

PEMSEA News

EO 533: A Big Step Forward for ICM Implementation in the Philippines

Manila, Philippines – The Philippines has a long and rich experience in ICM. Since the first initiatives in the late 1970s, ICM practice has significantly evolved to the integrated and multi-sectoral management system that it is today. The benefits shown on the ground as a result of ICM implementation have spurred further interest for ICM scaling up. The signing of Executive Order 533 by the President of the Philippines on 6 June 2006, declaring ICM as the national strategy and policy framework for sustainable development of the coastal and marine resources, is a major milestone in the history of ICM in the country.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the Philippines has been spearheading the development of a national ICM program in support of EO 533 implementation, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus of DENR at the national and sub-national levels. In addition, other government agencies that are implementing or planning to implement donor-assisted ICM projects have been engaged in the consultation process. A workshop was organized on 29-30 May, with the participation of the Regional Technical Directors for Protected Areas and Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management (PAWCZM) and representatives from various units of the DENR Central Office, including the Manila Bay Coordinating Office, the River Basin Control Office, the Coastal and Marine Management Office, the National Water Resources Board, the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau and the Forest Management Bureau. The workshop reviewed existing ICM projects and initiatives, determined areas of convergence, identified gaps, potential constraints and challenges, and discussed alternative institutional arrangements in support of EO 533. The need for improved coordination was emphasized with the recognition that, at present, there are more than \$860 million in ICM-related projects being implemented in the Philippines.

The key output of the workshop was a Resolution recommending the establishment of an interagency National ICM Coordinating Committee. As a coordinating mechanism to implement the national ICM program, the Committee would be responsible for ensuring harmonization of policy, capacity development initiatives, and technical and resource assistance, across DENR and in collaboration with other concerned agencies and local government units. It would also assist with the establishment of a common monitoring and reporting system, in order to assess the progress and achievements of the scaling up efforts, and to report such progress to the concerned stakeholders at the national and local levels. The recommendation of the workshop is currently under review by the DENR.

PEMSEA, HP Philippines Extend EAS Congress 2009 Regional Photo Contest

Manila, Philippines – The deadline for submission of entries for the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009 Regional Photo Contest has been extended to 28 February 2008. Open to nationals of the East Asian region, three grand prizewinners (one from each category: Youth, Hobbyist, and Professional) will receive complimentary registration to the EAS Congress 2009, with free roundtrip airfare, accommodation and allowance. The complimentary registration includes free attendance to the EAS Congress events and workshops, including conference kits/materials, field trip and select meals. Grand prizewinners will also receive a printer from HP Philippines.

The theme "The Coast, The Ocean, My Community" emphasizes the importance of turning knowledge and concern about the coastal and marine environment into on-the-ground actions. It aims to generate awareness on local and national ocean-, coastal-, and environment-related initiatives of each country and to increase participation of the communities in these activities.

Photographs must demonstrate local actions/implementation and good practices in sustainable coastal and ocean protection, development and management. These can show local and national initiatives that address: natural and man-made hazard prevention and management; habitat protection, restoration and management; water use and supply management; food security and livelihood management; and pollution reduction and waste management. There is no limit to the number of entries an entrant can submit.

Photos must be high-quality prints or digital files and can be in color or black & white. These should not have been previously published, printed or sold commercially, displayed or won any prize or distinction in another competition. Entries will be evaluated based on the following criteria: relevance to the theme, composition/creativity and technical quality.

The contest will consist of two rounds of evaluation. The initial screening will be conducted by the PEMSEA National Focal Points, who will choose the top 3 entries in their respective countries on 31 March. The country finalists will then move on to the final round of judging on 9 May and vie for the grand prize.

Please go to <http://www.pemsea.org/eascongress> to download the contest mechanics and entry form or email congress@pemsea.org for details.

Second EAS Partnership Council Meeting Held in Japan

Tokyo, Japan – On 14-17 July, the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council held its second meeting in Tokyo, Japan. Representatives from 22 Country and non-Country Partners as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), PEMSEA Network of Local Governments implementing ICM (PNLG) and Thailand (country observer) attended the Meeting. The Meeting was organized by the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) and co-organized by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) with the support of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF) of Japan.

The 2nd PC Meeting delved into several important issues, such as PEMSEA's legal personality, GEF/UNDP/UNOPS Project on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA, the EAS Congress 2009, subregional transboundary projects, and critical and emerging issues in the region. In addition, the future direction of the Partnership mechanism and areas of focus in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) were tabled.

During the Meeting, a new non-Country Partner, the International Center for the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS), of Japan, was presented and its inclusion as a PEMSEA Partner was made official with the signing ceremony of a Letter of Cooperation (LOC) between PEMSEA and EMECS.

The Council meeting was followed by the PEMSEA/Japan Joint Seminar on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in the Seas of East Asia on 18 July. The objective of this event was to share knowledge and good practices in coastal and marine management and identify possible areas of collaboration. In particular, the Seminar highlighted the PEMSEA ICM practices, including experiences in Xiamen and Manila Bay. Japanese experts shared experiences on some of their projects related to coastal rehabilitation and innovative technologies. Participants to the Seminar included representatives from government agencies and universities in Japan, as well as members of the EAS Partnership Council.

The EAS Partnership Council is one of the four components of PEMSEA. Its main task is to provide policy and operational guidance for, as well as steer, monitor and review the progress of, SDS-SEA implementation. The Council is composed of the 11 Country Partners (Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam) and 16 non-Country Partners (Conservation International Philippines, Coastal Management Center, EMECS, GEF/Small Grants Programme, IOC/WESTPAC, International Ocean Institute, Korea Environment Institute, Korea Maritime Institute, Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute, Northwest Pacific Action Plan, Ocean Policy Research Foundation of Japan, Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Limited, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Swedish Environment Secretariat for Asia, UNEP/GPA, and UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project).

The Executive Committee of the Council is composed of Dr. Chua Thia-Eng (Council Chair); Dr. Li Haiqing (Intergovernmental Session Chair); and Mr. Hiroshi Terashima (Technical Session Chair). The Executive Director of the PRF, Prof. Raphael P.M. Lotilla, serves as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

The First Partnership Council Meeting was held in Manado City, Indonesia in July 2007.

RO Korea Hosts Twinning Secretariat

Seoul, RO Korea – The Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) and PEMSEA inaugurated the PEMSEA Twinning Secretariat on 17 June 2008, at KMI in Seoul, RO Korea. The Twinning Secretariat is a functional arm of PEMSEA with the responsibility of coordinating a knowledge-sharing and technical cooperation network that is focused on integrated river basin and coastal area management. Existing members of the twinning network include representatives from projects in the Bohai Sea, Manila Bay, Gulf of Thailand, Jakarta Bay, and Masan-Chinhae Bay. The setting up of the Secretariat is part of RO Korea's contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), with financial support from the Korean government through the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM).

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by PEMSEA, MLTM and KMI for the establishment of the Twinning Secretariat. Prof. Raphael P.M. Lotilla, PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) Executive Director, expressed his sincere gratitude to the RO Korean government, especially to KMI and MLTM for agreeing to host and support the Secretariat. The MLTM, in consultation with the PRF, designated Dr. Jong-Deog Kim of KMI as the interim head of the Secretariat.

The 2008 Twinning Workshop is tentatively scheduled to convene in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 21– 23 October under the theme "Good Practices in Environmental Investments for the PEMSEA Integrated River Basin and Coastal Area Management (IRBCAM) Network." The Workshop will feature three sessions, namely: a) Advances in Ecosystem-based Management in Twinning Sites; b) Good Practices in Environmental Investments in Pollution Reduction; and c) the 1st Network Meeting for Capacity Enhancement.

As part of his Mission to Korea, Prof. Lotilla also met with officials from various agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), MLTM and the 2012 Yeosu EXPO Organizing Committee to discuss PEMSEA's Legal Personality, the East Asian Seas Congress in 2009 and 2012, and the East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting in July 2008.

Strategic Partnership Explores Investments in Pollution Reduction

Quezon City, Philippines – An organizational workshop to discuss the Strategic Partnership arrangement among the GEF, The World Bank, UNDP and PEMSEA was held at the PEMSEA Office Building on 24-26 June. The Strategic Partnership for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia is designed to enhance pollution reduction initiatives in the East Asia Seas in support of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) Two GEF-supported projects, namely the GEF/UNDP/UNOPS Project on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA, referred to as the regional component of the Strategic Partnership, and the World Bank/GEF Partnership Investment Fund for Pollution Reduction in the Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia, referred to as the investment component, are being implemented in parallel.

