

Sihanoukville Signs Up for Sustainable Coastal Development

SIHANOUKVILLE, CAMBODIA -- The Sihanoukville Declaration for Sustainable Coastal Development was formally presented and approved by stakeholders in a declaration ceremony held on 5 June during the World Environment Day celebration at Independence Beach of Sihanoukville. More than 1,000 representatives from local and national government agencies, international organizations, the private sector, and local communities witnessed the signing ceremony, which signified the stakeholders' concern for the environment.

The Sihanoukville Declaration for Sustainable Development was signed by H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Ministry of Environment Minister; H.E. Say Hak, Sihanoukville Governor; and the Governors of Mittapheap, Prey Nup and Stung Hav Districts. The declaration called for partnerships among stakeholders in the implementation of the Sihanoukville Coastal Strategy for the sustainable development of the province.

In his opening speech, Governor Say Hak emphasized that environmental protection and conservation is an important strategy for poverty reduction of Cambodian people.

The Sihanoukville Coastal Strategy was developed through concerted efforts of local stakeholders during various levels of consultation workshops held in collaboration with PEMSEA.

The strategy captures the people's vision of a "clean, pristine, healthy and peaceful environment" for the coastal areas of Sihanoukville, and identifies the strategies and actions for realizing that common vision. It will serve as the guide to agreed goals for socioeconomic development and environmental conservation of Sihanoukville

Former Philippine President Will Address East Asian Seas Congress 2003

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos will be a keynote speaker at the East Asian Seas Congress 2003 to be held 8 to 12 December 2003 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Congress will feature the Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia and 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 Environmental Investments Roundtable.

The East Asian Seas Congress is organized by PEMSEA and the Department of Environment Malaysia and hosted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment Malaysia. Workshop co-organizers include the International Maritime Organization, United Nations Environment Programme – Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, Ship and Ocean Foundation, UNDP-GEF Regional Service Centre, and the WorldFish Center.

“Our concern over the seas of East Asia is one that is timely and very much necessary in today’s global environment. It is imperative that we work together on issues concerning our natural resources, especially water, if we are to ensure a better life for future generations,” Former Pres. Ramos said. He is Honorary Advisor to the Congress.

Organizations which have expressed support for the Congress include the: Association of South East Asian Nations; International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association; International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited of the United Kingdom; Malaysia Institute for Maritime Affairs; Philippine Center for Marine Affairs; and the Victorian Coastal Council. More organizations are expected to support the Congress.

Stakeholders from various sectors of the PEMSEA participating countries - Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, PR China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, are expected to participate in the Congress.

For more information, visit <http://way.to/seascongress> or e-mail congress@pemsea.org.

IRA Results Raise Concern in Southeastern Coast of Bali

BALI, INDONESIA -- An initial environmental risk assessment (IRA) report on the Southeastern coast of Bali revealed physical and biological stressors suspected of posing risks to the ecosystem and human health. The IRA, conducted by a technical working group composed of representatives from different sectors from the Province of Bali concluded that adverse changes were occurring in resources and habitats in the area and identified possible causes for the decline.

The risk assessment findings revealed the following threats:

- Physical destruction and large scale collection have placed mangroves and coral reefs at risk;
- Water contamination by E. Coliform bacteria particularly in Gianyar Regency and Sanur (Denpasar City) which are located near two major rivers, pose a human health risk;
- High concentrations of phosphate and nitrate in coastal areas caused by domestic and commercial wastes and sewage may lead to harmful algal bloom posing a priority ecological risk;
- Over fishing and destructive fishing methods have reduced fish catch; and
- Erosion and shoreline changes threaten coastal structures and agricultural areas.

IRA serves as a screening mechanism to identify priority environmental concerns in an area. It identifies gaps and uncertainties, and recommends areas for immediate management intervention or assessment.

In response to these concerns, management recommendations were provided by the technical working group. The report also stressed that collaboration and partnerships between different government agencies, universities and research institutions, local government units, communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector would be vital in the development and sustainability of environmental management programs for the southeastern coast of Bali.

The report was initially prepared during the Training Course on Environmental Risk Assessment held last January 2003 in Bali, Indonesia and organized by PEMSEA.

