



Proceedings of the Inaugural Meeting of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council

16 December 2006
Haikou City, Hainan Province, PR China



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF
THE EAST ASIAN SEAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

*GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)*

**Haikou City, Hainan Province, People's Republic of China
16 December 2006**

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**GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in
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1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Haikou Partnership Agreement on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), adopted by 11 countries on 15 December 2006, transformed PEMSEA from an existing project-based arrangement to a self-sustained, regional partnership mechanism with a mandate to pursue the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The Agreement identified the institutional arrangements by which the Partnership would operate, including the establishment of the intergovernmental and multisectoral East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council to provide policy and operational guidance for, as well as steer, monitor and review the progress of, SDS-SEA implementation.
- 1.2. The Inaugural Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council was held at the Huandao Tide Hotel, Haikou City, Hainan Province, People's Republic of China, on 16 December 2006. The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China hosted the Meeting.
- 1.3. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Country Partners, namely, Cambodia, PR China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vietnam; and of the Stakeholder Partners, namely, Conservation International (CI)-Philippines, Coastal Management Center (CMC), Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission/Subcommission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC), Korea Environment Institute (KEI), Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF), Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Limited (OSRL/EARL), Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project (YSLME), and United Nations Environment Programme/Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources (UNEP/GPA).
- 1.4. Thailand participated as an Observer Country. Organizations participating as Observers were Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Marine Resource Conservation Working Group (APEC MRCWG), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Ocean Institute (IOI), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, USA (NOAA), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the UNEP GEF South China Sea Project (SCS).

- 1.5. Representatives of the Sponsoring Agencies, namely the UNDP-GEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and The World Bank participated in the meeting. The PEMSEA Regional Programme Office (RPO) served as the Secretariat for the Meeting.
- 1.6. A full list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

2.1. Welcoming and Opening Remarks

- 2.1.1. Dr. Li Haiqing, Director General of the International Cooperation Department of the SOA, delivered the welcoming remarks on behalf of the host country. He stated that it was an honor for PR China to host the inaugural meeting, a milestone marking a new era in the development of PEMSEA. He referred to the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement the previous day, which demonstrated that the governments of the East Asian region had taken a further decisive step in the implementation of the Strategy and provided a legal and political basis for this meeting. As an innovative mechanism, the effectiveness and success of the Council also depended on the common efforts and implementation of the commitments of all the stakeholders. He reiterated the advocacy and commitment of PR China to support the new regional arrangement by contributing to the operation of the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) Secretariat Services. Saying that he looked forward to cooperating with all partners to fully implement the Strategy, he wished the meeting full success.
- 2.1.2. Dr. Alfred Duda, representing the GEF, began his Opening Remarks by commending the Partners for putting the SDS-SEA with its implementing mechanisms and tools in place by signing the Haikou Partnership Agreement, thus addressing the many challenges faced by the six large marine ecosystems (LMEs) of East Asia. He expressed satisfaction that the other GEF projects in the region were also participating in the programmatic effort, together with the commitment of the World Bank to support implementation through the Partnership Investment Fund. He expressed the hope of the GEF to continue to be “useful,” and requested that the unique experiences and lessons of the partnership-building years of PEMSEA be shared with other regions, particularly through the GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network program (IW:LEARN). He asked PEMSEA to apply its institutional arrangements to other issues affecting the region, such as poverty, the need for safe drinking water and waste treatment, sustainable livelihoods and vulnerability to extreme weather events. He referred to the need to successfully implement the Haikou Partnership Agreement, collectively

taking stock of progress towards the commitments made in the Putrajaya Declaration. Finally, Dr. Duda pointed out that the Partnership Council has a critical role towards monitoring progress, spurring governments to action and providing leadership to their Ministers.

- 2.1.3. Ms. Amelia Supetran, representing UNDP, emphasized the inaugural meeting of the EAS Partnership Council as a significant milestone as it marked the formal commitment of countries and their global partners, including the UN, moving from the 12 years of consolidation of forces and partnerships into the implementation of the SDS-SEA. Ms. Supetran remarked that the establishment of the Partnership signified the coming of age of the integrated coastal management (ICM) movement, which is very significant due to the intensifying challenges in the region. She underscored the importance of cooperation in the management of shared waters, which she was certain would thrive and produce outcomes beyond the realm of our imagination. She invited other stakeholders to join the Partnership. She acknowledged the contribution of an initial group of countries to the operationalization of the Secretariat Services of the PRF, an entity that would be very important to sustain for the long process of safeguarding and developing the region's shared heritage. She invited other countries and Partners to make similar contributions. Ms. Supetran acknowledged the contribution of The World Bank by providing a revolving preparatory fund that would facilitate access to existing financing windows, the lack of which has been a huge barrier to environmental investment flows in the region. She thanked IMO for helping UNDP to steer the PEMSEA project for the past 12 years and expressed the understanding that IMO would continue to stay in the partnership to help countries implement the SDS-SEA. She thanked the GEF for continuing to provide the incremental financial resources needed by the countries, through PEMSEA, to move towards sustainable development and the achievement of global benefits. Finally, Ms. Supetran pledged that UNDP would be with PEMSEA for "the long haul."
- 2.1.4. Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos gave opening remarks on behalf of IMO. He stated that the important step in the development of a new regional cooperation and collaboration unfolding today was the reflection of 12 years of dedicated efforts of the PEMSEA Regional Programme, the support of the countries in the region and the collaboration of the Partners, including GEF and UNDP. He declared the Partnership Operating Arrangements (POA) as a common platform that conferred ownership to the PEMSEA country and stakeholder Partners. The POA would ensure that the inputs and efforts of Partners on the activities of PEMSEA would be harmonized. Therefore it was important to provide stronger support in order to ensure its long-term sustainability and effectiveness. He stated that although IMO was ceasing to be the executing agency for PEMSEA, IMO was proud to have been associated with the Regional Programme and would continue to take an active role in the implementation of the activities within its remit. He expressed the wish for all partners and stakeholders to make all efforts to ensure that the nascent Council be strengthened.

- 2.1.5. The full texts of the Opening Ceremony speeches are provided in Annex 2.

