial Government of North Sulawesi for graciously hosting the Meeting and the dinners. The Country delegations further expressed their appreciation to the local and PEMSEA Secretariat for the excellent preparations and successful organization of the Meeting. As new members of PEMSEA, the representatives of Timor-Leste and Lao PDR, in particular, conveyed their optimism to the Partnership arrangement and requested for the support of all Partners to assist them in their efforts to start-up activities in line with the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

- 8.3 Lastly, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng reiterated that the region has achieved much in the past 14 years and the level of maturity that it has reached would serve as its strong foundation for the future. Dr. Chua underscored that while the countries of the region vary in economic and technical capacities, these differences may be resolved through concerted effort. As he exits the PEMSEA as Regional Programme Director in October 2007, Dr. Chua requested that all countries accord the same support to the Council Chairs, the incoming Executive Director, and the new PRF staff. He also acknowledged the Ministry of Environment, the Provincial Government of North Sulawesi, and the local Secretariat for the successful organization of the Meeting, and accorded special recognition to the PEMSEA Secretariat for their efforts in ensuring the Meeting's success.
- 8.4 Dr. Li Haiqing declared the Intergovernmental Session closed at 12:40pm, 20 July 2007.

ANNEX 5
List of Participants
Intergovernmental Session

**1st EAS Partnership Council Meeting
Hotel Sedona
Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia
17 – 20 July 2007**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Intergovernmental Session**

PARTNER COUNTRIES

CAMBODIA

Mr. Long Rithirak
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Environment
48 Samdech Preah Sihanouk
Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmon
Phnom Penh
Cambodia
Tel: +855 23 214-027
Fax: +855 23 219-287
Email: moeimo@bigpond.com.kh
moeimo@online.com.kh

Fax: +86 10 68048051
Email: fkliang@soa.gov.cn
fengkui@yahoo.com

Prof. Li Wenhai
Bohai Sea Environmental Management
Project Office
International Cooperation Department
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 68048051
Fax: +86 10 68030799
Email: bsemp@tom.com

CHINA

Dr. Li Haiqing
Director General
Department of International Cooperation
State Oceanic Administration (SOA)
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing, 100860
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 6804-2695/6803-2211;
685271665
Fax: +86-10 6803-0799
Email: hqli@soa.gov.cn
Website: www.soa.gov.cn

Mr. Liang Fengkui
Director
International Organization Division
International Cooperation Department
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 68019791

DPR KOREA

Mr. Ri Jun Ho
Director
General Bureau for Cooperation with
International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Trade
Jungsong-dong, Central District
Pyongyang, P. O. Box 504
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Tel: +8502 381-5926
Fax: +8502 381 5827
Email: gbcio@co.chesin.com

Mr. Kim Su Hong
Senior Programme Officer
General Bureau for Cooperation with
International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Trade
Jungsong-dong, Central District
Pyongyang, P. O. Box 504
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Tel: +8502 381-5926
Fax: +8502 381 5827

Email: gbcio@co.chesin.com

INDONESIA

Mrs. Wahyu Indraningsih
Assistant Deputy for Marine and Coastal
Destruction Control
Ministry of Environment
Jalan D.I. Panjaitan No. 24
Kebon Nanas, Jakarta Timur 13410
Indonesia
Tel. +62-21 8590 5638
Fax: +62-21 8590 4929
Email: pkepl@bapedal.go.id

JAPAN

Mr. Toru Nakahashi
Deputy Director
Ocean Policy Division
Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and
Transport
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8918
Japan
Tel: +81 (0)3 5253 8266
Fax: +81 (0)3 5253 1549
Email: nakahashi-t2je@mlit.go.jp
: ocean-p@mlit.go.jp

Mr. Ichio Motono
Senior Deputy Director
National Planning Division
National and Regional Planning Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and
Transport
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8918
Japan
Tel: +81 (0)3 5253 8356
Fax: +81 (0)3 5253 1570
Email: motono-i2vz@mlit.go.jp

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. Phonechaleun Nonthaxay
Director General
Water Resources Coordination Committee
Secretariat
Science, Technology and Environment
Agency
Prime Minister's Office
P.O. Box 2279, 3rd Floor, Science
Technology and Environment Agency
Building
Nahaidieo Road, Sisavath Village
Chantabouly District, Vientiane
Lao PDR
Telefax: +856 21 218737
Email: wrccs@etllao.com;
nonthaxay@yahoo.com;

Mr. Souphasay Komany
Assistant Director
Water Resources Coordination Committee
Secretariat
Science, Technology and Environment
Agency
Prime Minister's Office
P.O. Box 2279, 3rd Floor, Science
Technology and Environment Agency
Building
Nahaidieo Road, Sisavath Village
Chantabouly District, Vientiane
Lao PDR
Telefax: +856 21 218737
Email: souphasaykomany@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINES

Atty. Analiza Rebueta-Teh
Assistant Secretary for Foreign-Assisted &
Special Projects (FASPO)
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel: +63 2 929-6626 loc. 2055
Fax: +63 2 926-8074
Email: analiza@denr.gov.ph

Engr. Nilo C. Marayag
Director III
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel: +63 2 924-2540 / 929-6626 loc. 2231

RO KOREA

Mr. Woo, Dong-Sik
Director
Marine Environment Policy Team, Marine
Environment Planning Office
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
(MOMAF)
140-1 Gye dong, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110734
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 2 3674-6540
Fax: +82 2 3674-6546
Email: dwoo0047@momaf.go.kr
Website: www.momaf.go.kr

Mr. Hong, Sun-Bae
Assistant Director
Marine Environment Policy Team, Marine
Environment Planning Office
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
(MOMAF), ROK
140-1 Gye dong, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110734
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 2 3674-6545
Fax: +82 2 3674-6546
Email: hong0610@momaf.go.kr
Website: www.momaf.go.kr

SINGAPORE

Mr. Eng Tiang Sing
Director
International Relations Division
Ministry of the Environment and Water
Resources
Environment Building
40 Scotts Road, #23-00

Singapore 228231
Tel: +65 67319878
Fax: +65 67384468
Email: Eng_Tiang_Sing@mewr.gov.sg

Dr. Nigel Goh
Assistant Director, Marine
National Parks Board
Singapore
Tel: +65 6472-2319
Fax: +65 6467-1912
Email: nigel_goh@nparks.gov.sg
Website: www.nparks.gov.sg

TIMOR-LESTE

Mr. Acácio Guterres
National Director of Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries
Timor-Leste
Tel: +670 723 328
Fax: +670 332 5121
Email: accguterres@yahoo.com

Mr. Narciso Almeida de Carvalho
Director for Fisheries Resource
Management and Environment Aquatic &
Focal Point for PEMSEA Timor-Leste
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries
Timor-Leste
Tel: +670 723 6180 / 332 5121
Fax: +670 332 5121
Email: narcisoalmeida@yahoo.com

VIETNAM

Mr. Le Dai Thang
Official
Vietnam Environment Protection Agency
(VEPA)
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment (MONRE)
67 Nguyen Du Str, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: +84-4-8224419
Fax: +84-4-8223189

Email: ldthang@nea.gov.vn
Website: <http://www.nea.gov.vn>

Mr. Hoang Xuan Huy
Official
International Cooperation Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment
83 Nguyen Chi Thanh Street
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: +84 4 773 4527
Fax: + 84 4 835 2191
Email: hxhuy@monre.gov.vn

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Huan
Director General
Office of the National Steering Committee
Master Project Marine Resources and
Environment Survey and Management
83 Nguyen Chi Thanh Street
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: 0913210940

Sponsoring Agency

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Manila

Mr. Kyo Naka
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP Manila
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Philippines
Tel: +63 2 901-0224
Fax: +63 2 901-0200

Ms. Amelia Dulce Supetran
Portfolio Manager –Environment
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Philippines
Tel: +63 2 901-0224
Fax: +63 2 901-0200
Email: amelia.supetran@undp.org

PEMSEA SECRETARIAT

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng
Regional Programme Director
Tel: +63 2 426-3849 / 920-2211 loc. 9
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: chuate@pemsea.org

Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross
Senior Programme Officer for Technical
Programme Operations
Tel: +63 2 926-9712 / 920-2211 loc. 6
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: saross@pemsea.org

Dr. Huming Yu
Senior Programme Officer for Coastal and
Ocean Governance Services
Tel: +63 2 926-3752
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: humingyu@pemsea.org

Ms. Nancy Bermas
Technical Officer - Research
Tel: +63 2 920-2211 loc. 10
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: nbermas@pemsea.org

Mr. Rainier Allan Requinala
Senior Technical Assistant
Monitoring and Evaluation
Tel: +63 2 920-2211 loc. 15
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: rrequinala@pemsea.org

Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo
Senior Technical Assistant for Coastal and
Ocean Governance Services
Tel: +63 2 920-2211 loc. 15
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: kgallardo@pemsea.org

Ms. Diwata Cayaban
Secretary for Environmental Management
Services
Tel: +63 2 920-2211 loc. 2
Fax: +63 2 926-9712
Email: dcayaban@pemsea.org

Regional Programme Office

Visiting Address:

Regional Programme on Building
Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of East Asia
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2502,
Quezon City 1165, Philippines

Email: info@pemsea.org

Website: www.pemsea.org

Ms. Melissa Repi
Email: melissarepi@woc2009.org

Ms. Claudia Darissa
Email: claudiadarissa@woc2009.org

Rensy Manarisip
Email: rensymanarisip@woc2009.org

Riffel Pakasi
Email: riffelpakasi@woc2009.org

Everly Rawung
Email: everlyrawung@woc2009.org

Grandy Rawung
Email: grandyrawung@woc2009.org

LOCAL SECRETARIAT

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Ms. Zulhasni
Ministry of Environment
Jl. D.I. Panjaitan, Kebon Nanas
Jakarta 13410, Indonesia
Email: zulhasni@menlh.go.id

Ms. Anggi Kusumah
Ministry of Environment
Jl. D.I. Panjaitan, Kebon Nanas
Jakarta 13410, Indonesia
Email: anggikusumah@gmail.com

Mr. Iswahyudi
Ministry of Environment
Jl. D.I. Panjaitan, Kebon Nanas
Jakarta 13410, Indonesia
Email: iswahyudi_yudhi@yahoo.com

LOCAL COMMITTEE

Ms. Rosita Maria
Email: rositamaria@woc2009.org