

### **Regaining What Is Lost in Manila Bay**

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have jointly presented the results of the environmental risk assessment of Manila Bay on 4 August at the Sulo Hotel. Stakeholders from various national government agencies, local government units in the Manila Bay area, private sector, civil society, academe and media attended this ceremonial launch.

The Manila Bay: Refined Risk Assessment is a product of concerted efforts of a Technical Working Group composed of scientists, academicians and government personnel from different agencies. A synopsis of the report was presented by Dr. Vicente Tuddao of the DENR, drawing attention to the priority risks and areas of concern in the bay area. The report highlights the urgent need for decisive steps to reduce the disturbing levels of fecal coliform, pesticides and heavy metals, which have also contaminated fish and shellfish.

PEMSEA's Senior Programme Officer, S. Adrian Ross, identified some of the priority areas of concern, short-term actions, and goals mentioned in the report, such as eliminating public health concerns and maintaining water quality to support the aquatic living resources and habitats; protect and restore habitats that are vital to the survival of priority living resources of the bay and its rivers; to better understand and benefit from the interconnectivity between the bay's important living resources and the health of the entire ecosystem; and to promote collaboration and partnerships among government and non-government stakeholders, and to mobilize individuals and communities to take an active role in the sustainable development and management of the bay's resources. DENR Undersecretary Rolando L. Metin expressed the commitment of DENR to play an active role in addressing the risks and challenges in Manila Bay.

“As agents of sustainable development, we share the view that development can be pursued while conscientiously ensuring that threshold limits are not exceeded, but managed at levels that will promote human health and environmental protection,” wrote DENR Secretary Elisea G. Gozun in her message to stakeholders and readers of the Manila Bay: Refined Risk Assessment. “The recommendations presented in this document provide a map towards reaching our shared vision, and regaining what was lost to Manila Bay’s grandeur.”

## **Working Group Meets on SDS-SEA Implementation**

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) at Putrajaya, Malaysia, last December 2003, PEMSEA is organizing a working group meeting to discuss approaches for its implementation. The Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA will be held from 23-27 August in Metro Manila, Philippines and will be hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of Philippines.

Senior government representatives from PEMSEA participating countries, resource persons and the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office are expected to attend the meeting to review a draft concept brief on the implementation of the SDS-SEA, prepared by PEMSEA based on the inputs from an earlier preparatory meeting held in Chengdu, PR China, in March. The meeting will also discuss approaches to mobilizing commitments and support from participating countries and other stakeholders for implementing the SDS-SEA.

A document initiated and prepared by PEMSEA, in consultation with 12 participating Governments and other stakeholders of the Seas of East Asia, the SDS-SEA is a package of applicable principles, action programs, agreements and instruments for achieving sustainable development for the Seas of East Asia. It represents implementation approaches for the integrated management and the sustainable use of the environment and its resources.

## **Decision Support System for Chonburi**

CHONBURI, THAILAND -- Local stakeholders enhanced their understanding of database management, the Integrated Information Management System (IIMS) software, and its linkages to the geographic information system (GIS) during a training workshop on the IIMS Query System and Linkage with GIS held from 24-27 May.

Sixteen participants from government, research, and academic institutions involved in PEMSEA's integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration site in Chonburi attended the training. The four-day course provided participants with hands-on experience on data management and processing and report generation in the form of graphs and tables. The participants also learned to link IIMS and GIS and generate reports and maps for decision-making purposes. The training also included the development of a plan to ensure the sustainability of Chonburi's IIMS. The plan highlights the use of IIMS at the municipal level to support a variety of applications.

During the training workshop, Hon. Veravit Vivattanavanich, Vice Governor of Chonburi, acknowledged the assistance provided by PEMSEA in Chonburi, especially in strengthening the capacity of its staff. He also encouraged the participants to learn as much as they could during the training workshop and apply them in their work. He also emphasized the importance of ICM in Chonburi — being an industrial and tourism area, and that there is a need to have an integrated approach to resolve issues on environment, economic and social concerns. He particularly mentioned the industrial sites in Laemchabang and the tourist areas in Pattaya as major areas.

The IIMS is an environmental information management system that handles a wide range of data on coastal and marine environment. It is intended to provide timely, reliable and cost-effective data that would aid in planning, management, assessment and decision-making; organize data in a uniform manner that would speed up data interpretation and analysis; and a venue for sharing information among PEMSEA's ICM and pollution hotspot sites which will be essential in developing regional mechanisms for sustainable development of coastal and marine environment. The IIMS of Chonburi ICM site has been established since 2001 following the first training program conducted in November 2001, which provided necessary technical assistance on organizing and managing data at the site.

## **Port Klang Focus on Youth Awareness**

PORT KLANG, MALAYSIA -- A batch of 80 students from the Kuala Kubu Baru Camp and the Universiti Putra Malaysia participated in a special awareness building training on mangroves held at PEMSEA's integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration site in Port Klang. The training was held on 27 and 29 May and was organized by the Malaysia National Service in cooperation with the Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS).