2.2. Introduction of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council

- 2.2.1. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, briefly reviewed the background of the EAS Partnership Council. He described the EAS Partnership Council as a regional mechanism dedicated to the achievement of the shared vision and objectives of the SDS-SEA. He outlined the process by which the Council was established as a part of the regional partnership arrangement to implement the SDS-SEA, beginning with the Putrajaya Declaration (2003).
- 2.2.2. Dr. Chua reminded the participants that the EAS Partnership Council is intended to be composed not only of countries of the East Asian Seas region, but other stakeholders including local governments, communities, research and educational institutions, the private sector, the United Nations and international agencies, financial institutions, and user countries. Currently, the Partners for the Inaugural Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council were the 11 Countries from the East Asian region who have signed the Haikou Partnership Agreement and the 12 Partner Organizations who were to sign the POA later in the meeting.
- 2.2.3. Dr. Chua then summarized the mission of the EAS Partnership Council as providing the policy and operational guidance for SDS-SEA implementation, based on policy direction, recommendations and commitments provided by the Ministerial Forum, EAS Congress, and other Partners, as well as steering, the monitoring and review progress.

3. SIGNING CEREMONY

3.1. Signing of Letters of Cooperation

- 3.1.1. A signing ceremony for Letters of Cooperation between PEMSEA and four new Partners followed. The individual Letters of Cooperation identify the areas of cooperation to be undertaken by the Partner organization with PEMSEA in the next three years for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 3.1.2. Dr. Chua, on behalf of PEMSEA, renewed an old partnership with the CMC, represented by Dr. Rogelio Juliano. Then Dr. Chua also signed Letters of Cooperation with three new Partners, namely, CI-Philippines, represented by Dr. Romeo Trono; IOC/WESTPAC, represented by Mr. Wenxi Zhu; and the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project, represented by Mr. Yihang Jiang.

3.2. Signing of the Partnership Operating Arrangements (POA)

- 3.2.1. The POA signing ceremony followed. The POA provides that stakeholders, who sign on to the POA, are Partners and will convene and

participate in the EAS Partnership Council together with the government signatories of the Haikou Partnership Agreement.

- 3.2.2. The Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Stella Regina Bernad of PEMSEA, informed the meeting that 12 PEMSEA Partners were ready to sign the POA, as approved the preceding day by the Ministers of the PEMSEA Partner countries together with the Haikou Partnership Agreement. Two of the Partners, being unable to participate in the Council Meeting, had signed the POA the preceding day, after the Ministerial Forum. They were OPRF, represented by the chair, Mr. Masahiro Akiyama, and the UNDP GEF SGP, represented by its Global Manager, Dr. Delfin Ganapin.
- 3.2.3. The following signed the POA, indicating their respective organizations' concurrence with the Haikou Partnership Agreement and the POA, and their joining of the EAS Partnership Council:
 - a. Dr. Roger Juliano (CMC);
 - b. Mr. Romeo Trono (CI-Philippines);
 - c. Mr. Wenxi Zhu (IOC/WESTPAC);
 - d. Dr. Yoon, Suh Sung (KEI);
 - e. Dr. Won-Kap Lee (on behalf of Dr. Jeong-Hwan Lee) (KMI);
 - f. Dr. Ki-Dai Yum (KORDI);
 - g. Capt. Daniel Chan (on behalf of Mr. Archie Smith) (OSRL/EARL);
 - h. Mr. Michael Kendall (on behalf of Mr. Nicholas Owens) (PML);
 - i. Dr. Anjan Datta (on behalf of Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd) (UNEP GPA Coordination Office); and
 - j. Mr. Yihang Jiang (GEF UNDP Yellow Sea LME Project).
- 3.2.4. The copy of the POA as signed by the 12 initial Stakeholder Partners is provided in Annex 3.
- 3.2.5. Dr. Yoon Suh Sung, President of KEI, gave a statement on behalf of KEI, KMI and KORDI. Dr. Yoon recalled the long history of cooperation between PEMSEA and the three Korean institutes that began with the Shihwa parallel site. He assured the meeting that they would not hesitate to share knowledge and experiences with the Partnership when these were needed. He stated that he was convinced that the new EAS Partnership Council was the most effective way to develop real partnership, with stakeholder participation as its core, for the common prosperity of the region. The three Korean institutes would do their best as research entities in the region for the successful implementation of the SDS-SEA and the PEMSEA Partnership. He expressed gratitude to the meeting hosts for the excellent hospitality, as well as to the organizers for the meeting arrangements.
- 3.2.6. The participants proceeded to have a group photo taken.

4. COUNCIL MEETING

4.1. Organizational Matters

- 4.1.1. Dr. Chua, as head of the Secretariat, introduced the agenda item on Organizational Matters.
- 4.1.2. Dr. Huming Yu, PEMSEA Senior Programme Officer, provided the background, explaining that the 12th Programme Steering Committee (PSC 12) had approved a provisional agenda which included the election of Council Chair and other substantive matters. However, the Secretariat, in consultation with the participating countries, proposed a revised meeting agenda to concentrate on the inaugural aspect of the event, and to have a separate Council meeting within the following year to take up business matters.
- 4.1.3. With regard to the election of the Council Chair, Dr. Yu proposed that this also be postponed to the business meeting of the Council. The inaugural meeting would elect the Meeting Chair instead. The Meeting adopted the revised agenda.
- 4.1.4. The floor was opened for nominations for the Meeting Chair. The delegation from Singapore, seconded by Vietnam, nominated PR China. PR China, represented by Dr. Li Haiqing took the post of Meeting Chair.
- 4.1.5. Moving on to the next matter on the agenda, the Chair requested Dr. Yu to brief the Meeting on general organizational matters, and in particular, the Meeting documents.

4.2. Adoption of Council Guidelines on the Conduct of Future Council Meetings

- 4.2.1. Dr. Huming Yu introduced the draft Council Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings, which were endorsed during the PSC 12. The objectives of the Guidelines were to:
 - a. Enable the effective functioning of the Council and the conduct of its meetings;
 - b. Concretize the partnership approach stressed in the Haikou Partnership Agreement and the relevant provisions of the POA regarding the Council;
 - c. Carry forward the PSC practices in consensus building, while leaving room for enrichment and innovation with new experience to be gained from the Council practices; and
 - d. Provide a framework and essential elements which the Council may consider when developing detailed rules of procedures and operational guidelines for various components of the regional mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation.
- 4.2.2. Dr. Yu reminded the Council that it could further develop detailed rules of procedures, terms of reference and operational guidelines for the proper

functions of the components of the regional mechanism. The Meeting then took up the draft Guidelines.

- 4.2.3. A proposal to amend Paragraph 2.4 of the draft Guidelines by changing the word “adoption” to “consideration” and the addition of the following words to the end of the last sentence: “for confirmation and further amendments, if necessary” was submitted. The Meeting accepted the proposed changes.
- 4.2.4. A discussion followed on the need to include a paragraph that the Council’s decisions would be made by consensus. However, since it was pointed out that that rule is based on the POA (Paragraph 40), it was found that there was no need to include it in the Guidelines.
- 4.2.5. There was also a suggestion to include a provision on quorum. However, it was observed that considering that the Council still has to develop rules regarding participation, a rule on quorum seemed premature. The Guidelines could be amended as Council practices, based on mutual trust, evolved.
- 4.2.6. The Meeting adopted the Council Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings as revised. The Guidelines as adopted may be found in Annex 4.

