

Post-Congress Report: Results and Follow-On Actions

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 The EAS Congress 2021 was hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia and co-organized by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in Cambodia, Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk (SHV), and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Resource Facility.



1.2 With the theme “Charting a New Decade of H.O.P.E. (Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies),”¹ the Congress came at a fitting time as the EAS region goes through a new normal while nearing the completion of the five-year implementation plan of the shared regional marine strategy called the “Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).” Armed with greater public awareness on the links between ocean health and human health, the region is one and aligned with the global recognition to act on pressing socioeconomic, ecological, and climate change issues, and the critical need to sustain the momentum of building meaningful and transformative solutions for a sustainable ocean-based economy.

1.3 OBJECTIVES:

- Shared the lessons learned and tracked the progress made in implementing the SDS-SEA at the regional, national, and local levels;

¹ This was broken down into 5 subthemes as follows: (1) securing food, livelihood, and income in line with a blue economy; (2) fostering social inclusion; (3) managing and restoring natural capital; (4) reducing marine pollution; and (5) averting climate change and promoting social resilience.

- Built on and recalibrated existing management interventions and fostered new opportunities for regional partnerships using innovative approaches, technologies, investments, and financing towards the sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment; and
- Set up a clear roadmap on transformative blue solutions for the next decade in accordance with the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and other relevant international and regional commitments.

1.4 **RESULTS:**

- Signing of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration affirming PEMSEA partners' commitment to the regional collaboration on sustainable coastal and ocean development;
- Expanded and strengthened partnerships and investments in the EAS region;
- Start of preparations for the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027;
- Adoption of the 2022-2030 Strategic Action Plan (SAP) of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG);
- Adoption of the Charter of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC);
- Commitment to engage in the multi-country, multi-year EUR 15 million IKI/IMO Blue Solutions project titled *"Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Maritime Transport Sector in the EAS Region;"*
- Launch of *"The PEMSEA Story: 28 Years of Collaboration for the Seas of East Asia;"* and
- Completion of the *"Regional State of Ocean and Coasts 2021: The East Asian Seas Region"* and its supplemental report.

1.5 **MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- SDS-SEA remains a powerful framework to achieve sustainable ocean and coastal development as well as facilitate a blue recovery from the impacts of the global pandemic and implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international and regional goals.
- Integrated coastal management (ICM) is still acknowledged as a fundamental tool to build sustainable ocean economies but there are also other essential management approaches such as integrated river basin management (IRBM) and intermodal transport.
- Gender and climate response and actions need to be mainstreamed in coastal and ocean strategies and programs.
- More local adaptation of innovative tools and solutions, financing, and public-private sector partnership is needed for the management of the coastal and marine sector.
- Successful coastal and ocean programs/initiatives are often co-designed and/or co-managed, by local stakeholders and their co-benefits explicitly identified.
- Empirical and scientific evidence, policy options, tools, and information on good practices need to be accessible and adapted for local governments and coastal stakeholders.

- Conduct regular state of ocean monitoring to assess management interventions, address gaps thereof, and seize opportunities to transform towards a blue economy.
- Provide enabling policies and incentives to develop emerging sustainable industries such as offshore renewable energy, green ports, and marine biotechnology.

1.6 The Congress culminated in the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum on 2 December 2021 with the signing of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration by the heads of PEMSEA’s eleven country partners. The Declaration endorsed the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 as the region’s decadal strategic guide, anchored on the SDS-SEA vision and commitment to blue economy and aligned with the countries’ green recovery plans and programs as well as key international environmental commitments.



On the top left, H.E. Say Samal, the Minister of Environment in Cambodia and Chair of the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum, is joined by senior government officials from other PEMSEA country partners along with their signed copies of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration.

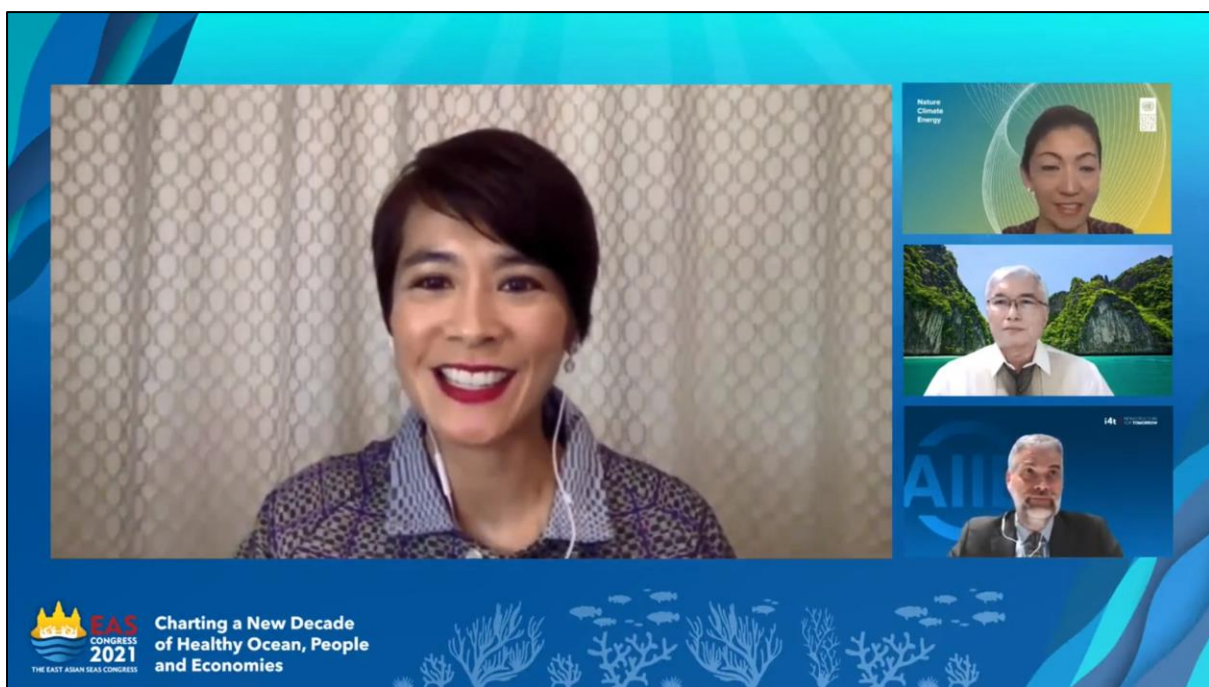
1.7 **FORMAT:** The EAS Congress 2021 was scaled down from the usual four-day Congress to two days and held virtually in consideration of the ongoing uncertainty and risks posed by the global pandemic. The two-day Congress focused on the Inauguration of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), the 2021 Forum of the PEMSEA Network of the Local Governments (PNLG), Main Conference, Partnership Night, and the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum held on 1-2 December 2021. Prior to that, pre-Congress events, which were a mix of meetings and collabs (or knowledge-sharing workshops, training, and seminars), were held from April to November.

1.8 **THE THEMES OF THE PRE-CONGRESS COLLABS INCLUDE:**

- Securing food, livelihood, and income in line with a blue economy;
- Fostering social inclusion;

- Managing and restoring natural capital;
- Reducing marine pollution; and
- Averting climate change and promoting social resilience.

1.9 On the other hand, the Main Conference featured a keynote address from the Minister of Environment of Cambodia; a plenary consisting of TEDx style talks on a number of crosscutting topics, followed by a moderated discussion; the presentation of the conclusions and recommendations from the plenary and the six-month long collabs or knowledge-sharing sessions of the Congress; and a cultural presentation from Cambodia.



On the left, the moderator, Ms. Mitzi Borromeo, a Multimedia Communications Specialist and Former CNN Philippines Broadcast Journalist, is joined by panelists. From the top: (1) Dr. Akiko Yamamoto, Regional Team Leader for Nature, Climate and Energy, Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); (2) Dr. Gil Jacinto, Philippine National Focal Person for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); and (3) Mr. Frank Belitz, Principal Officer, Strategy and Policy Department, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

1.10 **PARTICIPANTS:** The Main Conference alone was participated by a total of 1,417 individuals from 27 countries around the world. The number of participants is broken down as follows: 984 (69.4%) through Facebook livestream, 253 (17.9%) through Zoom, and 180 (12.7%) physically in Sihanoukville.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Since 2003, the EAS Congress has served as an intellectual marketplace and forum on the sustainable development of the seas of the world's fastest-growing region. This triennial event provides a platform for ministerial and high-level technical discussions along with opportunities for knowledge sharing and networking between different sectors of society from international organizations, multilateral banks, and local governments down to the scientific community, youth sector, private firms, academe, civil society, and other development partners.
- 2.2 The 2021 EAS Congress, with the theme “*Charting a New Decade of H.O.P.E. (Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies)*,” came at a fitting time as the EAS region goes through a new normal while nearing the completion of the [five-year implementation plan](#) of the shared regional marine strategy called the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. Armed with greater public awareness on the links between ocean health and human health, the region is one and aligned with the global recognition to act on pressing socioeconomic, ecological, and climate change issues, and the critical need to sustain the momentum of building meaningful and transformative solutions for a sustainable ocean-based economy.
- 2.3 Objectives:
- To share the lessons learned and track the progress made in implementing the SDS-SEA at the regional, national, and local levels;
 - To build on and recalibrate existing management interventions and foster new opportunities for regional partnerships using innovative approaches, technologies, investments, and financing towards the sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment; and
 - Set up a clear roadmap on transformative blue solutions for the next decade in accordance with the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and other relevant international and regional commitments.
- 2.4 This was hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia and co-organized by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in Cambodia, Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk (SHV), and PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF).
- 2.5 The EAS Congress 2021 was scaled down from the usual four-day Congress to two days and held virtually in consideration of the ongoing uncertainty and risks posed by the global pandemic.
- 2.6 The two-day Congress focused on the Inauguration of the PNLC, the 2021 Forum of the PNLC, Main Conference, Partnership Night, and the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum held on 1-2 December

2021. Prior to that, pre-Congress events, which were a mix of meetings and collabs (or knowledge-sharing workshops, training, and seminars), were held from April to November.



From top left counterclockwise: Ms. Phan Sopheak Nita, one of the masters of ceremonies at the Main Conference; local media in Cambodia covering the post-Ministerial Forum press conference; PNLG members in Cambodia and other locally invited guests to the 2021 PNLG Forum; and high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Environment and local governments in Cambodia. These events had a physical set-up at the Independence Hotel in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, involving local resource speakers and select guests.

2.7 Collabs were organized under any of the five subthemes below:

- Securing food, livelihood, and income in line with a blue economy;
- Fostering social inclusion;
- Managing and restoring natural capital;
- Reducing marine pollution; and
- Averting climate change and promoting social resilience.

2.8 All events under the 2021 EAS Congress were decongested and spread throughout the year to allow maximum engagement from interested individuals. Events were either open to the public or had a targeted audience. See Annex 1 for the matrix of events, their overview, and links to their proceedings, presentation materials, and recording.

3.0 Key Results

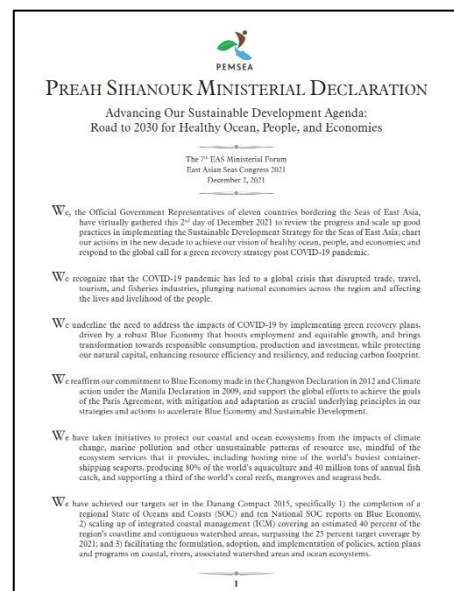
3.1 The EAS Congress 2021 paved the way for the following accomplishments:

- Signing of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration affirming PEMSEA partners’ commitment to the regional collaboration on sustainable coastal and ocean development;
- Expanded and strengthened partnerships and investments in the EAS region;
- Start of preparations for the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027;
- Adoption of the 2022-2030 Strategic Action Plan (SAP) of the PNLG;
- Adoption of the PNLC Charter;
- Commitment to engage in the multi-country, multi-year EUR 15 million IKI/IMO Blue Solutions project titled *“Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Maritime Transport Sector in the EAS Region;”*
- Launch of *“The PEMSEA Story: 28 Years of Collaboration for the Seas of East Asia;”* and
- Completion of the *“Regional State of Ocean and Coasts (RSOC) 2021: The East Asian Seas Region”* and its supplemental report.

3.2 **On the signing of the [Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration](#):**

3.3 The Congress culminated in the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum with the signing of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration by the heads of PEMSEA’s eleven country partners. The Declaration puts forth the following commitments:

- Reaffirm and build on the region’s previous Ministerial commitments in support of SDS-SEA implementation and key international agreements;
- Recognize the persistent and emerging challenges, including COVID-19, in the region;
- Highlight the region’s progress under PEMSEA (i.e., completion of the Regional State of Ocean and Coasts and ten National SOC reports on blue economy; scaled up ICM presently covering an estimated 40 percent of the region’s coastline and contiguous watersheds; facilitated formulation, adoption, and implementation of policies and programs on coastal areas, rivers, and associated watershed areas and ocean ecosystems);
- Endorse the development of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 and PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030; and
- Build back better from the impacts of the global pandemic through strengthened partnership towards a responsible and strengthened ocean governance anchored on sustainable development and blue economy principles.



3.4 On the expanded and strengthened partnerships and investments within the EAS region:

3.5 The metropolitan city government of Busan, RO Korea was inducted as a new member of the PNLG, joining 54 others spread across ten countries in the region.

3.6 As the second largest city in the country, Busan has a strong ocean-based economy. Domestically, it is considered as the seafood capital and top marine leisure and tourism city and has the largest hub port for overseas fisheries. Naturally endowed with scenic beaches, mountains, and cliffs along the coast, it ranks second in terms of transshipment freight and houses the sixth largest container handling port worldwide. A copy of the city's Coastal Environment and Ocean Policy can be accessed [here](#).

3.7 Additionally, under the EAS Congress 2021, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam expressed their commitment to engage in IKI/IMO Blue Solutions as manifested in the development of working groups and identification of initial pilot projects to be funded under Blue Solutions.

3.8 Set with a five-year implementation timeline, the project aims to support East and Southeast Asian countries in identifying opportunities to prevent and reduce emissions from maritime transport. Once approved, it will target the reduction of greenhouse gases and other pollutant emissions from ships within ports and from hinterland transport through energy efficiency improvements, optimized processes, and innovative technologies.

