



PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE PEMSEA NETWORK OF  
LEARNING CENTERS

**Online via Zoom**

**24 February 2022**



Partnerships in  
Environmental Management  
for the Seas of East Asia

# 1<sup>st</sup> PNLC General Assembly Proceedings

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 The 1<sup>st</sup> PNLC General Assembly was organized by Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Resource Facility on 24 February 2022 via Zoom. It convened a total of 25 participants from: 11 PNLC members from 7 countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and Timor-Leste); observing institutions from 5 countries (China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam); and PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF). The event was chaired and co-chaired by Dr. Wansuk Senanan, the PNLC President, and Dr. Qinhua Fang, the Vice President, respectively. PRF served as the Secretariat of the meeting.

1.2 The following supporting documents are annexed to these proceedings:

- Annex 1 – program;
- Annex 2 – links to the meeting documents, presentation files, group photograph, and recording; and
- Annex 3 – list of participants:

## 2.0 Opening Remarks

2.1 The General Assembly commenced at 9:05 AM (UTC+8).

2.2 Dr. Wansuk Senanan, the President of the PNLC and Assistant Professor at the Department of Aquatic Sciences in Burapha University, Thailand, opened the meeting and acknowledged the participants. She expressed her appreciation once again to the PNLC member institutions for their interest and commitment to formalize the Network through the signing of the PNLC Charter. Beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> PNLC General Assembly, the year 2022 is a groundbreaking moment for the Network as it will help set the direction for future activities.

2.3 The meeting aimed to:

- Present the timeline of PNLC activities in 2022;
- Review/approve the draft rules on the nomination and election of PNLC officers;
- Discuss the factors to consider in developing the PNLC Operation Plan 2022-2026; and
- Discuss the options and items to account for in the establishment of the PNLC Secretariat.

2.4 She encouraged the members to participate in the discussions and provide inputs on how to harness the collective strengths of the Network for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

### **3.0 Program of the Meeting**

3.1 Ms. Karen See, the Secretariat Coordinator of the PRF, presented the provisional program for review of the General Assembly. The program was approved.

### **4.0 2022 Timeline of PNLC Activities**

4.1 Ms. See directed the participants' attention to the meeting documents sent on 18 February 2022. These include a copy of the latest (updated) timeline of PNLC activities in 2022, building on the initial version shared during the PNLC Inauguration on 1 December 2021, for their reference.

### **5.0 Election of PNLC Officers**

5.1 Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise, the Policy and Results-Based Management Specialist of PRF, specifically for the UNDP/GEF/PEMSEA Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II (ATSEA-2), presented the draft rules on the nomination and election of PNLC officers for review of the General Assembly.

5.2 Article 9 of the PNLC Charter stipulates that the operations of the PNLC shall be governed by a President and Vice President, both of whom will be nominated and elected by the General Assembly. These individuals shall hold office for a term of three years or until such time that their successors have been duly elected.

5.3 The PRF, in its capacity as interim PNLC Secretariat, drafted the rules on the nomination and election of PNLC officers. These rules were adapted from the established counterpart rules of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG).

5.4 The minimum qualifications for elected officers are

- Holder of any of these positions: President, Rector, Chancellor, Board member, Director, or a senior management position within their respective PNLC member institutions;
- With demonstrated track record/experience in leadership and advisory services, research, and capacity-building;
- With knowledge, skills, and experience in coastal and marine sector management;
- Has achieved international standing;
- With business-level proficiency in the English language or can be regularly supported in their work as PNLC officers by an assistant (from their respective institutions) who is well-versed in the English language; and
- Can perform the functions required of their respective posts.

5.5 The functions of the officers shall include but are not limited to the following:

- They shall serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, to facilitate the decisions of the General Assembly whose responsibilities are to:
  - Establish the policies and programs that are designed to fulfill the goals and objectives of the PNLC;
  - Establish the PNLC Secretariat and guide, sustain, and monitor their work;
  - Approve the annual work programs, budgets, and projects;
  - Elect the new PNLC officers; and
  - Amend or conduct legal interpretation of the Charter, when necessary;
- Lead the review of the eligibility criteria, documentary requirements, and process for the application and screening of new applicants for membership, if needed; and
- The President, or in his/her absence, the Vice President, will represent the PNLC before the major meetings of PEMSEA as well as other relevant meetings and fora at the global and regional scales and present the annual accomplishments of the PNLC to the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council and the EAS Congress during their term.

5.6 The officers will be assisted by their fellow members of the Executive Committee, namely the Executive Director of the PRF and the Head of the PNLC Secretariat. The Executive Committee will ensure and oversee the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly. The PNLC Secretariat has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Prepare the Code of Conduct and operational plan of the network;
- Implement/coordinate the decisions and actions made by the General Assembly and Executive Committee;
- Develop and maintain records of network-related operations and member information;
- Disseminate relevant news, information, and opportunities to PNLC members;
- Process all payments, donations, and in-kind contributions received by the PNLC;
- Disburse and monitor the funds;
- Prepare status reports on PNLC-related activities;
- Publish the annual accomplishments of the network in the PEMSEA website; and
- Perform all other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

5.7 Listed below is the default nomination and election procedure:

- ***On the nomination:***
  - The Executive Committee, through the PNLC Secretariat, shall call for nominations for the officers during a one-month nomination period at least three months prior to the target elections in June of the election year. The elections shall take place in June during a Special Assembly, in lieu of the annual (General) Assembly, should the latter fall on a different month.
  - The nominations shall be made in writing addressed to the Executive Committee and sent to the Secretariat, stating specifically the names of the candidates and the positions for which the candidates are nominated. Each PNLC member may nominate only one candidate for each position.

- The Secretariat shall notify the nominees of their nominations and secure their consent for the concerned post. In cases where an individual has been nominated to more than one position, the Secretariat shall give the person the option to consent to only one position. Consenting nominees shall be declared as candidates and shall be required to provide their curricula vitae (CVs) to the PNLC Secretariat.
- ***On the consensus-building:***
  - After the nomination process, the PNLC Secretariat shall circulate the CVs of the candidates to the members and consult the latter via email correspondence in order to promote consensus on a single candidate for each position. More than 50 percent of the total number of PNLC members is required to establish consensus. Additional set/s of consultations can be performed as necessary until the members arrive at a consensus.
  - The Secretariat shall submit the names of the successful candidates to the Executive Committee and inform the candidates, and subsequently the members, on the results of the consensus building.
- ***On the election, oath taking, and assumption of office:***
  - The successful candidates shall be formally elected to their respective positions in June of the election year during a Special Assembly, in lieu of the annual (General) Assembly, should the latter fall on a different month.
  - Afterwards, in the same event, the incumbent officers shall administer the oaths of office to the incoming officers.
  - The incumbent officers shall remain in office until the closure of the General/Special Assembly, at which time the incoming officers shall assume office.

5.8 Separate procedures, which feature modifications to the default process, have also been drafted for the following (special) cases:

- Vacancy or failed election for either post;
- Vacancies for both positions; and
- Failure of elections for both posts.

5.9 An office is declared vacant in the event that an officer no longer represents their respective Center in an official capacity, dies, becomes incapacitated, resigns, or his respective Center ceases to be a member of the PNLC. A failed election means that no secured nominees/candidates or no consensus was reached within the indicated deadlines. These procedures are specified in the meeting documents.

5.10 The proposed rules on the nomination and election of PNLC officers were approved by the General Assembly.

## 6.0 PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2026

- 6.1 Ms. Aimee Gonzales, the Executive Director of the PRF, presented the highlights of the draft discussion paper that the PRF prepared as guide in developing the PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2026.
- 6.2 She introduced two of the main thrusts of PEMSEA, namely the exchange of information and data and capacity-building of relevant stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). In pursuing these thrusts, PRF partnered with academic and research institutions to provide technical services (e.g., research and training) to respond to the needs of the region, particularly local governments, in accordance with regional and global targets for sustainable development and created the PNLC in 2015. The network was formally established with the adoption of the PNLC Charter in 2021. The Charter also specified the ground rules on membership and operations of the PNLC as well as options for the Network's financial sources.
- 6.3 Building on from the Charter, a PNLC Operational Plan is necessary to specify concrete joint activities/programs for 2022-2026 and their corresponding timeline to guide PNLC members as they assist national and local governments apply science-based integrated management solutions. Key components of this Plan include: governance; operations; partnerships; fundraising; communications; and programmatic elements.
- 6.4 The first year under this plan is a foundational year for the formalized Network considering the number of governance-related milestones set for this period, specifically the creation and adoption of the PNLC Operational Plan and Code of Conduct and the election of new PNLC Officers. Three General Assemblies will take place in 2022 to help facilitate the achievement of these milestones. The PRF shall check the feasibility of having the last General Assembly, which is tentatively scheduled in October, as a hybrid meeting with face-to-face and physical set-up in conjunction with the 2022 PNLC Forum to be hosted by Tangerang Regency, Indonesia.
- 6.5 Expected outcomes of the Plan could include:
- **Completion and active, widespread use of the [Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank \(SEAKB\)](#)** with PNLC members as the target audience and contributors. As an online, regional, interactive platform for coastal and ocean managers, the SEAKB aims to feature a collection of relevant case studies, manuals, technical reports, directory of experts, and other important resources to guide the implementation of SDS-SEA as well as the identification, market matching, and development of blue economy investments. It also aims to establish virtual communities of practice in the form of thematic groups of experts. These experts shall be provided with online fora and discussion boards for engagement/collaboration within the platform. Likewise, they will be given access to or updates about relevant conferences and study tours. The SEAKB is currently being developed.

- **Conduct of specialized and targeted empirical research projects** that provide scientific data/methodologies, integrated management tools, and case studies to guide decision-making processes for SDS-SEA implementation. Examples of such projects include:
  - Review of the effectiveness of integrated coastal management (ICM);
  - Profiling the state of river basin management in select river basins in the EAS region;
  - Application of ICM and marine spatial planning in transboundary marine protected areas at the regional level;
  - Development of a roadmap to transition to zero carbon bunker fuels in the East and Southeast Asia region; and
  - Documentation of good practices on sustainable coastal and marine resource development.
- **Conduct of advisory and monitoring services** to guide SDS-SEA implementation.
- **Conduct of relevant training programs** such as future iterations of the Joint PNLG-PNLC Learning Forum.

6.6 The PNLC Operational Plan needs to:

- **Be consistent in principle with the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (IP) 2023-2027**, which is currently being formulated.
- **Be aligned with relevant regional and global goals/commitments on knowledge management and capacity-building** such as those espoused in the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Paris Agreement, Glasgow Climate Pact, and Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration.
- **Incorporate [PEMSEA's Capacity Development and Training Plan 2021-2025](#)**, a living document. PNLC members are invited to provide inputs or promote their upcoming programs on capacity-building in the abovementioned plan.
- **Mobilize internal and external resources.**
- **Creating new opportunities to advance blue economy.**
- **Ensure ownership and representation of Charter members**

6.7 Ms. Gonzales also shared the following publications with the General Assembly:

- **[Post-EAS Congress 2021 Report](#)**, which contains the full account of the Congress, its key results, other notable accomplishments, and overview of all conducted training sessions and other events, along with their respective proceedings, recordings, and presentation materials.
- **["Regional State of Ocean and Coasts \(RSOC\) 2021: The EAS Region"](#)** focused on "Blue Economy: Where are We Now? Where are We Heading?"
- **[Supplemental report to RSOC 2021](#)**, featuring the impacts of COVID-19 on the ocean economy, coastal and marine environment, and concerned communities. The report also features best practices, and lessons learned on advancing the blue economy as a means for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery.

- [The PEMSEA Story](#), which chronicles the 28-year journey of PEMSEA from its days as a regional marine pollution project to present times as a regional coordinating mechanism for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

6.8 In order to facilitate the ensuing discussion, the following questions were posed to the General Assembly:

- Do you have any clarificatory questions on the presentation?
- Are there other factors that need to be considered in the development of the PNLC Operational Plan?
  - Do you have any learning/research programs that you would like to include in the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 or PNLC Operational Plan?
  - Are you willing to share information in a guided reporting template on your relevant projects (either ongoing or in the pipeline) that support SDS-SEA implementation?

6.9 Dr. Fang thanked Ms. Gonzales for the presentation and clarified if the Operational Plan will also include the expansion of PNLC membership, to which she responded in the affirmative. This initiative will be done in conjunction with the review, renewal, or reactivation of individual agreements/partnerships between PRF and each PNLC member institution to strengthen and solidify the PNLC as a network. Dr. Fang was pleased by this information and mentioned that there are some organizations in China that are interested to join the PNLC.

6.10 Dr. Yonvitner, Director of the Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS) of IPB University in Indonesia, asked how the PNLC aims to address the issue of climate change. Ms. Gonzales stated a number of ongoing and future work on climate change in the EAS region and that these along with PNLC's role will be considered in the upcoming SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027. Ms. Nancy Bermas, Senior Programme Manager at the PRF, informed the General Assembly that PNLC members shall be engaged in focused discussions on the development of this IP, where climate change and disaster risk reduction and management (CC-DRRM) is one of the priority management programs. These consultations will serve as an avenue for PNLC members to share their relevant research, tools, and initiatives. Ms. Bermas added that the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) of Japan, as PEMSEA's Regional Center of Excellence on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, can provide expert advice in terms of gaps that need to be addressed in the next five years for this particular program in the EAS region.

6.11 Prof. Mario Tilman, the PNLC Coordinator in Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) of Timor-Leste, inquired about the financial assistance that universities can receive as part of their membership in the PNLC. In the case of Timor-Leste, Ms. Gonzales remarked that the PRF shall have a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) of Timor-Leste given the latter's interest and financial support to sustain the gains from the UNDP/GEF Project on Scaling up the Implementation of the SDS-SEA. PRF will tap on PNLC members in Timor-Leste for their assistance towards this end. Ms. Narcise explained that MAF has committed to provide an annual contribution of USD 100,000 as part of their



commitment to the EAS Partnership . These funds are earmarked for capacity-building and on-the-ground implementation of SDS-SEA in Timor-Leste. Currently, PRF is developing a program with MAF for the use of these funds at the national and local levels. Activities to be funded include the adoption and promotion of the draft National Ocean Policy and the preparation of an implementation plan for the execution of this Policy; scaling up the implementation of ICM in the three ICM sites of PEMSEA in Timor-Leste (Dili, Liquica, and Manatuto); and expansion of ICM coverage in the country; and strengthening of MAF's capacity and resources in coordinating the abovementioned activities. PRF proposed to MAF to engage the PNLC members in Timor-Leste in the implementation of these specified activities. The plans related to the financing and capacitation of PNLC members in Timor-Leste will be part of the PRF's discussions with MAF.

- 6.12 Dr. Senanan shared that the PNLC can help bridge the international and local development interests. To illustrate, she mentioned the case of Thailand where UNDP has a climate change adaptation (CCA) project that involves helping local governments develop their local CCA plans. She opined that UNDP can use the groundwork that PEMSEA has done on the CCA plan of Saensuk Municipality in Thailand as a model for their current project in Thailand.
- 6.13 She added that PEMSEA, through the PNLC, is benefiting the member institutions by helping increase their visibility in the region and secure funds to finance their research initiatives. For example, BUU's work and contributions as a PNLC member was a determining factor that helped pave the way for its grant award of USD 200,000 from the Fundamental Fund for the year 2022 to conduct a number of research on ICM implementation.
- 6.14 Mr. Phat Chandara, a researcher at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) in Cambodia, inquired about the feasibility of having communication strategies and stakeholder engagement in the PNLC Operational Plan. Ms. Gonzales responded that the Plan will have a communication component as proposed in the draft discussion paper.
- 6.15 Dr. Clement Camposano, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), shared that UPV is pleased to be a part of the Network and commended the PRF for the excellent draft discussion paper. He stated that the paper has already covered the general aspects of what should be included in the PNLC Operational Plan. The University is invested in marine fisheries and ocean sciences and has a strong program in marine biology. Through the Network, UPV hopes to advance their research agenda and strengthen their existing academic programs such as the Professional Masters in Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management (PM-TMEM). He also informed the participants about the Supreme Court (SC) ruling on the joint Mandanas-Garcia petitions (G.R. Nos. 199802 and 208488, July 3, 2018), which when rolled out beginning 2022, will prompt local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines to receive a substantial increase in their Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA). UPV aspires that their engagement in the PNLC will enable them to craft new approaches in mobilizing these additional resources in support of the local governments' mandate on coastal resource management, considering the coastal nature of most LGUs in the country. Additionally, UPV hopes that the PNLC can help build the expertise of LGUs in the Philippines

in developing successful project proposals for funding of the People’s Survival Fund, whose current utilization rate is severely low. They wish to play a significant role in strengthening PNLC and look forward to building partnerships with fellow members.

6.16 Responding to the SEAKB initiative that Ms. Gonzales presented earlier, Dr. Senanan stated that the PNLC can benefit greatly from this regional hub considering the present online schooling set-up in the region.

## **7.0 PNLC Secretariat**

7.1 Ms. Gonzales presented the options and factors to consider in establishing the PNLC Secretariat. She reminded the General Assembly that a dedicated secretariat is essential as it will serve as the operating arm of the network. She then called the Assembly’s attention to the Article 11, paragraph 1 of the PNLC Charter, which states that *“The PRF will serve as the interim Secretariat to the PNLC upon effectivity of this Charter until such time that the General Assembly has already established the Secretariat, which will not be later than three (3) years from the effectivity of this Charter. Any PNLC member is eligible to serve as a Secretariat, on a permanent or rotational basis, depending on the decision or resolution of the General Assembly.”*

7.2 She then reiterated the roles and responsibilities of the PNLC Secretariat as stated in the PNLC Charter.

7.3 Options for the PNLC Secretariat include:

- A permanent PNLC secretariat hosted by a PNLC member with financial support from the concerned local government;
- A rotating secretariat hosted by the institution of the PNLC President within the duration of their term; and
- A rotating secretariat hosted by a different PNLC member every three years.

7.4 All these options can include, as one of their key features, a hosting rotation of the Annual PNLC General Assembly among the members.

7.5 Benefits of hosting the PNLC Secretariat include:

- Opportunity to showcase/market the hosting institution as a center for sustainable coastal and marine development;
- Prestige of hosting a regional network; and
- Strong potential to attract new partners, consortium, and students.

7.6 Table 1 specifies the factors to consider in establishing the PNLC Secretariat.

**Table 1. Factors to consider in establishing the PNLC Secretariat.**

| Aspect       | Permanent Secretariat   | Rotating Secretariat   |
|--------------|---|--|
| Legal        | <p>It is important to provide the legal umbrella under which the network will operate (e.g., memorandum of understanding between PRF and the host). The PNLC Secretariat work can be done as a special project, with its own budget, of the host organization or other forms of permanent arrangement.</p> <p>Ideally, the Secretariat staff should have a separate line of authority from the rest of the organization while still following the administrative rules and regulations of the host.</p> | <p>Will a three-year special project be sufficient to provide legal cover to PNLC operations?</p> <p>Having to execute a memorandum of understanding every three years is time consuming.</p>  |
| Funding      | <p>Financial support from the host can be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions (e.g., use of equipment and secondment of staff).</p> <p>Acquisition of funds can be undertaken jointly by the PNLC, host, and other partners in PEMSEA through the development of a resource mobilization strategy.</p>   | <p>Financial support from the host can be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions (e.g., use of equipment and secondment of staff).</p> <p>It is unclear how long the preparations will take place before arriving at a financial agreement. It is also unclear what happens transition-wise once the host changes.</p> |
| Programmatic | <p>A clear work plan detailing the roles and responsibilities as agreed with the host is necessary.</p>   | <p>A clear work plan detailing the roles and responsibilities as agreed with the host is necessary.</p> <p>The responsibilities of the PNLC Secretariat as identified in items a, c, e, h, and i of Article 11, paragraph 1 of the PNLC Charter can be handled by a rotating secretariat but other</p>                       |

| Aspect          | Permanent Secretariat  | Rotating Secretariat   |
|-----------------|--|--|
|                 |  | responsibilities may be difficult to do.<br><br>PRF may need to provide technical/secretariat support in a rotational set-up.  |
| Human resources | The staff of the PNLC secretariat should be deployed by the host specifically for the duties of the Secretariat. | Will there be permanent staff that can work across rotating hosts/presidency to help ensure institutional stability? If so, how will the PNLC finance these permanent posts? |

7.7 Table 2 provides the timeline for establishing the PNLC Secretariat.

**Table 2. Timeline for establishing the PNLC Secretariat.**

| Step | Description  | Results   | Decision process/<br>Responsible centers  | Deadline  |
|------|--|---|---|-----------|
| 1    | Present options for setting up the PNLC Secretariat  | Agreement on the type of Secretariat that will be set up  | Consensus of the General Assembly   | 2022      |
| 2    | Identify host institution  | Host identified   | Bilateral discussions between PNLC Executive Committee and host to be presented to the General Assembly | 2022-2023 |
| 3    | Discuss and agree on the Memorandum of Agreement and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the hosting of the Secretariat | MOA drafted and approved with clear TOR on the hosting and functions of the secretariat as well as organizational and legal relationships | Bilateral discussions between PNLC Executive Committee and host to be presented to the General Assembly | 2022-2023 |
| 4    | If needed, select ad hoc committee to guide the setup of the Secretariat and the hosting agreement               | TOR for ad hoc committee drafted and approved   | Consensus of the General Assembly   | 2022-2023 |

| Step | Description  | Results   | Decision process/<br>Responsible centers  | Deadline       |
|------|--|---|---|----------------|
| 5    | Mobilize funding for the Secretariat                                     | Resource mobilization strategy developed                                      | PNLC Executive Committee, host, etc.  | Earliest: 2022 |
| 6    | Register the Secretariat and its functions as part of host establishment | Secretariat position and functions within host organization assured           | Secretariat   | 2024           |
| 7    | Develop and adopt the annual workplan and budget                         | Annual work plan for the first year of the Secretariat's operations developed | Secretariat on the development (Work Plan to be adopted by consensus of the General Assembly) | 2024           |

- 7.8 The following guide questions were posed for consideration of the General Assembly:
- Do you have any clarificatory questions on the presentation?
  - What are your thoughts on the permanent and rotating secretariat set-up? Are there other options beyond what was presented?
  - What other key factors, issues, and steps that need to be considered in establishing the PNLC Secretariat?
  - Would any of you be interested to host the PNLC Secretariat? What factors can help you decide in hosting the PNLC Secretariat?
  - Do you have further recommendations other than what was raised?

7.9 Prof. Noel Sedigo, Campus Administrator of the Trece Martires City Campus of Cavite State University (CvSU), opined that a permanent Secretariat is more advantageous compared to the rotational set-up as the former is able to provide stability to the Network. This is based on the University's experience as member in other consortiums. Dr. Camposano agreed with Prof. Sedigo's statement. He added that a rotational set-up will be difficult to set-up and sustain considering the plurality of members and their own unique circumstances. In terms of identifying the host organization, he stated that many of the PNLC members will need to consult with their respective stakeholders such as the national government as the hosting would require a commitment of resources.

## 8.0 Other Business

8.1 Prof. Sedigo inquired if there is a possibility of establishing a one-stop shop communication system (e.g., news bulletin) where PNLC members may get immediate, regular updates about the Network. This will make it easier for member to access pertinent information and reduce the workload of PRF as interim Secretariat. In response, Ms. Gonzales stated that the PRF will consider setting-up this system under the SEAKB. Dr. Senanan expressed her appreciation towards this feedback.

- 8.2 On behalf of De La Salle Lipa (DLSL), Philippines, Ms. Vivienne Padura, a faculty member at the institute's Biology Department and Science Area, congratulated the PRF for providing an excellent discussion paper on developing the PNLC Operational Plan and extended her gratitude towards the opportunities that PRF has provided for the institute in the past 15 years. She looks forward to more collaborations with PRF and other PNLC members and suggested that the PNLC maximize the use of SEAKB in order to strengthen the linkages within the Network. The PNLC is an exceptional platform to exchange ideas, practices, and research that can be used by members to scale up the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goal 14. Dr. Senanan thanked her for her comments and suggestions.
- 8.3 Related to Prof. Tilman's earlier point, he added that UNTL would also require support in legalizing their University as a member of the PNLC. This was noted by Ms. Gonzales.

## **9.0 Closing Remarks**

- 9.1 As Co-Chair, Dr. Fang<sup>1</sup> thanked the participants for joining the 1<sup>st</sup> PNLC General Assembly, Dr. Senanan for chairing the meeting, and PRF for organizing the event and for all their efforts to formalize the Network in 2021. He provided a quick recap of what transpired during the General Assembly and reminded the participants that the proceedings of the event will be shared to them once available. He encouraged members who were not able to provide comments on the establishment of the PNLC Operational Plan and Secretariat to send their feedback. Likewise, he encouraged observing institutions to expedite the approval and signing of the PNLC Charter in their respective organizations. The formalization of the Network was a landmark success for the PNLC; the Network is currently taking efforts to move the PNLC forward to more success in terms of coastal and marine resource development in the region.
- 9.2 Dr. Senanan thanked Dr. Fang for the closing remarks and PRF for their support.
- 9.3 The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am (UTC+8).

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<sup>1</sup> Concurrently serves as the Deputy Director and Professor in the Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI) of Xiamen University (XMU) and Deputy Secretary General of the PNLC

## ANNEX 1. PROGRAM.

1<sup>ST</sup> PNLC GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
24 February 2022, 9:00 am – 11:30 am (UTC+8) via Zoom

Chair: Dr. Wansuk Senanan, President, PNLC  
Co-Chair: Dr. Qinhua Fang, Vice President, PNLC  
Secretariat: PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)

| Time (UTC+8)        | Agenda  | Speaker/Presenter   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 9:00 am – 9:10 am   | <b>Opening remarks</b>  | <b>Chair</b>  |
| 9:10 am – 9:15 am   | 1.0 <b>Provisional program of the meeting</b><br><br>PRF shall present the provisional program for the meeting for review/approval.                           | <b>Ms. Karen See</b><br>Secretariat Coordinator,<br>PRF                                     |
| 9:15 am – 9:25 am   | 2.0 <b>2022 timeline of PNLC activities</b><br><br>PRF shall present the foregoing timeline in support of the Network's milestones for reference.             | <b>Ms. Karen See</b><br>Secretariat Coordinator,<br>PRF                                     |
| 9:25 am – 9:45 am   | 3.0 <b>Election of PNLC officers</b><br><br>PRF shall present the draft rules on the nomination and election of PNLC officers for review/approval.            | <b>Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise</b><br>Policy and Result-Based Management Specialist,<br>PRF |
| 9:45 am – 10:25 am  | 4.0 <b>PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2026</b><br><br>PRF shall present for discussion the factors to consider in developing the PNLC Operational Plan 2022-2026. | <b>Ms. Aimee Gonzales</b><br>Executive Director, PRF  |
| 10:25 am – 11:05 am | 5.0 <b>PNLC Secretariat</b><br><br>PRF shall present for discussion the options and items for consideration in establishing the PNLC Secretariat.             | <b>Ms. Aimee Gonzales</b><br>Executive Director, PRF  |
| 11:05 am – 11:20 am | 6.0 <b>Other business</b>   |   |
| 11:20 am – 11:30 am | <b>Closing remarks</b>  | <b>Dr. Qinhua Fang</b><br>Vice President, PNLC  |

## **ANNEX 2. LINKS TO SUPPORTING FILES.**

Meeting documents - <https://tinyurl.com/PNLC-GA1-MeetingDocs>

Presentation materials - <https://tinyurl.com/PNLC-GA1-PPTs>

Group photograph - <https://tinyurl.com/PNLC-GA1-GroupPhoto>

Recording - <https://youtu.be/8r3EZNns1Fw>



### ANNEX 3. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.

| Category  | Location    | Organization  | Representatives  |   |
|---|-------------|---|--|---|
| PNLC Members  | Cambodia    | Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)                                   | <b>Prof. Hoy Sereivathanak Reasey</b><br>Head of Department, Department of Natural Resource Management and Development, Faculty of Development Studies<br><br><b>Mr. Phat Chandara</b><br>Researcher |   |
|   | China       | Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University (XMU)  | <b>Dr. Fang Qinhua</b><br>Vice President, PNLC; Deputy Director and Professor, XMU-COMI; and Deputy Secretary General, PNLC  |   |
|   | Indonesia   | Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS), IPB University | <b>Dr. Yonvitner</b><br>Director<br><br><b>Ms. Isdahartatie</b><br>Researcher  |   |
|   | Japan       | Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)                    | <b>Ms. Nagisa Shiiba</b><br>Policy Researcher, Adaptation and Water Area   |   |
|   | Philippines | Cavite State University (CvSU)  |  | <b>Prof. Noel Sedigo</b><br>Campus Administrator, Trece Martires City Campus  |
|   |             | De La Salle Lipa (DLSL)   |  | <b>Ms. Vivienne Padura</b><br>Faculty member, Biology Department and Science Area   |
|   |             | University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV)                             |  | <b>Dr. Clement Camposano</b><br>Chancellor  |
|   |             | Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan (XU)                              |  | <b>Dr. Astrid Sinco</b><br>Director, Mckeough Marine Center   |
|   | Thailand    | Burapha University (BUU)  |  | <b>Dr. Wansuk Senanan</b><br>President, PNLC; and Assistant Professor, Department of Aquatic Sciences, Faculty of Science |
|   | Timor-Leste | Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)                             |  | <b>Prof. Mario Tilman</b><br>PNLC Coordinator   |
|   |             | Oriental University of Timor Leste (UNITAL)                             |  | <b>Mr. Romaldo da Costa Ximenes</b><br>Dean, Agriculture Faculty  |
|   | Observers   | China   | Zhejiang University (ZJU)  | <b>Mr. Zhu Jingsheng (“Dave”)</b><br>Director of International Affairs  |
|   |             | Indonesia   | Diponegoro University (UNDIP)  | <b>Dr. Rudhi Pribadi</b><br>Lecturer, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences  |
| Center for Sustainable Development, Udayana University (UNUD) |             |   |  | <b>Dr. Ketut Gede Dharma Putra</b><br>Chairman  |

| Category                 | Location    | Organization                       | Representatives  |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--|
|                          | Thailand    | Prince of Songkla University (PSU) | <b>Dr. Sakanan Plathong</b><br>Director, Marine Science Learning Center  |
|                          | Viet Nam    | University of Da Nang (UD)         | <b>Dr. Hoang Hai</b><br>Senior Lecturer (Environmental Science)  |
| Interim PNLC Secretariat | Philippines | PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)     | <p><b>Ms. Aimee Gonzales</b><br/>Executive Director</p> <p><b>Ms. Nancy Bermas</b><br/>Senior Programme Manager</p> <p><b>Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise</b><br/>Policy and Results-Based Management Specialist, UNDP/GEF/PEMSEA Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II (ATSEA-2)</p> <p><b>Ms. Daisy Padayao</b><br/>Programme Manager</p> <p><b>Ms. Karen See</b><br/>Secretariat Coordinator</p> <p><b>Ms. Elsie Merina</b><br/>Programme and Admin Associate</p> <p><b>Mr. Arsenio Dacaymat, Jr.</b><br/>IT Assistant</p> |