4.3. Statements of Partners and Observers

- 4.3.1. The Partners and Observers were invited to give their respective statements.
- 4.3.2. Mr. Wenxi Zhu, Acting Head of the Regional Secretariat of IOC/WESTPAC, expressed his thanks to the host and congratulated Dr. Chua and his staff for the innovative work of PEMSEA. He stated that sound management relies not only on policy formulation and institutional arrangements, but on sound scientific basis as well. He declared that WESTPAC, as the regional subsidiary body of the IOC, the United Nations specialized mechanism to coordinate scientific research, was ready to provide scientific support in the implementation of the SDS-SEA through its programs related to integrated coastal area management (ICAM), remote-sensing, harmful algal blooms, regional ocean observing system, and Ocean Data and Information network.. Finally, he suggested that the scientific input to ICAM be given higher priority in the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 4.3.3. Dr. Li, speaking as a Vice Chair of IOC/WESTPAC, voiced his concurrence with the statement of Mr. Zhu.
- 4.3.4. Ms. Angelita Cunanan of UNDP GEF SGP stated that the SGP remained very committed to working with PEMSEA so that the voices of the communities of the region would not only be heard but also be captured in the objectives, work plans and activities of the Partnership. She referred to the Joint Communiqué between PEMSEA and the SGP to guide the efforts of SGP together with PEMSEA.

- 4.3.5. Dr. Romeo Trono of CI made reference to the mission and strategic pillars of CI related to biodiversity conservation and building a future where societies live in harmony with nature. He informed the Meeting that in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea (one of the six LMEs of the seas of East Asia), CI is in an alliance of partners working together to conserve the full range of biodiversity for the long-term benefits of its constituents. He stated that the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea long-term outcomes, goals and objectives were very clearly aligned with those of the SDS-SEA, and that it was therefore logical, practical and strategic for CI to build a genuine partnership arrangement with the Council. He averred that the SDS-SEA and the work of CI were inter-generational in nature, and he therefore looked forward to a long-term, genuine and productive partnership with all of the Partners.
- 4.3.6. Dr. Anjan Datta of the GPA Coordination Office informed the Meeting that the partnership with PEMSEA had begun several years ago, and that it was very important to the strategic objectives of the GPA. His office was committed to partnerships just like PEMSEA to implement the GPA. Furthermore, by virtue of PEMSEA, GPA now had 11 new partners, and he looked forward to working with them towards the objectives of the GPA and the SDS-SEA.
- 4.3.7. Ms. Ayako Okubo, speaking on behalf of OPRF, expressed happiness at witnessing the establishment of the EAS Partnership Council and the rest of the new PEMSEA mechanism, an important driving force for the long-term implementation of the SDS-SEA. Ms. Okubo also referred to the Haikou Partnership Agreement as the common standpoint toward the foreseeable future of the region, and the POA as the strong cornerstone for furthering the Partnership. Ms. Okubo expressed the satisfaction of OPRF at having been part of the earnest efforts of the stakeholders to build the Partnership over the course of a decade. OPRF had committed itself to promoting PEMSEA activities in the future. An example was its role as a co-convenor at the EAS Congress, where the workshop co-convened by OPRF facilitated vigorous discussion on putting the Tokyo Ocean Declaration on Securing the Oceans into practice, tying into the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The concept of Securing the Oceans calls for all aspects of ocean management to be addressed in an integrated manner. Ms. Okubo informed the group that OPRF would be convening a conference of ocean think tanks in East Asia to meet and discuss ocean-related issues, as part of its commitment to implement the Tokyo Ocean Declaration. She stated that OPRF was willing to actively contribute to regional cooperation toward the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.
- 4.3.8. Dr. Derek Staples delivered the message of Mr. He Changchui, the Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific of the FAO of the United Nations, following on from the statement made by Mr. He at the Ministerial Forum the preceding day. The message reminded the Meeting of the FAO vision of a “food-secure Asia-Pacific region” and FAO’s competence in promoting and facilitating regional arrangements and establishing norms on a range of issues

identified by the EAS Congress. These included coastal pollution caused by poor agricultural practices, forest use and management (coastal mangrove forests), and fisheries and aquaculture, especially related to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, the International Plan of Action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, sustainable livelihoods of coastal fishers, farmers and communities, and promoting a livelihood approach to disaster preparedness, reduction and long-term rehabilitation. Mr. He's statement said that FAO shared a common vision with PEMSEA in the sustainable development of the East Asian seas and many of FAO's programs and areas of technical expertise could contribute to implementing the SDS-SEA. FAO itself called for and supported strategic alliances of partner agencies and looked forward to working more closely with PEMSEA on a number of key areas.

- 4.3.9. Ms. Elaine Denning of NOAA informed the meeting that the preceding Monday, NOAA had signed a Letter of Cooperation with PEMSEA to promote and facilitate sustainable development of marine and coastal resources and governance of the LMEs of the seas of East Asia, consistent with the SDS-SEA. She stated that both NOAA and PEMSEA realized the value of partnerships at all levels and the need for regional cooperation on key issues such as marine pollution and the ecosystem-based management of watersheds, estuaries and adjacent coastal seas. PEMSEA and NOAA would collaborate on project development and implementation using key mechanisms such as Sea Grant, National Programs of Action to address land-based sources of pollution, and integrated watershed and coastal management programs. This particular arrangement would be in place through 2010, and NOAA looked forward to those years of close cooperation.
- 4.3.10. Captain Daniel Chan of OSRL-EARL read a letter from the Chief Executive of OSRL-EARL, Mr. Archie Smith, to the other PEMSEA Partners. In his letter, Mr. Smith expressed his sincere appreciation for the opportunity to be a Partner in the public-private partnership (PPP) framework towards the implementation of the SDS-SEA. Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) which emphasized this kind of partnership, the oil and gas industry, through IPIECA, embraced the role of industry in forging such partnerships. OSRL/EARL is dedicated to work with stakeholders in the region to facilitate the achievement of the goals of OPRC 90. Mr. Smith expressed gratitude to PEMSEA for tirelessly building a framework to enable sustainable partnership in the region and thanked all the stakeholders of the PPP for their partnership into the future. Finally, he wished the PRF and all the partners every success towards attaining the goals of the SDS-SEA.

