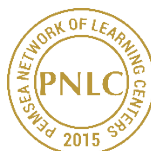




**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
PEMSEA NETWORK OF
LEARNING CENTERS (PNLC)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING 2025**

Bogor, Indonesia

15 September 2025



Partnerships in
Environmental Management
for the Seas of East Asia

PEMSEA NETWORK OF LEARNING CENTERS (PNLC)
2025 Executive Committee Meeting
Proceedings
Bogor, Indonesia
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The 2025 PNLC Executive Committee (PNLC EC) Meeting was organized by PNLC Secretariat on 15 September 2025 in Bogor, Indonesia. It was participated by Prof. Yonvitner of the Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies of the IPB University (CCMRS-IPB) and President of the PNLC, Dr. Fang Qinhua, Deputy Director of the Coastal and Ocean Management Institute of Xiamen University (COMI-XU) and Vice-President of the PNLC, and Ms. Aimee T. Gonzales, PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) Executive Director as members of the PNLC Executive Committee. Ms. Isdahartatie PNLC secretariat Coordinator/ CCMRS-IPB University, Ms. Nancy Bermas from PRF, Francesca Cortez (PRF Secretariat Assistant) and Lusita Meilana, PNLC Secretariat staff. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Yonvitner. Ms. Isdahartati served as the Secretariat of the meeting.

1.2 The following supporting documents are annexed to these proceedings:

- Annex 1: Meeting Agenda / Program
- Annex 2: Links to the meeting documents, presentation and photos
- Annex 3: List of participants

2.0 Opening of the Meeting and Approval of the Agenda (PNLC EC DOC/01)

2.1 The General Assembly commenced at 9:00 AM (UTC+7).

2.2 Prof. Yonvitner opened the meeting and acknowledged the presence of the participants. He then presented the provisional agenda of the meeting for review of the group.

2.3 Action taken: The agenda was adopted as presented.

3.0 Report on PNLC Workplan CY2024

3.1 Ms. Isdahartati presented the PNLC progress and accomplishments for 2024. Her report was structured around the strategic components of the PNLC Operational Plan, which include governance mechanisms, programs, internal and external communications, partnerships, and resource mobilization. The main highlights of the year are as follows. (For fuller discussion on CY 2024 activities, please see Doc /02).

Components	2024 Activity Highlights
Governance	• PNLC EC, held back-to-back with the 16th EAS PC meeting in Puerto Princesa, Palawan • PNLC GA as one of the key governance mechanisms held during the EAS Congress, November 2024 in Xiamen China • Approval of three new members: MSU-Naawan (Phil), University of Lao & Guandong Ocean University • Joint MOU on learning events b/w PNLG and PNLC signed during the EAS Congress 2024
Programs	• Joint Learning Event b/w PNLG and PNLC entitled held during EAS Congress 2024' • PNLC EC President part of Blue Carbon core TWG members ▪ Groupings of PNLC members into 4 WG (Biodiversity and Habitat Management; Marine pollution; Climate Change Adaptation; Sustainable Development of Coasts and Oceans), • Helped lay the groundwork for select PNLC members to be part of PRF managed projects - IRBM project: CCMRS, IPB University, Lao PDR, Royal University of Phnom Penh; Royal University of Agriculture, Cavite State University; De La Salle University Dasmariñas; Pampanga State Agricultural University, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia) and The University of Danang - Marine plastics project: UNTL, UNITAL - ENMAPs: IPB, Prince of Songkla • Decision on youth engagement inclusion under PNLC
Communications & Knowledge Management	Re-activation and operationalization of SEAKB as an online platform for knowledge management and sharing, expert's directory, repository of documents & proceedings
Partnerships & Resource Mobilization	Discussion with key partners and members' contribution and potential participation of PNLC in trainings, project services • PRF, Burapha University and National University of Hawaii for potential training on blue carbon for PNLC members in early 2025 • PRF, FISO, ICM/MSP trainers' training in April 2025 • NMHMS and PRF re: PNLC members' participation in Blue Carbon TWG and seminar on Blue Carbon in June 2025 • PRF secured funds for PNLC members to participate in various meetings including EAS Congress 2024 from Indonesia's CSA 2024 (See financial report Doc/04) • PRF secured funds for PNLC members for 2025 activities of 20k USD from Indonesia's CSA 2025

