



**UNDP/GEF Project entitled “Reducing Environmental Stress in the
Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem”**

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**First Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel
for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**
Dalian, China, 4-6 July 2005

Meeting Report

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1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Welcome addresses

- 1.1.1 Ms. Hyun-Shin LEE, Programme Manager for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Korea Office, welcomed all participants to the meeting. Ms. Lee gave a brief review of the progress of the Project and described the important work that awaited the members of the First Regional Scientific and Technical Panel (RSTP) Meeting over the next few days. Ms. Lee thanked the Regional Working Group (RWG) Chairpersons and the National Project Co-ordinators (NPCs) for their hard work in the implementation of the project activities. She thanked the National Marine Environment Monitoring Center (NMEMC) of State Oceanic Administration for assisting in the organisation of the meeting.
- 1.1.2 Mr. LI Haiqing, Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation for the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) welcomed all colleagues, working group chairpersons and invited experts to the meeting. He congratulated all the participants of “our project” for the achievements so far under the leadership of the Yellow Sea Project Manager, Mr. Yihang JIANG. He outlined the achievements of the project so far, which included a high-level launching ceremony in Seoul, a very successful 1st meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), and the various meetings of the working groups that had achieved much in preparing for future activities of the project. He stated that during this meeting, a number of important issues will be addressed such as several cross-component issues, partnerships, terms of references for RWGs, and the workplan for the future. All these issues are important for the future of the project. Mr. Li expressed his appreciation to the National Marine Environment Monitoring Center for hosting the meeting in Dalian, and making necessary arrangements.
- 1.1.3 Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH, the National Project Co-ordinator from Korea welcomed all colleagues, Chairpersons of the Regional Working Groups and invited experts to the meeting. Mr. Huh noted that it was an auspicious time for the participants to meet and pave the way forward for project implementation, particularly to sort out the cross component issues. Mr. Huh also thanked the National Marine Environment Monitoring Center for hosting the meeting.
- 1.1.4 Mr. Yihang JIANG joined the previous speakers in welcoming all participants to Dalian for this meeting. He specially thanked all those who had travelled from very far away to the meeting and hoped for a fruitful meeting. He mentioned that the Project Management Office (PMO) is now fully functional, following the recruitment of the last staff member having been finalised. The new Environment Economics Officer will be in the office by the beginning of August, 2005. Mr. Jiang also thanked the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) for the new project office space being provided to the project during this month, and the National Marine Environment Monitoring Center for making excellent arrangements for this meeting on short notice.
- 1.1.5 Mr. Yihang JIANG also thanked the Yellow Sea Partners for their participation and remarked that the meeting was a good mechanism for co-operation and co-ordination.

1.2 Introduction of members

- 1.2.1 The Chairperson invited all participants to give a brief introduction of themselves and the organisations that they represent. A list of participants is included as [Annex I](#) to this report.

2 ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Designation of Officers

- 2.1.1 Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH nominated Mr. LI Haiqing as Chairperson. Participants agreed to the nomination, and Mr. LI Haiqing was duly elected as Chairperson.

2.2 Documentation Available to the Meeting

- 2.2.1 The Chairperson invited Mr. Yihang JIANG to describe the documents prepared by the PMO.
- 2.2.2 Mr. Yihang JIANG informed the meeting that the documents contained two categories which included 'Working documents' that needed consideration by the meeting, and the 'Information documents' that provided background information for the discussion of the issues. Mr. Jiang also mentioned that some of the documents were not able to be finalised (e.g. UNDP/GEF/YS/RSP.6a-e) due to the late receipt of some contributions from the RWG Chairpersons prior to the finalisation and printing of documents before the meeting.

2.3 Organisation of Work

- 2.3.1 The Project Manager introduced the proposed working programme for the meeting, and provided information about the organisation of the meeting.
- 2.3.2 The meeting agreed on the working programme proposed by the PMO. The meeting was organised in plenary, and sessional working groups were formed for specific issues.
- 2.3.3 The meeting was conducted in English.

3 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

- 3.1 The Chairperson invited participants to consider the Provisional Agenda (UNDP/GEF/YS/RSP.1/1) and Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNDP/GEF/YS/RSP.1/2) prepared by the PMO, and to propose any amendments.
- 3.2 The members of the meeting adopted the agenda, without modification, which is attached as [Annex II](#) to this report.

