



APEC Ministers Endorsed Bali Plan of Action

BALI, INDONESIA -- The Ocean-related Ministers of APEC member countries endorsed the Bali Plan of Action at the recently concluded 2nd APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting held here on 16-17 September.

The Plan of Action is heralded as an important undertaking as it serves as a guide for the ocean-related activities of APEC countries and APEC working groups concerning ocean management. More importantly, the Plan recognizes the need to balance the use of the ocean resources and environment with economic development.

Actions identified in the Plan focus on three main areas: a) to ensure the sustainable management of the marine environment and its resources; b) to provide for sustainable economic benefits from the oceans; and c) to enable the sustainable development of coastal communities.

The Ministers formalized their commitment to implement the Plan of Action through a Joint Ministerial Statement and directed the Marine Resources Conservation Working Group and the Fisheries Working Group to immediately set priorities and to implement the Bali Plan of Action in collaboration with other relevant APEC bodies.

A total of 20 economies attended the Meeting: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, PR China, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, USA and Vietnam. Observers from various regional organizations also participated in the Meeting, including PEMSEA which was represented by Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Regional Programme Director.

The adoption of the Plan of Action is a follow-on initiative to the 2002 Seoul Oceans Declaration, which further strengthens the member countries' resolve in ensuring a better ocean environment for the Asia Pacific. It also complements the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia which was endorsed in 2003 and is being implemented by the 12 PEMSEA participating countries.

The 3rd APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting will be hosted by Peru.



Batangas Developing Provincial-Wide Environmental Management Plan

BATANGAS, PHILIPPINES -- The Province of Batangas is currently developing a Strategic Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) in an effort to strike a balance between economic development, resource conservation and environmental protection through the sustainable application of integrated coastal management (ICM) efforts.

The SEMP is being designed to directly support the Philippine Agenda 21 and the Philippine National Development Plan by adopting and utilizing a community-centered and multi-sectoral approach in the management of natural resources.

The SEMP envisions Batangas to be “a socially and economically developed community of responsible citizenry committed and empowered to be good stewards of our environment and natural resources. Its mission is to mobilize partnerships and strengthen capability among the local government units, national government agencies, private sectors, nongovernmental organizations, volunteer groups, social/civic organizations and coastal community and residents for sustained integrated coastal management.”

To attain the goal of sustainable development for the province, the SEMP shall focus on the following objectives:

- Strengthening multi-stakeholder participation by establishing institutional mechanisms that will encourage mobilization and capacity building of communities, organizations, and agencies in the sustainable integrated management of the province’s bay-regions;
- Improving management of municipal solid wastes and industrial and agricultural wastes, thereby minimizing their pollution impacts on the bays and other water bodies in the province;
- Restoring and managing the province’s terrestrial, coastal marine and freshwater habitat and ecosystems and conserve its biodiversity for the benefit of the present as well as the future population of Batangas;
- Protecting and managing groundwater and surfacewater resources of the province’s bay-regions; and

- Protecting the fishery resources of the province that will ensure food security.

The implementation of the SEMP will initially cover a 15-year period from 2005 to 2020 with the first year focusing on organizing multi-stakeholder participation, establishing information and management systems and the initial implementation of some programs and projects.

The plan is expected to be finalized and adopted by the province for implementation in the last quarter of 2005.



Chonburi Builds Conservation Awareness with Seagrass and Cage Culture Activities for Youth and Community Leaders

CHONBURI, THAILAND -- A series of training programs and field activities on marine and resource conservation for community leaders and the youth were conducted in Sriracha Municipality in Chonburi Province. The programs helped increase environmental awareness among local youth and community leaders and enhanced skills in seagrass transplantation and fish cage culture activities.

The Training on Seagrass Transplantation and Cage Culture of Local Economic Fish in Sriracha Bay was held on 7 July and was participated by 75 stakeholders composed of administrators, community leaders and fishers of Sriracha. A second training was held for Sriracha's youth on 20 July where over 75 youths from five municipal schools in Sriracha Municipality (Sriracha, Bansrimaharacha, Darasamuth, Watratniyomtham and Duangmanee) participated.

The series of training were part of a series of activities organized by Sriracha Municipality to initiate comprehensive efforts to conserve, protect and restore the marine and coastal resources in the Sriracha Bay area. The activities are characterized by stakeholder education and participation, cross-sectoral cooperation and development and application of sound technical information to support well-informed coastal management. The trainings were implemented through collaborations between Sriracha Municipality, Sriracha Fisheries Research Station, Kasetsart University, local fishers and municipal schools.

As part of the training exercise, actual seagrass transplantation was undertaken. This kicks off a one-year activity that will involve monthly transplantation of two species of seagrasses, *Enhalus acoroides* and *Halodule uninervis*, from healthy beds in Khung Kraben Bay, Chanthaburi and Prasae River mouth area, Rayong to selected sites at Sriracha Bay. The transplanted plots will be continuously monitored for the growth and survival of seagrasses. Further studies will also be done to investigate the improvement of local fisheries through questionnaires about catch yields after the transplantation and restoration of the seagrass beds.

