



Global Targets Local Benefits

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for
the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

16-21 November 2015

The Fifth Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia



Hosted by the Government of Viet Nam
Organized by PEMSEA, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam Administration of
Seas and Islands, and the City Government of Da Nang and supported by GEF and UNDP.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
FIFTH MINISTERIAL FORUM ON THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

**Da Nang, Viet Nam
20 November 2015**

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THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL FORUM ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fifth Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia, the culminating event of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2015, was held at the Furama Resort in Da Nang, Viet Nam on 20 November 2015. The Fifth Ministerial Forum was hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam. Participating in the forum were 11 Ministers and heads of delegations from the East Asian countries, and about 80 observers from among the PEMSEA Non-Country Partners, together with the members of PEMSEA's East Asian Seas Partnership Council Executive Committee, representatives from PEMSEA's sponsoring agencies, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, and other representatives from the local governments and the private sector.

The Forum was chaired by Hon. Nguyen Minh Quang, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Viet Nam. Minister Nguyen spoke of 2015 as a milestone year for global sustainable development with the global adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasized the crucial role of the triennial Ministerial Forum to assess the achievements of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and to reaffirm the region's commitments in achieving the vision of the SDS-SEA 2015.

On behalf of Mr. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Administrator and Director for Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific, UNDP New York, Mr. Titon Mitra, Country Director, UNDP Philippines, delivered the keynote speech to the Forum. The keynote address highlighted the experiences, achievements, gaps and lessons learned with regard to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the new SDGs. He underscored the value of cooperation and partnerships from local, national to regional level in meeting global commitments and in addressing persistent or emerging challenges particularly in the coastal and ocean development sphere.

Through a discussion facilitated by Amb. Mary Seet-Cheng, Chair of the EAS Partnership Council, the Ministers discussed the opportunities and challenges of SDG implementation in the region and shared their insights into possible innovations and good practices.

Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, Executive Director, PEMSEA, presented the achievements at the country and regional levels with regard to SDS-SEA implementation since 2003, and introduced the updated SDS-SEA 2015. He also presented PEMSEA's post-2015 strategic targets, the action programme for achieving the targets, and the impact indicators that will be used to measure benefits.

The Ministers responded by providing their country's outlook and introduced their respective country initiatives or national plans. They reaffirmed their commitment to the SDS-SEA 2015 as a regional platform and framework for achieving the targets of the SDGs. The Ministers emphasized the value of PEMSEA in promoting collaboration at different levels and across

sectors; and reiterated the value of partners' commitment in further strengthening PEMSEA partnership including in helping ensure PEMSEA's sustainability.

Eleven Ministers and heads of delegations present at the forum affixed their signatures to the *Da Nang Compact on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia 2015*, reflecting the firm commitment of the countries of the East Asian Seas region to move the global sustainable development agenda forward.

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A. INTRODUCTION

- i. The Fifth Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia was held as part of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2015, which was held in Da Nang, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on 16–21 November 2015 carried the EAS Congress theme “Global Targets, Local Benefits: Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015.” The Fifth Ministerial Forum was envisioned to renew and strengthen the regional commitment in support of key international agreements and targets including the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- ii. The Forum was organized building upon the agreements made in earlier Ministerial Forums as embodied in: (a) the 2003 Putrajaya Declaration, adopting the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as a platform for regional cooperation for coastal and ocean governance; (b) the 2006 Haikou Partnership Agreement, setting targets for integrated coastal management (ICM) and national marine and coastal policy; (c) the 2009 Manila Declaration, resolving to strengthen integrated coastal management as an effective management framework and a systematic approach to achieve sustainable development and climate change adaptation goals in the region; and (d) the 2012 Changwon Declaration, enabling the development of an ocean-based blue economy in the region through the strengthened support for SDS-SEA implementation. In particular, the Forum targeted the review and assessment of the status of the SDS-SEA targets adopted in 2006, and map out the direction of PEMSEA beyond 2015 through the adoption of the SDS-SEA 2015 and post-2015 regional strategic targets.
- iii. The Fifth Ministerial Forum programme is found in **Annex 1**.
- iv. Eleven countries were represented at the Fifth Ministerial Forum, namely: Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. The Ministers were accompanied by their country delegations. Representatives from 11 PEMSEA Non-Country Partners were present as observers, together with the Executive Committee of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council, representatives from PEMSEA’s sponsoring agencies, the GEF, UNDP and the World Bank, and other observers from the local governments and the private sector. A full list of participants is found in **Annex 2**.

B. MINISTERIAL FORUM PROPER

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- 1.1 Hon. Nguyen Minh Quang, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Viet Nam, chaired the Ministerial Forum proper and formally opened the Forum. Minister Nguyen expressed the importance of the conclusions and recommendations from the EAS Congress International Conference in providing the region with good practices and innovative inputs on sustainable development of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems. He emphasized that the Ministerial Forum is crucial as it will provide a platform for the region's leaders to commit to the support and endorsement of local and national efforts to achieve sustainable development through discussions and signing of the Da Nang Compact.
- 1.2 Minister Nguyen spoke of 2015 as a milestone year for global sustainable development with the global adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasized the crucial role of the triennial Ministerial Forum to assess the achievements of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and to reaffirm the region's commitments in achieving the vision of the SDS-SEA 2015: "healthy ocean, healthy people and healthy economies."
- 1.3 He expressed that while achieving such targets may appear daunting, this feat is not impossible if the region mobilizes every effort within its capacities. He stressed the importance of collaboration facilitated through the exchange of knowledge and experiences and transfer of technologies. He reiterated that cooperation is the prime reason for gathering to discuss and endorse actions towards the strategic targets.
- 1.4 The Chair welcomed the distinguished Ministers and guests to the Ministerial Forum. He urged his fellow Ministers to share their views and exchange their opinions and make the Forum as informative and meaningful as possible.

2. KEYNOTE SPEECH

- 2.1 On behalf of Mr. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Administrator and Director for Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific, UNDP New York, Mr. Titon Mitra, Country Director, UNDP Philippines, delivered the keynote speech. He began by congratulating PEMSEA and its co-organizers for the successful conduct of the EAS Congress 2015. He remarked that the theme of the Congress is appropriate and timely with the release of the SDGs and the upcoming COP 21 of the UNFCCC, which will result in similarly ambitious but crucial targets. He emphasized the value of the SDS-SEA as a vehicle for participating countries toward the sustainable development of its coastal resources and an effective platform for local government to contribute in meeting regional/international targets through on-the-ground actions.
- 2.2 He recognized PEMSEA's efforts in bringing together the governments in the region and in establishing linkages with a wide selection of stakeholders, as well as on the value placed on cooperation and finding solutions together. He noted that new phenomena

and challenges to sustainable development have arisen which will impact on the livelihood and survival of coastal communities, but will also provide shared opportunities for strong regional cooperation.

- 2.3 He highlighted that PEMSEA's efforts to develop the blue economy have shown that the seas can be harnessed in a sustainable fashion. Substantial investment in capacity building and technology supported by regional cooperation is needed to maintain these gains. He recognized that achieving the global sustainable development agenda requires national commitment, regional cooperation and access to resources. Through the Da Nang Compact, UNDP believes that PEMSEA and the region can individually and collectively work towards its vision.

3. FACILITATED DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Amb. Mary Seet-Cheng, Chair, EAS Partnership Council, facilitated the discussion and invited the Ministers to share their response to the UN SDGs, Target 14 in particular and sustainable coastal and ocean development. The Ministers shared innovative policies, legislation, frameworks and guidelines that are being considered, put forward, expanded on or implemented in their countries.
- 3.2 Hon. Takashi Owaki, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan, shared that Japan has a wide variety of policies related to ocean and coasts and to the development of marine resources and marine energy. He underscored the necessity of having a structure to promote a comprehensive approach to coastal and ocean development. The Basic Act on Ocean Policy's harmonizes the various efforts that the government has implemented. The plan for the Basic Act is reviewed every five years to accommodate changes and has recently been revised in 2013. The Act is used to promote and implement ICM and other oceanic policies in Japan.
- 3.3 Hon. Ji Heui-Jin, Commissioner, Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of RO Korea, stressed that 2015 is a monumental year with the introduction of the SDG and commitment of the global community to achieve them. The SDGs aim to end poverty through inclusive partnership and social economic development, in particular, Goal 14 stresses the importance of marine resources and wellbeing. Through the implementation of the SDS-SEA, RO Korea has established legal and institutional instruments to meet SDG 14. Some initiatives include the integration of the ecosystem-based management approach into the national agenda, amendment of the Ocean Industry Development Act to establish sustainable fisheries, and expansion of 22 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). By enhancing partnerships across sectors and investing for the future, RO Korea is committed to drive sustainable growth and improve the quality of life of everyone.
- 3.4 Hon. Chen Lianzeng, Deputy Administrator, State Oceanic Administration, PR China, emphasized that the SDGs represent the balance between economic development and environmental protection. The Law on Administration of the Use of Sea Areas aims to balance economic development and social wellbeing of communities, with emphasis on repairing and restoring marine ecosystems. The extensive framework provides the legal basis of marine functional zoning, sea area use and compensation for the use of sea

- areas. Since 2010, China has implemented initiatives to repair and restore degraded ecological functions and disaster resilience. So far, these efforts have resulted in the repair and restoration of areas with well-functioning ecological processes. Further reforms to maintain and promote ecological progresses aim to integrate conservation, foster understanding of the connection of land and sea, respect natural capital and promote equilibrium in China's coastal and marine areas.
- 3.5 Hon. Chu Pham Ngoc Hien, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam, emphasized the need to look at SDGs in a comprehensive manner because the realization of one of these interlinked goals will lead to success of the others. The SDGs require synergy and concerted effort between all levels of government. In response to this, government agencies have been assigned to develop or modify their action plans to contribute to these goals. He also noted that research and integrated management of the seas and coastal areas are needed to realize these goals. The lessons from the implementation of the ICM framework in the country have contributed to the development of the National ICM Program 2020 and Vision 2030. These frameworks place special attention on environmental degradation and the integrated management and conservation of the marine environment. A legal instrument for planning and use of coastal resources and environment is also in development. Deputy Minister Chu underscored the importance of exchanging ideas and collaboration to achieve the common goals of the SDGs.
- 3.6 The second question focused on the identification of challenges regarding SDG implementation in the EAS countries and how they envision to address them.
- 3.7 Hon. Kim Yong Jae, Vice Minister, Ministry of External Economic Relations, DPR Korea, identified the lack of awareness of ICM by civil society and local communities as factors hindering the achievement of SDGs. He recounted the increased appreciation of the local leaders and community in the Nampho ICM Demonstration site. He recommended the promotion of training courses and cooperation with NGOs to increase awareness and capability in ICM. Another challenge he mentioned was the lack of technological capability to achieve the SDGs. One of the concerns of the country is sewerage, to prevent contamination from land-based activities. Pollution impacts fish farms, affecting the country's marine economy. He listed other areas requiring improved technological capabilities, including the preservation of biodiversity and addressing oil spills. Aside from increasing state investment to improve these capabilities, technology transfer is also a solution, which has been demonstrated as a component of PEMSEA's activities in the country. He shared that DPR Korea will be establishing another ICM demonstration site in Wonsan, with PEMSEA's support.
- 3.8 Hon. Khieu Muth, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, discussed four challenges that his country faces. The first is obtaining the involvement and commitment of the central government which requires integration of sustainable coastal and ocean development into national development policies, as well as investments in capacity development, gender equality, and technology. Alternatively, this can be facilitated by transferring these capabilities from developed countries, south-south cooperation as well as from the central to local government is encouraged. The second challenge he discussed was engaging all sectors of society while providing clear responsibilities and ownership through transparency and mobilization. The third challenge is financial constraints, which he observed to be a common problem in the

