

Proceedings of the Second Ministerial Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia

14 - 15 December 2006
Haikou City, Hainan Province, PR China



Global Environment
Facility



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Programme



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Partnerships in
Environmental Management
for the Seas of East Asia

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND MINISTERIAL FORUM
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST
ASIA**

*GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)*

**Haikou City, Hainan Province, People's Republic of China
14-15 December 2006**

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) was adopted during the First Ministerial Forum during the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2003, in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The 10th Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting, Xiamen, People's Republic of China, 25-29 October 2004, agreed to develop implementing mechanisms for the SDS-SEA by applying a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process. The 10th PSC Meeting further decided to organize the EAS Congress 2006, among other objectives, as a venue for the 2nd Ministerial Forum, which would consider the adoption of the implementing mechanisms for the SDS-SEA.
- 1.2. The 11th and 12th PSC Meetings, respectively held in August 2005 (Siem Reap, Cambodia) and August 2006 (Davao City, Philippines), confirmed the consensus among the countries and other stakeholders regarding the implementing mechanisms and operational arrangements for the SDS-SEA. This paved the way for the 2nd Ministerial Forum during the EAS Congress 2006 and the adoption of the agreed mechanisms and arrangements.
- 1.3. On 11 December 2006, the 3rd Senior Government Officials Meeting (SGOM) was held in Haikou City, PR China. About 50 participants from PEMSEA participating countries and observer organizations and institutions attended the meeting. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction for the preparations made by the Congress Secretariat and the host country for participation, documentation, administrative and logistic arrangements to ensure the effective conduct of the 2nd Ministerial Forum.
- 1.4. The 2nd Ministerial Forum (hereinafter called "the Forum") was conducted in Haikou City from 14 to 15 December 2006. The Forum consisted of three components. The first component took place in the People's Assembly Hall on 14 December. This component involved reports on the outcomes of the various Thematic Workshops of the International Conference on Coastal and Ocean Governance, including recommendations for consideration by the Ministers and Senior Government Officials. The Forum's Opening Ceremony followed. The

second component was a session held in Huandao Tide Hotel on 15 December. The session's objectives were to review mechanisms and arrangements for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, and to discuss related challenges, opportunities and responding strategies. The third component was the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement on the Implementation of SDS-SEA. The signing occurred on board a ship cruising along the coast of Haikou, also on 15 December.

- 1.5. The Forum was attended by ministers and senior government officials from Cambodia, PR China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.
- 1.6. Thailand attended the Forum as an Observer Country. Organizations that participated as Observers were: Asia-Pacific Economic Commission Marine Resource Conservation Working Group, Conservation International, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/Subcommission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC), Korea Environment Institute (KEI), Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF), Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Ltd (OSRL/EARL), Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/GEF South China Sea Project, UNEP/Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources (GPA), Victoria Coastal Council (VCC)/Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Victoria, Australia, and The World Bank.
- 1.7. Also represented at the Forum was the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Implementing Agency for PEMSEA was represented by UNDP New York and UNDP Manila. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), London, represented the Executing Agency. The PEMSEA Regional Programme Office (RPO), Manila, served as the Secretariat.
- 1.8. The Forum Program and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively. A summary report of the 3rd SGOM is given as Annex 3.

2. OUTCOMES OF THE EAS CONGRESS 2006: CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FORUM

2.1. Reports on the Outcomes of the International Conference

- 2.1.1. Dr. Arthur Hanson, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada, chaired the reporting session of the International Conference and called on Thematic Workshop

Chairs to present a synthesis of discussions undertaken by various workshops, seminars and other events relating to conference themes.

- 2.1.2. Dr. Delfin Ganapin, UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, speaking for the Thematic Workshop on Communities in Sustainable Development, focused on the role of coastal and local communities in achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and other global agreements, particularly from the perspectives of the application of integrated coastal management (ICM), civil society participation, sustainable aquaculture and fisheries and eco-tourism. The major recommendations to the Ministers were that: special attention needs to be given to mechanisms and opportunities to ensure rural communities' participation in sustainable development programs, including, for example: 1) better access to information and basic services; 2) use of local knowledge; 3) provision of seed funding and incentives for good practices; 4) application of carrying capacity in resource uses; and 5) rights/responsibility-based management in fisheries and aquaculture.
- 2.1.3. Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, University of Delaware, USA, summarized the outcomes of discussions under the Thematic Workshop on Securing the Ocean, which touched on national ocean policies, the Tokyo Ocean Declaration, ICM experiences, lessons learned and scaling up, regime building in coastal and ocean governance; and advocacy, leadership, legislation and interagency collaboration as major driving elements in ocean governance. The workshops stressed needs to: 1) apply cross-sectoral management approaches to cover the entire coastal and 200-mile zone; 2) dedicate ocean budget in developing national social and economic programs; 3) shift from traditional concept of "security" in national defense to "comprehensive" and "human" security concepts which also include seeking solutions to transboundary resource and environmental issues; 4) formulate codes of conduct and standards for peaceful settlement of disputes and promote joint development in the use of shared resources; and 5) build up "sufficient consensus" of stakeholders and foster "ocean ethics" in maintaining the oceans' ecological, economic and social significance.
- 2.1.4. Ms. Diane James, Victoria Coastal Council, Australia, addressed the Thematic Workshop on Ecosystem-based Management: From River Basins to Coastal Seas, which also covered the management of river basins, estuaries and coastal seas, marine protected areas, Yellow Sea partnership, habitat restoration and ecosystem monitoring and forecasting. The workshops concluded that ecosystem management should be the way of doing business nowadays, rather than a mere concept. Its application should be regionally targeted. Strong stakeholder commitment and

partnership would ensure the success of its application. Effective communication with policymakers and local communities is essential. Habitat restoration should be linked up with improvement of social wellbeing as ecological processes underpin economic development. Climate changes should be further heeded in the SDS-SEA implementation in view of its real and long-term impacts on the ecosystem. Stakeholders have the responsibility to develop pragmatic monitoring tools particularly for local managers to improve resource and habitat conservation and management.

- 2.1.5. Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos, IMO, spoke on the Thematic Workshop on Safer Shipping and Cleaner Oceans, which covered implementation of IMO conventions in regulating international maritime shipping, Asian initiatives on marine safety and environmental protection, and regional agreements for pollution preparedness and response. The workshops underscored the significant contribution of Asian seafarers to the global maritime sector and the need to enhance the quality of maritime teachers, seafarers, administrators and government legal experts. The recommendations arising from the workshops included: 1) the strengthening of IMO's existing integrated technical cooperation program; 2) mobilization of assistance to implement the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000); and 3) facilitation of ratification and acceding to the 1992 Protocol to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC 92) and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1992 (Fund 92), and the HNS and Bunkers Conventions. It was pointed out that coastal resources contribute 38 percent of global Gross Domestic Product, which is comparable to the contribution from terrestrial resources. These coastal resources are increasingly vulnerable to growing human population density and various types of hazards. Therefore, the workshops stressed that it was essential to strengthen the concerted efforts by state and non-state actors at various levels to mainstream science-based policies and disaster management programs in national development strategies and budgetary processes.
- 2.1.6. Dr. Hugh Kirkman, Marine Science and Ecology, Australia, reported on the Thematic Workshop on Certifying Sustainability, covering the value of market-based approaches in sustainable fisheries; port security, safety, health and environmental management (PSHEM); and clean and safe beaches. The workshops made the following recommendations: 1) increase the number of fisheries certified to the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) standards as part of market-based approaches; 2) promote best practices in PSHEM, particularly by standardizing approaches and establish an

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Safety Advisory Body; 3) use science to set water quality objectives, monitoring parameters and procedures; 4) use the media to change social, economic and political agenda for sustainable development; and 5) promote incentive and recognition for environmental compliance among stakeholders, and encourage certification of good practices at different levels.

2.1.7. Dr. Cielito Habito, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, highlighted the results of discussions of the Thematic Workshop on Local Government Financing for Water, Sewage and Sanitation, involving approaches and case studies in public and private sector investment in water, sewage and sanitation; national and local government challenges in GPA implementation, and policies and incentives for scaling up pollution reduction investments. The workshops identified that the implementation of MDGs would cost a total of \$100 billion, and the resources that can be mobilized from the public sector would only be able to cover five percent of this cost. Moreover, the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) resources are declining. Such a situation accentuates the need to encourage financial flows from the private sector. In this context, the workshops concluded that public and private partnerships (PPP) are an inevitable solution in addressing local water supply and sanitation needs. Local governments are best placed to meet the challenges. Thus, their capacity to develop and implement the PPP approaches must be further enhanced. Workshop recommendations included: 1) the development of innovative financial schemes (e.g., revolving funds) that combine strengths of various financial entities to address the bottlenecks; 2) installation of independent regulatory bodies to eliminate political interference; and 3) use appropriate cross-subsidy schemes to address social equity and willingness-to-pay issues relating to water supply and sanitation.

2.1.8. Dr. Russell Reichelt, Reef and Rainforest Research Center, Australia, outlined the outcomes of the Thematic Workshop on Applying Management-related Science and Technology, encompassing integrated coastal and marine information, use of geographic information system (GIS) and database tools, innovative approaches and technologies in pollution assessment and monitoring, radioisotope technology, and a common framework for the State of the Coasts (SOC) reporting. The need to improve data access by stakeholders through various means was stressed, such as community involvement in data collection and government support to long-term project database. The workshops recommended that environmental monitoring should be strengthened by developing biological monitoring which is still uncommon in the East Asia region. Building an Applied Environmental Geographic Information System is considered a communication tool. Nuclear technology in marine environment monitoring needs to be strengthened in view of current planning to

construct some 50 new nuclear power plants in the East Asian region. The SOC report was unanimously regarded as a valuable tool for recording status and changes and raising awareness. The SOC report should suit the targeted audience, be easily understandable and be disseminated widely. The Integrated Information Management System for Coastal and Marine Environment (IIMS) and models should be further developed for managing coastal ecosystems.

2.1.9. Ms. Cris Evert Lato, Philippines, conveyed the conclusions and recommendations made by the Youth Forum, emphasizing the significance of the youth's role in bridging present and future generations, particularly in securing that the rich marine heritage of the region is sustained over time and that every sector of the society is involved in the process. The Youth Forum highlighted the importance of the interconnectivity of all important life elements. The Youth Forum concluded that the formula $I^3 = E$ — Inform x Inspire x Involve = Empowerment — is essential. That is, every young person needs to empower themselves and others by sharing their knowledge, inspiring them with their passion and involving them in concrete actions. The Youth Forum also came up with the Youth Agenda as presented in a video showing the youth's common vision, recommendations and plans of action, which focused not only on practical and attainable goals and measures, but also on the use of innovative approaches and new technologies highly linked with young people.

2.1.10. Dr. Arthur Hanson gave a comprehensive recap of all the major conclusions and recommendations arising from various thematic presentations and discussions. He emphasized the importance of participation of people and stakeholders in arresting the declining health of the ocean. ICM implementation from big cities to small villages will help achieve the implementation of targets of global agreements, including MDGs. Coastal use zoning has proven an effective ICM tool. ICM can be scaled up at different levels of jurisdictions through fostering partnerships, displaying the role of champions, sustainable funding and knowledge management. A shift to ecosystem-based management deserves further attention. In his opinion, PEMSEA is a success and the experiences gained have significance of wider application. The achievements/success of the EAS Congress should also be followed up by holding it regularly, once every three years. He took the opportunity to express his appreciation to Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, for his inspired leadership.

2.2. International Conference Closing Ceremony

2.2.1. Dr. Li Haiqing, State Oceanic Administration (SOA), China, served as master of ceremony for the closing of the Conference. He thanked Dr. Arthur Hanson and all other thematic speakers for their contribution in distilling major outcomes of the International

Conference which provided important inputs to the Ministerial Forum. He appealed to all participants to carry forward the inspiration and expectations conveyed, particularly by the Youth Forum, for furthering the implementation of the SDS-SEA, and protecting the environment and natural resources of the seas, for the present and future generations. Dr. Li expressed his appreciation to all those who made tireless efforts in the preparation, organization, coordination and successful conduct of the EAS Congress 2006.

- 2.2.2. Representatives of 44 partner organizations of the Congress, including sponsors, conference co-conveners and supporting organizations came up to the podium to receive tokens of appreciation from the Congress and PEMSEA for their contribution to the Congress.
- 2.2.3. Dr. Chua presented tokens of appreciation to Mr. Yu Xun, Deputy Governor of Hainan, and Mr. Chen Ci, Haikou City Mayor, for local government assistance, support and arrangements. Dr. Alfred Duda, Conference Chair and Senior Adviser of the GEF Secretariat, presented a token of appreciation to Mr. Sun Zhihui, Forum Chair and SOA Administrator, for the hosting agency's support and collaboration for the Congress.
- 2.2.4. Following the presentation of the tokens of appreciation, Mr. Sun Zhihui handed over the Congress Flag to Hon. Angelo Reyes, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, the host country for the next EAS Congress in 2009. Upon receiving the Congress Flag, Secretary Reyes expressed thanks for the trust given to his country and his agency for hosting the EAS Congress 2009, and extended his welcome to all the participants.
- 2.2.5. Dr. Duda, expressed thanks, in the name of all the participants, to SOA, Hainan Province, Haikou Government, PEMSEA, partner organizations and Congress Secretariat Staff for the job well done in organizing and making excellent arrangements for the Congress. He indicated that the Congress set a new milestone of knowledge sharing and provided further impetus for the implementation of the region's common strategy, the SDS-SEA. Dr. Duda voiced his appreciation for inputs and support of all the participants. He declared the conference closed.

2.3. Ministerial Forum Opening Ceremony

- 2.3.1. Mr. Chen Lianzheng, SOA Deputy Administrator, served as master of ceremony for the opening of the Ministerial Forum. After the showing of a three-minute video, entitled "Our Future is in Your Hands" (prepared by PEMSEA), Mr. Chen delivered a message of congratulations to the Congress from PR China's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Zeng Peiyen. In his message, Mr.

Zeng stressed the importance attached by the Chinese Government to the protection and management of the marine resources and environment, accorded high appreciation to PEMSEA for the achievements made, and expressed continued support of his government in the implementation of the SDS-SEA. Moreover, it was emphasized that PR China maintains that the countries of the region should implement the principles of mutual respect, equal treatment, mutual benefits and common success; speed up the establishment of partnerships in marine environmental protection and management; improve collaborative mechanisms; identify and implement priority cooperative projects; and address transboundary environmental management issues through dialogue and consultation. PR China will honor, in a down-to-earth manner, her commitments made through the Haikou Partnership Agreement and make her contribution to the sustainable development of the seas of East Asia.

- 2.3.2. Mr. Sun addressed the Forum on behalf of the Chinese Government, welcoming his fellow ministers, distinguished guests and all participants of various countries and organizations. He recalled the importance of the oceans and the values of East Asian seas for the people of the region and the history of PEMSEA that led to the formulation and endorsement of the Haikou Partnership Agreement. He emphasized the efforts and commitments made by PR China for the protection and management of marine environment and resources. He informed the Forum that China adopted the National Marine Economic Development Program in 2004; and the country's 11th National Economic and Social Program treated Rational Use of Marine Resource as an independent program area. He believed that the current Forum would play an important role in shaping an effective implementing mechanism for the SDS-SEA, strengthen cooperation and friendship among the countries of the region, and foster sustainable ocean development.
- 2.3.3. Mr. Yu Xun, Hainan Deputy Governor, extended a welcome and high regards from Hainan Province to all the participants. He highlighted the significance of the Forum and the Haikou Partnership Agreement in charting PEMSEA's future. He noted in particular the achievements of the EAS Congress 2006 in knowledge distillation, which laid down a good foundation for the implementation of PEMSEA's new phase. He felt proud of current efforts to turn Hainan into an "ecological province," maintaining the ecosystem health while promoting an ocean-based economy. The Congress and the Forum offered a good platform and opportunity for Hainan to promote interaction and cooperation with other countries of the region, by which the province could also contribute to regional cooperation.
- 2.3.4. Dr. Duda expressed the appreciation of the GEF for being invited to the Forum. In his view, the signing of the Haikou Partnership

Agreement signified the embarkation of the countries of the region on the path of a sustainable future and prosperity for the economy, the people and their future generations. He noted the critical role of GEF in making the transition to sustainable development. GEF has invested about \$300 million in the East Asian countries for coastal and marine projects which have a total cost of almost a billion dollars. Despite progress made under the PEMSEA programme, quick actions are needed to replicate the demonstrations and invest national funding in pollution reduction, habitat restoration and sustainable fisheries. He drew attention to the degradation of the region's coasts, waters and large marine ecosystems (LMEs), which are running a "high fever." He congratulated the ministers gathered in the Forum for their actions to reduce this dangerous fever and nurse marine ecosystems back to sustainable health. He looked forward to hearing from the region and its further progress in addressing the ailment besetting the region's LMEs during the EAS Congress 2009 and its Ministerial Forum.