4 REPORTS AND CONSIDERATIONS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

4.1 National Project Co-ordinators' (NPC) Reports and Panel Discussion

4.1.1 The Chairperson invited the NPCs from China and Korea to present their reports on the implementation of the Project activities at the national level.

4.1.2 Mr. LI Haiqing, presented the NPC progress report for China, which he divided into two parts - institutional arrangements and on-going activities.

4.1.3 Mr. LI Haiqing stated that there had been a lot of attention given to the institutional arrangements during the last period, that included:

- The designation of National Focal Point and the NPC;
- The establishment of the Inter-ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC);
- Open-ended national working groups;
- The establishment of a National Project Management Office (established in the Department of International Co-operation at the State Oceanic Administration, and headed by the NPC); and
- The establishment of Local Project Management Offices.

4.1.4 Mr. Li noted that young scientists are being encouraged to work in the National Project Management Office on a part time basis, and noted that local involvement was an integral part of the Local Project Management Office.

4.1.5 Mr. LI Haiqing then described the on-going activities being undertaken to support implementation of the project, which included the establishment of communications with Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the plan for the Project Manager and Mr. ZHU Wenxi to visit DPRK this month to establish formal communication. Mr. Li mentioned that he looked forward to the participation of DPRK in this project.

4.1.6 Mr. LI Haiqing went on to describe several other important activities that had been carried out in support of the project, such as attaining the involvement of NGOs in China. One such NGO is the 'Global Village' based in Beijing. They have been contacted and have expressed a willingness to be involved in the implementation of this project. Mr. Li stated that the Global Village was not able to attend this meeting for a number of reasons, but there had been a positive response and willingness to participate in the future.

4.1.7 Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH was invited by the Chairperson to give his progress report as NPC for Korea.

4.1.8 Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH described the establishment of a Korean IMCC, Inter-Ministerial and National Working Groups for the YSLME, the designation of a National Project Co-ordinator, and the details of institutional co-ordination and arrangements. He listed the project related activities that have taken place between the period of March through June, including: the Official Launching Ceremony for the YSLME Project, the 2nd Regional Technical Meeting, the 1st Project Steering Committee Meeting and the 1st Regional Working Group Meeting-Ecosystem. Mr. Huh also described a number of other activities that the Korean NPC had participated in, including: a meeting of experts on the IOC Capacity Building Strategy (9-11 March, 2005, UNESCO, Paris), an Ecosystem-based Fisheries Resources Management

Workshop (14 April, 2005, Busan, Korea) of which he Chaired, and the 6th IOC/WESTPAC Session (23-27 May 2005, Nha Trang, Vietnam) of which he was also Chairman.

- 4.1.9 Finally, Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH outlined some of the 'out-standing questions to be solved' such as the regional criteria for calculating activity costs, Joint Cruise plan (schedule, parameters, and number of persons to be on board, equipment, etc.), clarification of carrying capacity issues, the responsibilities of each RWG for the collection and management of data and information and overhead issues for the non-governmental implementing agencies such as KORDI and Korea Maritime Institute who are managed on a Project-Based System.
- 4.1.10 Mr. ZHU Wenxi recommended strongly to the meeting that communication with the IOC/WESTPAC should be established, and informed the Meeting that under the invitation of the Chairman of the IOC/WESTPAC, he gave a presentation on the YSLME project to the Sixth Session of the IOC/WESTPAC.
- 4.1.11 In responding to Mr. ZHU Wenxi's recommendation, Mr. Yihang JIANG informed the meeting that communication with IOC/WESTPAC had been established, and the PMO will explore the possibility to co-operate with the organisation, in particular in data and information management, e.g. NEAR-GOOS, and other projects of the IOC/WESTPAC.
- 4.1.12 Mr. Yihang JIANG informed the meeting that in order to provide accurate information to other organisations and projects when the experts give presentations on behalf of YSLME, the **PMO will provide basic presentation slides for use by project partners.**
- 4.1.13 Ms. Hyun-Shin LEE inquired about the main function of the National Project Management Office of China, and how the local government is going to organise the office. She also commented on the usefulness and importance of NGO partnerships and she wished to see a wider NGO partnership facilitated by the Chinese government and not only just the Global Village. On behalf of UNDP, she expressed appreciation to the Chinese government and SOA for their assistance in arranging for the Project Manger's visit to DPRK.
- 4.1.14 Mr. LI Haiqing emphasised the need for local governments to be involved in the project, along with the local communities, in the implementation of the project, and recommended in general, the development of institutional and local governmental networks. He made reference to the 'Global Village' organisation founded in China and recommended that a potential partnership should be explored with this large and important NGO.
- 4.1.15 Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH also supported the idea that national and local governments in the participating countries should be involved in the implementation of the Project.
- 4.1.16 Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH mentioned his curiosity regarding the financial implications if DPRK joined the Project, and whether such a tight project budget could accommodate this.
- 4.1.17 Mr. Yihang JIANG commented that the involvement of DPRK would not pose serious financial implication to the current project budget. In the initial stage, some of the project budget will be used for discussion and negotiation, but the PMO would try to find additional funding to cover the costs of DPRK to implement certain activities.

