**EC/20/DOC/02**

**20th Executive Committee Meeting**

**Agenda Item: 2.0**

**SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE**

**9TH EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING AND ACTIONS TAKEN**

1. **Background**
   1. The recommendations and decisions of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting (July 24-26, 2017, Makati, Philippines) provided guidance on the following major issue areas:

(a) SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022;

(b) EAS Congress 2018 and 6th Ministerial Forum;

(c) National and Regional State of Oceans and Coasts Reporting;

(d) ICM Professional Certification;

(e) Capacity Development, Knowledge Management and Targeted Research;

(f) Third Party Assessment on PEMSEA’s Sustainability;

(g) Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA Implementation; and

(h) Recruitment of the PEMSEA Executive Director

* 1. The key recommendations and decisions by the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting were addressed as identified in Annex 1. Some of the key actions taken or progress with regard to the EAS Congress 2018 and the development of sustainable investment mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation will be discussed further in detail at the 20th Executive Committee Meeting.

1. **Actions Requested of the 20th Executive Committee Meeting**
   1. The 20th Executive Committee is invited to review the actions taken or progress made in line with the recommendations and decisions of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting, and provide comments and further guidance as appropriate.

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**SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE 9TH EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING AND**

**STATUS OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

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| **Agenda** | **Recommendation/Decision** | **Status/Action Taken** |
| Draft SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022 | * The PRF Secretariat circulate the draft SDS-SEA Implementation (2017-2022) to the members of the Partnership Council for review and inputs on the various action programs, relevant indicators, and the planned milestone activities of Partners and collaborating organizations that collectively contribute to achieving the outcomes. * The Partners submit their comments and inputs on the further refinement of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2017-2022) to the Secretariat on or before 31 August 2017. | * Taking into consideration the suggestions from the 9th EAS PC Meeting, further updates and revisions to the Draft SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022 are being undertaken with a target completion by end of December 2017. |
| East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018 and Ministerial Forum | * The Secretariat work closely with DENR Philippines as well as with all PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners and collaborators in preparing and organizing the EAS Congress 2018 and Sixth Ministerial Forum. * PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners provide further inputs to the EAS Congress programme and identify sessions or topics that may be convened by Partners, taking note of additional suggested topics (i.e., coastal erosion, marine debris including microplastics, etc.) and initial interests expressed by some Partners (e.g., SOA, China, YSLME) to convene sessions at the International Conference. * The Secretariat facilitate a call for expressions of interest to convene and/or co-convene sessions and events at the EAS Congress 2018, with a target of completing and disseminating the EAS Congress Programme by end of 2017. * The Secretariat and DENR Philippines coordinate with Country Partners in developing and engaging the countries fully in developing a dynamic and dialogue-oriented program for the Sixth Ministerial Forum. * Country Partners actively support the preparation and organization of the Sixth Ministerial Forum, and secure the participation of their respective Ministers to the Forum. * Country and Non-Country Partners align their voluntary commitments on UN SDG14 with their inputs to the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022. * PEMSEA to consider the series of UN high-level forums on SDG 14 and the preparation towards the UN Ocean Conference 2020 to develop more concrete inputs and contributions to the global oceans agenda. In particular, maximize the EAS Congress 2018 as a key regional platform towards achieving SDS-SEA targets and UN sustainable development goals. | * DENR Philippines confirmed the hosting of the EAS Congress 2018 and 6th Ministerial Forum. * Iloilo Province, Philippines selected as venue for the EAS Congress 2018, and the Guimaras Province as venue for EAS Congress 2018 field visit and PNLG Forum 2018. * First Information Package (framework program) on EAS Congress focusing on the theme “25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda” developed and ready for dissemination to PEMSEA Partners and collaborators. * The EAS Congress 2018 framework program was developed taking into consideration key suggestions from the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting as well as the alignment of the EAS Congress discussions and targets with key international and regional commitments, particularly the UN SDG 14 on Life Below Water. * Further details on EAS Congress 2018 preparations to be discussed at 20th EC Meeting (Agenda 3.0). |