PEMSEA-IOI Forging Partnerships

The signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between PEMSEA and the International Ocean Institute (IOI) will be the highlight of the Ninth Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of PEMSEA, which is scheduled from 6 to 9 August 2003 in Pattaya, Thailand. The MOA will forge a partnership between PEMSEA and IOI to mutually promote integrated marine and coastal management and sustainable development through national capacity building.

The PSC meeting will be organized by the Royal Government of Thailand with government delegates from 12 PEMSEA participating countries as well as representatives of regional and international agencies and organizations. Among others, the meeting will discuss the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, the East Asian Congress 2003, and the agenda for the Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia scheduled for 12 December in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The PSC meeting serves as a vehicle to review in-country progress on ICM national demonstration/parallel sites as well as subregional sea areas and pollution hot spot sites. The representatives from the countries will also discuss lessons learned and impacts from PEMSEA activities, including the development of a long-term, self-sustaining mechanism for regional collaboration and environmental management. After the meeting, participants will join a field trip in Chonburi Province and observe environmental initiatives of the local government.

Private Sector Expresses Interest in Environmental Investments

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Eight private companies submitted Expressions of Interests (EOIs) to be private sector partners for financing, developing, and implementing integrated solid waste management systems in the Provinces of Bataan and San Fernando City in Pampanga.

The eight companies interested in the integrated solid waste management system in Bataan include: Lacto Asia and Pacific; Leverage International and Ambiente; PRO Environment Consortium; Leighton Contractors; Greenline Onyx; Aliron International and Environment Resources Group; Maunsell; and Multinational Investment Bancorporation. The project will involve a joint venture arrangement for financing, construction and operation of a waste collection system, a centralized sanitary landfill to serve the whole province, three material recovery facilities (MRF's) to serve clustered municipalities, and a transfer system to haul residual wastes from each MRF to the landfill.

For the City of San Fernando, six companies submitted EOIs for the material recovery facility, transfer station and haulage system in the area. These include: Lacto Asia and Pacific; PRO Environment Consortium; Leighton Contractors; Greenline Onyx; Aliron International and Environment Resources Group; and Maunsell.

Representatives of the above companies witnessed the opening of the envelopes containing the EOIs which was conducted at the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office last 31 May 2003. Mr. Alfredo Dayrit from the Solid Waste Management Board and Mr. Armin Feliciano from the Office of the Mayor represented San Fernando City while William Azucena, a designated member of the Technical Committee, represented the Province of Bataan. Others present included Mr. Adrian Ross, PEMSEA Senior Programme Officer, and staff of PEMSEA's Sustainable Financing Unit.

Discussions on issues concerning the projects in both sites, which included the collection system of garbage, waste segregation, users fee and willingness to pay for services, composting of materials, landfill and issuance of the environment compliance certificate (ECC) were also held with copies of the schedule for the private partner selection were distributed to the company representatives. The local Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee and Solid Waste Management Board in the two sites will review and evaluate the submitted EOIs and company profiles. Qualified companies will be notified on the outcome of the evaluation on June 16, 2003.

Early last month, PEMSEA organized an Investors Roundtable on Environmental Investment Opportunities in the Manila Bay Area to provide a venue for learning about potential environmental investment projects. The event was co-organized with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Management Association of the Philippines, and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Over 100 participants from the private sector and government agencies attended the Roundtable, where interested companies were asked to submit EOIs to be included in the selection process for the eventual selection of the private sector partner.

Media Tours Batangas Bay

BATANGAS CITY, PHILIPPINES -- About 20 representatives from print and broadcast media organizations participated in a tour along Batangas Bay recently which was organized by the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) of Batangas. The bay tour aimed to strengthen partnerships between the Provincial Government of Batangas and the mass media, to develop awareness, and to motivate media groups to take action and help stop the further degradation of the marine environment.

“Media's participation is a sign that environmental issues and activities concerns media practitioners who can help in the promotion, information dissemination and public awareness on environmental issues” Engr. Evelyn Estigoy, Environment and Natural Resources Officer (ENRO) of Batangas explained.

The bay tour coincided with the simultaneous coastal clean up by residents of the 33 coastal barangays of the municipalities of Mabini, Bauan, San Pascual, Batangas City, Verde Island and Tingloy in Maricaban Island.

“We clean the beach regularly, and it’s good to know that other towns are now becoming active in cleaning their coastal areas”, said Irma Almarez, resident of Bauan, Batangas. The coastal clean up was done in collaboration with the Provincial and local government units, the Batangas Coastal Resource Management Foundation (BCRMF), and the barangay residents.

"After the success of this year’s clean up, we plan for a bigger mobilization, and with the simultaneous cleaning up of the whole coastal area of the Batangas Province,“ Estigoy added.

Batangas Bay is a demonstration site for the implementation of an integrated coastal management program, with support from the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA).

PEMSEA Teams Up with EMECS 2003 to Focus on Gulf of Thailand Environmental Management

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA will organize a special session on the Gulf of Thailand during the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS) 2003 Conference which will be held on 18 November 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand. The special session will provide a forum for the sharing of experiences on good practices and working models for managing transboundary environmental management issues.

The theme for EMECS 2003 Conference special session is: "Evaluation of management efforts on transboundary issues in shared waters," specially in the subregional seas --Gulf of Thailand, Seto Inland Sea, Manila Bay, and Bohai Sea".

PEMSEA, one of the organizers of EMECS 2003 has invited, among others, the following speakers: Prof. Twesukdi Piyakarnchana, Chulalongkorn University Environmental Research Institute Board of Director; Dr. Anond Snidvongs, South East Asian START Regional Center Director; Mr. Renato Cruz, Manila Bay Environment Management Project Director; Dr. Supichai Tangjaitrong, Chulalongkorn University Department of Marine Science Head; and Dr. Gao Zhiguo of China Institute of Marine Affairs.

EMECS is an international network involved in issues on the management and preservation of the world's enclosed coastal seas. The conference is being organized by Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Chulalongkorn University; The International EMECS Center; PEMSEA; EAS/RCU UNEP; The Royal Institute of Thailand; Kasetsart University; and the Asian Institute of Technology.

For more information about EMECS 2003, visit the conference website at www.emecs2003.com.

Protection, Participation and Awareness: Klang Coastal Management

KLANG, MALAYSIA -- A series of public awareness events fully supported by at least 19 government institutions and the private sector, enabled the Project Management Office (PMO) of the national integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration site in Port Klang to showcase the ICM project and impart values of coastal/marine resources and responsibilities of stakeholders.

The Water and Drainage 2003 Exhibition and Conference held on 28-30 April 2003 brought together experts to discuss water and drainage-related issues including water supply and conservation, pollution and sewerage, management and regulatory frameworks. An estimated 4,500 people attended the three-day event. The PMO set-up its exhibit and distributed information materials on ICM and held discussions among professionals participating in the event, answering questions on the ICM project.

On 3-6 April 2003, the Kolej Industri Pendidikan Negeri Selangor (INPENS) College Youth Convoy Across Selangor 2003 was held to promote INPENS College, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, and other relevant organizations. The PMO set up a booth at Pantai Morib in Kuala Langat. Over 150 participants and 200 local participants visited the booth and received information on ICM.

A water festival in conjunction with the investiture of the Honorable Sultan of Selangor was held from 14-16 March 2003. The event was inaugurated by Dato Seri Br. Mohamad Khir Bin Toyo, Selangor Chief Minister and sponsored by Majlis Perbandaran Klang (MPK). Around 1,500 people attended the three-day event. The PMO also participated in the event, providing materials on ICM.

The above events resulted in the following:

- Communication of information to all stakeholders concerning ICM as a process for achieving sustainable development;
- Mobilization of multi-sectoral stakeholder participation in environmental management of coastal areas; and
- Facilitation of information sharing among stakeholders.

The natural environment of the coastal areas of Klang and Kuala Langat are under threat from many sources, including pollution from land and sea-based activities, indiscriminate and improperly planned coastal development, over fishing and destruction of natural habitats.

The State Government of Selangor is playing the lead role in the implementation of the ICM demonstration project in the Klang. In collaboration with local stakeholders, and with PEMSEA support, the State Government is implementing a management program in

Klang focused on land-sea use planning, sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, environmental protection, and mitigation of pollution problems.

Congress Conference Papers to be Published in International Journal

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Selected papers presented at the International Conference on the Sustainable Development of the East Asian Seas: Towards a New Era of Regional Collaboration and Partnerships, will be published in the *Ocean and Coastal Management Journal*, an international journal dedicated to the study of all aspects of ocean and coastal management. The journal is published 12 times a year by Elsevier Science Ltd. The papers presented at the conference will undergo a peer review prior to selection and publication.