Representatives from the Global Environment Facility (Mr. Ivan Zavadsky), The World Bank (Dr. Tracy Hart), United Nations Development Programme (Dr. Anna Tengberg) and the PEMSEA Resource Facility (Prof. Raphael P.M. Lotilla, Mr. S. Adrian Ross and Ms. Maricor Ebarvia) convened to discuss a management framework for operationalizing the Strategic Partnership arrangement.

Among the outputs of the workshop was a draft management framework for the Strategic Partnership arrangement, a series of indicators for measuring the value-added contribution of the Strategic Partnership to the implementation of the SDS-SEA, and work programme and budget for 2008-2011. The results of the workshop were presented to the EAS Partnership Council Meeting, held in Tokyo, Japan on 14-17 July.

Puerto Galera Opens its Sewage Collection and Treatment System Project to Build-Transfer Tendering

Oriental Mindoro, Philippines – The Municipal Government of Puerto Galera, Province of Oriental Mindoro, Philippines, invites interested participants to the Build-Transfer (BT) tendering of its Sewage Collection and Treatment System (SCTS) Project. The project involves the financing, design, construction and commissioning, through the BT scheme, of a sewage collection and treatment system in Barangay Sabang, Puerto Galera.

PEMSEA is currently assisting the Municipality of Puerto Galera in the development and implementation of the SCTS project in Barangay Sabang by applying the public-private partnership process (PPP). The initiative is part of PEMSEA's activities to provide policy advice and technical assistance to local governments in order to strengthen pollution reduction/waste management programs.

To view the details of the Invitation, interested investors and operating companies can go to the PEMSEA website (<http://www.pemsea.org>). Further details on the Puerto Galera project may be accessed at the PPP website.

Plymouth Marine Laboratory Announces Chief Executive Appointment

On behalf of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory Board of Trustees, PLM chairman Lord Kingsland announces the appointment of Dr. Stephen de Mora as its new Chief Executive following an extensive international recruitment campaign. Dr de Mora will take up his new appointment on 1 September 2008.

Dr. de Mora has extensive experience in environmental research and senior management, following a career in the academe and international organizations, including roles as Head of the Oceanography Department, University of Quebec, Canada and Laboratory Head, at the International Atomic Energy Agency, Monaco.

Dr. de Mora has also established his own company, Aromed Environmental Consulting Services Inc, based in Canada, and has worked as an expert for international projects such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Dr. de Mora's specific areas of scientific expertise include environmental chemistry, marine pollution monitoring and assessment, biogeochemistry, aquatic chemistry and polar science.

The Plymouth Marine Laboratory is one of PEMSEA's 16 non-Country Partners for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

New Activities Set for NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers

Three NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) held their Focal Points Meetings in May and June (CEARAC held its Meeting in March). All four NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (RACs) have reviewed their progress and agreed on new projects for the 2008-2009 biennium.

In addition to continuing their routine tasks, NOWPAP RACs will implement the following activities:

1. Improve the Internet Communication System among NOWPAP members to provide relevant data and information about marine environment quality in the region in order to serve as a clearing house;
2. Carry out case studies on harmful algal blooms (HAB) in NOWPAP member states, develop HAB integrated website and procedures for assessing coastal eutrophication, conduct second training course on remote sensing data analysis;
3. Organize the 2nd NOWPAP Joint Oil Spill Exercise in Qingdao, PR China, in 2008 and a regional workshop to share the experiences in the cleanup of the Hebei Spirit oil spill that occurred in December 2007 in RO Korea);
4. Integrate Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) into the existing NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan, develop HNS response operations guidelines, training manual and database;
5. Carry out activities related to Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) with involvement of all NOWPAP RACs and in cooperation with partners such as PEMSEA, organize a workshop during the 2009 East Asian Seas Congress; and
6. Implement the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI).

For more information on NOWPAP and its RACs, visit www.nowpap.org.