

**10th EAS Partnership Council Meeting
Agenda Item: 3.0 (Council Session)**

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIR

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The 20th Executive Committee and 21st Executive Committee convened on November 22, 2018 in Quezon City and April 27, 2018 in Manila, Philippines respectively. The meetings focused on the following:
- Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022
 - PEMSEA's Self Sustainability
 - Sustainable Financing for SDS-SEA Implementation
 - Ministerial Forum
 - EAS Congress 2018
- 1.2 The various issues addressed and actions taken in relation to the recommendations of the EC meeting are summarized in Agenda Item 2.0 (PC/18/DOC/02) of the Meeting.
- 1.3 The Council Chair Report focuses only on the key policy issues that were covered by the Executive Committee (EC) during the intersessional period, their perspectives and possible impact of which on PEMSEA's initiatives and objectives.

Key Policy Issues Covered by the EC

Key Policy Issues	Direction provided/Perspectives by the EC	Impacts
Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (IP) provides an important framework of ocean governance and management priorities that can be used to guide PEMSEA Partners in planning and developing their respective ocean and coastal programs and projects, and facilitates collaborative planning and implementation among Partners and other international and regional organizations. ● For better appreciation and easier understanding of the SDS-SEA IP, it is important to keep it simple and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The commitment of each PEMSEA Partner to the SDS-SEA IP and adoption of the IP at the 10th PC would enable PEMSEA Partners to proceed and jointly plan concrete actions, as well as jointly identify sources for needed funding and/or scientific and technical resources and capacities to support and address the needs

	<p>concise with realistic actions and targets that are in line with regional and national priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementation of the SDS-SEA IP should be regularly tracked/monitored through EC and PC meetings and SOC reporting to enable the region to document developments and identify persistent or emerging challenges and gaps. ● The EC recommends the adoption of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 so as to facilitate implementation of proposed actions by PEMSEA Partners for the next 5 years in support of scaling up SDS-SEA implementation. 	<p>of PEMSEA countries on coastal and ocean development/governance.</p>
<p>PEMSEA's Self-Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent with the results of the Third-Party Assessment, the EC recognizes the value of PEMSEA Country, and even Non-Country, support in ensuring sustained PEMSEA operations. Similar to other organizations/international entities, there is also a need for PEMSEA to continue efforts to expand and diversify its sources of funds ● As members of the Executive Committee, it is important that we too provide the necessary assistance to ensuring PEMSEA's sustainability by helping secure country support or joint funding opportunities. ● In ensuring PEMSEA's continuing value and advantage, it is crucial for PEMSEA to always be a step ahead in planning and identifying future action and direction, as such the EC supports the initiative towards establishment of a PEMSEA Post-2020 Team and Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The individual country consultations conducted by the Executive Director (in some cases with EC members support) has enabled PEMSEA Country partners and the PRF to understand the situations and required processes in countries that would hopefully help facilitate securing of country voluntary support to PEMSEA if not immediately this year, in the coming years. ● Building on the successes of the partnership for the past 25 years, it is the hope of the EC, for the PEMSEA partnership to continue to flourish and be globally-recognized as the EAS Region's Center of Excellence for Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Governance.

<p>Sustainable Financing for SDS-SEA implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The increasing focus and recognition of coastal and ocean contributions to overall sustainable development necessitates for PEMSEA to move beyond business as usual but to start linking all good plans and initiatives with investments, if we are to further strengthen the implementation of the SDS-SEA. ● The EC is aware of some of the remaining concerns on this matter. As such, the past 2 EC meetings have sought further clarifications pertaining to the ocean investment facility initiative adopted by the 9th PC in order to provide a clearer direction and appreciation on this important effort. It is clear that the proposed establishment of a pre-investment facility is just one of the many options and initiatives being explored in support of SDS-SEA implementation. It is also important to emphasize that the allocation of US\$300K for this initiative is not an investment in itself capable of financial return but a programmatic budget to build the platform that would facilitate the creation of ‘bankable’ projects and match it to potential investors who can then identify investments capable of producing financial return. ● The EC sees the value of the initiative and is something that is revolutionary to the region. To ensure its success, it is crucial for all Partners to understand the services and benefits of the finance facility and for the PRF to continue to keep Partners informed on actions taken/developments in line with the EC-approved work plan and timetable on sustainable financing for SDS-SEA implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This provides an opportunity for PEMSEA as a whole to work together in identifying possible financing mechanisms and varied sources that would help connect key PEMSEA initiatives (particularly at the local level) to good investments.
<p>Sixth Ministerial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In line with PEMSEA’s 25th year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Sixth Ministerial

