

East Asian Countries Meet on Sustainable Development Strategy Implementation

MANILA, PHILIPPINES -- Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) at Putrajaya, Malaysia, last December 2003, representatives from PEMSEA participating countries and international organizations met in Manila from 23-27 August to develop and recommend a plan on how to implement the SDS-SEA.

Thirty participants and resource persons attended the Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA, which was organized by PEMSEA and hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Republic of Philippines. Representatives from 10 PEMSEA participating countries (Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Thailand and Vietnam), the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office attended the meeting.

The working group reviewed and finalized a concept brief on the implementation of the SDS-SEA, which was prepared by PEMSEA based on the inputs from the preparatory meeting of experts held in Chengdu, PR China, last March. The meeting also discussed approaches to mobilizing commitments and support from participating countries and other stakeholders for implementing the SDS-SEA.

The finalized plan for the SDS-SEA implementation called for a programme of activities, which includes:

- Establishing institutional arrangements for the sustainable implementation of the SDS-SEA;
- Developing national policies and action plans for sustainable coastal and ocean development in at least 70 percent of PEMSEA participating countries by 2015;
- Putting at least 20 percent of coastlines of the region under integrated coastal management (ICM) programmes by 2015;
- Establishing collaborative arrangements between and among research institutions, universities, the private sector, governments, communities and NGOs; and
- Facilitating national and regional pollution reduction investment programmes.

The programme of activities for the implementation of the SDS-SEA will be submitted for consideration to the PEMSEA Programme Steering Committee (PSC) during its 10th meeting in Xiamen, PR China, in October.

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 strategies, principles and action programs 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.

GEF Contributes \$1M for PPP Project in East Asia

MANILA, PHILIPPINES -- In a signing ceremony held last 25 August, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) contributed US\$ 1 million to jumpstart a two-year project aimed at building confidence and capacity in public-private partnerships for pollution prevention and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in East Asia. The project, titled: Development and Implementation of Public-Private Partnerships in Environmental Investments, will be executed by the International Maritime Organization with PEMSEA undertaking overall management and co-ordination.

The objectives of the PPP Project are to enhance the capacity of government, communities and the private sector to develop, finance, manage and sustain environmental infrastructure improvement projects for pollution prevention and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources through PPP; and to increase investment opportunities for environmental improvement and coastal and marine resource development and management for countries in East Asia.

About 50 representatives from PEMSEA participating countries, international organizations, and the private sector witnessed the ceremony. In her opening remarks, UNDP Philippines Resident Representative, Ms. Deborah Landey, emphasized the importance of partnerships in attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ms. Elisea G. Gozun, next gave her address where she stressed the importance of the role of the private sector in addressing environmental issues and attaining and sustainable development.

PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, in his remarks gave credit to the DENR, the local government unit of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, headed by Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, and the province of Bataan, headed by Governor Enrique Garcia, and the private sector partner in the project in the City of San Fernando, Mr. Jose Luis Yulo Jr. of Pro-Environment Consortium, for pursuing the partnership towards establishing an integrated solid waste management systems in their respective localities.

With the continuing decline in the volume of overseas development aid and the inability of countries to allocate sufficient portions of their gross domestic product to environmental protection and restoration, PPP is seen as an innovative way to meet the financial shortfall to counter the on-going degradation of marine and coastal resources in the East Asian region.

Quang Nam to be Designated as PEMSEA Parallel Site

QUANG NAM, VIETNAM -- Efforts are now underway to designate Quang Nam as a new PEMSEA integrated coastal management (ICM) parallel site. This after a PEMSEA mission to evaluate the site concluded that the province successfully met PEMSEA's site selection criteria. The mission noted Quang Nam's strong political commitment, the appropriateness of management issues requiring the ICM approach and the financial commitment of the local government in undertaking the activities of an ICM parallel site.

The evaluation mission was conducted in response to requests from the National Focal Point of Vietnam, and the Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee. PEMSEA Regional Programme Director Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, and PEMSEA Technical Officer, Ms. Nancy Bermas-Atrigenio visited Quang Nam on 28-29 July to evaluate the suitability of the site by confirming the support and commitment of the local government and stakeholders and identify issues and problems to be addressed by the ICM program.

The People's Committee of Quang Nam stressed its willingness to provide the needed financial support and to establish the required coordinating mechanism. The People's Committee also indicated that it will provide leadership in the implementation of the ICM project, and sign a Memorandum of Agreement with PEMSEA to officially commit local government resources to the implementation of the ICM programme.

In line with the Vietnamese central government policy to provide support to least developed provinces in Vietnam, Quang Nam was selected as one of the sites for the ICM program development. It is one of the poorest coastal provinces of the country. Located south of Danang City, Quang Nam's main economic activities include tourism, aquaculture/fisheries, forestry and industrial development. Its 125 km coastline is dotted with fine sandy beaches and supports tourism, aquaculture and sand mining. The province is facing numerous environmental management concerns such as habitat alteration and pollution from infrastructure development; the lack of any tourism development plan; and the significant reduction of ground water level and saltwater intrusion from unregulated aquaculture and shrimp farming.

The mission concluded that ICM can make a positive contribution in providing coordination and management measures to many of the issues identified, especially in the sustainable development of small-scale shrimp farming, sand mining management, beach management and industrial waste management.

Indonesia ICM Sites Build Online Presence

BALI, INDONESIA -- The PEMSEA integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration site in Bali, Indonesia and Parallel Site in Sukabumi, recently held training workshops on Web Development and Networking. The workshops were aimed at helping Bali and Sukabumi 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 29 August – 4 September. The training was co-organized by PEMSEA with local partner – The Government of Bali Province Board of Local Environmental Impact Control (BAPEDALDA).

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 training also produced an action plan for the implementation of web development activities for Bali and Sukabumi. The two ICM sites plan to develop English and Bahasa versions of their websites.

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 Coastalinks, 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.

ICM Capacity Takes Shape in DPRK

PYONGYANG, DPR KOREA -- A training of trainers on integrated coastal management (ICM) conducted in 11-16 July resulted in a heightened understanding of the ICM concept and process and the development of module plans and action plans necessary for the conduct of a future pilot ICM training workshop in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The participants were trained to understand and explain the basic tools applied in ICM; develop ICM module plans and action plans; and apply these skills through the conduct of a future ICM training course to be given to potential ICM practitioners, national government officials and policymakers within the country.

The training was well accepted and the open forum that followed saw a high degree of questions being raised and discussed by the participants on numerous issues, such as: the concepts of sustainable development; the scientific and technological problems in ICM; the conduct of public awareness in ICM; and the most appropriate organizational structure for implementing ICM.

The training was attended by 15 participants from various national and local government agencies and the academe and was organized by PEMSEA in partnership with the Kim Il Sung University, the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection and General Bureau of Cooperation with International Organizations.

With the East Asian region facing numerous challenges in sustaining its coastal and marine areas against concerns such as pollution, habitat destruction and multiple-use conflicts, the use of an integrated coastal and marine management approach like ICM is seen as a viable option to attain coastal and marine sustainability. The training in Pyongyang is the latest effort of PEMSEA, in partnership with local governments throughout the region, to build regional capacity and confidence in ICM.

Bangkok and Tanjung Pelepas Ports Start First Phase of PSSHE-MS

BANGKOK, THAILAND -- PEMSEA is working for the establishment of a Port Security, Safety, Health and Environmental - Management System (PSSHE-MS) in Bangkok Port, Thailand and the Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Malaysia. The two ports are to become demonstration sites on the PSSH-EMS system, enabling other ports in the region to learn and benefit from its experiences.

The PSSHE-MS is an integrated management system designed to provide individual port operators with a management framework and plan for enhancing efficiency, cost-effectiveness and profit in their operations. A port with a functional PSSHE-MS would provide assurance to its clients, workers, and community that it is conscious of its responsibility on safety and the environment, and is applying appropriate measures to comply with national and international legal instruments and standards.

As a first step to establishing the PSSHE-MS, PEMSEA organized the conduct of an initial status review on 30 August – September 4 for Bangkok Port, and on 10–16 September for the Port of Tanjung Pelepas. Over sixty port personnel from both countries participated in the review. The initial status review, a first of six phases in PSSHE-MS development, identified current practices on both ports and evaluated deficiencies against required standards; identified site processes, products and services having a significant environmental impact and intolerable risk; and provided baseline data for developing health, safety and environmental policy objectives and targets.

Both ports are now currently preparing for the next phase of PSSHE-MS development, a strategic planning phase, which calls for creating an effective environmental policy and objectives for improving performance.

Xiamen ICM Benefits Shared in Brisbane Coastal Zone Conference

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA -- The experiences and lessons of how integrated coastal management contributed to economic growth without compromising environmental quality in Xiamen, PR China, became a highlight during the Coastal Zone Asia Pacific Conference 2004, held from 5-9 September 2004.

In his keynote address “Dynamics of Integrated Coastal Management and Improvement of the Quality of Life,” PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, presented the evolution of ICM in East Asia, the key challenges in achieving ICM’s goal of improving the quality of life of coastal inhabitants, and the socioeconomic and ecological benefits of ICM as seen in Xiamen, PR China. Xiamen Municipality was able to maintain an average GDP growth of 18 percent over the last 20 years without compromising its natural environment.