- region. Development organizations and donors/banks can play a key role in the achievement of SDGs and stimulating private finance. The fourth issue is establishing stakeholder accountability, which requires the collaboration, cooperation and engagement of multiple partners. These challenges can be addressed comprehensively through a whole of government approach and integrating the goals in the national vision.
- 3.9 Hon. Heru Waluyo Koesworo, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, enumerated the challenges that are consequences of unsustainable economic activity. He stressed the need to change the behavior of communities to embrace the principles of sustainability. Growing settlement areas require improved infrastructure and sanitation facilities. Enforcement of the existing laws and regulation, both at the central and local levels, is lacking. Implementing ICM in more areas can contribute to achieving blue economy. To address marine pollution, measures to control pollution load must be put in place, which can include establishing an appropriate sewerage system, charging companies that pollute, and preventing oil spills and contamination from mining activities and domestic waste into water. A strategic environmental assessment can identify and address these impacts to the environment.
- 3.10 Hon. Keodokmay Phouipaseuth, Director, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR, noted that there has been considerable improvement in the country as national estimates show that there has been significant poverty reduction, improvements in sewerage and wastewater treatment and access to health and education. The challenges her country faces are primarily related to quality of water resource and climate change adaptation. She stressed the need for strengthened dissemination of information and capacity building to address these gaps. Policy frameworks that have been put in place include the Water Resources Law and National Resource strategy. The priorities relating to water resource quality and quantity have been integrated into the National Social Development Strategy as well. While implementing the policy framework is important, it is also crucial that people experience the benefit of these efforts.
- 3.11 Hon. Manuel D. Gerochi, Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resource, Philippines, stressed that the commitment to achieve the SDGs as well as similar initiatives gives focus to sustainable development efforts, plans and strategy. He noted that the achievements made toward the MDGs were made possible through innovative approaches, advocacy and successful partnership. There is a need to review and revise national plans to support the integrated implementation related to coasts and oceans then develop the necessary skills, knowledge and networks to support these updates. He emphasized the importance of political commitment and partnership. These partnerships provide solutions wherein the government can actively participate to use their resources to invest in the future and galvanize participation. Accountability and engaging all stakeholders is also necessary for effective buy in into the partnership. He added that achieving the SDGs would be impossible without appropriate technology, extensive research, necessary budget, training, supporting policy and laws, monitoring and accountability and transparent benchmarks.
- 3.12 Hon. Dr. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore, emphasized that fundamental to Singapore's continued growth and development in the long term is the pursuit of economic development while

considering environment sustainability. She stressed that from the beginning, Singapore has adopted a holistic approach in balancing economic development and environmental protection and sustainability. By prioritizing land and sea use, it has ensured the protection of the environment vis-à-vis attracting and retaining investments. Outlining its national vision and plans for a more liveable and sustainable Singapore, the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015 envisions a liveable and endearing home, a vibrant and sustainable city and an active and gracious community. In relation to the sustainable development of its coastal and marine resources, Singapore has adopted Integrated Urban Coastal Management (IUCM) that enhances cooperation among all stakeholders, conserving sensitive habitats and optimizing use of resources. One of the key focus areas of Singapore is wastewater discharge. Recycled wastewater and desalination are among the solutions to Singapore's constrained water resources. With forward and proactive planning, Singapore stands ready in its efforts towards implementing and achieving the SDGs.

- 3.13 Hon. Marcos da Cruz, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Timor-Leste, highlighted that as a small and young country, Timor-Leste faces many challenges. While the country was not able to achieve all of the MDGs, it is committed to continue and strengthen their efforts to implement the SDGs. He outlined the country's economic potential in the marine and fisheries sector, oil and tourism. Eighty percent of the country's population live in rural areas and work in agriculture. Some of the challenges faced by Timor-Leste include limited human resources, lack of capacity (including in ICM), difficulty in mobilizing communities to participate in ICM activities, and limited capacity to deal with illegal fishing, among others. He commended all the Ministers for sharing their experiences as he has learned from their best practices to develop Timor-Leste's marine sectors.
- 3.14 All the Ministers expressed their deepest gratitude and congratulations to the people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, to MONRE, VASI, and to the City of Da Nang for their warm hospitality and for the successful hosting of the EAS Congress 2015 and the 5th Ministerial Forum.
- 3.15 The Forum Chair concurred with the discussion and highlighted the common priorities and challenges among the countries on achieving the SDGs and PEMSEA's role in helping the region move toward setting the sustainable development agenda beyond 2015.

4. INTRODUCTION OF THE SDS-SEA 2015 AND POST-2015 TARGETS

- 4.1 Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross introduced the SDS-SEA 2015 and post-2015 targets. He informed the Forum that the SDS-SEA has been updated to address the changing context in ocean governance, in light of new or amended international and regional agreements, including the UNFCCC, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Rio+20 "The Future We Want", and the SDGs. He underscored the value of the SDS-SEA 2015 in providing a framework for policy development and implementation at the regional, national and local levels for achieving the goals and targets set by these various global instruments. He emphasized that the updated strategy serves as the region's concrete response to the UN SDGs, and will lay down a stronger commitment from the countries of the region to ensure the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

- 4.2 Mr. Ross outlined the seven strategies, and related objectives and action programs for sustainable development of coasts and oceans of the SDS-SEA.
- The DEVELOP strategy concerns new and emerging development policies and investment strategies of countries of the region and opportunities for development of the “blue economy”. The objectives and action programs in the Develop strategy emphasize the use of integrated coastal management (ICM) as an effective management framework for achieving economic improvements in the marine sector while securing social and ecological wellbeing.
 - The SUSTAIN and PRESERVE strategies address issues related to biodiversity protection, conservation and rehabilitation, enhancement of freshwater and marine water quality and equitable and sustainable fisheries which are essential aspects for sustainable development of the coastal and ocean economy.
 - The PROTECT strategy addresses the brown agenda such as pollution reduction and waste management from land- and sea-based sources, while the IMPLEMENT strategy focuses on compliance with relevant international conventions and agreements, and the execution of related obligations at the regional, national and local levels.
 - The ADAPT strategy focuses on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management by strengthening capacities and measures for preparing, adapting and responding to natural and man-made hazards.
 - The COMMUNICATE strategy is an overarching commitment to information and knowledge-sharing and the mobilization of governments, civil society, the business community, scientists and universities, and the region’s youth for sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment.
- 4.3 Mr. Ross also discussed the strategic targets that have been identified to monitor and assess progress with SDS-SEA 2015 implementation across the region over the next five years.
- By 2017, a self-sustaining PEMSEA Resource Facility managing and coordinating a suite of products, services and financing mechanisms for advancing SDS-SEA implementation at the regional, national and local levels.
 - By 2017, a regional State of Oceans and Coasts reporting system to monitor progress, impacts and benefits, and to continually improve planning and management of SDS-SEA implementation.
 - By 2021, national coastal and ocean policies, and supporting legislation and institutional arrangements set up and functional in 100% of PEMSEA Partner Countries, consistent with international environmental and sustainable development commitments and based on best available scientific information.
 - By 2021, ICM programs for sustainable development of coastal and marine areas covering at least 25% of the region’s coastline and contiguous watershed areas,

supporting national priorities and commitments under the UN SDGs, UNFCCC, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, UNISDR Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and other relevant environmental and sustainable development targets subscribed to by PEMSEA Partner Countries.

- 4.4 The Forum Chair responded and reiterated that the region needs the strategy in order to achieve the SDGs. The SDS-SEA 2015 may be accessed [here](#).

5. **MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

- 5.1 In response to the SDS-SEA 2015 and Strategic Targets, the Ministers provided their country's outlook and introduced their respective initiatives and national plans.

- 5.2 Hon. Khieu Muth, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, emphasized that Cambodia reaffirms its support and commitment to sustainable development through the Rectangular Strategy Phase III (2013-2018) that served as Cambodia's blueprint in pursuing and strengthening long-term sustainable development. The Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023 provides direction and clear actions for adaptation and mitigation to the immense threat of climate change. To ensure the effectiveness and accountability of coastal management, the National Committee for Management and Development of Coastal Areas was established with clear responsibilities for developing of policies, strategies, plans, guidelines, and programs related to the management, development, and conservation of coastal areas. The National Council for Sustainable Development has also been established to develop and implement policies to pursue environmental sustainability and long-term economic growth. The Ministry of Environment has restructured and is preparing an Environmental Code and the National Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2023 that will provide a clear framework and direction for relevant ministries to work efficiently and effectively in protecting the environment and in ensuring sustainable economic development. Extending beyond the demonstration site of Preah Sihanouk province, Cambodia is preparing to implement ICM in other three coastal provinces. Cambodia has also designated six coastal protected areas and is now preparing to establish national marine parks. In addition to this, the Master Plan for coastal provinces that accommodates infrastructure development planning, industrial zoning, urban planning, and tourism, environment, and agri-business schemes is being developed.

- 5.3 Hon. Chen Lianzeng, Deputy Administrator, State Oceanic Administration, PR China, highlighted that the Chinese Government actively participated in all of the four phases of PEMSEA since 1994. The number of participating coastal cities with ICM has increased from 1 to 22, covering 4,500 kilometers, which is 14.6% of the total length of Chinese coastline. The Chinese Government has implemented various initiatives towards the sustainable development of its coastal resources which include the Declaration on the protection of the Bohai Sea (2000), Implementation Framework of China for SDS-SEA (2012), State of the Coasts reports of ten demonstration sites (2013), and the National Plan on Climate Change (2014-2020). In 2015, a series of policies and plans addressing ecological restoration and protection and development of blue economy such as the "National Plan of Marine Principal Functional Zoning" and "SOA Implementation Action Plan for Marine Eco-civilization" were put in place. The China-

PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center in Qingdao was established in the end of 2014 to address gaps in capacity building. The center has strengthened the coordination with China's demonstration sites with PEMSEA programs and in the implementation of SDS-SEA as well as the capacity building of those demonstration sites inside the country. Recognizing the benefits of ICM, more than 20 ICM programs have been implemented at the local level in China. Some of the ICM programs are being updated to encompass the integrated management of the basin.

- 5.4 Hon. Kim Yong Jae, Vice Minister, Ministry of External Economic Relations, DPR Korea, shared that the DPR Korean government has established the State Academy of Science and its sector-specific research branches in different parts of the country, including the Kim Il Sung University, to help increase capacity on ICM. The government is also raising public awareness about the management of coastal and territorial waters through TV, newspapers and radio, emphasizing the management of coastal and territorial waters as a nationwide concern. The country has gained experience and capacity in ICM through the application of ICM to some parts of Nampho City, which are designated as national demonstration sites. Some highlights of this project include the improvement of the drinking water supply to 150,000 Nampho citizens as well as the capacity of the West Sea marine research center to monitor and analyze the environmental pollution of the coast and sea. DPR Korea is in the process of applying ICM to the Wonsan-Kumgangsan zone in the Korean East Sea. Decree No. 48 on the "Establishment of international Wonsan-Kumgangsan tourist zone" has set the environment management of area as priority environment protection target. Other initiatives include the national marine science and technology development strategy, the national fishing industry development strategy and the development programme of tourism-oriented economic development zone.
- 5.5 Hon. Heru Waluyo Koesworo, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia, stressed that the coastal and marine ecosystem in the region has rich biodiversity and high economic value. He highlighted that Indonesia's mangrove forest contribute around 60% of total mangrove area in ASEAN and the country contains 17 % of the world's total coral reef as well. These ecosystems and resources need to be protected, not only for its unique biodiversity but significant contributions to the employment sector. He noted that while regulations are already in place, some constraints still challenge the government, such as lack of public awareness, supervision for the development activities, and law enforcement. Indonesia put in place several initiatives to prevent environmental pollution, which include the implementation of wastewater discharge permit, running the program of PROPER (Performance Rating Index) for industries to evaluate the compliance of the companies to the environmental regulations and concentration to reduce pollution load from selected rivers. To improve coastal and marine quality in the region, cooperation and collaboration needs to be strengthened, building networking and partnership among the EAS country partners. He expressed his appreciation on the establishment of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC) and the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG) which facilitates capacity building and the exchange of experiences among the countries in the region in the implementation of ICM.
- 5.6 Hon. Takashi Owaki, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan, discussed the country's ICM-related experience, especially with regard to efforts to restore coastal areas, and national

government support for regional areas aimed at spreading ICM. ICM was adopted at the national level through the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy which has 12 basic measures including "Comprehensive Management of Coastal Zones." This Plan is reviewed roughly every five years, taking into account changes in social circumstances concerning the sea. The Tokyo Bay Renaissance Project was implemented to address environmental pollution due to large-scale landfills, inflow of domestic sewage and industrial drainage. As a result of these ten-year efforts from 2003 to 2012, the first phase resulted in the drastic decrease of COD loading, nitrogen loading and phosphorous loading. In 2013, the project entered its second phase aiming to promote cooperation with various stakeholders. In response, the "Public-Private Cooperation Forum for Tokyo Bay Restoration" consisting of industries, fishermen, leisure-related parties, NPOs, and residents, in addition to national and local governments, was established and plays an important role in decisionmaking. Hon. Owaki expressed that Japan will continue to contribute to PEMSEA's activities in furthering the sustainable development in the Seas of East Asia.

