



**PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE FIFTEENTH EAST ASIAN SEAS  
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**Conducted in hybrid mode (face-to-face  
component in Pan Pacific Hanoi, Viet Nam,  
and online component through Zoom)**

**26-27 July 2023**



## **15<sup>th</sup> EAST ASIAN SEAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

26 July 2023, 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM (UTC+7)

27 July 2023, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (UTC+7)

Pacific Ballroom, Pan Pacific Hotel, Hanoi, Viet Nam

and via Zoom

### **PROCEEDINGS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- I. The 15<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting was held in a hybrid format on 26-27 July 2023 at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Hanoi, Viet Nam, and via Zoom. Onsite participants of the meeting included the EAS PC Chair; the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair; the Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair; the Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF); country partners from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam; and non-country partners from the International Union for Conservation of Nature – Asia Regional Office (IUCN-ARO), Korea Environment Institute (KEI), Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), Ocean Policy Research Institute – Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF), Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG), and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML). Online participants included country partners RO Korea and Singapore; non-country partners ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB), International Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas Center (EMECS), Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK), and Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). The meeting was also participated onsite by observers from the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), China PEMSEA Center for Sustainable Development, Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines.
  
- II. Supporting documents may be found in the Annexes:
  - a. Annex 1: Agenda of the meeting;

- b. Annex 2: Links to the meeting documents, presentations, and photos; and
- c. Annex 3: List of Participants

## **COUNCIL SESSION**

### **1.0 Opening of the 15<sup>th</sup> EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meeting**

- 1.1. The meeting commenced at 1:15 pm (UTC+7). Dr. Vann Monyneath, EAS PC Chair, welcomed the participants and thanked the PEMSEA Resource Facility for organizing the meeting with the support of the Viet Nam Administration for Seas and Islands and UNDP Viet Nam.
- 1.2. The Chair acknowledged the physical presence of the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair, Dr. Keita Furukawa and Dr. Suk-jae Kwon, respectively, as well as the Intergovernmental Session Chair, Mr. Le Dai Thang. He also expressed his appreciation for the PEMSEA Resource Facility, headed by Ms. Aimee Gonzales, the Executive Director, for their dedicated efforts in driving PEMSEA's initiatives forward.
- 1.3. He opened the meeting by emphasizing the significance of rebuilding and strengthening partnerships in the wake of the global pandemic, and the importance of reigniting collaborative efforts within the region.
- 1.4. The Chair informed the participants that the meeting will discuss critical matters endorsed by the meeting with 30<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting in March 2023. These include agenda items on the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 and the identification of opportunities to ensure PEMSEA's sustainability; the preparations for the upcoming EAS Congress 2024; and the extension of the term of the incumbent PRF Executive Director for another three years.

- 1.5. He also added that PEMSEA partners will be given an opportunity to share their highlighted programs, policies or project that align with or support the targets outlined in the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 during the Technical session and hoped that the session will identify potential areas for enhanced collaboration within the region and amongst country and non-country partners.

## **2.0 Adoption of the Meeting Agenda (PC/15/DOC/02)**

- 2.1. Ms. Abi Cruzada, PRF Secretariat Coordinator, presented the agenda for the Council Session for the Council's comments and subsequent adoption.
- 2.2. **Decision:** The agenda was adopted.

## **3.0 Report of the Council Chair (PC/15/DOC/03)**

- 3.1. Dr. Monyneath presented a summary of the major conclusions, recommendations and decisions made during the 14<sup>th</sup> Partnership Council Meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> Expanded Executive Committee Meeting, conducted in 2022, and 30<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting conducted in March 2023. He also included the subsequent actions taken based on those recommendations and decisions.
- 3.2. **On Policies:**
- 3.3. The Partnership Council (PC) approved the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, which was developed through a participatory and inclusive process, including the creation of an ad hoc technical working group, led by the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair. The development of the plan was also guided by the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration in 2021, government commitments to international and regional targets such as the UN SDGs, and country COVID-19 recovery programs.

- 3.4. PC also approved the GESI Action Plan, which guided the mainstreaming of gender equality and social inclusion in the sustainable development of the coasts and ocean of the EAS region in the execution of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.
- 3.5. To facilitate implementation, the PC tasked the PRF to develop an operational plan to guide countries in translating the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 into national-level policies and actions.
- 3.6. The EC approved the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to track the progress of implementation of SDS-SEA for 2023-2027. The plan aims to provide accountability, transparency and clear mechanisms for tracking and evaluating the progress of achieving the goals outlined in the Implementation Plan.
- 3.7. PEMSEA's Technical Session noted the draft regional strategy on biofouling management, which aims to harmonize actions in the EAS region in addressing the transboundary effects of invasive aquatic species.
- 3.8. EC endorsed the updating of PEMSEA's Quality Management System and Rules of Governance to align with new funding requirements from international development partner institutions as well as to ensure that PEMSEA management services meet and align with international standards.
- 3.9. EC provided several recommendations to improve the implementation of policies, such as:
  - a. PRF to regularly inform the EC, EAS PC, PNLC, and PNLG about project updates;
  - b. PRF to explore collaborative opportunities with COBSEA, particularly on marine plastics pollution; and
  - c. PRF to engage the scientific community, such as relevant think tanks and the PNLC to strengthen the Partnership's knowledge base.
- 3.10. **On Partnerships:**

- 3.11. PC approved the redesignation of the State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP) of the City University of Hong Kong as a Regional Center of Excellence in marine pollution.
- 3.12. PRF and some countries are discussing potential collaborations with PML and SKLMP focusing on training, capacity development, and post-ACCORD projects.
- 3.13. EC directed the PRF to continue to review the status of non-country partners and identified points for re-engagement or collaboration from 2023 onwards.
- 3.14. EC recommendations to increase PEMSEA's visibility in the global arena include:
  - a. Participation in regional activities that can enhance PEMSEA's visibility and influence;
  - b. Sharing respective activities of PEMSEA Partners through the PRF;
  - c. PRF to focus on its role as a convener in the EAS region, bringing country partners together to discuss important issues (i.e., plastic pollution, climate change); and
  - d. PRF to coordinate increased partnership engagements in discussions of the UNFCCC, UN CBD, and blue economy.
- 3.15. **On Officers and management bodies:**
- 3.16. PC formally elected and swore in the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the EAS PC for the term 31 July 2022 to 30 July 2025 during the 14<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting.
- 3.17. EC unanimously agreed to endorse the renewal of the contract of the current Executive Director, Ms. Aimee Gonzales, for a third term from 2024-2026 during the 30<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting. The decision will be formalized through the review of the Selection Committee; the results of which will be approved by the EAS PC in Agenda 14 of this meeting under the Intergovernmental Session.
- 3.18. **On Finance:**

- 3.19. PC approved the 2022-2023 Work Plan and Budget of the PRF during the 29<sup>th</sup> Expanded EC Meeting, with additional recommendations to explore approaches other than voluntary contributions and multilateral/bilateral grants to ensure the long-term sustainability of PEMSEA.
- 3.20. Dr. Monyneath concluded the report by requesting the PC to review and comment on the report.
- 3.21. **Decision:** The Council Chair’s report was approved.

#### **4.0 Report of the Executive Director (PC/15/DOC/04)**

- 4.1. Ms. Aimee Gonzales, PRF Executive Director, presented the key accomplishments, outlooks and challenges of the PRF under her term from 2018-2022. She clarified that 2022 accomplishments may be read in detail in the accomplishment report outlined during the 29<sup>th</sup> Expanded EC Meeting ([see here](#)) and the [2022 PEMSEA Annual Report](#).
- 4.2. She discussed that under her terms, the PRF was guided by two Executive Committees in executing the decisions made by the Partnership Council as shown in Figure 1 below.

## Two Executive Committees



**Figure 1.** PEMSEA Executive Committee from 2019-2022 and 2022-2024.

- 4.3. **On the adaptation and refinement of current policies to align with global standards and be attuned to local needs and priorities:**
- 4.4. Under her term as ED, Ms. Gonzales shared that two five-year implementation plans on operationalizing the SDS-SEA were developed: the 2018-2022 Implementation Plan and the 2023-2027 Implementation Plan. The recent iteration of the IP was developed in alignment with global standards, updates in global agreements and considered both national and local needs and priorities in the region. As a guide to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in executing the SDS-SEA, the PRF conducted and developed the GESI Assessment and Action Plan in 2022.
- 4.5. Ms. Gonzales shared that since 2018, one of the key tasks that the PRF has continuously done is to communicate, illustrate, and explain the successes and lessons of applying Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) from PEMSEA learning sites to the broader policy community. ICM is closely associated with PEMSEA in the region, has been applied in 40%



of the region's coastline to date, and has been the benchmark for country partners' reporting on area-based management approaches in the region.

