



PEMSEA EC Meeting Report 14

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTEENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tagaytay Highlands, Philippines**

**25 – 26 April 2014**



Partnerships in Environmental Management  
for the Seas of East Asia

**14<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting  
 Tagaytay Highlands, Philippines  
 25-26 April 2014**

**Participants**

**Executive Committee Members:**

Ambassador Mary Seet Cheng, Chair, EAS Partnership Council  
 Atty. Analiza Teh, Chair, Intergovernmental Session  
 Prof. Chul-hwan Koh, Chair, Technical Session  
 Dr. Antonio La Viña, Co-Chair, EAS Partnership Council  
 Dr. Zhang Zhanhai, Co-Chair, Intergovernmental Session  
 Mr. Makoto Harunari, Co-Chair, Technical Session  
 Mr. Adrian Ross, PRF Executive Director and Secretary to the EC

**Observer:**

Dr. Won-Tae Shin, representing the Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries, RO Korea

**Resource persons:**

Mr. Ryan Whisnant, Coalescent Services, LLC  
 Atty. Alaya de Leon, Consultant

**PRF Secretariat:**

Mr. Guo Yinfeng, Programme Specialist, PRF  
 Ms. Caroline Velasquez, Executive Assistant, PRF

**MEETING SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Recommendation/Action
<p><b>Summary of Major Recommendations from the 13<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting and Actions Taken</b>  <a href="#">(EC/14/DOC/02)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philippine President Aquino has ratified and forwarded the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) to the Philippine Senate for concurrence. The HQA will be reviewed by the Senate’s Foreign Affairs Committee, which will resume session by May 2014. The HQA is now an agenda item of the Committee.</li> <li>• The Meeting raised its concern on the implication of the gap to the immunities and privileges of some PRF international staff. The Meeting was advised that UNDP supported and endorsed to the Department of Foreign Affairs the issuance of a diplomatic visa to the Executive Director on the basis that PRF is executing a UNDP project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PRF will closely monitor the HQA review by the Foreign Relations Committee and subsequently the concurrence by the Philippine Senate.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Meeting was further informed that with the ratification by the Philippine President, the Government is already bound to abide by the HQA. Senate concurrence signifies the legal formality.</li> <li>• The Chair expressed the EC's appreciation to Undersecretary Analiza Teh and Dr. Antonio La Viña for their efforts in securing the inclusion of HQA in the Foreign Affairs Committee's agenda.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PEMSEA's Progress Towards Becoming a Self-Sustaining International Organization</b>  <a href="#">(EC/14/DOC/03)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ryan Whisnant, Coalescent Services, LLC, presented the highlights of the working paper for this agenda item. (The PowerPoint presentation is attached.)</li> <li>• The highlights of the discussion included:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The necessity to address the US\$262,205 shortfall in the CSA funds to cover the core group operations. While voluntary contributions from the country partners will be pursued, new options need to be explored.</li> <li>b. There is a need to shift the mindset of the countries from the perception of PEMSEA as a GEF project versus a self-sustaining international organization. It is important to underscore to the countries the value of PEMSEA services and the benefits they derive from PEMSEA. It is also important to understand the factors/constraints of countries in contributing voluntarily.</li> <li>c. Executive Committee will meet with country representatives bilaterally during the June 2014 EAS Partnership Council to discuss country perspectives and constraints to voluntary contributions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a priority, the PRF will undertake the development of a strategy, work program, schedule and budget for consideration by the June 2014 EAS Partnership Council, focusing on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a branding strategy for PEMSEA, including clear articulation of its vision, brand positioning and value to its customers</li> <li>b. an endowment fund</li> <li>c. an ICM certification system</li> <li>d. PRF technical services for a fee</li> <li>e. partnerships with the corporate sector and business community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As part of the branding strategy, the PRF will assess the development of an</li> </ul>

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		<p>ICM award, recognizing the contribution of local governments, institutions and/or individuals to ICM application in the region.</p>
<p><b>Audit Committee Report</b>  <a href="#">(EC/14/DOC/04)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Meeting was briefed by the Chair of the Audit Committee, Atty. Analiza Teh, on the Audit Committee Report. The report focused on the results of the audit of 2013 PRF financial statements, which was conducted by the external auditor, KPMG.</li> <li>The Audit Committee was satisfied with the external audit and unanimously approved the PRF 2013 financial statements as audited by KPMG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EC recommended the adoption of the Audit Committee Report</li> <li>The PRF will proceed to solicit and contract an internal auditor by October 2014.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EAS Congress 2015 and Fifth Ministerial Forum</b>  <a href="#">(EC/14/DOC/05)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Vietnam has agreed to host the EAS Congress 2015. The Vietnam government has indicated that the venue and date will be confirmed before the end of April.</li> <li>The proposal to co-convene the GEF IW LEARN Biennial Conference with the EAS Congress 2015 was welcomed and encouraged.</li> <li>The proposed theme of the 2015 Congress, Global Targets, Local Benefits, was seen as highly relevant. The Congress workshops need to focus on the priorities of the region in the context of global targets (e.g., blue economy; living cities; sustainable water supplies; food security)</li> <li>The format and content of the international conference and Ministerial Forum need to be reviewed and revitalized. Interaction and dialogue among participants and Ministers needs to be encouraged and facilitated.</li> <li>PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners should be mobilized in the planning, development and delivery of the EAS Congress.</li> <li>The search for and confirmation of a host country for the EAS Congress 2018 starts now. Indonesia, Japan and Singapore have informally signified their interest. The EC members indicated their willingness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRF will launch a campaign to solicit the participation of Partners, collaborators and sponsors, as soon as the date and venue for the EAS Congress 2015 are confirmed.</li> <li>The PRF will pursue an agreement with GEF IW Learn regarding co-convening the IW conference with the EAS Congress 2015.</li> <li>The PRF will prepare a revised format and program for the International Conference and Ministerial Forum and will present the results to EAS Partnership Council in June 2014.</li> <li>The PRF will provide EC members with the list of Ministers from</li> </ul>

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	<p>to explore hosting the EAS Congress 2018 with the respective countries.</p>	<p>the Country Partners and their portfolios.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PRF will prepare a 2-page document on the roles and responsibilities of the host country and will provide other relevant information, for submission to the EC and potential hosts for the EAS Congress 2018.</li> <li>• The PRF and EC members will look for keynotes speakers and resource persons for the EAS Congress 2015 (e.g., the APEC scheduled meetings in August 2014 (APEC Ocean Ministerial Meeting) and October 2015 (APEC Summit) with focus on Blue Economy).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updating the SDS-SEA</b>  <a href="#">(EC/14/DOC/06)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atty. Alaya de Leon presented an overview of new and amended international instruments related to coasts and oceans since 2003. A plan of action for updating the SDS-SEA was introduced.</li> <li>• The EC expressed concern regarding the limited time available to complete the process of updating the SDS-SEA, setting post-2015 targets for SDS-SEA, and getting consensus among the Partner Countries.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the SDS-SEA update focus only on major issues/gaps in the existing SDS-SEA (e.g., climate change; disaster risk reduction; blue economy) with a view to adding/modifying action programs to address those gaps.</li> <li>• It was further suggested that the SDS-SEA review prepared in 2011 be updated to 2014, in order to establish a rationale for post-2015 targets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PRF will complete an assessment of major issues/gaps in the SDS-SEA, along with the proposed work plan and schedule for completing the updating process, for submission the June 2014 EAS Partnership Council.</li> <li>• The PRF will initiate a project to update the 2011 SDS-SEA review to December 2014.</li> <li>• The PRF will prepare the TOR for a Technical Working</li> </ul>

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		<p>Group, comprised of representatives from PEMSEA Partners and collaborators, for submission and approval by Council. The TWG will be tasked with guiding the development and consensus building process for an updated SDS-SEA and post-2015 SDS-SEA targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRF will target the completion of the updated SDS-SEA and post-2015 SDS-SEA targets for review by the EAS Partnership Council in June 2015, and endorsement to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Forum in November/December 2015.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Project Development in Support of the 5-Year Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2012-2016)</b>  <a href="#">(EC/14/DOC/07)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EC noted the three new projects that have been prepared by the PRF and their status.</li> <li>For the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA project on <u>Scaling up the Implementation of the SDS-SEA</u>, it was noted that there have been delays in GEF review and approval, although the approval process has been completed and the document is awaiting CEO endorsement. Start-up is expected in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014.</li> <li>For the ACB/PEMSEA project on <u>Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through ICM</u>, it was noted that a donors' roundtable will be organized by the CBD Secretariat during the COP12 meeting scheduled for RO Korea in October 2014. This provides an opportunity for the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) in RO Korea, PEMSEA's National Focal Agency, to demonstrate regional leadership in both the Biodiversity Convention and the SDS-SEA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRF Secretariat will seek countries' endorsement of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA project document in June/July, with the objective of project start-up by August 2014.</li> <li>The PRF will consult with MOF RO Korea regarding the possibility co-hosting the donors' round table at COP12.</li> <li>The PRF will explore the possibility of organizing the 15<sup>th</sup> EC meeting in RO Korea,</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the SOA/FIO/PEMSEA project on <u>Developing and Demonstrating a Blue Economy through ICM</u>, it was suggested that the PRF seek consensus among ASEAN Member States and PEMSEA Partner Countries on the substance of proposed project, and facilitate endorsement of the project by Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mobilize political support.</li> </ul>	<p>in order to facilitate EC members' participation in the donors' roundtable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRF will consult with SOA regarding the submission of a blue economy project brief and setting an meeting with SOA and MFA to discuss the project as well as the process and timeline for project submission and approval. The target will be to launch the project at the EAS Congress in November 2015.</li> <li>The PRF will mobilize participation by interested private sector and business community as potential contributing partners in all new projects, and in particular the project on <u>Developing and Demonstrating a Blue Economy Through ICM</u>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PEMSEA Work Plan and Budget 2014 (EC/14/DOC/08)- available upon request</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Work Plan and Budget 2014 was presented. The EC noted that there are a large number of activities to be implemented by the PRF vis-à-vis its allocated budget.</li> <li>The PRF underscored that 25-30% of the budget for the Project Implementation and Program Support Group is allocated to staff salaries and 70-75% is for project implementation. It was further noted that the Project Implementation and Program Support Group are engaged in projects at the local, national and regional levels which contribute to the targets and outputs of the 5-year regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRF will revise the annual budget to better reflect the voluntary contributions being made by countries and annual budget requirements for the PRF Core Group operations.</li> <li>The PRF will pursue the signing of an implementing partner agreement with UNDP.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRF also informed the meeting that discussions were being held with UNDP Manila to facilitate Implementing Partner status for the next GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA project. It is expected that the agreement will be in place before project start-up.</li> </ul>	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> EAS Partnership Council</b> <a href="#">(EC/14/DOC/09)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The provisional agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> EAS Partnership Council Meeting was presented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRF will include PEMSEA branding in the agenda of the Technical Session in order to secure buy in from Country and Non-Country Partners.</li> <li>The provisional agenda was adopted.</li> </ul>
<b>Others</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRF iterated its desire to engage the EC in consultations and strengthening relationships with Country and Non-Country Partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EC agreed to participate in such consultations, to be organized by the PRF.</li> </ul>

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