

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PEMSEA NETWORK OF
LEARNING CENTERS

Online via Zoom 27 June 2022



2nd PNLC General Assembly Proceedings

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The 2nd PNLC General Assembly was organized by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Resource Facility on 27 June 2022 via Zoom. It convened a total of 30 participants from: eight PNLC members from 5 countries (China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Timor-Leste); five observing research and higher education institutions from 5 countries (Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam); and PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF). The event was chaired by Dr. Wansuk Senanan, the incumbent President of the PNLC and Assistant Professor at the Department of Aquatic Sciences in Burapha University (BUU), Thailand. PRF served as the Secretariat of the meeting.
- 1.2 The following supporting documents are annexed to these proceedings:
 - Annex 1 program;
 - Annex 2 links to the meeting documents, presentation files, video recording, and group photos; and
 - Annex 3 list of participants.

2.0 Opening of the Meeting and Approval of the Agenda (PNLC/GA/02/DOC/01d)

- 2.1 The General Assembly commenced at 9:00 AM (UTC+8).
- 2.2 Dr. Senanan opened the meeting and acknowledged the presence of participants. She thanked everyone for attending the 2nd General Assembly and recounted the milestones of the PNLC leading to this meeting. She then presented the provisional agenda of the meeting for review of the General Assembly. The agenda was approved.

3.0 2022 PNLC Elections (PNLC/GA/02/DOC/02a)

- 3.1 Ms. Karen See, the Secretariat Coordinator of the PRF, presented the process and results of the 2022 PNLC elections.
- 3.2 She called the meeting's attention to Article 9 of the PNLC Charter, stating that the activities of the network shall be led by a President and Vice President—both of whom will be nominated and elected by the General Assembly and serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the General Assembly.

3.3 She then provided a summary of the process for the 2022 PNLC elections as depicted in the diagram below.

Nominations	Consultation/Shortlisting	Election (2 nd PNLC GA)
March 16 – May 6	May 9 - June 2	June 27

3.4 She shared the following table featuring the number of votes received per candidate. Based on the tally, Dr. Yonvitner, the Director of the Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS) of IPB University, Indonesia, and Dr. Fang Qinhua, the incumbent PNLC Vice President, have received majority of the votes for the post of President and Vice President, respectively.

Position	Candidate	Number of Votes
President	Dr. Yonvitner Director, CCMRS, IPB University, Indonesia	9/11
	Mr. Romaldo Da Costa Ximenes Dean, Agriculture Faculty, Oriental University of Timor-Leste (UNITAL)	2/11
Vice President	Dr. Fang Qinhua Incumbent Vice President, PNLC Deputy Director, Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University (XMU), China Deputy Secretary General, PNLG Secretariat	6/11
	Mr. Mateus Salvador Chief, Department of Fisheries, Oriental University of Timor-Leste (UNITAL)	1/11
	Dr. Clement Camposano Chancellor, University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV)	4/11

3.5 Dr. Yonvitner held numerous leadership roles in IPB University such as those related to disaster studies and management, agro-maritime working group, collaboration, student affairs, alumni, and the Rector's Office. He has also been engaged in various national/subnational working groups, associations, and projects on integrated coastal management (ICM), fisheries management, seafood ecolabeling, mangroves, and maritime investments. His research interests include marine pollution; fisheries biology, population dynamics, and management; and coastal and marine resource management. He received his PhD in coastal resources management, master of science degree in natural resources management and environment, and bachelor degree in aquatic resource management from IPB University. He received his postdoctoral degree from Universitat de Girona in Spain.

