



East Asian Seas Youth in Action

The months of April, May and June mark three celebrations for the environment — Earth Day, World Environment Day and World Ocean Day — and the young people of the region actively participated in various activities to show their concern for the environment. Some of these activities are highlighted below.

In the Philippines, the Youth and Sport Development Division under the Office of the Governor of Cavite, with the support of the Provincial Government–Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO), initiated a coastal cleanup drive on 3 May with young people from the municipalities, schools, environmental and youth clubs, and religious organizations. The cleanup was held at Barangay Julugan in Tanza, which was identified as a hotspot in the province. A public market in the vicinity produces a significant volume of wastes which are sometimes dumped directly into the sea. The youth sector in Cavite also participated in other activities, including tree planting and recycling drives organized by NGOs and the local government.

In Balayan, Batangas (also in the Philippines), young people were involved in ANAK-Balayan’s Earth Day activities, which were directed towards decreasing “heat-holder gases” in the atmosphere by greening the environment and waste recycling, among others. Children and young adults also took part in river/creek, coastal and community cleanups.

In Cambodia, the English Department of the Institute of Foreign Languages, Royal University of Phnom Penh, organized a Cleanup Day on 12 May. It was an event involving more than 500 participants in various environmental activities, including cleaning the campus areas and open discussions and expert talks about environmental preservation. A number of competitions were held, such as the Environment Quiz, Environment Slogan/Quote Contest and a Recycling Contest in which the contestants were provided with certain waste products to create new usable products or artworks. A Poster Exhibition took place, in which 20 posters were showcased and judged by the

participants, and a documentary film about the Mekong River entitled “Exploring the Mother of Waters” was also shown during the event.

Some environmental activities likewise took place in Shandong University in PR China. A coastal cleanup activity was held on 4 May in celebration of Youth Day in the Marine Mammal Institute of the university, initiated by Ms. Li Xiang, one of the youth leaders in the EAS Youth Forum. Ms. Li, who is one of the Ten Excellent Students in the university, imparted to fellow students the insights she gained during the Youth Forum.

In the Universiti Sains Malaysia, a group of students led by two EAS Youth Forum participants organized a planning session to line-up activities for Kelab Alam Sekitar (KAS), which is the Environmental Club of the University. Under KAS, a component called East Asian Seas Youth (EASy) will be created to focus on the coastal and marine environment. The group is currently focusing on the implementation of the Container Campaign, which aims to reduce the usage of polystyrenes by encouraging the campus community to use containers through creative strategies and promotional schemes identified by the group. The campaign is supported by the school administrators, other organizations and concessionaires.

Last 8 June, the EAS Youth Forum participants joined in the electronic petition led by The Ocean Project and the World Ocean Network that aimed to have the United Nations officially designate 8 June of each year as World Ocean Day. Although unofficially designated, 8 June is celebrated worldwide as World Ocean Day since its inception in the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and serves as an opportunity to celebrate the world’s ocean and every person’s personal connection to the sea.



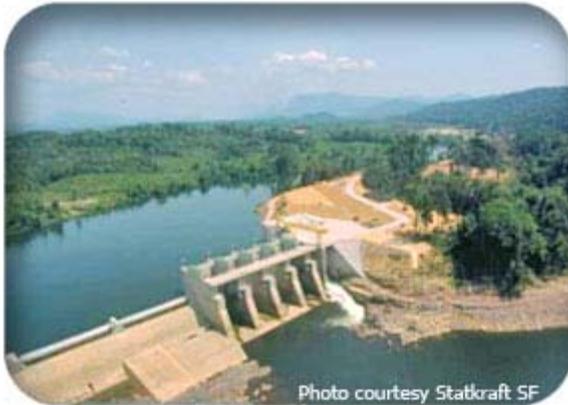
Vietnam Gears up for SDS-SEA Implementation

Vietnam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) is spearheading the integration of ICM and ecosystem-based management into the recently revised National Environmental Law. In 2006, MONRE successfully launched the Master Plan on Basic Survey and Management of Marine Resources and Environment until 2010 and Vision until 2020, which includes a specific action on developing the Sustainable Development Strategy for Vietnam's sea area. The appointment of MONRE by the Prime Minister of Vietnam to serve as national focal point for SDS-SEA implementation, the translation of the SDS-SEA into Vietnamese, as well as the conduct of a series of consultative workshops have all contributed towards promoting this effort.

In April 2007, MONRE and Vietnam Environment Protection Agency (VEPA) together with PEMSEA identified areas of activity, which will aid Vietnam in developing and implementing its three-year work program for SDS-SEA implementation for the period 2007–2010. One of the major activities being undertaken is the formulation of a strategy and work plan for the development of a national marine policy to facilitate SDS-SEA implementation. Another activity is streamlining the approach for a national ICM program. This is crucial since 14 coastal provinces in the central region have been identified to implement ICM program following Danang's working model. The government is targeting 50 percent coverage of Vietnam's coastline in its national ICM program.

As a centerpiece for ICM scaling up in Vietnam, Danang is likewise undertaking activities to strengthen the implementation of its second cycle ICM program. The City is formulating a three-year work program for the implementation of the Coastal Strategy, focusing on the institutionalization of an interagency and multisectoral coordinating mechanism and coordinating office to oversee program implementation, capacity strengthening and identifying on-the-ground projects and investments that are consistent with the Coastal Strategy.

With the above activities in place, Vietnam is expected to efficiently embark on the follow-on phase of PEMSEA starting October 2007.



A Nation of Dams: Managing Water Resources in Lao PDR

The Xedon River Basin, which spans across the Seikong, Champasack and Saravanne provinces of southern Lao People's Democratic Republic, is probably the least popular of the river basins in Lao, mainly because it does not have the "mega" dams that other localities have. The lack of potential for such infrastructure may have contributed to its lesser appeal to donor and development agencies. But not for the Water Resources Coordination Committee Secretariat (WRCCS). The WRCCS is of opinion that the 380,000 people in the three provinces should also be benefiting from awareness and capacity development initiatives concerning sustainable development of the river's resources.

In consideration to this, local consultations were conducted with the Provinces of Saravanne and Champasack from April 2-4, 2007 for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). The purpose of the consultation, conducted by the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office and the WRCCS, was to better understand the sociopolitical, economic and environmental context within which an integrated management project could be implemented.

Multiple-use conflicts figure as a prominent problem in both provinces. Water resources at the upper portion of the Xedon River in Saravanne Province are mainly used for agricultural purposes. Fertilizers and pesticides have contaminated the river, which flows downstream to Champasack Province. In addition, slash-and-burn practices have diminished the forest cover in the basin, resulting in perennial flooding in Champasack during the rainy season. Limited livelihood opportunities and poor information among the communities have perpetuated these practices.

The SDS-SEA consultation stressed the value of managing the most important resource in the area – the people themselves. Without millions of dollars in investment, capacity development can reorient people's mindset and attitudes towards their environment. It can shift knowledge, skills and attitudes from being driven purely by self-interest to that of common good. Development initiatives must not only focus on environmental and resource protection and management, but also include an essential linkage with poverty reduction and a component of strong community mobilization, organization, awareness

and advocacy. This will be the focus of the PEMSEA project. A mechanism will also be established to see that foundations for sustainable development are properly coordinated among the local beneficiaries.

Further community integration will be done in the target communities and with the local and national government agencies to ensure that the initial approaches and strategies identified for the SDS-SEA implementation are well suited to the sociocultural characteristics of the target community-beneficiaries. With the agreement of the stakeholders, the implementation of the SDS-SEA in the Xedon River Basin will commence in October 2007.



ICM Scaling up in Xiamen: The Jiulong River Basin Integrated Management Project Experience

In line with the objective of scaling up Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in Fujian, PR China, Xiamen municipality, PEMSEA's internationally recognized ICM demonstration site, has joined hands with Longyan and Zhangzhou municipalities to design and implement the Jiulong River Basin Integrated Management Project. Since its inception in 2003, the project has demonstrated that an inter-municipality coordinating mechanism can be effective in protecting the ecological environment of the river basin. In only a few years, the river's water quality has significantly improved with a reduction of 235,137 tons of chemical oxygen demand (COD), 13,829 tons of ammonia nitrogen and 7,073 tons of total phosphates. However, according to the local stakeholders, much more work is still needed to strengthen integrated river basin management, particularly with regard to soil erosion and wastewater discharges.