3.9 On the start of preparations for the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027:

3.10 The development of the next SDS-SEA Implementation Plan was initiated in 2021 with the establishment of the technical working group and compilation of relevant materials for consideration in the formulation process. Documents to be reviewed will include the [findings of the midterm review](#) for the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022, Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration, conclusions and recommendation from the EAS Congress 2021, and relevant global and regional agreements and national strategies and programs.

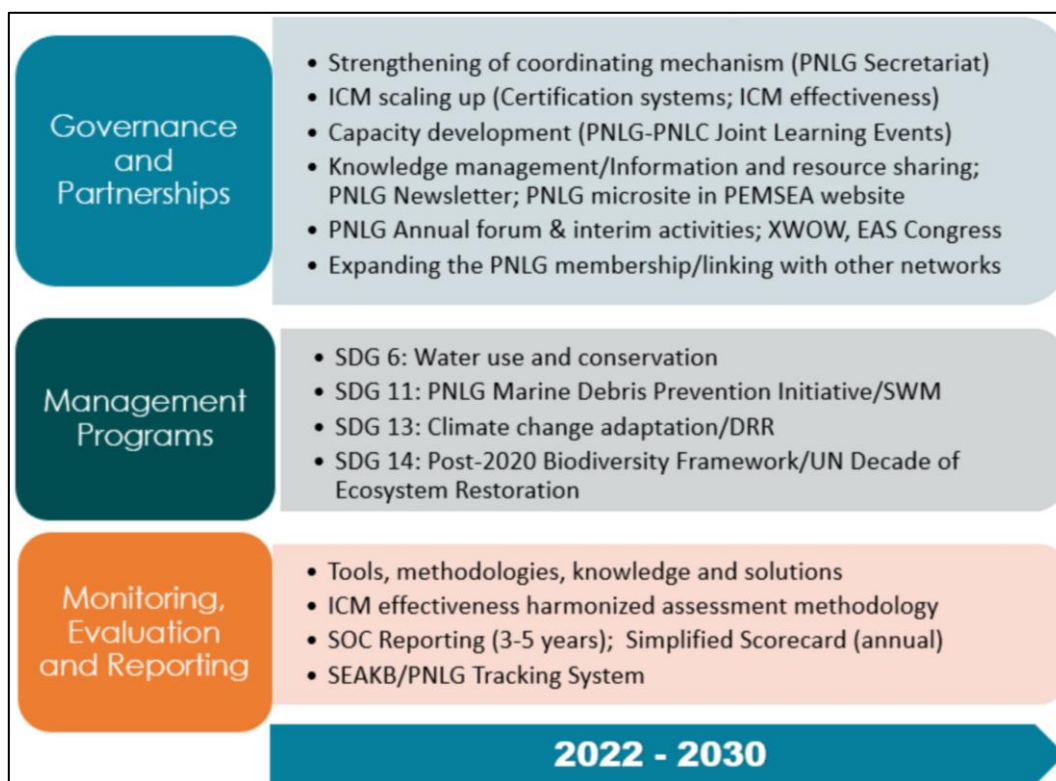
3.11 On the adoption of the [2022-2030 Strategic Action Plan \(SAP\)](#) of the PNLG:

3.12 The SAP outlines the objectives, actions, and targets under three major programs for the upcoming years. These programs include:

- Strengthening governance and partnerships;
- Implementation of management programs relevant to SDGs 6 (water use and conservation), 11 (marine debris prevention and pollution reduction), 13 (climate

change adaptation and disaster risk reduction), and 14 (biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration); and

- Enhancing monitoring, evaluation and reporting.



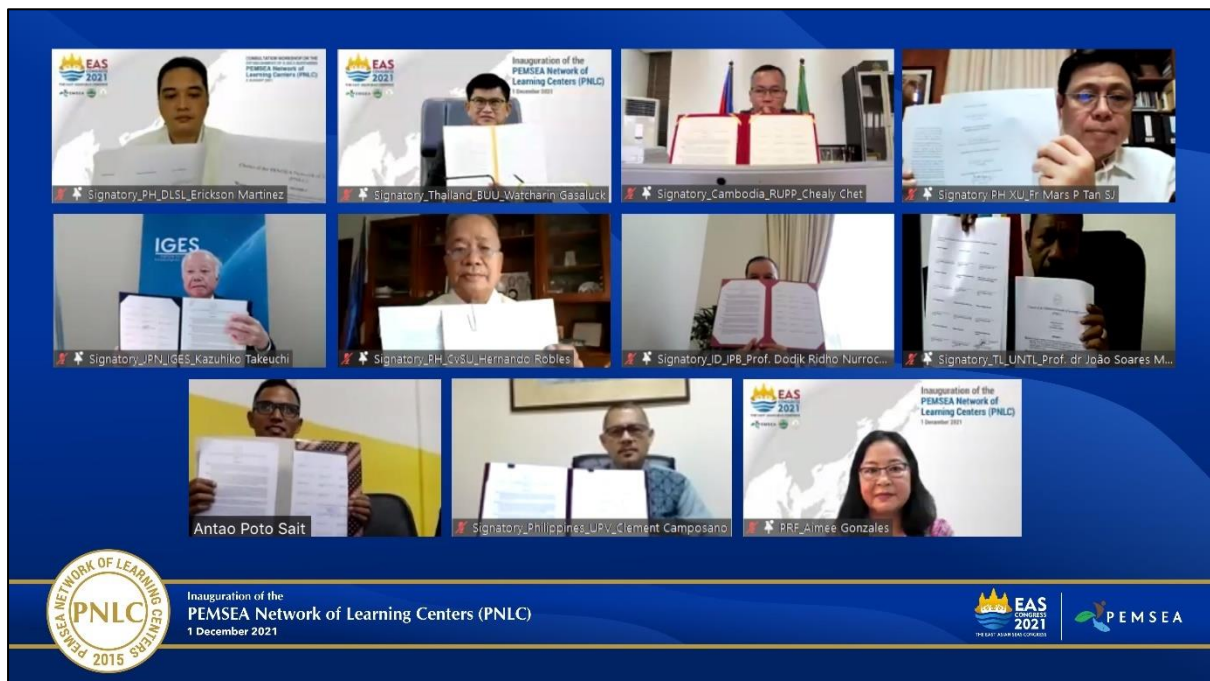
Programs and key actions of the PNLG SAP 2022-2030

- 3.13 These programs are in line with the new regional and international commitments and serve as the Network’s contribution to the new decade of action for sustainable development.
- 3.14 The SAP was adopted through the signing of the [Preah Sihanouk PNLG Declaration](#) titled “Preah Sihanouk Declaration on PNLG Leadership for the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development of the Coasts and Oceans through Integrated Coastal Management.” Under this Declaration, PNLG members, through their respective ICM programs and related initiatives, commit to pursue a blue economy in upholding the PNLG SAP 2022-2030 and regularly report their progress thereof.
- 3.15 ***On the adoption of the [PNLC Charter](#):***
- 3.16 The PNLC Charter formalized the network and specified the ground rules on its membership and identified joint activities and outputs amongst members as well as options for its sustainability and funding support. This was signed by 12 out of 18 founding members of the PNLC. See Table 2.

Table 2. Institutions that have signed the PNLC Charter as of 25 January 2022.

