

PEMSEA Designates Third ICM Parallel Site

PALABUHANRATU, INDONESIA -- The Sukabumi Regency has been formally designated as PEMSEA's third parallel site for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). In a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed between PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, and Sukabumi Regency Head, Mr. Maman Sulaeman, Sukabumi Regency will implement the ICM framework and processes developed by PEMSEA.

Sukabumi Parliament Vice-chair, H. Abdul Madjid, and heads of various government agencies, NGOs, and concerned stakeholders' representatives were also present at the signing ceremony held on 24 February 2003.

Prior to the signing ceremony, a core group of Sukabumi officials and stakeholders underwent a three-day training on the development, implementation and management a coastal and marine environment project. Bali ICM Demonstration Site Director, Ms. Ni Wayan Sudji; PEMSEA National Focal Point for Indonesia, Mr. Sudariyono; PEMSEA Fellow, Ms. Zulhasni; and former PEMSEA intern, Mr. Alam Syah Mapparessa, served as training course as instructors.

Environmental Risks Identified in Danang ICM Site

DANANG, VIETNAM -- An initial environmental risk assessment (IRA) of Danang's integrated coastal management (ICM) site has identified priority chemical, physical and biological stressors suspected of posing risks to the ecosystem and human health. The IRA, conducted by a multidisciplinary group of technical experts, concluded that adverse changes were occurring in resources and habitats in the area and identified possible causes for the decline.

Declines in aquaculture products were attributed to the deterioration of water quality. Similarly, area decline in beaches, wetlands and forests were identified and were attributed to various land and resource use activities such as reclamation, construction, sand mining, deforestation and tourism development.

The IRA also identified levels of coliform bacteria in beaches, rivers, lakes and freshwater used for domestic water supply which represented a threat to human health. Further were associated with nutrients, organic matter, cyanide and heavy metals including mercury, arsenic, lead and iron in the ground water and surface waters. These findings have raised concerns on the potential risks associated with drinking water and fish products from the contaminated areas.

Oil and grease, nutrients, organic matter, mercury and cyanide in coastal, river and lake waters were cited as priority contaminants of concern to the respective ecosystems. In addition, suspended solids and other heavy metals such as lead, copper, iron, cadmium, zinc and arsenic were listed as "a cause for concern" in certain "hotspot" areas.

The results of the risk assessment will provide a basis for formulating environmental management and policy decisions in Danang including an enhanced environmental monitoring program.

PEMSEA and GPA Ink Knowledge-sharing Agreement

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA and the United Nations Environment Programme – Global Programme of Action (GPA) recently 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.

This new knowledge-sharing partnership includes the joint production of two issues of Tropical Coasts Magazine, and its online distribution; the sharing of good practices through the production and dissemination of case studies on national coastal policy development in PR China and RO Korea; and case studies on good policy practices in Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, the Philippines, PR China and RO Korea. PEMSEA staff will also participate as resource persons in upcoming GPA-organized activities in South Asia.

The agreement was signed by PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng and GPA Coordinator, Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd and shall take effect immediately.

International Network on Ocean Governance Initiated

TOKYO, JAPAN -- Seven international experts who were invited by the Nippon Foundation met here last February 13-14 to discuss a network mechanism for strengthening human resource capacity and research in ocean governance. The invitees included Center for the Study of Marine Policy Director, Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sains of Delaware University, USA; PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng of PEMSEA; Dr. Isao Kioike of Tokyo University, Japan; Dr. Gunnar Kullenberg of the International Ocean Institute, Malta; Dr. Russell Reichelt of CRC Reef Research Centre, Australia; and Institute for Ocean Policy Executive Director Mr. Hiroshi Terashima of the Ship and Ocean Foundation, Japan.

The establishment of an international network of education and research institutions on ocean governance was discussed at length. The idea is to create a mechanism for pooling collective institutional efforts and resources to build a critical mass of human resources for implementing plans of action related to the sustainable development of coasts and oceans. The plans of action agreed to at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) would be a principal focus of the network.

The network will be developed and strengthened through a phased-process and involve relevant institutions. The group shall explore research issues of immediate relevance to ocean governance, including implementation of international instruments, regional cooperation in ocean governance, national policies on exclusive economic zones, and lessons drawn from integrated coastal management practices.

Bali Shares ICM Knowledge and Experience with Sukabumi Parallel Site

SUKABUMI, INDONESIA -- Bali is sharing its knowledge and experiences in integrated coastal management (ICM) with Sukabumi, PEMSEA's newest parallel site in the region.

The signing of the Bali Coastal Strategy declaration, held on 2 June 2002 was an initial opportunity for Sukabumi representatives to witness the successes and experiences in Bali's ICM project. The event gave Sukabumi representatives an opportunity to discuss with Bali's Project Management Office (PMO) various issues concerning the development and implementation of the ICM program. About 40 Sukabumi stakeholders joined a study tour to Bali and visited traditional village groups in Sanur and Jimbaran villages. The Sukabumi stakeholders learned how traditional village groups take active roles in planning, developing and implementing coastal development as well as maintaining the environment of their coastal areas.