Forum	<p>anniversary, the Sixth MF is an important platform not only to commemorate successes but more importantly in setting more innovative/exciting targets, initiatives and commitments that would help address new and emerging issues on coastal and ocean development and governance in the EAS region, while contributing to achieving UN SDG targets and relevant international commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In order to achieve this, it is also integral to demonstrate strong support by ensuring high-level country representation at the MF, preferably the Ministers themselves or not lower than Vice-Minister level. ● The support of each PEMSEA Partner is crucial to encourage strong support and participation at the EAS Congress, including in getting eminent persons to speak and engage at EAS Congress and MF discussions. ● In keeping with PEMSEA tradition of sustaining support for triennial EAS Congress and MF, Country Partners who have yet to host the EAS Congress are urged to consider hosting the EAS Congress 2021 and succeeding congresses. 	<p>Forum is PEMSEA's highest policy-making or direction-setting body, strong support from countries and high-level representation would help elevate buy-in on PEMSEA and the SDS-SEA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Ministerial Declaration that highlights regional commitments to addressing the key emerging issues in the region would serve as a good document for countries to take action and contribute to achieving international commitments.
EAS Congress 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The EAS Congress 2018 is one of the region's biggest event as it coincides with the 25-year celebration of PEMSEA partnership. This is an opportune time for the region to demonstrate its importance and role towards achieving international commitments/targets on sustainable coasts and oceans. ● All PEMSEA Partners as key actors to this important mechanism are encouraged to actively participate and lead in some Congress activities. 	<p>AS Congress 2018 promotes a strong partner-led approach to convening a number of the sessions and events. This hopes to facilitate deeper ownership by Partners or collaborators on the EAS Congress and its value as a mechanism to monitor progress and set strategic directions for the region.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EC recognizes and appreciates the strong support and efforts being provided by the DENR Philippines together with PRF in ensuring the success of the EAS Congress. Given the numerous international environment-related events lined up for 2018, it is crucial for all Partners to help promote the EAS Congress through various media. 	
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2.0 Key items or issues requiring further action

2.1 The following issues or activities are seen as crucial and should be given priority by PEMSEA:

- a) *Country ownership in support of PEMSEA's sustainability:* Maintain and further strengthen communications between the PRF and PEMSEA Country (as well as Non-Country) Partners to build more ownership and support to PEMSEA initiatives.
- b) *SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022:* Adopt the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022 at the 10th EAS Partnership Council Meeting.
- c) *State of the Oceans and Coasts (SOC) Reports on Blue Economy: Finalize and publish the Regional and National State of Oceans and Coasts Reports*
- d) *EAS Congress 2018, 6th Ministerial Forum and PEMSEA's 25th Anniversary:* Ensure the successful conduct of the EAS Congress, 6th MF as well as PEMSEA's 25th anniversary celebration by actively engaging all Partners and collaborators.
- e) *Sustainable Financing Mechanisms in support of SDS-SEA Implementation:* Continue the initiative on sustainable financing mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation in close coordination and regular updating of the EC on the process. Target to present more concrete updates/results on the pipeline of blue economy projects that are currently being developed.
- f) *Building PEMSEA's brand and services:* Continue to strengthen and expand the coverage in promoting PEMSEA's work and services. Develop simple and easy to understand PEMSEA promotional materials to encourage better appreciation and understanding of PEMSEA and its initiatives.

3.0 Actions for consideration by the Council:

3.1 The Council is invited to review and consider the direction and perspectives offered by the EC in support of the objective to further enhance and strengthen the PEMSEA partnership and its initiatives through the SDS-SEA.

3.2 The Council is also invited to consider and comment on the identified priorities of PEMSEA for 2018.