Financial Sustainability	Membership fee (for discussion) See Doc/04 • In kind contribution (ex. Burapha University funding/hosting blue carbon training and FISO co-funding/ organizing training on ICM/MSP) • Potential permanent arrangement with MOE Indonesia on funding support to PNLC • In kind support from PRF (technical support) • In kind support from IPB (secretariat support)
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3.2 Isda also added that the successful conclusion of key PNLC 2025 activities, largely focused on training and capacity development and learning exchanges, namely:

- Integrating Blue Carbon into the ICM Framework for early career professionals, supported by the University of Hawaii and Burapha University. This training was held on Mach 25- 27, 2025 in Chonburi Thailand, with a total of **54 participants**, including representatives from local universities and Chonburi local government in Thailand.
Link: <https://www.pemsea.org/resources/publications/meeting-documents/proceedings-training-integrating-blue-carbon-integrated>)
- Training of Trainers on Marine and Spatial Planning (MSP) Application in the Scaling Up of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), supported by FISO, was held on April 20-26, 2025 in Xiamen China,
- MSU Naawan and COMI Xiamen participated in the ICMMBT Conference held on July 30-31, 2025 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, hosted by CCMRS IPB University

3.3 While noting the successful delivery of the 2024 PNLC workplan, some gaps/ questions were raised, including the topics raised on 3.4-3.5:

3.4 Under governance, Prof Yonvitner suggested exploring membership in EAS Partnership Council as a non- country partner like PNLC as well as have clearer mechanisms, given that PNLC only has a charter and has not established its own legal personality as a secretariat

Action point: The PNLC Secretariat to explore how to become an NCP member with the PEMSEA Secretariat Coordinator and discuss the mechanics and operations of Xiamen Municipal Bureau as PNLC secretariat

3.5 On communications and knowledge management, the need to encourage members to finalize their SEAKB pages and also to contribute their stories to PEMSEA's e-bulletin was emphasized. The EC were asked whether or not we should develop a PNLC Annual Report 2024. Dr. Fang suggested that there are many stories that members can include in reporting in accomplishments for the year in more detail. He mentioned, for example, the observation/cruise activities undertaken by Xiamen University, IPB and University of Malaya in recent months. Aimee also informed the group about the request for endorsement letter from SKLMP to the HK govt on their proposal on marine pollution. One of the components of the proposal is knowledge transfer and capacity development for the PNLC members. SKLMP is changing their consortium's name to

SKLMEH (State Key Laboratory of Marine Environmental Health). IGES also approved PRF to work together on a proposal on marine plastics pollution reduction to NORAD.

Action point: PNLC secretariat to encourage members to provide reports on their activities to the secretariat for inclusion in the PEMSEA monthly e-bulletin or in SEAKB

- 3.6 Under programs: the question was raised whether to include youth engagement/PNYL under PNLC. Dr Fang raised what constitutes youth for PEMSEA? because in China, young people are still considered youth, even 10 years after completing their degrees on ocean science or other related topics. Prof Yon and Aimee agree that early career professionals or those who finished masters or graduate degrees are considered young leaders. Aimee shared that PRF was approached by Dr. Shenghui Li Guangdong Ocean University on behalf of the Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP, Shengzen University and Hainan to explore long term collaborative engagement on PNYL. Aimee will share results of the talks when she meets the group at the 'Blue Wave Conference' in Schenzen on Oct. 30-31, 2025. Prof Yon expressed interest to collaborate with ECOP, PNLC and PRF on youth engagement and cited possible activities like proposal writing competitions and working on themes like blue carbon.

Action point: PRF to share results of the meeting with ECOP et. al, on PNYL engagement to PNLC EC

4.0. Presentation of Proposed Workplan for 2025-2026

- 4.1 Ms Isdahartati introduced the PNLC workplan 2025-2026. (See Doc/03) Isda suggested drafting an annual report for 2025.
- 4.2 Aimee shared additional activities for 2025 involving PNLC members:
- FISO and PRF ENMAPS project is interested to co-organize another seminar to solicit feedback on the draft integrated coastal and marine management training manual around April 2026. FISO will get back to PRF before the end of the year to firm up plans.
 - KIOST through Dr. Suk-jae Kwon plans to organize a blue carbon/MSP workshop in Busan around spring next year and will invite select experts from PEMSEA country partners.

5.0. Updates on PNLC Revenues and Expenditures 2024-2025

- 5.1 Aimee presented the 2024 financial report and updates on 2025 funding for PNLC (See Doc/04 for the 2024 financial report). Indonesia through MOE provided PRF with country contributions amounting to 20,000 USD in 2024 minus bank charges, The funds was split into two: 10kUSD for PNLC and 10K for PRF operational expenses, mainly to support Indonesia's participation in governance meetings such as EAS Congress, FISO event and Tangerang Study tour. PNLC share was spent on travel expenses incurred by PNLC/Indonesian participants to ISO, Chonburi and Hainan capacity building events. The balance as of July 2025 is 8,000 USD which PRF will split 50-50 with PNLC Secretariat.
- 5.2 For 2025, MOE transferred 40K USD to PRF which will again be split into two minus bank

charges. The PNLC funds of 20K USD 2025 and 4K USD left over from 2024, totally 24k USD will be utilized to defray costs primarily of PNLC GA 2025.

Action Points: PNLC EC approved the funding report

5.3 PNLC Resource mobilization and Financial Sustainability Plans

Aimee suggested developing practical proposals to secure funding and continue with PNLC activities in light of differing views on membership fees subscription from PNLC members. In the spirit of collaboration and partnerships, PNLC EC identified the following activities to augment meager PNLC funds:

1. Membership fees contribution will be voluntary to help defray expenses of PNLC operational costs
2. Hosting of GA to rotate among members. Host PNLC can cover costs of venue, welcome meals and possibly accommodation and transport from venue to field site
3. Secretariat funds can cover meals, meeting supplies, and Secretariat's own travel/ accommodation
4. PNLC members will fund their own travel (and accommodation) to attend GA
5. PNLC members can also offer in kind contributions such as hosting learning events, capacity development training etc. ex. FISO, Chonburi, SKLMP
6. PNLC EC to secure firm agreement with MOE, Indonesia and other institutions for secretariat support
7. IPB to continue to provide in kind support for secretariat costs
8. IPB and other PNLC members to donate 10% of PRF funded/commissioned projects for PNLC operational costs
9. PNLC secretariat to explore cost sharing programmatic support with PNLC secretariat
10. PRF to encourage country partners encouraged to support universities with budget allocations for PNLC participation in EAS congress or back-to-back PNLC GA and EAS PC
11. PRF to incorporate PNLC/training & cap devt component activity in its project proposals
12. PNLC members to work together in collaborative joint fundraising
13. PNLC secretariat to complete mapping on cash/ in kind contributions

Action Points: PNLC EC to raise this sustainability proposal at the PNLC GA 2025

6 SEA Knowledge Bank Updates

- 6.1 Francesca provided an update on the **SEA Knowledge Bank**. She reported that the landing page for the SEA Knowledge Bank has been uploaded to the website. A membership page for each country member has also been developed, which includes a directory of experts. However, the information (e.g., email addresses, areas of expertise, and other details) requires follow-up and updating. PNLC members have expressed their willingness to share products such as bulletins through the platform. The calendar feature is currently still empty; agendas will be uploaded and managed by Ms. Isdahartati.

Action point: PNLC Secretariat to encourage members to provide information required.

7 5th PNLC General Assembly 2025

7.1 The 5th PNLC General Assembly is proposed to be held in early December 2025, with potential support by 2 (two) members from the Philippines. The GA will be preceded by a 1 (one) day training workshop and second day devoted to the GA matters. The proposed agenda for the GA was discussed. (See PNLC EC DOC/07 for the proposed PNLC GA Agenda.)

