

10th EAS Partnership Council Meeting
Agenda item: 2.0 (Council Session)

SUMMARY OF MAJOR DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9th EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING, 20th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND 21st EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND ACTIONS TAKEN

1.0 Background

1.1 The decisions of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting (July 24-26, 2017; Manila, Philippines) and the recommendations of the 20th Executive Committee Meeting (November 22, 2017; *Skype*) and the 21st Executive Committee Meeting (April 27, 2018; Manila, Philippines), provided guidance on the following major issue areas:

- (a) Review and development of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017 – 2022;
- (b) Preparations for the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018, 25th PEMSEA Anniversary Celebration, and Sixth Ministerial Forum;
- (c) Regional and National State of the Oceans and Coasts (SOC) Report;
- (d) PEMSEA's Sustainability; and
- (e) Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for the implementation of SDS-SEA.

1.2 The key decisions and recommendations of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting, 20th and 21st EC Meetings were addressed as identified in Annex 1. The following points were highlighted:

- Upon further review and consultations with Country and Non-Country Partners, a broader and simplified SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018 – 2022 was developed to provide more specific outcomes, indicators and targeted actions and schedules for priority governance and management programs for the next five years, which aims to complement and add value to the Partners' programs while collectively contributing to the regional and global commitments.
- The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, formally confirmed its commitment to host the EAS Congress 2018 and the Sixth Ministerial Forum on November 27-30, 2018 to be held at the Iloilo Convention Center in Iloilo City, Philippines. PEMSEA Partners and Collaborators have confirmed their interest to convene/co-convene sessions and events at the Congress. EAS Congress and Sixth Ministerial Forum provisional programmes already developed and disseminated.

- The checklist for ICM Manager Certification Levels 2 and 3 have been completed. The ICM Manager Certification Handbook will be reviewed for approval in July 2018.
- Blue Economy Forum successfully convened in November 2017 in cooperation with Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources of MONRE Thailand. The national SOC briefs were presented, as well as reports from various LME programmes.
- Full Regional and National SOC reports are already being finalized.
- PEMSEA collaboration with other institutions to explore and provide ICM training for ICM Managers
- The new Executive Director, Ms. Aimee Gonzales, started her term on January 1, 2018.
- The inclusion of MABIK as a new PEMSEA Non-Country Partner.
- Adoption of Work Plan and Budget for 2017 - 2018.

2.0 Actions requested of the Council Session:

- 2.1 The Council Session is invited to review the actions taken or progresses made in line with the recommendations of the 20th and 21st Executive Committee and decisions of the 9th EAS Partnership Council, and provide comments and further guidance as appropriate.

Annex 1

Summary of Decisions from the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting and Recommendations from the 20th and 21st Executive Committee Meetings and Actions Taken

Agenda Item	Decisions from the 10 th PC Meeting and Recommendations from the 20 th and 21 st EC Meetings	Status of Implementation/Actions Taken
<p>SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017 – 2022</p>	<p>9th EAS PC Meeting Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The PRF Secretariat to circulate the draft SDS-SEA Implementation (2017 – 2022) to members of the Partnership Council for review and inputs on the various action programs, relevant indicators, and the planned milestone activities of Partners and collaborating organizations that collectively contribute to achieving the outcomes. ● PEMSEA Partners to submit their comments and inputs on the further refinement of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2017 – 2022) to the Secretariat on or before 31 August 2017. <p>20th EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Final Draft of the SDS-SEA Implementation be completed and disseminated by 31 December 2017. <p>21st EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRF to ensure the SDS-SEA implementation plan is concise and easy to understand, with realistic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The review and refinement of the draft SDS-SEA Implementation Plan has taken longer than originally planned in view of the need to simplify and conduct further research, and consultations with PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners. ● The final and consultation on the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 (coverage date updated) was completed in June 2018. ● The final SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 with additional inputs from Partners will be submitted for final review and adoption at the 10th PC Meeting (Agenda Item 2.0 of the Technical Session; PC/18/DOC/06).