- 5.7 Hon. Keodokmay Phouipaseuth, Director, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR, shared the country's challenges in climate change, water resource quantity and quality degradation, and lack of local knowledge and capacity at the local level. To preserve and manage the water resources, the Lao Government has adopted and promulgated regulations, guidelines related to integrated water resources management. The government has implemented policies on the management and development of river basin and its tributaries through applying an integrated water resources management approach in areas that include Num Ngum, Nam Theun-Kading and Sedone River Basins. Currently, Lao PDR is in the final stage of revising the water resources law and developing related regulations, guidelines for implementing the National Water Resources Strategy towards 2025 and five year action plan 2016-2020. The framework covers the management of river basin, flood and drought, wetlands and water ecosystems, groundwater, water quality and quantity, water resource data and information, national IWRM demonstration site and training center, IWRM education and gender promotion, study on sustainable financing for IWRM, public awareness and stakeholder participation in water management countrywide. These aspects are integrated into the First National Natural Resources and Environment Strategy and 8th National Social-Economic Development Plan.
- 5.8 Hon. Manuel D. Gerochi, Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, highlighted the country's official adoption of ICM as the national strategy for the national development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources and the establishment of a national supporting mechanism for ICM implementation. With only one required approval before the ICM Bill becomes a law, this is a significant step towards realizing the Philippines' commitment to scale up ICM to cover the 62 coastal provinces of the country. Other initiatives include the recent completion of a national geo-hazard assessment and mapping project which will contribute to natural and man-made hazard prevention and management. There has been significant recovery of mangrove areas. In 1918, mangrove cover was estimated at 450,000 hectares that was reduced to 120,000 hectares in 1995. As a result of the concerted effort by various agencies of the government in collaboration with local government units and some NGOs, the most recent inventory has shown that mangrove cover has recovered back to 210,500 hectares. The mangrove restoration program has also generated jobs for local communities, with about 24,000 jobs in two regions. Apart

from these achievements, the Philippine Senate has ratified PEMSEA's Headquarters' Agreement, which represents the culmination of 20 years of productive cooperation and synergy between PEMSEA and the Philippines.

- 5.9 Hon. Ji Heui-Jin, Commissioner of the Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, RO Korea, expressed that RO Korea is firmly committed to contributing to the attainment of the SDGs, and sharing and transferring RO Korea's experiences and knowhow with the global community. Related to the sustainable development of oceans, RO Korea has been implementing various policy measures such as marine ecosystem conservation, sustainable fisheries management, marine resource development, and renewable energy development. In addition, the country is preparing for the 3rd Basic Plan for Sustainable Development of RO Korea (2016-2035) in accordance with the Framework Act on Low Carbon, Green Growth aligned with its national agenda to the attainment of SDGs. In preparation for the increasingly unpredictable climate and impending disasters, RO Korea has set a goal of greenhouse gas reduction of 37 % by 2030 in preparation for the Post-2015 climate regime. For this, RO Korea is developing innovative technologies including Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS), biodiesel production from microalgae, and marine bio-hydrogen production. RO Korea is eager to share its experiences with the countries of the region through various ODA programmes including KOICA and the Yeosu Project. Recognizing the importance of a financially healthy cooperative mechanism for the region's long-term collaboration and PEMSEA's role in promoting collaboration, Commissioner Ji stated that RO Korea will continue supporting PEMSEA for its sustainable operation and SDS-SEA implementation.
- 5.10 Hon. Dr. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore, shared Singapore's approach of balancing economic development and ecological conservation in the management of coastal and marine environments through Integrated Urban Coastal Management (IUCM). The IUCM framework leverages on the strengths of various agencies and stakeholders in port and maritime management, urban planning, integrated water resource management, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, engineering and environmental law. Under the auspices of IUCM, an interagency administrative process has been put in place to govern development projects and safeguard the environment. In this process, relevant technical agencies will assess potential impacts of proposed coastal developments and may request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out if necessary. The EIAs would recommend mitigation measures and monitoring programmes to minimize the impact of development on the coastal and marine environment. With this system in place, marine biodiversity was preserved around the Semakau Landfill as more than 700 colonies of corals were salvaged from its lagoon and transplanted into Singapore's first marine park — the Sisters' Islands Marine Park. She noted that Singapore's experience demonstrates that it is possible for a healthy coastal and marine environment to thrive alongside a vibrant economy with the appropriate policies and legislation in place.
- 5.11 Hon. Marcos da Cruz, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Timor-Leste, remarked on the importance of natural and marine and coastal resources and environment to the sustainable development of his country. He shared Timor-Leste's National Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030) that has set specific targets for: (1) ensuring environmental protection and conservation; (2) protection,

conservation and efficient utilization of water resources; (3) improving access to clean water and sanitation across the country; and (4) improving sustainable fisheries management. With regard to fisheries, the short-term goals (2011-2015) included improving the catch capacity from traditional fishing practices. In the next medium term (2016-2020), initiatives will focus on ocean-based fishing oriented toward exports and the development of fisheries centers along the southern coastline. Timor-Leste has also been pro-actively involved in various bi-lateral and regional programs and forums focusing on improving management of marine and coastal resources. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will coordinate the implementation of a work programme for scaling up the implementation of the SDS-SEA in Timor-Leste (2015-2019) that will focus on: (1) developing a policy and plan for integrated management of marine and coastal resources and establishing an interagency and multisectoral coordination and management mechanism; (2) initiating national and local capacity development initiatives; (3) developing local capacity to implement ICM programs; (4) mainstreaming ICM strategies and action plans; and (5) developing a State of the Coasts reporting system.

5.12 Hon. Chu Pham Ngoc Hien, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam, shared the results of his country's efforts in developing and applying a system of policies, institutions and tools implementing the integrated management of the country's seas, coasts and islands. Approved by the Viet Nam National Assembly in July 2015, the Law of Sea and Island Natural Resources and Environment is the highest legal document for the implementation of integrated and unified management of seas, coasts and islands in the country. At present, Viet Nam is continuing to review and complete the system of under-law legal documents and tools as well as human and financial resources required for sustainable development of its seas, coasts and islands. Viet Nam is also focusing on the development of an integrated information system. Also in development, the National Action Plan for integrated coastal management will follow the Viet Nam laws and regulations, and related international agreements. Deputy Minister Chu noted that the SDS-SEA will help Viet Nam in implementing the climate change adaptation measures, reduce hazard risks and conserve marine and coastal biodiversity. The Strategy also creates a regional framework for cooperation, which Viet Nam considers the most important issue that needs to be addressed and implemented to ensure sustainable development in each country of East Asia.

5.13 Prior to the Ministerial Forum, the ministers had submitted country reports as part of the regular reporting of the forum, and their ministerial statements. These were circulated and may be found herein under **Annex 4**.

6. SIGNING OF THE DA NANG COMPACT

6.1 The Chair invited the Ministers to sign the Da Nang Compact to formalize their commitment. The eleven Ministers and heads of delegations present at the Forum proceeded to affix their signatures to the *Da Nang Compact on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia 2015*. The compact with the signatures is hereto attached as **Annex 5**.

7. CLOSING CEREMONY

- 7.1 The Chair gave his thanks to the Ministers, the observers, the local government of Da Nang for co-hosting the event, and the national agencies and PRF Secretariat for a successful Ministerial Forum. The Fifth Ministerial Forum was adjourned on 20 November 2015 at 5:45PM.

* * *

ANNEX 1

FIFTH MINISTERIAL FORUM PROGRAM

THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL FORUM

Furama Ocean Ballroom
20 November 2015

Programme

20 November 2015 (Friday)

PART 1 CLOSING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

08:30 – 09:00	Assembly of Ministers
08:30 – 11:00	Closing Ceremony of the International Conference
	Turnover of the EAS Congress Flag
	Closing of the International Conference
11:00 – 12:00	Viewing of Exhibition
12:00 – 14:00	Ministerial Lunch

PART 2 MINISTERIAL FORUM PROPER

14:00 – 14:10	Introductory Remarks
14:10 – 14:30	Keynote Speech
1430 – 1500	Facilitated Discussion
15:05 – 15:20	Introduction of the SDS-SEA 2015 and Post-2015 Targets
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break
15:40 – 17:00	Ministers' Statements
17:00 – 17:30	Signing of the Da Nang Compact
17:30 – 17:35	Closing and Photo Session
17:35 – 18:00	Press Conference
1830 – 2030	Ministerial Banquet

ANNEX 2
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL FORUM
ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**
Furama Resort, Da Nang, Vietnam
20 November 2015

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Vice Chair: Mr. Nguyen Dieu, Director, Danang Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Mr. Nguyen Duy Minh, Deputy Secretary, Danang Youth Union

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Mr. Nguyen Dinh Thu, Vice Chairman, The People's Committee of Ngu Hanh Son District

ANNEX 3

OPENING CEREMONY SPEECHES

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS OF
HONORABLE NGUYEN MINH QUANG
MONRE MINISTER, VIET NAM**

Honorable Ministers and Head of delegations of the PEMSEA Countries,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon!

On behalf of all Honorable Ministers attending the Minister Forum, it is my great honor to open the Forum.

I personally feel that this morning's closing ceremony was quite significant. The reports of the conclusions and recommendations of the workshops and seminars organized during the past four days of the International Conference have provided us new knowledge, innovative ideas, good practices on governance, management and utilization of natural resources and protection of environment, ecological systems and biodiversity of seas, coasts and islands for future application in our respective countries. Today, we gather here to support and endorse the efforts of our national and local governments in achieving sustainable development in the Seas of East Asian region through discussions and signing the Da Nang Compact which signify our commitments on sustainable development and building blue economies at our respective countries in the region.

We all agree that the year of 2015 is a milestone year for global sustainable development since the global community adopted the Sustainable Development Goals also known as SDGs. As our response to the global targets, we gather here to assess the achievements of our implementation of the SDS-SEA since its adoption in 2003; and reaffirm our commitments in achieving the vision of the SDS-SEA 2015: a healthy ocean, healthy people and healthy economies. Our bold commitments will be culminated in by the signing of the Da Nang Compact which will approve the SDS-SEA 2015 updates and PEMSEA's four Strategic Targets beyond 2015. The details of our commitments will be presented by PEMSEA secretariat during this session.

We all agree that achieving such targets might look daunting but I assure you it is not impossible if we mobilize every effort within our capacities. We need collaboration among ourselves though exchange of knowledge and experiences and transfer of technologies. This is the prime reason why we are gathering here at this table to discuss and endorse our actions towards the strategic targets.

Therefore, I urge my fellow Ministers to share our views and exchange our opinions in candor. I hope this Forum will be informative and meaningful. Finally, I wish my fellow Ministers to enjoy this Forum session and will bear fruitful results.

Thank you.

ANNEX 4

MINISTERS STATEMENTS

Cambodia
China
DPR Korea
Indonesia
Japan
Lao PDR
Philippines
RO Korea
Singapore
Timor-Leste
Vietnam

STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA

By H.E. Khieu Muth

Secretary of State for Environment of Cambodia

Excellency Nguyen Minh Quang, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam,
Mr. Adrian Ross, PEMSEA Executive Director,
Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, to thank to the Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands, and the People's Committee of Da Nang for hosting this East Asian Seas Congress 2015 in this beautiful city of Da Nang and for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

The fifth Environment Ministers forum, EAS Congress 2015 takes place as we approach to open a new chapter for international cooperation. Governments have agreed a new and visionary sustainable development agenda with 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets to the year 2030. And Oceans, seas and marine resources conservation and use retain a central place in the post-2015 development agenda.

Member States and others organizations in the world will soon meet in Paris to finalize a global climate change agreement. Also ASEAN economic community will soon be realized in end of 2015.

We have, as nations of the East Asia Seas, embarked on various initiatives towards sustainable development, especially for the coastal and oceanic environment management, through good governance, innovation, and cooperation.

However, regional coastal and oceanic issues including increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts that are seriously affecting coastal areas. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.

Our presence here today is a witness to the fact that we all care about our coasts and oceans. We understand the economic opportunities and the environmental responsibilities. We want to realign and redirect our actions.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

Cambodia has four coastal provinces and more than 60 islands, with more nearly 10% of populations living in coastal areas. So, we understand the importance of coastal and marine resources for people in particularly coastal communities. Therefore, we have been a stronger supporter for coastal and marine programmes nationally and internationally.

We have also actively implemented international and regional instruments such as the UN Millennium Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Hyogo Framework of Action

(2005-2015), the ASEAN Regional Program and Framework on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, and the 2006 Haikou Partnership Agreement on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy of South East Asia (SDS-SEA). We have received considerable supports for capacity building and regulatory development of the Sustainable Development Strategy for Coastal Zone (2012-2016), which well fits with the RIO+20 outcomes, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other Global Targets.

In reaffirming Cambodia's support and commitment to sustainable development, Rectangular Strategy Phase III (2013-2018) of Royal Government of Cambodia have been developed and served as a country's blueprint in providing guidance to further pursue and strengthen long-term sustainable development aiming at promoting economic growth, creating jobs, equitable distribution of the fruits of growth and ensuring effectiveness of public institutions and management of resources.

We have developed Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023 that provides direction and clear actions for adaptation and mitigation to climate change, which is one of immense threats to our people and planet today, improves the livelihoods and resilience of local communities, cultivation systems, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

To ensure the effectiveness and accountability of coastal management, National Committee for Management and Development of Coastal Areas is established with clear responsibilities for developing of policies, strategies, plans, guidelines, and programs related to the management, development, and conservation of coastal areas.

Recognizing the important link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes in the economic, social and environmental fields, we have established National Council for Sustainable Development with clear mandate to develop and implement policies to pursue environmental sustainability and long-term economic growth.

Ministry of Environment of Cambodia has restructured and is preparing Environmental Code and a National Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2023 that will provide a clear framework and direction for relevant ministries to work efficiency and effectiveness in protection the environment and ensuring sustainable economic development.

One of four country's coastal provinces, Preah Sihanouk province, was selected as a demonstration site for implementing the Partnership project on Integrated Coastal Management that helped enhanced governance and management of coastal environmental and biodiversity conservation. Now, we are preparing to implement Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in other three coastal provinces.

Cambodia has designated six coastal protected areas and is now preparing to establish national marine parks this will help enhance effectiveness of coastal and marine resources management and conservation. In addition to this, we are in the process of developing the Master Plan for coastal provinces that accommodates infrastructure development planning, industrial zoning, urban planning, and tourism, environment, and agri-business schemes.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

In conclusion, Cambodia strongly urges and encourages all partners, especially the East Asian Seas countries to its supports and cooperation to achieve our common goals.

I strongly believe that with our collective wills, commitment and cooperation, we can overcome all challenges facing us and we can achieve a goal of conserving and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in our region.

Thank you for your kind attention!

STATEMENT OF PR CHINA

Hon. Chen Lianzeng
Deputy Administrator
State Oceanic Administration
People's Republic of China

Work together for the new development of the Seas of East Asia

It is my great pleasure to attend this 5th Ministerial Forum of the Seas of East Asia in the very beautiful city, Da Nang, Viet Nam. Also it is my pleasure to discuss the future development plan of the Seas of East Asia with the Ministers from the PEMSEA Country Partners. On behalf of State Oceanic Administration of China, I would like to express appreciation for and endorsement of the detailed introduction to the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (hereafter called SDS-SEA) and PEMSEA Post-2015 Strategic Targets presented by Mr. Adrian Ross, the Executive Director of PEMSEA Resource Facility. We are also grateful to the staffs of PEMSEA Resource Facility and all experts who made efforts and contributions in the drafting process.

The updating and improvement of SDS-SEA is warmly welcomed, in particular the addition of the new Adapt strategy on the basis of previous 6 strategies, including Sustain, Preserve, Protect, Develop, Implement and Communicate strategy. It will bring more of our attention to global Climate Change issues and our regional adaptation activities, and strengthen our capacity of sustainable development. Meanwhile, the approval of PEMSEA post-2015 Strategic Targets is also significant. As what we know, after the SDS-SEA was approved in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in 2003, the PEMSEA Country Partners made their own commitment to and efforts on sustainable development of the ocean and coasts of the region, and obtained great achievements. The development goals set in 2003 are fulfilled. Today, we make new Post-2015 plans for our Seas of East Asia, led by PEMSEA, thus we will have a self-sustaining PEMSEA Resource Facility by 2017, a regional State of Oceans and Coasts reporting system by 2018, national coastal and ocean policies, and supporting legislation and institutional arrangements set up and functional in 100% of PEMSEA Partner Countries by 2021 and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) programs for sustainable development of coastal and marine areas covering at least 25% of the region's coastline and contiguous watershed areas by 2021. We have confidence to fulfill above-mentioned targets in the near future, because we have the PEMSEA big family. With the cooperation and collective efforts of country partners and non-country partners, these targets would come true. Our Seas of East Asia would have a more bright future, and the social and economic development of our coastal communities would be more prosperous.

From 1994, the Chinese Government has actively organized and participated in all of the 4 phases of PEMSEA programs. The number of participating coastal cities with ICM has increased from 1 (Xiamen) to 22, covering 4500 kilometers coastline, which is 14.6% of the total length of Chinese coastline. In 2000, the “ **the Declaration on the protection of Bohai Sea**” was signed by the State Oceanic Administration and the 3 Provincial and 1 Municipal Governments in Bohai Rim, to promote cross-administrative regional cooperation in addressing the problems of Bohai ocean environment and resource protection. In 2012, we announced the Implementation Framework of China for SDS-SEA. In 2013, the State of Oceans and Coasts report of our 10

Demonstration sites have been finished, which strengthen the analysis and review to the ICM implementation. In 2014, the National Plan on Climate Change (2014-2020) had been promulgated by Chinese Government. This year, a series of policies and plans in relation to the conduct of ecological restoration and protection and development of blue economy such as the “National Plan of Marine Principal Functional Zoning” and “SOA Implementation Action Plan for Marine Eco-civilization”. All of the above-mentioned activities to be carried out by Chinese Government make important contribution to and enhancement of the implementation of SDS-SEA.

Despite of the above-mentioned achievement, we are also aware of the gaps in ICM implementation, for example, the insufficiency of mechanism and capacity building referred in SDS-SEA Regional Reviews. To address these disadvantages, we set up a China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center in Qingdao in the end of 2014, which is the first national center of PEMSEA in our region, it has strengthened the coordination of our demonstration sites in participation of PEMSEA programs and in the implementation of SDS-SEA as well as the capacity building of those Demonstration sites inside country.

Given the ICM is the effective way to integrate land-sea use, to find solutions to resource utilization confliction, and to protect ocean and coastal ecosystem, we have run more than 20 ICM programs at local level in China. Furthermore we are trying to update some of the ICM programs to basin-ocean integrated management by gradually developing integrated management of the basin management which is ecosystem-based with the ocean. Although the risk and unhealthy elements still remain, I believe that ocean environment of Seas of East Asia would be improved continuously with the implementation of PEMSEA Phase IV programs and the updated SDS-SEA.

China will continue our efforts to carry out the SDS-SEA and PEMSEA post-2015 Strategic Targets through drawing up and implementing relevant plans, to address the challenges in the process of sustainable development of oceans and coasts and make more contributions to achieve the regional sustainable development targets.

Wish you have good health and pleasant stay in Da Nang. Thank you!

STATEMENT OF DPR KOREA

Hon. Kim Yong Jae

Vice Minister

Ministry of External Economic Relations
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

May I thank, on behalf of my delegation, the government of Viet Nam, PEMSEA, UNDP and GEF for kindly inviting the DPRK delegation to the East Asian Seas Congress 2015 and the Fifth Ministerial Forum as well as for all their efforts to ensure the smooth running of this conference.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea bounded by the seas of East Asia is paying great attention to the integrated management of coastal and territorial waters.

From the early days of its founding, the DPRK, guided by the Juche Idea, has maintained the policy of protecting and managing the land and resources, effectively developing and utilizing them for the prosperity and development of the country and the promotion of people's livelihood. The Juche Idea is the people-centered philosophical world outlook that regards human being as the most precious being in the world and puts everything at his service.

Early on, the great leaders Comrade **Kim Il Sung** and Comrade **Kim Jong Il** gave invaluable directives to harness the land, resources and environment in such a manner that makes substantial contributions to the development of the national economy and the promotion of people's livelihood. In recent years alone, the respected Comrade **Kim Jong Un** underscored the importance of taking thoroughgoing actions to prevent the seas and rivers from contamination. He is also making tireless and painstaking efforts to translate into reality the behests of the great leaders.

The DPRK government policy on the management of coastal and territorial waters is to provide a clean and eco-friendly environment by stemming the leak of factory and city wastes into the coastal waters, while making the coastal areas all the more beautiful and hygienic by preventing natural disasters including tidal waves and enhancing the development, protection and management of the coastal and territorial waters, thereby maintaining sustainable development in the region.

The DPRK has set up a well-defined system for the management of coastal and territorial waters, under which central and local institutions charged with the management of coastal and territorial waters, city management, river administration and supervision were established, and ensures that they fulfill their commitments as required by the State policy.

Given that the advanced science and technology and talents-training are the integral parts of the multipurpose management of coastal and territorial waters, the DPRK government had established the State Academy of Science and its sector-specific research branches in different parts of the country and had educational institutions including **Kim Il Sung** University train managing experts on a regular basis.

The DPRK government is also channeling great efforts into raising public awareness through TV, newspapers, radio and the press about the management of coastal and territorial waters on several occasions including the “ED” and “MD”, thereby carrying on the management of coastal and territorial waters as a nationwide concern.

The DPRK, as a signatory to the “Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia,” the Putrajaya Declaration, 2003 attaches great attention to the management of the resources and environment of the coasts and seas adjacent to East Asian seas and the sustained development of the region.