- Reelected for a second term as Vice President of the PNLC, Dr. Fang is concurrently the Deputy Secretary General of the Secretariat of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG). He has also been engaged in various national/subnational projects and research in environmental impact assessment, marine policy, and ecosystem service assessment. His research interests include marine science and policy, marine spatial planning, and environmental systems assessment. He has a PhD and post-doctoral degree in marine affairs from Xiamen University and was a visiting scholar at the Center for Ocean Policy of the University of Delaware (USA) and a visiting fellow at PEMSEA.
- 3.7 As outgoing President of the PNLC, Dr. Senanan officiated the oath-taking for the incoming officers, who shall assume their respective positions after the General Assembly for the term 27 June 2022 26 June 2025. Mr. Arief Yuwono, the Chair of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council (PC), and Ms. Aimee Gonzales, the Executive Director of the PRF, served as witnesses for the oath-taking.
- Assembly for their vote of confidence. He extended his congratulations to Dr. Fang and said that the success of the network, as a platform that assists local communities and governments in using the scientific approach in coastal and marine resource governance, will also depend on the support and cooperation of the Vice President and PNLC members. He shared that his institution, CCMRS, has been playing a significant role in promoting and implementing ICM in Indonesia since 1996 and that IPB University has carried out a training program on port and shipping logistics, an annual conference on coastal and marine economic valuation, training on environmental sensitivity, and coastal blue carbon initiatives, among others. He also conveyed his future plans for the network, which include, for example, the conduct of knowledge-sharing workshops (such as those held jointly with the PNLG) and training of trainers as well as the publication of semestral/annual materials. He also thanked the previous and current PNLC officers for their efforts and encouraged everyone to continue supporting the Network's efforts.
- In his acceptance speech, Dr. Fang greeted the participants and expressed his gratitude towards the incumbent President for her efforts to set a formal foundation for the PNLC. He reassured the Assembly of his commitment and Dr. Yonvitner's in fulfilling their role as new officers. He then recalled the history of COMI's establishment as an example of cooperation in the region. With the support of PEMSEA and the Government of China, COMI was established in 2005 to address the complex issues in the coastal and marine environment and has been instrumental in generating interdisciplinary research on ocean and coastal management by utilizing more than 50 adjunct faculty members from the various schools of XMU in order to bridge science, technology, and management in the implementation of ICM in the EAS region. COMI's efforts have resulted in various international awards that recognize the exemplary growth of Xiamen through ICM application. The institute currently has more than 240 students, where more than a third are international students, mostly from the region and Africa. As a PEMSEA Regional Center of Excellence (RCOE) in sustainable

coastal development, COMI will continue to focus its research on law, policy, economics, ecosystem health, and carbon sinks insofar as they relate to coastal and ocean governance as well as support international cooperation efforts in the process. He hopes that, in the next 3 years, more institutions will join the PNLC and that the Network's positive impacts will continue to increase. He also hopes that the PNLC will work more closely with their local government counterpart in organizing joint capacity-building activities. He invited the General Assembly to visit COMI when the situation allows.

- 3.10 Dr. Senanan thanked the new officers and expressed her enthusiasm towards the various opportunities for collaboration under the incoming leadership. She believes in the expertise and strong academic records of both CCMRS and COMI in supporting the work and vision of these new officers.
- 3.11 On behalf of the PRF, Ms. Gonzales thanked (BUU), especially Dr. Senanan and her predecessor, Dr. Praparsiri Barnette, the former PNLC President, for shepherding the Network's evolution as PEMSEA's capacity development and knowledge-sharing partner to help scale up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and the local adaptation of ICM. With their guidance, PNLC was able launch its own charter and in the process, strengthen the regional governance mechanism of PEMSEA further. She thanked BUU for their service and noted that this marks a significant milestone in PEMSEA's work, considering the lack of formal partnership arrangement between PEMSEA and Thailand.
- 3.12 On behalf of the EAS PC, Mr. Yuwono congratulated the new officers and believes that, with their leadership, PNLC will improve its capacity in providing education, training, research, and public outreach in managing various environment issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and marine plastic pollution with the end goal of achieving a healthy ocean, people, and economies. He also thanked Dr. Senanan for her contributions and looks forward to working with her in the near future.

4.0 PNLC Code of Conduct (PNLC/GA/02/DOC/03)

- 4.1 Ms. See presented an overview of the PNLC Code of Conduct, whose first draft was shared to PNLC members on 21 June 2022.
- Article 5, Paragraphs 4-5 of the PNLC Charter state that the Executive Committee of the PNLC will develop the Code of Conduct and have the same approved by the General Assembly within one year from the signing of the Charter. This document, along with the 5-year operational plan, will help guide the smooth and efficient operations of the Network in implementing the SDS-SEA and will be updated as needed during the annual General Assembly. The Code of Conduct will provide the standards for professional conduct in every major field of operation of the PNLC. In this regard, the PRF prepared the first draft of the Code of Conduct, which was patterned, with appropriate amendments, after the Code of Ethics for PRF Personnel and the codes of conduct of several associations and universities.