4.2 Project Manager's Report and Panel Discussion

- 4.2.1 Mr. Yihang JIANG gave the Project Manager's report, summarising the achievements-to-date of project implementation, problems and solutions in implementation, activities that need to be co-ordinated among the Regional Working Groups, and upcoming events.
- 4.2.2 Mr. JIANG mentioned that the first round of RWG meetings were very successful in terms of identifying environmental problems of the Yellow Sea, finalising requirements and the format of data and information, finalising the temporal and spatial scales of needed information, and completing the preliminary causal chain analysis. The joint workshop between the RWG-Biodiversity and WWF/KORDI/KEI Yellow Sea Eco-region Planning Programme (YSEPP) was given particular mention about the agreement to exchange and share GIS data and other information between the two projects. He informed the meeting that an important outcome from the RWGs was the development of mutual trust between the participating countries that will allow effective implementation of the project activities at the regional level.
- 4.2.3 Members were invited to take note on some difficulties encountered in project implementation, and try to rectify these problems as much as possible. Some of the "problems" included inconsistencies in RWG membership, lack of preparation (unfamiliarity with documents) before meetings, a need for more institutions involved in RWGs, lack of response to correspondences, and lack of attention to deadlines.
- 4.2.4 Mr. Yihang JIANG notified the meeting of current and proposed co-operative activities between the Project and regional organisations and projects. The PMO will participate in WWF's Project Steering Committee Meeting for the YSEPP in mid-July, and discuss how collaboration between the two projects could be continued in the second phase of YSEPP. Potential co-operation with Wetlands International, NOWPAP, IOC/WESTPAC of UNESCO, Marine Stewardship Council, PEMSEA, and FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific were also introduced.
- 4.2.5 The Project Manager informed the meeting on discussions held in April between him and the Vice-CEO of Hisense, a Chinese electronics company, to examine the possibility of Hisense participating in and/or co-sponsoring certain activities. This was a first step in involving industries in the Project.
- 4.2.6 Mr. Yihang JIANG mentioned that the PMO will be fully operational within the next two months, with the recent recruitment of an Environment Economics Officer. The Meeting was also informed about:
- the intern programme that will start in 2006;
 - the first e-newsletter was published and distributed in June 2005, and will be issued quarterly; and
 - weekly updates on the Project website.
- 4.2.7 The Project Manager informed the meeting about the organisation and outcomes of the International Waters-III Conference held in Brazil. He showed the Meeting an easy-to-read and attractive example of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) produced by a GEF project in Brazil, which this project should strive to achieve.
- 4.2.8 Mr. Yihang JIANG emphasised the need to produce good quality outputs from the project, especially a scientifically sound Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).

As there is already a high level of scientific capacity in the region to do so, this should be achievable. A comprehensive TDA would also lead into a scientifically-backed management plan for the Strategic Action Programme.

- 4.2.9 Mr. Frazer McGILVRAY from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) mentioned that his organisation had also been invited by PEMSEA to organise a workshop at the East Asian Seas Congress, and this could be an opportunity for the Project and MSC to organise a joint-session.
- 4.2.10 Mr. ZHONG Xiaodong, Deputy Co-ordinator of NOWPAP, mentioned that NOWPAP would probably organise a session on oil spill and emergency preparedness.
- 4.2.11 Members noted the information given by the Project Manager and other participants.