- 4.6. In recent years, the PRF's efforts have focused on how ICM, and other area-based management approaches such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), connect and complement each other.
- 4.7. Furthermore, the PRF continues to demonstrate the utilization of the blue economy framework, which was first introduced by PEMSEA in the region in 2012 and adopted in the [Changwon Declaration](#), in its projects and programs.
- 4.8. To complement ICM and the Blue Economy Framework, the PRF developed and completed two editions of the Regional State of Oceans and Coasts Report and several national versions. Likewise, learnings on the PRF's early engagement of plastic waste management were consolidated through the ASEAN Norway Project (ASEANo); the learnings and experience from this project are now being applied in the recent ROK ODA-funded Marine Plastics Project.
- 4.9. Furthermore, the PRF updated the ICM course manual incorporating recent learnings and new developments in the global arena, and published several white papers commissioned by various foundations and private sector organizations. The PRF aims to sustain and disseminate the developed knowledge products through the PEMSEA website and online repositories, as well as highlight PEMSEA's achievements through the PEMSEA Annual Report.
- 4.10. **On the provision of high-quality technical services and capacity building through the PNLG and PNLC:**

- 4.11. The PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC) was formally established in 2015 during the Danang EAS Congress. Its Charter was signed in 2021. Through the efforts of the PRF as the interim Secretariat of the PNLC, PNLC members have increased from 15 since its establishment to 21 in 2023, 17 of which are Learning Centers and four of which are Regional Centers of Excellence in specific areas in coastal and marine management.
- 4.12. The PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG), have likewise increased from 18 members prior to 2018 to 57 members to date. The PRF has facilitated and supported the PNLG in their efforts, including the signing of two declarations: the Marine Debris Declaration in 2019 and the Tangerang Declaration on Climate Resilience in 2022. The PNLG is guided by the PNLG Strategic Action Plan 2022-2030, which the PRF helped develop in 2022.
- 4.13. **On the expansion of ICM application through several multilateral and bilateral projects:**
- 4.14. Under her leadership, Ms. Gonzales shared that the PRF has been working to expand ICM application through other area-based management approaches, through a thematic, geographical, and functional focus.
- 4.15. The PRF is currently shifting its thematic focus towards integrated river basin management through the GEF-funded ASEAN/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of IRBM in ASEAN countries; intermodal approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in shipping through the upcoming IKI-funded Blue Solutions project; and, continue to promote ecosystems-based approaches to fisheries management, circular economy, and integrated solid waste management approaches through the Marine Plastics Project.
- 4.16. The PRF is also applying the lessons from PEMSEA's regional model of governance to the Arafura Timor Seas Ecoregion through the UNDP/GEF Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem

Action Plan project. Currently, the prospect of creating a regional governance mechanism in the Arafura and Timor Seas is in good shape. Several building blocks in establishing this mechanism have been completed, such as the approval of the transboundary diagnostic analysis, the development of the regional and national strategic action plans, and the blueprint for creating a regional coordinating committee. Furthermore, a Ministerial Forum to formalize the regional collaboration will be held in Timor-Leste next year involving the four littoral countries of Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste.

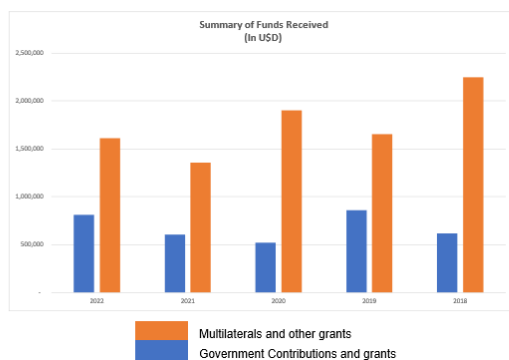
- 4.17. Functionally, the PRF is currently working on a proposal with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), a PEMSEA Non-country partner, to look into the transboundary application of establishing coastal and national marine protected areas.
- 4.18. Two EAS Congresses, namely the Iloilo EAS Congress in 2018, and the Preah Sihanouk Congress in 2021 were organized during Ms. Gonzales's term as ED. Both Congresses, provided a platform for sharing of accomplishments of the SDS-SEA, state-of-the-art reports, tools, and innovative solutions, forging new strategic and collaborative projects and investments to promote sustainable, inclusive, and resilient blue economy in the EAS region, and the signing of two Ministerial Declarations affirming countries' commitment to the Partnership.
- 4.19. **On resource mobilization and partnership development:**
- 4.20. Ms. Gonzales shared that the PRF has maintained a steady income of resources, amounting to two to three million USD annually, despite the COVID 19 pandemic in 2019-2022 and the conclusion of the UNDP GEF Project on SDS-SEA Implementation in 2020.
- 4.21. Under her term, the PRF has strived to sustain and increase commitments from country partners on voluntary contributions to PEMSEA. Regular voluntary contributions have increased from five countries in 2018 to seven in 2021. 75% of PEMSEA funds were also generated from multilateral and bilateral funding. To sustain operations, the ED, through

the PRF, is exploring various means to diversify income through offering enhanced and expanded technical services (Figure 2).

## Summary of Funds (in USD)

### Overall Summary of Funds Received (in USD)

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Government Contributions and grants</b>	813,556	604,307	523,548	857,822	619,206
<b>Multilaterals and other grants</b>	1,611,783	1,358,963	1,899,211	1,652,956	2,247,572
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,425,338</b>	<b>1,963,270</b>	<b>2,422,759</b>	<b>2,510,778</b>	<b>2,866,778</b>



### Detailed Summary of Funds Received (in USD)

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries, Republic of Korea	331,292	189,800	133,990	328,771	201,638
Timor <del>Leeste</del>	40,394			99,980	
State Oceanic Administration, People's Republic of China	105,525	58,132	87,455	95,658	95,350
Government of Singapore	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Government of Indonesia		40,000			
Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transportation, Government of Japan	105,234	96,740	68,010	93,191	65,333
Republic of the Philippines	211,112	199,635	214,093	220,222	236,885
	<b>813,556</b>	<b>604,307</b>	<b>523,548</b>	<b>857,822</b>	<b>619,206</b>
Global Environment Facility	1,038,923	926,420	1,764,347	1,559,116	2,135,872
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	78,235	42,298			
International Maritime Organization	290,967	90,171			
World Bank		85,110			
KIOST	20,000	20,000		4,000	23,984
CSEAS	94,382	123,790	39,123	423	
Incheon Port Authority	13,928	18,316			
IGES	5,605				
Coke Foundation	57,777	13,305	54,415		
Philippine Department of Agriculture - PRDP	5,471	1,628			
DENR C&M/RB IIMS/Wall Repair	5,485	21,940	37,196		11,208
Coastal Management Center				16,307	9,550
United Nations Environment Programme				15,744	25,764
FAO				14,805	35,185
WCPFC				6,952	6,010
MABIK			4,130	35,610	
East Asian Congress 2021 (Cambodia)	1,010	15,985			
	<b>1,611,783</b>	<b>1,358,963</b>	<b>1,899,211</b>	<b>1,652,956</b>	<b>2,247,572</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,425,338</b>	<b>1,963,270</b>	<b>2,422,759</b>	<b>2,510,778</b>	<b>2,866,778</b>

**Figure 2.** Summary of Funds Received (2018-2022)

- 4.22. As a means to increase funding opportunities for the PRF's operations as well as to improve partnership development, the PRF has regularly updated the [Communications and Knowledge Management Framework Strategy](#) every five years to utilize multimedia and interactive platforms and increase social media presence. Since 2018, the PRF has joined and continually participates in target key fora to share PEMSEA's good practices, successes and lessons, to enhance PEMSEA's visibility not only in the region but also in the global arena and attract more partners for strategic collaborative engagement and financing.
- 4.23. Finally, the PRF has continued to develop strategic partnerships with non-PEMSEA countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and Brunei, through its programs and projects, and has collaborated with other regional organizations such as COBSEA in promoting meaningful cooperation and knowledge sharing in the region on concerns such as the global plastic treaty, among others. Currently, the PRF is exploring the development of a

regional Blue Carbon program, as an opportunity for enhanced collaboration and sustainability within the region.

4.24. **Decision:** The EAS PC approved the report of the Executive Director.

## **5.0 Assumption of IPB University as PNLC Secretariat (PC/15/DOC/05)**

5.1. Ms. Maida Aguinaldo, representing the PRF as the interim Secretariat of the PNLC, presented a brief overview of the assumption of the Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies of the IPB University (CCMRS-IPB) as the PNLC Secretariat from 2024 onwards.

5.2. Since 1993, academic and research institutions have been key partners of PEMSEA to support the capacity building and technical needs of ICM sites. The CCMRS-IPB was one of the original five universities tapped by PEMSEA to serve as ICM learning centers to help facilitate knowledge sharing of ICM. These learning centers were given training support and exposure to learning environments to maximize their role.

5.3. The CCMRS-IPB, first established in 1996, is the first education and research institution in the field of coastal and marine zone development in Indonesia. It has supported the Indonesian government through research and training programs on coastal and marine resource development, particularly on studies and training programs on coastal and marine habitats and resources, fisheries and the fishing industries, aquaculture and mariculture development, coastal and marine vulnerability studies, coastal sensitivity indexing, marine bioproducts, and bioprospecting, port and maritime logistics, blue economy, and blue carbon.

- 5.4. In 2015, CCMRS-IPB and the other institutions were joined together to form the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers, which served as a regional forum for information exchange, networking and sharing of expertise and knowledge in ocean and coastal management.
- 5.5. The year 2021 saw 10 institutions signing the PNLC Charter, which aimed to recognize the network as a formal entity with its own governance mechanism and programs. In 2022, the CCMRS-IPB agreed to host and serve as the PNLC Secretariat from 2024 onwards.
- 5.6. To formalize the transfer of the PNLC Secretariat from the PRF to CCMRS-IPB, Dr. Yonvitner, President of the PNLC and Director of the CCMRS-IPB, and Ms. Aimee Gonzales, PRF Executive Director, signed the Memorandum of Agreement. The MOA was witnessed by Dr. Fang Qinhu, Vice President of the PNLC and Dr. Vann Monyneath, EAS PC Chair.
- 5.7. Dr. Yonvitner, in his message, highlighted several reasons for CCMRS-IPB's acceptance of the role of Secretariat, including the institution's strong commitment to supporting ICM implementation in Indonesia, extensive contributions and experience to regional communication on coastal ecosystems and hosting international and regional fora on coastal and ocean management, and academic focus on developing future coastal and ocean management experts.
- 5.8. Ms. Gonzales highlighted IPB University's affirmation of the strength and commitment of the region where critical parts of the technical and secretariat services are shared among country partners. She also encouraged PNLC members to showcase their programs and accomplishments in research, training, and capacity development support on integrated coastal and marine development, as well as host annual learning exchange with their counterparts in the region.
- 5.9. **Conclusion:** The PC noted with appreciation the assumption of the IPB University of Indonesia as the Secretariat to the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers, commencing in

2024. Prof. Yonvitner of IPB University and incumbent President of the PNLC laid out the plan to strengthen and operationalize the Network in the next five years, to support the achievement of targets outlined in the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and the PNLG SAP 2022-2030.