7.2 The main points of the discussions include:

- Options for the PNLC GA venue are either in the Philippines or Xiamen, China.
- Funding for travel need to be shouldered by PNLC members.
- The EC noted that based on previous GAs, some are willing to travel on their own, and some are not able to. Previous GA had 50% members in attendance though full sponsorship generated almost 100% membership.
- Dr. Fang offered the possibility of organizing a half day GA during the joint PNLC-PNLG 4-day learning forum that COMI is organizing around the WOW in Xiamen on Nov 6-12, 2025. COMI has a budget of 13USD for travel of selected international PNLC members. Hotel, accommodation and local transfers will be shouldered by COMI.

7.3 PNLC EC decided that it will be better to hold the PNLC GA in the Philippines as some universities (DLS-D, CVSU, UP MSI) have expressed interest to host it in their campus.

Action point: PNLC secretariat to submit a PNLC 2025 GA date, program and costing to be held in Manila as soon as possible

8 PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program and PNLC Engagement

8.1 Prof Yon presented updates on blue carbon project in Indonesia and PNLC engagement (see PPT/07).

8.2 Minor revisions are required to develop standards and methodologies

- Several locations in Indonesia have been identified for mangrove rehabilitation and plantation efforts, including Madura Island, Tangerang, and Aceh Jaya Regency. These sites may serve as potential locations for implementing Blue Carbon training practices.
- Some of the mangrove plantation and rehabilitation initiatives in Indonesia are being implemented by companies affiliated with Purpose China operating within the country.
- In relation to training and individual capacity building, the development of competencies and skills in the field of Blue Carbon requires proper certification. Therefore, it is essential to establish Blue Carbon certification training programs at both regional and national levels.
- For seagrass and macroalgae, Indonesia is currently in the process of developing standards and methodologies under the leadership of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF). In parallel, the development of wetland-related standards is being led by the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

Action Taken: Initiated efforts to explore the development of Blue Carbon certification training programs. The EC noted the updates particularly on the BC standards in Indonesia and

explore the role of PNLC in the development of the BC certification program at the regional.

9 Other Business

9.1 Ms. Nancy Bermas, IRBM Regional Project Manager, presented the **IRBM Project Concept Note and Operational Plan for 2025-2027** on the **designation and operationalization of IRBM Learning Centers** within the PNLC framework. She provided a brief background on the IRBM project and its overarching goal, emphasizing that the designation of IRBM Learning Centers are included under the **Knowledge Management and Capacity Development component** and their operationalization is expected to contribute to **Improved IRBM Knowledge Management and Enabling Capacities among participating countries, partners and networks**.

9.2 Ms. Bermas explained that the IRBM project requires the **establishment of IRBM Learning Centers** in each of the participating countries, **create a network** among the centers and link them to the PNLC. The project proposed to engage existing PNLC member institutions in the six participating countries to serve as “IRBM Learning Centers” in view of their proximity to the seven river basins covered by the project.

9.3 To avoid duplication of efforts, she highlighted that the project will **build upon the existing PNLC framework**, and as such will provide opportunities for the PNLC members to expand their scope of expertise and services to include IRBM/IWRM.

9.4 The IRBM Learning Center Objectives are as follows:

- Establish a core group with essential capacities and skills on IRBM and ICM implementation.
- Establish linkages between and among PNLC member institutions in Source-to-Sea development, training and targeted research.
- Facilitate delivery of river basin/water resources management-related special skills training/capacity transfer through hands-on experience and mentoring.
- Provide technical and scientific assistance to national and local governments and other stakeholders

9.5 The six **targeted PNLC member institutions** proposed for designation as IRBM Learning Centers include:

- Cambodia (Royal University of Phnom Penh)
- Indonesia (CCMRS, IPB University)
- Lao PDR (National University of Laos)
- Philippine (Cavite State University; De La Salle University Dasmarias)
- Vietnam (The University of Danang).

