

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

EAST ASIAN SEAS (EAS) CONGRESS 2018

1.0 Background and Status

- 1.1 With barely five months left, the preparations for the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018 is already in full swing with strong support from the Government of the Philippines through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the provincial and city governments of Iloilo and the provincial government of Guimaras.
- 1.2 The following major progress have been made:
- a) EAS Congress organizing teams from DENR (national and regional) and PRF established and regular preparatory meetings conducted;
 - b) Iloilo Convention Center in Iloilo City confirmed and secured as official venue of the EAS Congress 2018;
 - c) The EAS Congress and Sixth Ministerial Forum Programme have been developed, with majority of the target keynote speakers for the major ceremonies, Ocean Talk and SEA Exchange already confirmed;
 - d) 22 Conveners for the Partner-led sessions for the International Conference have confirmed and development of individual session programs with various Partners are already ongoing;
 - e) Invitation letters to the Ministers of the PEMSEA member countries have been signed by the DENR Secretary and issued to respective Ministers; securing of confirmation of Ministers is ongoing;
 - f) The EAS Congress exhibit design concept, floor plan and prospectus have been developed and information released to PEMSEA Partners and collaborators;
 - g) The EAS Congress 2018 official website has been launched;
 - h) Promotions and marketing for the EAS Congress have been initiated and press releases have been featured in various media at the national and international level;
 - i) First Information Bulletin covering key details on logistical arrangements have been released; and
 - j) Registration for the EAS Congress International Conference and Exhibit ongoing.
- 1.3 The detailed Provisional Programme for the EAS Congress 2018 is attached as Annex A.

2.0 Remaining Actions Needed

- 2.1 On the International Conference:
- a) Coordinate with Partnership Hub session conveners in finalizing their respective session programs and securing their target speakers, panelists, etc.;
 - b) On Fifth EAS Youth Forum finalize the assessment and selection of youth delegates from EAS countries and finalize the Youth Forum toolkit;
 - c) Secure more funding support for youth delegates.
- 2.2 On Exhibition:
- a) Finalize the production of the centerpiece design
 - b) Secure and confirm all exhibitors
- 2.3 On SGOM and Sixth Ministerial Forum:
- a) Secure confirmation of all Ministers from PEMSEA country partners, as well as Thailand, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia
 - b) Secure confirmation of NFPs or Senior Government Officials for SGOM
 - c) Finalize Ministerial Declaration through the conduct of various country consultations.
- Note:* More details and discussion on the Ministerial Forum will be conducted under the agenda on Sixth Ministerial Forum at the Intergovernmental Session.
- 2.4 On Promotions and Marketing of the EAS Congress 2018:
- a) PEMSEA Partners to assist in promoting the EAS Congress through respective websites and by linking the PRF to respective communications units within the Ministry or organization
 - b) Assist the PRF in identifying other possible sponsors that can be tapped to support participation of delegates from the developing countries in the region.
- 2.5 On hosting of EAS Congress 2021:
- a) Secure commitment from PEMSEA Country Partners who have yet to host the EAS Congress to host the EAS Congress 2021 and succeeding triennial EAS Congresses.

3.0 Actions requested of the Technical Session

- 3.1 The Technical Session is invited to direct the PRF in cooperation with DENR Philippines to finalize remaining actions needed, and to encourage PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners to actively support the Congress preparations to ensure its full success.