- 5.10. With no other concerns raised, Dr. Monyneath closed the Council Session and turned over the chairmanship to Dr. Keita Furukawa as the Technical Session Chair.

## **TECHNICAL SESSION**

### **6.0 Opening of the Technical Session and Adoption of the Technical Session Agenda (PC/15/DOC/06)**

- 6.1. Dr. Keita Furukawa, Technical Session Chair, opened the session and requested Secretariat to present the agenda for the PC's adoption. With no comments on the agenda presented, Dr. Keita proceeded to the next agenda.

### **7.0 Operationalizing Year 1 of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 (PC/15/DOC/07; PC/15/DOC/07a; PC/15/DOC/07b; PC/15/DOC/07c; PC/15/DOC/07d-f)**

- 7.1. Dr. Furukawa shared that two main topics will be discussed under this agenda, namely: (1) the draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and (2) the sharing of programs and plans to operationalize the Implementation Plan by country and non-country partners.

#### ***Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027***

- 7.2. Dr. Furukawa explained that the M&E plan was developed through a collaborative and participatory process with an ad hoc technical working group composed of nominated representatives of country and non-country partners, supported by PRF, an M&E

consultant and led by the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair. The M&E Plan was developed and refined over the course of three months through online meetings and email consultations. He stressed that the M&E Plan is important to facilitate the execution of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 adaptively and inclusively with the firm commitment of PEMSEA partners.

- 7.3. Mr. Benigno Balgos, M&E Consultant of the PRF, presented the background and content of the draft M&E Plan.
- 7.4. The development of an M&E Plan for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 was considered important to institutionalize feedback and reporting mechanisms, track progress, promote results and outcomes, accountability, and transparency, and ensure the timely achievements of set targets. The M&E Plan will also be able to demonstrate results and promote a consistent M&E culture towards evidence-based planning and decision-making.
- 7.5. The objectives of the M&E Plan include:
  - a. First, the integration of M&E into the Implementation Plan to ensure a robust M&E Framework in the execution of the latter. The framework shall define responsible entities, agreed indicators, targeted actions, reporting frequency and data sources.
  - b. Second, the clear definition of roles and responsibilities between the PRF and PEMSEA partners. This includes the identification of a designated point person from each country/organization and the establishment of effective communication and coordination mechanisms.
  - c. Finally, the improvement of data collection through the development of standardized reporting templates and guidance on data capture and reporting to ensure consistency.
- 7.6. The development of the M&E Plan included an initial assessment of the current M&E practices of PEMSEA in relation to the SDS-SEA IP, including the identification of good



practices and areas for improvement. This was followed by the development of the Framework and Plan through a collaborative process with the ad hoc technical working group. The final draft of the Plan was submitted to the country and non-country partners for validation and vetting as part of the meeting documents of this agenda.

- 7.7. Mr. Balgos highlighted the key elements of the M&E framework, including the frequency of submission of reporting progress vis-à-vis SDS-SEA IP targets, indicators, targets per year, responsible entities, frequency of reporting, data sources and reporting format.
- 7.8. He also outlined the roles and responsibilities of the PEMSEA Resource Facility and PEMSEA partners in accomplishing the [M&E Plan](#), and presented the reporting templates that will be accomplished by both.
- 7.9. **Conclusion:** The PC commended the development of a consolidated M&E Plan and Reporting Template to institutionalize tracking the progress of implementation of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.
- 7.10. **Recommendations:**
- 7.11. Mr. Atsuki Ito of Japan cited the breadth of information needed to accomplish the developed reporting template and recommended that adequate time be allotted for country and non-country partners to accomplish the template given their workload and need to consult with other sectors in the government to gather the needed information.
- 7.12. Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto of Timor-Leste proposed the conduct of a comprehensive briefing with country and non-country partners to guide and inform them on the M&E Plan and how to accomplish the reporting templates.
- 7.13. RoKorea, through their written submission-reply to the guide questions, raised the increasing challenge to accurately grasp the progress being made across all fields, as

implementation areas in the Plan are further categorized. They recommended that the PC consider the nuances in interpreting the concepts outlined in the plan given the different terminologies used in each country and the need for significant time and effort to accomplish implementation reports.

- 7.14. Singapore, through their written statement, proposed that the frequency of reporting should be managed reasonably to ensure that countries have substantive updates to provide in subsequent reports.
- 7.15. **Decision:** The PC provisionally approved the M&E Plan subject to revisions based on the recommendations raised and further editorial refinements.

***Sharing of Programs and Initiatives aligning to SDS-Sea IP 2023-2027 targets***

- 7.16. Dr. Furukawa called on the country and non-country partners to share their highlighted programs that align with the targets of the four components of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027, namely: Effective Governance, Healthy People, Healthy Oceans, and Healthy Economies.
- 7.17. Representatives from the country and Non-country partners who were present onsite and online shared their plans and programs that directly support the implementation of the SDS-SEA IP, including the opportunities and challenges and potential collaborative projects that can be jointly implemented among and between the partners and networks of PEMSEA in the next five years.
- 7.18. The highlights of the presentations are consolidated below in line with the four components of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. While the information presented was not exhaustive given the time limitation, the presentations provided a glimpse of the thematic focus and priorities of the CPs and NCPs that would contribute to achieving the objectives of the SDS-SEA IP until 2027 and delivering the SDGs by 2030.
- 7.19. *Effective Governance*

- 7.20. The countries have adopted ocean policies (e.g., Japan's 4<sup>th</sup> Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, Timor Leste's National Ocean Policy), long term strategies (e.g., Lao PDR's Water Resources Utilization and Management Strategy 2030 and Vision to 2044; the Philippines National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter to 2040; Singapore's National Action Strategy Addressing Marine Litter and Vietnam's Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Marine Economy through 2023 with Vision to 2045 and Strategy for Sustainable Exploitation and Use of Natural Resources and Protection of Marine and Island Environment to 2030 with Vision to 2050), medium-term plans (e.g., China's 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plans for the Protection and Utilization of Natural Resources; Development of the marine Economy among others; Vietnam's National Action Plan for the Management of Marine Plastics to 2030) and legislations (e.g., Vietnam's Law of the Sea and Island Resources and Environment 2015 and Law on Environmental Protection 2020) with the required institutional and coordinating arrangements to facilitate their implementation, which fall within the duration of the SDS-SEA IP.
- 7.21. Capacity development, research, networking and knowledge management as highlighted by China under the UN Decade of Ocean Science, Indonesia in the development of methodology to monitor microplastics and Japan on global observation and research on marine ecosystems are cross-cutting measures that support the various priority programs of the SDS-SEA IP. The Non-country partners priority programs further provide additional cross-cutting measures to strengthen and facilitate the implementation of priority programs of the SDS-SEA IP. These include KMI's learning exchange program in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, OPRI-SPF's capacity development program; OSRL's stakeholder engagement program on oil spill preparedness and response; PML's engagement in the UN Decade of Ocean Science and various global networks (e.g., Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, World Association of Marine Stations) and scientific research (ACCORD Project, Artificial Light at Night) and various capacity development programs. The PNLG, which represents the local

governments, is focusing its efforts in operationalizing the network through the conduct of the PNLG Annual Forum and networking with the PNLC as part of the action program identified in the PNLG Strategic Action Plan 2022-2027.

7.22. Several country partners (e.g., Cambodia, Philippines Vietnam) and Non-country partners (e.g., IUCN, PML) highlighted their work on combatting marine plastic pollution. These included terms of operationalizing the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter and the Extended Producers Responsibility Act in the case of the Philippines, the draft National Action Plan and National roadmap for plastics management of Cambodia, and Viet Nam's National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030, among others. They emphasized the negotiation process for the global plastics treaty, which will be completed in 2024 and the importance of active participation and engagement in the process.

7.23. *Healthy Ocean*

7.24. ICM implementation and scaling up (e.g., Indonesia and Singapore's Integrated Urban Coastal Management), integrated river basin management in Cambodia and implementation of management programs focusing on pollution reduction and waste management, particularly on solid and plastic waste management in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor Leste, Vietnam and Singapore; marine ecological restoration and rehabilitation in China, Indonesia and Japan; fishery resources management in Japan and water resources utilization and management in Lao PDR were identified as priority programs in these countries in support of the healthy ocean targets of the SDS-SEA IP.

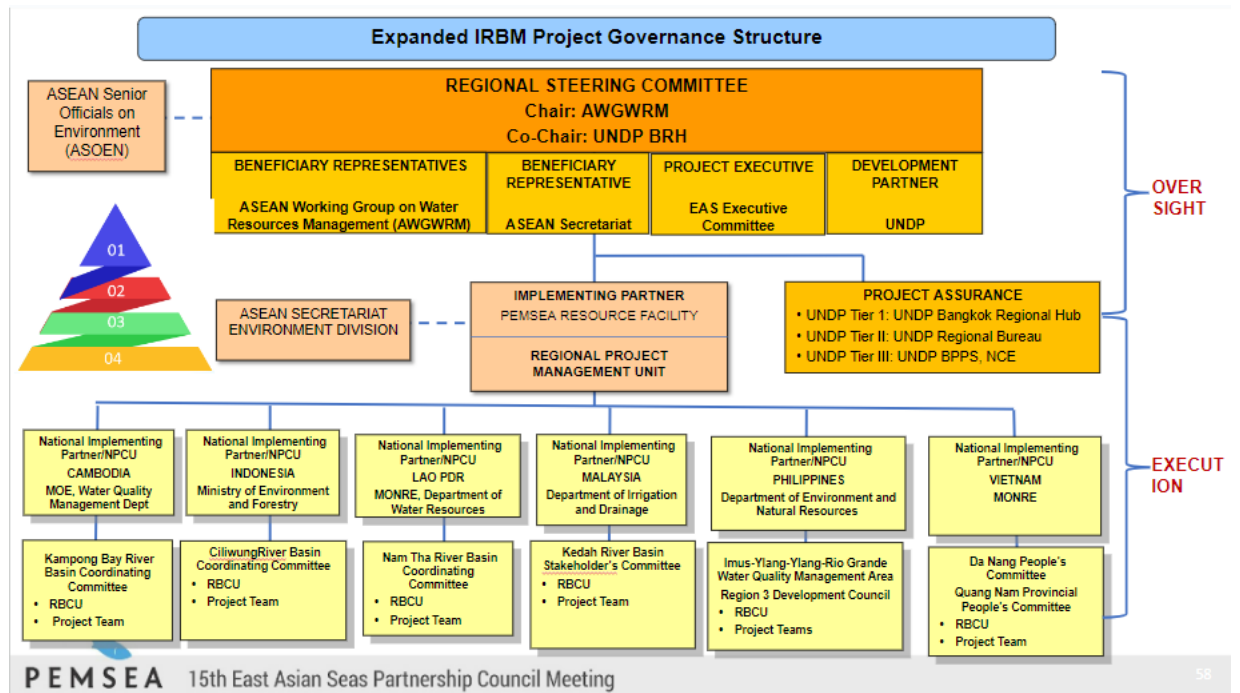
7.25. Initiatives on marine biodiversity conservation in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework were shared by IUCN, particularly in achieving the 30 x 30 target through the establishment of new and improved protected and conserved areas and other effective conservation measures and ACB through the establishment of network of marine protected areas in selected large marine ecosystems in the region.

- 7.26. Collaboration on oil spill preparedness and response through KEI focused on the development of environmental sensitivity mapping and risk assessment guidelines for the coastal areas of Vietnam. The stakeholder engagement program of OSRL on the other hand promoted the use of industry good practices, encouraged collaboration and support key stakeholders in the implementation of OSPR activities in the form of webinars, workshops, study tours, learning exchange and capacity development.
- 7.27. KMI's efforts on building coastal green infrastructure to mitigate coastal disasters and in developing techniques for restoration of blue carbon ecosystems and blue carbon credit system complement China's plan to develop blue carbon standards and Japan's target for carbon neutrality.
- 7.28. *Healthy People*
- 7.29. OPRI-SPF's presented their work involving small scale fishermen and indigenous groups promotes the engagement of these important stakeholders in the protection and sustainable use and management of the coastal and marine resources while the Philippines post-pandemic green and blue economic recovery effort ensures that measures to recover from Covid-19 are aligned with climate change and sustainability targets.
- 7.30. *Healthy Economies*
- 7.31. Areas for collaboration as suggested by the Philippines under the framework of blue economy included private-public partnerships in infrastructure development to address land-based pollution; increasing investments and participation of development partners and private sector in municipal/domestic solid waste management and associated technological solutions and harmonizing circular economy approaches and regulations in both private and public sectors. Promoting blue economy co-benefits and synergies is also a priority of OPRI-SPF.

- 7.32. The PRF also shared updates on two current projects that address cross-cutting targets in the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.
- 7.33. Ms. Nancy Bermas, Regional Project Manager of the PRF, presented an overview of the GEF/ASEAN/UNDP Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) in ASEAN Countries.
- 7.34. The project, which will run from 2023-2027, is implemented by the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub with PEMSEA as the executing agency. It aims to establish functional integrated river basin management mechanisms in priority river basins of six ASEAN countries to reduce pollution, sustain freshwater environmental flows and support adaptation to climate change vulnerabilities. It has a GEF grant amounting to USD 8,479,123 and a co-financing of USD 106,985,192.
- 7.35. IRBM pilot sites collectively cover at least 32,000 square kilometers and a population of 17 million. These areas and priority issues include:
- a. Nam Tha River Basin, Luang Nam Tha Town Proper in Lao PDR. The site was selected to address reparation and sustainable management of forest, pollution reduction, and nutrient management.
  - b. Kampong Bay River Basin, Kampot City in Cambodia. The site was selected to address pollution reduction, nutrient management and water resource management.
  - c. Kedah River Basin, Alor Setar City in Malaysia. The site was selected to address pollution reduction, nutrient management and water resource management.
  - d. Ciliwung River Basin, Depok City in Indonesia. The site was selected to address pollution reduction, nutrient management and water resource management

- e. Imus-Ylang-Ylang River, General Trias City and Pasac-Guagua River Basin, Guagua Municipality in the Philippines. The sites were selected to address pollution reduction, nutrient management and water resource management.
  - f. Vu Gia Thu Bon River Basin, Quang Nam Province and Da Nang City in Viet Nam. The site was selected to address pollution reduction, nutrient management and water resource management.
- 7.36. The project will endeavor to provide working templates, tools, and approaches to address pollution reduction and preserving environmental flows using the source-to-sea framework – which looks at upstream-to-downstream linkages using the river basin as the management unit. Furthermore, the project shall build on existing and completed efforts on IRBM, IWRM, and source-to-sea in each priority river basin.
- 7.37. The project has four interlinking components:
- a. Component 1: Baseline Assessment, with the aim to improve understanding of governance, socio-economic, and ecological conditions as well as the gaps and needs of each river basin;
  - b. Component 2: IRBM Pilot projects addressing priority issues, with the aim to improve interagency and multi structural governance, including laws, policies, and regulations in relation to river basin management and water resources management;
  - c. Component 3: Knowledge management and learning, which aims to improve IRBM knowledge management and enabling capacities in the six participating countries as well as PEMSEA networks, and facilitate south-south and north-south collaboration; and
  - d. Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation, which is a requirement of GEF and UNDP.
- 7.38. The project adopts a four-tiered approach to implementation, as shown in the governance structure below. The regional steering committee is represented by beneficiary

representatives, focal points of the ASEAN working group on water resources management (AWGWRM), the ASEAN Secretariat, the Project Executive represented by Dr. Keita Furukawa, Technical Session Chair, and Undersecretary Jonas Leones, EAS PC Co-Chair, and UNDP as the development partner. It provides high-level policy guidance to the project and is chaired by Dr. Inthavy Akkharath, the Chair of AWGWRM and consecutively the PEMSEA National Focal Point for Lao PDR.



**Figure 3. IRBM Project Governance Structure**

7.39. As the Implementing Partner, the PRF is closely coordinating with the ASEAN Secretariat Environment Division, while the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) will be the regional platform to reach out to the wider ASEAN community. The UNDP will provide three tiers of project assurance – from project management support, technical support, and ensuring compliance to GEF and UNDP requirements.

7.40. Current progress achieved in 2023 include:

- a. Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with Cambodia and Lao PDR;



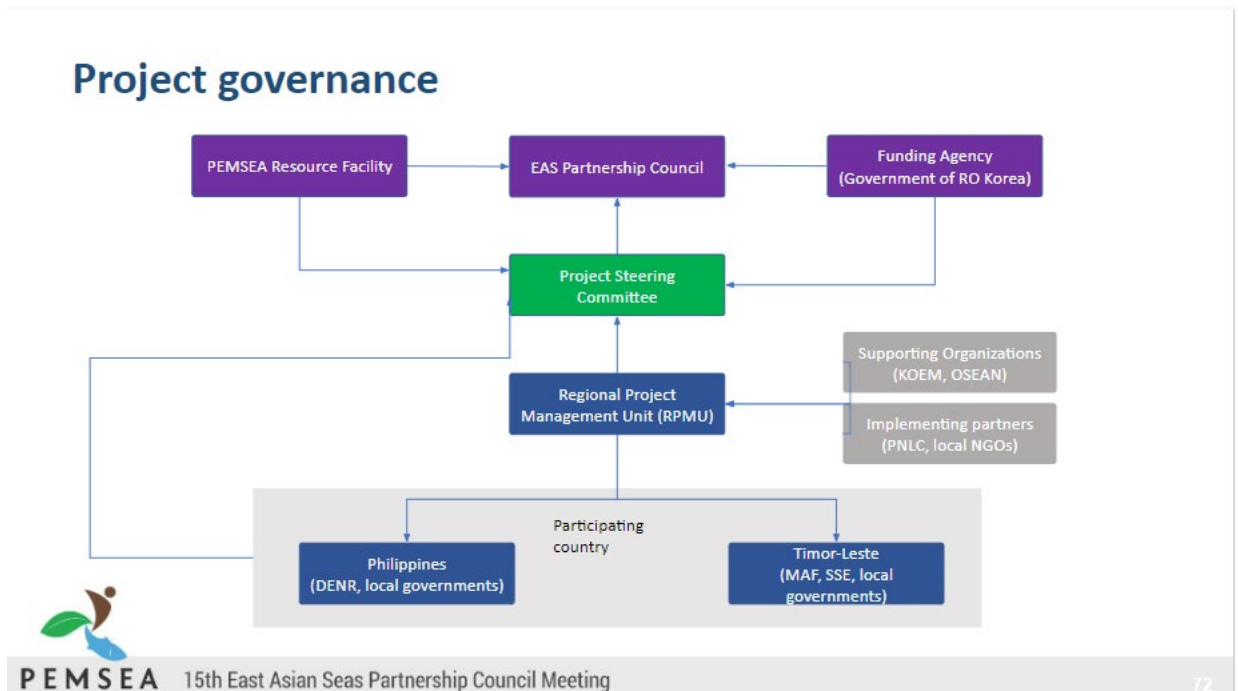
- b. Organization of a Regional Inception Workshop and first Regional Steering Committee Meeting;
  - c. Recruitment of staff for the regional project management unit;
  - d. Initiation of State of River Basin Reporting and preparation of communications plan; and
  - e. Preparation of river basin profile of Kampong Bay River Basin in Cambodia.
- 7.41. Third and Fourth Quarter Plans for 2023 will include:
- a. Completion of the State of the River Basin Reporting, regional framework and template, and six river basin profiles;
  - b. Refinement of the Communications Plan;
  - c. Development of the IRBM Project E-portal, where all knowledge products will be uploaded;
  - d. Development of Training modules on river basin management and IWRM; and
  - e. National Inception workshops for Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Viet Nam.
- 7.42. Dr. Won-tae Shin, Regional Project Manager of the PRF, presented an overview of the MOF/PEMSEA ODA Project on Reducing Marine Plastics in the East Asian Seas Region.
- 7.43. The Marine Plastics Project will be conducted over the period of 2023-2028, with a budget of approximately USD 9M (KRW 12B). The project aims to reduce marine plastics in six sites in the Philippines and four sites in Timor-Leste. The project will be supported by PEMSEA partners such as KOEM, PNLG, and PNLC, among others.
- 7.44. The project aims to:
- a. Enhance local governance on marine plastics management;
  - b. Demonstrate best practices and innovative solutions in marine plastics management;
  - c. Conduct beach monitoring of marine plastics and litter for long-term tracking of occurrence and trends; and

- d. Strengthen capacity, awareness, and communication on marine plastic management

7.45. The project has four components:

- a. Component 1: Local governance on Marine Plastics Management, which aims to improve understanding on marine plastic pollution through baseline assessment on marine plastics occurrence and management and the development of 10-year marine plastics management strategies and action plans;
- b. Component 2: Demonstration of best practices and innovative solutions for reducing marine plastics and marine plastics management, which aims to identify applicable technologies or best practices that can be applied in the identified local sites through feasibility studies and pilot projects implemented in partnership with the local government;
- c. Component 3: Beach monitoring on marine plastics and litter, which aims to conduct beach monitoring of marine plastics and litter to identify trends on plastic in the project site using scientific methods; and
- d. Component 4: Capacity, awareness and communication on marine plastics management, which aims to enhance the capacity and awareness of local and national stakeholders on marine plastics and litter management through capacity building activities and knowledge products.