- 2.3.5. Dr. Andrew Hudson, Principal Technical Advisor, International Waters, UNDP, highlighted the experience and lessons learned from the PEMSEA regional programme. PEMSEA has showcased how working together among culturally diversified stakeholders, can actually address not only environmental but also chronic social and economic problems like poverty. This offered a concrete example to the concept of sustainable development, which has roots in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. UNDP has contributed to the improved capacity of people and institutions in the East Asian seas region through support to PEMSEA, which broadened the choices available to the people in the region striving to create and sustain their livelihoods. To continue PEMSEA's good practices, and for SDS-SEA implementation, application of ICM approaches as an essential public policy should be broadened; a more sustainable entity, like the PEMSEA Resource Facility, needs to be put in place; and the Partnership Council to be established offers possibilities of resolving regional issues and producing positive outcomes which seemed unattainable a few years ago. UNDP will stand by the side of countries of the region to make these mechanisms work and generate tangible results on the ground, through consensus building and an inclusive approach.
- 2.3.6. Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos, Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO, spoke on behalf of Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, IMO Secretary General. He recalled the support given to PEMSEA and benefits gained by IMO in serving as Executing Agency of PEMSEA over the past 12 years. He stressed the importance of IMO environmental conventions for maintaining the quality and sustainability of coastal and marine resources of the East Asian seas. He pointed out that effective implementation of these conventions remains a challenge despite a good record of

ratification and accession by the countries. He considered the SDS-SEA as a good framework and serves as good guidance for the implementation of IMO Conventions in the region. IMO remains committed to working closely with PEMSEA in the next phase through Partnership Arrangements, although its role as PEMSEA Executing Agency will draw to a close by June 2007. He expressed confidence over the successful implementation of the SDS-SEA with the adoption of Partnership Arrangements among the countries and interested organizations during the present Forum.

- 2.3.7. Mr. Chen Lianzheng thanked all the speakers for their important messages and declared the ceremony closed. The full texts of messages and speeches delivered at the Forum's opening ceremony are provided in Annex 4.

3. FORUM SESSION

3.1. Country Statements

- 3.1.1. The Forum Chair, Hon. Sun Zhihui, SOA Administrator, opened the second day of the Ministerial Forum with a warm welcome to the country delegations, representatives of observer organizations, institutions and programs, and all other participants. He stressed that the signing of the Partnership Agreement by the countries will strengthen their cooperation and ably demonstrate their firm commitment to protect and promote the sustainable development of the marine resources through the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 3.1.2. The Forum Chair then called on the heads of delegation to make their respective Country Statements. The countries, through these statements, reported their initiatives and efforts three years after the adoption of the SDS-SEA, through the signing of the Putrajaya Declaration. The Statements made by the countries were also affirmations of their national commitments to implement the SDS-SEA. The full country statements are contained in Annex 5.
- 3.1.3. **Cambodia.** Hon. Khieu Muth, State Secretary of Environment for Cambodia, expressed the importance of stakeholder partnerships at the national as well as at the regional level to solve the problems of the eroding coastal and marine resources in the region. He stated that "solutions to environmental problems could not be solved by just one country" and he urged that all must act together. He commended the Forum, which brings all the ministers in charge of the environment to look at the future for collective environmental action, as the important strategy needed for the sustainable development of the East Asian Seas. Cambodia shares the vision of the region and values its relationship with its neighbor countries. The country fully supports

the Partnership Agreement and Partnership Operating Arrangements.

- 3.1.4. Recalling the country commitments in the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia (2003), he reported that Cambodia has developed a mechanism for integrated coastal zone management with the establishment of a national ministerial committee as well as the development of coordinating platforms to involve stakeholders through partnerships. A law on protected areas management has also been drafted.
- 3.1.5. **PR China.** Hon. Chen Lianzheng, SOA Deputy Administrator, stressed that the Putrajaya Declaration reflected the common responsibility and commitments of the countries in the region to implement the WSSD Plan of Implementation through the SDS-SEA. This Forum made new decisive step forward with the Haikou Partnership Agreement, which provides essential institutional arrangements for SDS-SEA implementation.
- 3.1.6. Mr. Chen then illustrated the roles and functions of the SDS-SEA implementing mechanisms, including the EAS Congress, the EAS Partnership Council, the Partnership Fund and the PEMSEA Resource Facility. In his view, by adopting these mechanisms, the Haikou Partnership Agreement represents the most important outcomes of the EAS Congress 2006 and the Forum, a formal indication of the SDS-SEA implementation, the commitments of the countries, and a new chapter for the regional cooperation.
- 3.1.7. Mr. Chen recalled China's contribution in developing the Xiamen ICM model and the SDS-SEA and reiterated his country's commitment to their continued support for SDS-SEA implementation, including the organization and coordination of participation by concerned agencies and coastal provinces and municipalities, as well as realization of financial and other commitments. He was confident that, with support from various governments and the involvement of stakeholders, the objectives and targets of the SDS-SEA can be achieved.
- 3.1.8. **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).** Hon. Kim Gyong Jun, Vice Minister, Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection, pointed out that the Partnership Agreement and the Partnership Operating Arrangements for establishing the regional implementing mechanisms of the SDS-SEA was formulated through joint efforts of the PEMSEA participating countries, UNDP and PEMSEA RPO for adoption by this Forum. In this regard, the EAS Congress 2006 and the Ministerial Forum would provide a turning point in establishing the partnership for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

- 3.1.9. The overall orientation of the DPRK government policy in the management of coasts and the marine area is to keep them in clean environmental condition and to enrich the marine resources. This would be done by managing rationally the land- and sea-based pollution sources, and also to prevent damages by seaquakes. Recently, the government 1) adopted laws for environmental management, such as the Law on Prevention of Pollution of Taedong River, the Law of Tideland and the Law of Environmental Impact Assessment; 2) identified the areas in the coasts and marine environment which have to be protected nationally and worldwide; and 3) established habitat reserves and natural parks for migratory birds in many places, including Mundok Coastal Wetland.
- 3.1.10. Partnership and cooperation among the PEMSEA partners in the environmental management in the seas of East Asia is a driving force for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The DPRK government respects the Putrajaya Declaration and, during the third phase of PEMSEA, will make significant efforts to implement plans and activities identified in the DPRK National Consultation Forum.
- 3.1.11. **Indonesia.** Hon. Masnellyarti Hilman, Deputy Minister for Nature Conservation Enhancement and Environmental Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment, emphasized the importance of the Ministerial Forum as she commended the efforts made at the national and regional levels following the adoption of the Putrajaya Declaration and the SDS-SEA in 2003. She recognized that “all countries in the Region have started and will consistently do their best effort in developing and implementing policies, strategies and programs at the national level, which are in line with the implementation of SDS-SEA.”
- 3.1.12. Indonesia’s particular concern is how to package lessons learned from various ICM initiatives in the country to move forward ICM scaling up and replication programs throughout Indonesia. Ms. Hillman noted that most local governments are interested in, and some have started, developing and implementing ICM frameworks as part of their local coastal governance. She recognized though that there are challenges as well as opportunities for Indonesia.
- 3.1.13. The government of Indonesia welcomes the third phase of the PEMSEA Regional Programme initiative as strategic and important not only for Indonesia, but also for the utmost benefit of countries, the people, and the seas of the East Asian region. Ms. Hillman extended her government’s commitment to participate in PEMSEA’s activities in the third phase.
- 3.1.14. **Japan.** Deputy Minister Heizo Kito of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation, noted the importance of applying the sustainable development principle in protecting

oceans and coasts. Referring to the WSSD Plan of Implementation, he stressed that the “implementation of integrated and interdisciplinary management in ocean and coastal seas are recommended as the concrete action.”

- 3.1.15. Deputy Minister Kito especially recognized the universal value of PEMSEA's work in promoting sustainable development of the seas of East Asia since 1994, which prioritizes building partnerships and collaboration rather than fundraising or exacting legal obligations. The Putrajaya Declaration and SDS-SEA adopted at Putrajaya, Malaysia, have established an international partnership in the region.
- 3.1.16. Japan recognizes that PEMSEA, through the SDS-SEA, can contribute to world sustainable development. For its part, the government of Japan has implemented related activities, including: 1) the implementation of discharge control of pollutants; 2) the formulation of an environmental conservation plan for Seto Inland Sea; and (3) the implementation of a partnership project, entitled “Bay Renaissance Project,” across polluted enclosed seas such as Tokyo Bay and Osaka Bay. This project was presented in the EAS Congress 2006.
- 3.1.17. Japan chairs the International Coral Reef Initiative, the international framework for the preservation of coral reefs, until June 2007. Initiatives will be undertaken in close cooperation with the SDS-SEA. The government of Japan has also supported the implementation of the SDS-SEA in the region through various collaborative activities through the Overseas Development Assistance Programme focusing on sewerage, ports and seashore development. The private sector, that is, the Japan Association of Maritime Safety (JAMS), through the Nippon Foundation, has been conducting activities such as capacity building cooperation with ASEAN countries for combating oil and NLS (noxious liquid substances) spill incidents. The government of Japan will make its best effort to continuously support SDS-SEA implementation.
- 3.1.18. **Lao PDR.** H.E. Noulinh Sinbandhit, Vice Minister, Vice President of Science Technology and Environment Agency, emphasized globalization as a key factor in global economic and social development. He cautioned though that “global environmental consequences are challenging the sustainability of our society in terms of natural resources exploitation and environmental services, affecting or even threatening our local, national, regional and global developments.” The environment is experiencing serious impacts on resources such as forests, soil, water, air and biodiversity. Despite efforts, water quality continues to deteriorate.
- 3.1.19. More than 80 percent of Lao PDR's area lies within the Mekong River Basin and an estimated 40 percent of all water in the

Mekong River originates from watersheds within Lao PDR, the largest single national contribution to annual river flow. The Lao people rely on these rivers, streams and their abundantly adjacent natural resources for their livelihood and quality of life. However, due to negative impacts from some development activities in recent years, along with population growth, urban migration and inadequate disposal facilities, some local water quality problems are occurring, creating negative impacts on society and the environment.

3.1.20. Mr. Sinbandhit stressed that “action to protect the environment is considered a duty of all organizations and citizens.” The Lao Constitution states its concern for the environment while the national environment policy focuses on the preservation of natural resources while maximizing revenue generation and maintaining the livelihood of population. The Government of Lao PDR has taken steps to strengthen the legal and institutional basis of integrated water resources management.

3.1.21. Mr. Sinbandhit emphasized the pivotal position of Lao PDR in the Mekong River Basin and the significant role it plays in international water resource development. Lao PDR is actively involved, complementing and contributing to the existing core programs of the Mekong River Commission through its National Mekong Committee. From a regional perspective, the Lao government is highly aware of the need for international and regional integration as the basis for its policy development. Recognizing the importance of addressing transboundary environmental issues, Lao PDR has ratified a number of regional/international agreements and conventions, and supports the activities of PEMSEA.

3.1.22. **Philippines.** Hon. Secretary Angelo Reyes of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources commended the abundance and diversity of the country’s coastal and marine resources at the same time lamenting the current environmental state of the oceans, coasts and resources in the country. He stated the potential of the Philippines in the fisheries sector, because of its rich and diverse ecosystems, specifically citing the Verde Island passage.

3.1.23. The Philippine government embarked on numerous initiatives with support coming from various international and regional institutions to address environmental issues. Its hosting of the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office was an opportunity to benefit and learn from the program, particularly in developing appropriate policies and strategies for the sustainable development of the country’s coastal and marine areas. The PEMSEA program has supported the demonstration and replication of ICM in the provinces of Batangas, Bataan and Cavite. The tourism municipality of Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro is now in the

process of addressing its sewage and coastal water quality problems through PPPs with guidance from PEMSEA. There are steps undertaken to establish a Manila Bay Coordinating Council to oversee the implementation of the Manila Bay Operational Plan and to integrate the management programs for Laguna De Bay, Pasig River and Manila Bay itself in order to demonstrate a holistic ICM approach under the twinning program component of the SDS-SEA. These achievements convinced the Philippine President to sign Executive Order No. 533 adopting ICM as a national strategy.

- 3.1.24. Recognizing the contribution of PEMSEA to the Philippines and to the region, Secretary Reyes pledged national support for the Partnership Operating Arrangements. He committed to the continued hosting of the RPO and to provide the necessary administrative and technical support, including additional space by constructing a new building. He further announced the country's offer to host the next East Asian Seas Congress scheduled in 2009.
- 3.1.25. In the midst of many environmental threats and challenges, Secretary Reyes urged the region to action. "With everyone's support," he said, "[the region] has a fighting chance to overcome these threats; [w]e should not waiver in our fight to secure a better quality of life for our people and a brighter future for our children."
- 3.1.26. **Republic of Korea.** Hon. Eun Lee, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF), stressed that as RO Korea is a small peninsular country with limited resources, the ocean is important for their future generations. He informed the Forum that for this reason, MOMAF was created in 1996 and this year marked its 10th anniversary.
- 3.1.27. MOMAF is the agency responsible for all matters related to ocean, including ocean policy, marine environment, fisheries, shipping and ports, and maritime safety, among others. It has put enormous efforts to maintain clean and lively coasts and ocean. Hon. Lee cited active cooperation at the international and regional levels as a vital factor in protecting the marine environment. MOMAF signed an MOA with PEMSEA in 2000 and has since mutually progressed toward sustainability, conducting numerous joint projects.
- 3.1.28. Hon. Lee concluded that PEMSEA has achieved a lot over the past 12 years for this region, specifically the EAS Congress and Haikou Partnership Agreement. Recognizing these efforts, the Korean Government fully supports the third phase of PEMSEA and its activities by establishing a trust fund to financially assist the PEMSEA PRF Secretariat Services.
- 3.1.29. The next 10 years will be an important milestone for the sustainability of the countries in the East Asian Seas and

PEMSEA. Dr. Lee expressed his country's hope that PEMSEA can transform itself into a self-sustaining cooperative body of East Asian Seas region.

3.1.30. **Singapore.** Hon. Rosa Chen Huey, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources of Singapore reported her country's initiatives since the Putrajaya Declaration. She noted Singapore's several courses on wastewater management and the accession to international instruments such as the MARPOL Convention and the OPRC-HNS. Singapore's National Environment Agency conducted the "Seashore Life Program," followed by a beach cleanup, to educate the people on the impact of littering on the ecosystem as well as to involve the community. The 3P partners (namely, the Public, Private and People sectors) were also actively involved in coastal environmental protection and conservation activities.

3.1.31. Singapore is gearing up for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. It has introduced a series of activities and new initiatives including a systematic documentation of marine biodiversity in Singapore waters, research on the ecology of marine habitats and organisms and a meta database, integrating national marine and terrestrial biodiversity data to support educational, research and public awareness purposes, as well as for sound decisionmaking. Its Port Authority is also collaborating with the academe in ballast water management research and development to reduce the threat of invasive aquatic species to the world's oceans.

3.1.32. **Timor-Leste.** Hon. Estanislau Aleixo da Silva, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries, stated that Timor-Leste is a four-year old island nation with a wealth of natural coastal and ocean resources on which many local coastal communities depend. Almost 80 percent of the country's 925,000 people live in the rural areas. Among the major issues affecting the sustainable management of water resources, illegal and unreported fishing activities also continue to be a major concern on the south coast.

3.1.33. The Honorable Minister noted that the Timor-Leste government is committed to the protection and sustainable development of coastal and ocean resources which help alleviate poverty. Studies on coastal habitats and water catchments have been conducted to develop management programs. Timor-Leste participates regularly in the Arafura Timor Sea Expert Forum and is a signatory to the UN Convention on Biodiversity, the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Combating Desertification.

3.1.34. Timor-Leste welcomes the adoption of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and is proud to join other PEMSEA countries in signing the Agreement that will facilitate the implementation of the SDS-SEA. Timor-Leste still needs international technical expertise

and assistance in this area. It remains fully committed to the regional cooperation to protect precious resources and to implement the region's common strategy for the benefit of the people and the environment.

3.1.35. **Vietnam.** Vietnam was pleased to report the recent developments relating to the implementation of the SDS-SEA since the Putrajaya Declaration in 2003. Hon. Dang Hung Vo, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam, stated that legislative measures were adopted to address the environmental problems. In 2005, the National Assembly of Vietnam passed a new environmental protection law devoting one chapter to marine environmental protection and requiring the Vietnamese Government to allocate at least one percent of the national budget annually for activities relating to environmental protection. In 2006, the government approved a Master Program on "Marine Resources and Environment Basic Survey and Management for the Period 2007–2010, Vision to 2020" with a budget of nearly \$200 million. The Vietnamese Prime Minister has instructed all provincial governments to set up and implement their own "environment protection strategies" in line with the national plan, promote public awareness, upgrade programs on marine and coastal environmental protection and apply the ICM approach in their respective coastal zones.

