

Danang to Employ PPP Approach for Environmental Investments

DANANG, VIETNAM -- The public-private partnership (PPP) approach for environmental investments will soon be demonstrated in Vietnam with the recent Danang People's Committee decision to host an Investor's Roundtable on 9 September. The Roundtable will provide a forum for local and national governments, operating companies, financial institutions and donor agencies to discuss investment opportunities for an integrated industrial wastewater and hazardous waste treatment system for Danang.

The proposed project involves the planning, financing, construction and operation of two waste management facilities designed to handle and properly dispose of industrial and hazardous waste for Danang City. While the industrial wastewater treatment plant will cater to the requirements of the industrial locators at the Hoa Khanh Industrial Park, the hazardous waste facility will serve both the industries and hospitals and other health care establishments in the city. The facilities will serve to mitigate risks to the environment, protect human health, attract new investments to the area, facilitate ISO 14001 certification of existing industry and commercial enterprises, and enhance the social and economic well-being of Danang City.

An initial capital outlay of US\$ 6.95 million and US\$ 3.05 million is estimated for the industrial wastewater treatment plant and hazardous waste treatment facility, respectively. Revenues will be derived from user charges collected from industrial firms and health service providers eventually using the facilities.

Under the PPP arrangement in Danang City, there will be resource pooling and risk sharing between the public and private partners. The private sector is expected to bring in technical know-how and the necessary infusion of capital while the public sector partners have committed to shoulder 30% of the capital cost, facilitate investment procedures, develop and enforce relevant City ordinances, manage interjurisdictional issues and promote cooperation among different levels of government, agencies, and sectors.

Deadline for registration for the Danang City Investors Roundtable is 10 August 2003. Interested parties can register through PEMSEA's web page at www.pemsea.org. Representatives of interested operating companies, financial institutions, investor groups and international organizations are requested to participate in the roundtable. The Roundtable is being hosted by the People's Committee of Danang City, and co-organized by PEMSEA, the Danang ICM Project Coordinating Committee, the Danang City Investment Promotion Center and the Project Management Office for the Danang City ICM Demonstration Site.

Additional information about the investment opportunity in Danang as well as the other project sites is available by joining the PEMSEA's Investors Network at <http://way.to/pemseainvestments>.

IMO Urges Member States to Establish Partnership Arrangements

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM -- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has urged its member states to establish technical cooperation through more partnership arrangements.

In a resolution adopted at the IMO Workshop on Partnership Building from 9-10 June, IMO called for international and regional organizations, nongovernment organizations, and industry to develop effective partnership arrangements with the organization. At the same workshop, mechanisms were explored on how existing IMO-related partnership arrangements could be enhanced for sustainable development. The partnership workshop was the first conducted by IMO.

In his opening remarks, Mr. William O'Neil, IMO Secretary General, stressed the need to build partnerships with the industry to continue the efforts of IMO in providing technical assistance to developing countries. Over 150 delegates from IMO participating countries, various UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernment organizations attended the two-day workshop.

PEMSEA participated in the workshop and shared its experiences in building partnerships with the private sector for environmental management. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, discussed PEMSEA's partnership experiences, particularly in mobilizing public-private partnerships in promoting corporate responsibility, sharing knowledge and expertise, and in developing environmental investment.

"Sustainable development is a global imperative, and strategic partnerships involving government, business, industry and civil society represent a potential solution to developing countries around the world," Dr. Chua said.

PR China and Philippines to Send Top Officials to Ministerial Forum

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Hon. Wang Shuguang, Administrator of the State Oceanic Administration of PR China, and Hon. Elisea Gozun, Secretary of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources, will be representing their respective countries in the Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia, scheduled 12 December in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Ministerial Forum is part of the East Asian Seas Congress 2003.

The Ministerial Forum provides a venue to discuss the state of the region's environment and natural resources and to agree on a common framework of actions for the East Asian Seas. Other concerned ministers from the PEMSEA participating countries are also expected to attend the forum which will consider the final draft of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and a declaration of regional cooperation for adoption.

Aside from the Ministerial Forum, the Congress will also feature the International Conference on the Sustainable Development of the East Asian Seas: Towards a New Era of Regional Collaboration and Partnerships. Congress side events will include the 3rd Forum of the Regional Network of Local Governments (RNLG) Implementing Integrated Coastal Management, the Media Forum on Partnerships in Environmental Communication, and the Multidisciplinary Experts Group Meeting.

East Asian Senior Government Officials Meet in Thailand for Sustainable Development Strategy

PATTAYA, THAILAND -- High-level officials from PEMSEA participating countries will review the final draft of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), share experiences in national cross-sectoral consultations, and discuss measures to facilitate national and regional consensus building for the SDS-SEA during the Senior Government Officials Meeting (SGOM) to be held on 4-5 August. The Government of Thailand will host the SGOM.

About 40 high-level officials from PEMSEA national focal agencies, concerned international organizations, and the Regional Programme, are expected to attend the SGOM. In the past four months, a series of consultations between PEMSEA participating countries were held regarding the strategy.

The SGOM in Pattaya is organized by PEMSEA to prepare the programme and working documents for review and endorsement by concerned ministers during the Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia, which will be held during the East Asian Seas Congress 2003 in December in Putrajaya, Malaysia (see related article).

Stakeholders Rehabilitate Mangroves in Port Klang

PORT KLANG, MALAYSIA -- Over 1,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in Teluk Gong, Port Klang, during a mangrove re-planting program organized by the Selangor Waters Management Authority, in collaboration with Klang Municipal Council and Forestry Department on 14 June.

With the theme, “preserve the mangrove forest for a quality environment”, the event was officially launched by Dato’ Zakaria Md Derus, Selat Klang Assemblyman. Other guests included Hj. Rahmat bin Hj Mohd Sharif, Lembaga Urus Air Selangor Director; En Razani bin Ujang, Selangor Forestry Department Director; and Mrs Habsah bt Muda, Wildlife Department Director.

About 150 stakeholders participated in the event, including representatives from the government, nongovernment organizations, private sector, university students, local residents and primary school children of Teluk Gong -- a fishing village surrounded by areas undergoing rapid development. Staff from the Project Management Office of PEMSEA’s national integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration site in Port Klang also participated.

The activity enhanced the community’s awareness on the importance of mangrove forests to biodiversity, coastal protection, and as a heritage for future generations. The natural environment of the coastal areas of Klang and Kuala Langat are threatened with pollution from land and sea-based activities, indiscriminate and improperly planned coastal development, overfishing and destruction of natural habitats.

In collaboration with local stakeholders, and with PEMSEA support, the State Government of Selangor is implementing an ICM program in Port Klang focused on land-sea use planning, sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, environmental protection, and mitigation of pollution problems.

Several organizations also held environmental awareness exhibits as part of the day’s activity. The exhibitors included the PEMSEA ICM demonstration site in Port Klang, Forestry Department, Wildlife Department, and the Fishermen Association of Kg Perajurit.

Industry Showcases Corporate Responsibility for Poverty and Environment

MANILA, PHILIPPINES -- The business sector showcased its various contributions to addressing social issues such as poverty and environmental degradation during the Fourth Corporate Social Responsibility Week sponsored by the League of Corporate Foundations held last 9-11 July.

With the theme “Ka Partner Ka” (We are Partners), the three-day event provided a venue for 58 business organizations, foundations and government agencies to share their efforts in assisting local communities to address priority social issues. PEMSEA participated in the three-day celebration by putting-up an exhibit and information booth. PEMSEA also shared its experiences in a plenary session on partnerships for the environment, which presented the Integrated Coastal Management program of the Province of Bataan as an example of collaborative efforts from different sectors of society in caring for the environment.

Presenters in the Partners for the Environment plenary included Hon. Elisea G. Gozun, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary; Mr. Motassim Al-Ma’ashouq, Petron Corporation President; Hon. Leonardo Roman, Bataan Provincial Governor; and Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Regional Programme Director.