A training workshop was also organized by PEMSEA in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the Local Government of Sukabumi Regency, to prepare key project officers who will be involved in the development and implementation of the ICM program. A total of 26 participants from government and non-government organizations joined the training workshop.

The On-site Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Coastal and Marine Environmental Project, which was held 18 – 21 February 2003 also provided Sukabumi with first hand experience. Bali ICM Demonstration Project PMO Director, Ms. Ni Wayan Sudji, shared her experiences in the development and implementation of ICM in Bali.

“We are inspired by Bali's success, and our strong commitment to balance economic development and environmental management to achieve sustainable coastal development,” said Sukabumi Regency Head Mr. Maman Sulaeman.

Tree Planting and Beach Clean-up Initiated in Sukabumi

SUKABUMI, INDONESIA -- Learning from the experiences of Bali stakeholders in maintaining the cleanliness of their Sanur and Jimbaran Beaches, stakeholders in Sukabumi are initiating efforts to keep their own Palabuhanratu Bay clean and green.

A group of local stakeholders called the Palabuhanratu Conservation and Management Team (TP3TP) are implementing tree planting and beach clean-up programs on a voluntary basis. TP3TP mobilizes school children in Palabuhanratu sub-district to plant and nurse trees as well as clean the beach every Friday morning. Aside from providing shade in the recreational facilities along the sandy beaches, the program educates the school children in caring for their environment. The activity teaches children to protect their coastal area and to increase their awareness on the importance beaches play in their daily life. This encourages others to keep the beaches clean.

To motivate the children to take care of the trees, TP3TP plans to hold a competition in the future. TP3TP is also advocating Sukabumi's education sector to include the environment as one of the subjects being taught in schools.

PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, also witnessed the activities undertaken by the local government of Sukabumi Regency in partnerships with TP3TP in building public awareness among the parents and children. Sukabumi Regency Head Mr. Maman Sulaeman and Dr Chua who also planted trees hoped that the implementation of the ICM program would help ensure the sustainability of stakeholder programs already being implemented in the area and to protect and manage Palabuhanratu Bay as a whole.

The WorldFish Center Co-organizes East Asian Seas Congress 2003

PENANG, MALAYSIA -- The WorldFish Center has joined PEMSEA in co-organizing the thematic workshop on “Fisheries and Aquaculture” for the East Asian Seas Congress 2003, slated for 8-12 December 2003. The agreement was reached in a meeting between PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, and WorldFish Center Director-General, Dr. Meryl Williams, last February 18. As co-organizers, the WorldFish Center will invite keynote speakers and paper presenters to participate in the fisheries and aquaculture workshop.

The thematic workshop will focus discussions on the implementation of the fisheries-related issues in the Implementation Plan of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD). The WorldFish Center will play a critical role in developing partnerships towards regional implementation of the WSSD plan for the East Asian Seas region.

PEMSEA's Port Safety Audit Manual Supported by Port Association

PENANG, MALAYSIA -- The 4th International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) Asia Oceania Regional Meeting, was the venue for a presentation of PEMSEA's recently published "Port Safety Audit Manual". The meeting, which was hosted by the Port Klang Authority and attended by more than 60 participants from the Asia-Pacific region, was held in Penang, Malaysia from 17-21 February 2003.

The Port Safety Audit Manual was presented during a workshop session on Port Safety and Environmental Management.

PEMSEA Senior Programme Officer, Mr. Adrian Ross, explained that the manual and associated training course were designed to provide local auditors, i.e., officers and staff of port authorities/operators, with a process and the technical skills to identify strengths and shortcomings in existing policies, procedures and programs concerning port safety and environmental management, and to prepare a plan of action for rectifying any identified gaps or weaknesses. It was emphasized that the manual was aimed to serve as a reference to build in-port capacity to safely handle dangerous cargoes, and to respond to emergency situations in an appropriate manner.

While the manual has been demonstrated as an effective tool in identifying safety and environmental concerns in port areas, it was emphasized that most ports in the region lacked a comprehensive management system covering port safety, dockworker health and environmental management. PEMSEA's ongoing initiative, with the support of IMO, to develop and demonstrate a Port Safety and Environmental Management System (PSEMS) has been introduced to fill this gap. The PSEMS and the associated PSEM Code are voluntary, and may be taken up by any port authority or operator to strengthen compliance with mandatory national rules, regulations and standards and applicable international conventions, codes, guidelines, recommendations and standards of international governmental organizations and non-governmental port industry associations and organizations.

IAPH Secretary-General, Dr. Satoshi Inoue, indicated that the IAPH was supportive of the voluntary PSEMS system, and would be willing to provide technical support in the review of the PSEM Code and PSEMS demonstration projects in the region.

The IAPH is a worldwide association of ports and harbors with members from more than 90 countries and economies throughout the world. Established in 1955, IAPH, whose head office is in Tokyo, has been working for the improved efficiency of ports and the betterment of the welfare of ports at large by bringing together the experience and expertise of each port.

