Summary Report of the Fourth Senior Government Officials’ Meeting

Changwon City, Republic of Korea
11 July 2012
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FOURTH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS’ MEETING

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THE FOURTH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS’ MEETING (SGOM)

Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Ministerial Forum
Pullman Ambassador Hotel, Changwon City, RO Korea
12:30–14:00, 11 July 2012

SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Fourth Senior Government Officials’ Meeting (SGOM) was held at the Oriox Hall of the Pullman Ambassador Hotel in Changwon City, Republic of Korea, on 11 July 2012. Senior government officials from 11 PEMSEA Partner Countries participated in the meeting, namely: Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. The meeting agenda and list of participants are included in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

1.2 Professor Raphael Lotilla, Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility, chaired the meeting. He welcomed the distinguished representatives of the Partner Countries to the meeting, emphasizing its importance in preparing for the Fourth Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia. Professor Lotilla highlighted the key objectives and expected outputs of the Ministerial Forum, including the adoption of the Changwon Declaration toward an Ocean-based Blue Economy and the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) Implementation Plan for 2012–2016. The Changwon Declaration builds upon the agreements made in earlier ministerial forums and calls attention to the regional efforts toward a blue economy and sustainable East Asian Seas.

1.3 Professor Lotilla introduced the Ministerial Forum Annotated Program and briefly discussed each item.

2.0 REVIEW OF STATUS OF PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTERIAL FORUM

2.1 The PEMSEA Secretariat gave an overview of the arrangements for the Ministerial Forum. The meeting was informed that ten PEMSEA partners were expected to adopt the Changwon Declaration and the Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2012–2016). Thailand, which is not yet a PEMSEA Country Partner, would be participating as an Observer in the forum. In line with this, the Chair reminded the participants that the countries that are not yet partners may join the partnership by signing the Haikou Partnership Agreement at any time.

2.2 It was further noted that some 29 members of country delegations, and the PEMSEA Executive Committee members, would be attending the forum. Thirty-seven (37) observers composed of representatives from PEMSEA Non-Country Partners, international organizations, and for the first time, the private sector and local governments, were also expected to attend.
2.3 The Minister of RO Korea’s Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM), as host, would chair the Ministerial Forum.

3.0 REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION FOR THE MINISTERIAL FORUM

3.1 The documents for the Ministerial Forum were distributed to the participants, including those for the Ministers. The key documents included the Five-year Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2012–2016) and the Changwon Declaration toward an Ocean-based Blue Economy: Moving Ahead with the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

3.2 Information documents prepared for the Ministerial Forum in support of the Declaration and Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2012–2016) were also distributed, including: the PEMSEA briefing document, “PEMSEA’s Transformation ... Why is it Important?”; the Regional Review of the Implementation of the SDS-SEA (2003–2011), which incorporated the synthesis of national SDS-SEA reviews; and the Country Reports and Ministerial Statements submitted on behalf of the Ministers.

3.3 The meeting reviewed the consultation and consensus-building process that was undertaken for the finalization of the declaration.

4.0 REVIEW OF THE MINISTERIAL FORUM ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 The meeting took up the physical arrangements for the forum. These included two venues: (a) the Convention Hall for the Closing Ceremony of the International Conference and the Opening Ceremony of the Ministerial Forum and (b) the Amoris A Room at Pullman Hotel for the Ministerial Forum Proper. Clarifications were made on the matter of seating arrangements, particularly on the capacity of the venues and the allotted seats for delegation members and interpreters. Concerns regarding microphones, matters on language interpretation and additional allocation of seats for delegation members were addressed.

4.2 The meeting discussed the method of signing the declaration, and the participants were informed that each country would get an original copy thereof with complete signatures after the holding of the Ministerial Forum.

4.3 The arrangements for the wearing of the Durumagi — the traditional Korean dress — which was provided by the host minister to the ministers, were also discussed.

4.4 The meeting noted that, unlike in previous forums, Country Reports and Ministerial Statements would not be read aloud, but would instead be distributed in print to the participants. This approach was intended to give more time for the Ministers to engage in open discussions during the forum. In this regard, the senior government officials were requested to again relay the invitation to the Ministers to make interventions during the facilitated discussion of the forum.
5.0 CLOSING

5.1 The Chair reviewed the discussions of the meeting and asked for further queries and clarifications from the body. Professor Lotilla wrapped up the meeting by thanking all the participants for their support and expressed his confidence for the successful conduct of the Fourth Ministerial Forum, and declared the meeting closed.

