



History of Japan's Engagement in Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

2002

Japan joined PEMSEA

2003

Participated in the Inaugural East Asian Seas Congress 2003 hosted by the Government of Malaysia;
Participated in the 1st Ministerial Forum and adopted the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia. Through this declaration, 11 countries along with Japan, formulated the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

2006

Participated in the EAS Congress 2006 in Haikou City, China hosted by the Government of China;
Participated in the 2nd Ministerial Forum and adopted the Haikou Partnership Agreement on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA;
Participated in the Inaugural Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council which endorsed the Partnership Operating Arrangements;
Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF) became a PEMSEA Non-Country Partner and signed the Partnership Operating Arrangements during the Inaugural Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council;
At the EAS Congress 2006 OPRF co-organized a session on the Tokyo Ocean Declaration: Upholding the Advocacy with Nippon Foundation.¹
UNDP signed the Cost-sharing Arrangement with China, Japan and RO Korea in support of the PEMSEA Secretariat Services towards the Sustainable Implementation of the SDS-SEA.

2007

Participated in the 1st EAS Partnership Council Meeting in Manado, Indonesia;
Mr. Hiroshi Terashima of Japan became the first Technical Session Chair of the Executive Committee;
Japan passed its Basic Act on Ocean Policy and included Integrated Coastal Management as part of its Basic Measures (Article 25 of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy)²

2008

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF) hosted the Third Executive Committee Meeting and Second EAS Partnership Council Meeting in Tokyo, Japan;
International EMECS Center of Japan joined PEMSEA as a Non-Country Partner and signed a Letter of Cooperation regarding cooperation for the Sustainable Development of Marine and Coastal Resources and Governance for the Seas of East Asia;
PEMSEA and Japan conducted a Joint Seminar on ICM in the Seas of East Asia co-organized with MLIT and OPRF. The Seminar was attended by more than 100 participants, including representatives from PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners from various government agencies, academe, and research institutions and the private sector in Japan³

2009

Participated in the 3rd EAS Congress in Manila, Philippines;
Participated in the 3rd Ministerial Forum and adopted the Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Seas of East Asia Region;
At the EAS Congress 2009, Mr. Keiichi Katayama, President of the Ocean Construction Company was one of the speakers at the Opening Plenary.⁴

2010

Participated in the GEF Stocktaking Meeting in ADB Headquarters, Manila which recognized PEMSEA and the SDS-SEA as a regional governance mechanism and framework for sustainable management of the seas of East Asia.

¹ <https://enb.iisd.org/crs/easc2006/html/ymbvol131num5e.html>

² https://www8.cao.go.jp/ocean/english/act/pdf/law_e.pdf

³ <https://iwlearn.net/resolveuid/af852ed242422fcea4a0525d3e409e>

⁴ <https://enb.iisd.org/crs/sea/easc2009/23nov.html>

2012	Participated in the 4th EAS Congress in Changwon, RO Korea; Participated in the 4th Ministerial Forum and adopted the Changwon Declaration towards an Ocean-based Blue Economy: Moving Ahead with the Strategy for the Seas of East Asia that endorsed the Regional 5-Year SDS-SEA Implementation Plan; At the EAS Congress 2012, OPRF convened a session on Consolidation and Replication of ICM Lessons and Good Practices and co-convened a session with Ocean Policy Institute Network in East Asian Region (OPINEAR) on New Directions and Initiatives for Coastal and Ocean Governance at the Global, Regional and National Levels
2013	The Local Government of Shima City, Japan became a member of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Development (PNLG); Shima City hosted the 2013 PNLG Forum with support from the Ocean Policy Research Foundation and carried the theme, "Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, New Satoumi and Vitalization of Coastal Area through Integrated Coastal Management"; Mr. Makoto Harunari elected as Technical Session Co-Chair
2015	Participated in the 5th EAS Congress in Danang, Vietnam; Participated in the 5th Ministerial Forum and adopted the Danang Compact on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia 2015; At the EAS Congress 2015, OPRI co-convened a session with GIZ on Coastal and Ocean Governance in the Seas of East Asia: from Nation to Region and co-convened a session with CMC, PNLG, and ACB on Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local National and Regional Levels.
2016	Mr. Makoto Harunari elected as Technical Session Chair
2017	PEMSEA conducted the Regional ICM Training of Trainers Workshop in Quezon City and Batangas wherein Dr. Keita Furukawa from OPRI and NOWPAP served as a Resource Person
2018	Participated in the 6th EAS Congress in Iloilo, Philippines; Participated in the 6th Ministerial Forum and adopted the Iloilo Declaration: East Asian Region Moving as One to Secure Healthy Oceans, People and Economies.
2019	July: Dr. Keita Furukawa elected as Technical Session Co-Chair for a three-year term (July 2022 - July 2025); September 18 – 20: Microplastics Symposium in Busan, Korea: 1 participant from MLIT The Ocean Policy Research Institute promotes and carries out ICM implementation and training in the following sites : 1. Shima City, Mie Prefecture 2. Bizen City, Okayama Prefecture 3. Obama City, Fukui Prefecture 4. Otsuki Town/Sukumo City, Kochi Prefecture 5. Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture
2020	August 26: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) was designated as PEMSEA's Regional Center of Excellence in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction;
2021	June 8: Japan, through the MLIT, joined as one of the resource speakers in the "Ocean Roundtable Dialogue: Towards A Blue Economy Pathway for The East Asian Seas;" December 2: Japan signed the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration during the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum. The Declaration endorsed the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 as the region's decadal strategic guide, anchored on the SDS-SEA vision and commitment to blue economy and aligned with the countries' green recovery plans and programs as well as key international environmental commitments.
2022	Dr. Keita Furukawa, President of the Association for Shore Environment Creation (NPO) and Affiliated Research Fellow of the Ocean Policy Research Institute- Sasakawa Peace Foundation begins his three-year term as Technical Session Chair of the EAS Partnership Council (EAS PC) in July 2022.
2023	In 2023, PEMSEA's Blue Carbon Program was presented at the International Workshop on Eelgrass and Blue Carbon in Tokyo, highlighting JBlue and regional programs, accounting methodologies, and governance and stakeholder engagement on blue carbon initiatives.
2024	Dr. Keita Furukawa chaired the International Conference of the EAS Congress 2024 where Japan signed the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration. Humans of EAS awardee Masako Bannai Otsuka led efforts that enabled seven Japanese cities—including Miyako, Shima, and Taketomi—to adopt ICM approaches balancing environmental resilience with local development.
2025	Dr. Keita Furukawa Chairs the Blue Carbon Technical Working Group (February 2025 - July 2025) Dr. Kazumi Wakita was appointed as a member of the Executive Committee and Co-Chair of the Technical Session of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council for the term 2025–2028.