4.3 Chairpersons of the Regional Working Groups' Reports and Panel Discussion

- 4.3.1 The RWG Chairpersons gave presentations on the outcomes from their respective RWG Meetings, and implementation of project activities in their respective components. The Chairpersons mentioned:
- the finalisation of requirements and formats of data and information collection for TDA;
 - preliminary causal chain analyses;
 - areas of collaboration within the project and with other projects and organisations in this region;
 - recommendations to the RSTP; and
 - issues that need to be addressed by the RSTP.

Discussions following each Chairperson's report are summarised below.

RWG-Pollution

- 4.3.2 Mr. WEN Quan, Chairperson of RWG-P, informed the Meeting of three issues to be addressed by the RSTP: 1) cross component issues with ecosystem and fisheries; 2) a need for a general consensus on trans-boundary environmental issues in the Yellow Sea; and 3) a need for marine environmental assessment criteria.
- 4.3.3 Discussions following the presentation addressed issues on inter-calibration and legal matters. Mr. Yihang JIANG mentioned that the IAEA Monaco Laboratory would provide reference material for and organise the inter-calibration exercises. Mr. Wen confirmed that 5 to 7 labs from each country will participate in the exercises.
- 4.3.4 Ms. MA Yingjie commented that China now has many laws addressing various types of pollution, but enforcement is insufficient. Members noted the need to harmonize national and international legislation, as well as laws between the participating countries.

RWG-Fisheries

- 4.3.5 Mr. JIN Xianshi, Chairperson of RWG-F, presented three options for the forthcoming joint surveys, and asked how to get approval of the joint cruises from the

governments of the participating countries. Mr. LI Haiqing suggested that it would be easier to apply as a co-operative project. He also informed the meeting that the approval from the governments will take some time. Therefore, he encouraged the PMO and the Chairpersons of the Regional Working Group to take prompt actions on this matter.

- 4.3.6 In response to Mr. Sinjae YOO's question on whether the fisheries group would inter-calibrate their data, Mr. JIN Xianshi responded that it would not be necessary for the fishery component as the same acoustic / bottom trawl surveys were well established and used by both countries and world-wide.
- 4.3.7 Given the many cross component issues contained in the Project and joint activities, Mr. Wen suggested a need for a method of communication between all Chairpersons to discuss matters related to project implementation. **The meeting agreed that this is an important issue for the implementation of the project activities, and invited the PMO to explore the possibilities to enhance the communication, e.g. an e-discussion group.**
- 4.3.8 There was extensive discussion on the issue of carrying capacity of the Yellow Sea. A sessional working group was established for this issue with participation of the RWG Chairpersons. Upon return to the plenary session, Mr. JIN Xianshi reported that the group had agreed on the use of some methods to assess carrying capacity with which they were satisfied. The focus of carrying capacity assessment will be on fisheries resources, namely the highest possible fish biomass in the Yellow Sea from surveys, with the output from Ecosystem Component's primary and secondary production assessment serving as input for the estimation of carrying capacity in the Fisheries Component. The group reported that it would pursue the goal in two ways: 1) population dynamics approach; and 2) lower trophic productivity - higher trophic level model (possibly ECOPATH) approach.

RWG-Biodiversity

- 4.3.9 Mr. Yoon LEE, Chairperson of RWG-B, highlighted the joint workshop between the Project and YSEPP as an example of regional collaboration. Mr. Seong-Hwan PAE added that there were differences in taxonomic definitions between China and Korea, and that this needed to be sorted out.
- 4.3.10 There was extensive discussion on marine protected areas (MPAs). Mr. Seong-Hwan PAE clarified that the biodiversity component would identify possible sites for MPAs, but not designate them during the life of the Project, as it would be a lengthy process.
- 4.3.11 Mr. Sinjae YOO noted the need to synthesise some of the problems between ecosystem and biodiversity groups, as there were some overlaps, e.g. habitat modifications. He stated that the Ecosystem Component would do a benthic survey, which would contribute to Biodiversity Component's data requirements.

