



PEMSEA Meeting Report 15

PROCEEDINGS OF
THE NINTH EAST ASIAN SEAS
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

**Makati Diamond Residences
Makati City, Philippines
24–26 July 2017**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ninth East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council Meeting was held at the Makati Diamond Residences, Makati City, Philippines from 24 to 26 July 2017. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines co-hosted the Meeting. The Meeting was attended by representatives from ten PEMSEA Partner Countries, namely: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. A representative from Thailand participated as an observer. Nine representatives from Non-Country Partners were in attendance, namely: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB); Conservation International (CI) Philippines; IPIECA The Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM); Ocean Policy Research Institute Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI,SPF); Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL); Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML); and UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project. Representatives from the Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK) were present as a new Non-Country Partner. Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) participated as observers.

The Partnership Council focused on the following key issues: (a) Review of the Draft SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022; (b) Preparation for the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018; (c) Development of the Regional and National State of the Oceans and Coasts reports; (d) Approval of PEMSEA ICM Professional Certification; (e) Responses to PEMSEA's Third Party Assessment; (f) Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA Implementation; (g) Status of recruitment of new PEMSEA Executive Director; (h) Review of PEMSEA Secretariat Work Plan and Budget 2017-2018; and (i) Collaborative Planning, among others.

The major decisions of Council covered:

- Adoption of a process and timeline for completing the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022 in collaboration with Country and Non-Country Partners;
- Development of Regional and National State of Oceans and Coasts reports and the organization and conduct of a Regional Blue Economy Forum in November 2017;
- Organizing dialogues, side events and an interactive exhibition at the EAS Congress 2018 with Partners taking the lead and with DENR Philippines and the PEMSEA Secretariat coordinating programme planning and logistical arrangements;
- Approval of a work program to develop and test the ICM Manager Certification Program, including a pilot training and certification initiative;
- Addition of the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK) as a new PEMSEA Non-Country Partner;
- Agreement to proceed with country-by-country discussions on voluntary contributions in support of PEMSEA's sustainability;
- Hiring of an investment specialist to design and develop a Project Investment Facility (PIF) for blue economy projects, and to prepare a full funding proposal for operationalizing an Ocean Investment Facility and Fund (OIFF) in support of SDS-SEA implementation; and
- Adoption of the PEMSEA Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2017-2018.

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INTRODUCTION

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- ii. The Meeting was attended by representatives from ten PEMSEA Partner Countries, namely: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. A representative from Thailand participated as an observer. Nine representatives from Non-Country Partners were in attendance, namely: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB); Conservation International (CI) Philippines; IPIECA The Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM); Ocean Policy Research Institute Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI,SPF); Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL); Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML); and UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project. Representatives from the Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK) were present as new Non-Country Partner.
- iii. Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines and the UNDP Regional Hub Bangkok, were present as sponsoring organizations. The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) served as the Secretariat for the Meeting.
- iv. The full list of participants is found in Annex 1.

1.0 Opening of Technical Session

- 1.1 Mr. Makoto Harunari, Technical Session Chair, opened the Technical Session of the 9th East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting. He welcomed all participants to the Technical Session. Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh served as Technical Session Co-Chair.
- 1.2 On behalf of the Government of the Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change Service, welcomed all participants of the Technical Session and relayed DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu's message. She highlighted the significant role of partnerships within PEMSEA, particularly, in scaling up collaborations at the global level. She encouraged each partner to take this higher call in pursuing global targets, not just to expand geographically but also expand functionally. She also urged partners to consider and develop strategic mechanisms that provide synergies and comply with other international commitments such as the Aichi Biodiversity targets and the SDGs in accomplishing the SDS-SEA. Furthermore, she emphasized the efforts made by the

Government of the Philippines in pursuing reforms in the ecosystem. She stressed the important responsibility of each member to protect marine life in the region and made an appeal to level up the implementation of the SDS-SEA by strengthening engagement at the regional, national and local level. The full text of DENR Secretary's Message is attached as Annex 2.

- 1.3 On behalf of the PEMSEA Resource Facility, Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, PEMSEA's Executive Director, expressed his gratitude towards the Government of the Philippines for hosting the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting and welcomed all the delegates to the Technical Session.

2.0 ADOPTION OF TECHNICAL SESSION AGENDA

- 2.1 The Secretariat presented the agenda and the schedule for the Technical Session.

Recommendation:

- 2.2 The Technical Session recommended the adoption of the Technical Session agenda of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting as presented (Annex 3).

3.0 Draft SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022 (PC/17/DOC/02)

Discussion Highlights

- 3.1 The Secretariat indicated that the draft SDS-SEA Implementation (2017-2022) was first reviewed during the 19th expanded EC meeting in April 2017. The substance of the Implementation Plan was strengthened based on the results of the collaborative planning sessions with Country Partners and non-Country Partners. The Implementation Plan also incorporates the recommendations from the Third-Party Assessment on PEMSEA's self-sustainability.
- 3.2 The Secretariat highlighted that the document is considered a work-in-progress. The responses and reactions from the Meeting were sought, particularly in delineating the process for finalizing the Implementation Plan, including the need to double check some information or data to ensure accuracy.
- 3.3 The components of the Implementation Plan were presented, including the timeline of the collaborative planning sessions conducted with the Country Partners and non-Country Partners, the gaps and challenges that need to be addressed for each component and the proposed schedule to complete the Plan from July to December 2017.

Conclusions

The Technical Session concluded that:

- 3.4 The members of the Council appreciated the formulation of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan, however considering the broad scope of the Plan and the need to

integrate recent global developments (e.g., CBD COP 13), the members need more time to review and provide inputs.

Recommendations

The Technical Session recommended that:

- 3.5 The PRF Secretariat circulate the draft SDS-SEA Implementation (2017-2022) to the members of the Partnership Council for review and inputs on the various action programs, relevant indicators, and the planned milestone activities of Partners and collaborating organizations that collectively contribute to achieving the outcomes.
- 3.6 The Partners submit their comments and inputs on the further refinement of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2017-2022) to the Secretariat on or before 31 August 2017.

4.0 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018 (PC/17/DOC/03)

Discussion Highlights

- 4.1 On behalf of DENR Philippines, Usec. AnalizaRebuelta-Teh updated the Technical Session on the preparations for the EAS Congress 2018 and PEMSEA's 25th Anniversary. Usec. Teh underscored the need for strong cooperation and support from the PEMSEA Partners in order to make the EAS Congress 2018 successful as well as to fast track the preparations given the limited time available.
- 4.2 Taking into consideration the various regional and international environmental forums scheduled in 2018, it was proposed that the EAS Congress 2018 be scheduled for November 26 to December 1, 2018. The venue for the Congress is still being explored by DENR Philippines.
- 4.3 The Secretariat introduced a Framework Programme for the EAS Congress 2018. Three working themes were suggested embodying three key elements: (a) recognition of and learning from 25 years of partnerships in the region; (b) linking the region's commitments and targets with the Global Oceans Agenda; and (c) an optimistic outlook towards strengthening the region's initiatives in building an ocean-based blue economy.
- 4.4 Living up to the EAS Congress reputation as a premier regional ocean gathering for the Seas of East Asia, and in celebration of PEMSEA's 25th anniversary, the EAS Congress 2018 hopes to provide a unique and meaningful experience to all delegates. The different activities/events/sessions under a combined International Conference and Exhibition format would be partner-led, dialogue- and network building-oriented, and solutions-focused. The proposed key issue areas were aligned with the key components of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022 and are aimed to contribute in meeting SDS-SEA targets as well as international commitments, particularly UN SDG14.
- 4.5 The Sixth Ministerial Forum is also envisioned to be interactive and action-oriented, whereby country commitments to the UN SDG14 will be discussed vis-à-vis national implementation and scaling up efforts on SDS-SEA. The launching of the Regional and National State of the Oceans and Coasts (SOC) reports focusing on blue economy, as

well as country commitments to a sustainable PEMSEA are targeted to be highlighted at the Forum.

- 4.6 To facilitate deeper involvement of Partners and collaborating organizations, a call for expressions of interest to convene and sponsor partnership dialogues, technical and scientific sessions, side events, exhibits, etc. will be issued in mid-August. An online registration system is targeted to commence in mid-October 2017.
- 4.7 Several partners offered their support and interest to convene sessions at the Congress. Particularly, China through the State Oceanic Administration offered to co-sponsor a workshop or forum on the “Blue Economy Partnership of East Asian Seas”, focusing on regional cooperation, policy and plan development, and identification/discussion of mechanisms on blue economy cooperation in the new era. YSLME also expressed its commitment to support activities and events at the Congress, and cited the good opportunity that the Congress can provide for Partners to showcase achievements and contributions to UN SDG14 . Further consultations will be conducted by YSLME with its members in conceptualizing their sessions/events.
- 4.8 Some topics were suggested for the International Conference such as coastal erosion, marine debris including microplastics, etc. Information related to different events such as the UN high-level forums were also shared which can serve as opportunities for PEMSEA and Country members to link the EAS Congress with the discussions related to the UN SDGs.

Conclusions

- 4.9 The Meeting expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of the Philippines, and the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources in particular, for the expressed commitment to host and to co-organize the EAS Congress 2018.

The Technical Session also concluded that:

- 4.10 In line with the EAS region’s commitment to contribute to international targets, particularly the UN SDG14 as a follow-on to the UN Ocean Conference, the EAS Congress 2018 provides a good platform to align and anchor SDS-SEA implementation on the key principles and targets of the global ocean agenda.
- 4.11 BlueEconomy is increasingly recognized in global ocean discussions. The interest expressed by SOAChina to organize a Blue Economy Partnership of East Asian Seas at the EAS Congress is seen as a crucial session to highlight regional cooperation, policy, planning and development in support of blue economy in East Asia.
- 4.12 The recent request from UN to countries to provide further updates and information related to the national State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) underscores the value and importance of the SOC initiative being undertaken by PEMSEA at the regional and national level, which is targeted for presentation and adoption at the Sixth Ministerial Forum. The regional and national SOC reports once finalized can serve as a meaningful contribution from the EAS region in support of SDG14.

- 4.13 The active participation of all PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners in the planning, preparation, promotion and organization of the EAS Congress 2018 is crucial to the overall success of the EAS Congress 2018.

Recommendations

The Technical Session recommended that:

- 4.14 The Secretariat work closely with DENR Philippines as well as with all PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners and collaborators in preparing and organizing the EAS Congress 2018 and Sixth Ministerial Forum.
- 4.15 PEMSEACountry and Non-Country Partners provide further inputs to the EAS Congress programme and identify sessions or topics that may be convened by Partners, taking note of additional suggested topics (i.e., coastal erosion, marine debris including microplastics, etc.) and initial interests expressed by some Partners (e.g., SOA, China, YSLME) to convene sessions at the International Conference.
- 4.16 The Secretariat facilitate a call for expressions of interest to convene and/or co-convene sessions and events at the EAS Congress 2018, with a target of completing and disseminating the EAS Congress Programme by end of 2017.

5.0 National and Regional State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) Reporting(PC/17/DOC/04)

Discussion Highlights

- 5.1 The Secretariat presented an update on the status of development of SOC reports by participating countries, and provided some early outputs on the value of the oceans and ecosystem services, the contributions of the ocean economy to national GDP, threats to ocean health, and blue economy initiatives.
- 5.2 Country Partners provided the following information on their national SOC reports:
- *RO Korea*: As part of the UN Process, the State of Marine Environment report is being developed, and this report will be used as the basis for the national SOC. The PEMSEA template for a national SOC report will be applied. The report is targeted for submission in September 2017.
 - *Timor Leste*: The first draft SOC report has been submitted, and revisions are being made based on feedback from the Secretariat.
 - *Singapore*: The SOC report is being prepared by the Technical Committee on Coastal and Marine Environment, using the template provided by the Secretariat. Singapore will present its SOC report at the Blue Economy Forum in November 2017.
 - *Viet Nam*: The Technical Working Group has been established, but is waiting for approval from the Government to draft the report. Viet Nam is committed to completing their National SOC report on time.

- *Cambodia*: The second draft of the SOC report will be submitted in August 2017, and the stakeholders workshop will be conducted in September 2017.
- *China*: The first draft has been prepared in Chinese. The English version will be prepared and submitted to Secretariat upon approval from the State Oceanic Administration of China.
- *Indonesia*: The second draft has been submitted. The stakeholders workshop will be held in the first week of August 2017. The final draft will be ready for reporting at the Blue Economy Forum in November 2017.
- *Japan*: A similar report to evaluate the effectiveness of ocean policies is in place in Japan and may be used as reference in developing their National SOC report. However, Japan would like to wait for other countries' reports prior to initiating their SOC preparation.
- *Philippines*: The initial report has been prepared, but will be enhanced. There is a challenge in gathering the baseline information.
- *Lao PDR*: In lieu of an SOC report, Lao is working on the State of River Basin Report.

5.3 It was clarified that the figures for the ecosystem services are being refined, and the methodologies used for valuation across the countries are being reviewed for consistency.

5.4 It was pointed out that the analysis in the SOC report includes temporal changes in ocean conditions where data are available.

5.5 It was explained that the UN SDGs are incorporated in the SOC report, and as shown in the presentation, the SDGs (goals and targets) being addressed in the context of identified blue economy initiatives.

Conclusions

The Technical Session concluded that:

5.6 The SOC report is a good initiative as it shows the value of the oceans for the region, the breakdown of top-line figures, and the sources of information for such values and figures.

5.7 The National SOC Reports are in various stages of development. Challenges exist, but the reports are progressing, and will be published and disseminated at the EAS Congress 2018.

5.8 The National and Regional SOC Reports provide valuable contribution to the EAS region and other regions, by showing the progress being made by the countries in implementing the SDS-SEA, SDGs and other international agreements.

5.9 The Blue Economy Forum in November 2017 is an opportunity for countries to present their nearly-final draft SOC reports. Resource persons will be invited to review and provide feedback, allowing countries to prepare their final drafts by end of April 2018.

Recommendations

The Technical Session recommended that:

- 5.10 The Secretariat include analysis in the SOC report of tradeoffs between the ocean economic activities and conservation initiatives, and the synergies that can be created.
- 5.11 The Secretariat include marine debris including microplastics, and other new areas raised during the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017.
- 5.12 All countries use the same SOC template in developing their national SOC reports to facilitate comparison across countries and the development of the regional SOC report.
- 5.13 Country and Non-Country Partners share information, such as blue economy initiatives, governance measures, and regional maps, e.g., fisheries (ASEAN), minerals, etc.

6.0 ICM Professional Certification (PC/17/DOC/05)

Discussion Highlights

- 6.1 The Meeting was apprised on the status of the development of the ICM Manager Certification Program as directed by the 8th EAS Partnership Council meeting. At present the ICM Manager Certification Handbook was drafted defining the ICM Manager Certification criteria and procedures.
- 6.2 The ICM Manager Certification process is aligned with the world accepted certification processes for Project Management Professional (PMP) certification administered by the Project Management Institute (PMI) and the international standard ISO/IEC 17024:2012; Conformity Assessment – General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Persons.
- 6.3 The structure of the examination and assessment is also similar to the examination and assessment structure of the certification of the PMP. The examination and assessment will be based on manager's skill and knowledge of the ICM cycle and the core competency requirements for implementing ICM. The certification scheme defines that there are three levels of ICM Manager certification with increasing levels of mastery.
- 6.4 It was clarified that the target users of the ICM Manager Certification are the managers of the local governments implementing the ICM system. The initial market for the ICM Manager certification program will be managers of ICM sites that have PEMSEA-certified ICM Systems.
- 6.5 The ICM Manager Certification and Training Program will be pilot tested with the participation of selected ICM managers starting with the ICM Manager Level 1 Certification. The results of the pilot testing will be reported to the EAS Partnership Council in 2018.

Conclusions

The Technical Session concluded that:

- 6.6 The ICM Manager Certification is a good program as it encourages ICM managers to have the necessary skills to ensure that the ICM system is developed, implemented and improved; it also urges the local governments to develop and implement ICM programs in accordance with PEMSEA's ICM Code and Certification System.
- 6.7 The ICM Code, as approved by the Partnership Council, sets the standard for the local governments in the implementation of the ICM program, thus is the foundation of the ICM Manager Certification.

