



PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Advancing Our Sustainable Development Agenda: Road to 2030 for Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies

The 7th EAS Ministerial Forum
East Asian Seas Congress 2021
December 2, 2021

We, the Official Government Representatives of eleven countries bordering the Seas of East Asia, have virtually gathered this 2nd day of December 2021 to review the progress and scale up good practices in implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia; chart our actions in the new decade to achieve our vision of healthy ocean, people, and economies; and respond to the global call for a green recovery strategy post COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a global crisis that disrupted trade, travel, tourism, and fisheries industries, plunging national economies across the region and affecting the lives and livelihood of the people.

We underline the need to address the impacts of COVID-19 by implementing green recovery plans, driven by a robust Blue Economy that boosts employment and equitable growth, and brings transformation towards responsible consumption, production and investment, while protecting our natural capital, enhancing resource efficiency and resiliency, and reducing carbon footprint.

We reaffirm our commitment to Blue Economy made in the Changwon Declaration in 2012 and Climate action under the Manila Declaration in 2009, and support the global efforts to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, with mitigation and adaptation as crucial underlying principles in our strategies and actions to accelerate Blue Economy and Sustainable Development.

We have taken initiatives to protect our coastal and ocean ecosystems from the impacts of climate change, marine pollution and other unsustainable patterns of resource use, mindful of the ecosystem services that it provides, including hosting nine of the world's busiest container-shipping seaports, producing 80% of the world's aquaculture and 40 million tons of annual fish catch, and supporting a third of the world's coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.

We have achieved our targets set in the Danang Compact 2015, specifically 1) the completion of a regional State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) and ten National SOC reports on Blue Economy, 2) scaling up of integrated coastal management (ICM) covering an estimated 40 percent of the region's coastline and contiguous watershed areas, surpassing the 25 percent target coverage by 2021; and 3) facilitating the formulation, adoption, and implementation of policies, action plans and programs on coastal, rivers, associated watershed areas and ocean ecosystems.



We recognize PEMSEA as a model for regional ocean governance and partnerships, and reaffirm the SDS-SEA as the regional framework of commitments for collaborative and inclusive actions, thus providing PEMSEA with the essential institutional foundation to help countries achieve global and regional commitments in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Sendai Framework, which were confirmed through the Danang Compact and the Iloilo Declaration.

We welcome the proclamation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and the UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration and support the global efforts in facilitating access to ocean science data and information to support science-informed coastal and ocean policies and interventions.

We are grateful to our non-country partners, development partners, collaborators, and donors; the PEMSEA networks of local governments, learning institutions, and youth; as well as non-government organizations, local communities, private sector and the media, which continue to support PEMSEA in achieving the SDS-SEA vision and goals.

PEMSEA ROADMAP TO 2030

We support the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030, which is anchored on SDS-SEA's vision and will complement PEMSEA Countries' green recovery plans. We commit to guide and work with the PEMSEA Resource Facility in the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030 and the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, based on the following regional priorities:

1. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE.** Improve policies for mainstreaming ICM and adopt relevant tools and mechanisms that will support an integrated, coordinated, inclusive and science-based decision making process; and strengthen institutional, technical and resource capacities by adopting innovative financing mechanisms and generating knowledge and regional best practices on river, coasts and ocean management through learning and technology exchange platforms, science research and information management initiatives.
2. **HEALTHY OCEAN.** Scale up ICM as a proven sustainable management approach to strengthen coastal resilience and protect the health of river, coasts and ocean ecosystems and related natural resources, as well as coastal communities from the threats and impacts of climate change, land-based pollution, including marine litter and debris, unsustainable activities and practices, and other unsustainable patterns of use that lead to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.
3. **HEALTHY PEOPLE.** Engage the community as responsible and effective stewards and enhance their capacities to protect and sustainably use and manage coastal, ocean and water resources thereby facilitating food security and nutrition, access to livelihood opportunities and better quality of life.
4. **HEALTHY ECONOMIES.** Accelerate blue investments and ensure sustainable and efficient utilization of coastal and ocean ecosystems, and related resources, to support green recovery initiatives that will generate jobs, livelihood and enterprises within ecological limits, towards contributing to the countries' sustainable economic development.





CALL FOR ACTION

We recognize the importance of the PEMSEA Resource Facility as the coordinating and enabling mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, which is aligned with the global goals that EAS Countries have signed to. We further assure the PRF of our continued voluntary contributions and technical support in sustaining partnerships in the region and call on our partners, local governments, private sector, academe, youth network, non-governmental organizations, financing institutions, and the international community to extend the necessary assistance to enable PRF to build regional capacities, facilitate knowledge exchange and leverage technical expertise, skills and resources for the sustainable management of coastal and ocean ecosystems.

COVID 19 continues to pose a challenge to the people and the environment. As the world adjusts and works to manage the pandemic resulting in economic crisis, PEMSEA should take the opportunity to support the green recovery to build back better and healthier ocean, people, and economies.



Adopted in Preah Sihanouk, The Kingdom of Cambodia, this 2nd day of December 2021.

The Kingdom of Cambodia



H.E. Say Samal
Minister
Ministry of Environment

People's Republic of China



Hon. Zhang Zhanhai
Chief Engineer and Director General
Ministry of Natural Resources

Democratic People's
Republic of Korea



Hon. Ri Myong San
Vice Minister
Ministry of External Economic
Relations

Republic of Indonesia



Hon. Sigit Reliantoro
Acting Director General of
Environmental Pollution and
Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Japan



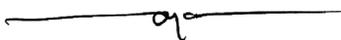
Hon. Masayuki Takada
Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism

Lao People's Democratic Republic



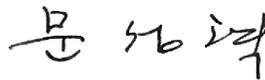
H.E. Chanthanet Boualapha
Vice Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment

Republic of the Philippines



Hon. Roy A. Cimatu
Secretary
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Republic of Korea



Hon. MOON, Seong-Hyeok
Minister
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Republic of Singapore



Hon. Hazri Hassan
Director of International Policy Division
Ministry of Sustainability and the
Environment

Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste



Hon. Acacio Guterres
Director General for Fisheries,
Aquaculture and Marine Resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



Hon. Le Minh Ngan
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment