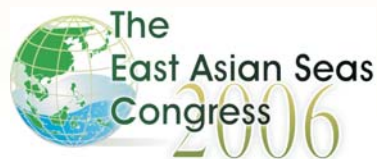




Proceedings of the Regional Network on Coastal and Ocean Governance

13 December 2006
Haikou City, Hainan Province, PR China



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE REGIONAL NETWORK ON COASTAL AND OCEAN
GOVERNANCE**

*GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
RAS/98/G33/A/IG/19*

**East Asian Seas Congress 2006
Haikou City, Hainan Province, PR China
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) is a regional framework for coastal and ocean governance. It contains 6 strategies, 20 action objectives and 227 programmes of action that cut across various coastal and marine related international instruments, the implementation of which shall address the concerns related to Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- 1.2. An informal meeting of the Regional Network on Coastal and Ocean Governance was held as a side event of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2006 in Haikou City, Hainan Province, People's Republic of China, on 13 December. The meeting took up the matter of what role the network could have in the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The list of participants is given in Annex 1.

2. DISCUSSION

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- 2.1. Regarding the status of the network: it exists, although it is currently not active. It used to be active under the Southeast Asian Programme in Ocean Law, Policy and Management (SEAPOL), but as SEAPOL no longer exists, activities have also died down.
- 2.2. SEAPOL terminated because it had only one source of funding. When that funding ended, the network activities also ceased. Furthermore, there was no political commitment to SEAPOL from governments.
- 2.3. Some SEAPOL concerns, such as the Gulf of Thailand, have already been successfully addressed. The legal work of SEAPOL, however, needs to be continued. It is a possibility for PEMSEA to address this. What needs to be agreed upon are: what the network would contribute or commit, and what the modality would be between PEMSEA and the network.
- 2.4. While the network exists, only a few of the "member" institutes have steady funding. These are Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA), China Institute of Marine Affairs (CIMA) and Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) and the other Korean institutes, which are all government institutions. In such places as the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, and the other

countries, there are no equivalents of these institutes, nor any one institute that consistently does policy studies on marine affairs and related issues, although there are a number of institutions that intermittently do work on the Law of the Sea. For this reason, if the network were to become active again, it is a possibility that not all of the countries would be represented.

- 2.5. Continuing the exchange of ideas and information will cultivate interest and develop young experts in the region. This is related to a more particular need for the network which is in the implementation of the SDS-SEA, particularly at the national level. In a number of countries in the region, there is a vacuum of experts on marine and coastal policy.
- 2.6. Options discussed on how the network would interact with PEMSEA included the suggestion for the institutions to organize regular forums on relevant issues, and for PEMSEA to identify funding for those participants that do not have reliable funding and perhaps provide secretariat services.
- 2.7. PEMSEA could identify the need for this expertise in the region and match it with the services that the network could provide.
- 2.8. The possibility of the network having a role in identifying policy issues to be taken up in future EAS Congresses was also mentioned.
- 2.9. The members present (particularly Dr. Gao of CIMA) agreed that they would talk to other institutions in the region (KORDI being specially mentioned), to gauge their interest in actively participating in such activities. It was the consensus of the group that MIMA, CIMA and KORDI could compose the core of the network.
- 2.10. Those present at the meeting will communicate with each other to decide on the activities to be pursued.
- 2.11. Options for interaction and cooperation with PEMSEA will be further explored.

Annex 1

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