	<p>proposed actions and targets that reflect regional and national priorities and an executive summary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRF to develop a simple graphic presentation of the key programs and proposed actions and targets that reflect regional and national priorities and an executive summary. ● Adoption of the work plan and schedule to finalize the SDS-SEA implementation in time for the adoption at the 10th EAS Partnership Council Meeting in July 2018. 	
<p>EAS Congress 2018, 25th Anniversary of PEMSEA, and Sixth Ministerial Forum</p>	<p>9th EAS PC Meeting Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRF Secretariat and DENR Philippines coordinate with Country Partners in developing and engaging the countries fully in developing a dynamic and dialogue-oriented program for the Sixth Ministerial Forum. ● PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners provide further inputs to the EAS Congress programme and identify sessions or topics that may be convened by Partners, taking note of additional suggested topics (i.e., coastal erosion, marine debris including microplastics, etc.) and initial interests expressed by some Partners to convene sessions at the Congress. ● Secretariat facilitate a call for expression of interest to convene and/or co-convene sessions and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2017, the PRF sent out invitations to all PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners as well as to collaborators and called for expression of interests to convene/co-convene sessions and events at EAS Congress 2018. ● The EAS Congress Information Package were disseminated to all Partners and collaborators ● As a result of consultations and confirmation from Partners, collaborators and specific individuals, the EAS Congress Provisional Programme was developed. As of June 2018, majority of the target keynote speakers for plenary

	<p>at the EAS Congress 2018, with a target of completing and disseminating the EAS Congress Programme by end of 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Partners actively support the preparation and organization of the Sixth Ministerial Forum, and secure the participation of their respective Ministers to the Forum. <p>20th EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRF to disseminate the EAS Congress information package to all Partners and collaborators in the soonest time possible; • In collaboration with DENR-Philippines, PRF coordinate closely with the PEMSEA National Focal Points to provide information, encourage participation, and secure early confirmation of Ministers and high-level officials to the 6th Ministerial Forum; • PRF to include the discussion about the EAS Congress and 6th Ministerial Forum in the country visits to be conducted by the Council Chair and incoming ED in 2018; and • PRF to work closely with DENR-Philippines to ensure the successful organization of the EAS Congress 2018. 	<p>sessions have been confirmed; sessions for Partnership Hubs convened by Partners and collaborators secured; and various event programs developed (i.e., 5th EAS Youth Forum, PNLG Forum 2018, Blue Economy Forum)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretary of DENR Philippines issued official invitation letters to Ministers of EAS countries. Confirmation of Ministers ongoing. • As reported above • Country visits conducted by PEMSEA ED from February to May 2018 (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), while China is scheduled in June and RO Korea is scheduled in July 2018. Included in the agenda is the EAS Congress 2018 and Sixth Ministerial Forum.
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	<p>21st EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRF to identify and work closely with the EC members on their specific roles for the EAS Congress 2018. ● Adoption of the proposed Provisional Programme for the Sixth Ministerial Forum ● Adoption of the proposed outline and workplan for the Sixth Ministerial Declaration ● The PRF to ensure the progress from countries in line with Da Nang targets are reflected in the final reporting for the Ministerial Forum ● PRF, in collaboration with EC and Country Partners, ensure high level participation at the Ministerial Forum, preferably with heads of delegation not lower than the Vice Minister level ● PRF explore and secure participation of eminent persons at the Ministerial Forum to solicit more interest for high level participation from countries ● PRF continue the consultations with countries who have not yet hosted the EAS Congress to serve as next host, with Cambodia as the initial preference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initial list of roles of Executive Committee members for the EAS Congress and Sixth Ministerial Forum developed. ● Two versions of the Sixth Ministerial Forum programme developed taking into consideration the possibility of the Philippine President participating as keynote speaker at the Closing Ceremony of the EAS Congress. ● 1st Draft of the Ministerial Declaration developed for review by countries ● Invitations have been sent to UN Special Envoy for the Oceans, UNDP Administrator, GEF CEO and Chairperson, UNEP Secretary General, and ASEAN Secretary General as possible speakers at the MF ● Consultations with countries on hosting of EAS Congress 2021 was included in the country visit discussions, but confirmation from countries is still pending ● More detailed discussions on the EAS Congress 2018 and the Sixth Ministerial Forum will be done under Agenda item 3.0 of the Technical Session and Agenda item 4.0 of the Intergovernmental Session, respectively.
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<p>PEMSEA's Sustainability</p>	<p>9th EAS PC Meeting Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EC members conduct exploratory and consultative visits to PEMSEA member countries to discuss the issue of country contributions with all members, using the 25th anniversary and Ministerial Forum as an opportunity to recommit the partnership. <p>20th EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adoption of the proposed plan for Country-by-Country visits in early 2018, taking into consideration the comments from the meeting. ● PRF to coordinate with the respective countries to secure and confirm availability of the Minister or Vice Minister and National Focal Point. ● PRF to finalize the schedule and coordinate arrangements for country visits based on country confirmations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ED conducted country visits during (Feb-May 2018), with the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Lao PDR – open to joint fundraising initiatives → Cambodia – the funding proposal is waiting approval with the Ministry of Finance → Indonesia – PEMSEA's Post-2020 priorities must align with national priorities. → Vietnam – MONRE is positive to continue its support for 2019, request is under review in VASI → Philippines – committed to help PRF secure more funding → Singapore - recommends expanding donor base to ensure PEMSEA's sustainability.
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	<p>21st EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRF to identify a name/title for the proposed PEMSEA Core Team for Post-2020 and include the establishment of a PEMSEA Core Team Post-2020 in the Sixth Ministerial Declaration. ● PRF to prepare an information brief about PEMSEA, its key successes and services in an easy to understand format that would be used to promote and market PEMSEA to various organizations and companies for funding grants and partnerships. ● EC members to assist in their respective countries and organizations in promoting PEMSEA and in securing country support or joint funding opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Thailand – reopened country partnership negotiations → Japan – expressed to continue their support for PEMSEA → China (June 2018) → RO Korea (July 2018) ● ED’s prospects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Malaysia – ED plans to reopen country partnership negotiations → Timor Leste – ED plans to explore joint funding initiatives ● Initial concept paper in line with the development of a PEMSEA Post-2020 framework and team developed ● A specialist is being engaged to assist in further developing the concept document and the Terms of Reference for the PEMSEA Post-2020 ● An Ocean Leadership Roundtable focusing on EAS Futures Outlook organized as a special event at the 10th PC Meeting to receive further insights from experts on governance, economic, and scientific outlook for the EAS region which will serve as
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		input to the development of the PEMSEA-Post 2020 document and core team.
<p>Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA Implementation</p>	<p>9th EAS PC Meeting Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resources from the PEMSEA Trust Fund amounting to USD 300,000 be allocated as funding for hiring an investment specialist for the design and development of the PIF and for the preparation of a full funding proposal for development and implementation of a PIF and Ocean Investment Funding Facility (OIFF). The process will be overseen by the Executive Committee and a progress report will be presented to the next meeting of the EAS Partnership Council. <p>20th EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The EC noted the progress made and recommended the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → EC continue to oversee the overall process of this initiative. → PRF proceed with the development of a sustainable ocean investment facility in support of SDS-SEA Implementation in accordance with the proposed work plan and schedule; → PRF provide regular updates and seek regular consultations with the Executive Committee regarding the development of investment facility, and to deliver a progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRF hired an investment specialist to plan, coordinate and implement the design and development of an ocean investment facility in January 2018. ● Progress reports pertaining to the development of an ocean investment funding facility submitted to the 20th and 21st Executive Committee Meetings, which included the following major actions/progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work program and schedule developed for preparation and promotion of the facility ○ Standardized process for PRF to assist local governments in identifying and developing investment projects developed, with local government engagement initiated ○ A pipeline of blue economy investment projects underway ○ In accordance with 21st EC recommendation, the initiative has been renamed into Sustainable