RWG-Ecosystem

- 4.3.12 Mr. Sinjae YOO, Chairperson of RWG-E, suggested that the next North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report could be an area of collaboration between the Project and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), as this project's activities

has many common issues with the preparation of the PICES' report. The concrete ways to collaborate need to be discussed further with PICES.

- 4.3.13 Mr. WEN Quan noted that this group's preliminary causal chain analysis required some common information from the Pollution Component, and agreed to discuss further with the Ecosystem Component.

RWG-Investment

- 4.3.14 Mr. ZHU Mingyuan, Chairperson of RWG-I, highlighted the two pending issues from the RWG-I Meeting: 1) socio-economic and governance analysis; and 2) data and information management (DIM).

- 4.3.15 The main discussion item following Mr. ZHU Mingyuan's presentation focused on the proposal to carry out socio-economic analysis. Mr. Yihang JIANG explained the pros and cons of doing the analysis in an integrated way versus in parallel by each component. Doing it separately by components would be easier to get information and finalise the separate results, but would be more difficult to make a complete analysis and get the whole picture. The integrated method would be harder to get information and the components would overlap in work, but it would be easier to formulate a conclusion for the entire Yellow Sea. This issue was further discussed and finalised during the next agenda item, as was the pending issue on DIM.

- 4.3.16 A brief discussion on stakeholder participation was held. Mr. WEN Quan and Mr. Seong-Hwan PAE suggested some additions to the stakeholder list produced by the RWG-I Meeting. Mr. Jiang informed the Meeting that a strategy paper on public participation would be developed, and would contain more details on the types and methods of stakeholder involvement and target audiences.

- 4.3.17 Following the discussions and clarifications, the meeting noted the information provided in the Chairpersons' reports.

5 INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION OF CROSS-COMPONENT ISSUES

5.1 Fisheries and Biodiversity Component Issues

- 5.1.1 Mr. Jeffrey ARCHER introduced this agenda item, stating that carrying capacity had already been discussed and agreed on during the last agenda item. Members were satisfied with the explanations given by Mr. JIN Xianshi, and there was no further discussion on this matter.

- 5.1.2 There were several pending issues from the RWG-B Meeting. Gene pool analysis was recognised as an important activity, although it was ranked as lower priority in the First Regional Technical Meeting. During the discussion on this issue, members suggested: 1) specific geographical areas or species could be selected for demonstration activities; and 2) available information could be collected and analyses done on the current information.

- 5.1.3 The RWG-B was requested to provide a more specific proposal to the next RSTP meeting that would explain the importance of this activity, suggest ways on how to do it, and ways to reallocate funding for this activity.

5.2 Fisheries, Biodiversity, Pollution and Ecosystem Component Issues

- 5.2.1 Following the extensive discussions under this agenda item, members recognised the many overlapping areas in data collection across the components, and the need to share data. However, some of the data may not be in the appropriate format needed for another component, or the data may be needed to address a different problem or management scheme.
- 5.2.2 As it was difficult to view the overlaps in a clear way during the Meeting, the PMO was requested to produce some matrices showing the overlaps in data requirements and the data to be collected by each group. The PMO will produce three matrices showing the overlaps in perceived problems, historical data review, and joint cruise data collection. The matrices will be circulated to all members for comment, and will be finalised during the second RSTP Meeting.

5.3 Investment and Other Components Issues

- 5.3.1 Ms. Connie CHIANG from the PMO described the extensive discussions that took place during the RWG-I meeting on how the socio-economic and governance chain analysis would be carried out, and presented the two options proposed. It was suggested that although it would be more effective for the socio-economic and governance analyses to be carried out entirely by the Investment Group, given the current situation, the Investment group would provide necessary assistance to experts involved in carrying out socio-economic and governance analysis. The question of how to deal with the governance and socio-economic analysis 1) separately or 2) across the components, was put to the group.
- 5.3.2 Ms. LI Jingmei of the Ocean University of China presented a proposed plan for the socio-economic and governance analysis. She described the necessity for socio-economic analysis, and the different approaches and steps available for determining Benefit Cost Analysis. Ms. Li also outlined the framework for impact analysis and monetary valuation of costs and benefits of proposed actions, the data and information requirements and how it will be collected.
- 5.3.3 Mr. Yihang JIANG stated that the PMO intended to produce guidelines for socio-economic analysis when the newly recruited Environment Economist arrives at the office.
- 5.3.4 Ms. MA Yingjie from the Ocean University of China gave a brief presentation with suggestions on writing the TDA and SAP. She recommended: taking the present condition of the Yellow Sea as a basis - including natural and social conditions; that the SAP should keep in line with State policy and State strategies; and that the Project be harmonious with the international conventions that countries have acceded to and the bilateral agreements that have been signed.
- 5.3.5 Following extensive discussion on this matter **the meeting agreed to continue with the implementation of the activities on social economic and governance analysis as planned by the RWGs. Necessary integrated analysis will be carried out after receiving the results from the regional working groups.**

5.4 Data and Information Management Issues

5.4.1 Following the recommendation of the Regional Working Group for Investment on the location and development of the meta database and GIS database, a sessional working group was formed to discuss this issue.

5.4.2 The sessional working group on data and information management presented the summary of their discussions. **The meeting discussed the recommendations of the sessional working group, and agreed that:**

- **The meta database and GIS database will be hosted in the China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Center.**
- **The PMO will take a leading role in the development of the databases, with input from database development experts.**
- **The members of the regional working groups should be involved in the development of the databases.**
- **The host will be responsible for the daily maintenance of the databases. China and Korea will have equal responsibility for the joint facility, and management of the data in the future.**

5.4.3 **The meeting further agreed that after the termination of the Project, the database will be made available to the participating countries.**

5.5 Joint-Cruise Issues

5.5.1 Mr. Yihang JIANG gave a brief outline of the objectives of the Joint Cruise and the proposals put forward so far. He discussed the concomitant needs of the RWGs with regards to the ship surveys and ocean data collection.

5.5.2 Mr Yihang JIANG noted that the survey would cover the entire Yellow Sea area, but exclude territorial sea areas. He also emphasised that the survey is not intended for scientific research, but to fill the gaps of data and information required for the preparation of TDA. He informed the group that the research vessel, 'Bei Dou,' belonging to the Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute, China, will be used in the survey, and the 4th to 25th January 2006 has been proposed as the first survey period.

5.5.3 In order to prepare a more detailed plan for the survey, a sessional working group was formed to discuss the joint cruise.

5.5.4 Following the discussion of the sessional working group, Mr. JIN Xianshi presented the revised plan for the proposed joint survey.

5.5.5 Mr. Sinjae YOO asked if samples could be taken to Korea after the joint cruise, as both countries should share the data obtained from the survey, and to analyse the samples and inter-calibrate.

5.5.6 Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH shared the view expressed by Mr. Yoo, and noted that the samples taken through the Joint Cruise should be equally shared in principle, by both participating countries, as the YSLME is an international programme, sponsored by GEF and UNDP.

5.5.7 The meeting requested SOA to check the relevant regulations and procedures and provide necessary information to the PMO.

5.5.8 The Meeting agreed that the next steps to take will be:

- a. Mr. JIN Xianshi will produce a cruise plan, including a nautical map showing the sampling stations and calculate the total time needed for the cruise.**
- b. The plan will be sent to PMO and NPCs for review.**
- c. The NPCs will translate the plan into local language for their respective government's approval.**
- d. The plan will be submitted by the responsible experts in both countries to the governments for approval.**

6 YELLOW SEA PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Wetlands International

6.1 Ms. Anna VAN PADDENBURG introduced the work of Wetlands International (WI). Ms. van Paddenburg showed the changes in coastal areas and land use and explained the work of WI in the Yellow Sea area. She recommended that WI and the Project could collaborate on the following issues:

- Status of and stresses to ecosystem. WI offers to contribute to the coastal wetland ecosystem assessment and provide input to the TDA.
- Habitat conservation and vulnerable species. WI offers to contribute to the biodiversity assessment and provide input to TDA and SAP development.
- Synthesis review and development of co-ordination strategies. WI can provide input to TDA and SAP.
- Mariculture production. WI offers to contribute to the assessment of coastal land-use change and provide input to TDA.
- Stakeholder participation. WI is experienced in engaging local community participation in workshops and capacity building on habitat management and integrated coastal zone management.
- Socio-economic analysis. WI has done a coastal wetland ecosystem socio-economic analysis.
- Governance analysis. WI can provide knowledge on international conventions.
- National institutions. WI can assist to increase engagement and support linking of various institutes.
- Financial instruments. WI is also interested in maintaining ecologically sustainable mechanisms.
- Data and information management. WI has experience in using wetlands inventory methodologies, can provide satellite imagery and information on biodiversity hotspots.
- Communication, education and public awareness. WI can assist with publicising the Yellow Sea Project through the WSSD Partnership, enhance capacity through training, and develop and demonstrate public awareness campaigns and prepare materials.

6.2 Mr. Yihang JIANG asked about the availability of the Landsat data, what mechanism WI works through in Korea, and commented that the Project would build on WI's public participation campaign. Ms. van Paddenburg replied that some of WI's Landsat data had been interpreted and were free for the Project to use. A regular communication mechanism is in place via the Migratory Waterbird Conservation

Committee (MWCC). In Korea, scientists from KORDI and the National Institute for Environment Research are involved in WI's activities.

- 6.3 The meeting noted the interesting work carried out by WI, which are complementary to the YSLME project to a very large extent. The meeting instructed the PMO to find appropriate mechanisms to formalise the co-operation with WI, and the best ways to use the outcomes and outputs from WI's project, and the available expertise.

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

- 6.4 Mr. Frazer McGILVRAY presented an overview of the work of the MSC, an NGO working with stakeholders on conserving and eco-labelling of fisheries. He explained the fishery certification process, how it could help in raising public awareness and the benefits it could provide. These include recognition of good fisheries management, heightened management of fisheries, potential for improved returns, potential for new markets, meeting consumer demands, increased confidence in product quality, and support of eco-friendly products.
- 6.5 Mr. Yihang JIANG asked about the difference between MSC and FAO's eco-labelling system and how MSC collaborates with PEMSEA. Mr. McGilvray replied that FAO had developed guidelines on eco-labelling for fisheries, with the involvement of MSC, and that the MSC process is consistent with the FAO guidelines. MSC had been approached by PEMSEA to organise a symposium on marine stewardship and sustainability, as part of the 2006 East Asian Seas Congress. They are still communicating with PEMSEA to finalise details.
- 6.6 The MSC process could assist the Fisheries Component in assessment of fisheries or specific species to show if these are sustainable or whether the management system is appropriate to enhance the management of fisheries.
- 6.7 Mr. ZHONG Xiaodong asked about fees to use the MSC logo. Mr. McGilvray clarified that there was a small fee for the use of the MSC logo, but not for certification. Certification costs are paid to the certification body, and not to the MSC.
- 6.8 The meeting expressed appreciation to MSC, and Mr. McGilvray in particular, for his participation in the fisheries regional working group meeting and this meeting. The meeting noted the management scheme in the MSC activities, and felt that the relevant information should be taken into consideration during the preparation of the SAP. The meeting encouraged further co-operation and co-ordination with MSC.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

- 6.9 Ms. YANG Qin gave a summary on WWF/KORDI/KEI Yellow Sea Eco-region Planning Programme (YSEPP), and highlighted the achievements during this year. She mentioned that mutual benefits could include data and information sharing, inputs into TDA and SAP, sharing of technical assistance in developing MPAs, and sharing of work in developing public awareness materials.
- 6.10 Mr. Yihang JIANG stated that in addition to common technical interests, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding encouraged the Project to expand its partnership. He also wished to know what the YSEPP second phase would entail, so that the Project would have a clearer understanding on how to collaborate with

YSEPP in the future. Ms. Yang explained that the second phase activities would be prepared in mid-July during the YSEPP steering committee meeting.

- 6.11 The meeting expressed its satisfaction with the co-operation with YSEPP project, and instructed the PMO to continue the co-operation in the second phase of the YSEPP, which will be discussed and agreed on during the YSEPP Project Steering Committee meeting in July 2005.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- 6.12 Mr. ZHONG Xiaodong informed the Meeting of the development and structure of UNEP's Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). He mentioned the four regional activity centres located in each of the NOWPAP member countries, the four working groups responsible for each focal area of the programme, and new projects (persistent toxic substances, marine litter from land- and ship-based sources) which could collaborate with the Yellow Sea Project. Once the new activities are underway with some results, NOWPAP will be able to contribute to the TDA and SAP.
- 6.13 Mr. Yihang JIANG stated that NOWPAP had been a long-standing partner of the Project, as it was listed as such in the Project Document. Recently, discussions were held between UNEP and him to continue the collaboration, but a mechanism was needed, and this has to be worked out.
- 6.14 The meeting felt the necessity to explore the possibility to co-operate with NOWPAP, with initial focus on technical issues.