7.46. Dr. Shin also presented the governance structure for the Marine Plastics Project, which involves a project steering committee, which will provide guidance on the conduct of the project (see Figure 4 below).



**Figure 4.** Marine Plastics Project Governance Structure

7.47. **Conclusion:** The PC expressed its appreciation for the opportunity to share their highlighted programs and plans for the next five years that support or align with the targets of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. Further cooperation and collaboration for interdisciplinary and cross-border issues are emphasized by multiple partners.

## 8.0 Highlights of the Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge (EPPIC) Workshop (PC/15/DOC/08; PC/15/DOC/08a)

8.1. Dr. Furukawa turned over the Chairmanship of the last two agenda items of the Technical Session to Dr. Suk-jae Kwon, the Technical Session Co-chair.

8.2. Dr. Nguyen My Hang, Deputy Director of the Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation (DSTIC) of the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands

(VASI) presented a brief report of the Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge (EPPIC) Workshop which was conducted as a side event of the 15<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting in the morning of 26 July 2023.

- 8.3. The EPPIC project, implemented by UNDP and funded by Norway, was rolled out in six ASEAN member states, namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam since 2020. It aims to (1) contribute to the reduction of plastic pollution in coastal areas, and (2) provide technical support to participating countries in their negotiation efforts and preparations towards the legally binding agreement on plastic pollution.
- 8.4. The EPPIC workshop, co-organized by the Ministry of Environment in Viet Nam through the Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands, UNDP Vietnam and PEMSEA, garnered 80 participants from EPPIC participating countries and some PC Meeting attendees.
- 8.5. The workshop provided valuable feedback on how to promote collaborative actions to secure the objectives of the UNEA resolution, as well as share outcomes of EPPIC's efforts in its six participating countries and exchange information in scaling up innovations in addressing plastic pollution in other countries in the EAS region.
- 8.6. Representatives from the Philippines, Lao PDR and Viet Nam shared their experience of being part of EPPIC as well as their preparations for the global treaty on plastic pollution.
- 8.7. The succeeding thematic session discussed two topics of interest in the global treaty and garnered the following key messages:
  - a. On ensuring just transition through enabling informal workers to obtain lasting benefits from improved plastic waste collection services needed to enhance national recycling efforts.
    - There is a need to reduce regulatory and institutional barriers;

- There is a need to increase revenue through better remuneration mechanisms and integration with secondary materials markets or material recovery and product return facilities;
  - Informal workers capacities must be enhanced to increase the quality of collected materials; and
  - Community engagement of informal waste workers with the wider community should be improved.
- b. On ensuring that developing countries can access and mobilize finance for the implementation of the global treaty, including enhanced capacity for collection and recycling.
- There is a need to develop a financial “mechanism” as opposed to or in addition to financial assistance, which emphasizes the need for predictable, sustainable, adequate and accessible financing;
  - If a special Fund, similar to the envisaged Global Biodiversity Framework Fund outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, is to be established, priority should be given to financing the just transition of informal waste workers to guarantee an inclusive and effective Global Treaty.

8.8. Given the timeliness of the discussions made during the EPPIC workshop, Dr. Hang of Vietnam proposed to the PC to discuss opportunities for collaboration or joint efforts for additional action based on the results of the workshop.

8.9. Ms. Arathi Vinod of Singapore opined that the EPPIC workshop was an informal exchange of views of select countries, thus future collaborative actions can be better discussed by participants of the workshop.

8.10. Mr. Atsuki Ito of Japan added that any proposal for a joint recommendations/work should be undertaken by EPPIC participating countries and not necessarily the PC.

- 8.11. Ms. Gonzales clarified that the sharing of the summary document of the EPPIC workshop to the PC was to inform them of the proceedings and discussions that arose from the workshop. Further discussions on future actions may be raised among EPPIC participating countries (who are also PEMSEA country partners) should they decide to do so.
- 8.12. **Conclusion:** The EPPIC workshop, co-organized by the Ministry of Environment in Viet Nam through the Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands, UNDP Vietnam and PEMSEA was held back-to-back with the 15<sup>th</sup> EAS Partnership Council as a learning event and knowledge sharing workshop to discuss progress of national implementation of EPPIC project and critical global issues such addressing the needs of informal waste workers and enabling circular economy and identifying and mobilizing financial flows to developing countries to end plastic pollution. The EPPIC workshop was participated by EPPIC Project participating countries who are also PEMSEA country partners such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Viet Nam. Some PC session attendees also joined the workshop as well.
- 8.13. **Decision:** The PC noted that the summary report of the EPPIC workshop will be included in the Annex of the 15<sup>th</sup> EAS PC meeting report.

## 9.0 East Asian Seas Congress 2024

- 9.1. Dr. Kwon provided a background on the preparations for the East Asian Seas Congress 2024. He explained that China, through its National Focal Point and Intergovernmental Session Chair, Ms. Chen Danhong, indicated the country's interest to host the Congress during the 30<sup>th</sup> EC meeting on 28 March 2023. He called on Ms. Heyun Xu, PEMSEA Operational Focal Point for China, to discuss the updates on China's preparations to host the 2024 EAS Congress.
- 9.2. Ms. Xu shared that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) China in partnership with the local government of Xiamen, has expressed interest and support to host EAS Congress 2024. Final confirmation will be relayed to the PEMSEA Resource Facility in the next two

months. The EAS Congress will be held jointly with the Xiamen World Ocean Week 2024 around November.

- 9.3. With no further updates, Dr. Kwon turned over the Chairmanship of the Technical Session to Dr. Furukawa.

## **10.0 Any other business**

- 10.1. Dr. Furukawa opened the floor to the PC for concerns or updates they wish to discuss.
- 10.2. In relation to the sharing of country and non-country partners' plans vis-à-vis the SDS-SEA IP, Mr. Masanori Kobayashi of the OPRI-SPF raised the importance of having a platform or process to continue the exchange of information to explore emerging issues for collaboration amongst PEMSEA partners.
- 10.3. Dr. Furukawa echoed Mr. Kobayashi's suggestion and added that the exchange of information amongst country and non-country partners may provide options for issues in the region (i.e., plastics treaty, climate change, blue carbon, ocean acidification) that can be prioritized for discussion during the Technical Session. He added that the platform for information exchange could be through informal conversations such as ad hoc working groups or email exchanges through the PRF.
- 10.4. **Conclusion:** Mr. Masanori Kobayashi of the OPRI-SPF reiterated the importance of having a platform or process to continue the exchange of information to explore emerging issues for collaboration amongst PEMSEA partners. The Technical Session showed no objection to Mr. Kobayashi's suggestion.
- 10.5. **Recommendation:** The PC proposed to the PRF to develop a mechanism for Partners to raise agenda items in the EAS PC Technical Session as well as during the inter-sessional

period through the development of ad hoc working groups or other online platforms for informal exchange amongst partners.

- 10.6. Ms. Rizza Dejucos, Communications Specialist of the PRF, shared the details of the PEMSEA 30<sup>th</sup> Year Commemoration Plan, which included a series of key activities that will be conducted through the latter half of 2023 all the way to the EAS Congress 2024.
- 10.7. The Anniversary Plan will kick off with a toast to celebrate PEMSEA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the welcome dinner of the PC Meeting. This will be followed by several lecture series on ICM throughout the second half of 2023, online publishing of digital stories and testimonials from the Partners, as well as the launch of the "Humans of East Asian Seas", which highlights 30 local champions that foster the impacts and success of PEMSEA in its partner sites. A call for nominations will be opened from August to November. Local champions will be selected from December 2023 to January 2024 using curated criteria developed by the PEMSEA Secretariat in collaboration with the Executive Committee. This effort is aimed to benchmark the annual recognition of local champions post-2023.

## **11.0 Closing of the Technical Session**

- 11.1. With no other concerns raised, Dr. Furukawa turned over the floor to Dr. Kwon who closed the Technical session at 17:30 (UTC+7).