| National and Regional State of Oceans and Coasts Reporting | * The Secretariat include analysis in the SOC report of tradeoffs between the ocean economic activities and conservation initiatives, and the synergies that can be created. * The Secretariat include marine debris including microplastics, and other new areas raised during the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017. * All countries use the same SOC template in developing their national SOC reports to facilitate comparison across countries and the development of the regional SOC report. * Country and Non-Country Partners share information, such as blue economy initiatives, governance measures, and regional maps, e.g., fisheries (ASEAN), minerals, etc. | * Blue Economy Forum 2017 organized and conducted in Bangkok, Thailand on Nov. 14-15, 2017 with support from the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand. Over 120 participants from UN agencies, PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners, regional organizations, research and learning institutions within and outside the East Asia region, and local agencies from Thailand participated in the Forum. * National SOC briefs from eight PEMSEA countries were presented during the Blue Economy Forum. Presentations on blue economy contributions and state of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), ocean-based industries, and policymakers were delivered and discussed at the Forum. * The Forum concluded with support and concurrence from the PEMSEA countries and various international, regional and national agencies present on the value of collaboration in the conduct and completion of the Regional and National SOC reports as a means to monitor and track blue contributions to overall sustainable development. |
| ICM Professional Certification | * The Secretariat explore potential collaboration with institutions (e.g., IUCN) providing ICM training to identify prerequisite trainings for ICM managers. * The Secretariat proceed with the development of the ICM Managers Certification Level 2 and Level 3 checklists to ensure transparency of the certification process and incorporate it into the ICM Manager Certification Handbook, with a target of completing the handbook by end of 2017. * The Secretariat proceed with the development of the ICM Manager Certification Program and conduct the testing of the certification and training process, and report the progress and outcomes to the next EAS Partnership Council. | * ICM Managers Certification Level 2 and Level 3 checklists drafted. * List of prerequisite ICM Trainings drafted (initial draft comprise of PRF provided trainings). |
| Regional Capacity Development/Knowledge Management and Targeted Research | * The Secretariat link the KM platform (SEAKB) with other KM websites/portals as well as websites/portals in Partner Countries and ICM sites. Sharing of tools for further capacity development and KM. * PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners provide further inputs to the CD, KM and targeted research plans for 2017-2018. * The Secretariat explore opportunities for further collaboration in capacity development, knowledge management and targeted research across the Non-Country and Country Partners. * The Secretariat identify the issues highlighted from the UN Ocean Conference outcomes such as marine debris and IUU and integrate these into the plans for CD/KM and Targeted Research. * The Secretariat share a list of institutions within PEMSEA member countries for potential collaboration on these various topics. | KM platform:   * The SEAKB (seaknowledgebank.net) is being finalized to be launched as a fully operational knowledge platform (website) to facilitate sharing of tools for further capacity development. * PRF to start the development of the Philippine Rural Development Project knowledge platform (website) to be linked and housed in the PEMSEA SEAKB.   Capacity Development:   * With support from RO Korea and PEMSEA, KOEM and KIOST will conduct Seawater Quality Analysis Monitoring Training in Busan on 4-8 Dec 2017. * Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) exploring proposal for a Marxan-Z Training programme based on discussion during the Regional Training in August 2017. * A workshop on Water Quality Monitoring IEMP in Busan will be held in December 2017. Tabled in the agenda is discussion of capacity needs of countries. * Two universities in Indonesia recently designated as ICM Learning Center and members of PNLC. Discussion for collaboration during the ICM ToT workshop in November 2017. * Collaborative training on marine debris to be discussed with NOWPAP during the ICM Training of Trainers (ToT) in November 2017.   Targeted Research:   * Exploratory visit of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), a non-country partner of PEMSEA, conducted in Danang, Vietnam on 14-22 November to facilitate the identification of potential research projects to be supported by PML. * Kick-off meeting for Blue Communities project with Plymouth Marine Laboratory scheduled on 16-18 January 2018. * PEMSEA and FIRA (ROK Fisheries Resource Agency) will cooperate on the capacity development for fisheries resource management through signing of Letter of Cooperation * Discussion ongoing with CBD for a regional workshop with CTI in April 2018. |
| Third Party Assessment of PEMSEA’s Self Sustainability | * The Executive Committee members conduct exploratory and consultative visits to PEMSEA member countries to discuss the issue of country contributions with all members, using the 25th anniversary and Ministerial Forum as an opportunity to recommit to the partnership. | * Draft schedule for country visits submitted to 20th EC for discussion at the Meeting. (Agenda 5.0) |
| Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA Implementation | * Resources from the PEMSEA Trust Fund amounting to USD300,000 be allocated as funding for hiring an investment specialist for the design and development of the PIF and for the preparation of a full funding proposal for development and implementation of a PIF and Ocean Investment Funding Facility (OIFF). The process will be overseen by the Executive Committee and a progress report will be presented to the next meeting of the EAS Partnership Council. | * Progress on Development of a Sustainable Ocean Investment Facility Supporting SDS-SEA Implementation submitted to 20th EC for discussion during the meeting (Agenda 4.0). |
| Recruitment of New Executive Director | * The Intergovernmental Session encouraged the outgoing ED to work with the incoming ED to ensure the smooth transition in PRF management. | * Briefing of incoming PEMSEA Executive Director, Ms. Aimee Gonzales scheduled on Nov 21-24, 2017 at PEMSEA Office. |
| PEMSEA Corporate Work Plan and Budget 2017-2018 | * The Work Plan and Budget for 2017-2018 as presented be adopted, taking into consideration the request from RO Korea to double check the figures on ROK contribution. | * PEMSEA Work Plan and Budget 2017-2018 adopted. |

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