



GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on  
Partnerships in Environmental Management  
for the Seas of East Asia

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**Proceedings of the  
Senior Government Officials'  
Meeting on the  
Sustainable Development  
Strategy for the  
Seas of East Asia**



4-5 August 2003  
Pattaya, Thailand

**Proceedings of the Senior Government Officials' Meeting on the Sustainable  
Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia**

**Pattaya, 4-5 August 2003**

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**SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING (SGOM)  
ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

**Pattaya, Thailand, 4-5 August 2003**

**A Preparatory Meeting for the East Asian Seas Congress, 8-12 December 2003**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING**

**INTRODUCTION**

- i. Over the past three years, the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) has undertaken a process of extensive consultations and consensus building among the countries of the region and various other stakeholders in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as their common framework of actions in addressing transboundary coastal and marine environmental and resource concerns.
- ii. PEMSEA's 8<sup>th</sup> Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting in Busan, RO Korea in March 2002 recognized "the far reaching significance of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia for national strategy / policy development, regional collaborative arrangements and regional sustainable financing mechanisms in managing the coastal and marine environment and related resources," and endorsed the SDS-SEA in principle. It called on the participating governments to "further strengthen the multi-sectoral stakeholder consultations" on the SDS-SEA, and requested the Regional Programme Office to undertake preparations for a Ministerial Forum for review and adoption of the SDS-SEA. The Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM) was organized as an important step in implementing the decisions of the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting with regard to the SDS-SEA and the preparation for the Ministerial Forum.
- iii. In the four months preceding the SGOM, PEMSEA's Regional Programme Office (RPO) circulated for comment a draft Third Revision of the SDS-SEA and a draft Declaration of Regional Cooperation on the Sustainable Development for the Seas of East Asia (the draft Declaration), and conducted consultations among the participating countries for the refinement of the two documents. Comments and suggestions arising from the consultations were incorporated in the drafts of the two documents. The SGOM was held to facilitate the finalization of the two documents for their endorsement by the countries and adoption by the Ministerial Forum to be held on 12 December 2003, and to guide the preparation for the Ministerial Forum.

- iv. In order for the SGOM to achieve its purpose, the meeting participants were senior government officials tasked to organize, coordinate and/or facilitate national consultations and review of the SDS-SEA, and duly authorized to undertake the tasks expected of the SGOM. Represented at the SGOM were the twelve PEMSEA participating countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as the executing agency of PEMSEA, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its Regional Programme Office (RPO). A list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
- v. The SGOM was held at the Dusit Resort, Pattaya, Thailand, from 4 to 5 August 2003. It was organized by the RPO in collaboration with the Marine Department, the Royal Government of Thailand.

## **1.0 OPENING**

- 1.1 Pol. Capt. Kachorn Tesmasa, Deputy Director General of the Marine Department, Thailand, welcomed all participants to the SGOM on behalf of the Government of Thailand and the Marine Department. He began by thanking PEMSEA for granting the country the great honor of hosting the Meeting. Pol. Capt. Tesmasa highlighted the need for the SDS-SEA and urged countries to give much-needed attention to efforts related to its development and finalization. He stressed that an integrated and sustainable plan for managing the environment and natural resources was a solution to negative transboundary impacts. He expressed his hope that the Sustainable Development Strategy would be adopted during the upcoming Ministerial Forum. The full text of the speech is appended as Annex 2.
- 1.2 Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Regional Programme Director, PEMSEA, expressed his gratitude to the Government of Thailand for hosting the gathering and to the Marine Department for providing the much needed organizational assistance. Dr. Chua referred to the purpose of the SGOM to reach consensus on the SDS-SEA and to consider the draft Declaration on Regional Cooperation on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia. He highlighted the significance of the revised SDS-SEA, the importance of cooperation and collaboration to achieve the region's common goal of sustainable development, concrete benefits expected of the SDS-SEA, and the positive actions already taken by the countries in the implementation of some proposed actions of the SDS-SEA, despite it being still in the formulation process. He spoke of challenges to reaching a collective decision, which could be overcome with collective wisdom, long-term vision and the desire to protect the valuable resources, a common ocean heritage of present and future generations. He closed by signifying his wish for the Meeting's success, and thanking the participants for the time and expertise they would be contributing in the deliberations to follow. The full text of the speech is appended as Annex 3.
- 1.3 Dr. Rolando Metin, Undersecretary for Management and Technical Services of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines gave the Keynote Address. In his speech, he spoke about the region's shared treasure --

the East Asian Seas -- and the need for a new approach to provide appropriate responses to the issues and challenges that confront East Asia. He highlighted the region's social, economic, cultural and ecological interconnectivity and the ways in which this interrelationship can be harnessed to provide solutions to common problems. He noted in particular the recent trend for the countries of the region to move closer in economic, trade, and other areas, and stressed the need to expand this momentum of regional cooperation into the field of conserving the resource base of coastal and marine areas which underpin a larger part of our region's economic growth.

- 1.4 In addition, Dr. Metin provided insight into certain key points regarding the SDS-SEA that make it different from other related efforts. Although the SDS-SEA is not a regional convention, it represents the first region wide response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). He encouraged the efforts to support its finalization and endorsement for implementation. He also shared information on Philippine efforts to use the Strategy to guide the development of a national cross-sectoral coastal and marine policy. He ended by wishing the Meeting every success. The full text of the Keynote Address is appended as Annex 4.

## **2.0 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

- 2.1 Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, presided over the election of the Chair, Co-Chairs and Rapporteur. Dr. Metin, Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, Ms. Liana Bratasida, Deputy Minister for Environmental Sustainability, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia, and Mr. Li Haiqing, Director-General, Department of International Cooperation of the State Oceanic Administration, the People's Republic of China, were elected as the Chair and Co-Chairs respectively. Mr. Patrick Tan Hock Chuan, Director of Development Planning, Department of Environment, Malaysia, was elected as Rapporteur.
- 2.2 The Meeting discussed and adopted the agenda as contained in Annex 5.

## **3.0 FINAL DRAFT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (SDS-SEA)**

### **3.1 Report on the Formulation and Revisions of the Draft SDS-SEA**

- 3.1.1 The Chair introduced the agenda and called on the Secretariat to present its report on the revision of the SDS-SEA. Ms. Stella Regina Bernad, Legal Officer for Marine Affairs, and Dr. Huming Yu, Senior Programme Officer for Marine Affairs and Policy, RPO, provided background information with regard to the history of the consultation process and the consensus that had been reached in the development of the SDS-SEA.

- 3.1.2 Ms. Bernad informed the Meeting that, during the three-year process, four major rounds of multisectoral stakeholder consultations had been undertaken involving more than a hundred agencies, organizations, and other entities. She also mentioned the different fora at which the SDS-SEA was presented and/or discussed, and the status of organizations that had signed up as collaborators in the Strategy. She summarized the major revisions after each consultation round.
- 3.1.3 Dr. Yu emphasized that the SDS-SEA was a regional collaborative platform to implement commitments, including the WSSD Declaration and Plan of Implementation, UN Millennium Development Goals and Agenda 21, without entailing any new legal obligations. The Strategy is multi- and inter-sectoral, inter-agency, and inter-governmental, fully integrating environment and economy, action-oriented, and focusing on the ground level implementation. He elaborated major aspects of new contributions that the SDS-SEA is designed to make in comparison with what has been achieved in the region.
- 3.1.4 Dr. Yu also presented the major points of consensus reached on the SDS-SEA in terms of the need, its nature and purpose, framework, scope, essential elements, basic role and functions, as well as the spirit of the region in seeking common ground and partnerships amply displayed throughout the formulation process.
- 3.1.5 Presentations made by Ms. Bernad and Dr. Yu are contained in SGOM Document No. 9 and PSC Document No. 28 entitled “Consensus Building for the Formulation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia”.

## **3.2 Report on National Consultations on the SDS-SEA**

- 3.2.1 Following the introductory remarks by the Chair, extensive discussions ensued, with participation of all the delegations regarding the national activities related to the SDS-SEA and its development.
- 3.2.2 The delegation from Japan expressed its appreciation and support for the SDS-SEA in principle, and requested that further clarification be provided in the document regarding the nature, role and expected benefits of the SDS-SEA. The Secretariat was requested to strengthen the text in the Foreword section of the document, in consultation with the delegation for further consideration by the Meeting.
- 3.2.3 The Cambodian delegation expressed support for the document. The delegation recalled that the PEMSEA Regional Programme Director (RPD) visited Cambodia and had an audience with the King, presenting him with the draft SDS-SEA. The King appreciated the Strategy and encouraged its further development. The new subtitle “Regional Implementation of the WSSD Requirements for Coasts and Oceans” covers an important issue for Cambodia.
- 3.2.4 The delegation from China informed the Meeting that a consultation process on the SDS-SEA had been undertaken in the country over the last three years, and that consultation on the latest revision had been delayed due to the SARS outbreak. Ocean-related agencies, including Transportation and Communication, Agriculture,

- and Environmental Protection, have been consulted. Most of the comments from the State Ocean Administration (SOA, the national focal point) have already been incorporated in the current draft, although the door for comments is still open. The delegation highly commended the transparent and democratic consultation and consensus building processes that characterized the formulation of the SDS-SEA. Regarding the Third Revision of the SDS-SEA, the delegation indicated that it reflected a more balanced approach to the social, economic, environmental and resource aspects and improved organization and integration of various action programmes.
- 3.2.5 The delegation from Brunei Darussalam informed the Meeting that the SDS-SEA had been circulated among the government agencies, and that the RPD had attended the latest national inter-agency Meeting. The delegation stated that the SDS-SEA was very useful in their effort to develop a national strategy. They committed to submitting written comments on the Third Revision.
- 3.2.6 The Philippine delegation stated that they see the SDS-SEA as a guiding framework for national policy development, a multisectoral process currently ongoing in the Philippines. Since the SDS-SEA implements the WSSD, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will be taking the document and the outcome of this Meeting to the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), which is tasked with implementing the Philippine Agenda 21.
- 3.2.7 The delegation from Vietnam expressed support to the framework of the SDS-SEA and considered it useful in promoting national integrated coastal management (ICM) projects.
- 3.2.8 The Indonesian delegation gave its full support to the SDS-SEA, stating that the consultation process had been carried out among the central and regional government agencies. They are using the SDS-SEA as a reference for the development of a national environmental strategy, especially for the coastal and marine areas.
- 3.2.9 The delegation from the Republic of Korea (ROK) stated that they recognized the usefulness of the SDS-SEA to the national and local governments of the country as a framework for implementing Agenda 21 and the WSSD Plan of Implementation. They believed that implementing the SDS-SEA would help achieve the goals of international agreements. ROK has already moved towards integrated coastal and ocean management with the creation of MOMAF and the subsequent passing of new laws and amendment of old laws.
- 3.2.10 The delegation from Thailand congratulated the RPO for coordinating development of the SDS-SEA. They informed the Meeting that the draft had been submitted to the relevant government agencies. Thailand is in the midst of developing the Thai Ocean Policy. In the view of the delegation, the national policy and the regional strategy are moving towards the same objective. The combination of these two developments would help the country address the coastal and marine issues.
- 3.2.11 The Malaysian delegation reiterated its full support for the SDS-SEA, and stated that they were looking forward to the early completion of the final draft, which would



facilitate preparation for the Ministerial Forum and Conference scheduled for 8-12 December 2003. The delegation also hoped to see the SDS-SEA related activities in consonance with those of the concerned ASEAN Working Group on Marine and Coastal Environment.

- 3.2.12 The delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) expressed its appreciation to the RPO and to the Thai Government for respectively organizing and hosting the Meeting. They informed the Meeting that the SDS-SEA had been circulated among the relevant government agencies. The combined comments were sent to RPO earlier. As a maritime country, DPRK sees the management of its coastal and marine areas as very important, and sustainable development as a priority concern of the country. The SDS-SEA will assist them in addressing their needs.
- 3.2.13 The delegate of Singapore thanked the RPO for its efforts in assisting the regional endeavor on the SDS-SEA and expressed support for the SDS-SEA formulation. The delegation expressed the hope that further contributions could be made to the final version.
- 3.2.14 The IMO representative, Mr. Koji Sekimizu, informed the Meeting of the efforts by the Organization to enhance awareness and efforts with regard to SDS-SEA development, particularly from the perspective of maritime transportation. Mr. Sekimizu met the Maritime Attachés of the PEMSEA participating countries several times at IMO Headquarters, to review the SDS-SEA and the draft declaration for the Ministerial Forum. Comments from the Maritime Attachés had been forwarded to the Secretariat, and these were addressed in the revised documents being presented to the Meeting.

### **3.3 Review of the Final Draft of the SDS-SEA**

- 3.3.1 Dr. Chua informed the Meeting of the consultation process, which led to the Third Revision of the SDS-SEA. It was pointed out that frequent exchanges had taken place between the RPO and the National Focal Points and other stakeholders with a view to improving common understanding and promoting consensus on the Third revision of the SDS-SEA. Dr Chua observed that it was encouraging to see that the formulation and finalization of the SDS-SEA are driven by the countries and stakeholders, rather than by any individual international agencies.
- 3.3.2 With regard to the approaches for reviewing the Third Revision of the SDS-SEA, for the purpose of efficiency, the Meeting agreed to focus on those parts of the text in which revisions were recommended, and not to reopen the discussion on other text, which had already been accepted by all the countries and other stakeholders in previous consultations.
- 3.3.3 The Meeting reviewed the Third Revision of the SDS-SEA page-by-page with the following outcomes:
  - 1. Clarification was sought on the definition of the word "governance" in "Regional Governance for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia." It was

explained that the word “governance” was used in many international fora and documents, intergovernmental or non-governmental, depending on the context of its usage, although the word was not well defined. Within the PEMSEA framework, the word “governance” means a way of handling the interactions between the integrated and sectoral management approaches for achieving sustainable development. “Improving governance” stands for the promotion of integrated coastal management (ICM) practices at the local level, encouraging the adoption of cross-sectoral coastal and ocean policies at the national level, and the development of SDS-SEA on the regional level. The Meeting agreed to maintain the word in its present context, taking into account the discussions and the understanding of its intended message, which should be recorded in the minutes of the Meeting.

2. With respect to the Foreword, the Meeting discussed and agreed to the revised text submitted by the Secretariat, after consultations with concerned delegations, regarding the nature, roles and benefits of the SDS-SEA. The Meeting also agreed that the implementation of the SDS-SEA should take into account national development objectives, capacities and specific conditions of the countries, and this should be properly reflected in the text as well.
3. It was requested that the definition for “resource use” be included in the Glossary, as frequent occurrence of its usage can be found in the text.
4. It was agreed that the list of Acronyms be moved to the front, and include the acronyms of the conventions referenced in the text.
5. It was agreed that the phrase “the Seas of East Asia” be applied consistently throughout the document in order to avoid misunderstanding. For example, the title of a section that deals solely with river basins should be changed. It was also suggested to qualify the “Seas of East Asia” by defining the seas covered by the phrase.
6. In the sections entitled “the People of East Asia” and “Economic Development in East Asia”, some delegations stressed the need to update the national information and statistics cited.
7. In the Desired Changes section, the meeting agreed that the role of local communities in managing coastal and marine environment be recognized in addition to local government, the need for concerned international organizations to harmonize their policies at the national level be stressed, and the outcomes under Environment and Resources be logically listed.
8. Under General Principles, it was suggested to:
  - Double check on whether the ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources is still in force, considering that it was adopted in 1985 and may have already been superseded;
  - Remove the references for each of the principles, as these references cannot cover all the major legal instruments in which a given principle may be cited;

- Incorporate the elements of Partnerships, Science and the Role of Indigenous Peoples into the General Principles, due to their importance for the SDS-SEA.
9. In “East Asian Ecosystems at Risk”, the sequencing of “Threats to other wetlands” after “Threats to estuaries” was questioned as not all estuaries are wetlands. Thus, the Meeting agreed to change the sequence of these two categories.
  10. In PROTECT, Objective 3, Action Program 1(c), the Meeting was informed that piracy and other marine safety matters may be taken up by the ASEAN Ministers of Transport who are meeting in the next few months. In view of this, there may no longer be a need to mention the matter in the SDS-SEA. However, it was pointed out that inclusion in the SDS-SEA did not prevent other groups from taking it up. In fact, the approach of the SDS-SEA is to integrate cross-sectoral actions related to coastal and marine management into a single framework. The action program shows the linkage between marine safety matters and enhancing integrated at-sea enforcement. The Meeting agreed to maintain the linkage, but to refine the wording for clarity.
  11. In PROTECT, Objective 3, Action Program 2, it was suggested to change the wording to reflect the fact that applicable international instruments for ocean dumping and at-sea waste incineration may not be the same. There was also a discussion of the benefits in making a reference to the London Convention without mentioning the 1996 Protocol. However, since none of the participating countries have ratified this Protocol, the Meeting considered it worthwhile to retain the reference to the 1972 Convention.
  12. In COMMUNICATE, Objective 2, Action Program 2, the Meeting agreed that an element be added regarding the regional contribution to the regular process of the Global Marine Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, which was called for by the WSSD Plan of Implementation.
  13. In “Monitoring National Level Implementation of the Strategy,” the Meeting agreed that an explanatory note be added to clarify the “ten key international environmental instruments” to which countries should accede. Responding to an inquiry on the meaning of the word “Monitoring,” it was explained that the SDS-SEA envisaged self-monitoring approaches by the countries.
  14. The Meeting agreed that the Northwest Pacific Action Plan and the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Programme should be added to the list of Regional Action Plans in Annex 2.
  15. Other editing amendments to the text were suggested and accepted by the Meeting.
- 3.3.4 The Addendum to the Third Revision of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, as agreed by the Senior Government Officials’ Meeting, was compiled and distributed by the Secretariat. This document, attached as Annex 6, was reviewed and accepted by the Meeting.

## **4.0 PROCEDURES AND MECHANISMS FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE SDS-SEA**

### **4.1 Timeframe for Facilitating National Consultation and Endorsement of the Final Draft of the SDS-SEA**

- 4.1.1 The Chair called on the Meeting to provide guidance on the appropriate and effective process and timeline for the production of the final version of the SDS-SEA for the endorsement by the governments and the Ministerial Forum. The Meeting recognized the need to conduct a final national review of the text of the SDS-SEA as amended by the SGOM, while allowing sufficient time for printing the SDS-SEA for consideration by the Ministerial Forum.
- 4.1.2 The date of 15 September 2003 was adopted by the meeting as the target for the submission to the RPO of feedback from the final national review.
- 4.1.3 The Meeting also defined the scope of the final national review as a process of verifying the text of the SDS-SEA in reflecting the consensus achieved and updating national information and statistics given, without altering the substance.
- 4.1.4 The Meeting called on the governments to actively pursue national final review and endorsement of the SDS-SEA, according to their respective national mechanisms and processes.

### **4.2 Consultation with Collaborators on the Final Draft of the SDS-SEA**

- 4.2.1 Dr. Chua informed the Meeting of the efforts made by the RPO in promoting collaboration with various partners and other stakeholders in the development of the SDS-SEA. The Meeting agreed that the current collaborators of the SDS-SEA must be informed of the recent developments, including the outcomes of the SGOM, and requested the RPO to take further measures in broadening the ranks of collaborators in the SDS-SEA.

### **4.3 Draft Declaration of Regional Cooperation by the Ministerial Forum**

- 4.3.1 Dr. Huming Yu provided the Meeting with background information on the process involved in the preparation of the Draft Declaration, including the recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting pertaining to the Ministerial Forum and adoption of the SDS-SEA. It was noted that the Draft Kuala Lumpur Declaration of Regional Cooperation on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia had been prepared in consultation with the countries and other stakeholders, as well as with guidance and inputs from the Experts' Meeting on Strategies for Better Coastal and Marine Governance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-20 November 2002
- 4.3.2 The Meeting reviewed the Draft Declaration paragraph by paragraph. The Meeting agreed to streamline the first paragraph to better reflect the status of the participants to the Ministerial Forum. In addition, as Putrajaya had been confirmed

as the venue for the Ministerial Forum, the Meeting agreed that the title of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration be changed to Putrajaya Declaration accordingly. The Meeting accepted the draft Declaration as amended (attached as Annex 7) by the SGOM, subject to the final national review in the same manner as the SDS-SEA.

## **5.0 DRAFT PROGRAMME AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MINISTERIAL FORUM**

- 5.1 The meeting was informed that the draft programme for the Ministerial Forum was prepared in response to the recommendation of the 8<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting as part of the preparation for the Ministerial Forum, in consultation with the countries and other stakeholders.
- 5.2 Comments and suggestions were made to adjust the agenda and timetable in order for the Ministerial Forum to reach its goal, taking into account:
  - Possibility of state leadership of the host country gracing the Ministerial Forum
  - Local custom [regarding Fridays]
  - The duration of the Forum
  - A time slot for a group photo session and coffee break
- 5.3 In response to an inquiry on the availability of translation services and facilities, it was clarified that English would be the working language for the Forum. It was further noted that translation service is normally provided by the countries requiring the service, as the PEMSEA budget does not cover this cost. The Meeting requested the RPO to explore an arrangement with the host country to provide facilities and equipment for translation to meet the needs of the delegations concerned.
- 5.4 The possibility of overlapping meeting schedules between the Ministerial Forum and other high-level gatherings was discussed. The Meeting called on the governments to exert efforts to reduce this risk and to ensure full participation at the Ministerial Forum.
- 5.5 The importance of mass media in publicizing the Ministerial Forum was recognized. The Meeting called for close coordination among the Forum related press conference /media activities, local mass media arrangements and those related to the participation of national delegations. The Meeting requested the RPO to work closely with the local organizing committee in the coordination of these arrangements. The Meeting also requested that the national delegations communicate to the RPO their specific needs with regard to the press, if any, prior to the Ministerial Forum.
- 5.6 The Meeting requested the RPO to revise the draft programme and agenda for the Ministerial Forum, bearing in mind the comments and suggestions made during the Meeting, in close collaboration with the host country, and in consultation with other participating governments.

## **6.0 AGENDA FOR THE NEXT SGOM**

- 6.1 The Secretariat presented the proposed general agenda for the next SGOM, to take place on 11 December 2003, the day before the Ministerial Forum. The objective of the second SGOM will be to conduct a final review of all the preparations, arrangements and documents related to the Ministerial Forum. The Meeting requested the RPO to prepare the appropriate meeting agenda in this regard in consultation with the participating countries.

## **7.0 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

The meeting adopted the following conclusions and recommendations.

### **Final Draft of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia**

The Meeting noted:

- 7.1 The countries and various other stakeholders have embarked, for the first time in the East Asian region, on the development of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), in order to step up concerted efforts and to adopt innovative approaches in tackling transboundary environmental and resource concerns.
- 7.2 The SDS-SEA is a product of joint efforts by the concerned countries and other stakeholders through three years of consultations and consensus building with regard to the needs, nature, purpose, framework and structure, role and functions, scope of application and essential elements.
- 7.3 The SDS-SEA is a regional collaborative platform for the countries and other stakeholders to implement the commitments they have already made through international agreements pertaining to the coasts and oceans, including the recently concluded World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Chapter 17 of Agenda 21.
- 7.4 The SDS-SEA is ecosystem-based, taking into account important interactions and linkages among river basins, coastal land, water and offshore ecosystems that affect sustainable development.
- 7.5 The SDS-SEA offers a framework within which the concerned organizations and programmes could play their respective roles individually, while cooperating with one another in promoting sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.
- 7.6 Tremendous and concerted efforts have been undertaken by the agencies, organizations, institutions and individuals involved in the formulation of the SDS-SEA and in the conduct of multisectoral stakeholder consultations and consensus building.

The Meeting recommended:

- 7.7 The acceptance of the Third Revision of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, 18 July 2003, as amended by the Meeting, subject to final national review.

#### **Procedures and Mechanisms for the Adoption of the Final Draft of the SDS-SEA**

The Meeting noted:

- 7.8 The time required by the Regional Programme Office (RPO) to publish the final version of the SDS-SEA for the consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Forum on 12 December 2003.
- 7.9 The time required by the countries for national consultation on the final version of the SDS-SEA.

The Meeting recommended:

- 7.10 That National consultation examine if the final version reflects the consensus achieved, and update national information and statistics given, without altering its substance as agreed by the SGOM.
- 7.11 That National governments send their feedback to the RPO concerning the results of national consultation on the final version of the SDS-SEA by 15 September 2003.
- 7.12 That the RPO publish the final version of the SDS-SEA one month before the Ministerial Forum, taking into account the feedback from the participating governments and other stakeholders.

#### **Consultation with collaborators on the Final Draft of the SDS-SEA**

The Meeting noted:

- 7.13 With appreciation, the increased number of international, regional and financing organizations that have joined the ranks of collaborators in the SDS-SEA.

The Meeting recommended:

- 7.14 That the RPO inform the collaborators of the results of the SGOM and provide them with copies of the Third Revision of the SDS-SEA as amended by the SGOM.
- 7.15 That the RPO further pursue efforts to broaden the collaboration in the SDS-SEA by potential partners.

## Draft Declaration of Regional Cooperation by the Ministerial Forum

The Meeting noted:

- 7.16 The efforts made by the RPO in preparing the draft Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia, in consultation with participating countries and other stakeholders.

The Meeting recommended:

- 7.17 The acceptance of the draft Declaration as amended by the Meeting.
- 7.18 That national consultation on the final draft of the Declaration as agreed by the SGOM focus on the accuracy of expressions, without altering its substance.
- 7.19 That national governments send their feedback to the RPO concerning the results of national consultation on the final draft of the Declaration by 15 September 2003.
- 7.20 That the RPO produce the final version of the Declaration one month before the Ministerial Forum, taking into account the feedback from the participating governments and other stakeholders.

## Draft Programme and Provisional Agenda for the Ministerial Forum

The Meeting noted:

- 7.21 The importance of the Ministerial Forum as a proper vehicle for the adoption of the SDS-SEA;
- 7.22 The efforts made by the RPO in preparing the draft Programme for the Ministerial Forum in consultation with participating countries and other stakeholders;
- 7.23 The high demand for sound preparation in order to ensure the success of the Forum, the time constraints with regard to the conduct of the Forum, and the need to make available adequate facilities and equipment for the smooth operation of the Forum, including those to aid translation of national language into English;
- 7.24 The linkage between the International Conference on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia and the Forum as an effective avenue to enhance the awareness on the SDS-SEA and to promote innovative approaches to the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.
- 7.25 The importance of mass media in extending the messages and decisions of the Forum to the stakeholders and general public.

The Meeting recommended:

- 7.26 The acceptance of the framework and approaches proposed by the RPO with regard to the formulation of the programme for the Forum;



- 7.27 That the RPO develop a final programme for the Forum, in consultation with participating governments, particularly the host government, taking into account the guidance provided by the Meeting to ensure sufficient time for major forum activities.
- 7.28 That participating governments advise RPO by the end of September 2003 of their needs and requirements in terms of use of facilities and services during the Forum to facilitate the consultation with the host country in the preparation for the Forum.
- 7.29 That participating countries of PEMSEA actively pursue the endorsement of the SDS-SEA and the Putrajaya Declaration by their respective governments, and the attendance of the Ministers at the Ministerial Forum on 12 December 2003.
- 7.30 That participating governments inform regional intergovernmental organizations and international programmes operating in the region of the importance of the Ministerial Forum and the need for increasing collaboration and partnerships, and request that every effort be made to avoid conflicting meetings and schedules in order to facilitate high level national participation in the Forum.

#### Agenda for the next SGOM

The Meeting noted:

- 7.31 The framework and approach suggested by the RPO in preparing the agenda for the next SGOM scheduled for 11 December 2003, the day before the Ministerial Forum.

The Meeting recommended:

- 7.32 That the RPO prepare a draft agenda for the next SGOM in consultation with participating governments, taking into account the need to review the preparations for the Ministerial Forum, status of participation in the Ministerial Forum, and information materials prepared for the Forum and the major messages to be transmitted through the press conference.

#### CLOSING

- i. Sub. Lt. Preecha Phetwong, Director, Marine Safety and Environment Protection Bureau, Marine Department, gave the closing remarks on behalf of the Government of Thailand. He expressed his pleasure with the success of the SGOM -- tangible, not only in the agreements with regard to the SDS-SEA and the Draft Declaration on Regional Cooperation, but also the friendships nurtured during the two days of meetings. He also communicated his hope that the 9th GEF/UNDP/IMO PEMSEA Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting to follow would achieve positive results.
- ii. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng expressed heartfelt thanks to the Royal Thai Government for hosting the Meeting and providing invaluable logistical support, to Dr. Metin, for his excellent chairmanship, to the Co-chairs and Rapporteur for their guidance and

assistance in steering the Meeting, to the delegations of all 12 countries without whose participation the SDS-SEA could not have been developed, to the IMO representative for his support and valuable contributions that helped to sharpen the SDS-SEA provisions, and to the Secretariat for their efforts.

- iii. The Meeting ended at 4:30 p.m., 5 August 2003.



**ANNEX 1**

**List of Participants**



**SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING (SGOM)  
ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA  
Pattaya, Thailand, 4-5 August 2003**

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**ANNEX 2**

**Opening Remarks  
Pol. Capt. Kachorn Tesmasa**



**SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA  
Pattaya, Thailand, 4-5, August, 2003**

**OPENING REMARKS  
Pol.Capt. Kachorn Tesmasa  
Deputy Director General, Marine Department  
Ministry of Transport, Thailand**

Distinguished delegates and guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Government and the Marine Department, I have great pleasure in welcoming all delegates from participating countries and guests from various organizations to this meeting. First of all, the Marine Department would like to express our gratitude for being granted a great honor in hosting the Senior Government Officials Meeting and the ninth Programme Steering Committee Meeting, which are activities of the Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia or PEMSEA.

Adverse environmental situations and marine pollution problems of the world at present indicates that environment, natural resources and people 's quality of life are now being severely impacted. Such impacts do not specifically affect one area or one country. Most of them are transboundary impacts, as they have extensively affected neighboring countries, both in a sub-regional and regional levels. As a result, it is very necessary that each country has to take such potential impacts into account, considering how these can negatively affect the national and regional social and economic development plan. Therefore, the integrated and sustainable plan on environment and natural resources management is a solution, that deserves the best attention for the subsequent adoption by each country.

As East Asian Region is a vast area with a densely populated zone along the coastlines, a regional economy primarily depends on marine environment and natural resources. Therefore, protection and conservation of marine environment is considered a highly significant issue. During these two days, all of us are obligated and committed to the discussions and revisions that will lead to the final agreement on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Sea of East Asia. The achieved result will be proposed for an approval in the Ministerial Forum that will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2003.

Distinguished participants, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this Senior Government Officials Meeting in Pattaya. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy cordial welcome and friendship from Thai people. As Pattaya is one of the famous and beautiful tourist attractions in Thailand, I hope that you will have a pleasant time during this visit.

Finally, I do hope that this meeting will be successful. The result from this meeting can be proposed to the Ministerial Forum for the adoption, and used it as a guideline for the environment and natural resources management in the sea of East Asia. This will ensure that our world's heritage will be sustainably passed through our next generation.

Thank you.



**ANNEX 3**

**Opening Remarks  
Dr. Chua Thia-Eng**





**SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA  
Pattaya, Thailand, 4-5, August, 2003**

**OPENING REMARKS  
Dr. Chua Thia-Eng  
Regional Programme Director, PEMSEA**

Ladies and gentlemen,

A very pleasant good morning!

On behalf of the PEMSEA Regional Programme, I welcome you to this important meeting of senior government officials. And on your behalf, I thank the Royal Government of Thailand for hosting this event and, particularly the PEMSEA National Focal Agency, the Marine Department of Thailand for providing the much-needed organizational support. It was indeed a great pleasure to have Mr. Kachorn Tesmasa, Deputy Director-General of the Marine Department to open this meeting despite his very busy schedule. I would also like to welcome Mr. Koji Sekimizu, Director of the Marine Environment Division of IMO for coming all the way from London to participate in this meeting.

This meeting has a specific purpose and that is to collectively review and to reach consensus on the revised "Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)". This "Strategy" has gone through a long process of national and regional consultations with the governments, international agencies, regional bodies and other stakeholders. It was decided at the last Programme Steering Committee Meeting in Busan to finalize the Strategy for endorsement by the concerned governments at the Ministerial Forum in Malaysia this coming December.

This meeting will also consider the proposed draft "Declaration of Regional Cooperation on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia". The Declaration is an expression of the consensus and desire of the participating governments to implement the Strategy as collective regional efforts in the implementation of Chapter 17 of the Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of WSSD related to coasts and oceans. The Declaration will be submitted for consideration and signed by the ministers or their representatives at the Ministerial Forum.

There are challenges ahead of us in achieving a collective decision and consensus pertaining to the finalization of this important Strategy for the seas of East Asia. These challenges could be met with collective wisdom, long-term vision and the desire to protect our valuable coastal and marine resources which are our common ocean heritage for the present and future generations.

The Strategy provides an integrative framework and platform for all stakeholders to work together. It develops a holistic approach in coast and ocean governance; enables regional implementation of international instruments and international commitments; generates opportunities for collaboration between international and regional bodies, regional

programmes and initiatives; and creates environmental investment for environmental improvements as well as many others. One major purpose is to promote synergies and strengthen linkages among related national agencies as well as among existing programmes of regional and international bodies so as to turn the competition into cooperation and increasing the combined benefits for the welfare of the people of the seas of East Asia.

As you are aware this regional Strategy, although not a legal instrument, is a package of commitments and international instruments that have been agreed upon or ratified by the countries of the region. Its uniqueness lies in its multi-sectoral, integrative, holistic and regional approach, which enables countries to achieve greater socioeconomic and ecological benefits from the regional implementation of international commitments.

Countries can implement any part of the strategy and activities that they deem necessary within their own pace and capacity. However, you will find that some activities listed in the Strategy are already being implemented by various agencies or identified in the national programs. I am pleased to note that while the Strategy is still in the process of consultation and endorsement, countries have already taken positive actions in implementing some of the proposed actions such as the development of coastal/ marine policy/ strategies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With collective wisdom and efforts, I am sure that this meeting of the Senior Government Officials will definitely be able to reach consensus and advance the Strategy for its endorsement and implementation. I wish the meeting a success.

I wish to take this opportunity again to thank you for contributing your time and expertise in the deliberation that will follow but I hope you will have some time to enjoy the facilities of this beautiful beach resort and visit other places of Pattaya.

Thank you and good morning.

**ANNEX 4**

**Keynote Address  
Undersecretary Rolando L. Metin**



**SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA  
Pattaya, Thailand, 4-5, August, 2003**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**“THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION: A COMMON HISTORY, A COMMON  
CONCERN AND A COMMON FUTURE”**

**Undersecretary Rolando L. Metin  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to share with you my thoughts on a very important theme that brings us together here today: That is, our concern for our region's shared treasure, the East Asian Seas, and our common quest for appropriate response to the challenging problems and issues that confront us.

The East Asian Seas is privileged, indeed, to be the world's center for marine biodiversity. It hosts a myriad of ecosystems and teems with a variety of fish and marine resources. The coastal and marine areas are bastions of economic development for many countries in the region. Industries have mushroomed in the coastal areas. Coastal tourism has become a major national income earner. Statistics show that activities in the coastal and marine areas account for 60-80% of the Gross Domestic Product of each country in the region. The many benefits of the sea and livelihood opportunities have attracted people to settle at or near the coasts. In the last decade, between 80 to 100% of the population in most of the East Asian Seas countries have resided within 100 kilometers from the coastline.

The Philippines, in particular, relies heavily on its coastal and marine resources. The sea area of the Philippines is nearly nine times its land area. As an archipelago, the importance of the seas in the lives of the Filipino people cannot be underestimated. As basically coastal people, the seas are our life-support system, which secure our food supply, provide minerals and resources, and offer us a place for rest and recreation. Our country is blessed with long coastlines and beautiful beaches, some with white sands as fine as powder. Our bodies of water are rich in marine resources and host a variety of ecosystems including valuable coral reefs and mangroves. Fish production and coastal tourism are two of the country's major income generating industries. However, to use a cliché, some good things will never really last, unless we begin to sustainably manage our resources.

I am sure that you already know the environmental stresses that plague our coastal and marine areas. The interconnectivity of our countries makes our problems similar to your problems and I am also sure that we have common concerns. Allow me then to run you through the trends that undermine the values, not only of the Philippine seas, but the whole East Asian Seas. These regional trends are painfully taking away part by part, the treasure, which we ought to share with the generations to come. Many coastal and marine habitats

supplying the diversified and abundant resources have been irrevocably lost or degraded due to poorly regulated land reclamations. Land-based and sea-based pollution are causing the decline of our water quality destroying breeding places and natural habitats. Major oil spill incidents, even in the high seas, impact across countries because of the fluidity of the water. Our fishes and other marine resources have been depleted by over exploitation and use of unsustainable methods of fishing. The paths of migratory birds and fishes have drastically changed. A number of fish species have been endangered and the existence of the others are already threatened. Most of the countries in the region had suffered from the occurrences of red tide, which had invaded the seas, poisoned our fishes, and to some extent, raised the death toll among the people. The impact of climate change and natural phenomena is also felt across the region and has spared no country. The countries of the region have made great efforts in various levels to address the problems. The trends, however, continue.

The greatest concerns now of all of us gathered here are:

1. These trends are region-wide that cannot be handled solely by any single country, organization, institution or programme;
2. Many of these trends are not easily detectable, and may not catch the eye, or like the more visible transnational boundary haze or sandy storm; and
3. Our traditional ways of doing things, the inadequacy of our institutional instruments and processes to address problems that cut across management and jurisdictional boundaries.

National efforts alone may be inadequate to address a problem that is beyond national boundaries. This will require new strategies and approaches. I envision that regional cooperation and collaboration will be a byword in the years to come.

As I have earlier said, our coastal and marine environment and resources are interconnected, the associated problems are transboundary, and our therefore efforts to address the problems must be coordinated and mutually reinforcing. The feature is referred to as “interconnectivities,” in other words, “the interrelationship of physically contiguous coastal nations, which manifests itself through social, cultural, political and ecological influences.”

Our East Asian countries are inextricably bound in various ways because of history and geography. We are linked by five large marine ecosystems and by the mutual influence we exercise on each other’s cultures and societies, economies and physical environments. Specifically, social interconnectivity is manifested through the similarities among our cultures, habits, customs, languages and values, while our economic interrelationship is seen in robust shipping and maritime trade, oil exploration, tourism and manufacturing industries, and fisheries. The ecological interconnectivity of the region, on the other hand, is apparent in the strong influence of the major ocean currents, monsoon and typhoon systems, extensive and diversified habitats, common pool of resources, highly migratory species, and the sources of freshwater supply and the bountiful marine biodiversity present in our shared waters. Environmental problems and the detrimental effects they bring upon human lives and economies respect no boundaries. This is nowhere truer than in the region. Because our countries are so deeply and fundamentally linked, the consequences

of the exploitation and irresponsible use of resources are great. No matter what we do, what happens in our backyards affects our neighbor -- and even our neighbor's neighbor.

A noticeable recent development is that the countries of the region are now trying hard to move closer in economic, trade and other fields of activities. However, we need to expand this momentum of regionalism into the field of protecting the environment and conserving the resource base of our coastal and marine areas, which are underpinning a larger part of our economic growth. We realize that the benefits of working together certainly outweigh the cost of unilateral action alone.

Although there are myriad problems facing the East Asian Seas, there is an equal amount of opportunities to turn the situation to our favor. To our encouragement, the countries of the region have been working together over the past several years, through PEMSEA, to develop a common strategy for the purpose of sustainable development of the seas we share. It is for the sole purpose of moving this Strategy to its final adoption by the countries and other stakeholders that we are gathering here.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to all those involved in the consultation and formulation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia from various countries, organizations and institutions and also to our Program Management headed by Dr. Chua Thia-Eng. It is our common responsibility to make the Strategy something we are all proud of even over the long run. However, from what have been already reflected in the draft of the Strategy, I can notice a few of things that make it different from other previous works that I experienced before.

1. The Strategy is not a convention, but the first region-wide response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It is the application and implementation of the WSSD in our East Asian Seas region. Most of its action programmes talk about implementation approaches and process, and focus on local or ground level implementation. Poverty eradication, sustainable livelihood and hazard prevention and response, and other priority concerns have been addressed in close association with the strategies to protect, conserve and rationale uses of the environment and resources.
2. The Strategy is not merely an environmental management plan, or an economic development plan either. It has chosen a difficult job to define how these two dimensions interact, the related major issues and the suitable approaches to addressing these issues. I think the Strategy is successful in coming up with a framework to address not only integrated management issues affecting many development sectors and stakeholders, but also policy directions for sustainable development of a particular sector, such as fisheries and aquaculture, maritime transportation, mining, forestry, tourism, etc.
3. The Strategy is not a plan of action for intergovernmental organizations, or for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), or a business plan for private sector. It is a programme to involve them all for the same objective. This way, the Strategy encourages a new pattern of relationships, such as joint forum of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, public-private sector partnerships, and co-management of governments, industries and local communities.



4. The key of the Strategy is regional partnership, which bring together the countries at different levels of development and various other stakeholders to focus on common sustainable development issues confronting them, particularly those transboundary concerns. The key implementation strategy is capacity building, which stresses the importance of sharing knowledge and technology, as well as mutual assistance among the countries. Special attention has been given to the needs and requirements of the developing countries in particular.

I think the new management paradigm and partnership approaches embodied in the Strategy deserve our further support. I am pleased to share with you that, in parallel to the development of the regional Strategy, our country is embarking on developing a cross-sectoral coastal and marine policy, referred to as National Agenda for Archipelagic Development (ARCDEV), which addresses major challenges to sustainable uses of our coastal and marine resources, particularly the multiple use conflicts and their impacts on national socioeconomic development. Our National Agenda being developed has applied the same framework and approaches as reflected in the regional Strategy, particularly the integrated management approaches and sustainable development options.

We are encouraged by the prospect of the East Asian Seas region where the initiatives to address sustainable development issues are now being undertaken both the local, national and regional levels. The results of these initiatives may be our best legacy for the future generations that will continue depend on the seas we share for their livelihood and well being.

The Philippine government is proud of having been a part of the process in the development of the regional Strategy. Like many other countries, there have been two rounds of interagency and multisectoral stakeholder consultations conducted in my country on the formulation of the regional Strategy. We are pleased to see that our joint efforts are generating encouraging results that our Meeting will focus on in the coming two days. I wish the meeting a success.

Let me join Dr. Chua Thia-Eng in his invitation for all of us to enjoy our stay in this beautiful City of Pattaya.

Thank you all.

**ANNEX 5**

**Meeting Agenda**



**SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING (SGOM)  
ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA  
Pattaya, Thailand, 4-5 August 2003**

**A Preparatory Meeting for the East Asian Seas Congress, 8-12 December 2003**

**MEETING AGENDA**

**4 AUGUST 2003**

0800-0900 Registration

**Opening**

0900-0915 Welcome Address

**Pol. Capt. Kachorn Tesmasa  
Deputy Director General, Marine Department  
Ministry of Transport, Thailand**

0915-0930 Opening Remarks

**Dr. Chua Thia-Eng  
Regional Programme Director, PEMSEA**

0930-0945 Group Photo

0945-1015 *Coffee and tea break*

1015-1030 Keynote Address

**Dr. Rolando Metin  
Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Philippines**

**1.0 Organizational Matters**

1030-1035 1.1 Election of Chair, Co-Chair and Rapporteur

1035-1045 1.2 Other Organizational Matters

1045-1050 **2.0 Adoption of the Agenda**

**3.0 Final Draft of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the  
Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)**

1050-1130 3.1 Report on the Formulation and Revisions of the Draft SDS-SEA

1130-1230 3.2 Report on National Consultations on the SDS-SEA



## **ANNEX 6**

### **Addendum to the Third Revision of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia**



**Addendum  
to the Third Revision of the  
Sustainable Development Strategy  
for the Seas of East Asia**

*(as agreed by the Senior Government Officials' Meeting,  
4–5 August 2003, Pattaya, Thailand)*

Revised parts are in boldface and larger font for  
highlighting



## Foreword

The decision to prepare a Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia arose from an intergovernmental meeting of eleven countries of East Asia held in Dalian in July 2000. The countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The March 2002 Intergovernmental Meeting of PEMSEA, now joined by Japan, endorsed the Strategy in principle and agreed to pursue intersectoral consultations at national, regional and international levels. **[The Strategy is a product of joint efforts by the concerned countries and other stakeholders through 3-year consultations and consensus building at all levels.]**

### What is the Sustainable Development Strategy?

The Sustainable Development Strategy [is a package of applicable principles, relevant existing regional and international action programs, agreements and instruments, as well as implementation approaches, for achieving sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia. It offers a regional framework for the interested countries and other stakeholders to implement, in an integrated or holistic manner, the commitments they have already made, without assuming new legal obligations. It addresses linkages among social, cultural, economic and environmental issues. It embodies] the shared vision of the countries and other stakeholders for the Seas of East Asia, and the ways by which they will achieve that shared vision. The [Strategy] does not reflect any individual country, [international organization] or sectoral interest but presents a regional perspective, [principles and guidelines, and a platform for each to play and strengthen its respective role and to cooperate with one another] in addressing common issues and concerns.

**[The Sustainable Development Strategy is based on a programmatic approach and the consensus reached among the countries and other stakeholders particularly with regard to needs, nature and purpose, basic role and functions, scope of application and essential elements.]**

### Why do we need a Sustainable Development Strategy?

**The Sustainable Development Strategy [represents] implementation approaches for the integrated management and sustainable use of the environment and resources therein, [with a view to bringing about the following benefits:]**

- **Regional partnership arrangements among government agencies, non-government organizations, private sector and other stakeholders**
- **Enabling the concerned organizations and programmes, operating in the region at all levels, to promote synergistic and cumulative impacts of their efforts and expertise for the benefits of the countries and other stakeholders**

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- **Providing the countries and other stakeholders with a set of guidelines, references and examples for assisting in their development of strategies, policies and implementation plans in order to address specific national, local and sectoral needs**
- **Offering a set of operational approaches and measures for sustainable coastal and marine development that have been proven suitable and effective through a decade of demonstration and extension activities in the region.**
- **Facilitating the sharing and transfer of experiences, knowledge, technology and techniques, as well as mutual assistance among the countries currently at different stages of socioeconomic development.**
- **Facilitating the flow of support and assistance from the interested financing institutions and donor agencies, and the creation of self-sustained financing mechanisms and investment opportunities for sustainable coastal and marine development.]**

### What is its scope?

The Strategy is not intended to [focus on development issues] of individual sectors, e.g., agriculture, industries and services, as these types of issues fall under sectoral policies and programmes. [It does not limit itself to environmental protection and management either.] Rather, the Strategy represents a paradigm shift in our management approach that focuses on the interactions between environment and development; and addresses issues and impacts across sectoral, administrative and legal boundaries that are constraints and bottlenecks for sustainable development in the East Asian Seas Region. Thus the Strategy deals with:

- [The relationship among economic development, social development and environmental protection] as related to the Seas of East Asia;
- Linkages among programs concerning poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood, reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards, long-term security, economic growth and the health of human beings, ecosystems and the natural resource base; and
- Intersectoral, interagency, intergovernmental and inter-project partnerships for the sustainable development of the region.

Related issues such as deforestation, air pollution and piracy are not addressed directly, but the awareness, regional cooperation and confidence-building brought about by the implementation of the Strategy will contribute to the solution of such problems within an integrated management framework for sustainable development.

The scope of the Sustainable Development Strategy is broader than any individual international instrument or regional program. Its implementation will entail a new kind of partnership, involving national governments, civil society and regional agencies such as ASEAN, ESCAP, UNEP EAS/RCU, FAO/APFIC, IOC-WESTPAC and UNDP/RCF. The Strategy also incorporates the experiences and lessons from past and existing national, regional and international efforts, such as those of other UN agencies, international programmes and projects, ODA programs and international and national NGOs such as WWF and IUCN.

The Strategy recognizes the socio-economic and political conditions among the countries of the region. Its implementation will enable strategic partners to pool their resources and to work together with a common goal.

The Strategy adopts a strategic, programmatic and problem-oriented approach to ensure effective response from policy and management interventions. It takes a long-term view in program implementation which depends on national capacity and resources.

How will the Sustainable Development Strategy be adopted?

The draft Strategy has been subjected to a long and comprehensive consultation and approval process. It has stimulated debates and built up general consensus and partnership among various stakeholders including policy makers, natural resource and environmental managers, the academe, private sector, civil society, international agencies, intergovernmental financial institutions and all those who care for the coastal and marine environment and believe in sustainable development. In addition, consultations have been undertaken with a view to harnessing the objectives of intergovernmental bodies and multilateral financial institutions, including World Bank, ADB, GEF and other stakeholders. These are the same partners who will use the Strategy to act decisively and proactively to conserve the Seas of East Asia.

[The draft Strategy will be reviewed and refined through senior government official meetings and submitted for consideration by a ministerial forum. The ministers will adopt the Strategy] collectively as a region and individually as countries, and commit to the development and implementation of [national] strategies, and action programs at regional, subregional, national and local levels, [taking into account national development objectives, capacities, and specific conditions of the countries and stakeholders involved.]

For years, we have been leaving environmental issues of national concern to the sovereign responsibility of the nation and the respective sectors, and those of transnational issues to international bodies such as the United Nations. With the advent of globalization and regional economic realignment, this two-tiered and sectoral approach is no longer effective. A multi-tiered, multisectoral integrated approach at the regional, national and local levels is necessary in order to resolve the environmental problems that face the East Asian Seas region.

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#### Glossary - continued

Pollution hotspots – Areas where the pollution load is high and poses serious impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems and threat to public health. (Chia and Kirkman 2000)

Pollution of the marine environment -- The introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment (including estuaries) which results in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities including fishing, impairment of quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities. (GESAMP)

Private Sector – Collectively, people or entities conducting business for profit.

Reception facilities – Facilities for the reception of wastes from ships at port for appropriate disposal.

Regional mechanism – A structured arrangement among countries within the region that may or may not be based on a legal instrument, entered into for the purpose of undertaking common, integrated, collaborative and coordinated approaches to address the issues and problems relating to the coastal and marine environment.

**[Resource use – Any utilization of natural resources in the Seas of East Asia, including the sustainable use and conservation of coastal and marine living and non-living resources.]**

Sea-based activities – Activities or phenomena occurring primarily at sea.

Semi-enclosed sea - a gulf, basin or sea surrounded by two or more States and connected to another sea or the ocean by a narrow outlet or consisting entirely or primarily of the territorial seas and exclusive economic zones of two or more coastal States. (UNCLOS, Art. 122)

Special Drawing Rights - an artificial "basket" currency serving as the IMF's unit of account and as a basis for the unit of account for a number of other international organizations.

Stakeholders - Persons or entities who, directly or indirectly, positively or negatively affect or are affected by the policies relating to, or activities or phenomena in, the coastal and marine area.

Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental assessment at national, regional, subregional or sectoral level.

Subregional growth area – A region, usually contiguous, comprised of areas under two or more countries or jurisdictions, which is governed by agreements between such countries or jurisdiction on deregulated economic activity and investments.

Subregional sea – A relatively large area of the marine environment that geographically forms a single management area but is politically under two or more jurisdictions.

Sustainable development - Development that ensures the continuance of natural resource productivity and a high level of environmental quality, thereby providing for economic growth to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. (Clark 1996)

Sustainable financing – Mechanism of raising or allocating financial resources to provide sustained funding of a program, project, activity, or sets of environmental management interventions.

Transboundary – Moving beyond the territorial jurisdiction of a country, state or other political entity.

**Annex 4**

**Acronyms**

ADB	Asian Development Bank	IOC/WESTPAC	International Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation	IT	Information technology
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission	IUCN	The World Conservation Union
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	LME	Large marine ecosystems
<b>[CBD]</b>	<b><u>Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992</u></b>	<b>[MARPOL 73/78]</b>	<b><u>International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto</u></b>
<b>CITES</b>	<b><u>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973</u></b>	NGO	Non-governmental organization
<b>CLC</b>	<b><u>International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969 and its 1992 Protocol</u></b>	OPRC	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	ODA	Official Development Assistance
EAS/RCU	East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit	PEMSEA	GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	PPP	Public – private sector partnerships
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	RCF	Regional Cooperation Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	ROK	Republic of Korea
FUND	International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971 and its 1992 Protocol	SDR	Special Drawing Rights
GESAMP	IMO/FAO/Unesco/WMO/WHO/IAEA/ UN/UNEP Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution	<b>[SEAFDEC]</b>	<b><u>Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Centre</u></b>
<b>GEF</b>	<b><u>Global Environment Facility</u></b>	UN	United Nations
<b>[GPA]</b>	<b><u>Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities</u></b>	UNCLOS	(United Nations) Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982
HABs	Harmful algal blooms	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
<b>IHNS</b>	<b><u>International Convention On Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996</u></b>	UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
ICM	Integrated coastal management	[UNFCCC]	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992
IMO	International Maritime Organization	<b>[WRI]</b>	<b><u>World Resources Institute</u></b>
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	<b>[WSSD]</b>	<b><u>World Summit on Sustainable Development</u></b>
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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Riverine systems within the region of the Seas of East Asia that are of considerable ecological significance are:

- The Mekong River, which has a globally-unique lake-river system (the Mekong-Tonle Sap River-Great Lake System) and globally significant wetlands and flooded forests, supporting one of the most productive and diverse freshwater ecosystems in the world (Mekong River Commission 1999).
- The Yangtze River in China, Asia's longest river, which serves as a major trade and transportation route. It traverses densely populated and economically productive regions of China before emptying into the East China Sea (Encarta 2001(a)).
- The Yellow River, China's second longest river, passes through the densely populated North China Plain before reaching the Bohai Sea. The plain, one of China's most important agricultural regions, suffers periodically from devastating flooding of the Yellow River (Encarta 2001(b)).
- The Red River Basin, one of the largest watersheds in Southeast Asia, originates in Yunnan province, China and flows through Viet Nam to the South China Sea where it forms an extensive delta. The problems of frequent and severe flooding in both upper and lower areas of the river, and salinity intrusion during the dry season have an impact in the national economy since the Lower Red River Delta is the most densely populated area in Vietnam. (RRB 2002, Vu 1996)

The river basins that are associated with the Seas of East Asia cover a total area of about 6.25 million square kilometers and accommodate about 1.5 billion people (Talaue-McManus, L., 2000; and Yu, Juliano and Teng, 2001). The Seas of East Asia are the catchment area of the associated upstream river basins. Therefore the health of the East Asian Seas is significantly impacted by these river basins and related human activities.

Major Seas of East Asia	Related River Basins	
	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population
Bohai Sea	1,400,000	445,000,000
Yellow Sea	502,000	230,000,000
East China Sea	1,820,000	510,000,000
South China Sea	2,524,960	268,182,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,246,960</b>	<b>1,453,182,000</b>

Source: Talaue-McManus, L., 2000; and Yu, Juliano and Teng, 2001.



## THE PEOPLE OF EAST ASIA

The East Asian region has a total population of 1.9 billion, expected to reach 3 billion by 2015. About 77% (ranging from 24% in Cambodia and China to 100% in South Korea, Philippines and Singapore) live within 100 km from the coast (data source: Burke et al 2001).

The region is highly urbanized, with rapid population growth. The populations of East Asia as a whole are fast transforming from rural to urban. In 1994, 34% of the East Asian populace was in urban areas; it is estimated that by 2025, this will have grown to 1.4 billion people or 54%, for an average growth per year of 2.5% (Douglass 1998). This will comprise a 29.43% share of the world increase in urban population.

Coastal settlements have developed into major cities now counted among the most populated in the world. It is estimated that within the next 50 years more cities in the region will join the six coastal megacities now found in East Asia (United Nations Population Division; World Urbanization Prospects: the 1999 Revision).

Because of the region's geography, a large proportion of the East Asian people are dependent on marine food production. One-fourth of the world's marine fish production is contributed by East Asia.

There are 10 million fisherfolk, and 50 million people are dependent on fisheries for a major portion of their livelihood. Twenty-eight percent of the animal protein intake of the East Asian people comes from fish.

Country	Coastline (km)	Population (millions)	Coastal population (% within 100 km of the coast)	Ave. annual population growth (%)
Brunei	270	0.35	99.9	2.2
Cambodia	435	12.49	23.8	2.2
China	32,000	1,287.75	24.0	0.9
DPR Korea	4,009	22.52	92.9	1.6
Indonesia	81,290	206.26	95.9	1.4
Japan	29,020	127.00	96.3	0.2
Malaysia	9,323	24.31	98.0	2.0
Philippines	18,000	79.94	100.0	2.1
RO Korea	11,542	46.14	100.0	0.8
Singapore	268	4.16	100.0	1.4
Thailand	2,600	62.31	38.7	0.9
Vietnam	3,260	80.53	82.8	1.6

Being the region worst affected by natural disasters, combined with high population densities and the large number of people living on flood plains and low-lying coastal areas, the vulnerability of the people of East Asia is high.

[Data sources:

(a) Coastline figures of China, Indonesia, Philippines, RO Korea and Thailand provided by country representatives; the rest from WRI, 2002.

(b) Population figures of Indonesia, Japan, RO Korea and Thailand provided by country representatives; the rest from World Development Indicators database, World Bank, July 2003.

(c) Coastal population figures of RO Korea and Thailand provided by country representatives; the rest from WRI, 2002.

(d) Annual population growth figure of Thailand provided by country representative; the rest from WRI, 2002.]

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EAST ASIA

The region as a whole has achieved unprecedented sustained growth and development in the past three decades despite the economic crisis of 1997-1999. Growth was accompanied by a dramatic decline in the incidence of absolute poverty, significant increases in per capita incomes, and notable improvements in key social indicators. GDP per capita has nearly tripled in several countries. However, aggregate success hides a great diversity of development experiences: the region includes economies at very different stages of development; among and within countries, not all have shared equally in the benefits of the region's growth.

All stages of national economic development are represented in East Asia. According to 1997 data of the 12 countries in the region, the World Bank has classified two countries as low-income economies, five countries as lower-middle-income economies, one country as an upper-middle economy and four countries as high-income economies. Hong Kong and Taiwan are also classified as high-income areas.

The low- and middle-income economies in the region are generally resource-dependent. The coastal and marine resources of this region account for not less than 40% of the Gross Domestic Product, although the economies have begun to diversify.

A large portion of economic activities, with the exception of agriculture, are concentrated in the region's coastal cities.

<sup>1</sup>According to Earth Trends, "An international dollar has the same purchasing power in a given country as a United States dollar in the United States. In other words, it buys an equivalent amount of goods or services in that country." (WRI, 2003)

The cities will be drivers of economic growth, with 80% of the incremental economic activity in the region taking place in large and small cities.

Thus, traditional resource-based activities such as coastal fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and agriculture are found side-by-side with activities such as industry, shipping and tourism. The potential for economic opportunities in coastal cities is a strong attractive force, fuelling immigration from often economically depressed rural areas. These future coastal residents will demand employment, housing, energy, food, water, and other goods and services, presenting a substantial development challenge for these areas.

A large majority of the people in the region suffer from poverty. In 1998, 65 million people in the countries of East Asia excluding China were earning less than US\$1 per day (World Bank 2000). **[Last sentence deleted.]**

Country	GDP per capita PPP (current int'l \$) 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Ave. Annual GDP growth rate (%), 1991-2000 (1995 US\$) <sup>1</sup>	GDP by sector, 2000 (%) <sup>1a</sup>			Employment by sector, 1996-1998 (% of male/female labor force) <sup>1b</sup>			Unemployment, 1998 (% of total labor force) <sup>1c</sup>	Population below int'l poverty line, 2000 (%) <sup>1d</sup>	Infant mortality rate, 1995-2000 (per 1,000 births) <sup>1e</sup>	Child malnutrition (% of children under 5)
			Agriculture	Industry	Services	Agriculture	Industry	Services				
Brunei	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10	n.a.	
Cambodia	1,326	4.6	37	20	42	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	103	47	
China	3,936	10.1	16	51	33	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.1	18.8	41	
DPR Korea	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22	n.a.
Indonesia	3,019	3.5	17	47	36	41/42	21/16	39/42	5.5	7.7	48	70
Japan	26,707	1.3	1	32	66	5/6	39/23	56/71	4.1	0.2 <sup>2</sup>	4	n.a.
Malaysia	9,497	6.6	11	45	44	21/15	34/28	46/57	2.5	4.3 <sup>2</sup>	11	20
Philippines	3,967	3.6	16	31	53	47/27	18/12	35/61	9.6	26.9 <sup>2</sup>	36	n.a.
RO Korea	17,579	5.5	5	43	53	11/14	34/19	55/67	6.8	2.0	10	n.a.
Singapore	23,356	7.7	0	34	66	0/0	34/23	66/77	3.2	n.a.	5	n.a.
Thailand	6,190	3.5	10	40	49	52/50	19/16	29/34	3.4	2.0	38	n.a.
Vietnam	2,006	7.9	24	37	39	70/71	12/9	18/20	11.4	n.a.	43	37

Sources: (a) WRI, 2003; and (b) World Bank Group, 2002.

<sup>2</sup>1997 data

## THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

The following characteristics define the environment of the Seas of East Asia:

- The seas have a total area of 7 million square kilometers (Kononov 1999), with expanded watersheds.
- With a total coastline length of 234,000 kilometers (Burke et al 2001), majority of the countries have long coastlines and large coastal areas.
- The extensive coastal areas of the region are conducive to settlement and livelihood. There are hundreds of natural harbors that have become among the most important ports of the world.
- Two of the largest archipelagic states in the world, and thousands of other islands, are located in the region, making the special needs of island ecosystems important to the region.
- Severe weather systems (monsoons, typhoons) from the ocean affect most parts of the region.
- Most of the region is geologically active – it is part of the Pacific “ring of fire” -- and suffers earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The region encompasses many ecosystems which are globally significant for their biodiversity. The Seas of East Asia supports 30% of the world's coral reefs and one-third of the world's mangroves. These contribute to 40 million tons of fish/year and produce close to 80% of the world's aquaculture products (FAO 1999(a), 1999(b)). At least 20 of the 50 species of the world's seagrasses are found in the region (Fortes 1989, 1995 and Sudara et al 1994, cited in Chia and Kirkman 2000). Aside from these ecosystems, the region has a wide range of environmentally and economically significant wetlands, estuaries, lagoons, bays and gulfs.

### Natural roles of ecosystems

These ecosystems provide the following goods and services.

#### Coral reefs:

- Nursery ground [and shelter] for fish and other associated organisms;
- Natural products (pharmaceuticals);
- Physical barrier, i.e. provide shoreline defense by absorbing wave energy; and
- Livelihood through attracting eco-tourism and fishery related activities.

#### Mangroves:

- Nursery and feeding grounds for commercially important species of fish, prawns, etc.;
- Shelter and breeding grounds for inshore and migratory species;
- Livelihood;
- Shoreline defense against floods and beach erosion;
- Pollutant “sink” by filtering certain types of waste that reach the sea; and
- Carbon sink

#### Seagrass beds:

- Nursery ground, shelter and food for fish, invertebrates and dugong, turtles and seahorses;
- Coast stabilization;
- Fertilizer and fodder; and
- Pollutant sink.

#### Other Wetlands:

- Crucial shelter, food and nutrition for a wide range of sedentary and migratory species, including a great number of rare, vulnerable, threatened and endangered species.

#### Estuaries:

- Transition from land to sea, from salt to fresh water;
- Dwelling and nursery grounds for birds, mammals, fish and other wildlife, and vegetation;
- Natural buffer between land and ocean; and
- Natural harbors and areas for ports and other infrastructure supporting transportation, industry, commerce, livelihood and recreation]

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## DESIRED CHANGES

The ultimate goal of the shared vision and mission is to improve the quality of life of the people of East Asia.

### Institutional

- National coastal and marine policy and supporting legislation adopted
- Local governments [and communities] given responsibility to manage their coastal and marine environment
- Area specific institutional arrangements for environmental management [and sustainable development] of large gulfs, bays, inland seas, international straits and large marine ecosystems (LMEs) in place
- Local interagency, multi-sectoral coordinating mechanisms to implement sustainable coastal development programs set up
- Environmental action programs and safeguards built into regional, national and [local] development plans
- A functional regional mechanism to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia adopted
- The major international environmental instruments ratified and implemented by each country
- Environmental management incorporated into economic development plans at national and local level

### Operational

- National coastal and marine strategy adopted and implemented
- Resource and environmental valuation, assessment and management systems in place as tools for sustainable development
- Integrated environmental [and natural resource] management programs implemented by local governments in coastal and marine areas
- Cooperation between jurisdictions for addressing transboundary issues across boundaries at subregional seas, gulfs, bays, inland seas, international straits and large marine ecosystems
- Joint research and sharing of information for the management of coastal and marine resources in place
- Integrated implementation of international environmental instruments at national and local level undertaken
- A sustainable financing mechanism for the regional implementation of international conventions operational

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## DESIRED CHANGES

### Outcomes

#### [Social]

- Integrated, multidisciplinary and multisectoral coastal and ocean management mechanisms and processes developed at the national and local levels.
- Attitude change among policy [and decision] makers, private sector and civil society [in support of sustainable development];
- An educated and environmentally conscious people collaborating to conserve the environment of East Asia;
- Civil society and private sector highly involved and participating in coastal and marine environmental [and natural resource] management programs;
- Scientific advice available at national and local levels of government;
- Public health levels improved;
- Natural and cultural heritage areas protected;

#### [Economic]

- Private sector [engaged in sustainable and socially responsible investments];
- Sustainable livelihoods pursued;
- Coastal communities prepared and able to cope with natural disasters and climatic events;
- [Sustainable marine industries established];

#### [Environment and Resources]

- More coastal areas able to achieve [economic growth while protecting the environment and natural resources];
- Environmental management integrated into subregional growth area development;
- Rivers and coastal waters safe for public recreation;
- Pollution from all sources managed;
- Systems of responsibility for pollution damages and restoration established;
- Recovery of water quality of polluted areas;
- Sewage treatment facilities installed and operational in major urban cities;
- Systematic and safe management and disposal of toxic and hazardous wastes;
- **Ports and harbors equipped with waste reception facilities;**
- **Ports and harbors implementing port safety and environmental audits;**
- **Effective response systems for oil and chemical spills implemented.**
- Major degradation of habitats arrested and restoration undertaken;
- Marine endangered species and biodiversity effectively protected;
- Protected areas [and their networks] established and managed [as needed and appropriate];
- [Depleted fish stocks restored to sustainable levels.]
- Fish stocks equitably and sustainably utilized;
- Aquatic food production safe for human consumption.

*The Strategy* 27 [31]

### Executing the Strategy -- continued

#### **Private Sector**

- Exercising corporate responsibility to the environment;
- Identifying areas where private sector's inputs could be most relevant and effective, such as areas for private sector's investment;
- Interacting with concerned government agencies in implementing some of the Strategy and action programs.

#### **Civil Society**

- Informing, educating, counseling the people and mobilizing their support and proactive participation in implementing the action programs;
- Coordinating networks and associations to facilitate implementation of the Strategy through public awareness using their own networks and associations;
- Participating in relevant action programs.

#### **Academe and Research and Development Institutions**

- Providing expertise, advise and relevant information for implementation of the Strategy;
- Providing expertise and information to support policy and decision making;
- Developing and undertaking research and development programs to generate the needed information, methodologies and advice;
- Sharing scientific information through networks;
- Building capacity through training programs and formal education.

#### **Communities**

- Supporting and actively participating in the local implementation of the action programs, e.g. those related to protected areas, habitat management and restoration, and waste management.

#### **UN and International Agencies**

- [Harmonizing their policies at regional and national levels with regard to the implementation of the Strategy.]
- Strengthening the capacity at national and local levels to plan and implement the Strategy;
- Catalyzing national and local efforts towards implementing the Strategy;
- Developing working models and demonstration of approaches and methodologies;
- Promoting regional cooperation and collaboration in implementing activities relevant to transboundary environmental issues;
- Facilitating the establishment and implementation of the regional mechanisms for [carrying out the Strategy].
- Working in a complementary manner and using their comparative advantages to support implementation of the Strategy.

## General Principles

1. [The sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia shall be pursued through the application of the integrated management approach as the overarching framework, whereby strategic projects and programmes are implemented for the purpose of ensuring environmental protection and conservation of resources as well as the well-being and dignity of the people of the region.]
2. The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet development and environmental needs of present and future generations.
3. Management of coastal and marine resources and the activities affecting them **[shall be science-based and respect]** natural processes and systems.
4. Beneficial uses of the resources shall be encouraged and adverse uses avoided or minimized.
5. Basic linkages between sustainable management of coastal and marine resources, poverty alleviation, and protection of the marine environment should be recognized.
6. **[Multisectoral partnerships involving NGOs, the private sector, communities, and mass media, as well as government, intergovernmental bodies, international agencies and bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, are recognized as essential mechanisms to meeting the goal of sustainable development.]**
7. **[States should recognize and duly support the identity, culture and interests of indigenous people and their communities and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.]**
8. Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level.
9. The rights of all sectors of society shall be respected and protected.
10. The precautionary approach shall be widely applied. Where there are threats of serious irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.
11. Activities within one State should not cause damage by pollution to other States and their environment.
12. The interrelationship between conservation and socioeconomic development implies both that conservation is necessary to ensure sustainability of development, and that socioeconomic development is necessary for the achievement of conservation on a lasting basis.
13. [Ecosystem-based management approaches shall be applied to ensure sustainable development of coastal and marine areas.]

### Sustain

#### East Asian Ecosystems at Risk

Ecosystems suffer not only from the threats common to the marine environment, but from specific threats as well. This is of major concern because the ecosystems of the region are host to biologically diverse species of flora and fauna that are part of the common legacy of the region.

##### Threats to coral reefs

- destructive fishing practices
- sedimentation from land- and sea-based sources
- pollution from land- and sea-based sources
- climate change/sea temperature rise
- coral and sand mining
- aquarium trade
- overfishing
- predation / infestation (e.g. crown of thorns starfish)

##### Threats to mangroves

- excessive pollution
- conversion to aquaculture ponds
- conversion for coastal development
- deforestation for wood/timber and other products
- saltwater intrusion

##### Threats to seagrass beds

- conversion to aquaculture ponds
- land-filling for coastal development
- sedimentation from land- and sea-based sources
- excessive pollution
- destructive fishing practices

##### Threats to other wetlands

- destructive fishing and hunting practices
- deposit of human-generated waste material
- chemical contamination
- other forms of pollution
- conversion to rice paddies
- dredging and land-filling for coastal development
- sedimentation
- erosion
- subsidence

- sea level rise
- droughts
- hurricanes and storms
- overgrazing by wildlife
- inappropriate drainage

##### [Threats to estuaries

- dredging and land-filling for coastal development
- conversion
- deposit of human-generated waste material
- chemical contamination
- other forms of pollution
- deforestation
- sedimentation
- erosion
- subsidence
- sea level rise
- saltwater intrusion]

## Protect

### Objective 3: Prevention of adverse impacts from sea-based human activities.

#### Action Programs

1. Prevent operational and accidental pollution of marine waters from shipping activities by:
  - a) Implementing the requirements of MARPOL 73/78;
  - b) Instituting navigational safety and traffic management systems, especially in areas of congested traffic and/or in the vicinity of marine protected areas and particularly sensitive sea areas;
  - [c) Developing and strengthening capacity for at-sea multisectoral law enforcement and maritime surveillance, which contribute to the prevention of piracy and armed robbery at sea, while ensuring maritime safety and facilitating marine environmental protection.**
  - d) Requiring the use of environmentally friendly, anti-fouling compounds on ships' hulls and marine equipment;
  - e) Applying appropriate technologies, processes and procedures to avoid the introduction of exotic organisms through ballast water discharges;
  - f) Providing suitable shore reception facilities and services in ports to receive operational wastes from ships;
  - g) Strengthening safety and environmental management systems in ports and integrating such systems with environmental programs of local communities.
- [2. Control] ocean-dumping in accordance with the 1972 London Convention and incineration of wastes [at sea in accordance with [relevant international agreements.]
3. Counter accidental spills and discharges from sea-based human activities by:
  - a) Adopting contingency plans at the regional, national and local levels for responding promptly to pollution incidents involving oily, hazardous and noxious substances;
  - b) Ensuring appropriate response procedures, equipment, materials and personnel are in place on vessels and in terminals, ports and off-shore units;
  - c) Establishing agreements among government agencies, industry, the private sector and community groups for support personnel, equipment and materials in the event of accidental spills, including joint oil spill response, mutual aid mechanisms and facilities;
  - d) Undertaking regular training exercises involving the response groups.
  - [e) Developing an oil pollution source tracing capability.]
4. Attend to land- and sea-based economic development activities by:
  - a) Incorporating both land and sea-based activities into ICM programs of local governments;
  - b) Adopting land- and sea-use zonation plans at the national and local government levels;
  - c) Assessing and managing the environmental risks of shipping, dredging, land reclamation, [aquaculture, seabed mining and other] resource extractive industries within the context of ecosystem management and public benefit.

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## Develop

- [4. Manage the ecological and social impact of expanding coastal urbanization, particularly [large and] megacities in the coastal zone, by:
  - a) Strengthening multi-sectoral stakeholder involvement in managing the urban affairs to address adverse impacts that may accompany rapid urbanization and population growth and ensure the implementation of sustainable urban development policies;
  - b) Undertaking risk assessment/risk management programs with special attention to public health, population density and the vulnerabilities of urban populations and environment;
  - c) Increasing awareness and capacity-building programs related to management of coastal urban areas.]

The Strategy [67]



## COMMUNICATE

The East Asian countries shall communicate with stakeholders to raise public awareness, strengthen multisectoral participation and obtain scientific support for the sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment.

### Why Communicate?

“... contribute to the development of public policy and to business, governmental and intergovernmental programmes and educational initiatives that will enhance environmental awareness and protection.”

Principle 14 (Contributing to the Common Effort), Business Charter for Sustainable Development  
International Chamber of Commerce

### Principles

States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. (Rio Declaration, Principle 10)

The creativity, ideal and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilised to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development. (Rio Declaration, Principle 21)

### *[Principle on indigenous peoples moved to General Principles]*

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development. (Rio Declaration, Principle 20)

Understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the protection and preservation of the marine environment shall be propagated through media, included in educational programs, and developed in educational and public awareness programs.

### Objectives

1. Raising public awareness and understanding of coastal and marine environmental and resource management issues and processes.
2. Utilization of science and traditional knowledge in decision-making processes.
3. Mobilization of governments and civil society utilizing innovative communication methods.

The Strategy 75 [79]

## Communicate

### Objective 2: Utilization of science and traditional knowledge in decision-making processes.

#### Action Programs

1. Establish information technology (IT) as a vital tool in sustainable development programs at the local, national and regional levels systems by:
  - a) Agreeing on frameworks and standards for environmental information management at the local and national levels;
  - b) Building local government capacities to help decision-makers and to sensitize the local public on environmental matters;
  - c) Linking people via computer networks to exchange information, encourage collaboration and develop new opportunities;
  - d) Co-operating with the private sector to spur investment in and use of IT;
  - e) Encouraging sharing of environmental information and lessons among countries and institutions as one way to build capacity and learn from one another's experiences;
  - f) Applying innovative IT technologies to minimize costs, advance understanding of available information and serve as decision-support instruments for policy makers and other stakeholders.
2. Utilize science and traditional knowledge in environmental policy development and decision-making by:
  - a) Forging partnerships with scientists and scientific institutions to encourage information and knowledge sharing at the local and national levels;
  - b) Supporting scientific research which advances knowledge of ecosystem management and provides input to decisions on sustainable economic development, including:
    - new technology and practices that support the sustainable use of resources
    - economic valuation of coastal and marine resources
    - preservation of biodiversity and the natural and cultural heritage of the peoples and countries of the Seas of East Asia, including in situ and ex-situ research
    - effective management of transboundary issues at the local, national, subregional and regional level
    - the carrying capacity of the ecosystem to establish levels for sustainable resource use and economic development activities;
  - c) Applying the knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous local communities in planning, development and management processes;
  - d) Involving indigenous peoples and other stakeholders in gathering, analysis and use of information on habitats and biological diversity;
  - e) Coordinating local interest groups to undertake surveys/monitoring and other management efforts;

**[f) Contributing to the regular process of the Global Marine Environment Monitoring and Assessment (GMA) called for by the WSSD Plan of Implementation.]**

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Monitoring NATIONAL Level Implementation of the Strategy

**Institutional**

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
<b>a) Coastal/marine policy</b>			
No. of countries:			
• Under development			
• In place			
<b>b) Accession to at least ten (10) key international environmental instruments*</b>			
No. of countries:			
• Under development			
• In place			

**[\*Note: The 10 key international environmental instruments can be selected from those shown in Table 3, Annex 3 (Page 99).]**

**Operational**

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
<b>a) National coastal and marine environmental strategy</b>			
• Under development			
• In place			
<b>b) National coastlines with land- and sea-use development plans</b>			
Length of coastline (km):			
• Under development			
• In place			
<b>c) Ship waste reception facilities in ports and harbors</b>			
% of ports/harbors with licensed facilities and services:			
• Under development			
• In place			
<b>d) National marine and coastal areas under environmental management programs</b>			
Total area (km <sup>2</sup> ):			
• Under development			
• In place			
<b>e) River basins under ecosystem development and management programmes</b>			
Total river basin area (km <sup>2</sup> ):			
• Under development			
• In place			

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**Annex 2**

**International and Regional Programmes of Action on the Coastal and Marine Environment**

1. Agenda 21, Chapter 17
2. WSSD Declaration and Plan of Implementation
3. United Nations Millennium Declaration and Development Goals
4. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)
5. Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, 1995
6. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Hanoi Plan of Action, 2000 – 2004
7. Asean Cooperation Plan on Transboundary Pollution, Kuala Lumpur, June 1995
8. **[ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1985]**
9. Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
10. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, and Strategic Action Programme, for the South China Sea, 2000, UNEP East Asian Seas Action Plan
11. Overview on Land-based Sources and Activities Affecting the Marine Environment in the East Asian Seas, 2000, UNEP East Asian Seas Action Plan
12. Vision and Plan: A Systematic Approach, 2000, UNEP East Asian Seas Long-Term Plan
13. **[Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)]**
14. APEC Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Marine Environment, 1997
15. Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control for the Asia Pacific
16. Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL)
17. **[Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Programme]**

See also:

A Sea of Troubles, GESAMP Report and Recommendations, 2001

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## **ANNEX 7**

### **Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia**



**PUTRAJAYA DECLARATION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION  
FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

We, Ministers from 12 coastal States of the East Asian region, have gathered this day in Putrajaya to discuss policies and actions for achieving sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

The vast resources in our coastal waters and oceans are a priceless and unique feature of our region. Collectively, we are the caretakers of what is recognized as the world center for marine biodiversity. These natural assets are our food supply, a source of employment and livelihood, a medium for transportation, and a living web that links and influences social, cultural and economic behavior in our everyday lives. Our coastal and marine resources are more than natural commodities. They are part of our history, and a safeguard to economic prosperity and peaceful and harmonious co-existence for present and future generations.

Unfortunately, the quality of this natural heritage continues to be eroded, as indicated by the ongoing degradation and destruction of habitats, diminishing fisheries, pollution of coastal waters, red tide occurrences, invasive exotic species, and general loss of biodiversity. Progress across the region in overcoming these common environmental problems has been slow relative to economic growth and development, despite the significant individual and collaborative efforts of national governments, international agencies, regional institutions and donor organizations. These problems will remain, unless national capabilities to meet sustainable development requirements can be significantly enhanced.

Over the past 20 years, the governments and other stakeholders have made considerable efforts to address social, economic and environmental concerns within their national jurisdictions. There is a need to step up cooperative efforts amongst the countries of the region to tackle transboundary environmental and resource concerns. Although multilateral environmental agreements have attempted to address these problems, there is a marked disparity among countries of the region in their capacity to respond to the challenges to sustainable development and to implement the relevant international conventions. The single-sector or single-issue approach, which is not uncommon in international instruments, has also failed to consider the interconnectivity among economic sectors, ecosystems, social development and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. As a consequence, the overall benefits to be derived from multilateral environmental agreements have not been fully captured in national development policies and implementation programmes.

The World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg in August 2002, called all nations' attention to the challenges and inter-linkages between sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Participating countries adopted forward-looking Implementation Plans with specific commitments for water and sanitation, efficient use of energy, human health protection, agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystem management. Achieving WSSD development targets underscore the need to adopt a new paradigm of regional cooperation for addressing transboundary issues of common concerns -- integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the problem into a

comprehensive development framework. The new paradigm framework shall be developed through stakeholder partnership arrangements and appropriate policy directions for regional cooperation in promoting sustainable coastal and marine development, including the uses of living and non-living resources, maritime transport, tourism and others. While the role of national policies and development strategies is of paramount importance to facilitate sustainable development, it is recognized that domestic economies are now interwoven with regional and global economic systems. Therefore national policies and programmes of actions for sustainable coastal and marine uses shall be aligned to the global efforts as embodied in the relevant international conventions and agreements.

The emergence of the East Asia economic realignment offers new opportunities for cooperation among countries of the region, geared to achieving prosperity and a better future through individual efforts combined with vigorous multilateral action. In a common pursuit of national economic growth and regional competitiveness, our countries face a critical challenge to enhance the efficacy, coherence and consistency of national development policies and strategies for sustainable use of natural resources. In addition, we need to create, step by step, an enabling domestic environment that encourages partnerships, investment, capacity building, and information and knowledge sharing among our governments, as well as across levels of government and sectors of society.

From this perspective, we embarked jointly on the formulation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

The SDS-SEA addresses, amongst others, key concerns of our coasts and oceans, providing a platform for cooperation at the regional, subregional, national and local levels, and for intergovernmental, interagency and intersectoral collaboration on:

- WSSD targets for sustainable development;
- Implementation of integrated ocean and coastal management approaches; and
- Action programs aimed at solving problems and deficiencies in ocean and coastal governance.

At the same time, the SDS-SEA facilitates synergistic actions to:

- Enhance maritime safety and protection of the marine environment from pollution and environmental damage caused by ships, including the introduction of invasive alien species, and oil and chemical pollution preparedness and response, through capacity-building, voluntary application of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Model Audit Scheme, and the implementation of IMO conventions and other agreements, such as the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Port State Control;
- Protect the coastal and marine environment from land-based sources of pollution through the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) and the Montreal Declaration, with special emphasis on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of habitats and nutrients through efforts at all levels;
- Significantly reduce the loss of marine biodiversity and maintain the productivity and biodiversity of coastal and marine ecosystems, species and genetic resources through the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

and Jakarta Mandate and other existing international conventions and programs of action; and

- Ensure that fish stocks are maintained or restored to levels that can sustainably support present and future generations through the application of the integrated coastal management (ICM) approach, ecosystem management, marine protected area designation and implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Law of the Sea instruments including measures against unsustainable fisheries practices.

The SDS-SEA provides a strategic approach to developing and managing marine and coastal resources in a sustainable manner, with utmost consideration to the different uses, perceptions of value, and priorities that national governments and other stakeholders place on such resources. By employing integrated approaches to more effectively implement international conventions, the SDS-SEA aims to harness resources and strengthen synergies and linkages in capacity building and to mobilize all stakeholders – including government agencies, international organizations, donors, financial institutions, the private sector, non-government organizations (NGOs), scientists, academe, communities and other members of civil society -- to discharge their social responsibilities and actively contribute to sustainable development programmes. At the local level, the SDS-SEA provides directions and approaches for the authorities and stakeholders to act on and resolve local environmental and natural resource issues that have national, regional and global significance, to identify and promote opportunities for environmental investments, and to facilitate sustainable financing options.

We recognize the benefits of working together, and firmly commit ourselves to regional cooperation and collaboration. To this end, we agree to adopt the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia as a common platform for regional cooperation, and as a framework for policy and programme development and implementation, wherever appropriate, at the national and local level.

We thank Malaysia for her hospitality and tremendous efforts in making our Forum a success.

Adopted at the East Asian Seas Congress 2003, Putrajaya, 12 December 2003.