Recommendations

The Technical Session recommended that:

- 6.8 The Secretariat explore potential collaboration with institutions (e.g., IUCN) providing ICM training to identify prerequisite trainings for ICM managers.
- 6.9 The Secretariat proceed with the development of the ICM Managers Certification Level 2 and Level 3 checklists to ensure transparency of the certification process and incorporate it into the ICM Manager Certification Handbook, with a target of completing the handbook by end of 2017.
- 6.10 The Secretariat proceed with the development of the ICM Manager Certification Program and conduct the testing of the certification and training process, and report the progress and outcomes to the next EAS Partnership Council.

7.0 Collaborative Planning (PC/17/DOC/06)

Discussion Highlights

Regional Capacity Development/Knowledge Management and Targeted Research

- 7.1 In line with the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022, the Secretariat highlighted the enabling role of and the need for enhanced coordination in three vital areas: capacity development (CD), knowledge management (KM) and targeted research.
- 7.2 The Secretariat identified key challenges in each program area of biodiversity conservation and management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and pollution reduction and waste management. These challenges include limited technical capacity in planning and evaluating impacts, inadequate resources and funding and lack of policies and intersectoral coordinating mechanisms. In addressing some of the key challenges, the PRF identified several existing and potential capacity development, knowledge management and targeted research initiatives or collaborations for 2017-2018.
- 7.3 Regional capacity development initiatives lined up for 2017-2018 specifically target training workshops on Marxan-Z, Ocean Health Index and ICM Training of Trainers, as well as PEMSEA Traineeship and Internship programs.
- 7.4 PEMSEA's SEA Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) is a KM platform that supports investment services for scaling up investments in ICM and blue economy as well as new tools,

innovative ICM solutions and best practices as well as links to other KM websites/portals.

- 7.5 Nine issues and topics for targeted research were identified, with a corresponding list of potential and confirmed partners and collaborators for each topic. The needs for targeted researches/programs were highlighted as an important aspect in further enhancing SDS-SEA implementation in the countries, as well as in addressing gaps and tapping new opportunities.

Other Areas of Collaboration

- 7.6 Presentations made by the Country and Non-Country Partners highlighted their respective various programs and projects being implemented, the objectives, location, timeframe and special needs for collaboration in support of SDS-SEA implementation.

ASEAN CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY (ACB)

- 7.7 ACB highlighted three areas where ACB initiatives can contribute to the SDS-SEA Implementation: (a) Biodiversity Conservation and Management, (b) Pollution reduction and waste management, and (c) Knowledge management and capacity building.
- 7.7 In particular, the following ACB projects were highlighted: (1) under the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP), ACB is targeting to increase the number of AHPs, continue the implementation of the Regional Action Plan 2016-2020, and conduct ICM and MPA network trainings; (2) establishment of ASEAN Network on Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds Conservation; (3) establishment of an online platform promoting the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Key Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN region; (4) establishment of networks of MPAs in the seas of East and Southeast Asia; (5) a marine litter project and ASEAN Conference on Marine Litter; and (6) a study on Developing Environmentally Friendly Approaches for Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in Coastal and Marine Ecosystem in the ASEAN.
- 7.8 ACB will retain its regional partnerships and cooperation and continue its implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment 2016-2025. ACB also announced that the ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook is now online, and is a useful material that can contribute to targeted research.

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL (CI) PHILIPPINES

- 7.9 The Highlands to Oceans (H₂O) strategy provides a programmatic plan for CIP to respond to the interconnected challenges of conservation in the Philippines protecting natural capital, addressing climate change and ensuring human well-being.
- 7.10 CIP cited several works being undertaken across landscapes and seascapes in the Philippines particularly in the Verde Island Passage (VIP) corridor, the Cagayan Ridge corridor, the Balabac corridor, and in the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape.
- 7.11 In recent years, CIP has undertaken several collaborative initiatives, including: (a) conduct of Marxan Z training with PEMSEA and KMI in the VIP; (b) Ocean Health Index and SOC development with PEMSEA; (c) Blue carbon assessment in the VIP; (d) MPA

establishment and MPA Networking in the VIP; and Sea Turtle MPA Network; (e) fisheries seasonal closures and fisheries research with local governments; (f) transboundary marine conservation with CTI; (g) Mapping natural capital and NCA; (h) marine plastics debris/pollution; (i) Women in Maritime; and (j) Climate change adaptation; climate-smart MPAs; and Green Grey adaptation solution. CIP further highlighted the need for sustainable finance mechanisms through conservation agreements. This enables communities to be incentivized to work on conservation.

IPIECA

- 7.12 IPIECA's strategic themes are climate and energy, environment and social impacts. Their current scope of activities cover: biodiversity and ecosystem services; water; social responsibility; supply chain; health; products and fuels; oil spill preparedness; sustainability reporting; and climate change.
- 7.13 Their work on biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) is jointly undertaken with the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) focusing on management of BES across the life cycle of oil and gas operations and inclusion of which in the operational practices and management systems.
- 7.14 On climate change, IPIECA published a report on "Exploring low-emissions pathways: advancing the Paris Puzzle" addressing the climate change issues from the oil and gas industry perspective. In line with IPIECA's contribution and support to achieving the UN SDGs, IPIECA developed an ATLAS mapping the oil and gas industry to the SDGs, as well as participated in the UN High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2017.
- 7.15 On oil spill preparedness and response, IPIECA has several initiatives both at the global and regional level. In the Southeast Asian region, the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GISEA) is helping build capacity, facilitates industry-government cooperation, and facilitates the development and implementation of the ASEAN Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan. GISEA is also working with PEMSEA on the Gulf of Thailand (GOT) programme.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

- 7.16 IUCN introduced Mangroves for the Future (MFF), an initiative of UNDP and IUCN along with 11 partner countries and several organizations. Since MFF was established, it has worked on a number of critical issue areas, such as : (a) post disaster recovery (2004-2006); (b) ecosystems as "infrastructure for coastal development"(2007-2010); (c) sustainable development with an ecosystem-based approach (2011-2013); and (d) the most recent is focusing on transformational adaptation and resilience (2014-2018). For 2019-2024, MFF will highlight climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 7.17 Under the transformational adaptation and resilience phase, MFF facilitates transboundary cooperation through intergovernmental dialogue in a number of areas including the Gulf of Thailand. They also contribute to MPA establishment in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

- 7.18 MFF cited some examples of work at local communities, including livelihood initiatives that bring about empowerment to local people including women. They developed the strategy and vision for the future in partnership with the locals and work with countries beyond those identified as official partners of MFF. In line with this, MFF expressed hope that PEMSEA will become an institutional partner for MFF. There is a lot of potential for collaboration with PEMSEA in ICM, blue economy, ecosystem restoration and co-management of marine resources.

OCEAN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION (OPRI-SPF)

- 7.19 OPRI-SPF provided a background on the organization and their work contributing to ocean management and sustainable development. One of their roles is to support Japan's plan ocean policy in close cooperation with the national government. OPRI provides information and knowledge assistance as an advisory member.
- 7.20 OPRI-SPF works closely with 7 model sites across Japan (Bizen City, Obama City, Miyako City, Shima City, Omura Bay, Taketomi Town and Sukumo Bay). To strengthen capacity building, introductory courses on ICM have been implemented since 2015. OPRI discussed other activities they implement on the ground to support and promote ICM and increased public awareness on marine issues.

OIL SPILL RESPONSE LIMITED (OSRL)

- 7.21 OSRL, whose key role is to help their members prepare for and manage oil spills, discussed their main outputs in recent years. They have provided capping and subsea intervention toolkits, containment toolkits and offset installation equipment. A number of technologies and equipment will be available in the near future. The OSRL website has several papers, webinars and toolkits available for downloading and may be useful for capacity development. OSRL offers their time and their expertise in the niche topic of oil spill response to help in national planning, policies and environmental mapping for oil spills.

