



Changwon Declaration

Toward an Ocean-based Blue Economy: Moving Ahead with the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia

**The Fourth Ministerial Forum on
the Sustainable Development Strategy
for the Seas of East Asia**
Changwon City, RO Korea
12 July 2012

1. **W**e, the representatives of the countries of the Seas of East Asia region, have gathered this day in Changwon City to reflect on the progress made over the past three years, individually and collectively, with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), and to ensure continued progress towards a sustainable future, including the development of an ocean-based blue economy.
2. **W**e understand the Blue Economy to be a practical ocean-based economic model using green infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms and proactive institutional arrangements for meeting the twin goals of protecting our oceans and coasts and enhancing its potential contribution to sustainable development, including improving human well-being, and reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.
3. **W**e recall the goals set in Rio 20 years ago, especially those detailed in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 covering oceans and coasts, as well as the decisions made via a number of other modalities including the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development. In 2003, we adopted the SDS-SEA as the region's response to these goals. Now, in the same spirit that UNCED in its 20th year has revisited the global objectives and targets, we have assessed our progress with regard to the implementation of the SDS-SEA and its relevance to the sustainability of an ocean-based blue economy in the region.
4. **W**e have reviewed the targets identified in the 2006 Haikou Declaration, specifically: forging a long-term stakeholder partnership for implementation of the SDS-SEA; the implementation of integrated coastal management (ICM) in at least 20 percent of the region's coastline, as well as the development and implementation of national marine and coastal policies and action plans in at least 70 percent of participating countries, by 2015; and the 2009 Manila Declaration, focused on priorities to strengthen ICM as an effective management framework and a systematic approach to achieve sustainable development and climate change adaptation goals.
5. **W**e have noted considerable progress towards these targets, as follows:
 - a) PEMSEA has now evolved into an international organization with its own legal personality, focused on the implementation of the SDS-SEA;

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- b) Nine PEMSEA Partner Countries have initiated the development or put in place national coastal and marine policy;
 - c) More than 80 pieces of legislation directly supporting the implementation of the SDS-SEA have been enacted by PEMSEA Partner Countries;
 - d) ICM programme coverage has been extended to approximately 11 percent of the region's coastline; and
 - e) State of Coasts (SOC) reports have been completed for ICM sites in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam, describing progress, achievements and impacts of ICM programmes.
6. We acknowledge that, despite these efforts and initiatives, advancement towards the vision and objectives of the SDS-SEA has been modest considering such challenges as biodiversity loss and the destruction and degradation of coral reefs, mangroves, fisheries and other natural resources, pollution of rivers and coastal sea areas from land- and sea-based sources, the impacts of climate change and severe weather events on people, livelihoods and properties, and nutrient over-enrichment and the increase in “Dead Zones” in coastal waters.
7. We recognize that the continuing loss and degradation of coastal and marine ecosystem services will adversely affect economic and social development at the national and local levels. The necessity to ensure the sustainability of the ocean sector assumes even greater importance in future GDP growth, particularly in the East Asia region, where the ocean-based economy is already contributing a higher proportion to the total economy than in other parts of the world (up to 20 percent in some countries). To make this sustainable, we must ensure that economic development and the protection and sustainability of coastal and marine ecosystem services are indivisibly connected. Past experiences with “business-as-usual” economic models forewarn of their limitations, and we should now be considering an ocean-based blue economy in the context of sustainable development.
8. We continue to regard the SDS-SEA as an appropriate platform and framework for overcoming the challenges to sustainable development and for building an ocean-based blue economy in the region. We welcome the fact that the GEF, UNDP and World Bank support this approach and have incorporated SDS-SEA implementation into their respective medium-term framework programmes focused on investments in sustainable development of Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts in East Asia.
9. To optimize the implementation of the SDS-SEA will take more time and effort. Therefore, we agree to adopt the five-year SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2012 – 2016) for the region as a timely and important next step in the journey toward an ocean-based blue economy. We further agree to strengthen and accelerate the execution of the five-year SDS-SEA Implementation Plan, in accordance with our respective national priorities and capacities, by:
- a) Mainstreaming SDS-SEA objectives, targets and actions into national and subnational development and investment plans;
 - b) Shifting coastal and ocean governance from government-centered to a more inclusive approach, involving both government and non-government stakeholder partners, through institutional mechanisms at the regional, large marine ecosystems (LMEs) and sub-regional sea areas, national and local levels;
 - c) Consolidating and aligning Strategic Action Programmes and other endeavors for achieving target-focused action plans in LMEs/sub-regional sea areas into a common platform for improving coastal and ocean governance and for mobilizing the human and financial resources of stakeholder partners;
 - d) Converging sectoral initiatives and programmes in priority coastal, marine and watershed areas within the framework of national ICM programmes, which will contribute to the ICM