PEMSEA Audit Concludes with Positive Results

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- An external audit covering year 2002 was recently completed on PEMSEA's Regional Programme Office with positive results.

Headed by Mr. T. Theethan, Accountant General (Audit)-II, from Tamil Nadu as Team Leader, and Mr. L. K. Rajput, Team Member, they commenced their audit from 17 February-7 March 2003.

Employing an innovative approach, the auditors viewed the programme beyond the routine bookkeeping of accounts. The audit proved to be a learning experience for them as well. Both expressed their keen interest to see the programme at work at the local level. As the audit progressed, they obtained a better understanding of PEMSEA's activities.

The auditors visited the Province of Bataan, a PEMSEA integrated coastal management parallel site in the Philippines. Mr. Theethan expressed his interest for PEMSEA to replicate its initiatives and experience in his hometown in India.

Bataan Seeks Private Sector Partners for Solid Waste Management

BATAAN, PHILIPPINES -- The Provincial Government of Bataan aims to be the first province in the country to have an integrated solid waste management system aimed at reducing risks to both the environment and human health, and ensure the sustainability of development efforts.

Through its local government units (LGUs), the province is seeking a private operating company with proven technical and managerial expertise in solid waste management (SWM) to carry out the project's objectives through public-private partnership (PPP).

In an investment opportunity brief prepared by PEMSEA, the proposed joint venture arrangement involves the financing, construction, operation and management of a waste collection system; three material recovery and composting facilities (MRF) to serve clustered municipalities; a sanitary landfill for the entire province; and a transfer system to haul residual wastes from each MRF to the central landfill. The SWM facility is expected to service three clusters of municipalities covering 11 towns and one city.

The estimated set-up cost of the project is US\$ 6.6 million, with an annual operating and maintenance cost of around US\$ 879,000. An additional cost to cover eight stages of landfill development is expected to be around US\$ 12 million over the 25-year life of the project.

The investment opportunity brief prepared by PEMSEA indicates that revenues will be generated from two sources, namely: the user fees from households and establishments; and the sale of compost and recyclable materials. The projected revenue in the initial year is expected to be US\$ 2.1 million, and this is projected to grow as the amount of wastes generated increases, and waste collection becomes more efficient. Financial indicators, which include a financial rate of return (FIRR) of 28% and net present value of US\$ 43.7 million (using 10% discount rate and 25-year lifespan), show viability of the project.

PEMSEA is currently seeking interested parties wishing to become a private sector partner for the project. To this end, PEMSEA has provided more information regarding its various investment opportunities in its website www.pemsea.org.

East Asian Seas Congress 2003 Calls for Papers/Posters Abstracts

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA -- The organizers of the East Asian Seas Congress 2003 are calling for abstracts of papers and posters which would complement the various presentations for the International Conference on the Sustainable Development of the East Asian Seas: Towards a New Era of Regional Collaboration and Partnerships. The conference is one of the main features of the Congress slated 8-12 December in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Subject to the review and evaluation by a technical committee, the abstracts of papers and posters should focus on any of the following:

- Progress in joint efforts to address key regional concerns, especially pertaining to the implementation of international instruments and the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- Best practices and lessons learned in the application of integrated approaches to the management of coastal and ocean-related ecosystems and natural resources;
- Obstacles to the effective management of shared waters - actions needed to overcome governance, finance, scientific, communication, and capacity barriers; and
- Regional collaboration and partnerships - developing effective and sustainable regional and subregional mechanisms for environmental and natural resource governance; building intergovernmental, interagency, and intersectoral partnerships at regional, national, and subnational levels.

Specifically, selected papers and posters will be linked to the concurrent workshop sessions 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 policies and regional collaborative arrangements.

Abstracts of papers and posters should be submitted in English, not to exceed 2500 characters including spaces and punctuation, and typed single-space in 12 points Times New Roman. It should be submitted in electronic Word format to the Congress Secretariat at congress@pemsea.org not later than 30 June 2003.

Authors will be informed of the status of their submitted abstracts on or before 31 July 2003.

For more information on the East Asian Seas Congress 2003, please contact:

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PEMSEA Welcomes New Staff

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA welcomes Mr. Thanh Lam Nguyen as the Regional Programme's newest intern.

Mr. Nguyen, from the National Centre for Natural Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam, will be working with PEMSEA for six months. A researcher on the coastal and marine environment, Mr. Nguyen will undergo training in the concept and approaches of risk assessment/risk management and PEMSEA's framework of project development and implementation of subregional sea areas/pollution hotspot projects. He will also provide technical support for the Gulf of Thailand Environmental Management Project.

PEMSEA's professional development program offers selected individuals the opportunity to acquire hands-on experience and develop technical skills in actual program development and implementation. Linkages and cooperation among participating countries are also enhanced through the internship programme.

Previous PEMSEA interns include Ms. Pham Thi Chin from Vietnam and Mr. Oh Seung Kwon from R.O. Korea.

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