With a length of 1,923 km and a drainage basin area of about 14,741 km², inhabited by about 6.7 million people (460 people/km²), the Jiulong River is an essential component to the region's annual production of domestic goods and services, estimated to be almost \$20 billion in 2003. The project's focus is to preserve the economic value of the river by preventing and reducing pollution in the upstream area, management of inter-municipality transport of solid wastes, and other environmental programs. The multidisciplinary river basin survey has been completed and all the major sources of water pollution have been identified in order to come up with an effective action plan. The project has already implemented a number of on-the-ground activities including:

- closing of four paper mills that were found to be major sources of pollution;
- pollution reduction from domestic and industrial discharges;
- development of sewage collection and treatment systems;
- improvement in municipal solid waste management systems;
- development of hazard free, "green" and organic food production;
- implementation of a community-based bio-gas demonstration;
- cleaning up unregulated, small-scale hydropower facilities;
- strengthening management of mining operations, installations and facilities;
- development of ecological forest zones; and

- development of nature reserves and protected areas.

To address the negative externalities brought about by upstream sources of pollution, economic compensation mechanisms have been established. The Provincial Government of Fujian offered economic incentives for upstream pollution management efforts, based on water quality targets at transboundary points. In 2007, the River Basin Management Fund was created, providing the Jiulong River project with a RMB 28 million (about \$3.6 million) fund. The financing mechanism is intended to facilitate achievement of its COD reduction targets and to keep water quality in 90 percent of the monitoring areas within Class I to Class III range.

Recent inspections have validated that water quality in the drinking water intake area of the Jiulong River is within acceptable standards. This is a highly encouraging initial result and has proven once again that local government cooperation and the application of relevant ICM principles and methodologies can generate stress-reduction outcomes.



All Set for the First EAS Partnership Council Meeting

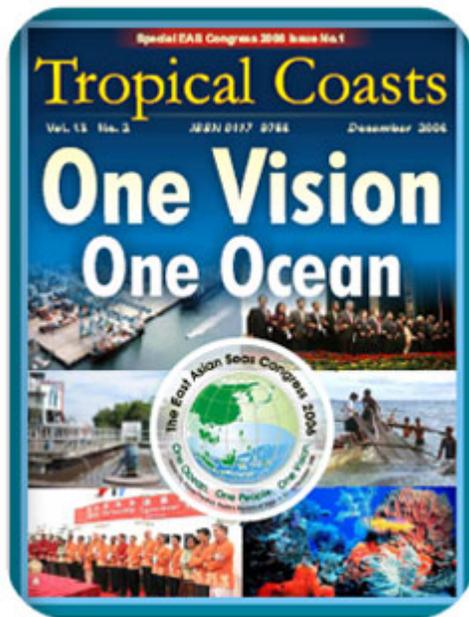
PEMSEA State and non-State Partners are scheduled to convene the First East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting on 17-20 July at Hotel Sedona, Manado City, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The Meeting will set in place the operational components of the Council and identify a plan of action for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). In particular, the Meeting will elect the three Council Officers that will compose the Executive Committee. Apart from which, key agenda items include the introduction of the Framework Partnership Programme 2007-2010, and the formulation of a Work Programme for the EAS Partnership Council 2007-2010, including the consideration of major activities such as the State of the Coasts Reporting System, the EAS Congress 2009 and the Ministerial Forum 2009.

The signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and the Partnership Operating Arrangements during the East Asian Seas Congress 2006 in Haikou City, PR China, formally established the intergovernmental and multisectoral EAS Partnership Council that serves as the mechanism to monitor and provide operational and policy guidance for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

In July, new Partners will also be presented in the Meeting to become full-fledged members of the Council. Various regional and international organizations will also participate as observers to the Meeting.

The Meeting is being organized by the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia and the local government of Manado and North Sulawesi.



***Tropical Coasts* Focuses on the EAS Congress 2006 in Special Issue**

MANILA, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA proudly releases the first of the two special issues of *TropicalCoasts* magazine on the East Asian Seas Congress 2006. This edition offers the wider public an opportunity to learn and benefit from the outputs of and information shared during the various events of the Congress.

Carrying the title “One Vision, One Ocean,” this issue highlights the continuing degradation of the marine and coastal environment and focuses on the key outputs and outcomes of the Thematic Workshops on Securing the Oceans; Safer Shipping and Cleaner Oceans; Certifying Sustainability; and Local Government Financing for Water, Sewage and Sanitation. Also featured in the magazine is the adoption of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and the Partnership Operating Arrangements for the Implementation of the SDS-SEA. The magazine also provides synthesis of the various side events and meetings.