- 4.3 As stipulated in the draft Code, the Code will apply to all PNLC member institutions that have signed the PNLC Charter. Specifically, this will apply to all individuals who are and/or will be engaged in training and capacity development activities of PEMSEA, PNLC, or PNLG and/or SDS-SEA or PEMSEA-related initiatives.
- 4.4 Under this draft Code, PNLC members must comply with all laws, policies, and standards applicable to them in addition to the PNLC Charter and Code of Conduct and uphold the principles of due diligence; objectivity; cooperation; impartiality; social inclusion; integrity; truthfulness; data transparency; professionalism; a conductive learning and work environment; environmental sustainability; financial prudence; and accountability.
- 4.5 Ms. See explained that the draft Code also has provisions on the treatment of violations and the effectivity, amendment, and interpretation of the Code.
- 4.6 The draft Code will take effect upon its approval by the General Assembly and will remain valid unless the General Assembly recommends its revocation or amendment in consultation with the PRF.
- 4.7 Through the approval of this Code, all concerned individuals at the collective, institutional, and individual levels commit to uphold the legal, professional, and ethical standards or principles espoused in this Code as bases for their official duties (whether academic or professional depending on the situation of the individuals concerned) in relation to the above-mentioned activities/initiatives.
- 4.8 In cases where the concerned individuals are subjected to other relevant instruments (e.g., laws, policies, standards), this Code shall apply to the highest extent possible without contradicting these instruments.
- 4.9 Following the presentation of Ms. See, Dr. Senanan requested everyone to provide their comments and suggestions on enhancing the draft Code by 25 July 2022.

5.0 Training Opportunities for 2022-2026 (PNLC/GA/02/DOC/04)

- Dr. Senanan informed the General Assembly about the upcoming formal redesignation of the State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP), formerly the Centre for Marine Environmental Research and Innovative Technology (MERIT), in The City University of Hong Kong (CityU), as an RCOE in marine pollution during the 14th EAS PC Meeting on 27-28 July 2022. Redesignation is being requested by the Council, considering the reorganization of the MERIT consortium.
- 5.2 With over 40 cross-disciplinary researchers from eight partner universities in Hong Kong SAR, SKLMP is dedicated to developing multidisciplinary and innovative solutions to address marine pollution problems that pose a significant threat to the environment and public

health. They offer a host of opportunities in the next five years to improve capacity development in addressing marine pollution in the EAS region.

- 5.3 On behalf of SKLMP, Dr. Kenneth Leung, the Chair Professor and Director, congratulated the new PNLC officers and thanked Ms. Gonzales for inviting them to present SKLMP's work in the region.
- He explained that while CityU is a relatively young organization at only 29 years old, it was ranked 54th in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings in 2023 and 4th in the top 50 universities under 50 years old in 2021 under the QS system. Established in 2004 under the leadership of Dr. Rudolf Wu, MERIT began with 25 experts from Hong Kong SAR-based universities and 10 experts from overseas and eventually upgraded to SKLMP in 2010 with the support of the central government of China. Currently, they have 8 partner universities in Hong Kong SAR with a total number of 50 core members, over 100 supporting staff, and over 200 PhD students.
- 5.5 They are known for their inter-university, multidisciplinary, and collaborative research on marine pollution, focusing on three strategic themes:
 - Innovative technology for pollution monitoring and control;
 - Eco-safety and environmental risk assessment; and
 - Ecosystem responses and ecological restoration.
- They envision themselves as a key international research center in advancing marine environmental research for the positive societal impacts as well as the protection and management of the marine environment of Hong Kong SAR and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region. Their mission is to:
 - Provide high quality, multidisciplinary research and innovations;
 - Train environmental scientists, managers, and entrepreneurs; and
 - Support the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Chinese Central Government in the management of environmental quality and protection of marine ecosystems.
- 5.7 They organize training workshops in various places and conduct regular summer training courses in Hong Kong and XMU.
- 5.8 Notable examples of their past, current, and future work include the following:
 - Development of a sensitive biosensor for rapid detection of metals in seawater, practical and high-throughput aptasensing device for antibiotics detection, and enhanced separation and sludge refinery for wastewater treatment;
 - Assessment of antibiotic resistome flows from pollution hotspots to environments and exploration of relevant control strategies;
 - *In situ* monitoring of coral health and habitat mapping using innovative technologies such as the underwater information system (UWIS);
 - Use of oyster baskets to enhance biodiversity and fishery resources; and