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION**

### **12.0 MOA Signing between Lao PDR and the PRF and Opening of the Intergovernmental Session (PC/15/DOC/12)**



- 12.1. The Intergovernmental Session commenced at 9:00 am (UTC+7) on 27 July 2023.
- 12.2. In line with the presentation of the IRBM project during the Technical Session, Lao PDR and the PEMSEA Resource Facility engaged in a ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on the former's participation in the project. The MOA will serve as the framework of cooperation between the government of Lao PDR through the Department of Water Resources Management of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the PEMSEA Resource Facility to implement the project from 2023-2027.
- 12.3. Dr. Inthavy Akkharath, National Focal Point of Lao PDR, expressed the commitment of the governors of three provinces, Loung Namtha, Oudemaxy, and Borkeo, on contributing to the implementation of the project, during the National Inception Workshop conducted in 14 July 2023.
- 12.4. Ms. Aimee Gonzales, PRF Executive Director, expressed her appreciation on the formalization of the partnership between Lao PDR and the PRF on the implementation of the project. She cited that the IRBM project is an extension of PEMSEA's work on SDS-SEA in the region, given that rivers are natural conduits of pollutant loadings for example, from agriculture land conversion through siltation, sedimentation, eutrophication, plastic pollution to the coasts and seas.
- 12.5. Mr. Le Dai Thang, Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair, opened the meeting in lieu of the Chair, Ms. Chen Danhong, who could not be physically present. Mr. Le reiterated the Council Chair's call to strengthen the partnership in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises, and to build on the region's collective resilience through collaboration towards the sustainable development of oceans and coasts of the East Asian Seas.

12.6. He then requested the Secretariat to present the agenda for the Intergovernmental Session’s approval.

12.7. **Decision:** The Intergovernmental Session approved the agenda.

### 13.0 PEMSEA Sustainability Plan (PC/15/DOC/13)

13.1. Ms. Gonzales presented the highlights and key recommendations of the PEMSEA Sustainability Plan.

13.2. Ensuring PEMSEA’s institutional and financial sustainability is one of the critical elements of work of the Intergovernmental Session. Several commitments to ensuring PEMSEA’s continuity as a self-sustaining organization were adopted by the PEMSEA country partners, including the adoption of the Da Nang Compact in 2015, which identified a self-sustaining PEMSEA Resource Facility as one of the post-2015 strategic targets; the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration in 2018 which reaffirmed this commitment to achieving this target; and, the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration in 2021, which reaffirmed the country partners’ support to the PRF as the technical and Secretariat arm of PEMSEA.

13.3. Country partners have operationalized these commitments through annual contributions, either in-cash or in kind:

**Table 1.** Country Contributions (as of 2023)

Country Partners	Voluntary contribution	In kind contribution (hosting of PEMSEA events)	In kind contribution (secondment/ Internship)	Payment for PRF services	Joint fundraising*
<b>Cambodia</b>	Yes	EAS Congress 2021		Yes	
<b>China</b>	Yes	PNLG secretariat; China PEMSEA Center EC/PC meetings	Yes	Yes	

<b>DPR Korea</b>					
<b>Indonesia</b>	Yes (2020)	PC meeting 2019	PNLC hosting (2024)	Yes	
			Use of Regional Clean Seas Center as meeting venue		
<b>Japan</b>	Yes	EC meeting 20XX			
<b>Lao PDR</b>				Yes	
<b>Philippines</b>		hosting of PRF, EC/PC EASC 2009 EASC 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>RO Korea</b>	Yes	PNLG Ansan	Yes	Yes	
<b>Singapore</b>	Yes	EC 2017			
<b>Timor Leste</b>	Yes	EASC 2027		Yes	
<b>Viet Nam</b>	Yes (2024)	PC 2023		Yes	

13.4. In terms of multilateral and bilateral grants from projects, private foundations and collaborations with other international organizations, PEMSEA has received a total of USD 76.4 million since 1994. Running themes of these projects include:

- SDS-SEA Implementation (1994-2020)
- Marine Pollution/ Plastics (2019 to date)
- Shipping/Biofouling (2019 to date)
- Integrated River Basin Management (2023 -2027)
- Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Plan (2019-2024)

13.5. Currently, the PRF is looking forward to several incoming projects that will help sustain operations in the next five years:

**Table 2.** Pipeline Projects

Title of Project	Partners	Country Partners	Fund Source	Amount/Duration	Status
Blue solutions for reducing maritime transport GHG emissions through increased energy efficiency of ship and port activities in East Asia”	IMO	Cambodia, <b>China</b> , <b>Indonesia</b> , Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, <b>Philippines</b> , RoKorea, Singapore, <b>Thailand</b> , Viet Nam	IKI Climate Fund	15MEuros for project (5 years)	Project proposal under review
Effectively Managing Networks in Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ENMAPS)	ACB	Indonesia, Philippines Thailand	GEF 7 replenishment fund	12 M USD	Full proposal for submission in GEF Council in Autumn 2023
MPA implementation 2023 K		Regional project	Blue Action Fund	2-3 million Euros	In discussion with partners
Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Programme (ATSEA 3)		Regional Project	GEF 8 replenishment cycle		Concept proposal under development
Southeast Asia Program on Combating Marine Plastics (SEA-MAP) - Technical Advisory Organization	UNOPS	Regional Project	WB	260 K 5-year advisory role	Waiting for results of tender

13.6. However, these project grants and the annual contributions from country partners are the only steady source of income for the PRF. Given the potential risks which may affect the continuity of these sources of income, and moving towards the new decade and in light of new and complex challenges such as the global pandemic and the conclusion of the Scaling UP Implementation of SDS-SEA, the PRF Secretariat prepared a post-2020 operational plan which contained:

- an updated diagnostic report through revisiting, assessing and refining previous reports and plans on transforming PEMSEA into a fully self-sustaining international organization; and
- an operational plan on the delivery of services, development of new business, mechanisms for financial sustainability, and establishment of PRF as a regional/global hub for coastal and ocean governance and blue economy development in the next decade.

13.7. The post-2020 Operational Plan has undergone several iterations and has been consolidated, updated, and renamed as PEMSEA Sustainability Plan 2023-2030. The plan takes into account the ongoing work in operationalizing SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 based on existing staff and institutional resources, opportunities to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, training and capacity development, communications, and marketing opportunities through revenues generated from diverse sources of funds in the next 5 years.

13.8. Key aspects of the PEMSEA Sustainability Plan 2023-2030 include:

- Operationalization of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027; PNLG SAP 2022-2030, new PNLC Charter and execution of the plans through the multi-year multi-country projects ( IRBM, ATSEA 2, Marine plastics, other suites of PRF services) including the [SDS-SEA GESI Action Plan](#) and SDS- SEA IP M&E plan;
- New strategic partnerships and resource mobilization (review of partnership arrangements with non-country partners (see summary review [here](#) and a detailed review is also available upon request); Communications and marketing strategy of PEMSEA (Annex 3), role of PEMSEA and identification of potential investment opportunities such as PEMSEA’s potential role as a regional blue carbon hub;

- Updating PEMSEA Rules of Governance (see PC/15/DOC13c) as well as its Quality Management Standards (Annex 7) to ensure PEMSEA continues to improve its performance at par with new developments in global standards as well as updated requirements of international funding institutions;
- Global priorities with impacts and opportunities for PEMSEA’s work: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, creating a well-regulated (blue) carbon; global treaty agreement on plastic pollution, global discussions on ocean-climate nexus, building consensus towards net zero GHG emissions in IMO and UNFCCC).

13.9. On the exploration of PEMSEA’s niche in promoting blue carbon initiatives in the region, the PRF is currently conducting preliminary research and initial consultations with the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers to harmonize methodologies in accounting blue carbon and developing a consolidated database on blue carbon, with the hope to one day develop a blue carbon accounting and certification system. This effort is a response to the rising interest and efforts in blue carbon in the region as it shows great potential to support the achievement of climate change mitigation targets while also tackling biodiversity conservation and food and livelihood security.

13.10. Assistant Secretary Noralene Uy of the Philippines expressed the government of the Philippines support on the initial recommendations outlined in the Sustainability Plan. She highlighted that the adoption of the Reporting Template outlined in the SDS-SEA IP M&E Plan can promote effective monitoring and assessment of PEMSEA’s progress and accomplishments against individual country and non-country partner commitments and collective targets in the EAS region.

- 13.11. The Philippines likewise supported the exploration of potential projects such as the initiatives on blue carbon, which can both support the effective operationalization of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and open possible opportunities for investment and revenue.
- 13.12. Finally, she highlighted the critical need to update PEMSEA's Quality Management System to take into account available financial, physical and human resources and capabilities to effectively execute implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 13.13. Mr. Atsuki Ito expressed Japan's support for the sustainability plan and its initial recommendations. On the proposed blue carbon certification program, he suggested the need for wider and in-depth identification of needs, similar projects, feasibility, effectiveness, sustainability of funding, and ecosystem management.
- 13.14. He proposed for the PRF to engage in wide-ranging discussions with diverse stakeholders to gather more baseline information and also to clarify the required roles of the partners in the initiative.
- 13.15. Ms. Heyun Xu of China expressed China's support of PEMSEA as an international cooperation framework and will continue to do voluntary contributions to keep its sustainability. China supports the initial recommendations and wishes to consult more on the issues with their stakeholders and experts.
- 13.16. Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto of Timor-Leste expressed the country's support for the sustainability plan and reaffirmed their commitment to their voluntary contribution to PEMSEA. He reminded the PRF of their request to provide orientation and technical support in accomplishing the reporting template for the M&E of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.
- 13.17. Dr. Nguyen My Hang of Viet Nam shared her country's support of the initial recommendations raised in the sustainability plan. She recommended the PRF to explore other funding institutions that could support PEMSEA's initiatives on coastal and ocean management.

- 13.18. In light of addressing global priorities such as plastic pollution, Dr. Hang recommended that EPPIC participating PEMSEA country partners revisit the summary report of the EPPIC workshop and consider the potential of developing a joint paper as it could open opportunities for more funding.
- 13.19. Ms. Gonzales thanked the Country Partner representatives for their suggestions. On Viet Nam's proposal, she responded that the PRF could assist PEMSEA country partners who are participating in the EPPIC project to develop a joint paper, should there be a consensus to do so.
- 13.20. The Intergovernmental Session noted that Viet Nam to propose the development of a joint paper together with the other participating countries of the EPPIC Project to provide an opportunity for funding projects that will tackle plastic pollution in the region.
- 13.21. **Conclusion:** The IG Session concurred with the initial recommendations outlined in the PEMSEA Sustainability Plan:
- Sharing of annual reports on how Partners implement the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 to showcase impacts and benefits of the Partnership;
  - Using the SDS-SEA reporting template to ensure a robust reporting;
  - Approving the Updated PEMSEA Rules of Governance and noting the updated quality management standards; and
  - Supporting PRF's exploration of a regional blue carbon project with PNL.
- 13.22. Several country partners reconfirmed their commitment to supporting the operations of the PRF, whether through voluntary contributions or through other means.
- 13.23. **Recommendations:**



- The Intergovernmental Session suggested that a comprehensive briefing on accomplishing the reporting template in the SDS-SEA IP M&E Plan be provided by the PRF to country and Non-country partners.
- The Intergovernmental Session welcomed the exploration of PEMSEA as a hub for blue carbon certification and accounting and its opportunities for investment but recommended the need for a deeper review of PEMSEA’s role and capacity. They recommended identifying needs and specific progress within the region, exploring the sustainability and financial requirements for operating a BC certification program, and consulting with a wide range of stakeholders involved in BC.
- The Intergovernmental Session likewise recommended exploring opportunities with international funding institutions that can support PEMSEA projects and initiatives.

13.24. **Decision:** The Initial recommendations outlined in the PEMSEA Sustainability Plan were approved. Further refinements to the Plan will be done based on the recommendations raised by the Intergovernmental Session.

## **14.0 Selection and Appointment of PRF Executive Director 2024-2026 (PC/15/DOC/14)**

14.1. Ms. Abigail Cruzada, PRF Secretariat Coordinator, presented the results of the Selection Committee’s review on the extension of the contract of the incumbent Executive Director’s for 2024-2026.

14.2. The current ED, Ms. Aimee Gonzales, will end her second term on December 2023. During the [30<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting](#), she expressed her interest to renew her contract for a third and final

term from 2024-2026, in line with the provisions outlined in [Annex 4](#) and [Annex 11](#) of the PEMSEA Rules of Governance

- 14.3. During the same meeting, the EC Chair proposed the option to extend the contract of Ms. Gonzales for a third term (CY 2024-2026). All other EC members agreed with the EC Chair, citing that an experienced leader would be beneficial in continuing current efforts to streamline the organization and enhance discussions and engagement with partners. The recommendations of the EC were formalized through the activation of the Selection Committee, composed of the Chairs of the Executive Committee, who would review and endorse the incumbent ED's extension.
- 14.4. Results of the Selection Committee review showed the unanimous endorsement of Ms. Gonzales's term extension, citing her experienced and steady leadership as crucial to the continuing efforts to improve PRF's performance, ensure effective implementation of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and enhance discussions and collaborations with PEMSEA partners.
- 14.5. Dr. Monyneath, as the Chair of the Selection Committee, thanked Ms. Gonzales for her interest to continue leading the PEMSEA Resource Facility and work with country and Non-country partners to promote the continued implementation of the SDS-SEA. He recognized her determination towards PEMSEA's mission across the EAS region and commended her outstanding efforts in managing, coordinating and exercising diplomacy with PEMSEA partners. He expressed his hope that under her leadership, Ms. Gonzales will continue to promote further collaborations amongst the Partners to achieve sustainable coastal and ocean development in the East Asian Seas.
- 14.6. Representatives of the country partners present expressed their support for Ms. Gonzales's extension as Executive Director.
- 14.7. Indonesia expressed full support to the renewal of Ms. Gonzales' term as ED subject to PEMSEA rules and regulations on selecting and appointing an ED.

- 14.8. China shared expressed their hope that Ms. Gonzales's future term will play a positive role in improving the level of regional cooperation and increase the involvement of partners in launching new projects and initiative under PEMSEA.
- 14.9. The Philippines cited that Ms. Gonzales's leadership in the PRF played a key role in the growth of the organization as evidenced by newly formed partnerships and amassed commitments to enhance SDS-SEA implementation under her term. She further reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to PEMSEA as the host of the PRF.
- 14.10. Cambodia and Japan expressed that the reappointment of Ms. Gonzales is the most appropriate option given that a continued leadership will help ensure that PEMSEA will continue to work together to harmonize efforts to meet the targets of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 and increase regional efforts towards combatting marine plastic pollution.
- 14.11. Lao PDR, Timor Leste and Singapore also posed no objections and expressed support for Ms. Gonzales continuation as ED for the next three years.
- 14.12. Ms. Gonzales thanked the Intergovernmental Session for their support in the extension of her contract as PRF Executive Director. She called on the country partners' support to assist the PRF in identifying opportunities to increase actions to bolster regional cooperation and collaboration. .
- 14.13. As her third term is also her last, she shared her plans to ensure PEMSEA's sustainability post-2025, adding that opening the search and recruitment of the PRF Executive Director for 2027-2029 will be one of her priorities in 2024, given the extensive process for application and selection.
- 14.14. Furthermore, she requested the PC's support in developing and training the next generation of coastal and marine managers in PEMSEA, recognizing the need for new blood to continue PEMSEA's advocacies.

14.15. **Conclusion:** The Intergovernmental Session unanimously approved the results of the Selection Committee’s review and endorsement of the extension of the incumbent PRF Executive Director, Ms. Aimee Gonzales, for a third and final term from 2024-2026. They expressed appreciation for her key role in the growth of the commitments amassed in the region to support the implementation of the SDS-SEA under her term as Executive Director. Furthermore, they recognize the need for continued and steady leadership, given that the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 is only on its first year of operationalization and several new and incoming projects under the PRF are being implemented from this year onwards.

14.14. **Recommendations:**

- The Intergovernmental Session expressed their hope that the Executive Director will play a more active role in improving the level of regional cooperation in the East Asian Seas and be instrumental in increasing collaboration between and amongst country and non-country partners.
- The Intergovernmental Session proposed that measures to identify and address existing gaps in PEMSEA be conducted to ensure increased harmonization within the partnership under the Executive Director’s leadership.

14.15. **Decision:** The results of the Selection Committee’s review to extend the term of the incumbent Executive Director were approved.

## **15.0 PRF Annual Work Plan and Budget 2023-2024 (PC/15/DOC/15)**

15.1. Ms. Gonzales presented the PEMSEA Resource Facility’s proposed Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2023-2024.

15.2. The PRF serves as Secretariat to the EAS Partnership Council under the guidance of the Executive Committee (EC). It provides efficient and effective delivery of strategic services

to the East Asian Seas (EAS) as well as its individual country and Non-country partners. These services encompass the strategic objectives found in the [SDS Implementation Plan 2023-2027](#), the commitments agreed in the [Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration](#), the recommendations from the terminal evaluation of the [UNDP/GEF Scaling Up SDS-SEA Project 2014-2020](#), the project documents of the UNDP/GEF/ASEAN Integrated River Basin Management Plan, UNDP/GEF Arafura Timor seas Ecosystems Action Plan (CY 2023-2024) the RoK funded Marine Plastics Project (see project descriptions [here](#)) and the relevant supporting [decisions and recommendations](#) of the East Asian Seas Congress 2021.

15.3. The objectives of the PRF for 2023-2024 are:

15.4. Objective #1: **Secure PEMSEA’s financial and operational sustainability for 2023-2024 between USD 3-4 million annually through:**

- a. Annual country contributions
- b. Implementation of years 1 and 2 of the UNDP/GEF/ASEAN/PEMSEA Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the EAS through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries (IRBM Project)” of **USD 9.5 million for five years** or an annual average of USD 1.36 million starting in 2023
- c. Implementation of years 1 and 2 of the RoK funded Marine Plastics Project of **USD 9M million for 6 years** or an annual average of USD 1,5Mln starting in 2023
- d. Implementation of the last two years of the UNDP/GEF Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Program Phase 2 (ATSEA 2) with an annual average of USD 1million.
- e. Approval of the full IKI/IMO Blue solutions project proposal on “reducing maritime transport greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through increased energy efficiency of ship and port activities in East Asia” of **USD 16 million for five years** or an annual average of USD 3.2 million starting in late 2023 or early 2024
- f. Submission of new project proposals for GEF 8 through ATSEA-3 and Blue Economy proposal and pursuit of other collaborative funding opportunities (ex. SEA-MAP with ASEAN/World Bank and Blue Carbon certification program

- g. Operationalization of training, capacity development, and monitoring services of the PRF in collaboration with the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC) and non-country partners (NCPs).

15.5. **Objective #2: Ensure the complete delivery of years 1 and 2 of SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027:**

- a. Implement the targeted actions of years 1 and 2 of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027
- b. Prepare and seek approval of the SDS- SEA IP 2023-2027 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan including the reporting template during the 15<sup>th</sup> EAS PC and reporting of 2023 accomplishments during the 16<sup>th</sup> EAS PC
- c. Approval of the regional governance mechanism and the updated strategic action plan for the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) at the 4<sup>th</sup> ATSEA 2 Regional Steering Committee and conduct of the ATS Ministerial Forum in June 2024
- d. Secure approval of the regional guidelines on biofouling management by the ASEAN WG Coastal and Marine Environment and endorse to the IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee in 2023 and 2024
- e. Promote the benefits, tools, learnings and experiences, documented practices in implementing ICM to promote blue economy with the national governments, PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers and PEMSEA Network of Local Governments
- f. Promote PEMSEA through broader dissemination of [2022 PEMSEA Annual Report](#), [2021 Regional State of the Coasts \(SOC\)](#) reports, case studies, and knowledge products in global and regional fora and events
- g. Implement the updated PEMSEA Training and Capacity Development Plan

15.6. **Objective #3: Secure strategic partnerships and other high profile collaborative activities**

- a. Forge formal partnerships (e.g., with the International Maritime Organization [IMO] and Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] and through the IRBM Project)

- b. Forge memorandum of agreement with Malaysia through the IRBM project and Malaysia and Thailand through the Blue Solutions project
- c. Disseminate EASC 21 congress proceedings and pursue solutions and actions other than those identified in targets 2 and 3
- d. Implement a smooth PNLC Secretariat turnover from the PRF to IPB University, Indonesia
- e. Organize ocean roundtable dialogue on the interface between ocean and climate (Blue Carbon for 2023) and other webinars and learning exchanges with UNDP, WWF and COBSEA
- f. organize with PNLG Secretariat and Xiamen government, the 2023 PNLG forum
- g. Prepare for EAS Congress 2024

15.7. The above objectives will be implemented through strategic services of the Secretariat:

- a. Management and coordination of PEMSEA governance and services
- b. Facilitation and execution of 2023-2024 actions of the SDS IP 2023-2027
- c. Partnerships and resource mobilization
- d. Communications and marketing
- e. Monitoring and reporting of SDS-SEA IP 2023-2024, quality management standards, internal and external audit etc.
- f. Administration and finance
- g. Implementation of the recommendations and decisions taken during the EAS Congress 2021 and the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum (actions are incorporated in strategic services 1-6) and preparation for EAS Congress 2024 and 8<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum

15.8. The detailed [work plan](#) presented the specific activities to meet the objectives discussed.

15.9. The proposed budget of the PRF is as follows:

**Table 3.** Summary of PRF Secretariat Services Budget 2023-2024 (in USD)

Budget Description	2023	2024
<b>PRF</b>		
Personnel	217,043	217,043
Travel and Meetings	32,170	32,170
Consultant		
Audit	20,000	20,000
Subcontract	1,000	2,000
Printing	6,000	1,500
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>276,213</b>	<b>272,713</b>
<b>PROJECT FUNDS</b>		
ATSEA 2	1,074,348	548,790
IRBM	1,824,199	2,312,200
ODA	679,442	912,887
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,577,989</b>	<b>3,773,877</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,854,202</b>	<b>4,046,590</b>

- 15.10. Ms. Gonzales also presented the projected sources of revenue for 2023 and 2024 (Table 4). These sources come from voluntary country contributions and current and incoming multilateral and bilateral grants

**Table 4.** Summary of projected revenue sources for 2023 and 2024 (in USD)

Identified Source of Revenue	2023	2024
<b>PRF</b>		
Japan	125,000	125,000
ROK	45,000	45,000
Singapore	20,000	20,000
China	75,000	75,000
Timor Leste (PRF share of grant)	10,000	10,000
ATSEA2 Execution Fee*	64,461	32,927
IRBM Execution Fee*	74,136	184,976
ODA Management Fee*	74,508	72,727
Interest Income from bank Deposit	200	200
<b>SUB-TOTAL PRF Source of Funds</b>	<b>488,305</b>	<b>565,831</b>
<b>PROJECT FUNDS</b>		
ATSEA 2	1,074,348	548,790



IRBM	1,824,199	2,312,200
ODA	679,442	912,887
<b>SUB-TOTAL Project Funds</b>	<b>3,577,989</b>	<b>3,773,877</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,066,294</b>	<b>4,339,708</b>

15.11. **Conclusion:** The Intergovernmental Session expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive presentation of the PEMSEA Resource Facility’s proposed work plan and budget for the Calendar year 2023-2024 and provided no objection to the objectives and activities proposed.

15.12. **Decision:** The PRF Work Plan and Budget 2023-2024 was approved.

## **16.0 Approval of the Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Council and Technical Sessions**

16.1. **Decision:** The Intergovernmental Session approved the Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Council and Technical Sessions.

## **17.0 Approval of the Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Session**

17.1. **Decision:** The Intergovernmental Session approved the summary of conclusions and recommendations.

## **18.0 Other business**

18.1. No other business was raised.

## **19.0 PRF Secretariat Announcements**

19.1. The PEMSEA Secretariat presented the schedule for the review and dissemination of the Meeting Proceedings, as follows:

Date	Agenda
28 July 2023	Release of Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the 15th EAS PC meeting
4 August 2023	Dissemination of Draft Proceedings for the review/ comments
11 August 2023	Submission of comments/ corrections to proceedings
15 August 2023	Publication and dissemination of 15th EAS PC Meeting Proceedings

## 20.0 Closing of the Intergovernmental Session

20.1. Mr. Le thanked the Country Partners for their active participation during the Intergovernmental Session and closed the session.

## 21.0 Closing of the 15<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting

21.1. Dr. Vann Monyneath thanked the Partnership Council for their commitment and participation during the two-day meeting.

21.2. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am (UTC+7).

## ANNEX 1. Agenda of the meeting

Item	Agenda	Speaker/Presenter	Document
<b>COUNCIL SESSION</b>			
1	Opening of the 15 <sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting	<b>Dr. Vann Monyneath</b> Chair, East Asian Seas Partnership Council (EAS PC)	PC/15/DOC/01a
2	Adoption of the Meeting Agenda	<b>Dr. Vann Monyneath</b> Chair, East Asian Seas Partnership Council (EAS PC)  <b>Ms. Abigail Cruzada</b> Secretariat Coordinator, PRF	PC/15/DOC/02
3	Report of the Council Chair	<b>Dr. Vann Monyneath</b> Chair, East Asian Seas Partnership Council (EAS PC)	PC/15/DOC/03
4	Report of the Executive Director	<b>Ms. Aimee Gonzales</b> Executive Director, PRF	PC/15/DOC/04
5	Assumption of IPB University as PNLC Secretariat	<b>Ms. Maida Aguinaldo</b> Capacity Development and Training Officer, PRF	PC/15/DOC/05
	Closing of the Council Session	<b>Dr. Vann Monyneath</b> Chair, East Asian Seas Partnership Council (EAS PC)	
<b>TECHNICAL SESSION</b>			
6	Opening of the Technical Session and Adoption of the Agenda	<b>Dr. Keita Furukawa</b> Technical Session Chair	PC/15/DOC/06

Item	Agenda	Speaker/Presenter	Document
<b>COUNCIL SESSION</b>			
7	Operationalizing Year 1 of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027	<p><b>Dr. Keita Furukawa</b> Technical Session Chair</p> <p><b>Mr. Benigno Balgos</b> M&amp;E Consultant, PRF</p> <p><b>Country and Non-Country Partners</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Nancy Bermas</b> Regional Project Manager, PRF</p> <p><b>Dr. Won-tae Shin</b> Regional Project Manager, PRF</p>	<p>PC/15/DOC/07</p> <p>PC/15/DOC/07a</p> <p>PC/15/DOC/07b</p> <p>PC/15/DOC/07c</p> <p>PC/15/DOC/07d</p> <p>PC/15/DOC/07e</p> <p>PC/15/DOC/07f</p>
8	Highlights of the Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge (EPPIC) Workshop	<p><b>Dr. Nguyen My Hang</b> Deputy Director, DSTIC, VASI, MONRE Viet Nam</p>	<p>PC/15/DOC/08</p> <p>PC/15/DOC/08a</p>
9	East Asian Seas Congress 2024	<p><b>Ms. Heyun Xu</b> Division Director, Department of International Cooperation, MNR, China</p>	
10	Other business		
11	Closing of the Technical Session	<p><b>Dr. Suk-jae Kwon</b> Technical Session Co-Chair</p>	
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION</b>			
12	MOA Signing with Lao PDR and PRF  Opening of the Intergovernmental Session and Adoption of the Agenda	<p><b>Mr. Le Dai Thang</b> Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair</p>	<p>PC/15/DOC/12</p>
13	PEMSEA Sustainability Plan	<p><b>Ms. Aimee Gonzales</b> Executive Director, PRF</p>	<p>PC/15/DOC/13</p>

Item	Agenda	Speaker/Presenter	Document
<b>COUNCIL SESSION</b>			
14	Selection and Appointment of the PRF Executive Director for 2024-2026	<b>Ms. Abi Cruzada</b> Secretariat Coordinator, PRF  <b>Dr. Vann Monyneath</b> Chair, Selection Committee	PC/15/DOC/14
15	PRF Annual Work Plan and Budget 2023 - 2024	<b>Ms. Aimee Gonzales</b> Executive Director, PRF	PC/15/DOC/15
16	Approval of Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Council and Technical Sessions	<b>Mr. Le Dai Thang</b> Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair	
17	Approval of Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Session	<b>Mr. Le Dai Thang</b> Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair	
18	Other Business		
19	PRF Secretariat Announcements	<b>Ms. Abi Cruzada</b> Secretariat Coordinator, PRF	
20	Closing of the Intergovernmental Session	<b>Mr. Le Dai Thang</b> Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair	
21	Closing of the 15 <sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting	<b>Dr. Vann Monyneath</b> EAS PC Chair	

## **Annex 2. Meeting documents, presentation and group photo**

Meeting Documents: <https://bit.ly/15thPCdocs>

15<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting Presentation: <https://bit.ly/PC15presentation>

Presentations/Statements of PEMSEA Partners (for Agenda 7): <https://bit.ly/agenda7partnersPPT>

Summary Report of the EPPIC Workshop: <https://tinyurl.com/EPPIC-Workshop-Report>

15<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting Photos: <https://bit.ly/PC15photos>

## **ANNEX 3. List of Participants**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Dr. Vann Monyneath**

Council Chair  
East Asian Seas Partnership Council  
Director-General, Department of  
International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural  
and Director General, General  
Directorate of Policy and Strategy,  
Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

#### **Dr. Keita Furukawa**

Technical Session Chair  
East Asian Seas Partnership Council  
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(NPO); and  
Affiliated Research Fellow, Ocean  
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#### **Dr. Suk-jae Kwon**

Technical Session Co-Chair  
East Asian Seas Partnership Council  
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Cooperation Department and Concurrent  
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#### **Mr. Le Dai Thang**

Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair  
East Asian Seas Partnership Council  
Deputy Director, Bureau of Marine  
Resources Control and Marine, Island  
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Administration of Seas and Islands, Ministry of  
Natural Resources and Environment

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#### **CAMBODIA**

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General Directorate for  
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Ministry of Environment  
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##### **Mr. Taing Meng Eang**

Director of Department of Green Economy  
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##### **Mr. Seyla Sok**

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#### **CHINA**

##### **Ms. Heyun Xu**

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**Mr. Yasushi Mochizuki**  
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#### **LAO PDR**

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Ms. Marion Kua  
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