It is hoped that this issue would contribute in the enhancement of understanding on the value of the East Asian Seas and the need to step up actions towards the sustainable development of the coastal and ocean environment of the region.

If you wish to have a copy of this special *Tropical Coasts* issue, email info@pemsea.org.



SENSA: Interconnecting with the PRF

The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) has attracted interests from across the seas. The Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA), an office integral to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the PRF have forged a partnership for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

Mr. Christer Holtsberg, SENSA Director, and Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PRF's Interim Executive Director, signed the three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 25 May. Under the agreement, the parties agreed to cooperate in identifying priority research issues and capacity-building activities for the sustainable development of marine and coastal resources and governance. The parties also agreed to exchange information and share knowledge, as well as second their respective staff to conduct mutually agreed activities.

SENSA, based in Bangkok, was established by the Sida in 2002. SENSA is responsible for monitoring the environmental situation in Southeast Asia. PEMSEA is a partnership of stakeholders composed of states, institutions, and nongovernmental organizations, committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.



PEMSEA and CHARM Collaborate to Advance ICM Implementation in Thailand

A Letter of Cooperation (LOC) between PEMSEA and the Coastal Habitats and Resources Management (CHARM) Project was signed on 26 April in Chonburi, Thailand.

PEMSEA and CHARM have agreed to work together to: 1) build awareness and constituencies for co-management and integrated coastal management (ICM) at local, provincial and national levels through multisectoral approaches; 2) strengthen capacities in Thailand for sustainable use and management of marine and coastal areas; and 3) support the establishment and functioning of a national network of local governments implementing ICM. A workshop will be organized in order to share experiences and examine possibilities for the establishment of a national local governments' network.

The collaboration between PEMSEA and CHARM was catalyzed during the East Asian Seas Congress in December 2006 in Haikou City, Hainan Province, P.R. China. A seminar was subsequently organized by CHARM in Phuket last March, where it was agreed to link ICM Projects in Phang-Nga Bay, Ban Don Bay, Chonburi and other areas into a national network. Officials from local governments working with CHARM visited Chonburi in May to learn from their ICM practices and experiences.

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Interim Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), signed the LOC on behalf of PEMSEA. Dr. Yves Henocque and Dr. Sanchai Tandavanitj, Co-Directors, signed on behalf of CHARM.

PEMSEA has established an ICM demonstration area in Chonburi Province, in the eastern region of Thailand.

CHARM is a Thai Government project supported by the European Union, designing and establishing a coastal habitats and resources co-management framework and procedures in two Southern Thailand locations. The project is promoting a co-management framework/process for coastal habitats and resources in two Southern Thailand locations. Both projects are advocating replication and scaling up of good management practices to other areas of the country.



Chonburi Province Scales up ICM Project Area

A declaration for the scaling up of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) implementation in Chonburi Province, Thailand, was signed by local government executives at the Tide Resort and Hotel in Saensuk, Chonburi, on 26 April. The event marked the official participation of additional 12 local government units (i.e., municipalities, cities, provincial/subdistrict administrative organizations) in the Chonburi ICM Project. This brings the total number to 22, from the initial 5 in 2001. The Chonburi ICM Project now covers almost the entire length of the Chonburi Province coastline.

The declaration recognizes the value of Chonburi's marine and coastal resources; the threats to these resources as a consequence of rapid economic development; the stakeholders' responsibility to protect and safeguard these resources; the urgent need for inter-municipal, multi-agency, and cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration and adequate stakeholder participation; and the ICM framework and its implementing processes as a viable mechanism for generating the necessary partnerships and stakeholder support to minimize the adverse impacts on ecosystems and ensure sustainable socioeconomic development of the coastal areas in Chonburi.

Mr. Sonthaya Khunpluem, former Minister for Tourism and Sports, congratulated Chonburi for its efforts in applying ICM and involving all coastal municipalities. Dr. Chamniern Vorratnchaiphan, Director of the Grassroots Action Program of the Thailand Environment Institute also congratulated all who have contributed to the success of ICM implementation in Chonburi.