- Provision of scientific data and professional advice for the design and construction of the first eco-shoreline in Hong Kong SAR.
- 5.9 In terms of their engagement in PEMSEA, SKLMP has organized a number of training workshops, including symposiums in EAS Congresses. They also provide visiting fellowships and short-term training opportunities (3-6 months in duration). Participants were invited to contact SKLMP should they be interested in these opportunities.
- 5.10 Examples of events that they plan on organizing in the next five years include the following:
 - 10th International Conference on Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology in January 2024 at CityU;
 - 3rd International Conference on Biodiversity, Ecology, and Conservation of marine ecosystems (BECoME Conference)¹ in January 2026 at CityU (hybrid mode);
 - 2nd IOC/WESTPAC Training Workshop on Introductory Scientific for Marine Benthic Dinoflagellates Sampling and Processing;
 - 4th International Conference on Underwater Technology and Education (ICUSTE);
 and
 - 8th Training on Methods in Tropical Reefs Monitoring.
- Dr. Leung also apprised the General Assembly about the Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme of SKLMP. The program is the extension of their past project entitled "Global Monitoring of Pharmaceuticals," which involved 258 rivers. As one of the endorsed initiatives under the UN Decade of Ocean Science, the project aims to develop standardized methods to sample, extract, and quantify the priority chemical contaminants in seawater samples collected from major urbanized estuaries worldwide to enable a global and scientifically sound comparison of the results among various estuaries. The results of this global effort will help reveal the latest status of chemical contaminations in major estuaries worldwide (including the pollution hotspots and most common pollutants) as well as develop pollution strategies through socioeconomic and policy analyses.

5.12 Discussion Highlights:

5.13 Dr. Senanan thanked Dr. Leung for the information.

- 5.14 Dr. Leung acknowledged the presence of his colleagues in SKLMP who were also present in the meeting, namely:
 - Dr. Chan Lai Leo, an expert on harmful algal blooms and trainer for scientific divers, who helped the Government of Hong Kong SAR conduct the habitat mapping and assessment of coral reef health and fish biodiversity;

¹ The BECoME Conference is an endorsed activity of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science.

- Dr. Henry He, Dr. Xin Xiaying, Ms. Ng Man Wai, and Ms. Jia Jun, all of whom helped organized the various capacity building initiatives of SKLMP.
- 5.15 Dr. Chan emphasized the importance of these training sessions for Asian countries and congratulated Dr. Fang for his reelection as Vice President.
- 5.16 Building on Dr. Leung's presentation about SKLMP's engagement in PEMSEA, Ms. See added that the consortium collaborated with the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines, another RCOE, on the application of artificial mussel (AM) technology for heavy metal monitoring in Manila Bay, Philippines. It also organized a training course on contaminant analysis and risk assessment in the marine environment, which resulted in a joint research undertaking between MERIT and BUU concerning the application of AM for heavy metal monitoring in Bangsaen Beach in Saensuk Municipality, Thailand. Multi-million funding was also awarded to the Batangas Environmental Laboratory in the Philippines for upgrading the laboratory as a result of the application of knowledge gained from MERIT.
- Dr. Senanan inquired if SKLMP is still looking for collaborators for their GEM Programme.

 Dr. Leung responded that they are currently accepting expressions of interest from institutions join as project collaborators in data gathering and analysis—the details of which can be found at https://www.globalestuaries.org/.
- 5.18 Dr. Senanan also inquired about the training opportunities mentioned by Dr. Leung. He remarked that PNLC members are free to contact SKLMP for more information.
- 5.19 Ms. Gonzales was pleased to note the exchange of plans and opportunities during the meeting and requested the participants to always include and inform the PRF, as interim PNLC Secretariat, about the developments and collaborations, if any, within the Network.
- 5.20 Dr. Senanan gave her thanks and mentioned that she looks forward to the above-mentioned opportunities.

6.0 Next Steps and Closing Remarks

- As incoming President, Dr. Yonvitner reminded the General Assembly about the importance of the PNLC and their impacts at the regional and national levels. He then invited everyone to participate in the Summer Course on Tropical Sea Farming and ICM of IPB University on 1-10 August 2022 in hybrid mode in Bogor, Indonesia. He also apprised everyone about the environmental sensitivity training to be organized also by CCMRS. He then thanked Dr. Leung for the opportunities being offered by SKLMP. Finally, he encouraged everyone to actively participate in the PNLC and to collaborate with the PNLG.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM (UTC+8).

ANNEX 1. PROVISIONAL AGENDA.