Three potential universities that can be designated as IRBM LCs and invited to become PNLC members include:

- Cambodia (Royal Agriculture University)
- Malaysia (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)
- Philippines (Pampanga State Agricultural University)

9.6 She concluded her presentation with an overview of the **designation process and criteria** for the Learning Centers, along with the **proposed operational plan for 2025–2027**. She then requested the PNLC EC members to provide guidance on the process, criteria, designation process completion timeline and next steps.

9.7. Key discussion points include:

- The addition of universities participating in the IRBM project was welcomed by the PNLC EC. They specifically mentioned Malaysia so we can expand the LC's geographic scope and learn from their good practices on integrated water resource management
- Since some of the universities mentioned above are already members of the PNLC, the review process of their designation as IRBM learning centers should not be too complicated. IRBM staff Earl Justin Tiu with Secretariat Isda and Lucita can review their papers. The IRBM project can identify them as IRBM learning centers of the project with agreement from the PNLC President. The Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia), Royal University of Agriculture and Pampanga State Agricultural University will also be encouraged to apply as PNLC members, using the forms and review criteria prepared by IRBM staff which was based on PNLC membership criteria.
- PNLC proposes adding a working group on IRBM in addition to the other WG to the PNLC GA to recognize the IRBM learning centers while at the same time, other existing PNLC members interested to be recognized as part of the PNLC IRBM WG can also apply.

Action point:

- Prof. Yon and Prof. Fang agree that the IRBM Learning Center under the PNLC Learning Center should be aligned with the four existing Working Groups. They also concur that the name "IRBM Learning Center" should be retained, as it is required by the project.
- PNLC EC endorsed the process of recognizing the IRBM project learning centers and will present them at the PNLC GA

10 Closing

10.1 Prof. Dr. Fang Qinhua closed the meeting by saying the meeting was productive and that very important discussions transpired that are important for the development of the network and closed the meeting

10.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12 PM (UTC+7).

ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Provisional Program

Schedule: September 15, 2025, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
PNLC Office, PKSPL-IPB University, Indonesia

Agenda	Speaker/Presenter	Document No.
1.0 Opening of the meeting and approval of the meeting agenda	Prof. Dr. Yonvitner President, PNLC	DOC/01
2.0 Report on PNLC Activities 2024-2025	Isdahartatie PNLC Secretariat Coordinator	DOC/02
3.0 Presentation of Proposed Workplan for 2025-2026	Isdahartatie PNLC Secretariat Coordinator	DOC/03
4.0 Updates on PNLC Expenditure and Financial Sustainability	Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PRF	DOC/04
5.0 SEA Knowledge Bank Updates	Francesca Cortez Secretariat Assistant, PRF	DOC/05
6.0 5th PNLC General Assembly Programme, Schedule, and Funding	Isdahartatie PNLC Secretariat Coordinator	DOC/06
7.0 PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program and PNLC Engagement	Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PRF Prof. Yonvitner, PNLC	DOC/07
8.0 Other Business IRBM Project Request on Designation of IRBM Learning Centers	Nancy Bermas IRBM Regional Project Manager, PRF	DOC/08
9.0 Closing	Prof. Dr. Qinhua Fang, Vice President, PNLC	

ANNEX 2: Meeting Documents, Presentation and Photos

Meeting documents and Presentation file:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-rhQz_B-6EKxFq7Faux86Jy_NlrtCqSm?usp=sharing

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Location	Name of Institute	Representatives
Indonesia	Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS), IPB University	Prof. Yonvitner President, PNLC Director, CCMRS, IPB University Ms. Isdahartati PNLC Secretariat Coordinator/Researcher Ms. Lusita Meilana Secretariat Assistant PNLC / Fellowship
China	Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University	Prof. Fang Qinhua Vice President, PNLC Deputy Director and Professor, COMI, Xiamen University Deputy Secretary General, PNLG
Philippines	PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)	Ms. Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PRF Ms. Nancy Bermas Regional Project Manager, IRBM Project Francesca Cortez Secretariat Assistant, PRF