Category	Location	Institute	
Learning Centers	Cambodia	Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)	
	DPR Korea	Kim Il Sung University (KISU) – signed post- Inauguration	
	Indonesia	Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS), IPB University	
	Philippines		Cavite State University (CvSU)
			De La Salle Lipa (DLSL)
			University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV)
			Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan (XU)
	Thailand	Burapha University (BUU)	
Timor-Leste		Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)	
		Oriental University of Timor Leste (UNITAL)	
Regional Centers of Excellence (RCOEs)	China	Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University (XMU) – signed post- Inauguration	
	Japan	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	

3.17 An additional two universities have also approved the Charter (signature pending): Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Thailand; and University of Da Nang (Viet Nam).

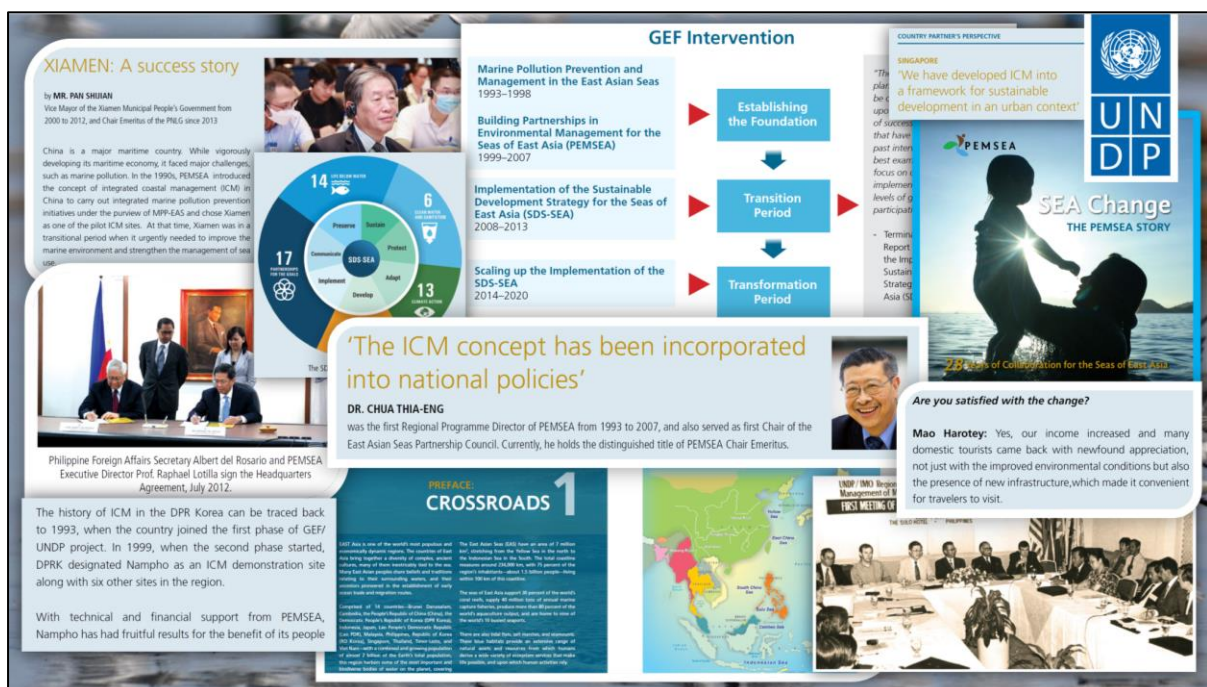


Signing of the PNLC Charter during the Network's Inauguration

3.18 On the launch of [The PEMSEA Story](#):

3.19 With physical and digital versions, this coffee table book chronicles the origin and stories of success, developments, and challenges of PEMSEA from its days as a regional marine pollution project to its role today as the regional coordinating mechanism for the SDS-SEA. Among the key stories featured in the book include:

- Initial pollution development projects, including the successful implementation of ICM in Xiamen, China;
- Development and scaling up of SDS-SEA;
- PEMSEA’s transformation into a regional partnership with a distinct legal personality;
- Expansion and development of ICM into a versatile, widely adapted system;
- Creation of the SOC monitoring and reporting mechanism, a tool that allows for the assessment of coastal systems;
- Benefits gained by country partners through their engagement in PEMSEA;
- Development of PEMSEA’s network of partners;
- Lessons in building an ocean-based economy; and
- A look into PEMSEA’s future in the wake of uncertainties and opportunities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Snippets of The PEMSEA Story

3.20 **On the launch of the [2021 RSOC](#) and its [supplemental report](#):**

3.21 The 2021 RSOC provides the latest state of play and prospects on blue economy in the EAS region. Its supplemental report features the impacts of COVID-19 on the ocean economy and the health of the people and the ocean as well as key recommendations to advance the blue economy based on best practices and lessons learned in the region.

4.0 Other Notable Achievements

4.1 The EAS Congress 2021 had **11 sponsors**:

1. Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), China;
2. Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Indonesia;
3. Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) Japan;
4. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines;
5. Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), RO Korea;
6. Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE), Singapore;
7. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Timor-Leste;
8. Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)
9. ASEAN-Norwegian cooperation project on local capacity building for reducing plastic pollution in the ASEAN region (ASEANO)
10. UNDP/GEF Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II (ATSEA-2); and
11. International Maritime Organization (IMO).

4.2 A total of 32 events was conducted, **23 of which were collabs** that involved **36 conveners**, **over 120 resource speakers**, and **at least 110 hours of solution-oriented discourse, training, and knowledge-sharing**, spread across **11 topics** under the **5 subthemes** of the Congress.

Table 3. Breakdown of collabs per subtheme and topic.

Subtheme and topic	Number of collabs
Securing food, livelihood, and income in line with a blue economy	
Blue economy	4
Fostering social inclusion	
Gender equality	1
Managing and restoring natural capital	
Marine protected areas (MPAs) and MPA networks (MPANs)	3
Nature-based solutions	1
Reducing marine pollution	
Oil spills	1
Toxins and emerging chemical pollutants	2

Subtheme and topic	Number of collabs
Marine plastic pollution	3
Biofouling	2
Averting climate change and promoting social resilience	
Climate change mitigation	1
Climate change adaptation	2
Crosscutting	
ICM or marine spatial planning (MSP)	3
TOTAL	23

- 4.3 The 36 conveners of the collabs were a mix of EAS PC members, both **country- and non-country partners (20%)**; PEMSEA Networks, both **PNLG and PNLC members (11%)**, **PRF-managed projects (6%)**, and **other organizations (63%)**.

PEMSEA country- and non-country partners

1. ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
2. Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)
3. Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)
4. Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), People's Republic of China
5. Ocean Policy Research Institute – Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF)
6. Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL)
7. Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)

PNLG and PNLC members

8. Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University (XMU), People's Republic of China
9. Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans (Xiamen University), People's Republic of China
10. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
11. PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) Secretariat

PRF-managed projects

12. ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO)
13. UNDP/GEF Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II (ATSEA-2)

Others

14. Center for Climate Change Adaptation (CCCA), National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan
15. China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center (CPC)

16. City University of Hong Kong (CityU)
17. Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)
18. Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)
19. Ecological Society of China (ESA) - Marine Ecological Committee
20. Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Blue Communities (BC)
21. Global Environment Facility (GEF)
22. Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GISEA)
23. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
24. Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ)
25. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), United States of America (USA)
26. North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)
27. Ocean University of China (OUC)
28. Rethinking Plastics: Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter
29. Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) Foundation
30. State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP)
31. UNDP Global Marine Commodities (GMC)
32. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
33. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
34. Viet Nam National University (VNU), Ha Noi
35. Wageningen University & Research (WUR)
36. Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Ocean Development, China

4.4 The Main Conference alone, which was held on 1 December 2021, was participated by a total of **1,417 individuals from 27 countries** around the world. The number of participants is broken down as follows: 984 (69.4%) through Facebook livestream, 253 (17.9%) through Zoom, and 180 (12.7%) physically in Sihanoukville. The Conference featured a keynote address from the Minister of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia; a plenary consisting of TEDx style talks on a number of crosscutting topics, followed by a moderated discussion; the presentation of the conclusions and recommendations from the plenary and the six-month long collabs or knowledge-sharing sessions of the Congress; and a cultural presentation from Cambodia.

4.5 Advertising-wise, the EAS Congress 2021 generated a total of **257 pick-ups (in the form of media hits and bylined articles)** covering the period 1 May 2021 – 17 December 2021. The pick-ups originated from various **media outlets (specifically in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, RO Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam), PEMSEA country and non-country partners, PNLG and PNLC members, and online newsletters, among others.**

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations of the Collabs and the Main Conference Plenary

5.1 Main findings:

- SDS-SEA remains a powerful framework to achieve sustainable ocean and coastal development as well as facilitate a blue recovery from the impacts of the global pandemic and implement UN SDGs and other international and regional goals.
- Integrated coastal management is still acknowledged as a fundamental tool to build sustainable ocean economies but there are also other essential management approaches such as integrated river basin management (IRBM) and intermodal transport.
- Gender and climate response and actions need to be mainstreamed in coastal and ocean strategies and programs.
- More local adaptation of innovative tools and solutions, financing, and public-private sector partnership is needed for the management of the coastal and marine sector.
- Successful coastal and ocean programs/initiatives are often co-designed and/or co-managed, by local stakeholders and their co-benefits explicitly identified.
- Empirical and scientific evidence, policy options, tools, and information on good practices need to be accessible and adapted for local governments and coastal stakeholders.
- Conduct regular state of ocean monitoring to assess management interventions, address gaps thereof, and seize opportunities to transform towards a blue economy.
- Provide enabling policies and incentives to develop emerging sustainable industries such as offshore renewable energy, green ports, and marine biotechnology.

On ensuring food, livelihood, and income in line with a blue economy:

- Emphasize the interconnection between ocean-based economic activities, ecosystem services, and the values and benefits of well-managed marine and coastal habitats and fisheries resources.
- Institutionalize ocean monitoring and accounting.
- Harmonize policies, incentives, and financing modalities for the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.
- Work with the private sector as investors and partners in emerging and sustainable ocean economy investments.
- Use both ocean health data and traditional knowledge and practices to inform policy-making and project design and implementation.

On fostering social inclusion:

- Participation of women, minorities, and other disadvantaged groups is vital in any decision-making process to ensure an inclusive process.

- Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) involves looking at: differentiated capacity of men and women; segregated roles in household and community levels; access and control over resources (financial, fisheries equipment, and markets); cultural perception on gender roles and positions; gender participation; and equal benefits for men and women.
- The presence of the following enabling factors will help turn gender commitments into concrete actions: gender-sensitive baseline, indicators, and outputs integrated in development plans; gender budget and expenditure tracker; GESI experts; GESI-sensitive organizational/institutional architecture; and capacity-building activities for women
- Integrate gender concerns into the entire program/project cycle.
- There should be focused/targeted intervention for specific groups (there is no solution where one size fits all).

On managing and restoring natural capital, specifically on the topic of ICM and MSP:

- Share the practical experiences of applying ICM and MSP in the region.
- Conduct joint training with PNLG and PNLC under the purview of the SDS-SEA and PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030.
- Utilize the SEA Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) for knowledge sharing and dissemination.
- Improve methodology assessments to help address the paucity of data in MSP.
- Use satellite data and/or ground survey to enhance the reliability and accuracy of marine spatial assessment for identifying ideal marine energy sites (e.g., tidal or wave energy).

On managing and restoring natural capital, particularly effective management of transboundary MPAs:

- Accelerate collaborative efforts on protecting and restoring critical habitats as well as addressing transboundary issues related to the coastal and marine sector and find win-win solutions to improve the management effectiveness of MPAs.
- Pursue capacity-building activities for stakeholders managing transboundary resources.
- Communicate the multiple benefits of MPAs to the public.
- Improve joint scientific monitoring and research among regional large marine ecosystems (LMEs).
- Engage coastal communities in the co-design and co-management of MPAs.
- Validate the eligibility of areas of interest to become MPAs.
- Zone all MPAs in the region using scientific criteria and traditional knowledge and compile these zoning plans in a regional database.

- Convert abandoned, undeveloped, and underutilized fishponds into mangrove greenbelts, integrated eco parks, or protected areas to capitalize on the carbon sink potential of mangrove forests.

On managing and restoring natural capital, specifically mainstreaming ICM:

- Establish a comprehensive, systematic, planned, participatory, documented, and codified ICM system in more local governments, which are considered as the main actors of sustainable coastal development.
- Build local management capacity on ICM through “learning by doing” approach. Policy briefs, guidelines, codes, and case studies can serve as key reference materials for this to happen.
- Promote the adoption of relevant legislation and regulations, multi-stakeholder partnership, and public awareness campaigns to help facilitate and strengthen ecosystem restoration (e.g., mangrove rehabilitation).
- Encourage the use of remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and other data- and web-based ICM tools such as the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) to help with ICM decision-making.
- Strengthen capacity development and knowledge exchange on marine environmental research and monitoring (e.g., pollution monitoring, coral reef restoration, eco-engineering).
- Adopt the Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) in more MPAs as a means to gauge management effectiveness.

On reducing marine pollution, specifically plastic debris:

- National governments should implement national plans of actions to combat marine litter in a whole-of-government approach.
- Engage communities and the private sector in adopting a circular economy and sustainable consumption and production practices.
- Foster open dialogue and coordinated research action, including citizen science and capacity development programs.
- Share good practices/models of implementing extended producers’ responsibility.
- Engage in the development of the global treaty to combat plastic pollution.
- Facilitate local government sharing of methods to gather data, apply monitoring tools, research on socioeconomic impacts of marine plastic pollution and good practices on implementing measures to reduce the issue.

On reducing marine pollution, specifically biofouling and invasive alien species (IAS):

- Producing country/region-specific biofouling assessment.
- National governments should develop policies to address biofouling and IAS.

- Private sector should demonstrate innovative technology and promote research and development (R&D).
- PEMSEA should coordinate the development of regional guidelines on ship biofouling in the EAS in line with the guidelines set by the IMO.

On reducing marine pollution, specifically GHG emissions:

- PEMSEA will work with IMO to address emissions from the maritime sector in the ASEAN region through an intermodal approach involving ports, ships, and hinterland transport) by establishing an emissions baseline, developing national roadmaps, and demonstrating innovative solutions for energy efficiency improvement and optimized processes.

On averting climate change and fostering coastal resilience:

- Link scientific information for concrete local application in terms of climate change adaptation and disaster response and preparedness at the local level through the PNLG and PNLC.
- Promote a co-learning and co-developing approach that addresses the needs of local stakeholders, responds to the local context, and support community-based restoration. Tailormade data sets, knowledge, and tools should be accessible.
- Communities should have access to climate financing.
- Continue research efforts on the contribution of mangroves, macroalgae, and seaweed beds to carbon sequestration and strengthen the restoration programs for these habitats and resources such as by promoting awareness on their conservation and restoration.
- Ensure that fisheries management takes into account projections on the impacts of climate change and is accompanied by integration of science-backed mitigation.
- Promote knowledge and capacity-building such as youth empowerment, citizen science, and community engagement.
- Incorporate climate lens in development plans, policies, and actions.
- Several tools or approaches such as ATSEA-2's guide for decision-makers, PEMSEA's ICM approach, and IGES' novel participatory coastal land-use management (PCLM) have been tested in pilot sites and should be replicated to scale up the best practices and lessons learned. To do so, collaboration and partnership between local governments, research institutions, donor agencies, and local communities are key. (PCLM) have been tested in pilot sites and should be replicated to scale up the best practices and lessons learned. To do so, collaboration and partnership between local governments, research institutions, donor agencies, and local communities are key.