4.4. Partners' Dialogue

- 4.4.1. A discussion ensued among the Partners regarding the mainstreaming of PEMSEA and the SDS-SEA in relation to the implementation of UN-sponsored frameworks and agreements, as well as related national and local level planning, monitoring and reporting. A number of such

frameworks were cited, such as the WSSD, Millennium Development Goals, and the UN Development Assistance Framework.

- 4.4.2. The possibility of developing a matrix of interactions, for example in joint activities and capacity building, was discussed. This was especially important in identifying potential areas to promote new partnership and interactions among States and non-States, and widening the sphere of influence of the interactions. This also related to interactions between the partners and collaborators.
- 4.4.3. Another important issue was the development of an effective approach to tracking changes and progress in the implementation of various frameworks, agreements or strategies, including the changes in national priorities and emphasis of international programs. The regional State of Coasts Report was mentioned as a tracking mechanism as it should not only address the changes of environmental status but also management aspects, including the impacts of management interventions. The role of the Council in tracking the progress of implementation was also brought out for further consideration.
- 4.4.4. It was suggested that the Council Secretariat prepare a document for the Council to further address the issue of mechanisms for facilitating information sharing and reporting at its forthcoming meeting.

4.5. Other Business

- 4.5.1. In other business, the Chair submitted to the body the matter of the first business meeting of the EAS Partnership Council. The Secretariat explained that the PEMSEA RPO was now in the process of transitioning into the PEMSEA Resource Facility (or the PRF). The contributions from the three countries which had committed to make them were now being processed, and once the funds were received by UNDP, the setting up of the Secretariat Services could proceed. This was expected to take place within the next few months. At the same time, the third-phase GEF programme was also in the process of being prepared and might be taken up by the GEF Council in June 2007. For this reason, the Secretariat suggested that a good time for the EAS Partnership Council meeting would be during the second or third quarter of 2007.
- 4.5.2. Indonesia responded to the call of the Chair for volunteers to host that meeting. Subject to approval by the appropriate authorities, the Indonesian representatives offered to identify a suitable place to host the first business meeting of the Council.

5. CLOSING CEREMONY

- 5.1. The Chair thanked the Meeting participants for a very efficient and fruitful meeting. He cited the adoption of the Guidelines as very significant, as it established the operational framework of the Council. The statements of the Partners and Observers were very important, as they indicated their commitment to and collaboration with the Partnership. He also cited the importance of the

dialogue on the interaction and coordination among Partners, and referred the discussion to the Secretariat for their preparation for further discussion on the matter.

- 5.2. With that, the Inaugural Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council ended, at 12:00 noon.

Annex 1

List of Participants

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Annex 2

Full Text of Speeches – Opening Ceremony

**WELCOME REMARKS by Dr. Li Haiqing
Director General, Department of International Cooperation
State Oceanic Administration of PR China**

First of all, I would like to express, on behalf of the State Oceanic Administration of China, our most sincere congratulations to the opening of the Inaugural Meeting for the Partnership Council of PEMSEA, and welcome all partners of the Council. It is really an honor for China to host this inaugural meeting, since this is a milestone and marks a new era in the development of PEMSEA.

As you know, yesterday morning, the 11 ministers from the East Asian region signed, on board R/V Haijian 83 of China, the Haikou Partnership Agreement in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for Seas of East Asia. This demonstrates that the governments of the East Asian seas region have moved one decisive step further in the implementation of the Strategy through specifying the implementation mechanism, and thus provides a legal and political basis for this meeting of the Partnership Council, where all partners will sign the Partnership Operating Arrangements.

The Partnership Council is an innovative and the most important mechanism in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia as it brings together all stakeholders in the implementation process. However, the well implementation of the Strategy will depend on the commitments and common efforts of all the partners, including governments, various international organizations, both inter-governmental and non-governmental, as well as academic institutions. I believe, with the common appreciation of the problem in the region and the firm commitments of the various stakeholders, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia will surely be well implemented, to the benefit to the people of the region.

China is one of the advocates in the development of the SDS-SEA and the Haikou Partnership Agreement and commits itself to provide various support to the new regional arrangement by contributing to the operation of the PEMSEA Resource Facility Secretariat Services. We also look forward to cooperating with all Partners to fully implement the Strategy, and realize the sustainability of the seas of East Asia.

Finally, I wish the meeting full success.

**Opening Remarks by Dr. Alfred M. Duda
Senior Advisor, Global Environment Facility Secretariat**

Good morning.

Many thanks to our organizers for inviting me as the representative of the Global Environment Facility to contribute today with a few words to start us off here at the first Partnership Council meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, you know better than me that the six Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia face many challenges as we humans overuse our coasts and oceans, and we have a long way to go toward the sustainable development of our coastal and marine ecosystems. By signing the Haikou Partnership Agreement, countries are putting your Sustainable Development Strategy in place with its implementing mechanisms and tools to follow-up on those commitments. We at GEF are encouraged to see that the GEF investment in your efforts within the PEMSEA framework are showing positive and long-term effects. Moreover, we are even more pleased on the GEF Yellow Sea LME project and the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand LME project being part of this larger programmatic effort and the commitment of The World Bank to support implementation through the Partnership Investment Fund, the first \$25 million of which the GEF Council approved last year.

GEF hopes to continue being useful as you learn to use these new institutional relationships for countries to collaborate collectively. The adoption of the SDS-SEA and the signing of the Partnership Agreement will certainly improve the management of human behavior to sustain the seas of East Asia, prevent water use conflicts, improve security and safety, and foster sustainable resource use to achieve your adopted regional as well as global goals. The years of partnership building efforts through PEMSEA have generated unique experiences and lessons that will help to address your priority needs ahead and should be shared with other regions of the world. So GEF will be calling on you through our GEF IW:LEARN program, our South-to-South portfolio experience sharing program, to do exactly that. This explains why we asked that a component of your new project work with IW:LEARN to enrich the GEF portfolio.

And this partnership must not stop with ICM demos. PEMSEA should work to bring other partners into these institutional arrangements so that the poorest at your coasts may benefit, so that safe drinking water and proper sewage treatment can be assured for health reasons, job opportunities can be pursued to provide sustainable livelihoods, and your vulnerability to extreme weather events can be reduced. Our planet is becoming hotter by the day which changes ocean currents, intensifies storms, and wreaks havoc on coastal economies. Look at the typhoon that just hit Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand. ICM should help to reduce vulnerability of your poorest to these extreme events that are just getting worse.

The six Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia are among the most highly degraded marine ecosystems on our planet. If East Asian countries are to reverse the steep decline of these Large Marine Ecosystems, change human behavior, and secure the oceans for your children's future, then the commitments made three years ago in the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia and the Partnership Agreement to be signed here in Haikou this week will have to be successfully implemented. The institutions being created by the Partnership Agreement must succeed in collectively taking stock of progress being made toward the specific commitments Ministers made in Putrajaya three years ago. As I said on the opening day, time is short to make the transition to sustainable development, and all of us are responsible.

