



4th RNLG Annual Forum Calls for Stronger Leadership and Partnership in Local Actions

BALI, INDONESIA -- Over 100 government leaders, coastal and marine experts from 22 PEMSEA ICM sites and candidate parallel sites, along with representatives from international and regional organizations have called for strengthening the implementation of integrated coastal management (ICM) to achieve sustainable coastal development in East Asia. The call came at the Fourth Annual Forum of the Regional Network of Local Governments Implementing Integrated Coastal Management (RNLG) on 26-28 April, with the theme “Building Better Coastal Governance through Stronger Alliance.”

The forum participants reviewed and synthesized a decade’s worth of ICM experiences and lessons learned from PEMSEA ICM sites as well as various ICM initiatives in Indonesia. In view of the recent Indian Ocean tsunami, a special session was organized to consolidate lessons learned from the tsunami tragedy and identify effective strategies for reducing and mitigating natural and man-made coastal hazards. The forum recognized that ICM was a useful framework for coastal hazard management.

The Fourth RNLG Forum also saw the significant adoption of the Bali Resolution on the establishment of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG), which transforms the existing RNLG into the PNLG. The PNLG is a more self-sustaining and local government-driven network (see related story).

The forum was co-organized by PEMSEA and the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia and hosted by the Bali Provincial Government. The next forum will be organized as a side-event during the East Asian Seas Congress 2006, to be held in PR China in December 2006. Danang, Vietnam has offered to host the 6th forum, which will be held in 2007.



Bali Shares ICM Practices with Other Local Governments in Indonesia

BALI, INDONESIA -- Representatives from various local governments representing the coastal areas of Indonesia were able to learn from Bali's integrated coastal management (ICM) experiences during the Bali ICM Workshop: Sustaining and Replicating Bali ICM Experiences held 29 April.

The workshop was organized by the Bali Provincial Government with the objective of sharing Bali's ICM experiences with other local governments in Indonesia as a means to assist them in their respective coastal management efforts. The workshop was highlighted with the official adoption of the Bali Coastal-Use Zoning Plan and the Coastal Strategy Implementation Plan by the Bali Provincial Government, seven Regency governments and one municipal government. A Partnership arrangement for implementing an integrated beach environmental monitoring program was also signed by representatives of BAPEDALDA (Environmental Impact Agency of Bali Provincial Government), Bali Tourism Development Corporation, the academe and the private sector.

The adoption of the plans provided the participating local governments with the opportunity to observe first-hand the various activities that result from implementing ICM. The signing ceremony signified the commitments of local stakeholders to the sustainable operation of Bali's ICM program. In his opening remarks, Bali Provincial Vice-Governor, Kesuma Kelakan emphasized the importance of strengthening legal and institutional arrangements for the sustainability of Bali's ICM efforts.

Ministry of Environment representative Mr. Heru Waluyo stressed the importance of initiating national-level efforts to replicate and expand Bali ICM experiences to other coastal areas in Indonesia. The Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with PEMSEA and interested local governments, will conduct national ICM task force training and will link local ICM initiatives into a national network.



Experts to Gather for Effective Water Ecosystem Management

MASAN, RO KOREA -- The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) of RO Korea and PEMSEA are preparing an international workshop that will gather various water experts together to discuss the challenges of managing interrelated river basins, estuaries and coastal seas.

The Workshop on Ecosystem Management for Interrelated River Basin, Estuaries and Coastal Seas will be held 1-3 June in Masan, ROK. It will be attended by experts from the Seto Inland Sea (Japan), Chesapeake Bay (USA), Bohai Sea (PR China), Jakarta Bay (Indonesia), Manila Bay (Philippines), and Masan-Chinhae Bay (RO Korea).

The Masan workshop aims to identify the major challenges to ecosystem management of interrelated river basins, estuaries and coastal seas, review experiences and lessons learned from the practices in tackling such challenges, and outline response strategies and a mode of implementation for the East Asian region. The workshop will focus on three major areas of concern: a) policy, legal and other institutional arrangements; b) living resource restoration and ecological implications and c) water pollution reduction relating to the integrated management of river basins, estuaries and coastal seas.

The workshop proper will run for the first two days, and will be followed by a half-day field excursion on 3 June to the Masan-Chinhae Bay and Moon Island. The international event is part of MOMAF and PEMSEA's joint endeavor to build regional capacity in the sustainable development of water bodies in East Asia.

As part of the preparations, MOMAF has launched a website on the workshop which can be visited at www.meps.info/pemsea.



Korean Government Officers Visit Xiamen for ICM Capacity Building

XIAMEN, PR CHINA -- Twenty-six senior government officers and coastal management experts from RO Korea visited Xiamen to learn of its experiences in integrated coastal management (ICM). The Xiamen ICM Study Tour was held on 20-21 April and provided the Korean participants a good opportunity to witness first-hand on-the-ground impacts of ICM as applied in Xiamen Municipality and compare it with ongoing ICM initiatives in RO Korea.

The study tour included field visits and briefings on:

- the management of Yuandang Lagoon and the significant environmental, social and economic benefits gained due to its cleanup;
- Xiamen's wastewater treatment situation and plans for the city's use of treated wastewater;
- Xiamen's water use zonation scheme, its benefits and the various use-conflicts experienced and addressed;
- Gulangyu Island, its experiences and benefits in ISO 14001 certification and plans for diversifying tourism activities; and
- beach and road improvements to provide stakeholders with natural amenities that include a scenic view of the beach, greenbelts and parks.

During the conduct of the study tour, the participants learned that the application of integrated legislative frameworks, scientific support for decisionmaking, and stakeholder consensus building were among the key causes of ICM success in Xiamen. The participants also realized that local capacity building is a key factor to better implement ICM plans in RO Korea.

The Korean officials in the tour expressed that the experiences they have learned from Xiamen will serve to enhance their ICM efforts as most local governments in RO Korea have established their own ICM implementation plans.

The study tour was jointly organized by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) of RO Korea and PEMSEA.



PEMSEA Welcomes New Staff

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA welcomes Mr. William Azucena as its new Technical Assistant for Human Resources Development. He joined PEMSEA on 12 April.

William holds a bachelor's degree in Development Communication from the University of the Philippines Los Baños and has previously worked with the Project Management Office of the BIGKIS-Bataan Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Program, PEMSEA's first ICM parallel site.

William will be involved in the development of PEMSEA training materials and assist in the implementation of PEMSEA training programs.



PEMSEA Grieves Lost Friend

PEMSEA friend and stalwart partner Dr. Raymundo S. Punongbayan along with four other scientists and crew members died Thursday 28 April when their helicopter crashed in Gabaldon town, Nueva Ecija Province. They were on a return flight after conducting an aerial assessment on the threat of landslides in Aurora Province.

Dr. Punongbayan concentrated his active public service with his stewardship of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) in 1982 until his retirement from government service in 2002. When Mount Pinatubo erupted in 1991, a timely forecast by a team headed by Dr. Punongbayan literally saved thousands of lives. Even after retirement, Dr. Punongbayan served key roles in various NGOs, academic institutions and providing advice to several major government authorities on developmental policies.

It is a little known fact that PEMSEA's first four months of operations were conducted under the generous stewardship of Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan. In September 1999, as head of PHIVOLCS, Dr. Punongbayan offered the temporary use of the PHIVOLCS building to a then fledgling PEMSEA Regional Programme Office. Long after PEMSEA moved into its newly-renovated building, Ray, as he is known to many, was ceaseless in his support for PEMSEA's efforts in the region.

He is survived by his children Ma. Lourdes Stauro, Ramon Enrico and Julie Andalus.



PEMSEA Participates in the Sea Grant International Roundtable

JAKARTA, INDONESIA -- A PEMSEA representative recently took part in the Sea Grant International – South East Asia Seminar and Roundtable, held on 30 April – 1 May in Jakarta. Other delegates to the meeting were from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand as well as representatives from the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (COOP) and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The seminar's objectives was to identify the feasibility of applying the Sea Grant model. The Sea Grant Model is NOAA's university-based program to support coastal resource use and conservation with specific regard to applied research, awareness building, and public outreach and extension to strengthen the role of universities in support of implementing integrated coastal management .