27 June 2022, 9 AM – 11 AM (UTC+8) via Zoom

Chair: Dr. Wansuk Senanan, Incumbent President, PNLC

Time	Agei	nda Item and Document No.	Speaker
9:00 AM -	1.0	Opening of the meeting and	Incumbent Chair
9:15 AM		approval of the agenda	
		(PNLC/GA/02/DOC/01d)	
9:15 AM –	2.0	2022 PNLC elections	
9:45 AM		(PNLC/GA/02/DOC/02a)	
		Presentation of the process and	Ms. Karen See
		results of the elections	Secretariat Coordinator, PRF
		Oath taking and acceptance	Incoming Officials:
		speeches of the incoming officials	 Dr. Yonvitner
		·	Incoming President, PNLC
			Dr. Fang Qinhua
			Incoming Vice President,
			PNLC
9:45 AM -	3.0	PNLC Code of Conduct	
10:30 AM		(PNLC/GA/02/DOC/03)	
		Presentation of draft 1 of the	Ms. Karen See
		PNLC Code of Conduct	Secretariat Coordinator, PRF
10:30 AM -	4.0	Presentation of training	Dr. Kenneth Leung
10:50 AM		opportunities for 2022-2027	Chair Professor and Director, SKLMP,
		(PNLC/GA/02/DOC/04)	CityU
10:50 AM -	5.0	Next steps and closing remarks	Dr. Yonvitner
11:00 AM			Incoming President, PNLC

ANNEX 2. LINKS TO SUPPORTING FILES.

Meeting documents - https://tinyurl.com/PNLC-GA2-MeetingDocuments

Presentation materials - https://tinyurl.com/PNLC-GA2-Presentation

Group photograph - https://tinyurl.com/PNLC-GA2-GroupPhotos

Recording - https://youtu.be/d-8wmotg6kl

ANNEX 3. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.

Location	Name of Institute	Representatives
PNLC Members	The state of the s	nepresentatives
China	Coastal and Ocean	Dr. Fang Qinhua
	Management	Vice President, PNLC; Deputy
	Institute (COMI),	Director and Professor, COMI; and Deputy Secretary
	Xiamen University	General, PNLG
	(XMU)	,
Indonesia	Center for Coastal	Dr. Yonvitner
	and Marine	Director
	Resources Studies	
	(CCMRS), IPB	Ms. Isdahartati
	University	Researcher
		Dr. Ario Damar
		Member, Advisory Board
Philippines	Cavite State	Prof. Noel Sedigo
Timppines	University (CvSU)	Campus Administrator, Trece Martires City Campus
	Offiversity (CV30)	campus Administrator, freee wartires city campus
		Dr. Lilibeth Novicio
		Chairperson, Department of Forestry and
		Environmental Science
	De La Salle Lipa (DLSL)	Prof. Vivienne Rhea Padura
		Faculty, Biology Department and Science Area
	University of the	Prof. Marie Frances Nievales
	Philippines Visayas	Associate Professor, Division of Biological Sciences
	(UPV)	
	Xavier University –	Prof. Maria Jordana Olano
	Ateneo de Cagayan	Officer-In-Charge, Biology Department
	(XU)	
Thailand	Burapha University	Dr. Wansuk Senanan
	(BUU)	President, PNLC; and Assistant Professor, Department
		of Aquatic Sciences, Faculty of Science
Timor-Leste	Oriental University of	Mr. Romaldo da Costa Ximenes
	Timor Leste (UNITAL)	Dean, Agriculture Faculty
		Mr. Mateus Salvador
		Chief, Department of Fisheries
Observers		
Hong Kong SAR	State Key Laboratory	Dr. Kenneth Leung
	of Marine Pollution	Chair Professor and Director
	(SKLMP), The City	Da Hannalla
	University of Hong	Dr. Henry He
	Kong (CityU)	Dr. Chan Lai Leo
		Dr. Chan Lai Leo
		Dr. Xin Xiaying
		Ms. Ng Man Wai
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Location	Name of Institute	Representatives
		Ms. Jia Jun
Indonesia	Ministry of	Mr. Arief Yuwono
	Environment and	Chair, East Asian Seas Partnership Council; and Senior
	Forestry (MoEF)	Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Cooperation, MoEF
		Ms. Irene Aditya Yuniarti
		Head, Environment Quality Standards Section,
		Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution and
		Degradation Control
Philippines	Marine Science	Dr. Laura David
''	Institute (MSI),	Director
	University of the	
	Philippines (UP)	
Thailand	Prince of Songkla	Dr. Sakanan Plathong
	University (PSU)	Director, Marine Science Learning Center, Department
		of Biology, Faculty of Science
Viet Nam	University of Da Nang	Dr. Ho Hong Quyen
	(UD)	Professor
Secretariat		
		Ms. Aimee Gonzales
		Executive Director
		Ms. Nancy Bermas
		Senior Programme Manager
		Ms. Daisy Padayao
		Programme Manager
		Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise
		Policy and Results-Based Management Specialist,
		GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem
		Action Phase II (ATSEA-2)
		Ms. Karen See
		Secretariat Coordinator
		Ms. Elsie Merina
		Programme and Admin Associate
		Mr. Arsenio Dacaymat, Jr.
		IT System Administrator