Let me once again thank our hosts from the People's Republic of China, the Province of Hainan, and the local government here in Haikou City for making our work here so pleasant. This Partnership Council has a critical role towards monitoring progress, spurring governments to action, and providing leadership to your Ministers. The challenge ahead may be much tougher than it has been, and we do not expect a smooth sailing. As long as we learn the right lessons from our success and failures, carry on what have been proven working, and galvanize stakeholders around their shared visions and missions, you will be able to overcome hurdles and reach your targets in the SDS-SEA and Haikou Partnership Agreement. Thank you for inviting me here today, and I look forward to a highly productive first meeting.

**Opening Remarks by Ms. Amelia Dulce Supetran
United Nations Development Programme, Philippines**

Excellencies,
Mr. Alfred Duda, GEF,
Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos, IMO,
Dr. Chua Thia- Eng, PEMSEA,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It gives me great pride and pleasure to be part of this historic gathering of committed partners working for the sustainable development of the East Asian Seas region. Today is a very significant milestone because it marks the formal commitment of countries and their global partners, including the United Nations, as showcased by the establishment of this Partnership Council and its Secretariat, the PEMSEA Resources Facility (PRF). The PRF, as you may know, will take over the functions of the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office (RPO), which has so ably steered us, under the leadership of Dr. Chua, over a decade of advocacy and capacity building, on the ground, to harness the benefits of our coastal resources in this part of the world.

From the consolidation of forces and partnerships during the past 12 years, we now need to go into the next stage, the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Seas of East Asia or SDS-SEA, which we collectively formulated. This implementation will involve upscaling of ICM experiences from the current demonstration sites to other localities; the strengthening of networks involving LGUs, the academe and research institutions; and most importantly, the development of national policies which will provide the enabling environment for integrated coastal management to thrive in the region. We hope that from the four national policies that have already been developed and adopted by the concerned participating countries, we can facilitate expansion to cover the remaining countries in the East Asian Seas region.

The establishment of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council and its PEMSEA Resource Facility signifies the coming of age of the ICM movement, quite significant because of the intensifying challenges of the region. Increasing land-based pollution, depleting fish stocks, loss of biodiversity, and transboundary resource sharing, among others, constitute these challenges which exacerbate the already difficult problems of the region like poverty. As we all probably would agree to, the importance of managing transboundary waters cannot be overemphasized. The recently launched 2006 Human Development Report, "Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis," has underscored the importance of successful cooperation in the management of shared waters. Aside from reducing the potential for conflict, cooperation can generate benefits by improving the quality of shared water, generating prosperity and more secure livelihoods. Cooperation not only reduces the transaction costs of managing a shared resource, it also puts together many brilliant minds which often come up with ingenious and cost-effective solutions.

With the East Asian Seas Partnership Council in place, we are certain that this cooperation will thrive and produce outcomes beyond the realm of our imagination. We enjoin others who have not yet come into the fold, to already do so. As the work broadens, this Partnership needs all the help it can get to address the intensifying challenges. As the saying goes, we need all hands on deck.

We are happy to note the commitment shown by an initial group of countries which are providing financial and in kind contribution to start up the PEMSEA Resource Facility. We cannot overemphasize the importance of sustaining this entity in the long process of safeguarding and developing this region's shared heritage. It is critical to the adoption of the ICM framework in the region and the implementation of the SDS-SEA. As in other institutional arrangements, particularly those involving multisectoral participation and multifaceted interventions, the Secretariat is critical and must be imbued with the necessary wherewithal in order to be effective. We, therefore, exhort all the member governments of the EAS Partnership Council, to contribute to make the PRF truly operational. This invitation is also extended to our other partners from the other sectors.

We are glad that other significant players who can facilitate environmental investments in this region are joining the partnership. We would like to specifically mention the forthcoming contribution of The World Bank, in terms of a revolving preparatory fund that will facilitate access to the existing financing windows. The lack of facilitative financing mechanisms like this fund has been a huge barrier in unleashing significant investment flows to improve environmental quality in the region.

At this point, we would like to thank the International Maritime Organization, which has worked with the UNDP, to steer the PEMSEA project over these past 12 years. However, even as it exits PEMSEA as Executing Agency, our understanding is that it will continue to stay in the Partnership, to help countries implement the SDS-SEA. We would also like to thank the Global Environment Facility, for continuing to provide the necessary incremental financial resources needed by the countries, through PEMSEA, to collectively enhance the environmental quality of the East Asian Seas, which would lead to the region's sustainable development and achievement of global benefits.

UNDP will be with you for the long haul. As we have steadfastly stood by this Programme and worked with you for over a decade, certainly we will still be there in the future which promises to be even more full of challenges. As score keeper of the Millennium Development Goals, we are also committed to helping you meet them in this region through the sustainable management of your seas' resources.

We would like to thank our host — the People's Republic of China and most especially the city of Haikou, for the kind hospitality extended to all of us in this Congress. Being here reminds us of the great possibilities our peoples could have from the bounties of our seas. We look forward to working with you all in realizing this region's unleashed potential.

Thank you and good day!

**Opening Remarks by Mr. Jean Claude Sainlos
Director, Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

The event that is unfolding today is an important step in the development of a new regional cooperation and collaboration to address and mitigate the environmental issues affecting the seas of East Asia. The Inaugural Meeting of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council on this day is the reflection of 12 years of dedicated efforts of the PEMSEA Regional Programme, the support of the countries in the region and the collaboration with partners, including the GEF and UNDP. I, therefore, take pleasure in speaking to you all on behalf of the International Maritime Organization on this important occasion.

Yesterday, the Haikou Partnership Agreement was adopted by the PEMSEA participating countries as a common platform to implement the SDS-SEA over the long-term and in the interim, the Phase 3 of the PEMSEA Regional Programme. The Partnership Arrangement should enable the countries to carry out appropriate policy reforms at the regional and national levels to ensure that the development and management of the region's coastal and marine resources are within the framework of the SDS-SEA.

The Partnership Operating Arrangement, which will be signed during this Inaugural Council Meeting, should serve as a complementary and common platform for the implementation of specific activities articulated in the SDS-SEA. Thus, it should ensure that the inputs and efforts of partners on the activities of PEMSEA would be harmonized.

At this point, I would like to emphasize that the development of such a common platform confers ownership to the PEMSEA participating countries and stakeholders. Therefore, it is important to provide stronger support in order to ensure its long-term sustainability and effectiveness to meet the challenges ahead.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Maritime Organization has served as the executing agency of the PEMSEA Regional Programme, including the pilot phase, since 1994. Although this arrangement will draw to a close by June 2007 on completion of the current phase, the Organization is proud to be associated with the Regional Programme. As well, the Organization remains committed to take an active role in the implementation of the relevant activities of the Regional Programme that are under its remit through a partnership arrangement.

The outcome of this Inaugural Council Meeting will remain the hallmark of partnership arrangements for years to come. It is my sincere wish, therefore, that the partners and stakeholders who are gathered here today will to make all efforts to ensure that this nascent Council will be strengthened.

I wish you all a successful meeting. Thank You.

Annex 3

Partnership Operating Arrangements as signed by the 12 Initial Stakeholder Partners

**PARTNERSHIP OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

I. The Partnership

1. Partnerships in the Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is a partnership arrangement involving all the stakeholders of the Seas of East Asia, including national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, research and education institutions, communities, international agencies, regional programmes, financial institutions and donors.
2. PEMSEA is also the regional coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).
3. PEMSEA's role is to facilitate the realization of the shared vision, mission, action programmes and desired changes of the SDS-SEA.
4. PEMSEA brings together the stakeholders to work as complements of each other, act dynamically and in a coordinated manner, and bring into full play the role of each stakeholder within the framework of the SDS-SEA.

OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives of the Partnership are to:
 - a) Strengthen consensus among partners on approaches and strategies for addressing the identified threats to the environment and sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia;
 - b) Build confidence among partners through collaborative projects and programmes;
 - c) Achieve synergies and linkages in implementing the SDS-SEA among partners; and
 - d) Reduce in-country and regional disparities in capacities for sustainable coastal and ocean development and management.

SCOPE

6. The Partnership addresses priority concerns challenging the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia region, including the six large marine ecosystems, namely the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, the South China Sea, the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, the Indonesian Seas and the Gulf of Thailand, their associated coastal lands and waters, and their interconnections with river basins and straits.

Special attention is given to those concerns that cut across legal and administrative boundaries.

7. The Partnership encourages the active participation in, and support for, the implementation of SDS-SEA by all the stakeholders, as well as the implementation of their individual programmes and actions that are consistent with the SDS-SEA.

II. The Partners

8. The Partners are, subject to paragraphs 14-18 on inclusion of Partners, the following:

- a) Countries of the Seas of East Asia region;
- b) Other countries using the Seas of East Asia region;
- c) Local governments in the region;
- d) Communities in the region;
- e) Non-government organizations (NGOs) and other members of civil society in the region;
- f) Research and educational institutions;
- g) The private sector;
- h) UN and international agencies that support or sponsor the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
- i) Financial institutions that support or sponsor the implementation of the SDS-SEA; and
- j) Other Concerned regional and global entities and programmes.

9. The Partners observe the following practices:

- a) Work together in the spirit of partnership;
- b) Seek actions that advance the goals of the Partnership without compromising the interests of individual Partners;
- c) Strengthen communication and dialogue with each other regarding activities affecting the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
- d) Undertake activities and honor schedules collectively agreed upon by the Partnership;
- e) Act in a spirit of mutual assistance, good neighborliness and complementarity towards achieving the common goals; and
- f) Exercise flexibility and take adaptive measures when needed.

RIGHTS OF PARTNERS

10. Partners have the following rights:

- a) To participate, as provided in paragraphs 25-42, in the EAS Partnership Council;
- b) To participate in the EAS Congress, the Regional Networks, and other activities and forums of PEMSEA, subject to the rules of these activities;
- c) To access the opportunities offered by the partnership arrangements for SDS-SEA implementation;

- d) To access PEMSEA's technical and secretariat services and information products; and
- e) To participate in PEMSEA's knowledge sharing network.

ROLES OF PARTNERS

- 11. All Partners participate in the regional collaborative efforts to implement the SDS-SEA, and ensure that their individual programmes and actions are consistent with the SDS-SEA.
- 12. All Partners contribute to the regional endeavor to implement the SDS-SEA and support their respective representatives to attend the EAS Partnership Council meetings, meetings of the regional networks, and EAS Congresses, within their capacities.
- 13. The specific roles for the Partners are provided in the SDS-SEA.

INCLUSION OF PARTNERS

- 14.
 - a) The countries of the Seas of East Asia region, referred to in paragraph 8 (a), will sign the Partnership Agreement.
 - b) Other Partners, referred to in paragraph 8 (b) to (j) will sign on to the Partnership Operating Arrangements.
 - c) These Partners will convene the first EAS Partnership Council Meeting.
- 15. Other countries of the East Asian Seas region can join the EAS Partnership Council by signing the Partnership Agreement.
- 16. Other stakeholders who are not yet Partners but are interested in participating in the implementation of the SDS-SEA may request for inclusion as a Partner of PEMSEA by sending a written notification to the Executive Director (as referred to in paragraph 46) of the PEMSEA Resource Facility of:
 - a) its adherence to the Partnership Agreement and the Partnership Operating Arrangements, and the policies and decisions of the Council, and
 - b) agreeing to enter into a partnership arrangement with PEMSEA through a Memorandum of Agreement or similar instrument on the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 17. Upon receiving the required written notification from the stakeholder, the Executive Director will submit a report concerning the request to the next meeting of the Executive Committee (as referred to in paragraphs 32 to 34), together with the relevant information on the requesting stakeholder. The Executive Committee will decide whether or not to include the requesting stakeholder as a partner of PEMSEA.
- 18. The EAS Partnership Council may modify the qualifications and procedures for the inclusion of Partners and withdrawal by Partners when it deems appropriate.

III. Major Operating Mechanisms

19. There are four major operating mechanisms: the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress, the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council, the PEMSEA Resource Facility, and the Regional Partnership Fund.

EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS

20. PEMSEA holds an EAS Congress every three years, consisting of a Ministerial Forum, an International Conference and other related activities.
21. The Ministerial Forum of the EAS Congress provides policy directions and commitments for improving and strengthening the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
22. The International Conference serves as the forum for:
 - a) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
 - b) Facilitating knowledge exchange, advocacy and multi-stakeholder participation, through sessions, workshops, side events and exhibitions, etc.;
 - c) Promoting the ocean agenda as a priority programme in international and regional forums;
 - d) Promoting the development of financing mechanisms and investment opportunities for sustainable coastal and marine development;
 - e) Encouraging corporate responsibility and accountability in the business community; and
 - f) Discussing specific sectoral and cross-sectoral issues and concerns, as well as partnership arrangements for the subregional seas or environmentally sensitive areas, for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
23. The hosting and venue of the EAS Congress will be determined by the EAS Partnership Council in consultation with the Partner countries.
24. The EAS Congress presents its conclusions and recommendations to the EAS Partnership Council for implementation.

EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Nature of Council

25. The EAS Partnership Council is a regular body composed of all Partners, as defined in Section II, paragraph 8 of this document.
26. The Council formulates both program and operational policy in support of the implementation of the SDS-SEA, based on policy direction, recommendations and commitments provided by the Ministerial Forum, EAS Congress, and other Partners.

Council Composition

27. The Council has an Executive Committee and two types of sessions, an Intergovernmental Session and a Technical Session.
28. The Council elects a Chair to a three-year term. The Council Chair is the Chair of the Executive Committee and will sit in the Intergovernmental Session and the Technical Session *ex officio*.
29. The Intergovernmental Session and Technical Session elect their respective Session Chairs to a three-year term, who also serve as members of the Executive Committee.
30. Nominations for the positions of Council Chair and Session Chairs will be in accordance with the criteria and guidelines as established by Council.
31. The Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility serves as the Secretary of the Council and of the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee

32. The Executive Committee, comprised of the Council Chair, the Session Chairs, and the Secretary, act as officers of the EAS Partnership Council.
33. The Executive Committee ensures and oversees the implementation of the decisions of Council, and reports to the Council.
34. The Executive Committee will develop and adopt its terms of reference.

Intergovernmental Session

35. The Intergovernmental Session is composed of the duly designated representatives of the Partner countries of the Seas of East Asia region.
36. The Intergovernmental Session may formulate guidelines concerning the participation of other Partners in the Session, as it deems appropriate.
37. The Intergovernmental Session considers the recommendations of the Technical Session, and provides policy guidance, coordination, and evaluation of the progress of the SDS-SEA implementation.

Technical Session

38. The Technical Session is composed of the duly designated representatives of the Partners.

39. The Technical Session, preceding the Intergovernmental Session, discusses issues, submissions and topics related to the scientific, technical and financial aspects of SDS-SEA implementation, partnership opportunities, collaborative research, capacity building and knowledge sharing, and makes recommendations to the Intergovernmental Session as appropriate.

Council Meetings

40. The Council convenes every eighteen months, and makes decisions on a consensus basis.
41. The Council formulates and adopts rules of procedure, including consensus building and conflict resolution.
42. The Technical Session and Intergovernmental Session will develop their respective terms of reference.

PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY

43. The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) has two functions:
 - a) Providing Secretariat Services; and
 - b) Providing Technical Services.
44. The PRF Secretariat Services performs the following functions:
 - a) Providing secretariat support to the EAS Partnership Council, the Executive Committee, the Ministerial Forum, the Regional Partnership Fund and the EAS Congress;
 - b) Facilitating knowledge transfer and capacity building;
 - c) Preparing proposals for new initiatives, and mobilizing resources for their implementation, taking into account as appropriate the business plan and marketing strategy of the Technical Services for the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
 - d) Preparing and submitting to the Council a consolidated report of the programme development and implementation, including financial statements;
 - e) Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
 - f) Coordinating the updating of the SDS-SEA, taking into account changing conditions, emerging issues and other related factors, on a periodic basis; and
 - g) Performing such other functions as may be assigned to it by the EAS Partnership Council.
45. The PRF Technical Services performs the following functions:
 - a) Developing and implementing a dynamic business plan and marketing strategy for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, in coordination with the PRF Secretariat Service in terms of project proposal development;

- b) Providing technical, financial, investment and management services for specific projects and programmes, as appropriate;
 - c) Developing and implementing a process for recognizing and certifying good practices in the implementation of the SDS-SEA;
 - d) Recommending the operation and management of the Regional Partnership Fund to the EAS Partnership Council, and implementing the Council's decision; and
 - e) Implementing projects approved by the EAS Partnership Council.
46. The PRF is headed by the Executive Director. The Executive Director ensures the coordination between the Secretariat and Technical Services particularly in terms of programme development and implementation.
47. The PRF Secretariat Services is funded by voluntary contributions from the Partner countries of the Seas of East Asia region and from other available sources. The PRF Technical Services are funded through sponsored projects and programmes.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

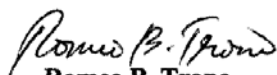
48. The Regional Partnership Fund, set up by the EAS Partnership Council, receives voluntary financial contributions from countries, international agencies, donors, institutions, individuals and any other entity for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
49. The depositary of the Fund will be a sponsoring UN Agency for PEMSEA.
50. The Executive Committee ensures the best use of the Fund towards achieving the shared vision, mission and desired changes of the SDS-SEA by:
- a) Developing policies and operational guidelines governing the identification of activities to be funded, its disbursement, replenishment, management, audit, and the guidance for the countries to consider their voluntary contributions to ensure that it serves its objectives;
 - b) Ensuring that earmarked funds are properly managed for its purpose; and
 - c) Appointing a fund manager as appropriate. The appointment is reviewed every three years.
51. The Council may organize fund-raising activities, such as donors' meetings.

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL MATTERS

52. The official language of PEMSEA is English.
53. These Partnership Operating Arrangements and any terms of reference, operating mechanisms, and rules of procedure referred to herein may be amended, modified, superseded or terminated in whole or in part by the EAS Partnership Council.

Signed the Partnership Operating Arrangements on 16 December 2006, at Haikou, Hainan, the People's Republic of China.

On behalf of Conservation International:



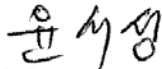
Romeo B. Trono
Executive Director
Conservation International Philippines

On behalf of GEF SGP:



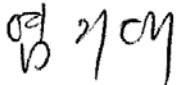
Delfin Ganapin
Global Manager
UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme

On behalf of KEI:



Yoon, Suh Sung
President
Korea Environment Institute

On behalf of KORDI:



Ki-Dai Yum
President
Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute

On behalf of OSRL/EARL:



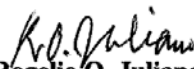
PP **Archibald Frederick Smith**
Director and CEO
Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Limited

On behalf of UNEP GPA:



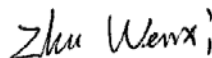
+ **Veerle Vandeweerd**
GPA Coordinator
GPA Coordination Office
United Nations Environment Programme

On behalf of CMC:



Rogelio O. Juliano
Executive Director
Coastal Management Center

On behalf of IOC/WESTPAC:



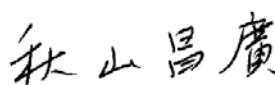
Wenxi Zhu
Acting Head of the Regional
Secretariat
IOC Regional Office for WESTPAC

On behalf of KMI:



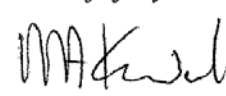
Jeong-Hwan Lee
President
Korea Maritime Institute

On behalf of OPRF, Japan:



Masahiro Akiyama
Chairman
Ocean Policy Research Foundation

On behalf of Plymouth Marine Laboratory:



PP **Nicholas J P Owens**
Director
PML Applications Limited

On behalf of YSLME:



Yihang Jiang
Project Manager
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project PMO

Annex 4

Guidelines for the Conduct of Meetings

East Asian Seas Partnership Council

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

1.0 COUNCIL

- 1.1 The East Asian Seas Partnership Council (the Council) is established in accordance with the Partnership Operating Arrangements (POA) for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). The Council carries out its role and functions as specified in the POA.
- 1.2 The Executive Director serves as the Secretary of the Council.

2.0 MEETINGS

2.1 Schedule and Venue of Meetings

The Council decides the dates and venues for its regular meetings upon the recommendation of the Executive Director in consultation with the Partner members of the Council. The Executive Committee may organize special meetings of the Council as it deems necessary or upon the recommendation of Partner members of the Council.

2.2 Agenda and Timetable

The Executive Director, in consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee, prepares a provisional agenda and timetable for each Council meeting, consisting of agenda and timetable for both Technical and Intergovernmental Sessions. The Technical Session and Intergovernmental Session review and adopt the agenda and timetable pertaining to their respective sessions.

2.3 Meeting Documents

The Executive Director circulates copies of the provisional agenda and timetable among all the Council meeting participants five months prior to each meeting. Draft meeting documents, including the reports from the countries, for distribution among the participants are submitted to the Executive Director three months prior to the meeting for compilation. The Executive Director circulates the working and information documents for the Council meeting one month prior to the meeting.

2.4 Minutes of the Council Meeting

The Executive Director is responsible for the preparation of the minutes of each Council meeting. The Council Meeting reviews the minutes for consideration by the respective sessions at the end of the said sessions. The Executive Director distributes the adopted

minutes to the meeting participants within 30 days after the completion of the meeting, for confirmation and further amendment if necessary.

2.5 Representation

Representatives of the Partners to the Council Meetings are duly nominated through official notification to the Executive Director by the heads of Partner agencies, organizations and institutions concerned.

2.6 Order of Business

2.6.1 Council meetings are conducted in the following order:

- A. Technical Session
 - i. Opening ceremony
 - ii. Organizational matters (including election of Council Chair and of Technical Session Chair)
 - iii. Matters arising from the previous meeting
 - iv. Substantive matters pertaining to the implementation of the SDS-SEA
 - v. Other business
 - vi. Conclusions and recommendations
 - vii. Adoption of session minutes

- B. Intergovernmental Session
 - i. Organizational matters (including election of the Intergovernmental Session Chair)
 - ii. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations of the Technical Session
 - iii. Matters pertaining to the GEF Regional Programme
 - iv. Other business
 - v. Conclusions and decisions
 - vi. Adoption of session minutes

2.6.2 The Executive Director may modify the order of business for justifiable reasons and incorporate it into the provisional agenda and timetable for review by the Council meeting.

2.7 Committees and Working Groups

The Council establishes committees, working groups and other mechanisms as needed in the discharge of its terms of reference, in accordance with the approved work programme and budget.

2.8 Immediate Past Executive Director

The immediate past Executive Director assists the Council Chair and the Executive Committee in providing continuity to the work of the Council, and sits *ex officio* in both sessions of the Council meeting.

2.9 Resource Persons

The Executive Director may invite resource persons to the meeting to provide necessary information to the participants as a reference for discussion in relation to the agenda items.

2.10 Observers

The Council Meeting provides guidance to the Executive Director on the invitation of observers within the framework of the Partnership Operating Arrangements. Observer agencies, organizations and institutions notify the Executive Director of their representatives to the Council Meeting.

3.0 OFFICERS

The Officers of the EAS Partnership Council are the Council Chair, the Technical Session Chair and the Intergovernmental Session Chair.

3.1 Functions

3.1.1 The Council Chair has the following functions:

- a) Chair the Executive Committee;
- b) Coordinate the agenda and decisions of the Technical Session and the Intergovernmental Session, and participate in each Session in an advisory capacity to the respective Chairs; and
- c) Act as Technical Session Chair or Intergovernmental Session Chair in the temporary absence of either.

3.1.2 The Technical Session Chair and the Intergovernmental Chair have the following functions:

- a) Chair their respective sessions; and
- b) Act as members of the Executive Committee.

3.1.3 The Council Chair and Session Chairs do not act as representatives of their respective Partners at any meeting or activity of the Council.

3.1.4 The officers discharge their respective functions in an honorary capacity. Travel costs of their missions in performing their functions for the Council are financed through resources available to PEMSEA.

3.2 Qualifications

3.2.1 The officers are elected in accordance with the procedures provided below from individuals nominated for their personal qualifications by State Partner members of the Council for the Council Chair and Intergovernmental Session Chair, and by Partner members of the Council for the Technical Session Chair.

3.2.2 The personal qualifications of the Council Chair and Session Chairs include proven international standing, knowledge, experience and working capability in the English language.

3.3 Election

The Council Chair, Technical Session Chair and Intergovernmental Session Chair are elected by consensus of the Council by the following procedure.

3.3.1 Nominations for the officers are submitted to the Executive Committee through the Executive Director's office during a one-month nomination period beginning at least three months prior to the election.

3.3.2 After the nomination period, the Executive Committee conducts consultations in order to reach a consensus among the Partner members of the Council regarding the nominees. The Executive Committee may develop the protocol for the nomination and related consultation as necessary to facilitate consensus building.

3.3.3 The Executive Committee reports the results of its consultation to the Council. The Council elects the officers by consensus with due consideration to the consultation results.

3.4 Term

3.4.1 The term of the officers lasts for three years beginning immediately upon election. The term ends upon the election of their respective successors.

3.4.2 The officers are not eligible for a second term in the same position.

3.4.3 If the position of the Council Chair becomes vacant before the end of the term for any reason, the Executive Committee of the Council designates an Acting Chair chosen from the Technical and Intergovernmental Session Chairs to assume the Council Chair's responsibility until a new election is held on the next regular Council meeting. The Acting Chair so designated continues discharging the Session Chair's responsibility.

3.4.4 If the position of the Technical Session Chair or the Intergovernmental Session Chair becomes vacant before the end of the term for any reason, the Council Chair acts as the Session Chair until a new election is held on the next regular Council meeting, while continuing as Council Chair.

4.0 AMENDMENT OF GUIDELINES

These guidelines may be amended, modified or replaced by Council decision in consideration of changing circumstances.