	<p>report at the 10th EAS Partnership Council Meeting in July 2018.</p> <p>21st EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRF to explore an appropriate name for Ocean Investment Facility and Fund (OIFF) in order to avoid confusion and better convey its purpose. ● PRF to ensure that services and benefits of the finance facility are clearly communicated to PEMSEA partners. ● PRF to continue with its efforts in line with the initially agreed work plan and timetable on sustainable financing for SDS-SEA Implementation. 	<p>Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More detailed discussions about the Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA will be conducted under Agenda item 3.0 (PC/18/DOC/13)
<p>Regional and National State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) Reports</p>	<p>9th EAS PC Meeting Recommendations and Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRF to include analysis in the SOC report of tradeoffs between the ocean economic activities and conservation initiatives, and the synergies that can be created. ● PRF to include marine debris such as micro plastics and other new areas raised during the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017. ● All countries use the same SOC template in developing their national SOC reports to facilitate comparison across countries and the development of the regional SOC report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Successful conduct of the Blue Economy Forum in Bangkok, Thailand co-organized with the Thailand Research Fund and Department of Coastal and Marine Resources (DMCR) of Thailand on November 14-15, 2017, wherein draft National SOC Reports from 8 countries and draft Regional SOC report were presented, and representatives from regional programs as well as from ocean-based industries actively participated in support of scaling up blue economy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country and Non-Country Partners share information, such as blue economy initiatives, governance measures, and regional maps, e.g., fisheries (ASEAN), minerals, etc. <p>20th EC Meeting Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Draft of the Regional and National SOC reports be completed and disseminated by 31 December 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft SOC reports have been prepared by Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Thailand, Timor Leste and Singapore. The reports are in various stages. The SOC of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Timor Leste are already scheduled for 1st batch of copyediting. Japan has confirmed to develop a national SOC brief based on the Japan white paper. • Further discussion on the SOC report will be conducted under Agenda item 4.0 of the Technical Session (PC/18/DOC/08).
<p>ICM Professional Certification</p>	<p>9th EAS PC Meeting Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat explore potential collaboration with institutions (e.g., IUCN) providing ICM training to identify prerequisite trainings for ICM Managers. • The Secretariat proceed with the development of the ICM Managers Certification Level 2 and Level 3 checklists to ensure transparency of the certification process and incorporate it into the ICM Manager Certification Handbook, with a target of completing the handbook by the end of 2017. • The Secretariat proceed with the development of the ICM Manager Certification Program and conduct the testing of the certification and training process, and report the progress and outcomes to the next EAS Partnership Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be discussed with relevant Partners • Checklist for ICM Certification Level 2 and 3 completed • ICM Certification Handbook for review by PRF Management Committee in July 2018. • Upon approval of the handbook, testing of the ICM Manager Certification Program will be initiated.

<p>Collaborative Planning</p>	<p>9th EAS PC Meeting Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Secretariat link the Knowledge Management (KM) platform (SEAKB) with other KM websites/portals as well as websites/portals in Partner Countries and ICM sites. Sharing of tools for further Capacity Development (CD) and KM. ● PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners provide further inputs to the CD, KM, and targeted research plans for 2017 – 2018. ● The Secretariat explore opportunities for further collaboration in capacity development, knowledge management and targeted research across the Non-Country and Country Partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Validation of features and resources in Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) completed and platform fully operational, including updated investment features, e-directory and e-library with over 380 resources ● Links established with IW:LEARN, CCRES and IUCN for cross-sharing through knowledge platforms/programs ● SEAKB Manager hired (starting August 2018) to continually improve and promote the platform and develop new partnerships ● Beta version of the SEA Knowledge Bank (SEA KB) e-library/knowledge portal fully operational ● Investment features in SEA KB completed ● Secretariat to co-organize a regional workshop with KMI scheduled in July 11-12 to identify priority issues, challenges and targeted researches in implementation of UN SDGs and SDS-SEA. PEMSEA Partner Countries and ASEAN Member State will share their accomplishments and experiences which will be utilized to the implementation of UN SDGs and SDS-SEA in the region
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat identify the issues highlighted from the UN Ocean Conference outcomes such as marine debris and IUU and integrate these into the plans for CD/KM and Targeted Research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marxan with Zones Training was conducted in collaboration with Korea Maritime Institute for ICM sites and learning centers hosted by PNLB-Burapha University. • ICM Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop was conducted for partner countries and NOWPAP country member, Russia. A session on marine litter was delivered by NOWPAP experts attending the ToT workshop. • Initial discussion with OSRL during a visit in Manila in early 2018 exploring potential collaboration in running a regional training course on shoreline clean-up • Initial discussion with World Water Assessment Programme and IWLearn on potential twinning programmes for gender sensitive training on sustainable water resources management • Successful application to the Inter Collaborative Opportunities (ICO) programme of IWLearn that funds and facilitates exchange visits and inter
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat share a list of institutions within PEMSEA member countries for potential collaboration on these various projects. 	<p>regional collaboration with the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+). Two activities are under way in 2018 to promote networking opportunities and knowledge exchange between the two organizations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEMSEA participates as a Panelist in the CLME+ Partnership Forum in September 2018 • CLME+ participates in the EAS Congress in November 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with ROK MOF are ongoing to organize a training workshop on Seawater Quality Monitoring and Analysis, scheduled for August in Busan, RO Korea, in collaboration with ROK Non-Country Partners (e.g., KOEM, KIOST) • Identified scientific programs/projects were shared with Partner Countries in the process of developing SDS-SEA IP. • In line with the SDS-SEA IP, particularly on the knowledge management, capacity
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		building and targeted research portion, the PRF will continue to work and consult with Partners in identifying other possible areas of collaboration/projects.
Recruitment of new Executive Director	9th EAS PC Meeting Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Intergovernmental Session encouraged the outgoing ED to work with the incoming ED to ensure the smooth transition in PRF management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Executive Director started last January 1, 2018.
Inclusion of MABIK as a new PEMSEA Non-Country Partner	9th EAS PC Meeting Decision: The Council formally accepted the inclusion of MABIK as PEMSEA's new Non-Country Partner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MABIK will convene a session at the Partnership Hubs of the EAS Congress 2018 to share their knowledge in the application of advanced skills and technologies for marine biodiversity management and conservation and sustainable use of marine resources based on scientific monitoring/project for marine organisms and resources
Work Plan 2017 - 2018	9th EAS PC Meeting Decision: The Intergovernmental Session adopted the Work Plan and Budget for 2017 – 2018, as presented, taking into consideration the request from RO Korea to double check the figures on ROK contribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Plan being implemented by the PRF