Integrated coastal management which is a systematic methodology for the achievement of sustainable development of coastal and marine environment and resources contributes to the DPRK in its efforts to manage its coastal waters in a more integrated and positive manner.

The DPRK has already applied ICM to some parts of Nampo city designated as national demonstration sites, thus gaining great success and experience and building capacity of the ICM for the past 15 years.

In particular, the twofold PEMSEA-offered assistance facilitated the successful completion of drinking water supply and hygiene project in Nampo city, thus improving the drinking water supply to 150,000 Nampo citizens as well as the capacity of the West Sea marine research center to monitor and analyze the environmental pollution of the coast and sea.

The DPRK has strengthened its consultation system so as to implement “the Sustainable Development for the Seas of East Asia” and embarked on applying the ICM of Nampo region in the Korean West Sea to the Wonsan-Kumgangsan zone in the Korean East Sea.

The DPRK adopted on June 11, last year the decree No. 48 of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly on the “establishment of international Wonsan-Kumgangsan tourist zone” and set the environment management of the sea off Wonsan a priority environment protection target. It is also implementing the national marine science and technology development strategy, National fishing industry development strategy and the development programme of tourism-oriented economic development zone.

In order to protect the resources and environment of the seas and coasts and to sustain their development, I am of the view that we need cross-section capacity-building on a higher level.

It is of primary importance for all nations and states in the region of East Asian seas, which are direct managers and caretakers of their seas and coasts to build capacity in a multifaceted manner.

The past experience proves that PEMSEA capacity-building has been very helpful in greatly promoting the integrated coastal management of the nations and states.

Therefore, we are expecting PEMSEA and its cooperators to pay their continued attention to the capacity-building for the sustainable development in the East Asian seas.

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Delegates,

It is the nations and states within the East Asia that are in charge of the management of the marine resources and environment in their seas. Therefore, resources in this region should, first and foremost, be used for the promotion of their well-being.

Our cooperation, as a driving force for the sustainable development in the East Asian Seas, should be effected through the fulfillment of obligations and exercise of the rights assumed by independent nations and states.

The DPRK will continue to honor the Putrajaya Declaration, the commitment for the joint action in the region while redoubling its efforts to achieve the sustainable development in the region by applying the ICM on a larger scale for the implementation of the “Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.”

I strongly believe that the current conference will be an important occasion in implementing, through the ICM, several international agreements including “Agenda 21”, “UNFCCC”, “CBD”, “GPA” and “WSSD.”

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF INDONESIA

On behalf of **Mr. Karliansyah**
Director General for Environmental Pollution and Environmental Damage Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia

Delivered by **Mr. Heru Waluyo**
Director, Marine and Coastal Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Republic of Indonesia

Hon. Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) Viet Nam , Mr. Nguyen Minh Quang,
Hon. Ministers of EAS Countries,
Distinguished Delegation and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of Indonesia, We would like to thank to the government of Viet Nam, especially the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as a host for the hospitality made to all participants and guests in conducting the 5th Ministerial forum of East Asian Seas. We also thank to PEMSEA Resource Facility in facilitating the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2015 on the theme “Global Target - Local Benefit”: Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for The Seas of East Asia Beyond 2015”. We appreciate this initiative, and also on the success of the Congress and ministerial forum.

We realize that the economy of East Asian Seas Countries is one of the regions with rapid economic growth. An increasing in economic activities without controlling the environment can result the pollution and decrease the ecosystem function. Several problems such as land conversion, destructive fishing, sedimentation, pollution, are still destroying our ecosystem. Coastal and marine ecosystem are very important for a variety of live. Mangrove, coral reefs, and seagrass ecosystem are very rich biodiversity, and also have a high economic value. For instance Indonesia’s mangrove forest contribute around 60 % of total mangrove area in Asean, Indonesia holds 17 % of the world’s total coral reef as well. Coastal and marine also contribute significantly to the employment sector in Indonesia, if we are unable to protect them from any impact of the economic growth, we are going to loss our resources and biodiversity, and all the economic values.

As one of the countries in the region, Indonesia fully supports the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015. Especially the pollution and degradation we are taking these issues seriously, although these are not easy task. The regulations are in place already, but some constraints still be faced by the government, such as lack of public awareness, supervision for the development activities, law enforcement etc. For the sustainable development, especially in the coastal and marine or blue economy, several actions have been implemented to prevent the environmental pollution. Indonesia has implemented wastewater discharge permit, running the program of PROPER (Performance Rating Index) for industries to evaluate the compliance of the companies to the environmental regulations, concentration to

reduce pollution load from selected rivers, etc. All programs and activities are enforcing the companies to comply with regulations.

To improve coastal and marine quality in the region, we need to strengthening cooperation and collaboration, building networking and partnership among the EAS country partners. We believe that all EAS country partners also obtain the benefit through this cooperation. We appreciate that for implementing activities PEMSEA also establishing PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC) to provide advice and assistance to national and local government to transfer Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) practices, skills, knowledge, tools, and methodologies. To enhance the capacity of local governments to plan, develop, and manage their coastal and marine resources for sustainable use, and to promote the application of ICM , the PEMSEA Network of Local Government (PNLG) for Sustainable Coastal Development also has been established, this is to share and exchange experiences among the countries in the region in the implementation of sustainable coastal and marine.

Finally, Da Nang Compact on the Sustainable Development Strategy for The Seas of East Asia 2015 that has just been signed by eleven countries bordering the Seas of East Asia, as the commitment by the countries in the region for the implementation SDS SEA for the post 2015.

Thank you for your kind attention.

STATEMENT OF JAPAN

Hon. Takashi OWAKI

Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)
Japan

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am most honored to have the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the Government of Japan. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Minister Nguyen Minh Quang and the people of Viet Nam for their warm hospitality. I feel that it is highly significant that the East Asian Sea Congress 2015 is being held in this beautiful and scenic city, Da Nang, which is one of the ICM demonstration sites.

Japan is a maritime nation surrounded by the sea on all sides and has achieved remarkable development with the tremendous benefits brought by the sea since ancient times. On the other hand, we have been faced with diverse challenges related to the oceans and coasts which jeopardize marine environmental protection, management of fishery resources, safety of maritime transport, and so on. Sustainable development of the oceans and coasts is a significant issue for our country as well as all other PEMSEA Country Partners and our government has been implementing various measures against such issues.

I would like to introduce our country's ICM-related experience, especially with regard to efforts to restore coastal areas, and national government support for regional areas in our country aimed at spreading ICM. I hope that this information will be of help to you in promoting ICM.

Japan's governance on implementation of ocean policy

In 2007, Japan enacted the Basic Act on Ocean Policy which has 6 basic philosophies including the "Harmonization of the Development and Use of the Oceans with the Conservation of Marine Environment". In 2008, under this Act, the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy which has 12 basic measures including "Comprehensive Management of Coastal Zones", that is, ICM, was adopted. This Plan is supposed to be reviewed roughly every five years, taking into account changes in social circumstances concerning the sea. In this way, in order to tackle various issues related to the oceans and coasts in a government-integrated manner, we established a legal system, and developed a plan based on this system to be implemented by PDCA cycle.

Efforts to promote ICM in Japan

Now I will talk about our efforts to promote ICM in Japan. In our country, several local governments are implementing ICM plans corresponding to the situation in their local areas. In particular, five local governments are taking the initiative in the promotion of ICM as national model sites. I would like to explain about actions in some large metropolitan areas.

Due to continued rapid economic growth since the 1960s, environmental pollution in metropolitan coastal areas became more and more serious due to large-scale landfills, the inflow of domestic sewage and industrial drainage, and so on. In order to tackle such issues, several major bay areas such as Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay, Osaka Bay, and Hiroshima Bay established "Bay Renaissance Projects" and have carried out various activities. I will explain the "Tokyo Bay Renaissance Project" which is the foremost of these projects.

Tokyo Bay Renaissance Project

In 2002, the "Tokyo Bay Renaissance Promotion Conference" was established by relevant ministries and local governments. In 2003, this conference developed an action plan for water quality improvement and thereby promoted comprehensive policies. Specifically, a plan focusing on the following three actions has been implemented:

- The first action is to reduce pollutant load from domestic sewage and industrial drainage by improving the sewer system,
- The second is to remove seafloor sludge and regenerate tidelands, shallows and seaweed beds, and
- The third is to carry out environmental monitoring to demonstrate the effects of these actions.

As a result of these 10-year efforts from 2003 to 2012, COD loading, nitrogen loading and phosphorous loading, which are a representative indicator of water quality, have drastically decreased to half the levels of those at the end of the 1970s. Recently, the habitat of many kinds of creatures such as fish and shellfish in restored tideland and shallows has been confirmed.

The first phase was completed by 2012 and the project entered its second phase from 2013. In the second phase, in order to promote cooperation with various stakeholders, the "Public-Private Cooperation Forum for Tokyo Bay Restoration" was established. This forum consists of industries, fishermen, leisure-related parties, NPOs, and residents, in addition to national and local governments, and plays an important role in making policy recommendations to the Tokyo Bay Renaissance Promotion Conference. In addition, simultaneous investigation of water quality in Tokyo Bay has been conducted in collaboration with these stakeholders. Continuation of such monitoring is expected to encourage greater interest in the restoration of Tokyo Bay among the public and local residents and to lead to clarifying the pollution mechanism in Tokyo Bay.

In order to demonstrate that these efforts produce tangible effects, I would like to touch on the topic of "the revival of sea-bathing along Tokyo Bay". There were many large tidelands in Tokyo Bay in the 1960s. However, during the rapid economic growth period between the 1960s and 70s, many large-scale landfills were developed to secure industrial and residential sites. Consequently, most natural beaches were lost and water contamination caused by domestic sewage and industrial drainage became very severe. Following this, artificial seashores and beach parks near these landfills were reclaimed in order to let local residents feel closer to the sea, but there were no bathing beaches in waterfront areas along Tokyo Bay until quite recently because water quality did not meet legal standards. However, in recent years, water quality at some beach parks along Tokyo Bay has been improved to the extent that the trial use of these beaches for sea-bathing can be implemented. News of this trial appeared in several news publications this summer in our country. These articles stated that, through steady progress in improving water quality by local NPOs, sea-bathing was permitted in 2013 and swimming with

one's faces in the water was permitted in 2015 because water quality had improved to a permissible level.

We expect that if many stakeholders cooperate to conduct such activities and local residents have many opportunities to feel closer to the sea, public awareness of restoring coastal areas will increase and such activities will become widespread in our country.

National Government Support for Regional Areas (under consideration)

Next, I would like to mention support measures implemented by the national government for regional areas which are now under consideration.

In Japan, while the birth rate is falling, the aging population is growing rapidly and total population continues to decline, population concentration in large cities and depopulation in rural areas are accelerating. In order to address this situation, the Abe Cabinet has set up "Regional Empowerment for Japan's Growth" as the key pillar of new national policies. As a means to implement this policy, in August 2015, the Japanese government founded new subsidies which financially support pioneering and excellent efforts by local governments in cooperation with a broad range of stakeholders including public-private and interregional cooperation. The policy is aimed at revitalizing regional economies and promoting self-reliance and sustainable growth in regional areas, the so-called realization of "Local Abenomics", which means a local version of "Abenomics", that is, Japan's growth strategy that the Abe Cabinet is promoting.

We are now considering that ICM should be used as a policy means to realize "Regional Empowerment". If any local governments are ready to promote "Town development utilizing the sea" in regional coastal areas, the national government would be able to provide subsidies to local governments. For instance, a local government could obtain financial support if it takes the initiative in formulating and implementing the ICM plan through coordination and cooperation with various stakeholders such as fisheries, shipping, tourism, commerce, and NPOs. Also, our national government is carrying out educational activities with regard to ICM in regional areas. For example, we visit local governments which have interest in ICM and host ICM seminars together with the Ocean Policy Research Institute, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI/SPF) in order to share knowledge on ICM and develop human resources relevant to ICM. Such actions are aimed at the spread of ICM throughout Japan.