PLYMOUTH MARINE LABORATORY (PML)

- 7.22 There are two large PML projects funded in the East Asia region. One project is called ACCORD, Addressing Challenges of Coastal Communities through Ocean Research for Developing Economies. Research outputs include case studies and PML is seeking regional partners for this. Through capacity building and training, PML enables partner countries to take an evidence-based approach to ICM, to promote sustainable growth and to provide resilience to natural hazards, climate change and human activity.
- 7.23 The second funded project is the GCRF Blue Communities which aims to build capability for marine planning in SE Asia. Other relevant work includes oil spill response, building resilience in coastal communities, monitoring illegal fishing and novel agricultural bioactives from microalgae.
- 7.24 PML presented a funding opportunity in the GCRF: RCUK Collective Fund. It calls for transformative approaches to address intractable development challenges faced by developing countries. GCRF will fund 12-15 hubs at between £8M to £15M. EOI by September 29, submission by November 9.

YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM (YSLME)

- 7.25 YSLME presented the objectives of its Phase II Project including its institutional, policy and financing framework. Building on the TDA/SAP that was developed in the first phase, the second phase will focus into the implementation of stress reduction measures in the regional, national and local levels. The third phase is on environmental and socioeconomic improvements.
- 7.26 YSLME presented the management measures at the regional level, their strategies, standards, criteria and guidelines as well as program and plans. The opportunities for convergence in demonstration and assessments are in fisheries and mariculture; biodiversity conservation and ecosystem assessment; pollution reduction and climate change adaptation.
- 7.27 There are a number of opportunities for collaboration in capacity development. These include the preparation of training modules, strengthening the effectiveness of MPA networking through ICM programs, replicating integrated multi-tropic aquaculture, and EAS Congress 2018 Workshop on SDG14. There will be a Biodiversity Planning Workshop in November in China, launch of YSLME MPA network and the designation of additional national MPAs.

NORTHWEST PACIFIC ACTION PLAN (NOWPAP)

- 7.28 While NOWPAP was not represented at the Meeting, the NOWPAP Secretariat submitted a statement as part of their contribution to the Collaborative Planning for 2017-2018.
- 7.29 NOWPAP expressed support to the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022 and identified Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Management and Pollution Reduction and Waste Management, as well as Knowledge Management and Capacity Building as potential areas for joint planning and implementation.
- 7.30 In particular, NOWPAP cited the following areas of collaboration:
- Inputs to the development of NOWPAP's new Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023
 - Development of a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation in 2018 and development of a joint proposal on marine biodiversity conservation
 - Information exchange, joint capacity building and training activities in the framework of NOWPAP Regional Plans (Oil and NHS Spills Regional Contingency Plan and Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
 - Development of risk assessment procedures and ESI maps for oil spill preparedness
 - Information sharing and capacity building activities addressing needs for ICM and marine spatial planning.

Conclusion

The Technical Session concluded that:

- 7.31 There are a number of ongoing and planned initiatives from PEMSEA Partners that opens up opportunities for collaboration in the areas of capacity development, knowledge management and targeted research endeavors.
- 7.32 A number of Non-Country Partners programs and initiatives are complementary to other aspects of SDS-SEA Implementation Plan and may be further explored and considered in the SDS-SEA IP 2017-2022 (i.e., governance- OPRI-SPF; biodiversity conservation- ACB, CI Phils, IPIECA, IUCN-MFF, YSLME, PML; climate change- CI, IPIECA, IUCN, YSLME, PML; pollution reduction- OSRL, CI, YSLME. A summary table of initiatives and its linkage to capacity development, knowledge management, targeted research and other areas of possible collaboration may be found in Annex 4.

Recommendations

The Technical Session recommended that:

- 7.33 The Secretariat link the KM platform (SEAKB) with other KM websites/portals as well as websites/portals in Partner Countries and ICM sites. Sharing of tools for further capacity development and KM.
- 7.34 PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners provide further inputs to the CD, KM and targeted research plans for 2017-2018.
- 7.35 The Secretariat explore opportunities for further collaboration in capacity development, knowledge management and targeted research across the Non-Country and Country Partners.
- 7.36 The Secretariat identify the issues highlighted from the UN Ocean Conference outcomes such as marine debris and IUU and integrate these into the plans for CD/KM and Targeted Research.
- 7.37 The Secretariat share a list of institutions within PEMSEA member countries for potential collaboration on these various topics.

8.0 Other Business

- 8.1 There was no other business raised during the Technical Session.

A. COUNCIL SESSION

The Council Session was chaired by Dr. Antonio La Viña, Council Chair, together with Mr. Arief Yuwono, Council Session Co-Chair.

9.0 Adoption of the Council Session Agenda

- 9.1 The Secretariat presented the agenda and schedule for the Council Session.
- 9.2 The Council Session unanimously adopted the Council Session agenda of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting without objections (Annex 3).

10.0 Summary of Recommendations and Decisions of the 8th EAS Partnership Council (July 2016) and the 19th Expanded Executive Committee Meeting (April 2017) and Status of Actions Taken (PC/17/DOC/08)

- 10.1 The Council Session noted the recommendations and decisions of the 8th EAS PC Meeting and the 18th and 19th Executive Committee Meeting that had been completed by the PRF in collaboration with the Partners, and the ongoing activities that will be discussed under specific agenda items of the Meeting.

11.0 Report of the Council Chair (PC/17/DOC/09)

- 11.1 Dr. Antonio La Viña presented the Council Chair's Report focusing on key policy issues and guidance provided by the Executive Committee pertaining to PEMSEA's self-sustainability, innovative financing mechanisms for SDS-SEA implementation, SDS-SEA Implementation Plan, EAS Congress 2018, and recruitment of the new PEMSEA Executive Director.
- 11.2 The Council Chair gave particular emphasis on the findings and recommendations of the Third-Party Assessment on PEMSEA's sustainability and encouraged the countries strong support in firming up commitments from the countries as part of their ownership of PEMSEA.
- 11.3 The Council Chair also underscored the importance of the upcoming EAS Congress 2018 and the celebration of PEMSEA's 25th anniversary to highlight achievements as well as stronger commitment to further scaling up and sustaining the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

Decision

- 11.4 The Council Session noted and adopted the Council Chair Report as presented.

12.0 Report of the Executive Director (PC/17/DOC/10)

Discussion Highlights

- 12.1 Mr. Ross presented the major accomplishments of PEMSEA from 2016 – 2017. The ED expressed his gratitude to partners, particularly those that have worked closely with PEMSEA in various areas of ICM and SDS-SEA implementation for the past year. The ED also announced the completion of the PEMSEA Annual Accomplishment Report for 2016, entitled “New Horizons” which will be made publicly available following the 9th PC Meeting.
- 12.2 The Meeting noted the various achievements made over the past year, including PEMSEA’s initiatives related to innovative financing and investment mechanisms in support of SDS-SEA and ICM scaling up. It was emphasized however, that despite the availability of a number of funding opportunities or capital, most countries and agencies lack the capacity to develop bankable and viable project proposals. This is one area where PEMSEA may be able to provide necessary support.
- 12.3 UNDP commended PEMSEA on the findings of the Third-Party Assessment confirming PEMSEA’s 3-year financial map which assures PEMSEA’s continuity for the next 3 years regardless of funding support from countries/projects. But UNDP being a key supporter of PEMSEA from a project-based entity into a full-fledged intergovernmental organization would like to see and contribute to PEMSEA’s longer sustainability. The GEF/UNDP Scaling up Project, for instance, is the first project that looks at the new role of PEMSEA in delivering services to countries on behalf of UNDP, whereby PEMSEA is able to recover its cost. The additional 2 projects that are already well on their way (e.g. ATSEA Project with USD4million minimum funding, as well as the IRBM Project with USD8.5million funding) would contribute substantially to PEMSEA as UNDP’s implementing partner on both projects.

Conclusions

The Council Session concluded that:

- 12.4 In relation to initiatives taken in ensuring PEMSEA’s sustainability, PEMSEA may provide support in capacitating Country and Non-Country Partners in preparing project proposals that are bankable and viable for funding mechanisms.
- 12.5 There is a need to identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities for partners to enhance their capacity development and services to national governments, private sector and other agencies in accessing funding.
- 12.6 The 3-year base line of PEMSEA’s financials is a good indication of its sustainable operations compared to similar organizations that do not have the same financial advantage. The continuing efforts in developing pipeline projects would further strengthen the financial sustainability of the organization.

Decisions

The Council Session decided that:

- 12.7 The PRF, in collaboration with Country and Non-Country Partners explore, utilize and maximize existing financing mechanisms available to support the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 12.8 Country and Non-Country Partners provide further inputs to PEMSEA's 2016-2017 accomplishment as provided in the ED's report by the end of the year, to serve as inputs to the development of the PEMSEA Annual Report 2017.

13.0 New PEMSEA Non-Country Partner: MABIK (PC/17/DOC/11)

Discussion Highlights

- 13.1 The Secretariat presented the recommendation from the Executive Committee regarding the inclusion of the Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK) as new PEMSEA Non-Country Partner. In particular, it was highlighted that MABIK has fulfilled all the requirements of the Partnership Operating Arrangements regarding application as a new Non-Country Partner.
- 13.2 MABIK's expertise and programs on: (a) conservation plan for managed marine organism; (b) monitoring of biodiversity dynamics on diverse coastal habitats; and (c) establishment of infrastructure for sustainable use of marine resources, would provide significant expertise and value to PEMSEA Country Partners. While MABIK's work is focused in RO Korea, the institution has also undertaken a number of bilateral activities or initiatives in some East Asian Seas countries (e.g. Cambodia and Vietnam), as well as with PEMSEA.

Decision

- 13.3 The Council Session formally accepted the inclusion of the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK) as PEMSEA's new Non-Country Partner.

14.0 Hosting of EAS Congress 2018: Government of the Philippines

Discussion Highlights

- 14.1 On behalf of the Philippines, Director Edwin Domingo of the DENR underscored the importance of the Ministerial Forum as a key component and the highest policymaking body of PEMSEA.
- 14.2 The past five Ministerial Forums have been significant in strategically mapping the implementation of the SDS-SEA and have been key in strengthening regional partnerships towards the fulfillment of regional and international commitments related to sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

- 14.3 Director Domingo relayed the desire of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatumo take active role and lead the Ministerial Forum 2018 in order to continue pushing forward sustainable resources system for the Seas of East Asia. He also encouraged other country partners to do their best to get their Ministers to attend and participate in the discussions.
- 14.4 As part of the preparation for the 6th Ministerial Forum, the Philippine Government will be issuing invitation letters, in addition to the letters that will be issued by PEMSEA and UNDP, to drive the importance of the event.
- 14.5 The Country Partners were requested to inform DENR Philippines of the processes or protocols needed to help secure approval or confirmation from their Ministers for the EAS Congress 2018 and the 6th Ministerial Forum.

Conclusion

- 14.6 The Ministerial Forum is a key component of the PEMSEA regional mechanism which serves as an opportunity for the concerned government ministers of the East Asian region to meet and engage in a policy dialogue.

Decision

The Council Session decided that:

- 14.7 The Secretariat and DENR Philippines coordinate with Country Partners in developing and engaging the countries fully in developing a dynamic and dialogue-oriented program for the Sixth Ministerial Forum.
- 14.8 Country Partners actively support the preparation and organization of the Sixth Ministerial Forum, and secure the participation of their respective Ministers to the Forum.

15.0 Other Business

The Ocean Conference, UN New York: Outcomes and Impacts

Discussion Highlights

- 15.1 Mr. Ross provided further information regarding the UN Ocean Conference and PEMSEA's voluntary commitment in support of UN SDG14. The regional commitment of scaling up ICM to 25 percent of the EAS region's coastline by 2021 is a solid commitment from the region. So far, over 1,000 commitments have already been made by different sectors and countries. From the EAS region 66 voluntary commitments came from the PEMSEA Country Partners, while 16 commitments came from PEMSEA Non-Country Partners. Such commitments are indication of the strong support and attention being given to the oceans.

Conclusions

- 15.2 The country voluntary commitments for the UN SDG14 may serve as important basis and guide for countries in reviewing and providing inputs into the regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022.

- 15.3 The different ocean dialogues, particularly the UN Ocean Conference held in June 2017 and the Ocean Conference scheduled in 2020, show significant momentum in the increasing value of the global oceans agenda to overall sustainable development, whereby the EAS region can provide significant contribution.

Decisions

The Council Session decided that:

- 15.4 Country and Non-Country Partners align their voluntary commitments on UN SDG14 with their inputs to the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022.
- 15.5 PEMSEA to consider the series of UN high-level forums on SDG 14 and the preparation towards the UN Ocean Conference 2020 to develop more concrete inputs and contributions to the global oceans agenda. In particular, maximize the EAS Congress 2018 as a key regional platform towards achieving SDS-SEA targets and UN sustainable development goals.

B. INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION

On behalf of Dr. Zhang Haiwen, Intergovernmental Session Chair, who was unable to attend due to other commitments, Dr. Vu Thanh Ca, Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair presided over the Session.

16.0 Adoption of the Intergovernmental Session Agenda

Discussion Highlight

16.1 The Secretariat presented the agenda and schedule for the Meeting.

Decision

16.2 The Intergovernmental Session decided to adopt the agenda as presented (Annex 3).

17.0 Responses to PEMSEA's Third Party Assessment (PC/17/DOC/13a and 13b)

Discussion Highlights

- 17.1 The external consultant, Mr. Michael Victor N. Alimurung, provided an overview of the processes that were undertaken and the main findings from the Third-Party assessment, which highlighted the good financial standing of PEMSEA for the next 3 years, the value placed by countries and partners on PEMSEA, the need for deeper country ownership, and the desire to see PEMSEA to have long-term sustainability.
- 17.2 In response to the Third-Party assessment, the PEMSEA Secretariat noted the findings from the report, and agreed on the recommended actions in support of PEMSEA's sustainability. In particular, the Secretariat highlighted: (a) the conscious effort to anchor the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022 on the UN SDGs (especially SDG 14) and to focus on key programme areas; (b) the need for PEMSEA to continue promoting its products and services and developing projects in support of SDS-SEA implementation in collaboration with various Partners, collaborators and funding agencies; (c) the desirability of exploring new or innovative financing mechanisms or investments in support of SDS-SEA implementation; and (d) the need to undertake further discussion with countries regarding voluntary country contributions.
- 17.3 Country Partners provided the following response to the Third-Party assessment:
- *Cambodia*: Noted the good progress that has been made by PEMSEA for the past 20 years. The Third-Party assessment is appreciated, however, further internal discussion with the MOE Minister is needed regarding the suggested voluntary contribution scheme.
 - *China*: Pleased to have provided support to PEMSEA through the Cost-Sharing Agreement since 2007. China believes that PEMSEA can contribute to sustainable development of the region and suggested formulating an operational plan taking into

account the comments of each Country Partner. China is in the process of securing SOA's response on the voluntary contribution scheme.

- *Indonesia*: Recognized PEMSEA as an effective regional mechanism and expressed appreciation on the Third-Party assessment. Indonesia requires more time to secure feedback from their Ministry regarding the voluntary contribution scheme.
- *Japan*: The need for PEMSEA is recognized. Japan confirmed to continue voluntary contributions until 2019 when the UNDP/GEF project ends, at which time further contributions will be evaluated depending on the feedback/commitments from other member countries.
- *Lao PDR*: Noted the good involvement and partnership with PEMSEA. However, due to limited funds, Lao PDR indicated that they can only provide in-kind support at this time as part of their voluntary contribution to PEMSEA.
- *Philippines*: Recognized that PEMSEA has made headway in the region, but there are other organizations working on similar issues which can be considered as potential allies. There is a continuing need for capacity building in the region whereby PEMSEA services would be needed. The Philippines is committed to continue supporting and hosting the PEMSEA Resource Facility, but on more specific voluntary country contributions, there is a need for proper documentation to facilitate discussions and approval of support by the Philippine government.
- *RO Korea*: The Third-Party assessment is appreciated. RO Korea underscored the importance for PEMSEA to diversify donors, and supported the suggestion to pursue Global Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation. RO Korea also supports the idea of ICM certification program in furthering PEMSEA's focus on ICM. As they may not be a continual stream of projects, RO Korea believes that country contributions will remain important to ensure sustainability and to deepen ownership of PEMSEA and suggested tying contributions to GDP as in the case of UN but with a minimum.
- *Singapore*: Values the work of PEMSEA and sees value in an ongoing PEMSEA. Singapore is committed to continue its annual contributions of USD20K which started in 2015 and encouraged PEMSEA to pursue projects that are of value to the countries. While they believe that all Partners should be making unrestricted contributions, they do not agree with the use of scales to determine the level contribution. Singapore suggested that it may be more productive to determine contributions individually with each country.
- *Timor Leste*: Committed to continuing work with PEMSEA. Timor Leste confirmed its continuing commitment to provide annual contribution to PEMSEA amounting to USD100K.
- *Vietnam*: Recognized the good history of project implementation with PEMSEA, which will continue to have an important role to play in Vietnam and the region. Vietnam supports the importance of voluntary country contributions and has already submitted a proposed amount to MONRE for approval.
- *Thailand*: While Thailand is not yet a full Country Partner, it has been part of the GEF/UNDP Projects and has recently joined the GEF/UNDP Project on Scaling-up SDS-SEA Implementation.