- coverage target, while at the same time advancing an ocean-based blue economy with ICM as the management framework, covering:
- i. specific actions for climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR), including improvement of observation, forecasting and warning of natural and man-made disasters, using among other processes, integrated land and sea-use planning/marine spatial planning;
 - ii. conservation and redress of biological diversity and equitable and sustainable management of fisheries, focusing on habitat (blue forest) conservation/restoration and marine protected areas, and rebuilding and maintaining fish stocks at levels that can sustainably support present and future generations;
 - iii. protection and improvement of water quality in coastal areas and associated river basins for improving ecosystem services and ecosystem health, and addressing hazards associated with unsustainable development on both water quality (e.g., pollution, eutrophication, saltwater intrusion, erosion and sedimentation) and water quantity (e.g., flooding, water shortages, over extraction, subsidence);
 - iv. food security and the provision and improvement of livelihood options among the coastal poor through sustainable coastal fisheries and alternative and supplemental livelihood programmes in ecotourism, sustainable aquaculture/ mariculture, etc.; and
 - v. investments in green industry, technology and practices – e.g., eco-agriculture and the development of marine renewable energy – in order to strengthen the resiliency of coastal communities;
- e) Building up technical and management capacity in order to achieve expected economic benefits from the oceans;
 - f) Targeting research on the valuation of ecosystem services, and the losses to society and economy as a consequence of degradation and destruction;
 - g) Setting up a comprehensive knowledge management platform;
 - h) Adopting and implementing the SOC reporting system to provide baseline information, and over time information needed for monitoring progress, necessary for achieving the different global and regional targets; and
 - i) Undertaking joint and collaborative planning with concerned government agencies, levels of government, organizations, sectors and the general public, as appropriate, for the purpose of continually updating the SDS-SEA Regional Implementation Plan.
10. **I**n accordance with respective national policies, strategies, priorities and capacities, we will use the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan to support the implementation of the RIO+20 outcome document, The Future We Want, and other relevant international and regional commitments related to coasts and oceans. We hereby direct the PEMSEA Resource Facility to ensure the incorporation and integration of the said commitments into the Plan.
11. **W**e will also pursue further opportunities for innovative partnerships among national and local governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, UN agencies, international financial institutions, donors, the business community, scientific and technical institutions, civil society and the media, with PEMSEA as the regional coordinating mechanism. We believe that individual Partners will benefit from the SDS-SEA as a common framework for addressing regional and global targets and platform for cooperation in support of an ocean-based blue economy. We note with appreciation that the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments, through the Dongying Declaration on Building a “Blue Economy” through Integrated Coastal Management, adopted on 26 July 2011, has undertaken specific actions for the same objectives.
12. **W**e, the PEMSEA Countries, remain unwavering in the pursuit of our vision for the Seas of East Asia as expressed in the SDS-SEA. We invite all stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels to participate in the same.



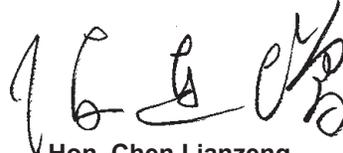
Adopted in Changwon City, Republic of Korea, this 12th day of July, 2012.

Kingdom of Cambodia



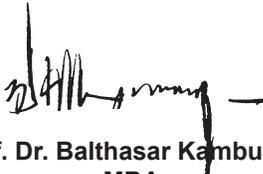
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State Oceanic Administration

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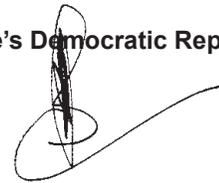
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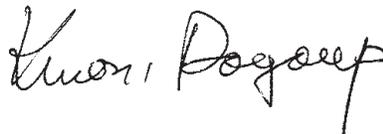
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