We believe that these efforts in our country contribute to promoting the formulation, adoption and implementation of the SDS-SEA implementation plan at local levels as described in the Da Nang Compact.

We recognize that PEMSEA has played an important role in the promotion of sustainable development in the Seas of East Asia so far. We welcome the fact that the SDS-SEA will be revised for the first time in twelve years and consequently PEMSEA will enter a new development stage. We expect that the revised SDS-SEA will be steadily implemented and that sustainable development in the Seas of East Asia will be furthered accordingly. And I would like to remind you that Japan will continue to contribute to such PEMSEA's activities.

Thank you for your attention.

STATEMENT OF LAO PDR

Mrs. Keodokmay Phouiphaseuth

Director

Department of Water Resources

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Lao PDR

His Excellency Nguyen Minh Quang Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam,
Excellency Ministers, Vice Ministers,
Head of delegates from Countries and non-countries partners
Distinguished speakers, participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor to deliver this remark on behalf of the Lao government at the 5th EAS SEA Congress which is being held here, in this beautiful place, Da Nang City, Viet Nam.

I would like take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation to the Government of Vietnam and PEMSEA for the excellent organization, warm welcome and kind hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know that Lao PDR is landlocked country that we have no sea, however, water resources play a very significant role in contributing to national and local socio-economic development. Lao PDR is abundant with water resources, which about 35 percent of total Mekong run off is contributed from the Lao territory.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Government of Lao PDR has championed taking forward the Millennium Development Goals, and indeed, considerable progress has been made in many areas. Lao PDR has reached the target of halving the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day by 2013, and national estimates show that the poverty rate has declined even further than the 23% of 2013. The Lao PDR's successful poverty reduction efforts are linked with many factors such as water resource management and sanitation improvement, road and infrastructure construction in rural areas, etc. However, there are still a lot of challenges including water related disaster and climate change, water resource quantity and quality degradation in some areas, lack of local knowledge and capacity, water-related information dissemination is still limited at local level.

To preserve and manage the water resources, the Lao Government has adopted and promulgated regulations, guidelines related to integrated water resources management. We have completed the study on the water resources in the country and came up with " National Water Resources Profile" in 2008. Since then, the government has implemented policy on management and development of river basin and its tributaries through applying of integrated water resources management approach such as: Num Ngum, Nam Theun-Kading, Sedone River Basins and others. Currently, we are in the finalizing stage of the revision of water resources law and developing related regulations, guidelines, implementing National Water Resources

Strategy towards 2025 and five year action plan 2016-2020 which includes management of: river basin, flood and drought, wetlands and water ecosystems, groundwater, water quality and quantity, water resource data and information, national IWRM demonstration site and training center, IWRM education and gender promotion, study on sustainable financing for IWRM, public awareness and stakeholder participation in water management countrywide. These are integrated into the first national natural resources and environment strategy and 8th national social-economic development plan. These plans and actions will contribute to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and build greater shared prosperity in everybody's best interest and provides enormous investment opportunities that will benefit all people. However, implementing these on the ground is a big challenge for us. We need to create local changes, work with communities, villages and all stakeholders to create greater awareness and involve them to be part of the solutions.

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lao PDR has participated in this program since 2006, we get very good supports from PEMSEA in term of capacity building for national and local staffs, implementing activities on the ground and developing integrated Sedone river basin management plan which are very useful for water resource management in our country. On behalf of the Lao PDR, once again, I would like to express my sincere thanks to PEMSEA, Global Environment Facility, UNDP and all partners for continuing support to Lao PDR. We hope to get your valuable and continuous support in the future. Lastly, we reiterate our support and commitment to implement SDS-SEA Strategy while increasing more synergy for local, national and regional cooperation for our generation to come.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

On behalf of the **Honorable Ramon J.P. Paje**
Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Republic of the Philippines

By **Undersecretary Manuel D. Gerochi**
Head of the Philippine Delegation to the 2015 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Republic of the Philippines

Distinguished delegates, today is an important moment for all of us as we come together to report on the progress we have made in implementing the sustainable development strategies for the Seas of East Asia or SDS-SEA and to go further by adopting new strategic goals.

Sustainable development and environmental preservation can co-exist as many developed nations have demonstrated. Yet this is easier said than done especially for developing nations, which are seemingly in a race to grow economically, measured in terms of gross domestic product. It is for this reason that having a framework for sustainable development is imperative so that economic targets can be achieved without overburdening the environment. For what will we gain if indeed we achieved higher GDP but such will result in an environment collapsing under the weight of overdevelopment? Thus, the Philippines has been an active participant in supporting the vision and implementation of the SDS-SEA by signing the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia (2003), the Haikou Partnership Agreement on Implementation of the SDS-SEA (2006), the Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of ICM for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Seas of East Asia Region (2009), and the Changwon Declaration Towards an Ocean-Based Blue Economy: Moving Ahead with the SDS-SEA (2012).

The SDS-SEA has since been our guide for crafting strategies and plans to achieving sustainable development in the Philippines.

In the previous reporting period covering 2003 to 2011 of SDS-SEA implementation, we made significant progress in institutionalizing our SDS targets by passing key legislations. A most notable accomplishment was the official adoption of ICM as the national strategy for the national development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources and the establishment of a national supporting mechanism for implementation through executive order 533 signed by Former President Gloria Arroyo. ICM has been mainstreamed into the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016), where the development and implementation of a national ICM program, in accord with EO 533 is required. The Philippines through its long years of experience in ICM implementation and through the current programs of the national government and growing interest among coastal provinces to implement ICM will be making a significant contribution to the post-2015 target of increasing to 25 percent ICM coverage of the region's coastline and watershed areas by 2021.

The approval of the ICM Bill at the House of Representatives is a significant step towards realizing the Philippines commitment to scale up ICM to cover the 62 coastal provinces of the country. We will pursue the passage of the same bill at the senate to finally into law.

Relevant legislations, policies and plans that provided institutional support to SDS implementation were also passed such as the:

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act;
- Climate Change Act;
- Philippine Coastal Guard Act;
- Clean Water Act;
- Renewable Energy Act;
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- National Plan of Action for the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security;
- National Wetlands Action Plan;
- National Integrated Water Resources Management Plan Framework; and
- National Environmental Awareness and Education Act

Apart from these, the DENR since 1994, has been a consistent and strong partner of PEMSEA in its transformation into a regional coordinating mechanism and international organization. The Philippine senate has ratified the headquarters' agreement, which represents the culmination of 20 years of productive cooperation and synergy between PEMSEA and the Philippines.

We made equally significant progress for the period 2012 to 2015. We prepared a country report detailing these accomplishments, which we enjoined everyone to get a copy of from our Philippine representatives but allow me to mention some of these key accomplishments in the following aspects:

- Natural and man-made hazard prevention and management through the completion of a national geo-hazard assessment and mapping project;
- Forest ecosystem management by reversing the trend in forest cover where logged over areas were rehabilitated and allowed to recover. The goal of national greening program of the DENR is to plant 1.5 billion trees covering about 1.5 million hectares for a period of six years from 2011 to 2016.
- Coastal and marine resource management through the declaration of more marine protected areas and enhancing their governance through national government and local government initiatives. Worth mentioning is the significant recovery of our mangrove areas. In 1918 mangrove cover was estimated at 450,000 hectares, reduced to 120,000 hectares in 1995, but most recent inventory has shown that cover has recovered back to 210,500 hectares. This has been the result of the concerted effort by various agencies of the government particularly the DENR and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with local government units and some non-government organizations to reforest abandoned fishponds and denuded mangrove areas. The DENR mangrove restoration program in particular has also generated jobs for local communities. The establishment of about 7,900 hectares of mangrove plantation in region 8 generated close to 14,000 jobs. Some 5,500 hectares has also been planted with mangroves in region 5, which generated about 10,000 jobs.

- Climate change impact mitigation and adaptation especially along coastal areas through various projects but most notably the one funded by the German Federal Ministry for Environment called ACCCOAST and through the more comprehensive program funded by the US Government, the Coral Triangle Initiative.

SDS implementation in the Philippines is a work in progress and is not without challenges. Every ounce of success has an equivalent ounce of failure. Public financing is still very low and there is no regular monitoring and evaluation system in place, to name a few. The development of the national state of the coasts report that would contribute to the regional state of oceans and coasts report is welcome development to address this concern. We are also committed to documenting the good practices, which will help us refine our strategies, plans, processes, targets and actions.

Allow us to take this occasion to express our sincerest gratitude to PEMSEA for making us a key partner in this endeavor and to reassert our pledge to continuing our implementation of the SDS-SEA. We have achieved much during the past years of SDS implementation. Yet we are here today not only to report on our success, but because we recognize that our work is not even nearly done. We cannot be complacent as new challenges emerge while old ones evolve as we achieve our short- and long-term targets. All of us will be affected by a changing climate- from rising seas, extreme weather condition resulting in shortages of water and food. It is imperative to incorporate climate change in our development plans and in our disaster risk reduction and management program.

And so, today, we again commit ourselves to new strategic targets as identified in the Danang compact.

We reaffirm our commitment to our partnership but at same time acknowledge how daunting the task may be. But this is something that we continue to commit ourselves to if the outcome is to achieve notable GDP growth without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. All of you may agree that supporting sustainable development is the smartest investment that our governments in this region can make for the future of our countries and nations.

STATEMENT OF RO KOREA

Hon. Ji Heui-Jin
Commissioner
Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Republic of Korea

Honorable Minister Nguyen Minh Quang of Viet Nam,
Honorable Fellow Ministers and Head of delegations,
Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, Chair of EAS Partnership Council of PEMSEA,
Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, Executive Director of PEMSEA Resource Facility,

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

On behalf of the Government of RO Korea, I have the honor to participate in the 5th Ministerial Forum at the EAS Congress 2015 and present our country's efforts toward the sustainable development and integrated coastal management (ICM) implementation.

RO Korea has been endeavoring to achieve the sustainable development through ocean-based economy also known as blue economy, as manifested in the Changwon Declaration signed in 2012. Over the course of our work toward the blue economy development, consensus has been reached within our country that a strong integrated oceans and fisheries management mechanism should be established for sustainable ocean development. As the consequence, President Park Keunhye decided to reinstate the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries in 2013. This has been one of the biggest achievements of the recent ocean policy in RO Korea.

Backed by the strong support from the priority agenda of Creative Economy which is the current administration's flagship policy, ocean policy and blue economy are beginning to bear fruits. We have completed the process of revising the national ICM programme in 2011 to include the socio-economic and ecosystem aspects of the coastal areas in the plan. Now, entire country's coastlines are covered by national and local ICM programmes. We envision that land and sea-use zoning and ecosystem-based management at local level will be strengthened by the ICM programmes which will fuel the development of blue economy at the country's coastal areas.

Blue economy is the forefront of the Creative Economy through creating jobs and generating new industries. Various innovations are under development including efficient, low-carbon and eco-friendly marine platforms and transportation, pharmaceutical material development from marine organisms, clean and renewable energy from marine resources, enhanced stocking of fisheries resource through marine ranching and aquaculture technologies, to name a few. Through these innovations in marine and ocean sector, we believe that we are progressing toward blue economy.

My fellow ministers,

During the 70th UN General Assembly, we have witnessed the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This means that we are committing a new set of commitments for the sustainability of our future generations. In particular, Goal 14 stipulates the importance of sustainable use and conservation of ocean. Although the goals seem challenging and even look daunting, we are confident that the SDGs will guide us towards sustainable and livable global community.