In his presentation, Dr. Chua emphasized the need for the involvement of stakeholders in partnership with government at all levels to plan and implement measures to stop or reduce environmental threats.

“We need to change the way we used to do things. We tend to leave environmental problems to the public sector. Experiences all over the world have shown that governments alone cannot address environmental problems effectively. We need the involvement of the stakeholders in partnership with the government at all levels, to plan and implement measures to stop or reduce the threats to our valuable ecosystems, so that they can continue to generate the goods and services, which we have long enjoyed,” Dr. Chua said.

Selangor Earmarks RM 5 Million for Eco-Tourism Development of Crab Island

PORT KLANG, MALAYSIA -- The Selangor State Government has allocated about RM 5 million (US\$ 1.34 million) for development projects aimed at improving the amenities of Pulau Ketam (Crab Island), as part of the state's effort in developing the island into a major tourist attraction within the next two to three years. Developing the tourism potential of the island is part of the State Government's integrated coastal management (ICM) program, which focuses on the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.

Top government officials including Datuk Zakari Md. Derus, Klang Assemblyman, P. Komala Devi, Kapar Member of Parliament, and Datuk Mohd Sharif Yusof, Klang Municipal Council President visited the island recently.

Datuk Mohd. Shariff Jajang, State Infrastructure, Information and Malay Reserve Land Committee Chairman said that RM 4 million would fund the ICM project in Pulau Ketam, focusing on the improvement of the island's water supply system with the building of new pathways and repairing water distribution lines.

Pulau Ketam is part of PEMSEA's national ICM demonstration project in Klang. The State Government of Selangor leads the implementation of the ICM project in collaboration with local stakeholders and with PEMSEA support.

During the visit, Hj. Rahmat bin Hj Mohd Sharif, Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (Luas) Director, gave a presentation on Pulau Ketam, which focused on the ecosystem restoration and eco-tourism development. His presentation highlighted the efforts aimed at attracting tourists to the island, which include the development of areas for fishing, bird watching, jungle-tracking, and the establishment of a major seafood center.

PEMSEA Assists in Development of Wastewater Management Course

BÜSUM, GERMANY -- PEMSEA shared its experiences in the development of a training course curriculum and module design on municipal wastewater management during the 6th Course Developers Workshop held at the Research and Technology Centre West Coast, University of Kiel in Büsum, Germany from 23 June to 4 July 2003. Ms. Maricor Ebarvia, PEMSEA Technical Officer, participated in the workshop and shared PEMSEA's experiences in project development and stakeholder participation.

Ten other resource persons from various UN agencies and the academe participated in the workshop. The experience of the participants, who are also subject matter experts, contributed significantly to the development of the training course and modules on municipal wastewater management. The developed modules will be validated initially in East Africa.

Employing the Train-X methodology, a common international standard used for training development, the workshop was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme – Global Programme of Action and hosted by the UN Train-Sea-Coast Programme and the University of Kiel.

Earlier in April, PEMSEA and UNEP-GPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a collaborative partnership on sharing experiences and knowledge in the sustainable development of marine and coastal resources and in the governance of regional seas and oceans. PEMSEA's participation in the Germany workshop is a result of this agreement.

Melasti – A Festival of Hope

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA has recently produced “Melasti – A Festival of Hope”, an 11-minute video that explores the different environmental challenges surrounding the marine and coastal areas of Bali, and the partnerships established for the conservation and sustainable use its coastal and marine resources.

The Melasti Festival is a ceremony held several days before the start of the Balinese New Year to honor the world’s waters in recognition of its power. The video offers a unique glimpse of Balinese life, particularly on its three inseparable threads: faith, culture and the environment.

The video will be featured during the East Asian Seas Congress 2003, to be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 8-12 December 2003 (see related article).

PEMSEA is also currently working on videos in Chonburi, Thailand and Danang, Vietnam. The videos will explore how the two sites are contributing to sustainable development, as stipulated during the World Summit on Sustainable Development using the integrated coastal management framework and process.

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