The international conference is one of the features of the East Asian Seas Congress 2003 which will be held from 8 to 12 December 2003 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Interested individuals/organizations have until June 30 to submit abstracts of papers and posters. Subject to the review and evaluation by the conference organizers, the abstracts of papers and posters should focus on any of the following:

- 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;
- Regional collaboration and partnerships - developing effective and sustainable regional and sub-regional mechanisms for environmental and natural resource governance; building intergovernmental, interagency, and intersectoral partnerships at regional, national, and sub national levels; and
- 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 the environment and sustainable development.

Selected papers will be presented during 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 in English, not to exceed 2500 characters including spaces and punctuation, and typed single spaced in 12 points Times New Roman. Abstracts should be submitted in electronic Word format to the Congress Secretariat at congress@pemsea.org or jhlee@pemsea.org. Authors will be informed of the status of their submitted abstracts on or before 31 July 2003.

The East Asian Seas Congress 2003 is being organized by the GEF/UNDP/IMO Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the Department of Environment Malaysia. It is hosted by the Ministry of Science,

Technology and the Environment Malaysia. Workshop co-organizers include the International Maritime Organization, United Nations Environment Programme-Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, Ship and Ocean Foundation, the United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility Regional Service Center, and the WorldFish Center.

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Sihanoukville Technical Staff Undergoes Training at PEMSEA

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Mr. Sothou Sang, Technical Staff of PEMSEA's Sihanoukville integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration site in Cambodia, will undergo training at the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office (RPO) from 1 July to 20 December 2003.

Mr. Sang's training will focus on Integrated Information Management Systems development. As part of this training, he will assist in identifying the mechanisms for developing institutional arrangements and environmental monitoring, and in the preparations for Cambodia's participation to the 3rd Forum of the Regional Network of Local Governments Implementing Integrated Coastal Management – an event which is part of the East Asian Seas Congress 2003 to be held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2003.

Mr. Sang's training at the RPO will provide him opportunities for wider exposure to PEMSEA activities, as well as hands-on experience in project development and implementation in relation to the Sihanoukville ICM project.

Selected RNLG Papers Now Online

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- The summaries of selected papers presented during The Second Forum of the Regional Network of Local Governments Implementing Integrated Coastal Management (RNLG) held on 20-21 September 2002 in Xiamen, PR China are now available online.

The information can be located at www.pemsea.org. The RNLG site also features graphics featuring information of PEMSEA's parallel and demonstration sites located in Cambodia, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Ro Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Second RNLG was aimed to provide a venue for local governments of the PEMSEA participating countries to evaluate progress, achievements, constraints and lessons learned in ICM program development and implementation in their respective demonstration and parallel sites. The forum was organized by PEMSEA, in cooperation with the State Oceanic Administration of PR China and hosted by the Municipal Government of Xiamen, PR China.

DENR Secretary Visits PEMSEA Regional Office

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Secretary Elisea Gozun of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently visited PEMSEA's Regional Programme Office to obtain a first hand information on the programme. The DENR is PEMSEA's host institution and has been an active partner in PEMSEA activities in the region.

During her visit, Secretary Gozun expressed her appreciation for PEMSEA's continuing efforts towards sustainable environmental development. She assumed office on 15 December 2002.

PEMSEA “One-Stop” Information on East Asian Seas Now Online

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA recently launched in its website a “One-stop Information Resource Center on the East Asian Seas” at <http://pemsea.org> or <http://way.to/eastasia> .

The site aims to provide comprehensive profiles of the countries in the region as these relate to their coastal and marine resources. Information is presented in tables, graphs, and illustrations, as well as feature articles. Web links are also provided, making the page a one-stop web site for information on the East Asian Seas.

Other features include reference materials found in the PEMSEA library, and listings of PEMSEA published materials, both in electronic and hard copy.

The East Asian countries highlighted in the One-stop Information Resource Center include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, PR China, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

PEMSEA Welcomes New Staff

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Mr. Enrique L. Navarro is PEMSEA's new Conference Manager. Mr. Navarro will be in charge of coordinating the various activities related to the organization of the East Asian Seas Congress 2003.

Prior to joining PEMSEA, Ike worked with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños from 1975 to 1996. He later joined INNODATA Processing Corporation as AVP for Human Resources and Organization Development. He has had various training and management and human resources consultancy stints after leaving IRRI, the most recent of which as International Conference Coordinator for the Annual Meeting of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research held in Manila last year.

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