ANNEX 1. MATRIX OF EVENTS UNDER THE EAS CONGRESS 2021.

Date	Time (in Cambodia)	Title <i>(with link to the event page featuring the proceedings, presentation files, and/or recording, if available)</i>	Description	Organizers	Target Audience	Format
April						
20-22	2:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Virtual Training Workshop on Claims and Compensation for Oil Pollution from Ships	The online training was organized for the benefit of states in the Gulf of Thailand (GOT). Focusing on the international liability and compensation regime for oil spills from tankers, the workshop aimed to raise awareness and strengthen knowledge on the compensation process, including the preparation and submission of claims for oil pollution damage following a spill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF) International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Funds International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs (IG P&I Clubs) 	By-invite only	Training-workshop
June						
8	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Ocean Roundtable Dialogue: Towards a Blue Economy Pathway for the East Asian Seas	The roundtable dialogue convened high level officials from PEMSEA country partners to discuss the challenges and opportunities with case studies of best practices in	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	All interested individuals	Series of presentations with open forum



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			<p>accelerating the region’s transformation into a blue economy against the backdrop of post-pandemic recovery; and present policy recommendations that will feed into the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 whose development was endorsed by the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration. It aims to combine the values, principles, and key achievements that were carefully cultivated and replicated through years of transforming PEMSEA from a regional marine pollution project into a leading regional collaborative mechanism as well as the available opportunities that will enable the organization to maintain its relevance and fit for purpose.</p>			
10	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Webinar on Mainstreaming Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Fishery and Marine Sector in the	<p>The webinar discussed how a social inclusion lens can be further applied in the fisheries sector to ensure that women’s roles are appreciated and that they are empowered to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • UNDP Global Marine Commodities (GMC) 	All interested individuals	Series of presentations and Q&As



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		Arafura and Timor Seas Region	<p>participate further in the development of sustainable fisheries.</p> <p>Case studies on experiences, challenges, and lessons learned were shared and recommendations on applying a gender-inclusive lens were provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP/GEF Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II (ATSEA-2) 		
23	2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Regional Seminar On Biofouling Management and Invasive Aquatic Species In The East Asian Seas	<p>The seminar raised awareness on the transfer of invasive aquatic species through biofouling and capacitated government representatives to participate in future meetings and negotiations on the issue. Knowledge on biofouling management approaches, innovations, success stories, and challenges were shared.</p> <p>The seminar also examined and considered elements and options for regional cooperation and was considered as a preparatory meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Environment Facility (GEF) • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • International Maritime Organization (IMO) • Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) 	Representatives from national focal agencies of PEMSEA and International Maritime Organization (IMO); and relevant stakeholders from regional organizations, ocean-based industries,	Seminar with presentations and discussions



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			for the Seminar on Innovative Solutions to Address Biofouling in the ASEAN Region .		academe, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	
28	2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Project Preparation Kick-Off Meeting for the IKI/IMO Blue Solutions Project	<p>As countries continue to shift their maritime transport sector towards a low-carbon future, the International Climate Initiative (IKI) in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia Resource Facility (PRF) propose to assist them through the preparation of a five-year, EUR 15 million project entitled “Reducing Maritime Transport Emissions in East and Southeast Asian Countries (Blue Solutions).”</p> <p>The kick-off meeting for the project preparation phase of this regional project was organized with the following objectives:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Maritime Organization (IMO) • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) 	By-invite only	Organizational meeting



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce the proposed project’s objectives, components, and project preparation team to the relevant stakeholders in the region; To lay the groundwork for the succeeding bilateral meetings with countries; and To seek feedback, respond to questions, and generate expressions of support and interest for the project. 			
July						
28-29	Day 1 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Day 2 - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	13th EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meeting	The 13th EAS PC Meeting convened the PEMSEA Executive Committee (EC) and country- and non-country partners to discuss matters such as updates and the revised program of the EAS Congress 2021; findings of the midterm review of the 2018-2022 Implementation Plan (IP) of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA); proposed focus areas and process for developing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027;	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	EAS PC members	Organizational meeting



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			proposed framework for the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030; draft Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration; and updates on the impacts of COVID-19 on the operation and finances of the PEMSEA Secretariat.			
August						
5	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Measure! Monitor! Manage! Innovative Approaches To Evidence-Based Plastic Pollution Prevention	In this collab, participants were introduced to the eLearning content of Closing the Loop (CTL) Project. Led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) with the support of the Government of Japan, the project aims to build the tools and technology in measuring and monitoring plastic waste in cities. Using innovations like artificial intelligence, satellite imaging, drones, citizen science, and waste flow modelling, the project is able to pinpoint the source-to-sea movement of plastic leakage and provide sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) • United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) • Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) • Wageningen University & Research (WUR) • Viet Nam National University, Hanoi (VNU) 	City/municipal managers, local government agencies, educators, companies, media, influencers, programmes, and initiatives that are looking to tackle the plastic	Workshop with breakout groups



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			<p>recommendations to combat the problem of plastic waste.</p> <p>Experts provided a demo of the project's eLearning module on detecting waste from land and space as well as a case study on the successful application of modern plastic monitoring tools in Saigon River, Viet Nam; this was followed by a roundtable session to gather feedback and identify gaps and ways forward based on the findings presented with the end goal of increasing the uptake of the project's eLearning modules and monitoring tools.</p>		pollution challenge; and all other interested individuals	
September						
9	1:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) and Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA): Engaging Key Local Stakeholders Effectively to Prepare	<p>Through this training-workshop, participants gained an awareness of NEBA and SIMA and their practical application in oil spill preparedness planning and response. The use of the concepts/tools helps facilitate the discussions between multiple key</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil Spill Response (OSRL) • Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GISEA) • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) 	Relevant stakeholders involved in oil spill preparedness planning and response of	Training



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		and Respond to an Oil Spill Incident	<p>stakeholders to arrive at an agreed consensus in oil spill-related incidents by using a systematic approach to justify the selection of response strategies.</p> <p>Following the event, Oil Spill Response (OSRL) offered support in the local implementation of these concepts/tools in the Gulf of Thailand for those interested from the audience (e.g., developing further guidance to enable subregional/municipal level execution).</p>		<p>countries surrounding the Gulf of Thailand, specifically those involved in or have mandates related to National Oil Spill Contingency Plans (NOSCPs) or oil spill incidents</p>	
14-17	8:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Xiamen University-PEMSEA Joint Training Program	<p>The training covered the concept, framework, and practice of integrated coastal management (ICM) and marine spatial planning (MSP), including the challenges faced, in the EAS region. The training also discussed potential areas for collaboration among the participants and explored ways of utilizing ICM and MSP to achieve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans (Xiamen University), China • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) 	<p>Representatives from governments, academe, and other organizations working on coastal and marine</p>	<p>Training</p>



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			regional and global commitments and targets for sustainable development of the EAS.		governance in the EAS region	
30	12:00 PM - 3:50 PM	Online GIS Training for Marine Spatial Planning and Management	Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) has been cooperating with East Asian countries and international entities to advance sustainable ocean development and share relevant knowledge and practices. Given the importance of utilizing marine spatial information in this regard, the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) shared relevant experiences on marine spatial planning, particularly on the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) for various case settings.	Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)	Open to all interested individuals	Training
October						
13-14	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Marine Protected Area Management and Networking: Experiences and Opportunities for Collaboration in East Asia	The workshop promoted the sharing and exchange of experiences and practices in marine protected area (MPA) management and networking, inviting speakers from the United States and Northeast and Southeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center (CPC) Natural Resources Defense Council 	Open to all interested individuals	Workshop with presentations and open discussions



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			<p>Asia. In particular, the workshop delved on common concerns in MPA management such as improving management capabilities, application of spatial planning tools, monitoring and enforcement, enhancing stakeholder’s participation, measuring the management effectiveness, and establishing partnerships and cooperation between MPAs. The experiences in MPA networking in Northeast Asia under the framework of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) were highlighted. The workshop also delved on the experiences and practices in MPA management and networking under the framework of integrated coastal management (ICM) and scaling up in the EAS.</p>	<p>(NRDC), United States of America (USA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Institute of Oceanography (FIO), Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), China ● North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) ● PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) 		
20	2:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Sustainable Interactions with Marine Ecosystems	<p>The event comprised a series of short presentations and panel sessions by project partners from Indonesia,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) ● Blue Communities (BC) 	Open to all interested individuals	Series of presentations,



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			<p>Malaysia, Philippines, Viet Nam, and the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Building on the Hub Session delivered by the Blue Communities team during the 2018 EAS Congress, this collab provided an opportunity to share the findings from the project’s research focusing on populations and ecosystems in and around designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Marine Park to approaches that can support marine planning in the Southeast Asia Region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) 		<p>panel sessions, and networking</p>
21	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Managing Networks and Transboundary Cooperation on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the ASEAN Region	<p>While ASEAN’s coastal and marine biodiversity remain to be a significant asset for the region, they continue to be threatened by various issues and challenges. Gleaning from the network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in ASEAN, collaborative approaches and actions are vital in ensuring the effective management of marine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) 	<p>National focal points of the ASEAN Working Groups on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity</p>	<p>Series of talks, poster presentations, and open discussions</p>



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			biodiversity as well as in linking efforts with larger seascapes. This event highlighted lessons from the site, national, and regional levels that emphasize the importance of transboundary cooperation.		and the Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGNCB and AWGCME) and other interested individuals	
25	8:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Climate Change Adaptation for Coastal Communities: Learning from East Asia and Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) Regions	The collab shared information on climate change impacts in the EAS and Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) regions as well as the results of climate change vulnerability assessment and the decision-making guide for ATS. The collab discussed options or best practices in developing/implementing local climate change adaptation strategies for both regions and identified potential areas for collaboration between the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) of Japan, as a PEMSEA Regional Centre for Excellence (RCOE) on climate change adaptation and disaster risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) • UNDP/GEF Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Approach Phase II (ATSEA-2) • Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) 	Climate change scientists and practitioners, local decision-makers, and coastal communities in the EAS and Arafura and Timor Seas regions; and the general public	Series of presentations with panel discussion and Q&A



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			reduction, and the UNDP/GEF Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II (ATSEA-2), the second phase of a regional initiative launched in 2010 to manage the vast coastal and marine resources in the ATS. The second phase aims to take regional collaboration and coordination in the ATS a step further through endorsement and implementation of the ten-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the region.			
26	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	27th PEMSEA Executive Committee (EC) Meeting	The meeting convened the EC members and country and non-country partners of PEMSEA in order to facilitate a final round of comments and suggestions on the development of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration.	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	The meeting was expanded to include not only EC members but also PEMSEA country- and non-country partners to ensure a holistic (integrated) approach in	Organizational meeting



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					developing the Ministerial Declaration.	
November						
3	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Using Nature-Based Solutions (NBS): Focusing on the Seaweed Beds And Marine Macroalgae In China	<p>The workshop, which was held in Mandarin, shared Chinese experiences in algae artificial breeding and cultivation and rehabilitation of giant seaweed beds that contribute to carbon sequestration. Together with marine planktonic algae, seaweeds constitute the main primary producers of the ocean and provide us with a large number of usable resources. Seaweed species such as kelps provide essential nursery habitats for fisheries and other marine species and thus protect food sources. Other species, such as planktonic algae, play a vital role in capturing carbon and producing oxygen. Seaweeds also have the capability to purify water and reduce ocean acidification and nutrient pollution in seas. They have been</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center (CPC) • Ocean University of China (OUC) • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) 	Individuals from national agencies and academic and research institutions and other interested persons	Seminar



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			widely used in food, medicine, industry, agriculture, and other fields.			
9	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Replicable Models on Marine Plastic Pollution Monitoring	This collab highlighted the lessons learned from the ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO) and from other efforts in Asia to reduce the flow of plastic waste into the ocean by providing examples of approaches to understanding and tackling the monitoring of plastic pollution issues while providing a platform in which peer-to-peer knowledge sharing can take place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO) • Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) 	Open to all interested individuals	Seminar with presentations and open discussions
11	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Seminar on Innovative Solutions to Address Biofouling in the ASEAN Region	The seminar shed light on the biological and chemical characteristics of biofouling and the economic impacts of invasive aquatic species transferred by biofouling and the ways to obtain information on the economic impacts from relevant industries and other stakeholders; shared information and knowledge on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) • Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) • International Maritime Organization (IMO) 	Open to all interested individuals	Seminar with presentations and open discussions



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			<p>technological and other innovative solutions to combat biofouling; and identified and agreed on cooperation needs across the marine value chain and beyond to support innovative solutions and best practices on data and information sharing, policies, and programs.</p>			
15	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	<p>Making Asia-Pacific resilient to climate change: The effort and perspective of the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT)</p>	<p>The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) was established at the 2018 Group of Twenty (G20) Summit in Japan with the vision of helping Asia-Pacific countries to build a climate-resilient and sustainable society. Its activities revolve around: 1) developing scientific knowledge and information related to climate change impacts in the region; 2) providing support tools for stakeholders engaged in policy-making; and 3) providing capacity-building on climate change impact assessment and formulation of adaptation projects. In relation to this, the collab presented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan • Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ) • Center for Climate Change Adaptation (CCCA), National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan 	<p>Researchers, consultants, officers of international organizations, national and local policy-makers, staff of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), students from Asia-Pacific, and other</p>	<p>Series of presentations with panel discussion and Q&A</p>



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			useful scientific tools and online capacity-building services available in AP-PLAT and discussed potential areas for collaboration/synergy between AP-PLAT and PEMSEA and the role of IGES as a PEMSEA Regional Center of Excellence (RCOE) and promoter of capacity-building activities concerning AP-PLAT.		interested individuals	
16	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Online Dialogue: Circular Economy Solutions to Reduce Plastic Waste and Marine Litter	The forum brought together experiences and perspectives from Europe and East and Southeast Asia in terms of strategies, tools, mechanisms, and success stories in sustainable plastic production and consumption. The forum was organized under the GIZ-EU project entitled “Rethinking Plastics – Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter,” which supports the transition of select countries in East and Southeast Asia to a circular plastic industry with the end goal of improving resource efficiency and reduced marine litter. The project provides advisory services and pilot	The “Rethinking Plastics – Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter” project is funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Expertise France.	Representatives from national and local governments, businesses, industry associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and academe; and other	Series of presentations with open forums and breakout groups