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, commended Chonburi's initiative and achievements with regard to the scaling up of the ICM area, but at the same time challenged them to also scale up with regard to other key ICM elements such as policy, institutional arrangements, legislation, and capacity. He also highlighted the need for establishing a proper holistic framework that would allow local governments to systematically and efficiently achieve the goals of sustainable development. Dr. Chua presented a conceptual framework on sustainable development of coastal urban areas through ICM implementation to illustrate the linkages between good governance and

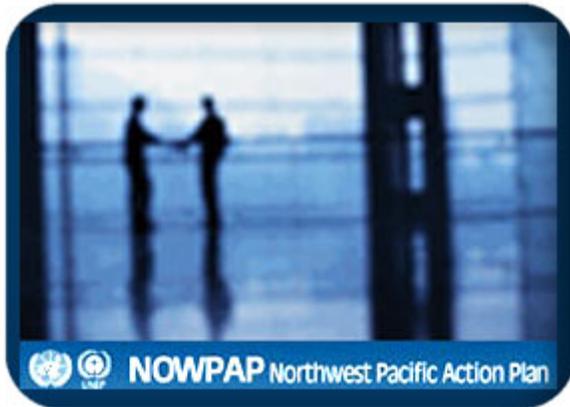
environmental management. He also highlighted the need for a national ocean policy to provide basis for actions at various levels.

Two simultaneous forums were conducted for the municipal executives of participating administrative units and government personnel. A planning workshop will be organized in May to develop the ICM Action Plan for Chonburi Province for 2008–2011. The framework shared by Dr. Chua will be applied in the assessment and planning of ICM implementation in Chonburi.

On the same occasion, the proceeds of a bowling fund-raising competition held on 31 March, totaling Baht 702,190 (about \$21,000), was turned over to the ICM Project Director. Fund-raising activities will be undertaken periodically as part of the financing mechanism to support ICM implementation in the province.

The next target for ICM scaling up in Chonburi would be to involve the non-coastal municipalities in protecting and managing the province's marine and coastal resources and environment, emphasizing their connection and impact on the state of Chonburi's coasts.

PARTNER NEWS



NOWPAP Builds up Partnerships and Efficiency

NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit signed the Letter of Cooperation (LOC) with the Project Management Office of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project on 24 May in Beijing, PR China. The LOC will serve as the basis for the two sides to conduct cooperative activities.

At the First COBSEA (Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia) Marine Litter Workshop held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 8-9 May, representatives of NOWPAP introduced the overall progress on the implementation of its Marine Litter Activity (MALITA), which was launched one and half years ago. As sister programs of the UNEP Regional Seas, both NOWPAP and COBSEA are carrying out activities addressing the marine litter issue in line with the global UNEP marine litter initiative. The two bodies continuously exchange information and share their experiences in dealing with the marine litter problem.

According to the decision of the 11th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), evaluation of the performance of the four NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) has been carried out. The RACs were established between 2000 and 2002 and have played an important role in implementing NOWPAP activities since then. In order to review the achievements and further improve the efficiency of the RACs work, an independent international consultant has recently interviewed all RAC directors in Beijing. An evaluation report will be prepared by the consultant based on the interviews and responses to the questionnaires distributed earlier. The results of the evaluation will be presented to the next IGM in October 2007 in China.



International Coastal Cleanup in Rizhao

An International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) was successfully organized on 28 June 2007 in Rizhao City, PR China, sponsored by the State Environmental Protection Administration of China and the Rizhao Municipal Government. It was the first time the ICC was formally introduced to the newly emerging city, as the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) advances the implementation of its Marine Litter Activity launched two years ago. Two dozen representatives from Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia and regional programmes and projects such as the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project (YSLME) and PEMSEA, represented by Ms. Corazon Davis of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources, joined two hundred local participants in this beach cleanup in an effort to raise public awareness on marine litter and promote public participation in the cleanup.

The Rizhao ICC attracted great attention in China; the local participants ranged from central government officials, vice mayors and experts to elementary school kids. The national and local media covered the activity widely both on television and in newspapers.

Prior to the ICC activity, an associated workshop addressing marine litter prevention and control was held on 27 June.

NOWPAP will continue to organize ICC campaigns in Busan, Republic of Korea, and Vladivostok, Russia, later this year and in 2008 as part of its Marine Litter Activity.