



# EAS CONGRESS 2018

THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS

**26-30 November 2018**

**Iloilo Convention Center**

**P H I L I P P I N E S**



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



PEMSEA

# 25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies

## Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda

**W**ith the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, and specifically Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Life Below Water, oceans have gained political, social, economic and ecological prominence that the world has never seen before.

The EAS region is one with all regions and nations in keeping this momentum going and growing. Building on the voluntary commitments and call for action of the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017, the region is gearing up for the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018, the sixth in a series of EAS triennial ocean conferences that aims to usher in a better, stronger and smarter regional actions that are strategically aligned with the key principles and targets of the global ocean agenda.

### ABOUT THE EAS CONGRESS 2018

Carrying the theme, “25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda”, the EAS Congress 2018 is open to a broad range of stakeholders including National and Local Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, bilateral and multi-lateral projects, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, and other actors.

The EAS Congress 2018 aims to involve all relevant stakeholders to:

- **Map and align** the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and other sub-regional and regional strategies and action plans with the SDG 14 targets
- **Share** experiences and assess challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of the SDS-SEA at the regional, national and local levels including innovative policies and technologies, good management practices, and investment opportunities
- **Build** on existing partnerships and achievements and promote new initiatives, investments and partnerships to accelerate the achievement of national, regional and global targets for sustainable development of oceans and coasts
- **Track** Blue Economy development and growth across the region with the launching of national, sub-regional and regional State of Oceans and Coasts Reports
- **Contribute** to the planning and development of an ocean investment facility and fund to leverage increased public and private sector investments in ocean-based blue economy development and growth

## EAS Congress 2018 Programme

The EAS Congress 2018 will comprise of **Ocean Talk** (plenary sessions), **SEA Exchange** (dialogues with partners), **Partnership Hubs** (partner-led side events) and a Youth Forum, and will culminate in a Ministerial Forum on the final day of the Congress.

In addition, an **international exhibition** will be organized as a showcase of innovation and progress in SDG 14 and SDS-SEA implementation.

Finally a special event, **Partnership Night**, will be celebrated commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the PEMSEA Partnership.

**Ocean Talk** will be held daily and will involve up to three keynote speakers providing their perspectives on a common topic of concern. Major themes scheduled for the plenaries include:

- oceans, coasts and climate action
- resilient coasts, green infrastructure and blue carbon solutions, and
- blue economy growth and the ocean economy.

**SEA Exchange** will be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature and will focus on the themes identified for the Plenary Sessions. SEA Exchange will consider recommendations under each theme to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and blue economy development in East Asia, including through strengthened cooperation, building on existing successful partnerships and stimulating innovative and concrete new ones. SEA Exchange will be organized by the EAS Congress Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of the Philippines, and will engage Chief Executives and Leaders from a variety of sectors, including:

- Parliamentarians
- Universities
- Scientific Research Institutions
- Women's Organizations
- Local Governments
- International/Regional Development Organizations
- Business, Finance and Investment
- Media



**Partnership Hubs** will involve sharing experiences, best practices, innovative technologies and strategic solutions as well as identifying alternative opportunities for investment in sustainable development of oceans and coasts. The partnership hubs will be organized and led by PEMSEA Partners and collaborating organizations, and will be coordinated and managed by the EAS Congress Conference Secretariat. A list of topics for partnership hubs may include, but not limited to the following:

- integrated river basin and coastal area management, pollution reduction and nutrient management
- sustainable cities, circular economies, marine litter and plastic debris
- climate change mitigation/adaptation, resilient coasts and blue carbon solutions
- blue solutions for reducing maritime GHG emissions
- blue solutions for sustainable tourism and ecotourism and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- targeted research, innovative technologies and smart tools for improved decision-making

Guidelines and application forms for nominations to the **SEA Exchange** may be found in **Attachment A**. Guidelines and application Forms to organize **Partnership Hubs** may be found in **Attachment B**. Please fill out these forms and send them to the EAS Congress Conference Secretariat by 12 January 2018.



### **SIXTH MINISTERIAL FORUM**

**November 29, 2018**

The Sixth Ministerial Forum will convene Ministers and senior government officials from the EAS countries, together with key representatives from international and regional organizations and Non-Country Partners and collaborating organizations of PEMSEA.



### **FIFTH EAS YOUTH FORUM**

**November 26-29, 2018**

- The EAS Youth Programme is envisioned to include the following key elements:
  - Establishment of the EAS Youth Council
  - Strengthened implementation of the PEMSEA Youth Small Grants Programme;
  - Skills Development program/menu of activities with links to ICM implementation and sustainable coastal communities; and
  - Advocacy promotions of youth achievements and initiatives.



### **PEMSEA NETWORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (PNLG) FORUM 2018**

**November 25, 2018**

The PNLG Forum will explore its contributions and commitments to meeting targets identified in SDG 6, 11, 13, 14 and 17. The PNLG Forum will review the contributions and challenges of the PNLG members in meeting the SDS-SEA target of 25% ICM coverage of the region's coastline.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

For inquiries please contact the EAS Congress 2018 Secretariat, via:

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