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			projects in close cooperation with regional, national, and local partners.		interested individuals	
18	01:00 PM – 04:00 PM	2021 Joint PNLG-PNLC Learning Forum	Close to three decades of developing, implementing, and verifying the effectiveness of integrated coastal management (ICM) in terms of socioeconomic and environmental benefits have driven the replication and scaling up of ICM, covering more coastlines in the various countries in the East Asian Region. The replication and scaling up efforts were made possible with the issuance of necessary policies and supporting legislations by several countries in the region to support ICM implementation. As scaling up efforts continue to accelerate in the coming decade, it is critical that the next generation of coastal managers and practitioners are adept in ICM principles, concept, framework, processes, and tools to enable them to effectively carry out their tasks and contribute to achieving local, national, regional, and global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) • PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) Secretariat • Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University (XMU), China 	PNLG and PNLC members	Training



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			sustainable development targets in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This event was also held under the World Ocean Week in Xiamen (XWOW) 2021.			
19	8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	2021 International Conference of Blue Carbon	The role of blue carbon in climate change mitigation and adaptation has now reached international prominence. Extensive blue carbon studies are helping policy-makers clarify the role and value of coastal resources in carbon sequestration and provide nature-based solutions to climate change challenges. To promote knowledge and experience sharing on blue carbon science and policy and facilitate international cooperation in this regard under the PEMSEA framework, the 2021 International Conference of Blue Carbon was organized as an event of the EAS Congress 2021 and World Ocean Week in Xiamen (XWOW) 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), China • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) • Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Ocean Development, China • Marine Ecological Committee, Ecological Society of China • Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) Foundation 	Open to all	Forum



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25	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	7th EAS Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM)	The meeting secured final confirmation on the draft 7 th EAS Ministerial Declaration and arrangements in conducting the 7 th EAS Ministerial Forum on 2 December 2021.	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	Senior government officials from PEMSEA country partners	Organizational meeting
25	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Innovations in Greenhouse Gas Reduction in East and Southeast Asia's Maritime Sector	<p>This is a regional project meeting that discussed the progress of the Blue Solutions project preparation phase.</p> <p>In June 2021, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) embarked on the planning and preparation of a project designed to build and enhance greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies and capacities in the maritime sector among East and Southeast Asian countries. The IMO/PEMSEA project, which is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Maritime Organization (IMO) • PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) 	By-invite only	Organizational meeting



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			<p>Safety (BMU) of Germany, focuses on interface areas and interactions across ships, ports, and hinterland transport.</p> <p>Recognizing that decarbonization of the sector requires a transitioning approach with short-, medium-, and long-term targets, initial actions under the project include assessment of emission or energy efficiency baselines and forecasts, development of national strategies and roadmaps, and pilot trials of potential technology solutions and optimized processes for interfacing of shipping to ports and hinterland transport. All actions focus on reducing GHG and other pollutant emissions from ships, in ports, and from the linked hinterland transport. All activities will be coupled with capacity building and knowledge exchange initiatives.</p> <p>The regional meeting provided an opportunity for the beneficiary countries of the IMO/PEMSEA project,</p>			



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			namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, to share information on their respective national GHG pilot projects, including their potential contributions to the achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).			
26	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Training Session on Pollution Assessment and Management (PAM)	The training covered the concept, principles, and best practices in environmental risk assessment and management of chemical contaminants in water bodies from the standpoint of prospective, retrospective, and tiered approaches. The training also provided an overview of frontier technologies in monitoring and assessment of marine pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP) • City University of Hong Kong (CityU) • Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) • Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) 	Government representatives, academia, environmental practitioners, research students, and other interested individuals	Training



EAS
CONGRESS
2021

**Charting a New Decade of
Healthy Oceans, People and
Economies**

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27	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Symposium on Recent Advances in Marine Environmental Research	With the goal of paving the way for capacity-building and research collaboration in Asia-Pacific, this symposium featured a series of talks on recent advances in pollution monitoring and control technologies, environmental risk assessment of emerging chemicals of concern, and ecological restoration through the eyes of leading experts from Hong Kong. Particular attention was given to toxins or man-made substances that pollute the ocean or affect its living biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP) • City University of Hong Kong (CityU) • Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) • Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) 	Government representatives, academia, environmental practitioners, research students, and other interested individuals	Symposium (presentations with Q&A)
29	3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Capitalizing upon the Co-Benefits of Blue Economies in East Asia: Managing Risks and Building Partnership	This collab highlighted the key findings of a study on co-benefits in promoting blue economies in Asia and the Pacific spearheaded by the Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) in collaboration with the experts in the region. The speakers addressed the importance of managing and optimizing trade-offs and present enabling policies and factors for	Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF)	Individuals from national agencies and academic and research institutions and other interested persons	Seminar



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			promoting blue economies in the region.			
DECEMBER						
1	8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Inauguration of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC)	This was facilitated by the signing of the network’s Charter that formalized the PNLC and specified the ground rules on membership and identified joint activities and outputs amongst its members as well as options for sustainability and funding support.	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	PNLC members and invited guests	Organizational meeting
1	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	2021 Forum of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG)	This convened PNLG members for a General Assembly focused on the review of the 2021 work summary and 2022 work plan of the PNLG Secretariat; adoption of the 2022-2030 PNLG Strategic Action Plan (SAP); election of new PNLG officers; induction of Busan, RO Korea as a new PNLG member; and announcement of Tangerang Regency, Indonesia as the local government host of the 2022 PNLG Forum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia • PNLG Secretariat • Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Resource Facility 	PNLG members and guests	Organizational meeting



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1	1:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Main Conference	The Conferenced featured a keynote address from the Minister of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia; a plenary consisting of TEDx style talks on a number of crosscutting topics, followed by a moderated discussion; the presentation of the conclusions and recommendations from the plenary and the six-month long collabs or knowledge-sharing sessions of the Congress; and a cultural presentation from Cambodia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment (MoE), Cambodia • Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia • Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Resource Facility 	Open to all interested individuals	Series of talk with Q&A
1	4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Partnership Night	In this homecoming segment of the EAS Congress, former and current partners, staff, sponsors, collaborators, and other interested individuals of PEMSEA were invited to the launch of <i>The PEMSEA Story</i> , a coffee table book and online publication featuring the PEMSEA journey from its days as a regional marine pollution project to how it is today as a coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Sustainable	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	Open to all interested individuals	Homecoming



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			Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). Participants also met new and old faces and enjoyed a night of casual get-together.			
2	8:50 AM – 10:50 AM	7th EAS Ministerial Forum	<p>The Congress culminated in the signing of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration by the heads of PEMSEA country partners. The Declaration puts forth the following commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirm and build on the region’s previous Ministerial commitments in support of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and key international agreements; • Recognize the persistent and emerging challenges, including COVID-19, in the region; • Highlight the region’s progress under PEMSEA (i.e., completion of the Regional State of Ocean and Coasts and ten National State of the Ocean and Coasts reports on blue economy; scaled up integrated coastal management, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment (MoE), Cambodia • Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Resource Facility 	PEMSEA country partners and invited guests	Organizational meeting



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			<p>which presently covers an estimated 40 percent of the region’s coastline and contiguous watersheds; facilitated formulation, adoption, and implementation of policies and programs on coastal areas, rivers, and associated watershed areas and ocean ecosystems);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the development of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 and PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030; and • Build back better from the impacts of the global pandemic through strengthened partnership towards a responsible and strengthened ocean governance anchored on sustainable development and blue economy principles. <p>The 7th EAS Ministerial Forum included a press conference.</p>			