Conclusions

The Intergovernmental Session concluded that:

- 17.4 The Third-Party assessment provided a useful output for understanding the financial position of the PRF, finding that its financial position is assured through at least 2022.

- 17.5 Country voluntary contributions (in kind and in cash) will remain important to the self-sustainability of PEMSEA's core operations and to demonstrate country ownership.
- 17.6 PEMSEA is regarded as being at the forefront of coastal management, but it must continue to position itself to remain the implementing agency of choice, building strong relationships with partners and funders.
- 17.7 Partners view PEMSEA as a useful mechanism to facilitate sustainable development in the region and expressed their continuing support.
- 17.8 Some partners expressed concern over the proposed country voluntary commitment scales. It was suggested that it may be more productive to discuss the issue of country contributions with each member country.

Decisions

The Intergovernmental Session decided that:

- 17.9 The Executive Committee members conduct exploratory and consultative visits to PEMSEA member countries to discuss the issue of country contributions with all members, using the 25th anniversary and Ministerial Forum as an opportunity to recommit to the partnership.

18.0 Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA Implementation (PC/17/DOC/14)

Discussion Highlights

- 18.1 The Secretariat highlighted that over the last 20+ years, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors have contributed billions of dollars to: (1) support regional scientific assessments; (2) develop regional Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs), including the SDS-SEA; and (3) establish regional institutional mechanisms promoting sustainable development of coastal and ocean ecosystems. However, to accelerate investments in SDS-SEA implementation there is a need for a new financing mechanism especially among developing countries in the PEMSEA partnership, building on the investments made by GEF, as recognized in the Da Nang Compact.
- 18.2 The maturity of the SDS-SEA presents a unique opportunity to redirect potentially hundreds of millions of dollars of capital towards blue economy investments. There is no shortage of investment, what is needed are pipelines of bankable investment projects that contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) and thereby to sustainable regional economic development. It was highlighted that PEMSEA's on-the-ground work in the region under the GEF/UNDP project provides an opportunity for identifying gaps and potential investment projects that could be sourced as bankable investment opportunities.
- 18.3 The Secretariat explained that there are two major components to be considered in the development of a regional sustainable financing mechanism, namely:
 - (1) a pre-investment facility (PIF) to generate a pipeline of bankable projects in the region; and

- (2) a set of actively managed private ocean investment funds with a broad mandate to identify and direct targeted investment capital and financial backing to investments that not only have positive social and environmental impact, but also provide acceptable capital returns to financial backers and investors.
- 18.4 To realize the full potential of a regional sustainable financial mechanism, it will be necessary for the Secretariat to devote additional time and resources to this activity. Specifically, by hiring an Investment Specialist to develop a work program and budget for design and launch of a pre-investment facility; outline the structure for a PIF; develop a standardized process to assist countries/local governments to identify and develop pipelines of bankable investment projects; promote selected investment projects among potential investors and funds. The Investment Specialist would be contracted over the next 18 months. The estimated resource requirement for this work is USD300K.

Conclusions

The Intergovernmental Session concluded that:

- 18.5 The effort being undertaken by the PRF to develop and put in place a sustainable financing mechanism to support and accelerate SDS-SEA implementation is well appreciated. Development of the new financing mechanism for the sustainability of PEMSEA is deemed useful.
- 18.6 Japan and RO Korea expressed their view that the new financial mechanism should be developed with full consideration of PEMSEA's self-sustainability and the maintenance of a minimum Trust Fund balance. Countries requested that the PRF ensure that the resulting project proposal include details on the potential cash flow of the new mechanism and how it will contribute to PEMSEA's self-sustainability.

Decision

The Intergovernmental Session decided that:

- 18.7 Resources from the PEMSEA Trust Fund amounting to USD300,000 be allocated as funding for hiring an investment specialist for the design and development of the PIF and for the preparation of a full funding proposal for development and implementation of a PIF and Ocean Investment Funding Facility (OIFF). The process will be overseen by the Executive Committee and a progress report will be presented to the next meeting of the EAS Partnership Council.

19.0 Recruitment of New PEMSEA Executive Director (PC/17/DOC/15)

Discussion Highlights

- 19.1 The Council Chair as Head of Selection Panel reported on the process undertaken and current status of the selection and recruitment of a new PEMSEA Executive Director. As a result of the interviews of shortlisted candidates in October 2016, a lone candidate was found to be most suitable subject to further assessment. Thus, the Panel Chair conducted interviews of various referees in early 2017. The referees gave the candidate their highest recommendation, citing her valuable experience in the environment field,

ability to work with various entities and countries, as well as her experience to generate funding support for projects.

- 19.2 In line with this, the Selection Panel recommended the hiring of the selected candidate and instructed the PRF to proceed with the necessary processes. The PRF has communicated and provided the necessary information as well as offer letter to the selected candidate in June 2017.
- 19.3 The incoming Executive Director was offered the D1, step 2 level and is scheduled to take office on 1 January 2018.
- 19.4 In view of the forthcoming change in the PRF management, a concern was raised on the possible effect of this leadership transition on the GEF/UNDP Project on Scaling up SDS-SEA Implementation which is due for mid-term evaluation in early part of 2018, as well as in the preparation for the EAS Congress 2018. Currently, the GEF/UNDP Project is being managed concurrently by the existing PEMSEA ED. However, it was clarified by the Council Chair that concerns pertaining to the management of the GEF/UNDP Project are internal to PEMSEA Resource Facility management, in accordance with the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with UNDP Philippines. The meeting was assured that proper and smooth transition in leadership will be facilitated by the outgoing and the incoming Executive Directors, with guidance from the Executive Committee.

Conclusion

The Intergovernmental Session concluded that:

- 19.5 The Selection Committee has completed its mandate and that an offer has been made to and accepted by a successful candidate.

Decision

- 19.6 The Intergovernmental Session encouraged the outgoing ED to work with the incoming ED to ensure the smooth transition in PRF management.

20.0 PEMSEA Corporate Work Plan and Budget 2017 and 2018 (PC/17/DOC/16)

Discussion Highlights

- 20.1 The Secretariat introduced the PEMSEA Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2017-2018.
- 20.2 The RO Korea representative commented on the figures specified as ROK's contribution for 2017-2018 and clarified the meaning of the deferred grant portion amounting to USD60K for seconded personnel. The Secretariat explained that the USD60K budget was allocated for RO Korea's secondment of Dr. Jaeyoung Lee to the PRF. The delegation also requested that further review be conducted on the stated contribution of RO Korea in the table of Summary of Revenue Sources.
- 20.3 Other Country Partners also requested that they be given more time to review the proposed Work Plan and Budget 2017-2018, prior to final approval.

Decision

The Intergovernmental Session decided that:

20.4 The Work Plan and Budget for 2017-2018 as presented be adopted, taking into consideration the request from RO Korea to double check the figures on ROK contribution.

21.0 Other Business

21.1 There was no other business raised during the Intergovernmental Session.

22.0 Closing

22.1 On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Secretariat, the Council Chair expressed his appreciation to the delegates for their active participation and for the fruitful 3-day discussion. The Council Chair is looking forward to meeting all PEMSEA Partners in the EAS Partnership Council and the EAS Congress in 2018, at which time a new Executive Director will also be welcomed by PEMSEA.

22.2 The Intergovernmental Session Chair declared the Meeting closed on 26 July 2017 at 5:30 PM.

ANNEX 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Antonio La Viña
Council Chair
EAS Partnership Council and
Director
Manila Observatory
Philippines

Mr. Makoto Harunari
Technical Session Chair
EastAsianSeas Partnership Council and
Managing Director, Japan Transport
Research Institute
Tokyo, Japan

Mr. AriefYuwono
Council Co-Chair
EAS Partnership Council and
Advisor for Energy to the Minister of
Environment and Forestry
Republic of Indonesia

Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh
Technical Session Co-Chair
EAS Partnership Council and
Principal Researcher
South Sea Research Institute
Korea Institute of Ocean Science and
Technology (KIOST)
Republic of Korea

Dr. Vu Thanh Ca
Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair
EAS Partnership Council and
Director, Department of International
Cooperation and Science - Technology
(DICST)
Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands
Hanoi, Vietnam

COUNTRY PARTNERS

CAMBODIA

Mr. Long Rithirak
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Environment
#48, SamdechPreah Sihanouk
TonleBassac, Chamkar Morn,
Phnom Penh
Kingdom of Cambodia

CHINA

Mr. Liang Fengkui
Deputy Director-General
Department of International Cooperation
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860
People's Republic of China

Dr. Zhang Zhaohui
Deputy Director
China-PEMSEA Centre,
The First Institute of Oceanography
State Oceanic Administration
People's Republic of China

Dr. Wang Shouqiang
Assistant Researcher
The First Institute of Oceanography
State Oceanic Administration
People's Republic of China

Dr. Zhao Chang
The First Institute of Oceanography
State Oceanic Administration
People's Republic of China

Ms. Song Weiling
Associate Researcher
National Marine Information and Data
Service
State Oceanic Administration
People's Republic of China

INDONESIA

Mr. HeruWaluyoKoesworo
Director, Marine and Coastal Pollution and
Degradation Control
Directorate General for Pollution and
Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry,
Republic of Indonesia

JAPAN

Mr. Kiyoto Inoue
Director for International Ocean Affairs
Ocean Policy Division
Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport
and Tourism
Japan

Mr. Wataru Ito
Special Assistant to the Director
Ocean Policy Division
Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport
and Tourism
Japan

LAO PDR

Mr. KingkhamManivong
Deputy Director General
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mr. SingthongPhanthamala
Chief of Groundwater Division
Department of Water Resources

Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Ms. ChindavanhSouriyaphack
Technical Officer
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment
Lao People's Democratic Republic

PHILIPPINES

Atty. AnalizaRebuleta-Teh
Undersecretary for Climate Change Service
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound Visayas Avenue
Quezon City, Philippines

Ms. Ma. Lourdes G. Ferrer
Director
Policy and Planning Service
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound Visayas Avenue
Quezon City, Philippines

Mr. Edwin G. Domingo
Director
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects
Service
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound Visayas Avenue
Quezon City, Philippines

Mr. Ian Rex Berja
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR)
Department of Agriculture (DA)
Philippines

Ms. Venus Amadeo
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR)
Department of Agriculture (DA)
Philippines

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Jeongho Seo
Director
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Republic of Korea

Ms. Suyeon Kim
Deputy Director
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Republic of Korea

SINGAPORE

Ms. Vanessa Lim
Senior Executive,
International Agreements
International Policy Division
Singapore

Ms. Wan Yin See
Senior Executive,
International Agreements
International Policy Division
Singapore

THAILAND

Ms. TipwanSae-ma
Fishery Biologist
Professional Level
Department of Marine and
Coastal Resources
Office of the Marine and Coastal
Resources Conservation,
The Government Complex, 120 Moo 3,
Changwattana Road, Laksi,
Bangkok 10210
Thailand

TIMOR LESTE

Mr. Cesar Jose da Cruz
Secretary-General
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Timor Leste

Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto
National Director for Fisheries and Aquatic
Resources Management
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Timor Leste

Mr. Mario Marques Cabral
Project Coordinator for the
SDS-SEA Scaling up Implementation
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Timor Leste

VIETNAM

Ms. Nguyen Thanh Thao
Senior Official
Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands
Viet Nam

NON-COUNTRY PARTNERS

ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY

Ms. Claudia Binondo
Project Development Officer
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
3/F ERDB Building, Forestry Campus,
Los Banos

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

Mr. Enrique Nuñez
Country Executive Director
Units 401-A&D
4th Floor Culmat Bldg.,
1270-1330 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Avenue
Quezon City

IPIECA

Mr. Joselito Guevarra
Project Manager,
Global Initiative for Southeast Asia
IPIECA-IMO GISEA
Singapore

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)**

Dr. Steen Christensen
Regional Coordinator
Mangroves for the Future
Asia Regional Office
63 Sukhumvit Soi 39,
Bangkok 1010 Thailand

**KOREA MARINE ENVIRONMENT
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (KOEM)**

Mr. Seunghwan Lee
Assistant Manager
International Affairs Team
Korea Marine Environment Management
Corporation

Ms. Joonyoung Chang
Team Head
International Affairs Team
Korea Marine Environment Management
Corporation

**MARINE BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF
KOREA (MABIK)**

Dr. Sangjin Kim
President
Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea
Seocheon, Republic of Korea

Mr. Changsu Lee
Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea
Seocheon, Republic of Korea

**OCEAN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(OPRI-SPF)**

Mr. Masanori Kobayashi
Senior Research Fellow,
Ocean Policy Research and Development
Division
OPRI-SPF
Japan

Ms. Kayako Fujishige
Research Fellow
Ocean Policy Research and Development
Division

OPRI-SPF
Japan

OIL SPILL RESPONSE LIMITED

Mr. Darren Waterman
Regional Director
Asia Pacific
Loyang Offshore Supply Base, 25C Loyang
Crescent
Singapore

PLYMOUTH MARINE LABORATORY

Prof. Icarus Allen
Director of Science and Deputy Chief
Executive
Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Prospect Place PL1 3DH
Plymouth, United Kingdom

UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project

Mr. Yinfeng Guo
Chief Technical Advisor and Project
Manager
Incheon, Republic of Korea

Sponsoring Organization

UNDP PHILIPPINES

Mr. Michael Joseph Jaldon
Inclusive and Sustainable Development Unit
United Nations Development Programme
Philippines
30th Floor Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue cor. Sen.
Gil J. Puyat Avenue Makati City
Philippines

UNDP Regional Hub in Bangkok

Dr. Jose Erez Padilla
Regional Technical Adviser
UNDP Regional Hub in Bangkok
Thailand

DENR LOCAL SECRETARIAT

Ms. Jeslina B. Gorospe
Chief, PMED
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects
Service
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City, Philippines

Ms. Andrea Palma
Project Implementation Specialist
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects
Service
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City, Philippines

Ms. Hannah Ritual
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City, Philippines

PEMSEA SECRETARIAT

Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross
Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEABuilding
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Dr. Jae-Young Lee
Deputy Head
Planning and Partnerships
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEABuilding
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Mr. Ryan John Whisnant
Director of Strategic Initiatives
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEABuilding
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Mr. Renato Cardinal
Knowledge Management and Certification
Services
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEABuilding
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. Nancy Bermas
Senior ICM Specialist
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Building
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. Cristine Ingrid Narcise
ICM Specialist
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Building
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. Daisy Padayao
ICM Specialist
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Building
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. Johanna Paula Diwa
Capacity Development Manager
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Building
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo
Secretariat Coordinator
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEABuilding
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. Antonia Reyes
Manager of Strategic Initiatives
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Building
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. Nadine Breseman
Expert Advisor for PSHEM Training Network
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEABuilding
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. MaricorEbarvia-Bautista
Blue Economy Consultant
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Building
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Mr. Michael Alimurung
Consultant (financial expert)

Ms. Elsie Merina
Programme Assistant
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEABuilding
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

Ms. JhowilynZaldivar
Country Programme Assistant
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Building
DENR Compound VisayasAvenue,
Quezon City

Ms. Vida Isabel Vasquez
Secretariat Assistant
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEABuilding
DENR compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

ANNEX 2
OPENING CEREMONY SPEECH

**WELCOME REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE HOST COUNTRY, THE PHILIPPINES
AND ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SECRETARY ROY A. CIMATU**

Delivered by ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH
Undersecretary for Climate Change Service
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

9th East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting
24-26 July 2017

Members of the Council and Executive Committee of PEMSEA;

Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, PRF Executive Director;

Representatives of country and non-country partners;

Representatives of the GEF, UNDP, UNOPS, and the World Bank;

Fellow workers in government;

Good morning, and welcome to the 9th East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting! It is a great privilege for the Philippines to once again host the Partnership Council Meeting this year.

The previous council meetings were quite memorable and significant to all of us. The activities have allowed us to look back and acknowledge our humble beginnings. They gave us moments to reflect the many challenges we faced and the many obstacles we hurdled for our main goal of protecting and conserving our oceans and coasts. They made us realize our strength and potentials that have grown out of our perseverance and two decades of partnership. Lastly, they also made us understand the greater responsibilities that await our coming years as an independent organization.

Our long and meaningful partnership has achieved so much for us. For one, it served as the key in bringing our governments' attention, business communities' interests, and different society groups' cooperation into addressing environmental challenges in the East Asian Seas region. Second, and more importantly, it also laid the groundwork toward reaching this higher calling and greater potential of ensuring our region's environmental stability and sustainability.

Today, as I speak on behalf of the Philippines, I would like to implore everyone to take higher global goals and targets – as our transformation into a recognized international organization requires our growing coverage to expand not just geographically, but also functionally. There is a need for us in this Council Meeting to level up our ongoing discussions concerning our new plans and new projects with various partners and collaborators. Also, there is a need also for us to weave these new plans and actions into the fabric of our organization's long-term strategy, finance, and core operations so that we can be able to determine how we can sustain our organization's future leadership and financial capability.

In our focus to level up our engagement with our SDS-SEA and ICM implementations, I call on everyone to consider to work them out in a manner that they will be significant in order to comply with our international commitments, such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

On the part of the Philippines, we show our full support to the organization by making PEMSEA's aspiration to make global impact our aspiration too. One of our significant tasks is to continue to pursue reforms to strengthen the capacities of our natural ecosystems and improve environmental quality, as these programs complement marine, coastal and ocean protection and conservation.

I am hopeful that everyone finds the motivation to achieve our mission to help ensure the sustainable development of our seas in East Asia. After all, we, as nations and as partners of the East Asian region, have the responsibility to protect and take care of our region's marine and coastal environment.

Through hard work and meaningful cooperation, I am confident that we will all continue leveling up our SDS-SEA and ICM implementations. Our strong engagement to the ICM programs and projects in the regional, national, and local levels, as well as his meaningful collaboration with other country and non-country partners, are vital in fulfilling PEMSEA's mandate of ensuring the stability and sustainability of marine and coastal resources in the region.

And so, my fellow country and non-country partners, I urge everyone to do our best in this Council Meeting, and ultimately, for the seas of East Asia.

Thank you very much.

Again, welcome to the 9th Partnership Council Meeting! Mabuhay potayonglahat!

ANNEX 3

9TH EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

AGENDA OF THE 9th EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

July 24, 2017 (Monday)

TECHNICAL SESSION

1530 –1545 **1.0 Opening of the Technical Session and Adoption of the
Technical Session Agenda**

1545 –1800 **2.0 SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022**

Welcome Dinner

July 25, 2017 (Tuesday)

Continuation of Technical Session

0830 – 0900 **3.0 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018**

0900 – 0930 **4.0 National and Regional State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC)
Reporting**

0930 – 1000 **5.0 ICM Professional Certification**

1000 – 1015 **Coffee Break**

1015 – 1215 **6.0 Collaborative Planning**
6.1 Capacity Development /Knowledge Management
6.2 Targeted Research
6.3 Other Areas of Collaboration

1215 – 1315 **Lunch Break**

1315 - 1330 **7.0 Conclusions and Recommendations of Technical Session**

1330 – 1340 **Closing of the Technical Session**

COUNCIL SESSION

1345 - 1355 **8.0 Opening of the Council Session and Adoption of the
Council Session Agenda**

1355 - 1415 **9.0 Summary of Recommendations and Decisions of the
8th EAS Partnership Council (July 2016) and the 19th
Expanded Executive Committee Meeting (April 2017) and
Status of Actions Taken**

1415 – 1445 **10.0 Report of the Council Chair**

1445 – 1530	11.0 Report of the Executive Director
1530 – 1600	Coffee Break
1600 – 1615	12.0 New PEMSEA Non-Country Partner: MABIK
1615 – 1645	13.0 Hosting of EAS Congress 2018: Government of the Philippines
1645 – 1715	14.0 Other Business 14.1 The Ocean Conference, UN New York: Outcomes and Impacts
1715 – 1730	Closing of the Council Session

July 26, 2017 (Wednesday)

09:00-12:00 **Ocean Leadership Roundtable (Special Event)**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION

1330 – 1340	15.0 Opening of the Intergovernmental Session and Adoption of the Intergovernmental Session Agenda
1340 – 1530	16.0 Responses to PEMSEA’s Third Party Assessment 16.1 PRF Secretariat response 16.2 Country Partner responses
1530 – 1545	Coffee Break
1545 – 1615	17.0 Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA Implementation
1615 – 1630	18.0 Recruitment of New PEMSEA Executive Director
1630 – 1700	19.0 PEMSEA Corporate Work Plan and Budget 2017 and 2018
1700 - 1715	20.0 Other Business
1715 – 1730	21.0 Conclusions and Recommendations of the Technical and Council Sessions
1730 – 1800	22.0 Decisions of the Intergovernmental Session
1800	Closing of the Intergovernmental Session

ANNEX 4

SUMMARY TABLE ON COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

Summary Table on Collaborative Planning

Partners	Capacity Development	Knowledge Management	Targeted Research	Others
ACB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICM Training and MPA networks (ASEAN Heritage Parks) • CB for data managers ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook (ABO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online platform on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Key Coastal and Marine Ecosystem in ASEAN Region • Asean Biodiversity Outlook (ABO) Database • Biodiversity conservation and management of protected areas in ASEAN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on developing environmentally friendly approaches for enhancing climate change resilience in coastal and marine ecosystems in the ASEAN (GIZ) 	
CI (Phils)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marxan Z, OI, SOC development • MPA establishment and MPA Networking, Transboundary Marine Conservation, Mapping Natural Capital, Marine debris/plastics pollution • Women in Maritime 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries seasonal closures and fisheries research • Blue Carbon Assessment • CCA: climate smart MPAs 	
IPIECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BES Programme (Peer-to-Peer WS) • The Global Initiative • GISEA (regional oil spill strategy plan), GoT (PEMSEA) 	Best Practice: IPIECA-IOGP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change: Paris Puzzle • Exploring low-emissions pathways • Mapping SDG linkage with oil and gas (global 	

			case studies), (O) regional	
IUCN	MFF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal management • Blue economy • Ecosystem restoration 	Local Mangrove Alliance: Platform for mangrove restoration	REDD++ carbon capture, mitigation benefits	
OPRI	Capacity Building for LG Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional arrangements • ICM legislations 		Small grant to support primary, junior high and high schools
OSRL	Training course in national contingency planning, oil spill response, environment sensitivity mapping, etc.			Subsea Well Response toolkits -Intervention toolkits, containment toolkits, offset installation equipment
PML	Capacity building and training for country partners	Co-design models, tools and analyses needed by marine managers and policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing Challenges of Coastal Communities through Ocean Research for Developing Economies (ACCORD) • Blue Communities 	(Funding) GCRF: RCUK Collective Fund
YSLME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBM in LME: 12 training modules on ecosystem carrying capacity • EASC: Workshop on achieving SDG14 			