Stakeholders believe that the restoration of seagrasses in Sriracha Bay will not only gain ecological benefits but economic benefits as well through coastal protection, increased

environmental quality, and a higher yield for small-scale fishers since seagrass beds provide a healthy environment for local fish stocks. Moreover, the project will serve as a demonstration project to enhance public awareness on the importance of seagrass beds for coastal areas and later promote participation of local people and communities.

The fish cage culture training provided information and techniques for local fishers to create alternative livelihoods and further develop local fisheries through mariculture, while taking into consideration the environmental sustainability of these activities. The culture of local fish species (leather jacket and spinefoot) is expected to lead to further management and development of sustainable fisheries in the Sriracha coastal area.



IAEA – PEMSEA Explore Collaborative Arrangements

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- A series of meetings between PEMSEA and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to explore collaborative arrangements between the two agencies was held at the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office in August.

IAEA officials visiting the Philippines to review ongoing technical cooperation projects in the country met, on different occasions, with PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, to establish possible partnerships and obtain evaluative evidence of best practices and relevant experiences from completed and ongoing activities that IAEA can take as feedback for its future programming. IAEA's projects in the Philippines are coordinated through the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) with which PEMSEA cooperates on several activities including the Manila Bay Environmental Risk Assessment and Integrated Environmental Monitoring Project.

At the meetings, Dr. Chua highlighted the success of PEMSEA through intergovernmental, interagency and intersectoral partnerships, paving the success of the East Asian Seas Congress in December 2003 where Ministers of the 12 PEMSEA participating countries adopted the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia at the Ministerial Forum through the signing of the Putrajaya Declaration.

IAEA, through the RCA Regional Office (RCARO), expressed interest to be a co-sponsor of the EAS Congress 2006 which will be hosted by PR China in Haikou, Hainan Province, and to organize a workshop on Radio-isotope Technology for Coastal and Ocean Management. IAEA also expressed interest to partner with PEMSEA and participate in the activities of the region in its follow-on phase, an opportunity welcomed by PEMSEA.

IAEA Officials who visited PEMSEA are Dr. Reyad Kamel, Programme Management Officer, Messrs. Dalibor Kysela and Katsumi Hirosho, and Dr. Carlito Aleta, Special Advisor of RCARO.



PEMSEA Welcomes New Staff

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA welcomes Ms. Anne Caillaud, Ms. Daisy Padayao, Ms. Kristine Joy Solito and Ms. Zheng Yanling as new staff.

Ms. Caillaud and Ms. Zheng both join PEMSEA as its newest Interns. Ms. Caillaud will review the essential framework elements and key processes in integrated coastal management (ICM) and assess their applications at the municipal level in achieving sustainable coastal development. She will also review the requirements of the environmental management system (ISO 14001) and assess how these requirements could be met by ICM.

Ms. Zheng will learn of PEMSEA's approaches on the establishment and operationalization of the PEMSEA Network of Local Government for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG) and will likewise work in developing the PNLG and Xiamen ICM websites.

Ms. Padayao is Technical Assistant for Research. She will conduct data gathering and analysis as part of a research study investigating the transboundary impacts of the national economic activities and the tradeoffs between economic development and ecological benefits.

Ms. Solito joins PEMSEA as an Encoder and will assist in the completion of the PEMSEA regional database of experts and organizations operating or working in the East Asian Seas region.



New PEMSEA-Plymouth Partnership to Enhance Knowledge Sharing in Coastal and Marine Management

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA, Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) and Plymouth Marine Applications Ltd. (PMA) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance collaboration and share experiences and knowledge in the sustainable use and management of coastal and marine areas.

The new partnership includes mutual collaboration on organizing conferences, seminars, workshops and site visits to build awareness and understanding in integrated coastal and marine planning and management; share experiences and lessons learned with national and local government agencies of PEMSEA participating countries; identify opportunities for staff exchange; and build awareness through website linkages.

The MOU was signed by PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng; Plymouth Marine Laboratory Director, Mr. Henry Durowse; and Plymouth Marine Applications Ltd. Director, Professor Nicholas J.P. Owens.

Based in the United Kingdom, PML is a collaborative center of the Natural Environment Research Council and was created to carryout fundamental, core strategic and applied research on issues of global change and sustainability. PMA is PML's wholly owned trading subsidiary.



SGP and PEMSEA forged partnership to strengthen implementation of Community-Based Coastal Resource Management Projects in East Asia

The UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme and Regional Programme on Building Partnership on Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) forged a partnership agreement to strengthen the implementation of coastal resource management in SGP and PEMSEA participating countries.