President Park Keunhye announced RO Korea's firm commitments on contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and sharing and transferring RO Korea's experiences and knowhow with global community during keynote speech at the 70th United Nations General Assembly as the Chairperson of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on September this year.

Relating to the sustainable development of oceans, RO Korea has been implementing various policy measures such as marine ecosystem conservation, sustainable fisheries management, marine resource development, renewable energy development and so on.

In addition, RO Korea is preparing for the 3rd Basic Plan for Sustainable Development of RO Korea (2016-2035) in accordance with the Framework Act on Law Carbon, Green Growth to align our national agenda to the attainment of SDGs, while the 2nd Basic Plan was aligned to the targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As you may see in these efforts, RO Korea is committed to support the achievements of the SDGs.

Responding to the SDGs, PEMSEA also prepares bold and ambitious sets of targets for the post-2015. We are encouraged by the setting of these targets as this is the firm demonstration that our region is moving forward hand-in-hand with the global community. As Mr. S. Adrian Ross explained to us, the four targets are significant in the work of PEMSEA in that these targets will support the achievements of the SDGs. Especially, establishing self-sustaining PEMSEA is a challenging task for the countries of the region. We all agree that it is necessary to establish a financially healthy cooperative mechanism for our long-term collaboration. PEMSEA has been successful in promoting collaboration among the countries of the region and we believe that PEMSEA will continue to do so effectively. RO Korea will keep on supporting PEMSEA for its sustainable operation and SDS-SEA (Sustainable Development Strategy of the Seas of East Asia) implementation.

Other targets of PEMSEA are also significant. We need to accelerate the work of ICM to cover 25% of coastlines of our region and set up marine and ocean policy by 2021. This requires functional scaling up of ICM programme to national level at the same time spatial scale up or replication of successful sites to other areas.

Challenges in scaling up of ICM are capacity and financial resources to conduct the necessary work. RO Korea is willing to share our experiences in scaling up ICM in the country and establishing integrated ocean governance with the countries of the region. RO Korea is implementing various ODA programmes including KOICA and the Yeosu Project. Many projects are already under implementation and we will make an effort to develop more projects on

marine environment including training programmes in due time. We hope that our collaboration will be more active and productive in the future.

My fellow ministers,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate PEMSEA for the successful organization of the EAS Congress 2015. This morning's closing of the international conference was a firm demonstration that our region is progressing towards sustainable development in the wake of climate change. Climate becomes more unpredictable and abnormal. Disastrous climatic events threaten us in a more dreadful and frequent way. The increase in climatic uncertainties becomes the bottleneck of the sustainable development in the region and poses great threats to the safety and security of the people at the coastal areas where vulnerable and poor population often find their settlement.

This is why we need to prepare for the impending disasters. And, this is why we have revised the SDS-SEA in 2015 to include the Adapt Strategy as one of the seven main programme of work. RO Korea sets a goal of greenhouse gas reduction of 37% by 2030 in preparation of the Post-2015 climate regime. For this, RO Korea is developing innovative technologies including Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS), Biodiesel production from microalgae, and marine bio-hydrogen production.

As a marine nation, RO Korea firmly believes that blue economy development in coastal and ocean sector is an important determinant of our future success in sustainable development. Oceans provide solutions to the issues we are facing now. The benefits of marine ecosystem services are beyond our imagination and calculation. Through the implementation of the Basic Plan for Oceans and Fisheries Development which is named as Ocean Korea 21, RO Korea is laying bricks for future success on blue economy. It is our time to find benefits in marine and ocean resources without overexploitation and misuse or abuse.

We believe that PEMSEA can be an effective regional platform for strengthening the cooperation in the region. With the updated SDS-SEA as our framework, we can set out a rigorous collaboration between the countries. RO Korea is willing to work together, share and even transfer the technologies we developed to other developing countries. We believe that PEMSEA's strategic targets beyond 2015 will guide us to more effective and efficient venues for sharing benefits and mutual understanding on marine environment among countries in the region.

RO Korea wishes to reiterate our commitment to support the work of PEMSEA in ICM and Sustainable Development. We invite you to join me in strengthening PEMSEA and congratulate you all for the achievement we found in Da Nang Compact

In closing, I would like to convey our gratitude to the government of Viet Nam and Da Nang City for the efforts in organizing this successful event and the hospitalities they have shown to us during our stay in Da Nang.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF SINGAPORE

Hon. Dr. Amy Khor
Senior Minister of State
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources
Singapore

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to be participating in the Fifth Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to express Singapore's deepest appreciation for the warm and gracious hospitality provided by the Government of Viet Nam through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. I would also like to thank PEMSEA for the considerable effort that they have put into organising the EAS Congress 2015.

Introduction

2015 is a special year for Singapore as we celebrate our 50th year of independence. Singapore has made significant economic progress over the years but as a small island city-state, we are mindful of our natural constraints in resources, including land. As such, we are aware of the importance of balancing our developmental needs with environmental considerations. Since the early days of nationhood, Singapore has made a concerted effort to conserve our natural resources while pursuing economic development.

As a littoral state, Singapore recognises that the Seas of East Asia are an important resource to the region. It contributes to a vibrant economy and houses many crucial sea lanes. The seas are also home to several large marine ecosystems, which are of great ecological and economic importance to the region.

In recognition of the important role of the Seas of East Asia, Singapore joined 11 other countries in the EAS region in signing the Putrajaya Declaration in 2003 and the Haikou Declaration in 2006 to recognise and implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). Since the SDS-SEA was first adopted in 2003, PEMSEA has been working closely with its partners to contribute to the region's capacity to harness and protect its marine and coastal resources. While we recognise that there is still work to be done in these areas, we are confident that the expertise and capacities that PEMSEA has helped to build up will continue to make a positive impact on the Seas of East Asia.

Singapore's Integrated Urban Coastal Management Strategy

Singapore values the work of PEMSEA and the SDS-SEA in facilitating sustainable coastal and marine development within the region. In this regard, I would like to share Singapore's approach of balancing economic development and ecological conservation in the management of our coastal and marine environments.

As an island city-state, Singapore's coastline is inseparable from the urban surroundings. In this context, Singapore adapted PEMSEA's Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) principles to formulate our very own Integrated Urban Coastal Management (IUCM) framework to fit our unique physical, political and socio-economic circumstance. Building on ICM, our IUCM framework leverages on the strengths of various agencies and stakeholders in port and maritime management, urban planning, integrated water resource management, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, engineering and environmental law.

Four main principles guide Singapore's IUCM implementation. First, Singapore carries out adaptive and forward-looking planning to make the best use of Singapore's limited natural resources and prepare for uncertainty. Second, we adopt a whole-of-government approach where public sector agencies work together to address complex, multi-dimensional public issues. Third, we have active partnerships with local, regional and international organisations to create greater synergies in our quest for sustainability. Lastly, Singapore's IUCM uses science-based management in our approach to the planning and management of Singapore's coastal space.

Under the auspices of IUCM, an inter-agency administrative process has been put in place to govern development projects and safeguard the environment. In this process, relevant technical agencies will assess potential impacts of proposed coastal developments and may request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out if necessary. The EIAs would recommend mitigation measures and monitoring programmes to minimise the impact of development on the coastal and marine environment. Singapore's offshore Semakau Landfill provides a good example of how any adverse impact from development may be minimised with forward planning and concerted effort. To preserve marine biodiversity around the landfill, more than 700 colonies of corals were salvaged from Semakau Landfill's lagoon and transplanted to the Sisters' Islands Marine Park during the Semakau Landfill's Phase II development works.

Singapore has one of the world's busiest ports with more than 5,000 maritime-related establishments within territorial waters of just over 700km². These waters are also home to Singapore's first marine park - the Sisters' Islands Marine Park. Established in 2014, the marine park underlines Singapore's commitment to balance development and nature conservation. Only a 40-minute boat ride away from mainland Singapore, the marine park provides a refuge for a vast array of marine life present within the southern islands and their surrounding waters. Not only can members of the public experience Singapore's native marine biodiversity through guided walks and dives, they can also volunteer to be part of the marine biodiversity conservation activities and research programmes, such as International Coastal Cleanup Singapore, nature guides for intertidal walks, and citizen science programmes that will be rolled out as part of the Marine Park's activities.

From Singapore's experience, we have learnt that with the appropriate policies and legislation in place, it is possible for a healthy coastal and marine environment to thrive alongside a vibrant economy.

Adoption of the SDS-SEA 2015

At this Congress, we will be adopting the updated SDS-SEA 2015 during the Fifth Ministerial Forum. The SDS-SEA has come a long way since it was introduced in 2003, and considerable work has been done this year to update it and bring it in line with the changing context in ocean governance in recent years. I wish to commend PEMSEA and all country partners for taking on this timely task to update the SDS-SEA, which will keep it well-aligned with the United Nations' 2030 Development Agenda that was adopted in September this year.

Conclusion

The theme of this Congress is "Global Targets, Local Benefits". It is a reminder that the work we do in ensuring sustainable coastal and marine development is significant, with a direct impact on local livelihoods. The benefits of our work will be felt not just by this generation, but also generations to come. It is our hope that the Seas of East Asia will continue to be a precious resource and I am confident that, collectively, we can achieve sustainable coastal and marine development for the benefit of our people.

Thank you.

* * *

STATEMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE

H.E. Marcos da Cruz

Vice Minister

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)

Timor-Leste

*Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and The Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, I would like to convey my sincere and grateful thanks to the organizers of the East Asian Seas Congress 2015 and the host country, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, for creating favorable conditions for Timorese delegation to attend this congress with the theme **“Global Targets-Local Benefits: Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia Beyond 2015.”**

It is a great honor for me to deliver a statement on behalf of His Excellency Eng. Estanislau Aleixo da Silva (Minister of State, Coordinator of Economic Affairs, and Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries), who actually would like to attend this ministerial forum by himself, but unfortunately, due to other urgent commitments, he could not be present here today with all of us.

*Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

Timor-Leste has a coastline of around 735 km and 72,000 square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone waters that is rich in marine biodiversity, and out of a total of 13 districts or municipalities, 11 have coastal areas. Recognizing the importance of natural and marine and coastal resources and environment to the sustainable development of the country, the National Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030) has set specific targets for: (1) ensuring environmental protection and conservation including addressing climate change, conservation of forests, land and sea areas, biodiversity, renewable energy and pollution control; (2) protection, conservation and efficient utilization of water resources; (3) improving access to clean water and sanitation across the country; and (4) improving sustainable fisheries management including protection and preservation of marine habitats and resources. With regard specifically to fisheries, the short term (2011-2015) goals include improving the management of coastal and inland fisheries by creating the catch capacity from traditional fishing practices, and in the next medium term (2016-2020), the action will focus on ocean based fishing oriented toward exports and the development of fisheries centers along the southern coastline.

*Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

In relation to the national priorities and targets, Timor-Leste is already a member of a number of international Conventions including those in the environmental field, such as Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (*January 12, 2009*); Convention

on Biological Diversity (*January 8, 2007*); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (*January 8, 2007*); United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*November 18, 2003*).

Timor-Leste has also been pro-actively involved in various regional programs and forums focusing on improving management of marine and coastal resources, including the Arafura and Timor Seas Expert Forum (ATSEF), Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and PEMSEA.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) also has ongoing bilateral cooperation including the: (1) Fishery Support Program funded by the Norwegian Government; (2) Aquaculture Development Program funded by the New Zealand Government; (3) Developing Brackish Water Hatchery funded and supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); (4) Establishment of Fisheries Training Center funded by the Korean International Corporation Agency (KOICA); (5) Establishment and Operation of World Fish in Timor-Leste; and various cooperation on capacity building with the Government of Indonesia, Government of China, Government of Japan, Government of Republic of Korea, Government of Thailand, Government of the Philippines, Government of Malaysia, Government of Australia, Government of the United States of America, the European Union, Government of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), and the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC).

