1.0 Background

1.1 The 8th EAS Partnership Council meeting in July 2016 approved the concept paper of the ICM Professional Certification Program and directed the PRF to proceed with the development of the details of the program starting with the ICM Manager Certification Program.

1.2 The ICM Manager Certification Program being developed by PEMSEA is defined in the summary paper in Attachment A. It is aimed at providing a systematic approach to certifying and recognizing ICM Managers. The overall objective of the summary paper is to identify the key components of the ICM Manager Certification Program, and to initiate the testing and piloting of the implementation of the program among PEMSEA Partner countries in the region.

1.3 The certification program is being developed to promote high standards of competence, professional growth, and ethical conduct in the practice of integrated coastal and ocean governance, directly supporting the targets and commitments that have been agreed to by PEMSEA Partners with the adoption of the SDS-SEA 2015 and Da Nang Compact. It is also envisaged as an incentive for ICM managers and practitioners to evolve as professionals in coastal and ocean governance and management and to achieve recognition for the skills and services they render to coastal communities, national and local governments, and the region in support of SDS-SEA 2015 targets and objectives.

1.4 This certification program is likewise underpinned by the maturation of leadership in ICM development and implementation across the region; by the continuing growth of PEMSEA and its significant role as the center of excellence for ICM in the region and internationally; and by the growing network of ICM managers, practitioners and communities of practice using integrated management approaches.

1.5 The certification is designed to promote high standards of competence, professional growth, and ethical conduct in the practice of integrated coastal and ocean governance, directly supporting the commitments made by the countries in the implementation Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

2.0 Status of the Development of the ICM Manager Certification Program

2.1 The following documents were prepared by the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) as part of the development of the ICM Manager Certification program and the implementation of pilot phase of the certification process:
a. Draft ICM Manager Certification Program Handbook (Attachment A, Annex 1) defines ICM Manager Certification criteria and procedures based on internationally accepted standards including:

i. Project Management Professional (PMP) certification;

ii. ISO/IEC 17024:2012; Conformity assessment – General Requirements for Bodies operating certification of Persons.

The ICM Manager Certification Program Handbook identifies correspondence between these two international standards and the PEMSEA ICM Manager Certification Program. The correspondence shows that the PEMSEA ICM Manager Certification Program incorporates the requirements and the process of the prevailing internationally recognized certification standards;

b. The ICM Manager Certification and Training Program will be pilot tested with the participation of selected ICM managers of local government with established ICM systems. The results of the pilot testing will be reported to the EAS Partnership Council in 2018.

3.0 Actions requested of the Technical Session

3.1 The Technical Session is invited to:

a. Review and comment on the summary paper, the Draft ICM Manager Certification Handbook and the status of the ICM Manager Certification Program; and

b. Request the PRF to proceed with development of the detailed ICM Manager Certification program, and the organization and conduct of the pilot testing of the certification and training process.

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Attachment A: Summary ICM Manager Certification Program

Background

The overall goal of the program is to design and operationalize the PEMSEA ICM Professional Certification program (starting with the PEMSEA ICM Manager Certification program) in partner countries. The certification will promote high standards of competence, professional growth, and ethical conduct in the practice of integrated coastal and ocean governance, directly supporting the commitments made by the countries in the implementation Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

ICM Manager Certification Process

To date, the ICM Manager Certification Handbook was drafted defining the ICM Manager Certification schemes, level, criteria and certification process. The content of the handbook is summarized below.

Certification Schemes and Levels

To ensure the effective development of the ICM of local governments competent ICM professionals are needed. The ICM Managers’ Certification scheme is designed to identify and certify ICM managers that are competent and have established track records with respect to the implementation of the ICM and improved governance and environmental performance of the local governments in the East Asia Region.

The PEMSEA certification awarded to the ICM manager means that PEMSEA recognizes that the ICM manager has demonstrated competence in development, implementation and continually improving the ICM system, as defined in PEMSEA’s ICM Code, and as implemented by a local government.

The PEMSEA ICM Manager Certification Scheme targets qualified ICM managers involved in the provision of coordinating activities, management and guidance to the local government in the development and implementation of their respective ICM Systems and have successfully achieved the criteria and examination for the ICM Manager Certification. The criteria and process for ICM Manager Certification is aligned with the world accepted Project Management Professional (PMP) certification and the international standard ISO/IEC 17024:2012, Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons (see Annex 1, Draft ICM Manager Certification Handbook).

ICM Managers’ Certification Levels:

Three levels of ICM Manager Certification are identified, namely:

Level 1
- Mastery of the first order ICM governance, program development and management, tools and structural arrangements
- Competencies are built around the need to create a “political coalition” and institutional structures based upon immediate priority interventions and
collaborations with stakeholders who are strongly supportive of integrative, collaborative governance;

▪ **Capable of steering the local government to fulfill the requirements of ICM System Level 1 Certification**

**Level 2**

▪ Mastery of second order governance that looks at a more complex and varied relationships and interactions; partnerships and leverages; and power structures in the context of scaling up ocean and coastal governance;

▪ Competencies are expected to be commensurate with the start of the scaling up when additional risks, larger coverage area and other stakeholders can prove challenging to a partnership approach in governance;

▪ **Capable of steering the local government to fulfill the requirements of ICM System Level 2 certification**

**Level 3**

▪ Mastery of meta governance. A higher level management that looks at reforms in policy development

▪ Whereas Level 1 and 2 are geared towards more at strengthening partnerships through regulative and cognitive (knowledgeable) avenues, this level looks at the normative or meta-governance; a changing in the mindset to inform and/or institute reforms in policies

▪ **Capable of steering the local government to fulfill the requirements of ICM System Level 3 certification.**

**ICM Managers’ Certification Criteria**

The ICM Managers’ Certification Criteria will guide in the application, selection and certification of the ICM Manager (the criteria can be seen in Annex 1: Draft ICM Managers Certification Checklist). The ICM Managers’ Certification Criteria is aligned to the ICM System Certification criteria and is prepared in the context that ICM managers should be able to successfully steer the development of ICM system of the local government and achieve ICM system certification. Applicants will be shortlisted and evaluated using the established criteria as defined in the checklist.

**Development activities for the ICM Managers Certification:**

The roll-out of the ICM Managers Certification will entail the following strategic initiatives:

1. Comments on the initial certification criteria and Draft ICM Manager Certification Handbook by the EAS Partnership Council as the Governing Board.
2. Identification of ICM Managers that can participate in the testing of the ICM Manager Certification Program and the Training Program (August to September 2017).
3. Conduct of testing of the ICM Manager Certification (October 2017 to March 2018).
4. Reporting to the partnership council on the results of the testing along with a business plan for scaling up the process (June 2018).
5. Discussion with countries and partners on the roll-out of the ICM Manager Certification Program (June 2018).
Annex 1: Draft Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Manager Certification Handbook
(attached separately)