During the seminar, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) Director General of Coasts and Small Islands represented by Prof. Ir. Widi Agoes Pratikto shared Indonesia's experiences in developing its Sea Partnership Program (SPP) which was based on the Sea Grant Model. SPP-Indonesia was developed to provide a mechanism for addressing implementation gaps between central and local levels, and enhance the capacity of local universities in addressing local development needs. It attempts to build partnerships among the MMAF, universities, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and community groups.

PEMSEA Senior Programme Officer Dr. Jihyun Lee emphasized the importance of linking the SPP initiative with the overall ICM policy framework and discussed the potential role of SPP in Bali. The SPP can contribute to the implementation of the Bali Coastal Strategy, which was officially adopted in June 2002 by local leaders and stakeholders as a policy framework for sustainable development and a platform for stakeholders participation and cooperation.

It was also suggested that to expand the SPP initiative at the regional level, the SPP should identify a specific niche of contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) in collaboration with existing regional programmes and organizations.



Sihanoukville ICM Project Commences Integrated Beach Environmental Monitoring Program

SIHANOUKVILLE, CAMBODIA -- The Municipality of Sihanoukville is implementing an Integrated Beach Environmental Monitoring Program (IBEMP) to ensure sustainable marine and coastal resources utilization and tourism development.

The IBEMP will be initiated with the operationalization of the Sihanoukville Environmental Laboratory (SEL) in May 2005.

Spearheaded by the Project Management Office and the Department of Environment in Sihanoukville, the IBEMP is a major step in consolidating efforts among public and private institutions, such as the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Cambrew Ltd., and the Ministry of Environment, to conduct beach monitoring operations. The parties are currently operating their own laboratories and have indicated their commitments to the IBEMP implementation. As an initial activity, a preliminary briefing on IBEMP in April was conducted during which four sampling stations were identified in the famous swimming area, the Occheuteal Beach. An expansion of the monitoring program to cover other beaches will be undertaken in succeeding months.

IBEMP is part of a broader integrated coastal management (ICM) initiative to sustainably manage and protect the marine and coastal resources of Sihanoukville and complements existing efforts in tourism development and management. The tourism industry remains one of the major sources of income in Sihanoukville, attracted by the beautiful beaches and pristine waters of the Gulf of Thailand.



Xiamen to Host the New PEMSEA Network of Local Governments

BALI, INDONESIA -- The Xiamen Municipal Government, PR China, has offered to host the secretariat of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG). The PNLG is a transformation of the existing Regional Network of Local Governments Implementing Integrated Coastal Management (RNLG) to a new network, that is not only self-sustaining but locally-driven as well. The PNLG concept was adopted in the Bali Resolution on the Establishment of the PNLG on 27 April 2005, during the Fourth Annual RNLG Forum (see related story).

The PNLG aims to put in place sustainable working models for ICM programme implementation. In recognition of this responsibility, the local governments were encouraged to officially commit to adopt a Code of Conduct, including:

- To work towards the development and implementation of institutional arrangements for ICM implementation, including: an interagency, multi-sectoral mechanism to coordinate the efforts of different agencies, sectors and administrative levels. Where appropriate, develop policy and legislative measures to support ICM planning and management, capacity-building programs to enhance required human resource skills and tools, scientific input to policy and planning processes, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with adopted rules and regulations;
- To formulate and implement coastal strategies and action plans that provide a long-term vision and strategy for sustainable development of the coastal area, and a fixed term programme of actions for addressing priority issues and concerns;
- To implement public awareness programs to increase the level of understanding of, and appreciation for, the coastal and marine resources of the area, and to promote a shared responsibility among stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the ICM programme;
- To mainstream the ICM programme into the local government's planning and socioeconomic development programme and to allocate adequate financial and human resources for its implementation; and

- To conduct integrated environmental monitoring and to measure the status, progress, and impacts of management programs against sustainable development indicators, as may be established, and to use the information in decisionmaking, public awareness and participation, and performance evaluation.

The Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), as adopted by PEMSEA participating countries in December 2003, recognizes the vital role of local governments in the collective effort to reverse the continuing destruction and decline of our common heritage. The Strategy challenges local governments in coastal areas throughout the region with the formidable task of reducing conflicting and non-sustainable use of natural resources in their respective watershed and coastal seas, through the application and replication of ICM programs. The creation of the PNLG is in recognition of the region's need to fully respond to the challenges of consolidating and scaling up of ICM practices.

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