7 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND WORKPLAN FOR 2005-2006

- 7.1 Mr. Yihang JIANG explained that the format of the workplan had been changed from MS Excel to MS Project, which is more efficient for project management. Mr. Jeffrey ARCHER explained some details about the capabilities of the new software.
- 7.2 Mr. Sinjae YOO requested the PMO to provide the workplans to the RWGs in a suitable format for their review (pdf or Excel).
- 7.3 Mr. Seong-Hwan PAE suggested the possibility that a PMO stand-alone version of MS Project could be upgraded to Enterprise Version, to enable the RWG members to access the workplan for review. The PMO agreed to investigate the possibility.
- 7.4 Due to the lack of time to review the workplan, Chairpersons of the Regional Working Groups were requested to review the workplan after the meeting, and send their revisions to the PMO within two weeks.

8 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS (RWGS), NPC, AND INTER-MINISTERIAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (IMCC)

- 8.1 These TORs were briefly reviewed. Due to the time constraint, the Meeting felt that management issues like this should be dealt with at the next RSTP Meeting. The PMO was requested to prepare revisions of the TORs with clearer wording for review at the next RSTP Meeting, and submission to the PSC for approval.

- 8.2 Mr. Hyung-Tack HUH suggested, **and the meeting agreed, that the diagram showing the project structure should have a line connecting the NPCs to the RSTP to show the relationship between the two project entities.** The PMO will revise the diagram during the inter-sessional period, and submit it to the PSC for approval.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 There was no other business.

10 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT RSTP MEETING

- 10.1 The next RSTP Meeting will be held in China, immediately before the 2nd PSC Meeting. Due to the climate at that time of year, it was recommended to hold the meeting in Southern China. The PMO will finalise details two months before the meeting, and inform all members.

11 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT

- 11.1 The Chairperson led the discussion of the draft meeting report prepared by the Secretariat. The report was reviewed, amended, and adopted by the Meeting.

12 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

- 12.1 In closing the Meeting, the Chairperson stated that the cross component issues were addressed at an appropriate time through this Meeting. The spirit of co-operation, patience and flexibility shown by all participants showed that any future issues can be solved. The Chairperson thanked NMEMC for the meeting arrangements, all participants for their hard work, and the PMO for preparations leading to the smooth conduct of the meeting.
- 12.2 Ms. Hyun-Shin LEE thanked all participants for their participation and hard work during the Meeting. She expressed her appreciation to NMEMC and the PMO for the Meeting's arrangements.
- 12.3 Mr. Yihang JIANG stated that the strong science-related discussions during the Meeting was a good sign to produce a scientifically-sound TDA.
- 12.4 The meeting closed on 6th July 2005.

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Annex II

Agenda

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
 - 1.1 Welcome addresses
 - 1.2 Introduction of the members
2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING
 - 2.1 Election of Officers
 - 2.2 Documentation Available to the Meeting
 - 2.3 Organisation of Work
3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA
4. REPORTS AND CONSIDERATIONS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES
 - 4.1 National Project Co-ordinators' (NPC) Reports and Panel Discussion
 - 4.2 Project Manager's Report and Panel Discussion
 - 4.3 Chairpersons of the Regional Working Groups' Reports and Panel Discussion
5. INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION OF CROSS-COMPONENT ISSUES
 - 5.1 Fisheries and Biodiversity Component Issues
 - 5.2 Fisheries, Biodiversity, Pollution and Ecosystem Component Issues
 - 5.3 Investment and other Components Issues
 - 5.4 Data and Information Management Issues
 - 5.5 Joint-Cruise Issues
6. YELLOW SEA PARTNERSHIP REPORT
7. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND WORKPLAN FOR 2005-2006
8. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS (RWGs), NPC, AND INTER-MINISTERIAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (IMCC)
9. OTHER BUSINESS
10. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT RSTP MEETING
11. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT
12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING