



PEMSEA ICG Report 1

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE PILOT INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING

GEF/UNDP/IMO  
Regional Programme  
on Building Partnerships  
in Environmental Protection  
and Management for the  
East Asian Seas  
(RAS/98/G33/A/1G/19)

Manila, Philippines

28-29 June 2001



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CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING**

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

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**A. INTRODUCTION**

- i. The Meeting of the Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group (ICG) of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme was held in Manila, Philippines from 28 to 29 July 2001.
- ii. The meeting was attended by delegates from 10 participating countries, namely: Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- iii. The Implementing Agency was represented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Manila. The Executing Agency was represented by the Regional Programme Office (RPO), Manila.
- iv. A full list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

**B. OPENING CEREMONY**

- i. Mr. Terence D. Jones, UNDP Principal Programme Regional Representative and Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Regional Programme Director, Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, gave the opening remarks.

**1.0 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

- 1.1 Dr. Chua assumed the position of Acting Chair. He opened the meeting and requested nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. Thailand nominated

the Philippines as Chair and Singapore seconded the nomination. The Philippines was acclaimed as Chair and was represented by Dr. Corazon PB Claudio, Senior Adviser for Investments and Special Programs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

- 1.2 Singapore nominated Thailand as Vice-Chair and Cambodia seconded the nomination. Thailand was acclaimed as Vice-Chair and was represented by Ms. Kannegar Boontanon, Senior Inland Waterway Transport Planning Expert, Harbour Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications.
- 1.3 The Philippines nominated Malaysia as Rapporteur and Thailand seconded the nomination. Malaysia was acclaimed as Rapporteur and was represented by Dr. Zulkifli Abdul Rahman, Principal Assistant Director of the Department of Environment.
- 1.4 The Chair noted the principal reference documents for the Meeting, attached as Annex 2. Participants were briefed on general organizational matters by Dr. Chua.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- 2.1 The Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in Annex 3.

## **3.0 REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME'S IMPLEMENTATION**

- 3.1 Dr. Giselle Samonte-Tan, PEMSEA Technical Officer, presented the major achievements of the Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia. The positive and negative lessons learned by the Programme were reviewed. The Meeting was referred to the Annual Programme Report (APR) for further details. The APR covered the progress made during the period from July 2000 to June 2001, issues and problems, recommended actions to resolve problems and lessons learned.
- 3.2 The Meeting noted that the co-financing from local governments has increased to US\$ 8.3 million exceeding the target US\$ 3.3 million by 150%. This reflects the strong commitment of the local and national governments in providing the necessary co-financing for the implementation of project activities in their respective countries.
- 3.3 The Meeting acknowledged that there have been frequent changes in national focal points that have caused delays in project approval and implementation. Dr. Chua reminded the Meeting that the 7<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting recommended that participating

countries formally designate national focal points for the Programme but some countries have yet to submit their nominations.

- 3.4 The Meeting concluded that, because national focal points frequently change with government administrations, new focal points need to be brought on board quickly to maintain momentum and to ensure continuity. This was identified as a joint responsibility of the respective governments and the Regional Programme.
- 3.5 The Meeting discussed the benefit of developing alternates to national focal points as an additional measure to enhance continuity and cooperation between the participating countries and the Regional Programme.
- 3.6 The Meeting agreed to conduct a separate session involving representatives of the 10 participating countries, to complete the review of the APR and grading of the Regional Programme. The representative from Thailand was nominated to chair the session.
- 3.7 The Meeting discussed the importance of public-private partnership in environmental investments. It was clarified that, within PEMSEA, the private sector refers only to the business sector. A general discussion of public-private partnership (PPP) ensued in which the following points were made:
- A major challenge to the public sector is to create a positive policy environment for investments;
  - A principal role of the private sector is to provide management experience, technical expertise and access to technology and financing for environmental facilities and services;
  - Implementation and enforcement of regulations are required in order to create a level playing field for the private sector;
  - Transparency and trust are essential elements in the formation of partnerships between the two sectors;
  - Changes in attitude and behavior are required by the general public, government and the private sector in order to sustain environmental programs;
  - PPP may not be applicable to other countries. For example in DPR Korea there is no private sector but there is a need for investment in environmental protection. Other financing mechanisms may be applied in these situations.
- 3.8 Dr. Chua reviewed the activities of the RPO with regard to the promotion of partnerships between PEMSEA and the private sector including:



- GEF/CEO Private Sector Dialogue in Washington, DC, where PEMSEA was identified as a priority regional initiative identifying opportunities for environmental investment by the private sector;
- Various partners (e.g., East Asian Response Pte Ltd [EARL]; The International Association of Independent Tankers Owners [Intertanko]; Hatfield Associates) have been identified for capacity building/technical assistance initiatives;
- Private sector partners are invited to PSC meetings as observers;
- Batangas ICM site serves as a case study on PPP investment, involving local government units and a New Zealand consortium for a province-wide municipal solid waste management facility;
- The Marine Environment Resource Foundation (MERF) is being developed as a mechanism for forging partnerships between participating governments and the private sector.

3.9 The Malaysian delegation sought clarification regarding the linkage between the Marine Electronic Highway Project in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the MEH Project) and the Regional Programme. Dr. Chua acknowledged that the MEH Project is a separate project from the Regional Programme. He pointed out, however, that the original proposal for the MEH Project was developed by PEMSEA and that close linkages are maintained with the project, which is being implemented by IMO.

3.10 On a question of stakeholder involvement in the planning stages of the Programme, Dr. Chua informed the Meeting that the Governments were consulted in the conceptualization of the Project Document and in the selection of project sites. Site projects within countries involved stakeholder consultations. For example, in developing the Manila Bay coastal strategy, consultations with over 1,000 stakeholders were conducted over a period of eight months. Similarly, in the Bali and Danang national ICM demonstration sites, consultations with various stakeholders were undertaken in the development of the coastal strategies and communication plans.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

### 4.1 *Introduction*

4.1.1 Dr. Chua introduced the Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (the Strategy). He pointed out that the Strategy needs to be formulated to forge regional commitment to address transboundary environmental issues, to strengthen the implementation of existing regional action plans, and to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of international environmental instrument implementation. He explained that the Strategy



takes a holistic approach. He explained the linkage between the Strategy and a sustainable Regional Mechanism and went on to describe the general structure of the Strategy.

## 4.2 *Strategy Presentation*

- 4.2.1 Ms. Stella Regina Bernad, PEMSEA Legal Officer, presented the draft Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. She summarized what the Strategy does, and the process that will be followed in building consensus for the document. The first set of activities will be comprehensive consultations at national and regional levels, which will lead to consensus and partnership within and among countries and other stakeholders. Finally, it is envisioned that the Strategy will be adopted at a diplomatic conference of participating countries and major stakeholders.
- 4.2.2 Ms. Bernad gave an overview of the Seas of East Asia, their environment, people, values, and threats. The trend toward adverse impacts, including transboundary impacts, was explained and desired changes identified. A draft shared vision for the Seas of East Asia, the mission to achieve the shared vision, and the roles of various stakeholders were proposed. She emphasized that while recognizing that countries may have special needs, the draft Strategy is a balanced document geared towards the needs of the region as a whole.
- 4.2.3 The draft Strategic Action Statement was shown, and the six specific strategies (Sustain, Preserve, Protect, Develop, Implement, and Communicate) briefly discussed.
- 4.2.4 The Meeting commented that the Strategy:
- is comprehensive and integrates various international instruments and regional action plans including those of COBSEA, ESCAP, and ASEAN; and
  - covers areas that are broader than PEMSEA's programme.
- 4.2.5 Dr. Chua pointed out that with the new East Asian Economy, trade globalization and the evolution of development activities of the region, environmental management must be broader in scope and multisectoral in approach. The Strategy was developed from that perspective.

- enforcement is an important component of each strategy which can be further highlighted in the action programmes.

#### 4.2.11 The Meeting cited the need for:

- clarifying the basic nature of the Strategy with regard to the extent of legal commitments of participating countries;
- identifying the effective mechanism for addressing environmental issues in subregional growth areas;
- demonstrating the relationship of international environmental instruments, such as Agenda 21 and the environment-related work of international and regional financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to the Strategy;
- incorporating the recommendations of major international and regional programmes and action plans in the Strategy; and
- consulting with relevant international and regional bodies, such as COBSEA, ASEAN and ESCAP, on the Strategy.

#### 4.2.12 Dr. Chua clarified that:

- the nature of the Strategy will be determined as a consequence of consultations;
- the Strategy was formulated to provide an effective mechanism for addressing environmental issues in the subregional growth areas;
- the Strategy was developed incorporating major concerns and recommendations of relevant international and regional programmes and action plans, and will be further refined through consultation processes; and
- the Strategy will be presented to the relevant international and regional bodies for their review and feedback.

4.2.13 The Meeting observed that the scope of the Vision Statement may be too broad to obtain the commitments of national governments to move the Strategy forward. Dr. Chua emphasized that the focus of the Strategy is the concerns and issues of

environmental management in the East Asian Seas. Thus it was developed without being constrained by PEMSEA responsibilities and mandates. It was further noted that the action programmes in the Strategy are drafted in general terms, and it is up to the countries to develop them into more specific action programmes according to their needs.

4.2.14 The Meeting recognized the importance of developing a sustainable financial mechanism in support of the Strategy.

4.2.15 Specific comments and suggestions of the Meeting were as follows:

1. In the Foreword, clarify the purpose of the Strategy with regard to the other regional action programmes and add the phrase "policy formulation" before "action programmes" on the second line of the penultimate paragraph.
2. On the page entitled "The Environment of the Seas of East Asia," add a statement on the state of the environment. The Philippine delegation will provide proposed language for this point.
3. Under "The Value of the Seas of East Asia," add the ecological value of the sea as a "medium." The Philippine delegation volunteered to provide appropriate language to express this point more clearly. Modify "shipping" to "shipping and ports."
4. Include aquaculture as a value.
5. Under the "Transboundary Impacts," include trade among the transboundary issues. The coral fish trade also has transboundary impact (the International Marinelifelife Alliance has data on this).
6. "Desired Changes" should include a change in attitude of the private sector.
7. The items under the "Basis of the Strategy" are only means; the Basis should be something more major, such as the "improvement of the quality of life".
8. Add "research and development institutions" to Academe.
9. Under "General Principles," restate the first principle (the use of the term "preservation" to encompass both "Sustain" and "Preserve" strategies). Expand the sixth principle to emphasize the need for joint efforts.

10. On the page entitled "Environmental Risk Assessment/Risk Management," include a statement on "risk communication."

11. Under "Implement," include a provision on the Regional Mechanism.

4.2.16 The Chair suggested that the countries submit further comments on the Strategy to the Secretariat. The Meeting agreed that the Strategy will be formulated in a concise, simple, manageable and understandable manner to effectively reach a broad range of stakeholders.

#### 4.3 *Regional Mechanism: Concept and Strategies*

4.3.1 Mr. Adrian Ross, PEMSEA Senior Programme Officer, briefed the Meeting on the proposed Regional Mechanism that will serve as an umbrella framework and unifying instrument for environmental management among governments, as well as for the various sub-regional arrangements, throughout the region. The various components of the Regional Mechanism were reviewed. The Regional Mechanism consists of two components: an intergovernmental arrangement for addressing individual and collective efforts of countries to implement international instruments related to marine and coastal management, and an environmental foundation (i.e., the Marine Environmental Resource Foundation or MERF). The concept of integrated implementation of international conventions at the regional, national and local levels, linkages with the new East Asian Economy, benefits to be derived with regard to transboundary environmental issues, and the cost-effectiveness of such an approach were discussed. The Meeting was advised that the East Asian Seas Environmental Strategy is the foundation upon which the Regional Mechanism will be developed, providing an instrument or process by which the Strategy will be adopted, developed and put into action. It was emphasized that the evolution of the concept of a Regional Mechanism could be developed as part of the consultation process for the Strategy, and this required building understanding and support within each participating government.

#### 4.4 *Marine Environment Resource Foundation (MERF)*

4.4.1 Mr. Ross introduced the objectives and rationale behind MERF. Overall, the proposal involves establishing a regional "environmental investment fund", as a source of contingent loans, grants or loan guarantees for PPP-financed environmental projects in the region. The environmental investment fund will serve to leverage ownership and commitment to investments in environmental facilities and services from both the public and private sectors. As part of MERF, an environmental investment center will be

developed to provide a variety of technical, financial and investment services to governments, thereby creating an appropriate environment for joint ventures between the public sector and private sector, as well as inputs from other sources of financing. The investment center will also serve as the legal, technical and financial advisory service to the environmental investment fund. The fund and investment center would be the primary elements of a *self-sustaining* Regional Mechanism.

4.4.2 The Meeting was informed that MERF has three distinct roles within the framework of the Regional Mechanism:

1. Administration and management of the environmental investment fund;
2. Operation of an Environmental Investment Center, providing legal, financial and technical services and products to governments, and housing a virtual center for environmental investments; and
3. Facilitation and channel for grants and donations to strengthen capacities in marine and coastal management, and to improve the investment environment at the national and local levels.

4.4.3 The Meeting raised a number of specific points with regard to the regional mechanism and MERF, including :

- the nature of MERF, including its potential membership, relation to existing sources of funding, and the consideration of financing options;
- the need for consultations at the national and regional levels;
- moving the concept forward early enough to ensure timely implementation in countries that adopt the proposed investment approach;
- reverting to the use of the term "Marine Environment Resource Facility" instead of using the term "Marine Environment Resource Foundation"; and
- renaming the fund "environmental investment support fund".

4.4.4 Dr. Chua and Mr. Ross clarified that:

- the development of the Regional Mechanism and MERF are contained in PEMSEA's Project Document;
- the concept of MERF is still in its conceptual stage, with its structure, legality and regional implications still being subject to further study and investigation; and

- lessons can be learned from PEMSEA experiences in national application of the PPP concept as well as the implementation of integrated coastal management and sub-regional pollution hot spot programmes.

#### 4.4.5 The Meeting identified the need for:

- Efforts to be continued to develop an operational mechanism to implement the Strategy and MERF;
- Regional and national consultations to be conducted regarding the Environmental Strategy and the related regional implementing mechanism; and
- Results of the consultations to be presented to the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting.

### 4.5 *Regional Action Programme*

4.5.1 Mr. Ross presented a proposed regional action programme, designed to build consensus among participating countries and major stakeholders in the region for the establishment of a sustainable Regional Mechanism. The action programme included:

- National consultations and approval of the Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia;
- An East Asian Seas Forum as an advisory body to PEMSEA;
- Consultations and approval of a policy approach for integrated implementation of international conventions at the national level;
- Intergovernmental and intersectoral consultations and agreement on a Regional Mechanism;
- Intergovernmental and intersectoral consultation and agreement on a self-sustaining MERF; and
- A diplomatic conference to adopt the Regional Mechanism.

The proposed Action Programme was indicated to have duration of 34 months, culminating in a diplomatic conference in April 2004.

4.5.2 The Meeting requested clarification on the meaning of the term "diplomatic conference," referring in particular to the well-defined mechanism under ASEAN for such type of conference, and pointing out the difficulty in organizing such a conference.

4.5.3 Dr. Chua made reference to the provisions of the Project Document, which speaks of a policy conference on regional arrangements for implementing international conventions



in the East Asian Seas, and explained that the details of the diplomatic conference still need to be worked out.

- 4.5.4 It was suggested that the Action Programme schedule, as proposed, may be too long, and needed to be fast-tracked. Dr. Chua pointed out to the Meeting that the proposed timeline was conservative because of the need for confidence building, and nurturing of ownership of the Strategy, Regional Mechanism and MERF. These types of activities take longer in some countries than in others. However, he encouraged the countries that can fast track the approval process to proceed.
- 4.5.5 After extensive discussion, the Meeting agreed on the following points with regard to the adoption of the Environmental Strategy and Regional Mechanism:
- National consultations shall proceed on a flexible basis, depending on country capacities. Those countries that are ready to implement will proceed to do so, while other countries continue to undertake consultations.
  - The RPO will consult with other regional bodies and international agencies prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting. Aside from those identified earlier, the RO Korea delegation informed the Meeting of the APEC Ocean-Related Ministers' Conference to be held in Seoul in April 2002. The representative offered to include in the agenda a presentation on the Strategy, Regional Mechanism and MERF.
- 4.5.6 The RPO shall proceed with submitting a proposal to the GEF Council for a medium-term grant to study the operationalization of MERF. Results of the proposal submission will be reported to the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting.
- 4.5.7 The revised Regional Action Programme is attached as Annex 4.

## **5.0 8<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING**

- 5.1. Dr. Chua announced that the Government of the Republic of Korea would host the 8<sup>th</sup> Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of the Regional Programme on 12 to 15 December 2001. The PSC Meeting is jointly organized by the UNDP and the IMO. The 8th PSC is an important meeting for PEMSEA as it will be largely focused on: (1) the status of in-country activities at the national ICM demonstration and parallel sites, as well as subregional sea areas and pollution hotspots; (2) PEMSEA's vision and approaches with regard to the Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, the promotion of a functional regional framework for cooperation, and the establishment of a self-sustaining



Regional Mechanism; and (3) collaborative activities and cooperative arrangements between the RPO and various organizations within and outside the region.

- 5.2 The Korean delegation confirmed hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting in Pusan, Republic of Korea on 12 to 15 December 2001 and reported to the Meeting on the venue and local arrangements.
- 5.3 The Meeting determined that the proposed dates for the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting will fall within Ramadan and requested the Korean delegation to look into the possibility of adjusting the dates of the meeting to 11 to 14 December 2001 in consideration of the Muslim participants.
- 5.4 The Meeting confirmed, with appreciation, that:
- International and regional partners of PEMSEA, including representatives of the private sector, will be invited;
  - Each country will prepare for the reporting of in-country activities;
  - The final annotated and provisional agenda will be distributed; and
  - The Tripartite Review Session is a closed session involving the participating governments, and the Executing (IMO) and Implementing (UNDP) agencies.

## 6.0 OTHER MATTERS

- 6.1 Dr. Chua informed the Meeting about the GEF General Assembly scheduled for October 2002 in Beijing, where over 2000 participants are expected. The holding of a conference and exhibit on International Waters (IW) one week prior to this assembly in the Bohai Sea/Yellow Sea area is under consideration. PEMSEA is exploring the opportunity to co-host the meeting. Dr. Chua invited the countries to participate in the IW conference and exhibit, as this is a very good opportunity to raise world awareness about the ICM sites' environmental programs, investment opportunities, and new technology.
- 6.2 The RO Korea delegation invited the countries to participate in the APEC Ocean-Related Ministers' Conference mentioned earlier.
- 6.3 Dr. Chua informed the countries that the RPO will begin to strictly enforce rules on country nominations for training with regard to deadlines, last-minute changes, nomination of appropriate individuals, and extending nominations beyond individual agencies.

- 6.4 Dr. Chua discussed financial procedures at the sites, emphasizing that both the RPO and the sites have to follow strict auditing requirements. He appealed to the countries to follow these procedures at the sites. Site training on this subject is being considered.
- 6.5 With regard to the application for parallel sites, the procedure is composed of the following steps: (1) selection of the site; (2) making a request to RPO; and (3) site assessment by RPO. RPO bases its assessment on the ability of the proponent site to finance the project, and immediately operationalize it. Only one, or at most two, parallel sites per country will be considered.

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Annual Programme Report*

- 7.1 The Chair of the APR Session presented the numerical assessment of the Programme by the Governments based on the UNDP format. In terms of relevance, the Governments were agreeable that the activities of the Regional Programme are relevant to the development plans of their respective countries and that sustainable development issues such as protection and regeneration of the environment are being addressed. In terms of performance, the Programme has adequately used its resources to produce outputs based on its work plan. The overall rating of the Programme is satisfactory.

The Meeting noted that:

- 7.2 The Regional Programme has accomplished significant outputs, which contribute to the achievement of the Programme's development and immediate objectives;
- 7.3 The Regional Programme is only mid-way in its implementation and assessment of the Programme based on interim targets is difficult;
- 7.4 The level of implementation is different in each country and this made it difficult for the Governments to assess the Programme;
- 7.5 Some activities may be present in one country but not in others. Therefore it is difficult to provide a fair numerical rating;
- 7.6 The process of implementation of activities may vary in each country and there are circumstances beyond the control of the RPO, PEMSEA national focal points and local governments; and

- 7.7 The quantitative assessment cannot fully reflect the extent of the Regional Programme's achievements.

The Meeting concluded that:

- 7.8 There is a need for the independent assessment of the Regional Programme by each Government; and
- 7.9 The UNDP evaluation instrument and feedback process need to be improved to take the foregoing comments into consideration and to ensure that they do not discourage private sector interest and participation in the program.

### ***Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia***

The Meeting noted that:

- 7.10 The RPO has done good work with regard to the development of the draft Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia;
- 7.11 The document is useful as a guide in the formulation of national coastal and marine policy;
- 7.12 It is desirable to move the Strategy forward through consultation and further refinement; and
- 7.13 Countries may initiate partial implementation of the Strategy or at least explore such possibility.

The Meeting concluded that:

- 7.14 The concept, framework and specific strategies of the Environmental Strategy were supported by all countries represented at the ICG;
- 7.15 Closer examination of the draft Strategy be undertaken by the ICG representatives and comments be forwarded to the Secretariat as soon as possible;
- 7.16 Further consultation be undertaken with regional bodies, such as, COBSEA, ASEAN and ESCAP and international organizations by the RPO before the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting;

- 7.17 Participating countries conduct consultations with appropriate national authorities, other sectors and fora, prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting; and
- 7.18 The revised version of the Strategy be presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting.

### ***Regional Mechanism and MERF***

The Meeting noted that:

- 7.19 The implementation of the concept of developing a sustainable financing mechanism to support the Strategy and the Regional Mechanism was sound;
- 7.20 The early development of the concept of the Regional Mechanism and MERF was appropriate;
- 7.21 Participating countries played an important role in advancing the concepts of the Regional Mechanism and MERF; and
- 7.22 Further consultations were necessary with national and regional experts regarding these concepts.

The Meeting concluded that:

- 7.23 The concept of the Regional Mechanism and MERF were supported by all participating countries represented at the ICG;
- 7.24 Participating countries proceed with national consultations on the matter of the Regional Mechanism and MERF with a view to building national consensus;
- 7.25 The RPO proceed with regional consultations on the matter of the Regional Mechanism and MERF;
- 7.26 The RPO proceed with a medium grant application to the GEF for the development of the concept and operation, including the institutional arrangements, of MERF; and
- 7.27 Progress reports on the national and regional consultations and the GEF medium grant application be made to the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting.

## ***Regional Action Programme (Annex 4)***

The Meeting concluded that:

- 7.28 National consultations on the Strategy and the Regional Mechanism proceed on a flexible basis, depending on the capacities of the countries involved and existing interagency mechanisms;
- 7.29 The achievement of the sustainable Regional Mechanism within the timeframe of PEMSEA will require the collective efforts of all participating countries, UNDP and the Regional Programme.

## ***Future Intersessional Consultative Group Meetings***

- 7.30 The Meeting concluded that discussions on the merits of transforming the pilot ICG into a permanent ICG and other related matters be referred to the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting.

## **8.0 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

- 8.1 The Intersessional Consultative Group Meeting Report was adopted by the Meeting.

## **9.0 MEETING CLOSING**

- 9.1 Dr. Chua expressed a vote of thanks to the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the Rapporteur for the important roles they played during the meeting.
- 9.2 The Chair extended her thanks to the Regional Programme Director and his staff for their hard work, and gave her congratulations to the Regional Programme for the conduct of a successful meeting.
- 9.3 The meeting closed at 5:20 p.m., 29 June 2001.

## **ANNEX 1**

### **List of Participants**

**GEF/UNDP/IMO PEMSEA  
Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group Meeting  
Manila, Philippines, 28 to 29 June 2001**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**CAMBODIA**

Mr. Long Rithirak  
Technical Adviser and National Programme  
Coordinator on Marine Environmental Protection  
Ministry of Environment  
48, Samdech Preah Sihanouk  
Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmon  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel: (855-23) 214 027 / 212 045  
Fax: (855-23) 219 287  
Email: [moeimo@bigpond.com.kh](mailto:moeimo@bigpond.com.kh)

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Kim Jae Won  
Senior Adviser  
General Bureau for Cooperation with International Organizations  
Ministry of Foreign Trade  
Jungsong-dong, Central District  
Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Tel: (850-2) 1811/222/333 ext. 8306  
Fax: (850-2) 381 4461

Mr. Ri Jun Ho  
Senior Programme Officer  
General Bureau for Cooperation with International Organizations  
Ministry of Foreign Trade  
Jungsong-dong, Central District  
Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Tel: (850-2) 381 3174/381 3175  
Fax: (850-2) 381 4461

**INDONESIA**

Mr. Sudariyono  
Head of Directorate for Coastal and  
Marine Ecosystem Degradation Control  
Environmental Impact Assessment Agency (BAPEDAL)  
Office of Ministry of State for Environment & BAPEDAL  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Building A, Jalan D.I. Panjaitan Kav.24  
Jakarta, Indonesia 13410



Tel: (62-21) 859 05638  
Fax: (62-21) 859 04929  
Email: [dariyono@usa.net](mailto:dariyono@usa.net)

## **MALAYSIA**

Dr. Zulkifli Abdul Rahman  
Principal Assistant Director  
Department of Environment, Malaysia  
Levels 3-7, Block C4, Parcel C  
Federal Government Administrative Centre  
62662 Putrajaya,  
Malaysia  
Tel: (60-3) 8885 8220  
Fax: (60-3) 8889 1042/8888 9987  
Email: [zar@ias.sains.my](mailto:zar@ias.sains.my)

## **PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Prof. Li Wenhai  
Administrative Officer  
National Project Management Office (NPMO)  
Department of International Cooperation  
State Oceanic Administration  
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue  
Beijing 100860  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: (86-10) 6804 8051  
Fax: (86-10) 6803 0799  
Email: [bsemp@263.net](mailto:bsemp@263.net)

## **PHILIPPINES**

Dr. Corazon PB Claudio  
Sr. Adviser for Investments and Special Programs  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue  
Quezon City, Philippines  
Tel: (632) 928 1215 / 929 6626 loc. 2207  
Email: [cpbc@i-manila.com.ph](mailto:cpbc@i-manila.com.ph) or [cclaudio@denr.gov.ph](mailto:cclaudio@denr.gov.ph)

Mr. Robert S. Jara  
Division Chief  
Project Appraisal & Foreign Negotiation Division  
Foreign Assisted Projects (FASPO)  
Department of Environment & Natural Resources  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue  
Quezon City, Philippines  
Tel: (63-2) 926 2693 (DL)

929 6626 loc. 2054  
Fax: (63-2) 926 2693 / 928 0028  
Email: [rjara@denr.gov.ph](mailto:rjara@denr.gov.ph)

Mr. Nicasio T. Iglesia  
Technical Assistant  
Office of Undersecretary for Environment and Natural Resource Operations  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue  
Diliman, Quezon City  
Philippines  
Tel: (63-2) 929 6626 loc. 2030

### REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Yoon, Hag Bae  
Director  
Marine Environment Division  
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
139 Chungjong-No. 3,  
Seodaemun-Gu  
Seoul 120-715,  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: (82-2) 3148 6540  
Fax: (82-2) 3148 6545  
Email: [yoonalps@hotmail.com](mailto:yoonalps@hotmail.com)

### SINGAPORE

Mr. Fong Peng Keong  
Assistant Director (Regional Policy  
International Relations Department)  
Ministry of the Environment  
Environment Building  
40 Scotts Road, No.11-00  
Singapore 228231  
Tel: (65) 731 9194  
Fax: (65) 738 4468  
Email: [fong\\_peng\\_keong@env.gov.sg](mailto:fong_peng_keong@env.gov.sg)

Mr. Alvin Tey Yong Meng  
Policy Analyst, Policy Division  
Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore  
460 Alexandra Road  
20 Storey PSA Building  
Singapore 119963  
Tel: (65) 375 1608  
Fax: (65) 375 1652  
Email: [Alvin\\_Y\\_M\\_Tey@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:Alvin_Y_M_Tey@mpa.gov.sg)

**THAILAND**

Ms. Kannegar Boontanon  
Senior Inland Waterway Transport Planning Expert  
The Harbour Department  
1278 Yotha Road, Talardnoi,  
Samphantawong District  
Bangkok 10100  
Thailand  
Fax: (66-2) 236 7248  
Tel: (66-2) 236 9990/233 131 to 18 ext. 210  
Email: [kannegar@hd.motc.go.th](mailto:kannegar@hd.motc.go.th)

**VIETNAM**

Mr. Hua Chien Thang  
Deputy Director  
Pollution Control and Waste Management Division,  
National Environment Agency/MOSTE  
67 Nguyen Du, Hanoi, Vietnam  
Tel: (84-4) 822 4420  
Fax: (84-4) 822 3189  
Email: [hthang@nea.gov.vn](mailto:hthang@nea.gov.vn)

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Manila**

Mr. Terence D. Jones  
Resident Representative  
Email: [terence.d.jones@undp.org](mailto:terence.d.jones@undp.org)

Ms. Amelia D. Supetran  
Senior Program Manager  
Email: [amelia.supetran@undp.org](mailto:amelia.supetran@undp.org)

Ms. Imee Manal  
Programme Assistant  
Email: [imee.manal@undp.org](mailto:imee.manal@undp.org)

Address:

NEDA sa Makati Building  
106 Amoroso Street  
Legaspi Village, Makati City  
Philippines  
Tel: (63-2) 892 0611 to 25  
Fax: (63-2) 816 4061; 892 9598

## **PEMSEA Secretariat**

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng  
Regional Programme Director  
Tel: (63-2) 426 3849  
Email: [chuate@pemsea.org](mailto:chuate@pemsea.org)

Mr. S. Adrian Ross  
Senior Programme Officer (Environmental  
Management and Investments)  
Tel: (63-2) 926 9712  
Email: [saross@pemsea.org](mailto:saross@pemsea.org)

Dr. Jihyun Lee  
Senior Programme Officer  
(Integrated Coastal Management)  
Tel: (63-2) 926 3752  
Email: [jhlee@pemsea.org](mailto:jhlee@pemsea.org)

Ms. Socorro C. Guerrero  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Tel: (63-2) 926-3752  
Email: [cory@pemsea.org](mailto:cory@pemsea.org)

Dr. Giselle Samonte-Tan  
Technical Officer (Monitoring and Evaluation)  
Email: [gstan@pemsea.org](mailto:gstan@pemsea.org)

Ms. Stella Regina Q. Bernad  
Legal Officer (International Conventions)  
Email: [srbernad@pemsea.org](mailto:srbernad@pemsea.org)

Ms. Maria Socorro Z. Manguiat  
Legal Officer (Policy and Environmental Legislation)  
Email: [manguiat@pemsea.org](mailto:manguiat@pemsea.org)

Mr. Antonio D. Hernandez  
Senior Finance Clerk  
Email: [jun\\_h@pemsea.org](mailto:jun_h@pemsea.org)

Ms. Caroline A. Velasquez  
Senior Secretary  
Email: [carol\\_v@pemsea.org](mailto:carol_v@pemsea.org)

Mr. Edmund Titus A. Calderon  
Technical Assistant for GIS  
Email: [calderon@pemsea.org](mailto:calderon@pemsea.org)

Mr. Emmanuel T. Isla  
Technical Artist  
Email: [manny@pemsea.org](mailto:manny@pemsea.org)

Visiting Address:

GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)  
DENR Compound Visayas Avenue  
Diliman, Quezon City 1100  
Philippines

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2502, Diliman, Quezon City 1165, Philippines

Tel: (63-2) 920 2211 to 14  
Fax: (63-2) 926 9712 / 426 3849

## ANNEX 2

### List of Documents

**GEF/UNDP/IMO PEMSEA  
 Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group Meeting  
 Manila, Philippines, 28 to 29 June 2001**

**List of Documents**

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT</b>
1.0	Organizational Matters	List of Participants
2.0	Adoption of Provisional Agenda	Second Revised Provisional Agenda
		Second Revised Annotated Provisional Agenda
3.0	Review of Progress in the Regional Programme's Implementation	Annual Programme Report (July 2000 – June 2001)
4.0	Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia	Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (initial draft as of 25 May 2001)
4.1	Introduction	
4.2	Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia	
4.3	Regional Mechanism: Concept and Strategies	
4.4	Marine Environment Resource Facility	
4.5	Regional Action Programme	
5.0	8 <sup>th</sup> Programme Steering Committee Meeting	Draft Provisional Agenda and Draft Annotated Provisional Agenda of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Programme Steering Committee Meeting
6.0	Other matters	
7.0	Conclusions and Recommendations	Draft Proceedings of the Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group Meeting
8.0	Adoption of the Report	



## **ANNEX 3**

### **Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group Agenda**

**GEF/UNDP/IMO PEMSEA  
Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group Meeting  
Manila, Philippines, 28 to 29 June 2001  
Agenda Item 2.0**

**AGENDA**

**27 June 2001 (Wednesday)**

20:00 Registration

**28 June 2001 (Thursday)**

08:00 Welcome Message

08:10 1.0 Organizational Matters

1.1 Election of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur

1.2 Other Organizational Matters

2.0 Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

08:40 3.0 Review of Progress in the Regional Programme's Implementation (APR)

09:15 4.0 Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Continuation of Agenda Item 4.2

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Continuation of Agenda Item 4.2

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Continuation of Agenda Item 4.2

17:30 APR Session

18:30 Welcome Drinks

19:15 Dinner

20:00 APR Session (if needed)

**29 June 2001 (Friday)**

08:30 4.3 Regional Mechanism: Concept and Strategies

09:15 4.4 Marine Environment Resource Facility

10:00 4.5 Regional Action Programme

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Continuation of Agenda Item 4.5

12:30 Lunch

14:00 5.0 8<sup>th</sup> Programme Steering Committee Meeting

14:30 6.0 Other Matters

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 7.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

17:00 8.0 Adoption of the Report

17:30 Closing

19:00 Dinner (outside the hotel)

## **ANNEX 4**

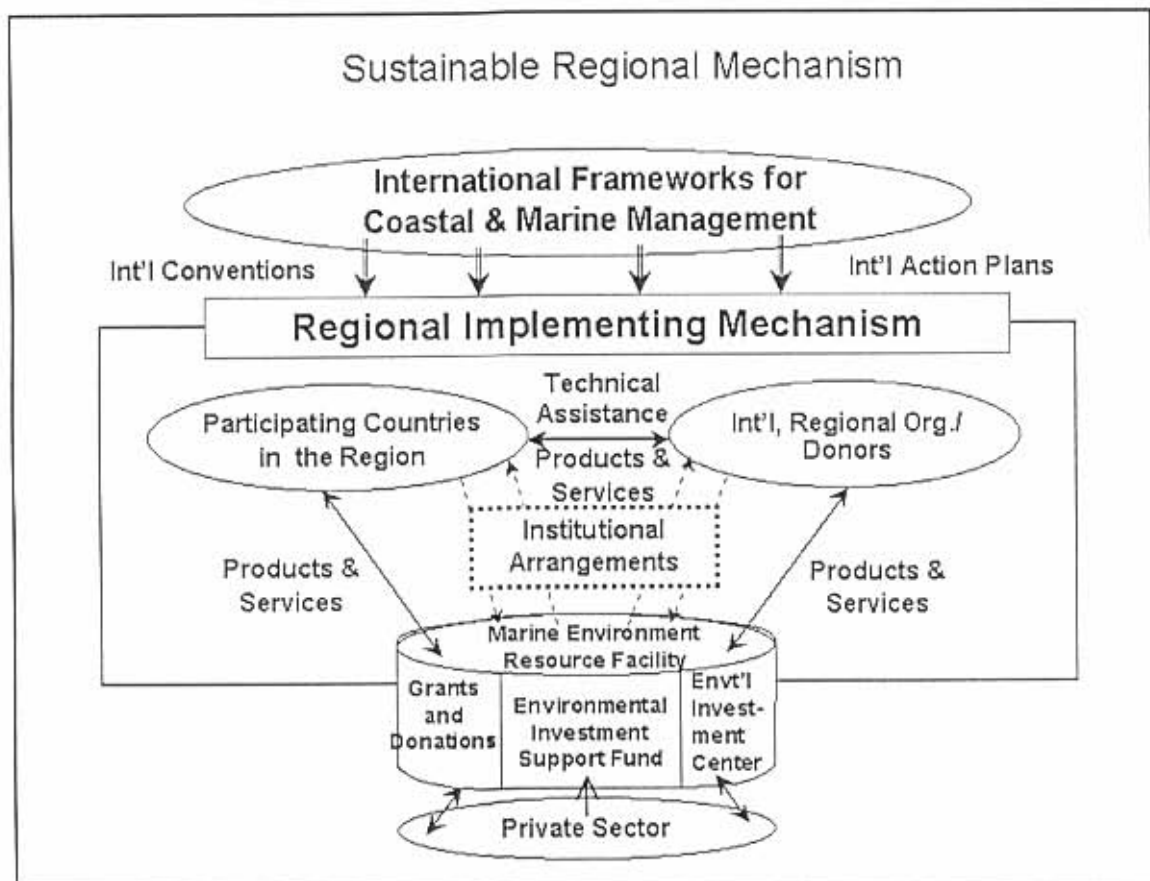
### **Regional Action Programme for the Establishment of a Sustainable Regional Mechanism**

**GEF/UNDP/IMO PEMSEA**  
**Pilot Interseasonal Consultative Group Meeting**  
**Manila, Philippines, 28 to 29 June 2001**  
**Agenda Item 4.5**

**Regional Action Programme**  
**for the Establishment of a Sustainable Regional Mechanism**

**Background**

The following proposal identifies parallel and complementary initiatives designed to build consensus for a regional mechanism. At the 7<sup>th</sup> Programme Steering Committee of PEMSEA, the participating countries emphasized the importance of consensus building, and the potential role of national and regional experts in this endeavor. An outline of proposed activities and outputs is described herein.



## Proposed Activities:

### ***Output 1: Technical Evaluation of Integrated Implementation of Marine Environment and Natural Resource Related International Conventions in the East Asian Seas Region***

Activity 1.1 Conduct an investigation of the status of ratification and implementation of international conventions among countries of the region, the effectiveness with which countries achieve their commitments under these instruments and the related problems and constraints, and the role of existing East Asian Seas regional and subregional mechanisms in facilitating the achievement of objectives of the relevant international conventions;

Activity 1.2 Complete a discussion paper and policy brief on integrated implementation of international conventions. There are two objectives in the proposed paper and brief, namely: a) a factual review of complementarities among international conventions; and b) a guide to countries on practical implementation of the complementarities. The work will require review at the substantive obligation level and at the work programme level. By reviewing substantive obligations, the legal and scientific basis, framework and specific articles of the conventions, which are complementary, and possibly subsidiary to one another, will be defined. Complementary work programmes refer to the intersection of thematic areas among conventions (e.g., pollution prevention; protection of biodiversity; etc.), and the means in which instruments (e.g., criteria; guidelines; monitoring/enforcement measures; certification processes) from one convention can support and strengthen another. Finally, one needs to consider areas of possible (mutually beneficial) collaboration among work programmes, including joint technical/scientific support, information sharing/exchange, integrated enforcement, etc.

Activity 1.3 Explore the benefits, constraints, avenues and approaches to linking other GEF International Waters projects in the region, and their respective sub-regional environmental management mechanisms, into an overall regional mechanism for the Seas of East Asia;

Activity 1.4 Organize a regional workshop of policy-makers and programme managers to evaluate the results of the studies, to establish consensus on the policy brief and develop appropriate actions required among participating countries and subregional mechanisms for strengthening their abilities to meet commitments under international conventions;

Activity 1.5 Prepare and disseminate the experts' report to national governments through National Coordinating Committees.

### ***Output 2: Draft Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia***

Activity 2.1 Complete the draft Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, with a 25- to 50-year time horizon and a shared vision among the governments and other major stakeholders in the East Asian Seas region. The environmental strategy will be designed to provide a region-wide management framework and series of action programmes, addressing common transboundary environmental concerns and the implications of coastal urbanization and globalized economic development and the social, cultural and environmental character of the region. Integrated implementation of international conventions related to environmental and marine and coastal resource management will be highlighted as an operational mechanism for achieving the shared vision of the countries.

Activity 2.2 Develop a communication plan for implementation in each participating country. The communication plan will target policy-makers and managers of environmental and resource management programmes, as well as other stakeholder groups having a major influence and interest in sustainable economic development of the East Asian Seas (e.g., ASEAN; COBSEA; APEC; East Asian Seas Forum; media). Key messages will be developed for each target group, with the objective of engaging the stakeholders in national and regional consultations concerning the environmental strategy and regional mechanism.

### ***Output 3: National Consensus Building on the Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia***

Activity 3.1. Organize a series of national workshops, in consultation with UNDP Country Offices and PEMSEA national focal points in each country, to build consensus among concerned major stakeholders in government, private sector and NGOs, regarding the draft Environmental Strategy and its vision, strategies and actions for addressing common concerns among countries;

Activity 3.2. Based on the results of national consultations, refine the draft Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, and submit the document to the Programme Steering Committee for endorsement to the governments of the participating countries.

### ***Output 4: East Asian Seas Forum***

Activity 4.1 Invite a number of senior experts from the region to address prioritized marine affairs issues and concerns in the region, including the pros and cons of a regional mechanism;

Activity 4.2 Conduct working meetings with the senior regional experts, tasking them to comment on prioritized issues and concerns of the region, the various political, social, economic and cultural perspectives in each country, and options for overcoming bottlenecks and constraints to progress toward a regional mechanism;

Activity 4.3 Engage senior regional experts as "Champions" for the promotion and development of the Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, the policy brief on integrated implementation of international conventions and the regional mechanism, at national and regional levels.

### ***Output 5: Diplomatic Conference on Adoption of a Regional Mechanism***

Activity 5.1 Conduct a series of round tables among senior officials from key national agencies in each country, regional bodies, UN agencies and the donor community to build consensus on the Environmental Strategy and the regional mechanism required to implement the strategy;

Activity 5.2 Conduct a regional policy workshop to establish regional consensus on administrative procedures for adopting and implementing a region-wide policy of integrated implementation of international conventions in the East Asia Seas region;



Activity 5.3 Disseminate the output of the round tables and policy workshop, through the National Coordinating Committees of each participating country for review and approval by national governments;

Activity 5.4 Organize a PEMSEA diplomatic conference, for adoption of the Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia and the establishment of the Regional Mechanism.

## **Work Schedule**

### **June 2001\***

1. Draft Environmental Strategy/regional action programme presented/endorsed by ICG.

### **July – October 2001**

#### **Participating Countries:**

2. National focal points disseminate environmental strategy/regional action programme to government agencies;
3. National interagency discussions initiated;
4. National focal points provide the Regional Programme Office with update of the consultation process.

#### **Regional Programme Office:**

5. Convene the first meeting of the East Asian Seas Forum;
6. Prepare the communication plan for promoting the Environmental Strategy;
7. Distribute the revised draft of the Environmental Strategy to national focal points, and to relevant regional and international bodies;
8. Present/discuss the draft Environmental Strategy with regional bodies and international forums, building consensus on the Strategy;
9. Complete a review of the status of the implementation of international conventions in the region;
10. Complete case studies on national coastal policy development and implementation in the region.

#### **UNDP Manila/UNDP Country Offices:**

11. Distribute/present the Environmental Strategy to UN and donor communities;
12. Allocate funds for national/regional consultations.

## **November 2001**

### Regional Programme Office:

13. Consolidate results of the consultation process into a Meeting document for PSC 8;
14. Complete the draft discussion paper on integrated implementation of international conventions for presentation to PSC 8.

## **December 2001\***

### PSC 8:

15. Endorse the environmental strategy concept and regional action programme for establishment of a regional mechanism;
16. Agree on the budget and counterpart support for implementation of the regional action programme.

## **January 2002 – June 2002**

### Participating Countries:

17. Continue the national consultation process;
18. Consolidate the proposed changes/additions to the Environmental Strategy based on the results of the national consultation process and forward to the Regional Programme Office;
19. Review discussion paper/policy brief on integrated implementation of international conventions and the regional mechanism, and propose changes/additions to the Regional Programme Office.

### Regional Programme Office:

20. Complete the draft policy brief on integrated implementation of international conventions and the regional mechanism, and distribute to the national focal points of PEMSEA;
21. Develop/disseminate multi-media materials for use by national focal points and UNDP Country Offices for promoting the Environmental Strategy among major stakeholder groups;
22. Continue consultations with relevant regional and international/intergovernmental agencies and institutions, GEF International Waters projects in the region, and other major stakeholders within and outside the region.

**UNDP Manila and UNDP Country Offices:**

23. Co-ordinate in-country consultations including the participation of UNDP country programs, donors and UN agencies and international bodies;
24. Consolidate UNDP corporate input to the Environmental Strategy for the region, and the policy brief on integrated implementation of international conventions.

**July – August 2002****Participating Countries:**

25. Confirm national senior policy-maker/program manager participation in a regional policy workshop, scheduled for September 2002, Dalian, PR China;

**Regional Programme Office:**

26. Revise/refine the draft Environmental Strategy based on national consultations and disseminate the revised draft to national focal points and regional/international stakeholders;
27. Revise/refine the discussion paper and policy brief on integrated implementation of international conventions and disseminate the revised draft to national focal points and regional/international stakeholders;
28. Coordinate the organization of a regional workshop of senior policy-makers/program managers, regional and international agencies and other stakeholder groups for September 2002, at the GEF International Waters Conference, Dalian, PR China, to confirm the regional environmental strategy, national policy regarding the regional mechanism, and an action programme leading to a diplomatic conference;
29. Co-ordinate the organization of a regional workshop of environmental journalists, focusing on awareness building for environmental issues and solutions in the region, scheduled for September 2002, Dalian, PR China.

**UNDP Manila/UNDP Country Offices:**

30. Confirm participation of UN agencies, donors and other international stakeholders, including GEF IW projects from the region, to a regional workshop on the Environmental Strategy and regional mechanism, scheduled for Dalian, PR China, September 2002.

**September 2002\*****Participating Countries/PR China/GEF/UNDP/Regional Programme Office:**

31. Conduct a regional workshop for senior policy-makers and program managers in Dalian, PR China, producing consensus on an action programme leading to a diplomatic conference;

32. Conduct a regional workshop for environmental journalists, leading to active media support for the environmental strategy and diplomatic conference.

### **September 2002 – June 2003**

Participating Countries/GEF/UNDP/Regional Programme Office:

33. Confirm the date, location and attendance at a Diplomatic Conference;
34. Conduct a series of round tables among senior officials as preparatory meetings for the Diplomatic Conference;
35. Confirm the support, role and financial/administrative arrangements for GEF, World Bank, UNDP, ADB, donors, and other interested institutions and partners regarding the Regional Mechanism, and the operation of an environmental investment fund within the Marine Environment Resource Foundation.

### **July 2003\***

PSC 9:

36. Conduct a policy workshop back-to-back with PSC 9, developing consensus on the policy refinements and environmental investment fund;
37. Endorse the proposed regional mechanism and MERF to the NCCs, and confirm Government approval of the regional mechanism and MERF.

### **April 2004\***

38. Implement Diplomatic Conference, adopting the regional mechanism and MERF.