3.1.36. Dr. Vo reported Vietnam's support and active involvement in PEMSEA's activities and at the same time achieving milestones in marine and coastal environmental management at the national and provincial levels. As in the past, Vietnam stated its continued support and active involvement in SDS-SEA implementation. It will also encourage multistakeholder participation in the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

3.1.37. Vietnam supports and respects the new regional partnership arrangement for SDS-SEA implementation as well as the Partnership Agreement, which "represents a step forward in our commitments under the Putrajaya Declaration 2003; [and] highlighted the cooperation and generated the interests of not only the PEMSEA governments but also the stakeholders in SDS-SEA implementation." These two documents which transform PEMSEA into a self-reliant regional mechanism will open great opportunities as well as new challenges in the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

3.2. Forum Discussion

3.2.1. The Chair invited Dr. Chua Thia-Eng to make a report on the implementation of the SDS-SEA. Dr. Chua's presentation provided the rationale for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. He said that the East Asian Seas is ecologically significant as well as important to the socioeconomic wellbeing of the region. It has 30 percent of

the world's coral reefs, 13 percent of the mangroves, 17 percent of the world's important wetlands and 80 percent of aquaculture products. He also noted that the seas of the East Asian region is a global pollution hotspot with destroyed habitats and depleting fishery resources. To sustain the carrying capacity of the seas, the implementation of the SDS-SEA is essential.

- 3.2.2. The SDS-SEA, endorsed by PEMSEA countries in the Ministerial Forum of 2003 through the Putrajaya Declaration, contains 6 major strategies and 227 action programs. It provides a regional framework for addressing coastal governance issues. These issues are generally cross-boundary in nature, too large, and too complex for individual countries to address alone, and requiring considerable human and financial resources.
- 3.2.3. The SDS-SEA also provides a platform for implementing existing commitments under the WSSD Plan of Action and other international conventions and instruments. Dr. Chua concluded that the major driving forces for the implementation of the SDS-SEA include globalization, regional global security, technology, and public awareness.
- 3.2.4. The Forum Chair opened the floor for discussion. PR China proposed that the Forum should convey its message for early approval by the GEF Council for the third phase of PEMSEA in support of the SDS-SEA implementation. Japan considered that the region should overcome the difficulties of ensuring compatibility between conserving ecology and alleviating poverty through partnerships, establish feasible targets and endeavor to achieve these targets. Japan will make practical efforts to contribute to achieving sustainable development. RO Korea stressed the need to move from recommendations to implementation with regard to the SDS-SEA, and the importance of giving high priorities to financial support for its implementation by the countries of the region and the GEF. RO Korea will continue to support PEMSEA as the implementing mechanism for the SDS-SEA.
- 3.2.5. Responding to the query of the UNDP representative regarding the linkage between the implementation of the SDS-SEA and the targets of the concerned multilateral environmental agreements, Dr. Chua pointed out that the SDS-SEA offers an integrated operational platform for the countries and other stakeholders to better implement the targets of these international instruments, such as Agenda 21, MDGs and WSSD Plan of Implementation, rather than creating any new targets. Indonesia hoped that the SDS-SEA will promote interaction among programs such as PEMSEA and COBSEA, and coordination both with the countries and donor agencies. Indonesia wished to see the prioritization of SDS-SEA implementation targets and concretization of implementing schedules and responsible agencies and institutions.

- 3.2.6. IMO emphasized the importance of involving fully all the concerned sectors and agencies in SDS-SEA implementation, which is essential for the success of the implementation. FAO expressed its willingness to cooperate as there are broad areas of common interest with PEMSEA. FAO is a strategic partner and has provided assistance to many PEMSEA participating countries in sustainable fisheries activities. FAO also helps countries implement coastal zone management and promotes LMEs as a framework. The World Bank sees major areas of strategic partnerships with PEMSEA, including integrated management and involvement of local communities in pollution reduction and adoption of clean production technology, scaling up successful pilot conservation programs and application of innovative financing tools.
- 3.2.7. In wrapping up, the Forum Chair expressed his confidence on the great impact to be exerted by the Forum. While there are many challenges confronting the countries, it is important to note that the countries have the support of the whole region. In three years time, when the next forum is held, the countries and other stakeholders will meet again, and be proud to report the initiatives and progress undertaken to implement the SDS-SEA.

4. ADOPTION OF THE HAIKOU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

- 4.1. The Signing Ceremony was held on board a Chinese environmental surveillance vessel. Dr. Li Haiqing, serving as the Master of Ceremony, welcomed aboard the participants to the Forum for the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement. He reminded the Forum that the Haikou Partnership Agreement was an outcome of many years of consultation and consensus building by the countries and stakeholders, and embodied the commitments of the governments for the SDS-SEA implementation.
- 4.2. Mr. Sun Zhihui, Mr. Yu Xun, Mr. Chen Lianzheng, Mr. Chen Ci and Mr. Wu Weixiong (Haikou Deputy Mayor), as well as Dr. Al Duda, Dr. Andrew Hudson, Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos, and Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, came up to the podium to witness the Signing Ceremony.
- 4.3. Upon introduction by Dr. Li, and assisted by the Forum secretariat staff, the Heads of Delegations of PEMSEA participating countries affixed their signatures onto the Haikou Partnership Agreement document. Signed copies of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and the associated Partnership Operating Arrangements on SDS-SEA Implementation are attached as Annex 6.
- 4.4. After the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement, Mr. Chen Ci expressed appreciation to PEMSEA and SOA for giving the opportunity to Haikou to sign the historic documents. He indicated that Haikou values this opportunity and takes it as an encouragement to promote ecosystem-

based city development. He invited the participants to enjoy the cruise along Haikou coast.

- 4.5. Mr. Sun Zihui, the Forum Chair, on behalf of the witnesses, congratulated the representatives of the governments in the Signing Ceremony for their adoption of the Haikou Partnership Agreement, and thereby their adoption of the Partnership Operating Arrangements for the Implementation of the SDS-SEA. He invited all the participants to join him in a toast to celebrate the achievement in the development and adoption of the milestone documents, PEMSEA's new phase, the forging of national commitments to SDS-SEA implementation and further success in regional cooperation. He also took the opportunity to present a globe, with signatures of all the heads of country delegations, to Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, as a token for his long-time devotion and contribution in promoting partnerships among countries of the region for the sustainable development of the East Asian Seas.
- 4.6. Group photos were taken with the witnesses and the heads of country delegations. The Master of Ceremony reminded all the participants that the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement signified a new beginning for the seas of East Asia and more responsibilities ahead. He thanked each and everyone for participating in and witnessing the event and declared the Signing Ceremony closed.

ANNEX 1

The 2ND Ministerial Forum Program

Day 1: 14 December 2006	
Part 1: Outcomes of the EAS Congress 2006: Closing Ceremony of the International Conference and Opening Ceremony of the Forum at the Congress Venue	
Time	Activity/Presentation
1400 – 1530	Reports on the Outcomes of EAS International Conference
1530 – 1600	EAS International Conference Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Co-Convenors, SOA, Hainan Province and Haikou City • Turnover of EAS Congress Flag • Closing Message of the Conference Chair
1600 – 1630	Coffee/Tea Break
1630 – 1750	Ministerial Forum Opening Ceremony
1630 – 1635	Opening of the Forum
1635 – 1640	Video Showing
1640 – 1650	Introduction of the Speakers at the Opening Ceremony
1650 – 1700	Message of China's State Leader
1700 – 1710	Welcome Remark by SOA Administrator
1710 – 1720	Welcome Remark by Hainan Governor
1720 – 1730	Opening Remark by GEF Representative
1730 – 1740	Opening Remark by UNDP Representative
1740 – 1750	Opening Remark by IMO Representative
1750 – 1800	Closure of the Opening Ceremony and Group Photo
1800 – 1830	Press Conference

Day 2: 15 December 2006	
Part Two: Forum Session	
0830 – 1015	Country Statements
1015 – 1030	Coffee/Tea Break
1030 – 1150	Discussion on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA PEMSEA presentation on <i>Challenges, Responses, Strategies and Actions for the Implementation of the SDS-SEA</i> Open Forum/Discussion
1150 – 1210	Transit to the Vessel and Boarding
Part Three: Signing of the Partnership Agreement	
1210 – 1250	Signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA Each Head of Delegation to sign the copy of the Partnership Agreement following the alphabetical order of the country names. Toasting to the Signing of the Partnership Agreement Closing of the Signing Ceremony
1250 – 1300	Group Photo
1300 – 1400	Lunch
1400 – 1600	Informal Dialogue among the Forum Participants
1600 – 1630	Departure from the Vessel

ANNEX 2

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ANNEX 3

The Third Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM) on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA

Preparatory Meeting for the Second Ministerial Forum
Huandao Tide Hotel, Haikou City, PR China, 11 December 2006

SUMMARY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. On 11 December 2006, the 3rd Senior Government Officials Meeting (SGOM) was held at the Shen de Hall of Huandao Tide Hotel in Haikou City, PR China. Some 27 high ranking officials from PEMSEA participating countries attended the Meeting, including Cambodia, PR China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Philippines, Republic of Korea (ROK), Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Attending the Meeting as observers were 10 representatives of international organizations and programs, including the APEC Marine Resource Conservation Working Group, Conservation International – Philippines, UNEP EAS/RCU (Secretariat for COBSEA), Japan Ocean Policy Foundation, Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Ltd. Also at the Meeting were representatives of UNDP and the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office (RPO).
- 1.2. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, gave the opening remarks. He identified the objectives of the 3rd SGOM, briefing the participants on the tasks ahead. He considered the Meeting as the first important event for the EAS Congress 2006. Thus the success of the Meeting, with the common efforts of the countries and other stakeholders, would pave the way for the smooth conduct of the Congress. In his view, PEMSEA is at a critical juncture of its transformation towards a self sustained regional mechanism for the SDS-SEA implementation. What PEMSEA has achieved over the past decades is based on the consensus of the countries and stakeholders. The future of PEMSEA also hinges on their support. The Congress and its Ministerial Forum will set in place innovative implementing mechanisms for the SDS-SEA. These arrangements are always open to all the interested countries and stakeholders, whether they are ready to join now or in the future. It is only through consensus building and partnership that PEMSEA can continue overcoming the difficulties and reach its targets set in the SDS-SEA. Dr. Chua called on the participants to nominate the Chair for the Meeting. Dr. Li Haiqing, Director General of the International Cooperation Department of the State Oceanic Administration, PR China, was duly nominated and elected as chair.

2. REVIEW OF STATUS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE FORUM

- 2.1. Dr. Huming Yu, PEMSEA Senior Programme Officer, introduced the list of participants in the Ministerial Forum prepared by the RPO. He informed the Meeting that 11 PEMSEA participating countries expressed their readiness to adopt and sign the Haikou Partnership Agreement and Partnership Operating Arrangements for SDS-SEA Implementation. These countries will be officially represented in the Forum. Other countries have not yet responded to the invitation for participation, or may consider the adoption of the documents in the future. The documents are always open to them when they find themselves ready. He noted that representatives from some 18 UN agencies and international organizations will also be attending the Forum.
- 2.2. The Meeting expressed satisfaction over the efforts of the Secretariat for mobilization of participation and found the Forum participation adequate for achieving its objectives.

3. REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION FOR THE FORUM

- 3.1. Dr. Yu ran through the list of documents prepared by the RPO for the Forum and informed the Meeting of the outcomes from the consultation process for the finalization of the two documents as required by the 12th PEMSEA Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting in August 2006. The final drafts of the two documents have incorporated the feedback from all the countries and other stakeholders received by the RPO over the past three years, and are outputs of their common efforts. The RPO did not receive any dissenting view on the two documents since the 12th PSC Meetings.
- 3.2. The Meeting thanked the RPO in facilitating consultation and consensus building for the preparation of the two milestone documents, and accepted them as the final draft for adoption by the Forum.

4. REVIEW OF THE FORUM PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1. Dr. Yu reported in detail the formulation of the Forum Program by the 12th PSC Meeting and the efforts of RPO and the host country in particular in making various administrative and logistic arrangements for the Congress and the Forum as well. He highlighted the special contribution in finance and local human resources made by the host country in the preparation for the Congress and Forum. In many circumstances, the host agency went out of its way in providing the participants with protocols and transportation conveniences. He also identified the assistance expected from the senior government officials to facilitate the participation of their respective ministerial delegations in the Forum.
- 4.2. Clarification was provided in response to queries on specific arrangements for the participants to attend various components of the Forum, especially with regard to boarding the ship for the signing

ceremony of Haikou Partnership Agreement. The Meeting expressed its high appreciation to the host country and RPO for the meticulous efforts to make the Congress and Forum a success. The Meeting found the Forum Program in order.

- 4.3. Dr. Li Haiqing wrapped up the Meeting by thanking all the participants for their support shown during the Meeting and expressed his confidence for the successful conduct of the Forum, and declared the Meeting closed.

ANNEX 4

Full Texts of Speeches during the Opening Ceremony

Congratulatory Message of Mr. Zeng Peiyen Deputy Prime Minister, PR China

On the occasion of the East Asian Seas Congress 2006 and its Ministerial Forum, on behalf of Chinese Government, I wish to congratulate the Congress for its successful convocation.

The oceans are a beautiful home garden for the human beings. It is our common obligation to protect marine ecosystem and resources of the Seas of East Asia. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the protection and management of marine resources and environment, appreciates the achievements made from the PEMSEA programme execution, and supports, as always, the implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy of the Seas of East Asia.

We maintain that the countries of the region should uphold the principle of mutual respect, equal treatment, mutual benefits and common success, in order to step up the establishment of partnerships in marine environmental protection and management. Cooperative mechanism should be further improved, collaborative priorities should be identified and joint projects should be in force. Experience in resolving transboundary marine environmental management issues should be accumulated through dialogue and consultation. We should take stock of experiences gained, exchange results, enhance capabilities of various countries in integrated coastal management, and constantly raise the level of marine pollution management and environmental protection.

At this Ministerial Forum, the countries of the region will jointly sign a new partnership declaration. China will fulfill her obligations in the declaration in a down-to-earth manner, work together with other countries to explore a cooperative path suitable to the region, and make her own contribution to the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

**Welcome Remarks of Mr. Sun Zihui
Administrator, State Oceanic Administration, PR China**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I have the great honor today to attend the Ministerial Forum of the EAS Congress 2006. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Government, I wish to extend our warm congratulations to the convening of the Forum, our warm welcome to Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Estanislau Aleixo da Silva, Former Prime Minister Hon. Chuan Leekpai, ministers of various countries, representatives of international organizations and all participants. I warmly congratulate the EAS Congress 2006 for its success.

As known to all, oceans are the global life-supporting system and a precious wealth for sustainable development. Entering the 21st century, the oceans play an increasingly important strategic role in global political, economic and social development. The birth of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea symbolizes that international marine affairs has moved into a new era of comprehensive legal management, whereas the 1992 UNCED enlightens us that the ocean is not just for us to use, but more to require protection, as well as sustainable development.

In the East Asia region, oceans likewise play a very important role in social and economic development of various countries. It encompasses six large marine ecosystems with a total area of seven million km², supporting the world's 30 percent of coral reefs and mangroves, 40 percent of fishing production, and 84 percent of aquaculture yields. It maintains 50 percent of the world's commercial shipping annually, thus becoming the world's busiest marine transportation route. Moreover, the seas of East Asia accommodate 1.9 billion people, playing a role of crucial importance in shaping the lives of people of various countries.

I am pleased to see the attachment of great importance to the protection and management of the region's marine environment and resources by the governments of various countries. In 1994, under the support of GEF, UNDP and IMO, with great support from the countries of the region, the Regional Programme for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution [in the East Asian Seas] was implemented, thus enhancing the countries' capabilities and level of ocean management through the application of the integrated marine management approach. As of 2000, PEMSEA was underway, promoting further the theory and practice of integrated marine management. In 2003, under the auspices of the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office, ministers from the countries of the region focused on the theme of the 21st century's marine affairs development, and adopted the SDS-SEA and the Putrajaya Declaration, indicating the common desire of the governments of various countries to promote the region's sustainable development. The Haikou Partnership Agreement to be signed at this Forum embodies the solemn commitments of the countries to bring the SDS-SEA into reality.

The Chinese Government consistently attaches great importance to marine endeavors, dedicates herself on a long-term basis to marine resource use and environmental protection, implements the management strategy of equal weight to development and protection, and makes unremitting efforts to foster the integrated marine management approach. In 1996, the Chinese Government formulated China Agenda 21 for the Oceans, bringing forth the strategies, targets, measures and major program areas for

effecting sustainable ocean development. In 2000, the Chinese Government revised the Marine Environmental Protection Law, incorporating the provisions on marine ecosystem management in addition to pollution management. In 2002, it formulated the Sea Area Use Management Law, thereby establishing a marine functional zonation scheme, a sea area use rights system and a users pay system, thus bringing China's integrated marine management into new heights, changing the unregulated, disordered and open access pattern of sea uses, and channeling the marine development and environmental protection into a legal and sustainable development path. In 2004, the Chinese Government formulated the National Ocean Economic Development Programme, providing important guidance to the country's marine economic development and environmental protection. This year, the Chinese Government incorporated the rationale use of marine resources as a separate chapter in the 11th National Economic and Social Development Programme, which highlights marine ecosystem protection, rationale ocean resource use, integrated marine management and sustainable ocean economic development.

I believe, with the common efforts of ministers, this Forum will play an important role in the formation of implementing mechanisms for the SDS-SEA, promote friendship and cooperation among the countries of the region, and boost the region's sustainable ocean development. For a long time, the Chinese Government highly values and actively supports PEMSEA, and takes it as an important component of the endeavor to implement the diplomatic approach of "good and friendly neighborhood," as well as the diplomatic policies "cordial, secure and prosperous neighbors." The Chinese Government will continue participating in, and supporting, as always, the region's marine cooperation. We look forward to sharing ideas and building consensus during the Forum with regard to the region's sustainable development, and make our own contribution to the success of the cooperation.

Finally, I would like to warmly welcome again the coming of Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Estanislau Aleixo da Silva, Former Prime Minister Hon. Chuan Leekpai, and ministers of various countries, express my heartfelt thanks to the Hainan People's Government and Haikou People's Government for their efforts to ensure the success of the Congress and the Forum. I wish the Forum 2006 a complete success.

**Welcome Remarks of Mr. Yu Xun
Hainan Deputy Governor**

Respectable Congress Chair, Ministers and Guests,

First of all, I would like to warmly welcome the ministers and all other participants for their participation in the Forum, on behalf of the Hainan People's Government and its various ethnic groups.

Today, ministers of coastal countries of the region gathered happily together to hold in a lofty manner the Ministerial Forum in order to come up with policies and strategies for the smooth implementation of PEMSEA activities and deepening the cooperation and interaction among the countries of the region.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss and decide the direction and approaches of PEMSEA in the upcoming five years, and to formulate and adopt the road map for the implementation. This has guiding significance for PEMSEA's Phase 3, as well as important and positive impacts to strengthen cooperation among the countries of the region. The signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement will be a new milestone for PEMSEA programme implementation, and provide crucial impetus for PEMSEA's Phase 3.

The three-day EAS Congress 2006 has come to a perfect end. It has explored and studied the issues and trends of coastal and ocean management, achieved rich theoretical outcomes, and laid a good foundation for the future implementation of PEMSEA programs. Experts and scholars from various countries have offered their insights and wisdoms, which will play an important role in the next phase's Programme implementation. We have the grounds in believing that the PEMSEA Programme implementation will strengthen and carry forward cooperation among the countries of the region and bring with it broader and better prospects.

Hainan is a large-sized maritime province with a large expanse of ocean space and rich marine resources. Its unique geographic position has great potential in marine resource uses. Its ocean management likewise faces great challenges. Over the recent years, Hainan Province has paid great attention to marine uses and has provided various aspects of support in terms of policy, planning, finance and technology. Significant progress has been witnessed in the provincial marine economic development and marine affairs management. In developing the marine economy, more emphasis was given to integrated marine environment and resource management, improving the pattern of marine uses, combining marine resource uses with environmental protection and ecosystem conservation, and upholding the development within protection, and protection within development. In 1999, our province launched an ecosystem-based provincial development project, thus taking marine ecosystem conservation an essential component of the project. It has achieved significant results over the past seven years.

It is a great honor for us to host the Congress in Haikou. This offers a good platform for Hainan to participate in international exchange and cooperation. We will take this opportunity to make greater contributions for the region's marine cooperation. We sincerely wish the Ministers and guests a happy stay in Hainan. Thank you all.

**Opening Remarks of Dr. Alfred M. Duda
Senior Advisor, Global Environment Facility Secretariat**

Honorable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. The Global Environment Facility appreciates the invitation to be here with you at this important Ministerial Meeting. By entering into and actively implementing the Partnership Agreement that Ministers are signing, you are setting your countries on the road to a sustainable future for your economies, for your people, and especially for your children who will have a more secure future with greater prosperity.

The GEF has been here with you since the start, 13 years ago, with grant financing for your PEMSEA program. Many of you know the GEF as the financial mechanism for global environmental treaties such as the Climate Change Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity. GEF is still a young organization, only 15 years old, but we represent a unique partnership among the UN agencies, the World Bank, and Regional Development Banks that you will find to be critical in making the transition to sustainable development.

GEF also has an important focal area known as international waters that help countries better manage human behavior to sustain coasts and marine ecosystems as well as transboundary freshwater systems such as the Mekong Basin or the Red River. I am the senior advisor at the GEF responsible for international waters...and this focal area has funded your PEMSEA program all these years along with complementary subregional programs focused on the South China Sea Large Marine Ecosystem and the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem. We, at GEF, have invested about \$300 million in your countries for coastal and marine projects that have a total cost of almost \$1 billion, so we are important stakeholders with you as you create institutions to ensure that the economic and environmental benefits from the six Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia will be sustained.

Economic progress in East Asia has been highly publicized but has come at a very steep cost in terms of loss of freshwater and coastal resources, contamination of your rivers and coasts and depletion of fisheries that feed your people. By together signing this Partnership Agreement and committing to implement your joint strategy, you now have a roadmap to meet the marine targets for the Johannesburg Summit and reverse this dangerous environmental decline, which threatens the health of your people, threatens food security, deepens poverty by reducing livelihoods, and also threatens your national economies.

For 11 years, I have personally followed the progress of your PEMSEA programme. I have seen the water pollution cleanup at Xiamen, the renewed commitment to action for Manila Bay, and have learned about the many demonstration sites. I am most familiar with the People's Republic of China and the government's enacting a national law for zoning use of sea space based on their GEF-funded tests under PEMSEA and investing billions of dollars for sewage treatment to reduce pollution. China experimented, undertook important policy, legal institutional reforms, and is now taking tens of billions of dollars worth of action to reverse the decline of its coastal ecosystems. Each country really must do the same under your Sustainable Development Strategy, not just because of environmental considerations but because investments and policy reforms make sound economic sense, contribute to poverty reduction, help with food security, and ensure human and ecosystem health.

I congratulate each of your countries for the broad consensus you have reached to implement this common action program and to take regional collaboration to a new, higher level, in addressing the shared coastal and marine waters of East Asia. We at GEF are pleased with progress under your PEMSEA programme and the political commitment that comes with signing this Partnership Agreement, but now is the time to move more quickly to replicate demonstrations and invest national funding in pollution reduction, habitat restoration, and sustainable fisheries.

Think of how expansive your six Large Marine Ecosystems are that stretch all the way from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia to Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Think of these seas as having a very high fever, much as humans have a fever when they are sick. When a fever gets too high, humans can no longer function. Your seas of East Asia are just like people when we are very sick, except that some of your seas have a higher fever than others. Countries are risking the loss of the hundreds of billions of dollars of annual benefits that come from these seas and risking social unrest that accompanies poverty and hopelessness. We congratulate the Ministers for taking this action to reduce this dangerous fever and nurse your marine ecosystems back to sustainable health.

I bring greetings and best wishes from our new GEF CEO, Madame Monique Barbut, who is getting ready to travel to Africa for important meetings and regrets not being able to participate here with you. I have briefed her on the important work that you have accomplished in demonstration projects at Xiamen, Bali, Batangas Bay, Nampo, Sihanoukville, Danang, Chonburi, Shihwa Lake, and others as well as the global significance of this Partnership Agreement. Let me congratulate the People's Republic of China for hosting this globally important Congress and Ministerial Forum, and say that the GEF is indebted to the leadership and on-the-ground action China has displayed the last decade.

Let me also congratulate your Secretariat, the PEMSEA staff directed by Dr. Chua Thia Eng, as well as the International Maritime Organization and the UN Development Programme for essential support. Behind successful projects are always hardworking staff, and we at GEF are honored to be associated with your PEMSEA staff. Again, by your signing and actively implementing this Partnership Agreement, Ministers are taking regional cooperation to a new level in addressing the very serious fever that besets the six Large Marine Ecosystems that make up the seas of East Asia. I look forward to participating at the Third EAS Congress and Ministerial Forum in 2009 and hearing

about the progress I know will be made these next three years; and I wish you every success in that implementation over the next three years. Thank you.

**Opening Remarks of Dr. Andrew Hudson
Principal Technical Advisor, International Waters
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Excellencies

Mr. Alfred Duda, GEF

Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos, IMO

Dr. Chua Thia- Eng, PEMSEA

Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. It gives me great pleasure to be in this scenic City of Haikou for possibly the most historic phase of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia's (PEMSEA) existence. When PEMSEA started in 1994, the concept of sustainable development was just taking root with its adoption by governments at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Back then, sustainable development seemed an idea everyone agreed upon but few were clear on, or agreed upon, how to achieve it.

From sectoral and fragmented, to integrated, multisectoral approaches, PEMSEA has showcased how working together, among culturally diverse stakeholders, using multidisciplinary and inclusive approaches, at various levels — regional, national and local, can actually address not only environmental but chronic socioeconomic problems like poverty. Arguably, PEMSEA has provided a replicable model for sustainable development in the East Asian seas region. Over the last 12 years, the creation of seven national ICM demonstration sites, two subregional hotspots and increasing numbers of parallel sites, as well as a wide range of capacity building, have helped PEMSEA distill critical elements for more sustainably managing our shared seas while at the same time enabling sustained economic development. PEMSEA's experience is replete with examples that this can be done — Xiamen, for example, gives us a flavor of what can be achieved in coastal cities in the region, through integrated coastal management and harnessing multisectoral partnerships. Haikou, with its successful efforts to engage the private sector in environmental investments, is another notable example.

PEMSEA stands out as a program which does not simply aim for the improvement of the environmental condition of the seas in this region, but also in contributing to the larger goal of sustainable human development. In qualitative terms, PEMSEA has been able to generate: a) increased returns to existing enterprises; b) alternative livelihoods; c) improved environmental conditions and natural resource stocks; and d) enhanced efficiency in natural resources use. Each of these results has contributed to poverty reduction in the region. These results clearly demonstrate that PEMSEA has made significant gains which should be consolidated and upscaled. These outcomes underscore the fact that sustainably managing the East Asian seas and their resources in a concerted fashion by stakeholders, especially governments, brings about dividends which are not confined to a single sector such as the environment but have the potential to bring real improvements in people's lives.

The importance of managing shared waters through concerted action cannot be overemphasized. The recently launched 2006 UNDP Human Development Report, "Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis" underscores this fact.

Successful cooperation in the management of shared waters such as the East Asian seas can produce the benefits needed for human development at many levels. Successful cooperation can generate windfalls in terms of reducing the potential for conflict, promote regional development, and enhance regional and collective peace and human security.

UNDP, as an organization which puts people at the center of development, is proud to have contributed to the demonstrably improved capacity of people and institutions in the East Asian Seas region through its support to PEMSEA over the last 12 years. PEMSEA has supported the development of capacities in natural resources management, risk assessment and management, and integrated coastal management which collectively have served to broaden the choices available to people in the region striving to create and sustain their own livelihoods. UNDP also takes pride in the fact that, through PEMSEA, it has supported the creation and sustenance of a wide range of partnerships which are critical in sustainably managing the coastal and marine resources of this region and for achieving truly sustainable human development.

It seems like only a short time since you adopted and committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy of the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) in Putrajaya in 2003. The task of making the Strategy come to life seemed so daunting then — especially the setting up of a more permanent regional mechanism to continue the work of the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office. But through commitment and patient work, it seems that we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, with financial and legal obstacles to its establishment steadily being overcome. With the adoption of the 2006 Haikou Partnership Agreement and the Partnership Operating Arrangements for the Implementation of the SDS-SEA, we hope to seal the gains made over a decade of PEMSEA implementation.

The integrated coastal management approach, which is a core paradigm guiding the SDS-SEA, must be recognized as an important element of public policy. UNDP would like to underscore the fact that PEMSEA remains as pivotal as ever in terms of promoting this paradigm shift towards Integrated Coastal Management through the emplacement of a conducive enabling environment. We are optimistic that, with continued PEMSEA guidance and leadership under the new arrangements, the East Asian seas region will be able to continue to broaden its understanding and application of the ICM approach.

This task needs focused attention which can only be provided by a dedicated regional coordinating mechanism. For over a decade, the GEF/UNDP/IMO PEMSEA Regional Programme has ably performed this role. As we enter a new era with intensified challenges for the region, a more sustainable entity needs to be put in place to take over from where the Regional Programme will leave off. This regional coordinating mechanism is critical to the implementation of the SDS-SEA, noting its requirement for multisectoral, multifaceted interventions. UNDP is therefore very pleased that this mechanism, which will aptly be called the PEMSEA Resource Facility, will be formally established with the adoption of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and the Partnership Operating Arrangements on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA. This mechanism will complete the institutional arrangements needed to dramatically broaden the reach of ICM in the region.

The East Asian Seas Partnership Council which you will spearhead will be instrumental in harnessing the capacities needed to achieve the objectives of the SDS-SEA and ultimately, the sustainable development of the seas and its resources for the peoples of this region; the Council clearly represents the epitome of the partnership concept PEMSEA has so effectively promoted. The Council is notable in that, despite its diverse composition, it offers possibilities of resolving regional issues and producing positive outcomes which seemed unattainable even a few short years ago. We, therefore, hope that this body will provide the continued leadership and commitment needed to generate the impetus for the additional interventions required to fully operationalize sustainable development in the East Asian Seas.

UNDP is indeed very pleased to be part of this historic occasion which showcases the genuine commitment of the participating countries towards a goal of sustainable development for the region, by coming together in a regional entity and partnership which will work for the reduction of multiple use conflicts, improvement of environmental quality, restoration of damaged habitats, beach cleanups and protection of endangered species, among other things. We are one with you in the vision to make this mechanism self-sustained, effective and armed with a mandate to pursue the implementation of the SDS-SEA through collaborative and synergistic actions. We hope that these new arrangements will continue the consensus building and inclusive approach that are the principles of PEMSEA, which has managed to not only draw in multisectoral partners but actually generate tangible results on the ground.

I would like to thank the People's Republic of China and the City of Haikou, for their warm hospitality and generous support to the East Asian Seas Congress and this Ministerial Forum. UNDP would also like to congratulate PEMSEA for reaching this pivotal stage in the advancement and institutionalization of effective multistakeholder approaches to sustainable marine and coastal resource management. We look forward to working with all of the PEMSEA countries and partners as the East Asian Seas region enters a new era of stronger, more effective partnerships that drive sustainable development in the region.

Thank you and good day!

**Opening Remarks of Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos
Director, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to speak to you on behalf of Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, who is unable to attend due to prior commitments.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has a long and active association with the East Asian region, working closely with the countries to ensure safer shipping and to protect the marine environment. For the past 12 years, IMO has been the executing agency of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme of PEMSEA, providing administrative support and technical backstopping as well as taking part actively in various activities of the Regional Programme including this EAS Congress 2006.

In those 12 years, IMO has also benefited from its association with the PEMSEA Regional Programme, in particular, in the wider dissemination of information on the work of the Organization, promoting the ratification and/or accession of IMO Conventions. The Regional Programme has also assisted the Organization in the implementation of enabling activities under its Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme, notably the building of capacities to implement the IMO Conventions, protocols, codes and agreements.

The East Asian Seas is one of the World's centers of marine biodiversity. Coastal and marine resources of the region contribute significantly to the economies of littoral States including the well being of its populations. Clearly, the work of the Organization, in particular, on the IMO environmental Conventions such as MARPOL 73/78, OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol, Antifouling System Convention and the Ballast Water Management Convention have important bearings on the quality and sustainability of coastal and marine resources of the East Asian seas through the control and management of marine pollution, especially those arising from maritime activities. While there is a good record of ratification and accession of IMO instruments among the countries in the region, their effective implementation remains a challenge.

