



# ILOILO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

## East Asian Region Moving As One to Secure Healthy Oceans, People and Economies

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The 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Forum  
East Asian Seas Congress 2018  
November 29, 2018  
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**WE**, the Representatives of eleven countries bordering on the Seas of East Asia have gathered in Iloilo City, Philippines, on the 29th day of November 2018 to re-affirm our shared commitments for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia to reach our shared vision for healthy oceans, people and economies of the region. On this auspicious occasion, as we together celebrate PEMSEA's twenty-five years, we reflect our satisfaction on the achievements that we have collectively realized and consider our joint future direction.

**WE RE-AFFIRM** our shared commitments made in Putrajaya, Malaysia (2003) to work together towards the sustainable development of the region's coasts and oceans with a common platform under the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

**WE REMAIN** steadfast in our commitments under the Manila Declaration (2009) on strengthening the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for sustainable development and climate change adaptation; the Changwon Declaration (2012) on moving toward an ocean-based blue economy; and the Da Nang Compact (2015) on aligning our strategies in the SDS-SEA with global goals and targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** the significant value and critical contribution of coastal and marine ecosystems goods and services to securing food and jobs; helping to eradicate poverty and building resilient coastal communities and blue economies in the East Asian region. Juxtaposed against these opportunities is the vulnerability of the region to climate change and other environmental threats such as marine-related disasters, destruction and loss of habitats and natural coastlines, biodiversity loss and degradation, overfishing and lack of food security, pollution from land and sea-based sources, and impairment of water quality, water supply and water security.

**WE NOTE** the bold strides that we have collectively taken to transform PEMSEA from a mere program into a self-sustaining regional organization to work towards achieving our shared vision.

**WE FURTHER NOTE** with pride and appreciation, PEMSEA's pioneering work in the region to develop best practices in the design and implementation of the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) approach. PEMSEA is also at the forefront of developing knowledge and capacity to build climate smart policies and enable ocean-based blue economies.



**WE BELIEVE** that PEMSEA remains relevant and is well-positioned to continue performing its role as the regional platform to encourage the development of common policies, building capacity and orchestrating essential collaborative and scaled up actions alongside smart financing to deliver economic and social dividends as well as protect biodiversity and address shrinking coastlines.

**WE BELIEVE FURTHER** that because of its competence, pool of experts, and related body of information generated through its years of work on the ground, PEMSEA has established itself as the coastal and marine knowledge center that can support the region in the effective implementation of the SDS-SEA aligned with the UN SDGs and other international and regional commitments.

**WE ARE CONFIDENT** that PEMSEA will continue to facilitate regional cooperation to respond to the challenges within the context of the rapidly changing social, political, economic and environmental landscapes and encourage the region to move towards a Blue Economy and Sustainable Development of its coasts and oceans.

## OUR COMMITMENTS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

1. We will continue to work to achieve the remaining targets set under the Danang Compact by 2021, namely,
  - a. 25% ICM coverage of the region's coastlines, and
  - b. the adoption and implementation of ICM national laws and policies in all countries in the region.
2. We will regularly update the State of the Oceans and Coasts reports to highlight the contributions of coasts and oceans to economies. We further commit to establish environmental, social and economic indicators, where appropriate, to measure the development impact of initiatives on the state of the coasts, communities and economies.
3. We recognize the importance of the PEMSEA Resource Facility as the coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. We commit to support its operations through voluntary country contributions beyond 2019.
4. We support PEMSEA's efforts in identifying and developing blue economy investments at the national and local level. We welcome opportunities to work with our partners, both government and non-government, to develop, finance and implement blue economy projects in ICM sites as well as activities set forth in the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022.
5. We acknowledge the current strong momentum to tackle marine debris globally. We commit to significantly reducing or preventing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based and sea-based activities, including marine litter and nutrient pollution.
6. We commit to implementing policies and programs for the sustainable management of coastal tourism destinations. If properly planned and managed, coastal tourism will benefit the environment, the people and the economy. Sustainable tourism planning not only considers social, environmental and economic impacts within the tourist area or facility itself, but also the impacts on the host coastal community, including livelihoods, water and food security, solid waste disposal, water pollution and social and environmental factors.





7. We realize the critical importance of regional collaboration in dealing with coastal and marine hazards such as storm surges and tsunamis. We commit to working together to adopt innovative strategies to raise awareness and build regional capacity to monitor, forecast and provide timely early warnings to support safety of life and property at sea, coastal management and minimization of impact of such hazards.
8. We recognize that we are all parties to the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC and aware of the urgency and seriousness of the threat of climate change to the sustainable development of our countries and region; We commit to implement adaptation and mitigation strategies to respond to climate change.

## PARTNERSHIPS

**WE ARE AWARE** that achieving our goals will require the support of all stakeholders across sectors; We will continue our efforts to improve cooperation and engagement between PEMSEA and other countries, relevant international development organizations, local organizations, the private sector, financial institution and investors, nongovernment organizations, academic and research institutions, communities and grassroots, women and youth organizations.

**WE AGREE** to step up the cooperation with regional organizations to achieve the targets under the SDS-SEA; We recognize the opportunities for increased knowledge, efficiency gains and effectiveness when collectively addressing implementation challenges.

**WE ARE DETERMINED** to continue working together as PEMSEA country partners to deliver our common objectives in line with the SDS-SEA and our regional and global commitments. We are convinced that through our collective actions, PEMSEA will lead to more effective solutions with positive impacts on coastal communities and ecosystems as evidenced in the next regional State of Oceans and Coasts report in 2022.

## CONCLUSION

The biggest threat that we face in the region is ourselves, in the way we live our lives and the way we manage our resources. We therefore strongly urge everyone to shift towards a mindset of responsible stewardship, and pledge to take bold steps to protect, manage and restore our coasts and oceans for our present and future generations. PEMSEA Country Partners are ready to engage citizens in East Asia and peoples in other regions to work together to secure our shared vision of healthy oceans, people and economy.



Adopted in Iloilo City, Philippines, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

**The Kingdom of Cambodia**



**Hon. Vann Monyneath**  
Deputy Secretary General  
National Council for  
Sustainable Development  
Ministry of Environment

**The People's Republic of China**



**Hon. Zhang Zhi**  
Director General  
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Ministry of Natural Resources

**The Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea**



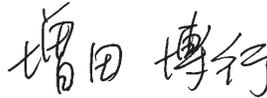
**Hon. Ri Myong San**  
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Ministry of External Economic  
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**Republic of Indonesia**



**Hon. M.R. Karliansyah**  
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Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,  
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