The training took place at the Fisherman's Wharf at Kampung Perajurit, Telok Gong. The students trained in water quality sampling procedures, and recorded a number of parameters such as pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen (DO) and turbidity. Furthermore, they were taught how to read the tide table and the interim marine water quality standard.

The students were then taken to the mangrove replanting site in Kampung Perajurit, which is being implemented under PEMSEA's ICM demonstration site by LUAS. There they were briefed on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem as a nursery for fisheries source, natural protection and birds' migrating points. The students enjoyed identifying the flora and fauna species found in the site, such as mangroves trees, mudskippers, crabs and birds, as well as being taught how to identify the species caught by local fishers. The students shared what they learned through presentations and the winning group was awarded with a mangrove sapling, which they planted in front of the Fisherman's Wharf.

The training of students is a means to share and extend awareness on the importance of preserving and rehabilitating the environment in the coastal zone area for future generations.

## **PEMSEA Shares ICM Experiences in UNITAR Hiroshima Workshop**

HIROSHIMA, JAPAN -- PEMSEA shared its experiences and lessons learned in integrated coastal management (ICM) and marine management during the UNITAR/HOAP Training Workshop on Sea and Human Security, capturing wide interest from participants. The training, held from 4-8 July, aimed at enhancing national policy making and institutional capacity building in the management and protection of seas and oceans.

PEMSEA Senior Programme Officer, Dr. Huming Yu, at the invitation of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Hiroshima Office for the Asia and Pacific (HOAP), participated in the workshop as resource person and introduced to the participants the experiences and lessons learned from PEMSEA's ICM demonstration sites. PEMSEA's practices drew broad interest from the participants who were keen on understanding approaches, which enabled PEMSEA project results to be absorbed into local programmes, and be sustained locally after the termination of assistance.

In view of interests, UNITAR/HOAP Director, Dr. Nassrine Azimi, indicated the possibility of supporting professionals from countries like Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam to participate in PEMSEA training activities.

The Hiroshima workshop was attended by 46 participants, including 29 trainees mostly of mid-level government officials from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

## **Coastalink: Sharing ICM Experience**

PORT KLANG, MALAYSIA -- PEMSEA integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration sites in Danang, Vietnam and Port Klang, Malaysia recently held training workshops on Web Development and Networking. The workshops were aimed at helping Danang and Port Klang establish their own presence on the Internet and provide the two sites with a new means of sharing local lessons and experiences in environmental management to a much wider online audience.

The Web Development and Networking workshops were held on 14-18 June in Danang and 26-30 July in Port Klang. Both events were co-organized by PEMSEA with local partners -- the Department of Science and Technology in Danang and the Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS) in Port Klang.

The training tackled basic web jargons, effective web content development, web design tips, promotion and marketing of websites and good practices in web development. Web development and application softwares, such as Adobe Photoshop for web designing, MS FrontPage for HTML programming, FTP Voyager for file transfer applications, Macromedia Dreamweaver and Ulead GIF Animator, were also discussed for dynamic page applications.

The workshops are part of a series of on-site training programs being organized by PEMSEA for the creation of ICM websites, referred to as Coastlinks, to be used in strengthening a regional "C2C" (Coast to Coast) networking and parallel knowledge sharing on the East Asian seas. PEMSEA is targeting the simultaneous launching of Coastalink websites during the 10th PSC Meeting in October 2004.

## **Experts Pinpoint Key Elements for a Well-Functioning Ocean Governance Mechanism**

LONDON, U.K. -- Attempts to strengthen regional ocean governance were given a boost when experts from Europe, North America and Asia came together to attend the Planning Session for the Research Task Force on the Dynamics of Regional Cooperation on Oceans and Coasts. The meeting, which was co-organized by the Nippon Foundation and PEMSEA, was held at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Headquarters in London, United Kingdom from 9-11 June.

Co-chaired by Professor and Former International Ocean Institute (IOI) Executive Director, Dr. Gunnar Kullenberg and PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, the discussions revolved around the importance of the regional approach and the need to provide more information and expert advice on coastal and ocean governance. The participants (many of whom were present or former representatives of regional bodies or international organizations) shared their insights and experiences regarding the nature of cooperation and the regime-building process. They identified several areas - vision, institutional arrangements, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, public awareness, and sustainability - as being among the many key elements of a well-functioning governance mechanism. These areas were also pinpointed as possible topics for studies that will be conducted in line with the Research Task Force's objectives.

The Research Task Force is a project of the Nippon Foundation. It aims to strengthen the implementation of ocean governance and to ensure the sustainable use of the ocean through educational, scientific and institutional capacity-building.

## **Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam Address Oil Spill**

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA -- Subregional project task team representatives from Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam discussed effective approaches in implementing PEMSEA's Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Project at the national and subregional levels, in a meeting held on 28 June. The representatives shared their experiences and initiatives related to oil spill preparedness, planning and response, progress made and options for addressing encountered problems.