During the first gathering of the ministers at the EAS Congress 2003 held in Malaysia, the Sustainable Development Strategy of the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) was adopted through the Putrajaya Declaration. The SDS-SEA is a blueprint for marine environmental management and IMO environmental Conventions certainly complement several action programs under the SDS-SEA. Thus, the SDS-SEA could serve as a framework and a guide for the implementation of IMO Conventions for the region.

IMO's role as the executing agency of the PEMSEA Regional Programme will draw to a close with the completion of this second phase by June 2007. However, IMO remains committed to work closely with the next phase of the PEMSEA Regional Programme through partnership arrangements.

The challenges ahead are many and certainly daunting but we are confident that, with the adoption of a partnership arrangement among the PEMSEA participating countries and interested organizations during this second Minister Forum, this will ensure the successful implementation of the next phase of the Regional Programme and the realization of the SDS-SEA. IMO, for its part, will endeavor to actively support and work in partnership with the PEMSEA Regional Programme and the countries of the East Asian region to enhance and sustain the environmental quality of East Asia.

Thank you.

ANNEX 5

Country Statements

Country Statement of Cambodia

**Hon. Khieu Muth
Secretary of State for the Environment**

Excellencies, Ministers, Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, I have the great honor and pleasure to lead the Cambodian delegate to join you all again in this 2nd Ministerial Forum, East Asia Seas Congress 2006, hosted by the Government of PR China and co-organized by the State Oceanic Administration, China.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Haikou City of Hainan Province, People's Republic of China, for the warm hospitality; and Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Regional Program Director of PEMSEA, for his kind invitation to invite us to attend this important forum.

As we have all experienced over the last decades, the world's resources in our coastal waters and oceans continue to be eroded as indicated by the ongoing degradation and destruction of natural resources and environment. It is now impacting back on us. Solutions to environmental problems cannot be solved by just one country so we must act together in the spirit of partnership. Today's forum will bring all policymakers and stakeholders in charge of marine and ocean environment protection together and provide a clear vision, good will, commitment and especially concrete actions for sustainable development in East Asian Seas.

We, the East Asia seas countries, have confronted enormous challenges over the last decades, in particular, the degradation of habitats, diminishing fisheries, pollution of coastal waters, red tide occurrences, invasive alien species and loss of biodiversity and environmental cities issues. All these problems are affecting peoples' livelihoods and poverty resulting in an unsustainable economic development.

In confronting these challenges, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) provides a framework for response in focusing on sharing and partnership of interest, and in seeing "East Asian Seas as a concert of nation countries, outward looking, and living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in community of caring societies."

In the above context, the Ministry of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia shares much of this vision and therefore highly values its relationship with East Asian seas countries. On 12 December 2003, Cambodia, with other East Asia countries, signed the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. We are committed to its implementation, in particular, the Sihanoukville Coastal Strategy. In addition, the

Government of Cambodia with support from Asian Development Bank, Danida/CZM, IDRC/PMMR and UNEP/GEF South China Sea, has been engaged in building up a system for integrated coastal zone management through the establishment of a national ministerial committee and departmental coordinating platform. We have involved these in identifying and addressing coastal development issues in partnership with other stakeholders. Linking environmental capacity building to community support, Cambodia has also engaged in demonstrating strategic environmental management tools such as the State of the Coastal Environment and Socioeconomic Reporting, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management Action Planning, a draft of the national program of action for the marine environment protection from the land-based activities, four coastal resource centers and four coastal demonstration sites for 33 local communities.

Cambodia recognizes that the protection of the environment is very necessary to ensure the sustainability of development and socioeconomic activities by improving, enhancing and sharing the equity and fairness in the use of natural resources and its services. With this, the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia has been preparing a draft law on Protected Areas Management passing from the Royal Government of Cambodia and waiting for an approval from Parliament. This is in line with the Rectangular Strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The Royal Government of Cambodia continues to commit and build cooperation with its endorsement of the Haikou Partnership Agreement on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

Last, but not least, I sincerely thank you and best wishes to all Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, and all distinguished guests who are present here today.

Thank you.

Country Statement of PR China

Hon. Chen Lianzheng
Deputy Administrator, State Oceanic Administration

Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

Three years ago, Ministers of 12 countries of the seas of East Asia gathered in Putrajaya, Malaysia, jointly signed the Putrajaya Declaration, and adopted the Sustainable Development Strategy of the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). This provides an important regional framework for effecting integrated ocean management and ensuring sustainable ocean development. The adoption of the SDS-SEA is a major achievement due to common efforts and consensus of the previous Ministerial Forum. It has built on the experiences gained from the integrated ocean management undertaken over the past ten years, galvanized the consensus among the countries of the region to undertake integrated ocean management at a wider scale and greater depth, and produced measures to attain the WSSD targets on sustainable coastal and ocean development in the seas of East Asia region. This reflects the common desire of the countries of the region to ensure sustainable ocean development. The implementation of the SDS-SEA will help promote marine affairs cooperation among the countries of the region, extend and scale up the advanced experience achieved from the integrated ocean management practices, formulate strategies, policies and implementation plans by various countries, and ensure the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

Three years later in December 2006, ministers of 11 countries of the region gathered again in Haikou to discuss and adopt the Haikou Partnership Agreement for the Implementation of the SDS-SEA. This has both very important historic and practical significance. It shows that, by common efforts over three years, the countries of the region has come up with implementing mechanisms, which represent a new and decisive step in the effective implementation of the SDS-SEA. In our view, the regional coordinating mechanism as designed by the Haikou Partnership Agreement provides important organizational and other institutional safeguards for the effective implementation of the SDS-SEA. The Haikou Partnership Agreement institutes a three-year cycle. Its East Asian Seas Congress and Ministerial Forum is useful in staking stock of ocean management outcomes in SDS-SEA implementation; as well as providing policy guidance on future direction of development on a medium- and long-term basis. The Partnership Council will help review annually the status of SDS-SEA implementation, identify and solve in a timely manner the problems arising from the implementation process. This embodies a good balance of interests of the various parties involved as well as the integration of concerns of the governments and other stakeholders. The Partnership Fund and the GEF funding support will be an adequate and flexible financial safeguard for SDS-SEA implementation. The PEMSEA Resource Facility will be an effective core mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, providing adequate secretariat services to the Partnership Council, as well as different types of expertise and intellectual services to integrated ocean management and sustainable development in the region. In a nutshell, the adoption and signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement is an important achievement of this Congress and Forum. It indicates the

official launching of SDS-SEA implementation, demonstrates the commitments of various countries to SDS-SEA implementation, and opens a new chapter of cooperation for the sustainable ocean development in the region.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese Government has attached great importance to marine affairs cooperation in the region, actively engaging herself in various integrated coastal and ocean practices. We have undertaken an experiment in integrated coastal management (ICM) by creating the “Xiamen ICM Model,” actively participating in the designing, planning and formulation of the SDS-SEA, and exerted our own important efforts in the development of the SDS-SEA. As always, we will actively participate in and support the region’s marine affairs cooperation; organize and coordinate the active participation of our various ocean-related agencies, coastal provinces and municipalities in SDS-SEA implementation; and timely fulfill our financial and other commitments to SDS-SEA implementation. We hope that the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement can move the implementation of the SDS-SEA towards a financially sustainable path in the region, thus contributing to its comprehensive implementation. We also firmly believe that, with great support from various governments in the region and common involvement of the stakeholders, various targets of the SDS-SEA can be achieved and sustainable development of the region can be realized.

Country Statement of DPR Korea

Hon. Kim Gyong Jun
Vice Minister, Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection

Dear Chairman
Honorable Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the DPR Korean Delegation I would like to extend my gratitude to the State Oceanic Administration of China, Haikou City Government and the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office for inviting our delegation to the 2nd East Asian Seas Congress 2006, which will mark a new milestone in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

The region of East Asian seas is important and significant for the protection of the global environment, for its immense socioeconomic, natural values and its service roles. For the environmental management of the East Asian Seas region with such values, the PEMSEA participating countries and relevant UN agencies signed the Putrajaya Declaration in December 2003, committing themselves to the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The Partnership Agreement and the Partnership Operating Arrangement for establishing the regional implementation mechanism of the SDS-SEA, have been formulated by joint efforts of the PEMSEA participating countries, United Nations Development Programme and PEMSEA Regional Programme Office, and today in this Forum we will sign the Partnership Agreement. In this regard, the EAS Congress 2006 and the Ministerial Forum would provide a turning point in establishing the partnership for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

As a maritime country, the DPRK has been paying much concern to the environmental protection and management of its coasts and marine, and the well-balanced use and development of its resources, which contribute to the national economic development and the improvement of our people's livelihood. The overall orientation of the DPRK government policy in the management of coasts and marine area is to keep them with clean environmental conditions and to enrich the marine resources by managing rationally the land- and sea-based pollution sources, and also to prevent damages by the seaquakes. We are now taking practical measures for the environmental management and also for sustainable development and use of the resources of coasts, marine area and rivers, under the slogan "Live today not for today's sake, but for tomorrow's sake."

Recently, the government: 1) adopted laws for environmental management, such as the Law on Prevention of Pollution of the Taedong River, the Law of Tideland and the Law of Environmental Impact Assessment; 2) identified the areas in the coasts and marine environment which have to be protected nationally and worldwide; and 3) established habitat reserves and natural parks for migratory birds in many places including Mundok Coastal Wetland.

Our country has also participated in several regional and country level environmental programs and projects under UN cooperation and has been improving our national

capacity for the management of the coasts and marine. For the past ten years, the PEMSEA Regional Programme has made positive contributions to our activities for ICM.

The environment and resources in the Seas of East Asia should be protected and managed by the countries in the region and the benefits from them should also be used for poverty eradication and sustainable development of those countries.

Partnership and cooperation among PEMSEA partners in the environmental management of the seas of East Asia is a driving force for the implementation of the sustainable development strategy. DPRK government respects the Putrajaya Declaration and, during the PEMSEA third phase, will make a lot of effort in the implementation of the plans and activities identified during the DPRK National Consultation Forum.

To conclude, I wish the Congress a successful conduct by the joint efforts of all participants.

Thank you.

Country Statement of Indonesia

Hon. Masnellyarti Hilman
Deputy Minister for Nature Conservation Enhancement and
Environmental Destruction Control, Ministry of Environment

Your Excellencies
Ministers
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor for me to be here and have the opportunity to give an official Country Statement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, in conjunction with the Ministerial Forum for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

First of all, indeed, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for the wonderful hosting of this Meeting. I would also like to thank PEMSEA for inviting us to this Ministerial Forum and support us for almost 12 years in developing and implementing integrated coastal management.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We all understand that this meeting is of particularly importance, as we are about to end our second five-year course and at the same time are approaching a new, third phase of PEMSEA Regional Programme. We all understand that considerable efforts have been made at both national and regional levels by countries and regional organizations and programs in managing the environment and natural resources of the East Asia seas over the last ten years. The evolution of regional common understanding, vision and consolidated efforts among countries in the region for the pollution prevention and the protection and management of the marine environment and natural resources of the East Asian seas, with the auspice of the successful PEMSEA Regional Programme from its first phase in 1994, has resulted in remarkable achievements. One is the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development for the Seas of East Asia and the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

I would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, as a reflection of a common vision and consensus among the governments of the region concerning the applicable principles, instruments and approaches for achieving sustainable development in the seas of East Asia. We do believe that all countries in the Region have started and will consistently do their best effort in developing and implementing policies, strategies and programs at its national level which are in line with the implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

Quite a number of integrated coastal management programs and projects have been developed and implemented at local levels by different government agencies in cooperation with local governments and stakeholders. Of particular concern are the Bali ICM Demonstration site and the Sukabumi ICM Parallel site, which have been successfully developed and implemented with the support of PEMSEA. Continuing the

Bali ICM Demonstration Project, under PEMSEA's Phase II, which covers five municipalities and regencies along the southeast coast of Bali, three other coastal regencies on the southwest, west and north of Bali, namely Regencies of Tabanan, Jembrana and Buleleng, have committed to implement the ICM framework. These were indicated by the signing of MOAs on ICM Parallel Sites between the respective Regencies' Heads with PEMSEA's Regional Programme Director, in conjunction with a Local Leaders Forum and National Workshop on Sustainable Development of Indonesia's Coast and Ocean that was held in Jakarta from 25-27 April 2006.

The National Workshop also provided a special forum to consider the development and implementation of the Jakarta Bay Ecosystem-based Management Program. The initiative for the Jakarta Bay Ecosystem-based Management Program that was undertaken by the Ministry of Environment with support from PEMSEA during the National Workshop has been followed up with a Technical Workshop organized by the Provincial Government of Jakarta Capital Special Area on 26 July 2006. Outputs include a draft short-term road map for the development and implementation of the Jakarta Bay Ecosystem-based Management Program.

We do understand that all efforts done need to be continued with a better and systematic approach and in a consistent manner. One of the major agendas for the Government of Indonesia now is to package lessons learned from different ICM initiatives in the country to move forward to develop and implement ICM scaling up and replication programs throughout Indonesia in a gradual basis subject to our national and local resources. In line with the increasing understanding and awareness of integrated coastal management, most of the local governments are now interested in, and some have started, developing and implementing ICM frameworks as part of their local governance over their coastal areas. One of the challenges and opportunities not only for Indonesia, but other countries as well, is how to manage national as well as potential regional resources to effectively meet the need for a better, wider-scale of development and implementation of integrated coastal management frameworks as part of national and local coastal governance.

We are also happy with our workshops' results, where some of the recommendations have been developed and implemented in Indonesia, such as poverty eradication and coastal rehabilitation. We have been working with local communities (fishers groups) to replant mangroves, integrated with developing community-based crab culture. In Batam, we also have a program on sanitation improvement in a fishers settlement. Further, we are now integrating the river basin management and coastal management for Ciliwung River and Jakarta Bay. In the area of maritime safety and environmental protection, Indonesia together with Malaysia, Singapore and International Maritime Organization have been developing and are now in the start-up phase of the Marine Electronic Highway Demonstration Project for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Further, based on the results of the workshop, we are going to move forward by firstly convening a national workshop for the preparation of a program of action in following up the workshops' results. In the endeavor of implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia we do need the support of all relevant donor countries and agencies, including PEMSEA.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Government of Indonesia finds the new, third phase of the PEMSEA Regional Programme initiative that focuses on the implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as strategic and important not only for Indonesia, but also for the utmost benefit of countries, the people and the seas of East Asian region. Having said that, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, I am pleased to extend our commitment to continue to participate in the third phase of the PEMSEA Regional Programme that focuses on the implementation of SDS-SEA.

Sin she. Thank you very much.

Country Statement of Japan

Hon. Heizo Kito
Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates of member countries and International organizations
Ladies and Gentlemen and wonderful hosts from the People's Republic of China,

It is my great honor and privilege to have this opportunity of making an official statement, on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Given this valuable opportunity, I would like to refer to the Japanese basic understanding of PEMSEA activities, and make comments on the SDS-SEA (Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia) and the Haikou Partnership Agreement 2006 which represents how the SDS-SEA will be implemented.

Ocean and coastal seas are valuable as a source of food, employment and living resources. As well, for transportation and economic prosperity in the next generation, measures are needed to protect their peaceful and harmonious co-existence. To protect and maintain the value of the marine environment and renew the damaged environment, we must recognize the importance of the implementation of sustainable development, as the fundamental principle of the Agenda 21 adopted at the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. In the WSSD Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, the promotion of the integration of three elements of sustainable development, in particular, economical development, social development and environmental protection, is manifested. Specifically, the implementation of integrated and interdisciplinary management in ocean and coastal seas are recommended as the concrete action.

In these global trends, as a GEF/UNDP/IMO regional programme, PEMSEA has been promoting sustainable development of the seas of East Asia since 1994, through strengthening the partnerships among national and local governments and nongovernmental organizations. PEMSEA emphasizes "partnership" and "collaboration" as a basic principle, while legal obligations or fund-raising activities are not regarded as a first priority issue. I highly value these features of PEMSEA.

PEMSEA works with the basic principle of "sustainable development harmonized with the environment" and "partnership" comes up to the global trend from Agenda 21 through the WSSD implementation plan to meet the aim of sustainable development in the seas and I recognize that PEMSEA's work has universal value.

On the other hand, the Putrajaya Declaration and SDS-SEA, in building up international partnerships based on the basic principle and the direction of PEMSEA, was adopted at the former EAS Congress held in 2003 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Promoting the policy of PEMSEA, standing on the SDS-SEA, leads to the sustainable development of the seas of East Asia and that policy will lead to the great progress for

sustainable development throughout the world. By promoting the SDS-SEA, we will be able to recover or conserve the precious value of the ocean and the coastal seas.

Japan recognizes the importance of sustainable development considering environmental preservation, and has already implemented ocean and the coastal seas management. Ocean and the coastal seas management is implemented in Japan by the combination of the *jural* method and policy, based on the spirit of partnership.