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ANNEX 1

PROGRAM

12:30 – 12:45 Registration of the Senior Government Officials Meeting and the Ministerial Forum

12:45 – 12:50 Opening Remarks
Professor Raphael P. M. Lotilla
Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility

12:50 – 13:00 Review of Status of Preparation in the Forum

13:00 – 13:15 Review of Documentation for the Forum


13:55 – 14:00 Closing

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ANNEX 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CAMBODIA

Mr. Long Rithirak
Deputy Director-General
Ministry of Environment
#48, Samdech Preah Sihanouk
Tonle Bassac, Chamkar Morn
Phnom Penh
Kingdom of Cambodia
Tel.: +855 23 427894
Fax: +855 23 427844 / +855 23 215925
Email: moeimo@online.com.kh;
longrithirak@yahoo.com

Mr. Beny Bastiawan
Head of Subdivision of Development
Division for Restoration
Ministry of Environment
Building A, 6th Floor
Jalan D.I. Panjaitan Kav. 24
Kebon Nanas – Jakarta Timur 13410
Republic of Indonesia
Email: beny.bastiawan@gmail.com

CHINA

Mr. Liang Fengkui
Director, International Organization Division
International Cooperation Department
State Oceanic Administration
1, Fuxingmenwai Avenue,
Beijing
People’s Republic of China
Email: liangfengkuisoa@163.com

Mr. Zou Xudong
International Cooperation Department
State Oceanic Administration
1, Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing
People’s Republic of China

JAPAN

Mr. Kazuo Inaba
Assistant Vice Minister for International Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8918
Japan
Tel.: +813-5253-8931
Fax: +813-5253-1561
Email: inaba-k2ff@mlit.go.jp

Mr. Yasufumi Onishi
Special Assistant to the Director
Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8918
Japan
Tel.: +813-5253-8266
Fax: +813-5253-1549
Email: oonishi-y248@mlit.go.jp

INDONESIA

Mr. Arief Yuwono
Deputy Minister for Nature Conservation
Enhancement and Environmental Degradation
Control
Ministry of Environment
Building A, 6th Floor
Jalan D.I. Panjaitan Kav. 24
Kebon Nanas – Jakarta Timur 13410
Republic of Indonesia
Email: ay.yuwono@gmail.com

LAO PDR

Mr. Ownakone Xayvilaya
Technical Officer
Department of Water Resources
Water Resources and Environment Administration
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Nahaidieo Road, Sisavath Village
Chantabouly District
Vientiane
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Ms. Chindavanh Souriyaphack
Technical Officer
Department of Water Resources
Water Resources and Environment Administration
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Nahaidieo Road, Sisavath Village
Chantabouly District
Vientiane
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

PHILIPPINES

Mr. Manuel Gerochi
Undersecretary for Staff Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City
Philippines

RO KOREA

Mr. Jeon, Ki-Jeong
Director General for Shipping Policy
Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs
47 Gwanmun-ro, Gwacheoun City, Gyeonggi-Do 427-712
Republic of Korea
Tel.: +822-2110-8548
Fax: +822-504-2676
Email: kjeon007@korea.kr

Ms. Gusung Lee
EAS Congress T/F Team
Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs
Gwacheoun City, Gyeonggi-Do 427-712
Tel.: +822-504-5372
and

Researcher
Marine Policy Research Division
Korea Maritime Institute
KBS Media Center Bldg.
#1652, Sangam-dong, Mapo-gu
Seoul, 121-270
Republic of Korea
Tel.: +822-2105-2956
Fax: +822-2105-2779

SINGAPORE

Mr. Eng Tiang Sing
Director, International Policy Division
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources
40 Scotts Road, #23-00
Environment Building
Republic of Singapore 228231

Ms. Celine Chan Shu Mei
Senior Executive, International Policy Division
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources
40 Scotts Road, #23-00
Environment Building
Republic of Singapore 228231
Tel.: +65 67319588
Email: Celine_Chan@mewr.gov.sg
Website: http://www.mewr.gov.sg

THAILAND

Mr. Sombat Poovachiranon
Director
Marine and Coastal Resources Research Center, the Upper Gulf
Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
120/1 Moo 6, Bangyaprak, Mueang, Samut Sakhon 74000
Thailand
Tel.: +66 3449 7073
Mobile: +668 1173 1149
Email: poovachiranon@hotmail.com
TIMOR-LESTE

Mr. Lourenco Borges Fontes
Director General
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Comoro, Dili
Timor-Leste
Tel.: +670-7255023
Email: risonlia1@yahoo.com

VIETNAM

Ms. Nguyen Thu Trang
Official, International Cooperation Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
10 Ton That Thuyet Street
Cau Giay District, Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Tel.: +84-4 37956922
Fax: +84-4 38359221
Email: thutrang36@yahoo.com

SECRETARIAT

Professor Raphael P. M. Lotilla
Executive Director

Mr. Guo Yinfeng
Programme Specialist,
Partnership Programmes

Ms. Stella Regina Bernad
Legal Specialist

Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo
Secretariat Coordinator

Ms. Jane Desiree Andal
Research Assistant

Ms. Marlene Mariano
Secretary

PEMSEA Resource Facility
DENR Compound
Visayas Avenue
Quezon City 1100
Philippines