The main challenge in the GOT Project implementation for the delegates from Cambodia was coming up with laws governing the agencies, industries and other stakeholders in response to oil spills. It was suggested that the project team should focus efforts on developing an oil spill contingency framework plan, based on the spill risk. The Vietnamese delegates reported project progress in information collection, and the development of a National Contingency Plan, but identified the problems of communication among concerned national agencies as the major constraint.

Thailand, on the other hand, already has a National Contingency Plan in place so the GOT projects in Thailand focuses on two capacity building initiatives: Port Safety, Health and Environmental Management System (PSHE-MS) and Natural Resource Damage Assessment. The Thai delegates gave a positive assessment of the results gained from the PSHE-MS in Bangkok Port. The issue is how to apply the experience gained from the project implementation in a government-managed port (Bangkok Port) to the increased number of private ports. Mr. Pakorn Prasertwong, Chief of Environment Division at the Marine Department of the Ministry of Transport, believed that the project's success in Bangkok Port was demonstrable elsewhere in Thailand, including the private ports. His department will make it a policy to encourage application of the PSHE-MS on a voluntary basis and see if the regulatory approach is necessary based on the feedback from the practices.

The GOT Project focuses on capacity building at the national and subregional levels and aims to develop an operational framework which can mobilize stakeholders to undertake preparation, response and cooperative activities against oil spills in the GOT subregion.

## **PEMSEA New Staff and Intern Experience ICM First-Hand in Exposure Trip**

BATAAN, PHILIPPINES -- Experiential learning for its new staff is part of PEMSEA activities to enhance appreciation on the process of integrated coastal management (ICM) implementation and to assist in human resource development in ICM especially at the local levels. Through field visits, it is hoped that the staff could situate the greater context of socioeconomic, political and environmental dimensions within which these projects are being implemented.

PEMSEA new staff and Mr. Yang Yafeng, PEMSEA's professional intern from the People's Republic of China, experienced first-hand ICM-in-action through their exposure trips to the Bataan and Batangas ICM Sites. The field visits provided them with the basic concepts and principles of ICM and increased their awareness and understanding on ICM projects – their nuances, challenges and strengths.

The staff visited the Bataan ICM Program, locally known as BIGKIS-Bataan, on 25 June, with the visit to the Batangas ICM Demonstration Site following on 29 June.

The Bataan exposure trip began with their visit to the mangrove rehabilitation project in Brgy. Limay (Alangan) and provided the participants with better insights on the important role mangrove ecosystems play in maintaining biological diversity and preventing shore erosion. To gain an appreciation of the various industries and the coastal character of Bataan, the staff also went to observe the Mariveles Port and the Bataan Economic Zone. The trip likewise exposed the staff to the industries lining the coast of Bataan, giving them an increased understanding on how the industries affect the environment and the socioeconomic state of Bataan. The staff also went to the historical Mt. Samat Cross, site where the Death March during World War II began, that also provided a view of the extensive coast of Bataan.

Bringing with them the knowledge gained from the Bataan exposure trip, the staff's Batangas exposure trip proved to be just as productive. They met with Ms. Evelyn Estigoy, head of the Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) who briefed them on the Batangas Bay ICM Program and activities, such as the Coastal Environmental Profile of Batangas, the Legal/Institutional Mechanisms, Public Awareness strategies, Strategic Environmental Management Plan (SEMP), Water Quality Monitoring activities and the sustained partnership of the Public and Private Sector.

Ms. Connie Dimayuga of the Monitoring, Laboratory Section of the PG-ENRO gave them a short tour of their newly inaugurated Water Quality Monitoring Laboratory, which would regularize water monitoring in the province. The staff then proceeded to the town of Mabini to meet with Ms. Luzviminda Villas of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Office of Mabini (MENRO). Frequent divers of Mabini — where the famous dive spot, Anilao, is located — are welcoming the charging of a pay-per-dive fee for the conservation of its reefs and waters, as well as other environmental and coastal concerns. Mabini also practices 100-percent waste segregation in its barangay and

household levels, eliminating the need for garbage collection, exposing the staff to the importance of environmental awareness and local political will in addressing the problem of waste disposal.

Both the Provinces of Bataan and Batangas are also benefiting from successful private-public partnerships through the Bataan Coastal Care Foundation (BCCF) and the Batangas Coastal Resource Management Foundation Inc. (BCRMF), which implements their own corporate social responsibility projects and reflects the commitment of various public and private institutions in coastal management.

## **PEMSEA Welcomes New Staff**

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA welcomes Ms. Belyn Rafael as new staff. She assumes the post of Technical Assistant for Integrated Coastal Management.

Belyn earned a Master's degree in International Studies from the University of the Philippines and was a Senior Officer of the Research and Information Management Unit of the Institute of Social Order, Ateneo de Manila University prior to joining PEMSEA. Belyn also worked for JICA-funded projects developing project indicators.

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