With the *jural* method, discharge control of pollutants is implemented based on the laws or ordinances and, in the Seto Inland Sea, national and local governments establish the plan for environment conservation in accordance with the “special measures law on the environment conservation in the Seto Inland Sea.” As a policy in the spirit of partnership, the “Bay Renaissance Project” is implemented for the polluted enclosed seas, such as Tokyo Bay and Osaka Bay. The water quality regeneration plan is established and is implemented through the partnership of stakeholders. The adequate use of ocean and coastal seas and improvement of the marine environment is conducted in Japan. The Japanese vision for ocean and coastal management is the same as the philosophy of SDS-SEA.

At the conference in this EAS Congress 2006, the “Tokyo Bay Renaissance Project” was introduced. Japan will make its contribution to the implementation of the SDS-SEA as a partner country by the broad transmission of the ICM or environmental improvement approach in Japan.

Japan has promoted the International Coral Reef Initiative, which is the international framework for the preservation of coral reefs, with much activity, for example, acting as the Initiative Chair from July 2005 to June 2007. The Initiative defined the year 2008 as “The International Year of the Reef” and decided that each participating country deals with coral reef preservation and enlightenment activities intensively. Japan will advance these activities cooperatively with the SDS-SEA.

Japan has made cooperation with East Asian countries, and provided assistance to the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The government of Japan has undertaken activities such as:

- The ASEAN-OSPAR program for the response to the oil and NLS spill incidents in the ASEAN sea area,
- Various cooperation using ODA in the areas of sewerage, ports and seashore development; and
- Cooperation in promoting sustainable use of marine living resources, through Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and other activities.

In the private sector, with funding support by the Nippon Foundation, the Japan Association of Maritime Safety (JAMS) is conducting activities such as capacity-building cooperation with ASEAN countries for combating oil and NLS spill incidents. Japan will continuously contribute to the implementation of the SDS-SEA through assistance to East Asian countries in various areas.

With these, Japan supports the adoption of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and Partnership Operating Arrangements. And Japan will make its best effort to contribute to the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the warm and generous hospitality of PR China, especially to SOA and all others involved.

I would also like to thank GEF, UNDP and IMO, participating countries and the PEMSEA Secretariat for their excellent support and great efforts in making this Congress a success.

Thank you very much.

Country Statement of Lao People's Democratic Republic

**Hon. Noulinh Sinbandhit
Vice Minister, Vice President of the Science Technology
and Environment Agency**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and pleasure for me for the first time to attend the East Asia Seas Congress 2006 and the Second Ministerial Forum at the beautiful coconut City of Haikou, Hainan Province. On behalf of the Lao Government, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China, the Authority and people of Haikou City for hosting this important event and for their warm welcome and hospitality, my thanks and appreciation to Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Regional Programme Director, PEMSEA, for inviting our delegation to attend the EAS Congress and Forum 2006.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Lao PDR is geographically classified as an inland country and has a remarkable range of natural resources and environmental riches with almost half of the country under forest cover, abundance of water and a low population density. Lao PDR has consequently a diversity of species that is found in few other countries in the region. The country's economic development is largely dependent on its natural resources mainly hydropower, forests and minerals. Lao PDR has abundant water resources. More than 80 percent of the country's area lies within the Mekong River Basin. The remaining 20 percent drains through Vietnam directly to the South China Sea. It is estimated that around 35 percent of the Mekong River originates from watersheds within Lao PDR which is the largest contribution to the Annual Mekong River flow.

The Constitution of Lao PDR specifically mentions protection of the environment. Action to protect the environment is considered a duty of all organizations and citizens. This clearly indicates the genuine concern of the Government of Lao PDR for environmental protection. The national environmental policy is also to focus primarily on the preservation of natural resources while maximizing revenue generation and maintaining the livelihood of populations.

Based on the principles given in the Constitution and the national environmental policy, the Lao Government is making a great effort to strengthen its overall and sectoral natural resources and environmental management in all aspects. These include an important step in institutionalizing a coordinated natural resources and environmental management system.

For water resources management, the Government of Lao PDR has taken steps to strengthen water sector integration and to adopt the principles of integrated water resources management. River basins are seen as the basic unit of water resource management. Integrated river basin planning and management is now being

implemented in some selected basins as national models, in partnership with local communities and international organizations.

At the national level steps have been taken to strengthen the legal and institutional basis of integrated water resources management, such as the Law on Water and Water Resources, the Law on Environment Protection, the Water Resources Coordination Committee (set up in 1997), a National Water Sector Strategy and Action Plan, and the Policy on Water and Water Resources. Integrated river basin management is being implemented in two river basins. Furthermore, sustainable management of the country's natural resources has been identified as an integral part of the government's recently approved National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES).

As one of the riparian countries, Lao PDR is in a pivotal position in the Mekong River Basin. It therefore plays a significant role in international water resource development and sharing arrangements in the context of the 1995 Mekong Agreement and other regional and bilateral relationships. This has been shown by its active co-implementation and contribution to the existing core programs of the Mekong River Commission through its National Mekong Committee, which include an Environmental Program, Basin Development Plan and Water Utilization Program, as well as other sectoral programs. The Mekong River Commission vision and mission seek to promote basin resource management for economic prosperity, socially justice and environmental sustainability among the riparian countries.

From a regional perspective, the Lao Government is highly aware of the need for international and regional integration as the basis for its policy development. Lao PDR has ratified and has been a member of a number of regional /international agreements and conventions, which are integrated and transformed into different national legislation, regulations, strategies and plans for locally practical implementations. We acknowledge that environmental and ecological management in estuaries and coastal zones should not be separately considered without looking at the activities happening in the upstream watersheds. Most of the transboundary environmental issues have been caused by upstream, land-based activities where most of the resource development takes place. Recognizing the importance of the transboundary environmental issues, the Government of Lao PDR supports the activities of PEMSEA. This forum represents an important step in working together for a sustainability of development of both marine and related terrestrial resources.

The Lao PDR is therefore pleased to accept and support the Haikou Partnership Agreement on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to wish all of you good health, prosperity and good success in your life. On the occasion of New Year 2007 in the coming days, I also wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thank you.

Country Statement of the Philippines

Hon. Angelo Reyes
Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Your Excellencies, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Philippines, as an archipelago consisting of over 7,000 islands, has one of the longest coastlines in the world, estimated at about 36,286 km. About 60 percent of our people live in our coastal areas, and the country depends heavily on the coastal and marine ecosystems for the many economic and biodiversity values and services it provides.

In fact, the fishery potential of the Philippine coral reefs is estimated at 350,000 metric tons annually. Moreover, the majority of Filipinos are dependent on fish as their major source of protein, highlighting the importance of the coastal and marine areas to our economy and to sustainable development.

As one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world, the Philippines contains some of the richest ecosystems in the world, including the center of marine shore fish biodiversity, the Verde Island Passage that has been declared a marine sanctuary and a national protected area.

Sadly, however, our coastal and marine ecosystems have, over time, undergone degradation and its resources have been seriously depleted. Further, many important ecosystems continue to be at risk due to the impact of human activities on natural processes. Today, only five percent of our coral reefs remain in excellent condition. About 70 percent of our mangrove areas have been converted for aquaculture purposes, or logged and reclaimed for industrial and settlement areas. Half of our seagrasses have been lost. Many of our beaches and coastal areas are polluted and heavily silted due to pressures from rapid population growth and uncontrolled development.

Recognizing the need to develop a national policy and program to reverse the deterioration of our environment, the Philippines has embarked on numerous initiatives with support coming from various international and regional institutions to provide information that increase awareness and understanding of the conditions and processes occurring in our coastal and marine ecosystems. This is significant because most of our development paradigms have heretofore been principally land-based.

When the Global Environmental Facility and the United Nations Development Programme approved the first phase of the regional programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, or PEMSEA, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources took the initiative in hosting the Regional Programme Office. We immediately recognized that we would be able to learn from the Programme and that it could serve as a showcase in developing appropriate policies and strategies for the sustainable development of our coastal and marine areas.

Significantly, we have today already replicated the lessons we learned from the Batangas Bay integrated coastal management demonstration project and the Manila Bay

environmental management project in two other provinces, namely: Bataan and Cavite. These lessons encompass the adoption of an integrated approach to coastal management in those areas.

The municipality of Puerto Galera, Mindoro, a major coastal tourist site, is now also in the process of applying a public-private sector partnership in addressing its sewage and coastal water quality problem.

Additionally, with the adoption of the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy and its Operational Plan, we are now in the process of establishing a Manila Bay Coordinating Council to oversee the implementation of this plan. Likewise, we are now integrating the management programs for Laguna de Bay, Pasig River and Manila Bay itself in order to showcase a holistic and integrated coastal management approach, under the twinning program, which, as you know, is a component of the SDS-SEA.

But recognizing that the environmental problems of our country's coastal and marine areas cannot be confined to national boundaries and that they are transboundary in nature, the Philippines strongly endorsed and supported the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, or SDS-SEA, by signing the Putrajaya Declaration last December 2003.

With the lessons learned in building a strong partnership under PEMSEA, we urged President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, to sign Executive Order No. 533, which adopted Integrated Coastal Management as a national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources and established supporting mechanisms for its implementation. We are now starting to formulate the national integrated coastal management program.

Encouraged by the successful implementation of ICM projects and other PEMSEA components in our respective countries, it had been agreed in the last two steering committee meetings that the only way to sustain the achievements gained from PEMSEA is to transform PEMSEA into a regional mechanism, under a partnership arrangement. This arrangement will now serve as the vehicle for us in the region to achieve the common goal of managing the seas for present and future generations.

Through PEMSEA, we have been able to establish a network of local governments involved in the implementation of ICM, whose membership, I understand, is increasing in number and coverage. Likewise, with the adoption of the numerous coastal strategies and operational plans for pollution hotspot areas, we have gained support for our efforts from the World Bank and other international institutions.

With PEMSEA as a regional programme ending in June of 2007, we need to build a stronger partnership among countries in this region to ensure the sustained implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

We therefore strongly urge everyone that we all become parties to the Partnership Agreement for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia and hereby pledge all-out support for the Partnership's Operating Arrangements. These agreements will serve as the basis through which we will continue to cooperate as partners in addressing the issues we are confronted within our oceans and our seas. By entering into this very important partnership, we hope that we can

continue to share experiences and work together for our mutual benefit. Further, we hope that this strong partnership will encourage international institutions and agencies to continue to support our programs and projects.

On the part of the Philippines, we have, through the ICM programs, been able to strengthen our capabilities in managing our coastal areas and we have begun to engage the private sector in working with our local governments in putting up environmental facilities to reduce the pollution of our coastal waters. Likewise, PEMSEA has been providing technical advice in the design and implementation of some of our programs like the Pasig River Rehabilitation Project, the Manila Third Sewerage Project, and the Laguna Lake Program.

Recognizing the contribution of PEMSEA to the Philippines and to the region, we will continue to host the Regional Program Office and provide the necessary administrative and technical support. We have also committed to providing additional space by constructing a new building adjacent to the present office. Likewise, this early we would like to offer to host the next East Asian Seas Congress scheduled in 2009.

In closing, I join the other ministers in thanking China for hosting this landmark event and for the hospitality they have accorded us and all the other EAS Congress participants. I congratulate PEMSEA for its usual excellent coordination in making this 2006 East Asian Seas Congress a great success.

Many environmental threats and challenges face us today and in the future. With everyone's support, we have a fighting chance to overcome these threats. We should not waiver in our fight to secure a better quality of life for our people and a brighter future for our children. I know that all of us here subscribe to the belief that our generation did not inherit the earth; we just borrowed it from our children.

Let us therefore join hands and — together — work to preserve our planet and our species. This is a responsibility and sacred duty that we owe the generations of our children, their children, and their children's children. Thank you and *Mabuhay* to all!

Country Statement of Republic of Korea

Hon. Eun Lee
Vice-Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Mr. Sun Zhihui, the Honorable Minister of State Oceanic Administration of China, Honorable Ministers, Vice Ministers, and delegates of East Asian Countries, representatives of international organizations, and ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor to join you at this meaningful Forum for the preparation of implementing mechanisms for the SDS-SEA.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Chua, the Regional Programme Director of PEMSEA, and his staff for their efforts to prepare various meetings and workshops at this Congress.

As most of you are aware, the Republic of Korea is a small peninsular country with limited resources. Consequently, it is natural for us to turn our eyes to the ocean for our future generation. Recognizing the importance of the ocean, the Korean government established the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, MOMAF, in 1996.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of its establishment. MOMAF is responsible for all the matters related to the ocean, including ocean policy, marine environment, fisheries, shipping and ports, and maritime safety, among others.

In the field of marine environmental protection and preservation, MOMAF puts enormous efforts to maintain clean and lively coasts and ocean. Also, we have actively participated in the activities for the promotion of cooperation at both international and regional levels, which is a vital factor in protecting the marine environment.

In this regard, the meeting held today among the countries of East Asia is very meaningful and rewarding.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of acknowledging PEMSEA for its great achievements over the past 12 years at this region. This EAS Congress and Haikou Partnership Agreement to be concluded today are good examples of their efforts and achievements.

The MOMAF has signed an MOU with PEMSEA for the cooperation between two organizations in 2000. Since then, MOMAF and PEMSEA have mutually progressed toward sustainability, conducting numerous joint projects.

In recognizing the achievements made by PEMSEA this last decade, the Korean Government fully supports the third phase of PEMSEA activities. To show our support, MOMAF is in the process of establishing a trust fund to financially assist the PEMSEA secretariat. The budget proposal for the fund is waiting for the approval of the National Assembly.

In addition, I would like to state that the Republic of Korea will contribute to the successful implementation of the SDS-SEA, meeting the objectives of priority targets of the Haikou Partnership Agreement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The next 10 years will be an important milestone for the sustainability of the countries in the East Asian Seas and PEMSEA.

Based on the successes they have achieved so far and the spirit of cooperation, I hope that PEMSEA can transform itself into a self-sustaining cooperative body of the East Asian Seas region.

Before closing my statement, I would like to draw your attention to the Korean government's bid to host the 2012 BIE Exposition at Yeosu, the most beautiful port of Korea.

The main theme of the Exposition is "Living Ocean and Coast." We decided on this theme in order to emphasize the importance of the ocean, coast and their sustainable development to human beings. Taking this opportunity in participating at this Ministerial Forum of the EAS Congress 2006, I would like to ask for your kind support to the Republic of Korea for 2012 BIE Exposition at Yeosu.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of China for hosting this wonderful event in this beautiful city of Haikou.

Thank you.

Country Statement of Singapore

Hon. Rosa Chen Huey
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of the Environment
and Water Resources

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office for convening and co-organizing the East Asian Seas Congress 2006. I would also like to thank our host, the Government of China, in particular the State Oceanic Administration, the Hainan provincial government and the city and people of Haikou, for the excellent hospitality extended to the delegates.

Singapore is one of the signatories of the Putrajaya Declaration, which is the first regional expression of commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. Three years since this milestone, Singapore is once again honored to join fellow countries of the region to build upon the Putrajaya Declaration by establishing the implementing arrangements for the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

The seas of East Asia are a precious resource for our region. Many crucial sea-lanes run through these seas. They are home to an amazing array of marine species and also a vital source of livelihood for millions of people in the region. Through its work, PEMSEA has contributed substantially to the region's capacity to harness and protect our precious marine and coastal resources. Much remains to be done. The expertise and capacities that PEMSEA has built up will serve the region well in the years ahead. Singapore welcomes PEMSEA's role as a forum for discussing integrated coastal management. We believe that the integrated coastal management system, through its emphasis on the importance of the multistakeholder approach to sustainable development, is a useful way of encouraging countries to take a more holistic view of issues relating to the marine and coastal environment, including land-based pollution, ship-source pollution and marine biodiversity and in turn develop policies that can tackle pollution at its core.

Singapore also believes that there is much that countries in the region could learn from one another in terms of marine environmental management. Singapore will continue to play her part as a "global citizen" by providing technical assistance and capacity building in areas in which we have expertise, such as through the Small Island Developing States Technical Co-operation Programme (SIDSTEC II) courses or other Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) initiatives. For instance, Singapore has conducted several courses on wastewater 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. Through these programs, we share our experiences on the implementation and harmonization of measures to protect the marine environment.

Domestically, to educate our people on the problem of land-based pollution, the National Environment Agency conducts the "Seashore Life Programme" for schools where students learn about the seashore fauna, flora and ecosystem and how littering impacts

this ecosystem. This is then followed by a beach cleanup as part of their community involvement efforts.

Our 3P partners (namely the public, private and people sectors) are also actively involved in coastal environmental protection and conservation activities. For example, the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research under the National University of Singapore organizes the International Coastal Cleanup Singapore annually every September in conjunction with International Coastal Cleanup Day. Another NGO in Singapore, the Waterways Watch Society, patrols the waterways and assists in providing feedback on ways to keep our waterways clean and beautiful.

While highlighting education as a key instrument towards sustainable development, we also stress on the importance of research and studies on marine biodiversity and other marine environment issues so we can explore possible linkages between these environmental issues and other areas of interest, such as shipping.

To prepare ourselves for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), Singapore has introduced a series of activities and new initiatives. These include systematic documentation of marine biodiversity in Singapore waters, and research on the ecology of marine habitats and organisms. A meta-database is being set up. It will integrate marine and terrestrial biodiversity data from Singapore that has been collected and managed by various organizations. This biodiversity database can be used for educational, research and public awareness purposes, as well as for sound decision-making.

In addition, the port authority is also collaborating with academia in ballast water management R&D to reduce threat of invasive aquatic species to the world's oceans. Singapore organized the third International Conference on Ballast Water Management in September 2006 to generate and encourage exchange of information on ballast water management among scientists, policymakers and shipping firms from around the world.

To conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank the PEMSEA Secretariat for its tireless efforts in the formulation of the SDS-SEA, partner countries for your collaborative efforts and spirit of cooperation, and our host country China for its hospitality.

Country Statement of Timor-Leste

Hon. Estanislau Da Silva
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Excellencies
Distinguished Guests and Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Government of the People's Republic of China and PEMSEA for extending an invitation to Timor-Leste to participate, for the first time, at the East Asian Seas Congress 2006. It is for us, a key forum, covering the discussion of a vital issue, which affects us all. That is, of course, the sustainable management of our coastal and ocean resources.

I am pleased to be here today, representing Timor-Leste in my capacity as Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This is an important Ministerial Forum that provides the East Asian Seas Congress with policy directions and commitments for improving and strengthening the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

Although Timor-Leste was not able to participate in the first East Asian Seas Congress in 2003, we nevertheless share the commitment and vision of the Congress for a regional partnership approach toward sustainable development of the shared coasts and seas of East Asia. Timor-Leste welcomes the adoption of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and is proud to join with other PEMSEA countries today in signing this Agreement that will facilitate the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

Timor-Leste is four years old — a young island nation with approximately 750 km of coastline. We enjoy a wealth of natural coastal and ocean resources and there are many local coastal communities that rely on these resources for their livelihood. Alas, Timor-Leste is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia, despite possessing vast natural oil and gas resources. Poverty is understandably more predominant in rural areas. Out of a population of 925,000, almost 80 percent live in the rural areas, depending on agriculture for their livelihood.

It is only logical that the development of the agricultural sector is vital to mitigating widespread poverty, providing employment and addressing the issue of food security, which is at present, a most urgent and high priority for my Ministry and Government. The National Food Security Policy was passed in late 2005 by the Council of Ministers, signaling the importance the Timorese Government places on this issue.

The sustainable development and management of coastal and ocean resources, including water management also plays a critical part in ensuring food security.

The Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries plans to implement PEMSEA activities in 2007 and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has already allocated \$700,000 to four PEMSEA countries, including Timor-Leste for such activities.

Using our current limited resources, the Government, through my Ministry has already made some progress towards the sustainable development of coastal and ocean resources.

We have conducted surveys on water catchments as well as a baseline study on coastal habitats. A preliminary study on marine resources was undertaken two years ago as well as a study on the impact of sedimentation on marine productivity and coral reefs.

We are in the process of conducting a detailed study, including identification of species and mapping of our coastal resources (within five miles from the coast) in order to enable us to design an appropriate strategy to preserve and protect our reefs and marine coastal environment. This study, which is fully funded by the Government, is entitled the Coastal/Marine Habitat Mapping for Tourism and Fisheries Development Project and will also look at ways for sustainable management and development of eco-tourism. Our first national marine park will also be proclaimed very soon.

We have had a fisheries law in place for two years now, including general regulations that incorporate the FAO Code of Conduct on responsible fishing practices. We also have in force, a law on fisheries' crimes.

At the community level, my Ministry continues to engage with local communities, providing them with training on sustainable fishing practices.

At the subregional level, Timor-Leste participates regularly in the Arafura Timor Sea Expert Forum. Internationally, we are a signatory to the UN Convention on Biodiversity, the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Combating Desertification.

These are all clear indications of our Government's ongoing commitment to the protection and sustainable development of coastal and ocean resources.

As we are located in an area of high marine biodiversity, we are concerned about the degradation of marine resources, including the depletion of some of our most valuable living resources.

Illegal and unreported fishing activities also continue to be a major concern of ours on the South coast. Together with other stakeholders, we are focusing efforts toward combating these activities, which, if left unchecked could lead to rapid depletion of our resources.

At present, major issues affecting the sustainable management of our water resources are illegal logging, inappropriate upland (such as slash and burn) cultivation by local farmers and overgrazing. All these impact greatly on our water resources, contributing substantially to watershed degradation. To date, we have identified 27 watersheds across the country and are implementing such measures as reforestation and education programs for farmers on environmentally sound methods of cultivating land to prevent further degradation to the watersheds.

It is our firm belief that the management of the country's coastal and ocean resources should not be the sole responsibility of the State. Farmers, local communities, NGOs and other members of civil society all have a critical role to play in the successful and

efficient management of these resources. The Government is working together with local communities and organizations on this issue and continues to assist them both financially and technically to address arising concerns on these resources.

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen,

There are many challenges that we continue to tackle as we work to achieve our goal of efficient management of our coastal and ocean resources. We still require international technical expertise and assistance in this area. As I mentioned at the beginning of my statement, this is the first time Timor-Leste has participated in the East Asian Seas Congress and we hope to learn from the experiences of other countries, especially from those who are facing similar challenges. Our Government remains fully committed to working together with our regional neighbors to protect these precious resources and to implement the common strategy for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia for the benefit of our people and our environment.

We are hopeful that with the combined experiences of all, we can work together towards achieving the vision of this Congress in fostering regional partnership and thus advance sustainability of the Seas of East Asia.

Thank you very much.

Country Statement of Vietnam

Hon. Dang Hung Vo
Vice Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Honorable Mr. Sun Zhuhui, Administrator of the State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China,
Honorable Ministers, Heads of Delegations of PEMSEA member countries,
Distinguished Representatives of the UN and International Organizations, Donors,
Partners and the International Observers,
Excellency, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Regional Programme Director, PEMSEA
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Vietnam Government to participate in the Second Ministerial Forum at the East Asian Seas Congress, in the very beautiful and hospitable Haikou City, Hainan Province and the People's Republic of China.

To organize the Second East Asian Seas Congress so proficiently and meaningfully, we highly appreciate and thank the Government of the People's Republic of China, the State Oceanic Administration of China, the Provincial Government of Hainan and Haikou City Government for the invaluable support, excellent arrangements and the hospitality that we have had during the Congress.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Vietnam, during the last five years, "environment management" and "environment protection" are always the hot issues for discussions at the National Assembly as well as in the central and provincial governments. In the year 2005, the National Assembly of Vietnam has approved the new environmental protection law, in which there is one chapter for "marine environment protection" with the articles detailed for its implementation. Also in the new law, the Vietnam Government must allocate at least one percent of the national budget, annually, for the activities of environmental protection. In March 2006, the Vietnam Government approved a rather big Master Program on "Marine resources and environment basic survey and management period 2007 – 2010, vision to 2020" with the budget nearly \$200 million.

In the process of industrialization, all the provinces in our country located in the coastal zone have better opportunities to develop than others. Vietnam has nowadays three main economic areas including 18 provinces, in which there are 13 provinces located in the coastal zone. Several industrial zones in the main economic areas of Vietnam are facing pollution problems. The Vietnam Prime Minister gave instruction to all provincial governments to set up and implement their own "environment protection strategies" in line with the national one, and extend the public awareness, upgrade programs on marine and coastal environmental protection, and apply the ICM method in their respective coastal zones.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the First Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas 2003, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Vietnam was very honored to sign the Putrajaya Declaration and adopt the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). Since participating in the Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Vietnam has always supported and been involved in all PEMSEA activities. In that way, Vietnam has made several achievements at the national as well as at the provincial levels for marine and coastal environmental management. Moreover, through PEMSEA, Vietnam has had more opportunities for cooperation with other countries in the region.

In the same way, Vietnam will continue to strongly support and be actively involved in the implementation of the SDS-SEA in the next phase of PEMSEA as the Partnership Arrangement, and together with other Partner countries, to encourage multistakeholder participation in implementing the SDS-SEA in order to apply SDS-SEA to the realities of our country, towards the common objective of our region, that is sustainable development in each member country as well as in the East Asian Seas.

We support and respect the new arrangement of regional partnership and the new regional mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. We realize that, two new documents, the agreement of regional partnership and the arrangement of the regional partnership mechanism, to be signed by us in Haikou, are two historic and important documents of the region, and they represent an obvious and steady advance in the performance of our commitments under the Putrajaya Declaration 2003. These two documents highlight cooperation and address the interests of not only the member's governments but also the stakeholders' in the implementation of the SDS-SEA for the sustainable development of the East Asian Seas.

We think, by the approval of these two documents, the mechanism for implementation at the regional level to transform PEMSEA to a self-reliant, self-sustained mechanism in the region as well as in each country — and opens up for us a new challenge and great opportunity for the successful implementation of the SDS-SEA — is established.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this occasion, on behalf of the Vietnam Government, I would like to express our sincere thanks and congratulations to Dr. Chua Thia-Eng and his staff, and all UN and international organizations and partners, and all of us, the Partner countries of PEMSEA, because of the remarkable, historical achievements we have had today.

Vietnam is grateful and highly appreciates the effective cooperation and support of the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office to Vietnam, and we do believe that, even as time passes this cooperation will be maintained and developed. Moreover, we hope that through PEMSEA, Vietnam will establish and tighten the bilateral relations between Vietnam and other PEMSEA countries in the implementation of the SDS-SEA in Vietnam and in the region.

With the best sentiment, I again give my deepest thanks to the host country, the Government of the People's Republic of China, and His Excellency, Minister Sun Zhuhui

for the excellent preparation, significant contribution, and support to the wonderful success of the East Asian Seas Congress and Ministerial Forum.

Wish all of you good health, and thanks for your kind attention.

ANNEX 6

Documents Adopted at the 2nd Ministerial Forum

**HAIKOU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

**Ministerial Forum, East Asian Seas Congress
Haikou, Hainan, the People's Republic of China
15 December 2006**

1. **W**e, the representatives of the countries of the Seas of East Asia region, have gathered together to establish implementing arrangements for the *Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)*, building upon the foundation laid down in the *Putrajaya Declaration*. On 12 December 2003, this Forum adopted the SDS-SEA, through the *Putrajaya Declaration*, as the Region's common platform for achieving the goals and objectives of the *World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation* and the *United Nations Millennium Development Goals* concerning sustainable coastal and ocean development. The *Putrajaya Declaration* is the first regional expression of commitment to the implementation of SDS-SEA.
2. **W**e recognize the importance and urgency of putting into effect the SDS-SEA in order to sustain the resources provided by our seas. In this regard, we consider our cooperation for the SDS-SEA implementation as an essential part of the regional economic cooperation and integration.
3. **O**ver the past decades, advocacy, political commitments and conservation efforts have been undertaken at national and regional levels. However, the environment of the Seas of East Asia continues to degrade at an increasing pace. One of the important concerns imparted by the tsunami which swept across the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004 is how to prevent our people and coasts from being caught unprepared, thereby avoiding such devastating consequences. To arrest the trend of further degradation and to minimize both human and nature induced threats against our shared resource base, people's lives and properties are far more challenging than mere natural disaster response.

Long-Term Partnership for the SDS-SEA Implementation

4. **W**e believe that participation in the SDS-SEA implementation by all the countries and other stakeholders, within their respective capacities and resources, holds the key to confronting the challenges facing us. In the past, intergovernmental arrangements have placed the responsibility for environmental and resource management primarily on government, with other users and beneficiaries of those resources functioning primarily as interested observers. The partnership approach encourages all stakeholders to work together as complements of each other, to act dynamically and in a coordinated manner to

bring into full play the role of each stakeholder within the framework of the SDS-SEA.

5. **W**e consider partnership as an effective mechanism to facilitate concerted actions in our common endeavour to implement the SDS-SEA as it gives due consideration to the initiatives, shared responsibilities, desired outcomes, mutually supportive roles and the need to address disparities in capacity among the concerned countries and other stakeholders, including national and local governments, international agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), the private sector, academic and scientific institutions, communities, financial institutions and donor agencies.
6. **I**n this context, we are committed to forging a long-term stakeholder partnership for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. We encourage paradigm shifts, in management concept and action, from single-sector or single-purpose interventions to integrated coastal and ocean governance, from crisis-driven response to long-term capacity-building efforts, and from planning to ground-level implementation.

Priority Targets for SDS-SEA Implementation

7. **W**e agree on and endeavour to achieve the following priority targets for the implementation of the SDS-SEA:
 - a. Mobilization of the necessary resources, capacities and services, as well as legal, financial and economic arrangements, including the adoption of a rolling ten-year regional partnership programme and the production of a regional State of the Coasts report by 2009, building on the existing relevant national and regional initiatives and programmes.
 - b. Formulation and implementation of national policies and action plans for sustainable coastal and ocean development in at least 70 percent of the participating countries by 2015, in order to develop and strengthen integrated coastal and ocean governance at the national level.
 - c. Implementation of integrated coastal management (ICM) programmes in at least 20 percent of the Region's coasts by 2015, to achieve the sustainable development of coastal lands and waters and to promote intra-and inter-regional partnerships in ICM capacity building.

Regional Implementing Mechanism for the SDS-SEA

8. **W**e are heartened to see tangible outcomes achieved by the Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in the Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). Over the past decade, through its pilot and present phases, PEMSEA has put in place and extended on-the-ground integrated coastal and marine management mechanisms and processes for

bridging resource sustainability and economic growth; mobilized stakeholder involvement and support; promoted public and private sector partnership processes; and contributed to the formation of critical masses of expertise on the regional, national and local levels in addressing priority coastal and marine issues in policy, science and financing.

9. We have noted in particular that these efforts have led to, in many of the program sites, the reduction of multiple use conflicts, the improvement of environmental quality, the restoration of damaged habitats, beach cleanup, and the protection of endangered species such as marine mammals and sea birds. In addition, PEMSEA has catalyzed the concerted efforts by the countries of the Region, regional and international organizations, NGOs, concerned programmes, and financing and donor institutions in the formulation of the SDS-SEA. Furthermore, PEMSEA is actively engaged in the coordination of efforts by the countries of the Region in the implementation of the SDS-SEA through the provision of technical guidance and assistance, as well as the promotion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In addition, PEMSEA has demonstrated itself as an effective collaborative mechanism in promoting partnership on the local, national and regional levels.

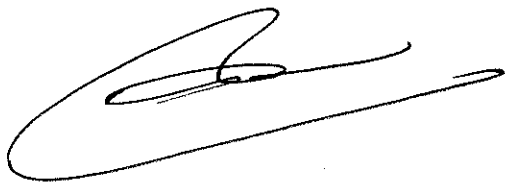
10. We recognize PEMSEA as the regional coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA and resolve to transform PEMSEA from the existing project-based arrangement to a self-sustained and effective regional collaborative mechanism with a mandate to pursue the implementation of the SDS-SEA through collaborative, synergistic and responsible actions and the accomplishment of our individual commitments. For this purpose, we agree to adopt and implement, within the framework of PEMSEA, the *Partnership Operating Arrangements for the Implementation of the SDS-SEA*, particularly with regard to:
 - a. An EAS Congress to be held every three years to serve as a vehicle for various stakeholders, partners and the collaborators in the SDS-SEA to share knowledge and monitor the progress of SDS-SEA implementation;
 - b. An East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council which will provide the policy and operational guidance for, as well as steer, monitor and review the progress of, SDS-SEA implementation;
 - c. A PEMSEA Resource Facility, which will provide two services in support of SDS-SEA implementation, namely:
 - i. Secretariat services to the EAS Partnership Council, overseeing the implementation of Council decisions, the organization of the EAS Congress, and monitoring and reporting on the progress of SDS-SEA implementation; and
 - ii. Technical support services to PEMSEA countries, including delivery and mobilization of policy and technical advice, capacity building and technical support for sustainable coastal ocean governance;
 - d. A Regional Partnership Fund to channel and ensure the best use of voluntary contributions from interested countries, donor agencies, institutions and individuals.

Follow-up Actions

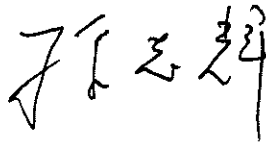
11. Within the next three years, we will undertake the following actions and report on the results at the EAS Congress 2009:
 - a. Developing work plans, mobilizing resources and support, and undertaking concrete measures and steps to achieve the priority targets and *the Partnership Operating Arrangements for the Implementation of the SDS-SEA* as stated above, based on our respective international obligations, national laws and capacities, as well as in consultation and cooperation with our collaborators in the SDS-SEA and other interested parties;
 - b. Forging collaborative arrangements between and among various stakeholders to enhance and make the best use of the Region's intellectual capital for integrated management and sustainable uses of coastal and marine environment and natural resources, through stakeholder participation and networking, as well as scientific, technical and information support;
 - c. Enhancing our efforts on coastal and marine water pollution reduction at the national and regional levels, particularly for achieving time-bound wastewater emission targets and sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation in pollution hotspots;
 - d. Establishing innovative financing mechanisms, with a view to leveraging private sector investment and public-private sector partnerships, in collaboration with interested financing institutions and other stakeholders;
 - e. Fostering collaboration, cooperation and partnership between PEMSEA and other relevant regional and international organizations, initiatives and programmes, in order to minimize duplication of efforts and enhance synergy among them;
 - f. Developing and strengthening national interagency, multisectoral and multidisciplinary mechanisms and processes for facilitating the implementation of the SDS-SEA, taking into account specific national and local concerns and needs;
 - g. Promoting public awareness and stakeholder involvement to ensure broad based participation in the SDS-SEA implementation at the local, national and regional levels.

We thank the People's Republic of China for her hospitality and tremendous efforts in making our Forum a success.

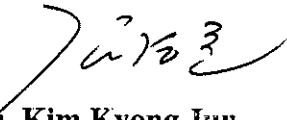
Adopted at the East Asian Seas Congress 2006, Haikou, Hainan, the People's Republic of China, on 15 December 2006, in the English language.



for **Hon. Mok Mareth**
Senior Minister, Minister
Ministry of Environment
Kingdom of Cambodia



Hon. Sun Zhihui
Administrator
State Oceanic Administration
The People's Republic of China



Hon. Kim Kyong Jun
Vice Minister
Ministry of Land and Environment
Protection
Democratic People's Republic of Korea



Hon. Masnellyarti Hilman
Deputy Minister for Nature Conservation
Enhancement and Environmental
Destruction Control
Ministry of Environment
Republic of Indonesia



Hon. Heizo Kito
Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure
and Transport
Japan



Hon. Noulinh Sinbandhit
Vice Minister, Vice President
Science Technology and Environment Agency
Prime Minister's Office
Lao People's Democratic Republic



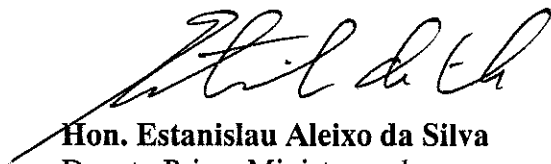
Hon. Angelo T. Reyes
Secretary
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources
Republic of the Philippines



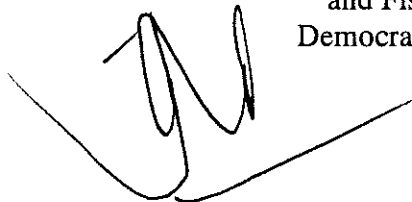
Hon. Eun Lee
Vice Minister
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Republic of Korea



Hon. Rosa Chen Huey
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of the Environment and
Water Resources
Republic of Singapore



Hon. Estanislau Aleixo da Silva
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest
and Fisheries
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste



Hon. Dang Hang Vo
Vice Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

PARTNERSHIP OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

I. The Partnership

1. Partnerships in the Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is a partnership arrangement involving all the stakeholders of the Seas of East Asia, including national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, research and education institutions, communities, international agencies, regional programmes, financial institutions and donors.
2. PEMSEA is also the regional coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).
3. PEMSEA's role is to facilitate the realization of the shared vision, mission, action programmes and desired changes of the SDS-SEA.
4. PEMSEA brings together the stakeholders to work as complements of each other, act dynamically and in a coordinated manner, and bring into full play the role of each stakeholder within the framework of the SDS-SEA.

OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives of the Partnership are to:
 - a) Strengthen consensus among partners on approaches and strategies for addressing the identified threats to the environment and sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia;
 - b) Build confidence among partners through collaborative projects and programmes;
 - c) Achieve synergies and linkages in implementing the SDS-SEA among partners; and
 - d) Reduce in-country and regional disparities in capacities for sustainable coastal and ocean development and management.

SCOPE

6. The Partnership addresses priority concerns challenging the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia region, including the six large marine ecosystems, namely the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, the South China Sea, the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, the Indonesian Seas and the Gulf of Thailand, their associated coastal lands and waters, and their interconnections with river basins and straits.

Special attention is given to those concerns that cut across legal and administrative boundaries.

7. The Partnership encourages the active participation in, and support for, the implementation of SDS-SEA by all the stakeholders, as well as the implementation of their individual programmes and actions that are consistent with the SDS-SEA.

II. The Partners

8. The Partners are, subject to paragraphs 14-18 on inclusion of Partners, the following:

- a) Countries of the Seas of East Asia region;
- b) Other countries using the Seas of East Asia region;
- c) Local governments in the region;
- d) Communities in the region;
- e) Non-government organizations (NGOs) and other members of civil society in the region;
- f) Research and educational institutions;
- g) The private sector;
- h) UN and international agencies that support or sponsor the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
- i) Financial institutions that support or sponsor the implementation of the SDS-SEA; and
- j) Other Concerned regional and global entities and programmes.

9. The Partners observe the following practices:

- a) Work together in the spirit of partnership;
- b) Seek actions that advance the goals of the Partnership without compromising the interests of individual Partners;
- c) Strengthen communication and dialogue with each other regarding activities affecting the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
- d) Undertake activities and honor schedules collectively agreed upon by the Partnership;
- e) Act in a spirit of mutual assistance, good neighborliness and complementarity towards achieving the common goals; and
- f) Exercise flexibility and take adaptive measures when needed.

RIGHTS OF PARTNERS

10. Partners have the following rights:

- a) To participate, as provided in paragraphs 25-42, in the EAS Partnership Council;
- b) To participate in the EAS Congress, the Regional Networks, and other activities and forums of PEMSEA, subject to the rules of these activities;
- c) To access the opportunities offered by the partnership arrangements for SDS-SEA implementation;

- d) To access PEMSEA's technical and secretariat services and information products; and
- e) To participate in PEMSEA's knowledge sharing network.

ROLES OF PARTNERS

- 11. All Partners participate in the regional collaborative efforts to implement the SDS-SEA, and ensure that their individual programmes and actions are consistent with the SDS-SEA.
- 12. All Partners contribute to the regional endeavor to implement the SDS-SEA and support their respective representatives to attend the EAS Partnership Council meetings, meetings of the regional networks, and EAS Congresses, within their capacities.
- 13. The specific roles for the Partners are provided in the SDS-SEA.

INCLUSION OF PARTNERS

- 14.
 - a) The countries of the Seas of East Asia region, referred to in paragraph 8 (a), will sign the Partnership Agreement.
 - b) Other Partners, referred to in paragraph 8 (b) to (j) will sign on to the Partnership Operating Arrangements.
 - c) These Partners will convene the first EAS Partnership Council Meeting.
- 15. Other countries of the East Asian Seas region can join the EAS Partnership Council by signing the Partnership Agreement.
- 16. Other stakeholders who are not yet Partners but are interested in participating in the implementation of the SDS-SEA may request for inclusion as a Partner of PEMSEA by sending a written notification to the Executive Director (as referred to in paragraph 46) of the PEMSEA Resource Facility of:
 - a) its adherence to the Partnership Agreement and the Partnership Operating Arrangements, and the policies and decisions of the Council, and
 - b) agreeing to enter into a partnership arrangement with PEMSEA through a Memorandum of Agreement or similar instrument on the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 17. Upon receiving the required written notification from the stakeholder, the Executive Director will submit a report concerning the request to the next meeting of the Executive Committee (as referred to in paragraphs 32 to 34), together with the relevant information on the requesting stakeholder. The Executive Committee will decide whether or not to include the requesting stakeholder as a partner of PEMSEA.
- 18. The EAS Partnership Council may modify the qualifications and procedures for the inclusion of Partners and withdrawal by Partners when it deems appropriate.

III. Major Operating Mechanisms

19. There are four major operating mechanisms: the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress, the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council, the PEMSEA Resource Facility, and the Regional Partnership Fund.

EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS

20. PEMSEA holds an EAS Congress every three years, consisting of a Ministerial Forum, an International Conference and other related activities.
21. The Ministerial Forum of the EAS Congress provides policy directions and commitments for improving and strengthening the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
22. The International Conference serves as the forum for:
 - a) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
 - b) Facilitating knowledge exchange, advocacy and multi-stakeholder participation, through sessions, workshops, side events and exhibitions, etc.;
 - c) Promoting the ocean agenda as a priority programme in international and regional forums;
 - d) Promoting the development of financing mechanisms and investment opportunities for sustainable coastal and marine development;
 - e) Encouraging corporate responsibility and accountability in the business community; and
 - f) Discussing specific sectoral and cross-sectoral issues and concerns, as well as partnership arrangements for the subregional seas or environmentally sensitive areas, for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
23. The hosting and venue of the EAS Congress will be determined by the EAS Partnership Council in consultation with the Partner countries.
24. The EAS Congress presents its conclusions and recommendations to the EAS Partnership Council for implementation.

EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Nature of Council

25. The EAS Partnership Council is a regular body composed of all Partners, as defined in Section II, paragraph 8 of this document.
26. The Council formulates both program and operational policy in support of the implementation of the SDS-SEA, based on policy direction, recommendations and commitments provided by the Ministerial Forum, EAS Congress, and other Partners.

Council Composition

27. The Council has an Executive Committee and two types of sessions, an Intergovernmental Session and a Technical Session.
28. The Council elects a Chair to a three-year term. The Council Chair is the Chair of the Executive Committee and will sit in the Intergovernmental Session and the Technical Session *ex officio*.
29. The Intergovernmental Session and Technical Session elect their respective Session Chairs to a three-year term, who also serve as members of the Executive Committee.
30. Nominations for the positions of Council Chair and Session Chairs will be in accordance with the criteria and guidelines as established by Council.
31. The Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility serves as the Secretary of the Council and of the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee

32. The Executive Committee, comprised of the Council Chair, the Session Chairs, and the Secretary, act as officers of the EAS Partnership Council.
33. The Executive Committee ensures and oversees the implementation of the decisions of Council, and reports to the Council.
34. The Executive Committee will develop and adopt its terms of reference.

Intergovernmental Session

35. The Intergovernmental Session is composed of the duly designated representatives of the Partner countries of the Seas of East Asia region.
36. The Intergovernmental Session may formulate guidelines concerning the participation of other Partners in the Session, as it deems appropriate.
37. The Intergovernmental Session considers the recommendations of the Technical Session, and provides policy guidance, coordination, and evaluation of the progress of the SDS-SEA implementation.

Technical Session

38. The Technical Session is composed of the duly designated representatives of the Partners.

39. The Technical Session, preceding the Intergovernmental Session, discusses issues, submissions and topics related to the scientific, technical and financial aspects of SDS-SEA implementation, partnership opportunities, collaborative research, capacity building and knowledge sharing, and makes recommendations to the Intergovernmental Session as appropriate.

Council Meetings

40. The Council convenes every eighteen months, and makes decisions on a consensus basis.
41. The Council formulates and adopts rules of procedure, including consensus building and conflict resolution.
42. The Technical Session and Intergovernmental Session will develop their respective terms of reference.

PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY

43. The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) has two functions:
- a) Providing Secretariat Services; and
 - b) Providing Technical Services.
44. The PRF Secretariat Services performs the following functions:
- a) Providing secretariat support to the EAS Partnership Council, the Executive Committee, the Ministerial Forum, the Regional Partnership Fund and the EAS Congress;
 - b) Facilitating knowledge transfer and capacity building;
 - c) Preparing proposals for new initiatives, and mobilizing resources for their implementation, taking into account as appropriate the business plan and marketing strategy of the Technical Services for the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
 - d) Preparing and submitting to the Council a consolidated report of the programme development and implementation, including financial statements;
 - e) Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
 - f) Coordinating the updating of the SDS-SEA, taking into account changing conditions, emerging issues and other related factors, on a periodic basis; and
 - g) Performing such other functions as may be assigned to it by the EAS Partnership Council.
45. The PRF Technical Services performs the following functions:
- a) Developing and implementing a dynamic business plan and marketing strategy for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, in coordination with the PRF Secretariat Service in terms of project proposal development;

- b) Providing technical, financial, investment and management services for specific projects and programmes, as appropriate;
 - c) Developing and implementing a process for recognizing and certifying good practices in the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
 - d) Recommending the operation and management of the Regional Partnership Fund to the EAS Partnership Council, and implementing the Council's decision; and
 - e) Implementing projects approved by the EAS Partnership Council.
46. The PRF is headed by the Executive Director. The Executive Director ensures the coordination between the Secretariat and Technical Services particularly in terms of programme development and implementation.
47. The PRF Secretariat Services is funded by voluntary contributions from the Partner countries of the Seas of East Asia region and from other available sources. The PRF Technical Services are funded through sponsored projects and programmes.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

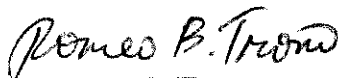
48. The Regional Partnership Fund, set up by the EAS Partnership Council, receives voluntary financial contributions from countries, international agencies, donors, institutions, individuals and any other entity for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
49. The depositary of the Fund will be a sponsoring UN Agency for PEMSEA.
50. The Executive Committee ensures the best use of the Fund towards achieving the shared vision, mission and desired changes of the SDS-SEA by:
- a) Developing policies and operational guidelines governing the identification of activities to be funded, its disbursement, replenishment, management, audit, and the guidance for the countries to consider their voluntary contributions to ensure that it serves its objectives;
 - b) Ensuring that earmarked funds are properly managed for its purpose; and
 - c) Appointing a fund manager as appropriate. The appointment is reviewed every three years.
51. The Council may organize fund-raising activities, such as donors' meetings.

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL MATTERS

52. The official language of PEMSEA is English.
53. These Partnership Operating Arrangements and any terms of reference, operating mechanisms, and rules of procedure referred to herein may be amended, modified, superseded or terminated in whole or in part by the EAS Partnership Council.

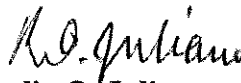
Signed the Partnership Operating Arrangements on 16 December 2006, at Haikou, Hainan, the People's Republic of China.

On behalf of Conservation International:



Romeo B. Trono
Executive Director
Conservation International Philippines

On behalf of CMC:



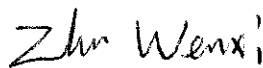
Rogelio O. Juliano
Executive Director
Coastal Management Center

On behalf of GEF SGP:



Delfin Ganapin
Global Manager
UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme

On behalf of IOC/WESTPAC:



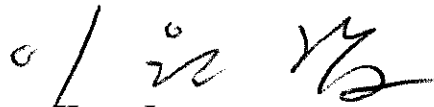
Wenxi Zhu
Acting Head of the Regional
Secretariat
IOC Regional Office for WESTPAC

On behalf of KEI:



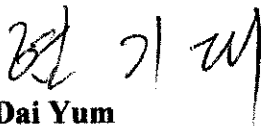
Yoon, Suh Sung
President
Korea Environment Institute

On behalf of KMI:



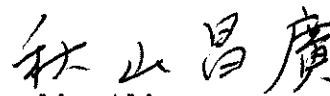
Jeong-Hwan Lee
President
Korea Maritime Institute

On behalf of KORDI:



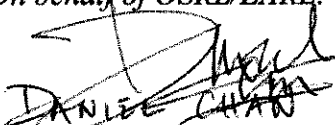
Ki-Dai Yum
President
Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute

On behalf of OPRF, Japan:



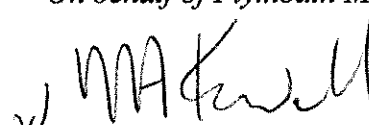
Masahiro Akiyama
Chairman
Ocean Policy Research Foundation

On behalf of OSRL/EARL:




Archibald Frederick Smith
Director and CEO
Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response
Limited

On behalf of Plymouth Marine Laboratory:



Nicholas J P Owens
Director
PML Applications Limited

On behalf of UNEP GPA:



Veerle Vandeweerd
GPA Coordinator
GPA Coordination Office
United Nations Environment Programme

On behalf of YSLME:



Yihang Jiang
Project Manager
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project PMO