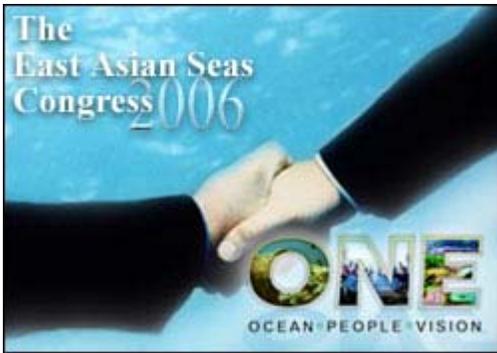
Recognizing the role of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and People's Organizations (POs) in addressing coastal and marine concerns, the PEMSEA-SGP Partnership aims to strengthen community-based support by enabling access to technical services among the existing SGP projects in PEMSEA sites. This mechanism will be done by encouraging the Project Management Office Staff, CBO, PO and/or NGO SGP beneficiaries and National Coordinators to discuss ways by which existing projects can be strengthened and collectively address coastal and marine resource degradation.

Partnership activities will also be extended in the formulation and implementation of new projects in PEMSEA sites to expand efforts in marine and coastal resources management and conservation. This will be done by encouraging partner community-based organizations to identify potential projects for funding through the GEF Small Grants Programme.

More importantly, the partnership strengthens synergy in the implementation of community-based coastal resources management projects by enjoining implementers and the community beneficiaries to come together, share experiences, expertise, information and resources to facilitate more effective implementation process.

Initially, the partnership covers six countries in East Asia where PEMSEA and SGP are operational. These include Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia.

The partnership is based on a joint communiqué signed by SGP Global Manager, Dr. Delfin Ganapin and PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng.



SOA and Hainan to Host EAS Congress 2006

The State Oceanic Administration and the Hainan Provincial Government of PR China have officially confirmed their commitment to host the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2006. National and Local Organizing Committees have been created and are now coordinating with PEMSEA to ensure the efficient preparation and management of the event. The EAS Congress 2006 will be held in Haikou City in Hainan Province on 12-16 December 2006.

With this development, interest in the Congress is expected to increase. This early, 33 organizations and 35 individuals have confirmed their official roles as Partner Organizations and Advisors, respectively. The Partners and Advisors will lend both institutional support and technical expertise in developing a dynamic and meaningful Congress Programme. More partnerships are expected to develop in the coming months.

As a special feature of the Congress, the Secretariat has adopted an innovative participatory approach in developing the Congress Programme to make sure that the topics, formats and discussions will be tailored to the needs of the participants. A Consultation Process has been created for partner organizations, advisors and delegates to solicit useful suggestions and comments on how to enhance the present Congress Programme.



Sriracha Strengthens Local Capacity in Oil Spill Prevention and Management with Volunteer Group

SRIRACHA, THAILAND -- Sriracha Municipality in Chonburi Province has established the Marine Environment Protection Volunteers (MEPV) to play a key role in providing central government agencies with much needed local support in oil spill prevention and management initiatives.

The MEPV was established during an orientation meeting on 24 August which saw the participation of over 120 individuals comprising of fishers from the municipalities of Muang Chonburi, Saensuk, Sriracha, Bangphra, Angsila, Laemchabang, Koh Srichang, Chaophrayasurasak and Bangsalae and officers from the Sriracha Municipality Disaster Prevention and Relief Section.

To further enhance the capacity of MEPV members, Sriracha Municipality in cooperation with the Marine Department, the Environmental Preservation Association of the Oil Industry Group and the PEMSEA Chonburi Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Project organized a Training Workshop on Oil Spill Impacts and Cleanup Techniques on 26 August. The workshop provided MEPV members with increased knowledge, awareness and techniques in marine environmental protection activities, particularly on oil spill mitigation. The workshop included a demonstration of shoreline cleanup techniques that the MEPV members can realistically apply. The workshop also resulted in the formulation of a draft action plan for the MEPV activities and the identification of the MEPV initial activities.

Parallel efforts to establish an information center for oil spill and environmental data are currently being undertaken.

These activities are part of the municipality's efforts in implementing its coastal strategy in response to the growing concern over the increasing number of shipping activities and volume of oil passing through the Sriracha area as a result of a major government effort to transform the area into a major oil business center with stockpiling and fuel refining facilities.



University Students Practice Civic Consciousness with Manila Bay Cleanup

MANILA, PHILIPPINES -- Over 3,500 officials, faculty members and students of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines conducted a coastal cleanup along the Baywalk area of the Manila Bay on 26 August. The cleanup was organized as an activity under the National Service Training Program (NSTP), a government-enacted program conducted in all tertiary schools aimed at enhancing civic consciousness among the youth.

Equipped with rakes, shovels and collection sacks, the volunteers collected a significant amount of shoreline garbage enough to fill six dump trucks. The cleanup was also a preparatory activity conducted in line with the Annual International Coastal Cleanup held every 3rd Saturday of September.

The cleanup was conducted with the support of the City Government of Manila, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Galing Pilipino Movement, the Philippine Coast Guard, the 106th Squadron of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, and PEMSEA's Manila Bay Environmental Management Project.

The activity serves as a good start in nurturing volunteerism, a sense of ownership and awareness among the youth on the need to improve the environmental condition of the Manila Bay.