The keynote paper was well received by the conference, setting the tone for discussions that followed with the paper being frequently referred to during the specific thematic sessions. More than 280 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Cook Islands, Egypt, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Portugal, PR China, RO Korea, Samoa, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, The Netherlands, UK, USA, Vanuatu, Vietnam, and the Virgin Islands attended the conference. While most of the participants composed of natural scientists, the conference also saw participation from economists, social scientists, and political leaders from national and state levels.

The CZAP 2004 is the second CZAP conference focusing on coastal management issues of the Asia Pacific region. The conference covered themes on livelihoods, communities, modeling and assessment, sustainable industries, protecting cultural heritage, international agreements and collaboration, integrated policy and planning, monitoring and evaluation, adaptive management and innovation, and stakeholder partnerships and collaboration.

New PEMSEA Environmental Videos Ready for Broadcast

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA has produced two environmental videos that are ready for TV broadcast: *The EAS Congress 2003: Regional Partnerships in Action*, a video that highlighted the recently concluded East Asian Seas Congress held in Putrajaya, Malaysia; and *Melasti: A Festival of Hope*, a video on integrated coastal management (ICM) and cultural practices in Bali, Indonesia.

Initial arrangement is being forged with television networks interested in airing the videos.

PEMSEA has produced a number of video documentaries on environmental management practices that were aired on Philippine TV. This includes *Monsoon Tale*, a video that focused on the ICM experiences in the Philippines (Batangas, Bataan and Manila Bay) and in Xiamen, China. PEMSEA has also produced audio-visual and informational videos about the programme, to provide a background on its activities and objectives, and the *Sibuyan Eco-Youth Camp*, a video that featured the eco-youth camp held in Sibuyan Island, Romblon, Philippines.

Besides TV broadcast, these environmental videos are also used for other purposes such as in-training programs as part of modules and school projects. A number of requests for video copies are received through the PEMSEA website.

PEMSEA is active in the production of environmental videos and has been collaborating with media partners and contacts to achieve its goal of promoting environmental and coastal management. This goal is also established to ensure that lessons learned from its programme sites are disseminated to its stakeholders in East Asia and beyond.

EAS Congress 2003 Proceedings Released

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- The Proceedings for The East Asian Seas Congress 2003, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 8-12 December 2003 has now been released by PEMSEA and copies are now being made available to interested parties.

The East Asian Seas Congress 2003: Regional Implementation of the WSSD Commitments for the Seas of East Asia — Proceedings of the Ministerial Forum and International Conference on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Towards a New Era of Regional Collaboration and Partnerships was edited by Chua Thia-Eng, S. Adrian Ross, Paolo Mangahas and Maria Cecilia San.

Over 100 papers were presented during the International Conference's eight concurrent workshops, which focused on maritime transport; land-based pollution; fisheries and aquaculture; biodiversity; local governance and alliances; skills and expertise; finance, investments and corporate responsibility; and national coastal and ocean policies and regional collaborative arrangements. The conclusions and recommendations arising from these workshops were presented and considered during the Ministerial Forum, which led to the endorsement of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia and the signing of the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia.

The international event was organized in order to catalyze regional and international collaboration and efforts towards minimizing environmental deterioration, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, providing a cleaner coastal and marine environment, and protecting the remaining ocean heritage.

Individuals interested in obtaining copies of the proceedings can visit PEMSEA's online bookstore.

PEMSEA Welcomes New Interns

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Mr. Arthit Chachiyo and Ms. Nisakorn Wiwekwin recently joined PEMSEA as its newest interns.

Nisakorn is a Municipal Officer of the Health and Environment Sector Angsila Municipality in Chonburi, Thailand and Arthit is Chief of Student Activity, Education Center at Sriracha Municipality, also in Chonburi, Thailand.

During their three-month internship, in preparation for assisting in the implementation of the National ICM Demonstration Project in Chonburi, Thailand, they will focus on the concept and approaches of integrated coastal management (ICM), integrated environmental impact assessment (IEIA), and the PEMSEA framework of project development, implementation and management of coastal and marine environmental projects. They will also familiarize themselves with the Chonburi ICM project work plan, project outputs (risk assessment, coastal strategy, communication plan, Integrated Information Management System).

Specifically, Nisakorn will assist in the implementation of activities for the Chonburi ICM Project by supporting the Coastal Strategy Implementation Plan (CSIP) project by preparing the report of the inception workshop, and developing the draft CSIP; and assisting in the development of the Chonburi ICM website by preparing materials/information for the web pages.

Arthit will develop a plan for implementing public awareness and community mobilization activities in the entire ICM area, guided by the Communication Plan developed for the ICM site; understand the process of oil spill contingency planning in preparation for the development of a local oil spill contingency plan for Sriracha Municipality; provide inputs to the development of a draft CSIP; and assist in ICM website development by preparing materials/information for the web pages.

PEMSEA's internship program provides opportunities for young professionals from participating countries to acquire and strengthen their skills in related fields by taking part in PEMSEA activities.