With regard to the specific program with PEMSEA, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, as a leading sector for the inter-ministerial forum, will coordinate the implementation of a work programme for scaling up the implementation of the SDS-SEA in Timor-Leste (2015-2019) that will focus on: (1) developing a policy and plan for integrated management of marine and coastal resources and establishing an interagency and multisectoral coordination and management mechanism for coastal and ocean governance; (2) initiating national and local capacity development initiatives to support scaling up of SDS-SEA and ICM implementation, including engaging national universities as partners in training and capacity building; (3) developing local capacity to implement ICM programs addressing priority issues and concerns in the municipalities of Manatuto, Liquiça and Dili; (4) mainstreaming ICM strategies and action plans into government plans and budget plans, and exploring alternative sources of financing including developing partnerships with private sector, donors and other financing institutions; and (5) developing a State of the Coast reporting system for the purpose of informing local and national government officials and other concerned stakeholders about changes and trends that are occurring in the coastal environment and the implications on coastal and marine resources and their uses.

*Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

In this best opportunity I would like to emphasize that the Government of Timor-Leste has a commitment to adopt an updated SDS-SEA with new targets and schedule that is aligned and more responsive to the emerging needs of the region, and consistent with its vision of

establishing a sustainable East Asian Seas. Besides that our government is also recognizing the value of balancing social, environmental and economic aspects to achieve sustainable development in the region.

Finally, once again, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the precious support of international friends, especially PEMSEA, in implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia in Timor-Leste. I wish this Fifth Ministerial Forum to have a fruitful outcome and I wish you all a healthy and happy life!

STATEMENT OF VIET NAM

Hon. Nguyen Minh Quang

Minister

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Honorable Ministers and Head of delegations of the PEMSEA Countries,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon!

From the time of approving the Putrajaya Declaration in 2003 on the Regional cooperation for sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia until now, Viet Nam has been spending great efforts on the implementation of the SDS-SEA. Viet Nam has been carrying out researches, and then integrated coastal management projects on a wide scale. Based on lessons learnt from other countries in the world and our self experiences, Viet Nam has focused on the establishment of the system of organizations with the function of implementing state integrated management of seas, coasts and islands from the central government to provinces. Besides, Viet Nam is also trying her best to develop and apply a system of policies, institutions and tools for implementing the state integrated management of seas, coasts and islands. The Law of sea and island natural resources and environment of Viet Nam, approved by the Viet Nam National Assembly in July 2015, is the highest legal document for the implementation of state integrated and unified management of seas, coasts and islands of Viet Nam. At present, Viet Nam is continuing to review and complete the system of under-law legal documents and tools for the integrated management of seas, coasts and islands, such as sea use planning/plan, information and data base and other tools. Viet Nam is also placing a great emphasis on the preparation of resources, especially the human and financial resources; and at the same time, implementing the integrated managements on the entire her seas, coasts and islands. Especially, the legalization of the state integrated management of seas, coasts and islands in a law has made this task a regular work, and therefore, automatically generates a budget allocation for implementing it. This makes the work sustainable.

Viet Nam recognize that among various measures for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the integrated management of seas, coasts and islands is the most effective measures, and should be applied in all seas, coasts and islands of our country.

Viet Nam has studied and therefore, agrees to approve the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia 2015. This strategy will help Viet Nam in implementing the climate change adaptation measures, reduce hazard risks and conserve marine and coastal biodiversity. The Strategy also creates a framework for cooperation in the Seas of East Asia Region, which Viet Nam considers the most important issue that need to be addressed and implemented to ensure a sustainable development in each country of the East Asia.

Viet Nam also agree to approve the PEMSEA post 2015 Strategic Goals and will use it for the assessment of our achievements in the implementation of the SDS-SEA during the coming five years. Viet Nam also supports the self-sustained PEMSEA in 2017. With the system of

institutions, policies for the integrated management of seas, coasts and islands that are being developed or implementation, Viet Nam is also focusing in the development of the integrated information system for the integrated management of seas, coasts and islands. The National Action Plan for integrated coastal management in Viet Nam is being developed. The content of this plan will follow the Viet Nam laws and regulations, and related international agreements.

ANNEX 5

DA NANG COMPACT



DA NANG COMPACT
ON
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA 2015

The Fifth Ministerial Forum | East Asian Seas Congress 2015

Da Nang, Viet Nam • 20 November 2015

We, the representatives of eleven countries bordering the Seas of East Asia, have gathered this 20TH day of November 2015 in Da Nang, Viet Nam to revisit our regional coastal and marine strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (“SDS-SEA”), and to lay down the post-2015 Strategic Targets of PEMSEA. Today, we aim to reiterate the core mission of our partnership, and to keep this mission relevant to our present and future concerns, attuned to the changes that have occurred both in our physical and international policy environments.

Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Our Vision

With the adoption of the SDS-SEA (*Putrajaya Declaration*, 2003), we committed ourselves to the sustainable development of the region’s oceans and coasts. This commitment stems from our connection with the valuable ecosystems and resources produced by our oceans and coasts—the well-being of our communities, security of our food supply, and the sustainable development of our economies. This is what PEMSEA has aimed to accomplish in the past, and what it aims to achieve today and in the years to come.

The Current Situation

Since 2003, we have:

- a. transformed PEMSEA into a country-owned regional organization focused on the implementation of the SDS-SEA (*Target 1, Haikou Partnership Agreement*, 2006);
- b. developed and adopted national ocean and coastal policies and strategies in 75 percent of PEMSEA Partner Countries (*Target 2, Haikou Partnership Agreement*, 2006);
- c. scaled-up the implementation of ICM programs from less than 1 percent to more than 14 percent of the region’s coastline (*Target 3, Haikou Partnership Agreement*, 2006); and
- d. developed and implemented a reporting system (State of Coasts or SOC) for measuring progress and trends in coastal and ocean governance and management among our local governments implementing ICM programs (*Target 4, Haikou Partnership Agreement*, 2006).

By doing so, we have advanced the objectives and action programmes of the SDS-SEA at the regional, national and local levels. We have also strengthened our confidence in the application of ICM to address new and emerging challenges to sustainable development, including addressing climate change and its effects on our oceans and coasts (*Manila Declaration*, 2009), and building an ocean-based blue economy in support of the Rio+20 The Future We Want and other international agreements (*Changwon Declaration*, 2012).

We gratefully acknowledge that this was only possible with the valuable support and commitments of the GEF, the UNDP, the World Bank, our Non-Country Partners and other collaborating donors and organizations over the past 12 years, including the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments through its adoption and implementation of the *Dongying Declaration on Building a Blue Economy through ICM* in 2011.

Our post-2015 Solutions

We reconfirm our commitment to the vision of the SDS-SEA for healthy oceans, people and economies, which parallels the aims of recently adopted international instruments, including, the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the *Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* under UNISDR Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*.

We look forward to the successful outcomes of the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC to be held in Paris in December 2015.

We agree to adopt the SDS-SEA 2015, an updated version of the SDS-SEA 2003, which incorporates strategies, objectives and action programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. The SDS-SEA 2015 is adopted as a common platform for regional cooperation, and as a framework for policy and programme development and implementation, at the national and local level, on a voluntary basis, where deemed appropriate by each concerned individual state with the East Asian region, without imposing legal obligations or prohibitions.

We also agree to adopt the following post-2015 Strategic Targets as key indicators of our progress in implementing the SDS-SEA 2015 over the next 5 years:

TARGET 1: By 2017, a self-sustaining PEMSEA Resource Facility managing and coordinating a suite of products, services and financing mechanisms for advancing SDS-SEA implementation at the regional, national and local levels.

TARGET 2: By 2018, a regional State of Oceans and Coasts reporting system to monitor progress, impacts and benefits, and to continually improve planning and management of SDS-SEA implementation.

TARGET 3: By 2021, national coastal and ocean policies, and supporting legislation and institutional arrangements set up and functional in 100% of PEMSEA Partner Countries, consistent with international environmental and sustainable development commitments and based on best available scientific information.

TARGET 4: By 2021, ICM programs for sustainable development of coastal and marine areas covering at least 25% of the region's coastline and contiguous watershed areas, supporting national priorities and commitments under the UN SDGs, UNFCCC, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, UNISDR Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and other relevant environmental and sustainable development targets subscribed to by PEMSEA Partner Countries.

To achieve these targets, we agree to formulate, adopt and implement mutually supportive SDS-SEA implementation plans at both regional and national levels, in accordance with our respective national priorities and capacities. The national implementation plans should indicate the priorities, actions, roles and responsibilities, in accordance with our respective national priorities and capacities, to achieve the updated Strategic Targets for 2016 to 2021. The regional implementation plan should indicate the actions, supporting products and services, sustainable financing mechanism and SOC reporting system, as appropriate, for SDS-SEA implementation at the national and regional levels, while contributing to regional and global targets for sustainable development of oceans and coasts. The sustainable financing mechanism should include ways and means to assist country and non-country partners to accelerate and secure long-term funding for updated SDS-SEA action programmes at national and regional levels, as appropriate, and for the PEMSEA Resource Facility to provide products and services to country and non-country Partners, collaborators and the business community in support of the implementation of the updated SDS-SEA.

We agree to develop and utilize a scientifically sound State of Oceans and Coasts (“SOC”) Reporting System which should serve as a mechanism to monitor regional progress in the implementation of the SDS-SEA 2015, including agreed indicators and data requirements, to facilitate improved and effective planning, and policy- and decision-making. The regional SOC Report should be presented to the 6th EAS Congress 2018 and to every EAS Congress thereafter.

Our Call for Expanded Partnership

We believe that PEMSEA has a greater role in facilitating transboundary initiatives for sustainable development through joint planning. We stand by the time-tested principle that proactive cooperation among partners is key to addressing the numerous challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of our oceans and coasts.

It is to our greatest advantage to stand together with our PEMSEA Non-Country Partners to fully commit to the implementation of the SDS-SEA. We call on them once more to affirm their continued commitment for the implementation of the updated SDS-SEA 2015 and the Strategic Targets for 2016 to 2021.

At the same time, we invite governments of the region at the national and local levels, international organizations, development agencies, financial institutions, businesses, coastal and ocean industries, and academic and independent scientific institutions, to join our PEMSEA Partnership in order to better face the challenges of our times.

Adopted in Da Nang City, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, this 20TH day of November 2015.

The Kingdom of Cambodia



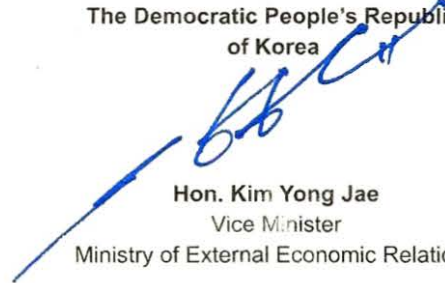
Hon. Khieu Muth
Secretary of State
Ministry of Environment

The People's Republic of China



Hon. Chen Lianzeng
Deputy Administrator
State Oceanic Administration

The Democratic People's Republic
of Korea



Hon. Kim Yong Jae
Vice Minister
Ministry of External Economic Relations

Republic of Indonesia



Hon. Karliansyah
Director General
Environmental Pollution and Degradation
Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Japan



Hon. Takashi Owaki
Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism

Lao's People's Democratic Republic



Hon. Keodokmay Phouipaseuth
Director
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment

Republic of the Philippines



Hon. Manuel D. Gerochi
Undersecretary
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Republic of Korea



Hon. Ji Heui-Jin
Commissioner
Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Republic of Singapore



Hon. Dr. Amy Khor
Senior Minister of State
Ministry of the Environment and Water
Resources

The Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste



Hon. Marcos da Cruz
Vice Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



Hon. Chu Pham Ngoc Hien
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment