



Global Targets Local Benefits

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

16-21 November 2015

Special Partnership Council Meeting



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

**PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL EAST ASIAN SEAS
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

Ocean Ballroom, Furama Resort Hotel, Da Nang, Viet Nam

18 November 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Special Partnership Council Meeting was held at Ocean Ballroom of Furama Resort Hotel, Da Nang, Viet Nam on November 18, 2015. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam hosted the event, which was attended by representatives from 11 Country Partners and 16 Non-Country Partners. Representatives from the UNDP, UNEP, the GEF, the World Bank, CBD Secretariat, WorldFish, GIZ, and several universities also participated in the meeting.

The participants were welcomed by Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, Chair of EAS Partnership Council, Mr. Chu Pham Ngoc Hien, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment of Vietnam and Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, Executive Director of PEMSEA. Dr. Chua Thai-Eng, Chair Emeritus of the EAS Partnership Council, delivered a keynote on legacies of PEMSEA and future directions. The meeting witnessed the partnership development of PEMSEA with signing of agreements with Burapha University (Thailand), Prince of Songkla University (Thailand), National University of Timor-Leste, Oriental University of Timor-Leste and Ocean College of Zhejiang University (China) to become PEMSEA ICM Learning Centres. PEMSEA also signed an MOU with DPR Korea to expand ICM programs in the country. UNDP, the GEF, OPRI-SPF, the World Bank, CBD Secretariat, ACB and WorldFish made statements on the accomplishments of PEMSEA, opportunities of the organizational development and future areas of collaboration under the framework of the SDS-SEA 2015.

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

**Ocean Ball Room, Furama Resort Hotel, Da Nang, Viet Nam
18 November 2015**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Special EAS Partnership Council Meeting was held at the Ocean Ballroom, Furama Resort Hotel, Da Nang, Viet Nam on 18 November 2015 at the EAS Congress 2015. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Viet Nam co-hosted the Meeting.
- 1.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives from ten PEMSEA Partner Countries, namely: Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Six representatives from Non-Country Partners were in attendance, namely: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB); IUCN-Asia Regional Office (IUCN-ARO); Korea Maritime Institute (KMI); Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM); Oil Spill Response (OSR); and Ocean Policy Research Institute - Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF).
- 1.3 Representatives from UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank, GEF Secretariat, CBD Secretariat, WorldFish and GIZ, and five universities also attended the event.
- 1.4 The agenda of the Meeting and the full list of participants may be found in Annex 1 and Annex 2, respectively.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

- 2.1 On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Council Chair Amb. Mary Seet-Cheng opened the Meeting by welcoming all to the Special EAS Partnership Council event, in particular Deputy Minister of MONRE, Mr. Chu Pham Ngoc Hien on this special occasion. She was pleased to see once again Country and Non-Country Partners, as well as friends from the PEMSEA sponsoring organizations, the GEF, UNDP and World Bank, and various other collaborating organizations.
- 2.2 Amb. Mary Seet-Cheng highlighted that in two days the 5th Ministerial Forum would adopt a landmark document in the history of PEMSEA — the Da Nang Compact which would adopt the SDS-SEA 2015 that closely responds to the SDGs and targets of multilateral environmental agreements. She referred the special meeting as one of the opportunities for the PEMSEA partners, sponsors and collaborators to celebrate the long-time partnership, strengthen it further, and build new ones to implement the SDS-SEA 2015 effectively.
- 2.3 She underscored that, unlike the annual Council meetings, this meeting would be brief and would focus more on a recapture of the spirit of partnership, a legacy inherited from the founding members of the organization, new partnerships, and expression of areas of interest where partners and collaborators could further collaborate and work together for the benefit of the region.

- 2.4 On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam, Deputy Minister of MONRE, Mr. Chu Pham Ngoc Hien, expressed his warmest welcome to all participants. In reference to the implementation of the SDS-SEA, he highlighted the significance of adopting the new and modern management approach, or integrated and comprehensive management approach, to address existing issues with the purposes of proper exploitation and use of natural resources, protection of the environment, ecosystems and marine and coastal areas of island biodiversity for sustainable development.
- 2.5 Mr. Hien underlined the need to take the consistent approach and also conveyed the message to all countries in the region and international partners and friends that cooperation for the protection of natural resources and environment of the Seas of East Asia is in the interests of all.
- 2.6 Mr. Hien extended his high appreciation to the cooperation with PEMSEA and the roles it plays in support of sustainable development in the region and expressed the wishes of Viet Nam to collaborate with PEMSEA in promoting the SDS-SEA.
- 2.7 Finally he informed the meeting of the adoption by Viet Nam of the Law of Seas and Island Natural Resources and Environment in June 2015. Together with the Strategy of Integrated Coastal Management of Viet Nam until 2020 and vision towards 2030, the Law would create a favorable foundation for implementation of SDS-SEA through ICM in Viet Nam. The full text of Mr. Hien's speech is attached as Annex 3.
- 2.8 On behalf of the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, PRF Executive Director, welcomed the participants to the Meeting and expressed appreciation to the Government of Viet Nam for hosting the Meeting. Mr. Ross appreciated the participation of Partners in finalizing the SDS-SEA 2015 and expressed the willingness of the PEMSEA Resource Facility to hear the perspectives of collaborators and Partners on ways and means to achieving the strategic Targets of the Da Nang Compact and objectives of the SDS-SEA 2015. He underscored the importance of partnership and networking with academia in building the critical mass of expertise at the local level to achieve PEMSEA targets and objectives. He also requested the Partners to share their ideas to further strengthen PEMSEA and identify areas of collaboration.

3. KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DR. CHUA THIA-ENG

- 3.1 Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Chair Emeritus of the EAS Partnership Council, delivered a keynote address on legacies to keep PEMSEA continuously relevant to the region. He attributed the relevance of PEMSEA over the last two decades to the demonstration of the benefits of ICM and developing into a management system for use by local governments; policy direction SDS-SEA provides to countries; the unique partnership mechanism as an intergovernmental organization with the full participation of Non-Country Partners; and the financial arrangements of sustaining PEMSEA's operation through voluntarily contribution based on services.
- 3.2 Specifically, Dr. Chua suggested PEMSEA to consider developing an innovative regional financial mechanism within its partnership framework to assist countries in the region to reduce vulnerability of natural or man-made disasters (including the current haze problem in Southeast Asia), transfer of innovative technologies such as ecological aquaculture practices, restoration of ecosystem services, healthy algal farming technology, as well as building the much needed management capacity to address transboundary challenges.

3.3 Looking forward, Dr. Chua related the future of PEMSEA to its ability to continue remaining relevant and effective, a strong regional ownership with greater participation from its country and Non-Country Partners as well as a sustainable financing mechanism to support its operation. Under the context of a special regional sea area with very complicated and complex socioeconomic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions, he underscored the importance of extraordinary diplomatic and interpersonal skills and leadership through greater communication, transparency and consultation in order to maintain harmony, trust and cooperation within PEMSEA.

3.4 Full statement of Dr. Chua is attached as Annex 4.

4. **RECOGNITION OF NEW ICM LEARNING CENTRES AND INTRODUCTION OF PEMSEA NETWORK OF LEARNING CENTERS**

4.1 Part of PEMSEA's efforts in building the capacities of local and national governments to support SDS-SEA and ICM implementation is enabling ICM Learning Centers and National and Regional Centers of Excellence (RCoEs) is to train, educate and build awareness in coastal and ocean governance.

4.2 Over the years, PEMSEA has collaborated with eight ICM Learning Centers and two RCoEs in six Country Partners. Three regional workshops conducted in 2014 and 2015 highlighted the importance of not only working with the individual Learning Centers and Centers of Excellence to scale up ICM, but also the importance of our interactions with other universities providing technical support to priority ICM sites. In October this year, several of these universities submitted expressions of interest in becoming PEMSEA ICM Learning Centers. Following an intensive review, five universities were accepted to become official Learning Centers.

Signing of Memorandums of Agreement on Recognition as ICM Learning Centers between PEMSEA and Five Universities

4.3 Following a background introduction by PRF Secretariat, Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross signed the Memoranda of Agreement with the following five universities to formally accept them as PEMSEA ICM Learning Centres:

- Burapha University, Thailand, a partner university of PEMSEA since 2000 in ICM program and demonstration in Chonburi.
- Prince of Songkla University, Thailand, who has been involved in developing and adopting the five-year implementation plan for Thailand from 2011-2015.
- National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL), Dili, Timor-Leste. It regularly provides support to the Directorate of Fisheries and National Scientific Ministry of Agriculture (MAF).
- Oriental University of Timor-Leste, Dili, Timor-Leste, provides support to key government agencies and has demonstrated willingness to extend this support to local governments in Timor-Leste.
- Ocean College of Zhejiang University, China, a new partner of PEMSEA with a team of multi-disciplinary background.

- 4.4 Professor Zhu Shiqiang, Assistant President, Zhejiang University, addressed the Council, emphasizing the roles the university was willing to undertake and the importance of the partnership with PEMSEA. Dr. Ritthikorn Siriprasertchok, Acting Vice President, Burapha University, noted the significant work done by PEMSEA over the years and the role the organization has played in the region.
- 4.5 The Chair invited Professor Rudolf Wu, Director of Centre of Marine Environment Research and Innovative Technology (MERIT) to introduce the concept and operationalization of PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers.
- 4.6 Professor Wu congratulated PEMSEA for establishing the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC) with initial members of 15 ICM Learning Centers in the EAS region. He highlighted the importance of the Learning Centers and the multifaceted nature of ICM. He stressed that there is no single recipe which can provide a solution, thus the network will be imperative to provide the necessary scientific basis for protecting coastal zones. Prof. Wu emphasised the importance of having the Learning Centers work together as a network to assist in the implementation of ICM in the region, but also strive to make this initiative visible on the global map and see all 15 institutes work together as a united team.

5. SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN DPR KOREA AND PEMSEA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICM PROGRAMS WITH DPR KOREA (2016-2021)

- 5.1 H.E. Mr. Kim Yong Jae, Vice Minister, Ministry of External Economic Relations, DPR Korea and Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross signed a project document entitled “ICM Programmes of DPR Korea 2016-2021” during the meeting.
- 5.2 The project document was jointly developed by DPR Korea and PEMSEA during March–November 2015 as a part of the 2015 DPR Korea Project. A training and project development workshop was organized in August 2015 in Batangas and Manila, Philippines.
- 5.3 The proposed project seeks to strengthen coastal and ocean management in DPR Korea at national level and in the cities of Nampho and Wonsan. The project proposed four areas of interventions: (1) Development of State of Coast report in Nampho and Wosan; (2) coastal biodiversity conservation and management in Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang Area; (3) enhancing food security and livelihood through aquaculture development in Wonsan; and (4) survey of endangered and threatened migratory marine species.
- 5.4 The signing of the project document signified firm commitments of the two parties on the implementation of ICM in DPR Korea.

6. STATEMENT OF PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- 6.1 In anticipation of the signing of the Da Nang Compact and adoption of the SDS-SEA 2015, the Council Chair requested partners and collaborators to avail of the meeting for expressing interest of collaboration, updating progress and achievements of collaborative efforts.
- 6.2 **Dr. Andrew Hudson** of UNDP highly commended PEMSEA's ambitious but effective approach to piloting and scaling up ICM, with the region now at 14% of coastline under ICM and a target of 25% by 2021. He highlighted that PEMSEA's core focus on ICM has been effectively complemented by a number of other established and emerging mechanisms such as State of the Coasts Reports, PEMSEA Network of Local Governments, ICM Learning Centers, Regional Centers of Excellence, and East Asian Seas Sustainable Business Network.
- 6.3 He emphasized the utmost importance of achieving the long-term financial sustainability of PEMSEA, and affirmed that UNDP would join other sponsoring partners in encouraging all PEMSEA countries to make regular voluntary contributions to ensure PEMSEA can maintain a sound financial base to provide services to its member countries. Meanwhile, he also encouraged PEMSEA to explore additional, innovative financial mechanisms that can diversify PEMSEA's funding base and further secure PEMSEA's long-term financial future.
- 6.4 **Mr. Christian Severin, Senior Environment Specialist**, representing the **GEF Secretariat**, appreciated PEMSEA Country Partners in setting the bold targets in relation to ICM, which is not seen anywhere else in its investments. With the eagerness among LMEs to share and learn under the global IW context in coastal and ocean governance, he placed much hope on the new networks of universities to be established by PEMSEA at the Congress. The linkage between SDS-SEA and the SDGs provides a good opportunity for the East Asian Seas partnerships to showcase to other regions the alignment of the regional strategy and action plan with global targets. The representative from the GEF Secretariat also showcased *From Coast to Coast*, a recently published knowledge product of GEF promoting knowledge and experience sharing across regions. Finally Mr. Severin indicated that the GEF Secretariat looks forward to further collaboration with PEMSEA in the future.
- 6.5 **Ms. Natalya Mylenko**, representing the **World Bank**, expressed her willingness to work closely with PEMSEA in implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda. In the advent of the Blue Economy as one of the sustainable goals, it is seen that this is an opportunity in directing the efforts in the region. PEMSEA provides high level strategic support to the local governments, local focus and pragmatic, action-oriented approach that was seen throughout the Congress this past week. With this, the World Bank's perspective is to continue to cooperate with PEMSEA, local governments and development partners for the important development agenda.
- 6.6 **Mr. Hiroshi Terashima**, President of **Ocean Policy Research Institute-Sasakawa Peace Foundation**, recalled their experience in working with PEMSEA as Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Session of the EAS Partnership Council, and affirmed its intention to continue to expand its activities based on previous achievements in Japan and at global level, including organization of two events at this Congress and another event at the forthcoming 21st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris to ensure that the ocean agenda is included in the global climate discussion. OPRI-SPF hoped to work with PEMSEA closely under its framework as a Non-Country Partner, and is ready to cooperate and collaborate in ocean policy implementation, ICM and its promotion and

implementation, capacity building, ocean education, research on global issues such as ocean acidification and renewable energy.

- 6.7 The statement of **Mr. Brulio F. De Souza Dias**, Executive Secretary of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat** was read by **Mr. Charles Besancon**, Coordinator of the LifeWeb Initiative at the meeting. In his statement, PEMSEA is highlighted as a strong regional partner to assist CBD Parties on technical issues, such as ICM, marine spatial planning and transboundary conservation, which shows that the best way to conserve biodiversity is to focus on approaches that encompass the essential structure, processes and functions of biodiversity, the interactions among organisms and the wider context in which biodiversity exists. He considered PEMSEA as an “anchor” for the work of CBD in East Asia on marine and coastal issues. He highlighted PEMSEA as an invaluable partner for the Convention in the development of CBD Technical Series 76, on integrated coastal management (ICM) in East Asia. Finally he called on all donors and technical partners to support the regional LifeWeb Expression of Interest in East Asia on applying ICM for enhanced effectiveness of marine protected areas that is nationally endorsed and backed by the strong technical knowledge of PEMSEA and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.
- 6.8 **Mr. Len R. Garces**, Research Fellow of the **WorldFish**, manifested its interest and support to the successful implementation of the SDS 2015 through: (1) promoting equitable and sustainable fisheries and conservation of fish stocks and coastal habitats including strengthening governance and improving value chains; (2) sustaining aquaculture development and participation of small-scale fishers; and (3) strengthening capacity of national and local governments, and coastal communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and respond to natural disasters thus creating resilient communities and livelihoods in the region.
- 6.9 **Atty. Roberto Oliva**, Executive Director of the **ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)**, expressed its gratitude to PEMSEA for working closely with ACB in the most difficult years in exploring other chances of funding other than ASEAN. He informed the meeting that ASEAN is determined to proceed with conservation, sustainable and fair and equitable sharing of benefits of biodiversity and that the Executive Board directed ACB to decrease its projects on coastal and marine which therefore makes partnership with PEMSEA as a more practical solution to pursue coastal and marine biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region.
- 6.10 Full statements of collaborating partners may be found in Annex 5.
- 6.11 The Chair expressed her appreciation to all Partners and collaborators for their support to PEMSEA, and then invited participants to join the cocktail party outside the ballroom.
- 6.12 The Special Meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

ANNEX 1

Programme of the Special East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting*

Ocean Ballroom, Furama Resort Hotel, Danang, Vietnam
November 18, 2015

1800 – 1810 **Opening Ceremony**

Welcome Remarks by:

Amb. Mary Seet-Cheng
EAS Partnership Council Chair

Hon. Nguyen Minh Quang
Minister
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Viet Nam

Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross
Executive Director, PEMSEA

1810 – 1820 **Keynote Address**

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng
Chair Emeritus
EAS Partnership Council

1820 – 1845 **Recognition of new ICM Learning Centers and introduction of PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers**

- Signing Ceremonies of Memorandum of Agreements on Recognition as ICM Learning Centers between PEMSEA and the following five Universities
 - Burapha University
 - Prince of Songkla University
 - National University of Timor-Leste
 - Oriental University of Timor-Leste
 - Zhejiang University
- Introduction to the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), by Professor Rudolf S.S. Wu

1845 – 1850 **Signing Ceremony between DPR Korea and PEMSEA on the Implementation of ICM programs with DPR Korea (2016-2021)**

1850 – 1945 **Statement from Partners and Collaborators**

1945 – 2000 **Closing of the Meeting**

*Event by invitation only

**ANNEX 2
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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ANNEX 3

OPENING CEREMONY AT THE SPECIAL EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MR. CHU PHAM NGOC HIEN OPENING REMARKS

Amb. Mary Seet-Cheng, Chair, EAS Partnership Council;
Dr. Chua-Thia Eng, Chair Emeritus, EAS Partnership Council;
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon,

It's our honor to host the Special East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting in Viet Nam. First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam, I would like to express my warmest welcome to all of you to this very special meeting.

As you know, this EAS Partnership Council Meeting is a very special event within the 5th East Asian Seas Congress in Da Nang, where we will witness the signing of the Da Nang Compact and approval of several important documents including the SDS-SEA Regional Review, and Implementation Plan of the SDS-SEA for the period from 2016-2021, Plan of transformation of PEMSEA to become a self-sustainable organization. These are very important documents that will help shaping the policy for marine environmental management of the countries in the region in the years to come.

I would like to sincerely thank PEMSEA partners for their hard work at the 7th EAS Partnership Council Meeting in Palawan to prepare for these important documents.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Looking back, together we have developed, approved and implemented the SDS-SEA with initial success. To implement the Strategy, we have adopted a new and modern management approach, an integrated and comprehensive management approach, to address existing issues of marine, coastal areas and islands in the East Asian Seas region with the purpose of proper exploitation and use of natural resources, protection of the environment, ecosystems and marine and coastal area and islands biodiversity for sustainable development. By promoting this integrated and comprehensive management approach, SDS-SEA reflects the common vision shared by countries in the East Asian Seas region, promotes the cooperation to address regional problems through efforts of local governments. This is the consistent approach and the message that Viet Nam wants to share to all countries in the region, as well as and international partners and friends: Cooperation for the protection of natural resources and environment of the Seas of East Asia -Our Interests.

Distinguished guests: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam always highly appreciates the cooperation with PEMSEA. We also highly appreciate the role and contribution of PEMSEA to sustainable development in the region of East Asian Seas and wishes to collaborate with PEMSEA in promoting the Strategy of Sustainable Development in the Seas of East Asia, to improve the integrated planning for exploitation and using of natural resources, protection of environment and ecosystems of the seas, coastal areas and islands; prevent and overcome resources degradation and environmental pollution as a result of overheated socio-economy development and develop a blue economy.

On this occasion, I would also like to inform you that the National Assembly of Viet Nam has adopted the Law of Seas and Islands Natural Resources and Environment in June 2015. This Law is the most

comprehensive legal framework for the exploitation, utilization, management and protection of seas and islands environment and natural resources. I am confident that this Law and other relevant documents such as Strategy of Integrated Coastal Management of Viet Nam until 2020, vision toward 2030, will create a favorable foundation for implementing integrated coastal management activities and contribute to the successful implementation of SDS-SEA in Viet Nam.

Last but not least, I would like to wish the Meeting a great success and good health to all of you.

Thank you.

**ANNEX 4
KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**CHUA THIA-ENG
CHAIR EMERITUS
EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for inviting me to this special Council meeting and the opportunity to speak to our distinguished country and non-country partners and invited guests.

First of all, I wish to thank the Council for giving me the honor to serve as its Chair Emeritus. This is an honor I wish to share with many of my fellow partners and colleagues who worked hand in hand with me during the course of my services to PEMSEA. I hope I will still be able to contribute to the growth of PEMSEA in the future. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Council under your able leadership, Madam Chair, to continue providing policy guidance for the development of PEMSEA and my heartfelt appreciation of the hard work and dedication of the Executive Director and staff of the PEMSEA Resource Facility for implementing the fourth phase of the GEF project.

PEMSEA has just celebrated its 20th anniversary 2 years ago. Over the last 22 years, PEMSEA had made significant contributions to the regional seas of East Asia and had evolved from a GEF project to an intergovernmental regional organization. It has successfully attained the status of an international organization and the headquarters agreement which was approved by the Government of the Philippines only recently. We should thank those who had helped to make this possible.

PEMSEA is now in a better position to serve the region by working closely with its country and non-country partners towards attaining the collective goals of sustainable development of the seas of East Asia. As one who had been heavily involved from the start of this GEF project, I thought it might be useful to share with you some of my thoughts on future development of PEMSEA.

Over the last two decades, PEMSEA continues to remain relevant to the region. First, it has successfully demonstrated the benefits of ICM in achieving sustainable development objectives at the local level and has achieved scaling up of ICM practices to cover 14% of regional coastline. This is a significant achievement towards attaining the goals of local agenda 21 and meeting targets of global agenda. Second, it has successfully refined the ICM concept and methodology into an ICM system which now serves as a tested working model for the region and the world at large in achieving the sustainable development goals. Third, it has promoted a great number of countries in the region to develop coastal and ocean policy, strategies and actions plans which have provide stronger policy direction and support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) which continues to be relevant for implementing coastal and marine related global agenda especially in attending the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Fourth, PEMSEA's partnership mechanism is unique and effective in terms of its own structure, functions and operation. Although basically an intergovernmental organization, the structure of the Council enables the full participation of its non-country partners through the technical and general session of the council. Whilst the council provides the policy guidance to operational and management matters, the Executive Committee was

deliberately established to provide further guidance and support to the PEMSEA Resource Facility in order to ensure regional interests are maintained. Another unique feature of PEMSEA lies in the financial arrangements in sustaining PEMSEA's operation. It was the early conviction that if PEMSEA can continue to provide useful services and remain relevant to the region, the member countries and partners will be willing and obliged to make annual or other financial contributions on a voluntarily basis. Over the years, although slowly, there are increasing numbers of countries making significant contributions to PEMSEA but more efforts are apparently needed.

PEMSEA might wish to seriously consider developing an innovative regional financial mechanism within its partnership framework to assist countries in the region to reduce vulnerability of natural or man-made disasters (including the current haze problem in Southeast Asia); transfer of innovative technology such as ecological aquaculture practices, restoration of ecosystem services, healthy algal farming technology, as well as building the much needed management capacity to address transboundary challenges.

The future of PEMSEA, therefore, depends on its ability to continue remaining relevant and effective; a strong regional ownership with greater participation from its country and non-country partners as well as a sustainable financing mechanism to support its operation. This will depend how well WE (the participating partners, Council, EC and PRF) can work together, taking note that the East Asian Seas is a special regional sea area with very complicated and complex socio-economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions. Maintaining harmony, trust and cooperation demands extraordinary diplomatic and interpersonal skills and leadership through greater communication, transparency and consultation in building, sustaining and strengthening a harmonious working relationship.

Thank you.

ANNEX 5

Statement of Partners and Collaborators at the Special EAS Partnership Council Meeting

Dr. Andrew Hudson, Head, UNDP Water & Ocean Governance Programme

Honorable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

UNDP congratulates PEMSEA on convening the 5th East Asian Seas Congress this week in Danang.

UNDP is proud to have been a long-term supporter of PEMSEA since 1993 through a series of GEF-financed International Waters projects through IMO, UNOPS and, most recently, through PEMSEA itself since its approval as a UNDP IGO Implementing Partner.

The adoption of SDS/SEA in Putrajaya in 2003 was a key milestone for PEMSEA and established a long-term framework for ocean governance and management at regional, national and local levels. PEMSEA's ambitious but effective approach to piloting and scaling up ICM continues to deliver, with the region now at 14% of coastline under ICM and a target of 25% by 2021. PEMSEA's core focus on ICM has been effectively complemented by a number of other established and emerging mechanisms such as State of the Coasts Reports, PEMSEA Network of Local Governments, ICM Learning Centers, Regional Centers of Excellence, and East Asian Seas Sustainable Business Network.

As a demonstrated, cost effective, results-oriented mechanism to promote effective ocean governance in East Asia, the long-term financial sustainability of PEMSEA is a matter of the utmost importance. UNDP's Country Office in the Philippines supports PEMSEA in the management of its voluntary contributions from PEMSEA countries through cost-sharing agreements that capitalize a trust fund that supports PEMSEA operating costs. UNDP joins other sponsoring partners in encouraging ALL PEMSEA countries to make regular voluntary contributions to ensure PEMSEA can maintain a sound financial base to provide services to its member countries. UNDP also encourages PEMSEA to explore additional, innovative financial mechanisms that can diversify PEMSEA's funding base and further secure PEMSEA's long term financial future.

As highlighted in my address this morning, SDS/SEA, complemented by subsidiary Strategic Action Programmes in most of the East Asian LMEs, positions the region very well for effective implementation of SDG 14, SDG 6 and several other SDGs with important linkages to maintaining coastal and ocean health in the region. UNDP encourages PEMSEA and its member countries to mainstream these SDGs into strategic ocean policy and planning at regional, national and local levels. Clearly the SDGs, as the new global development agenda, provide a new mandate and vehicle for accelerating efforts needed to sustain East Asian marine ecosystems and the economies, lives and livelihoods that depends on the health of these systems.

**Statement of Partners and Collaborators at the Special
EAS Partnership Council Meeting**

Mr. Braulio F. de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Chair of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng,
Viet Nam Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Chu Pham Ngoc Hien, PEMSEA
Executive Director Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross,
Chair Emeritus of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council Dr. Chua Thia-Eng,
Honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address you at the East Asian Seas Partnership Council meeting, and it is fitting that the Congress chose “Global targets, local benefits” as the theme this year. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its tenth meeting, in 2010, agreed on a new global framework for conservation and sustainable development: the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but also for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. The framework addresses the underlying causes and the direct pressures of biodiversity loss and sets specific quantitative targets for improving the status of ecosystems, species, habitats and genetic diversity.

Strong regional partnerships are essential to assist CBD Parties on technical issues, such as integrated coastal management, marine spatial planning and transboundary conservation, to name only a few. The Secretariat of CBD has many excellent partners in East Asia, and I would like to take the opportunity to highlight PEMSEA.

You may know that the Conference of the Parties chose the ecosystem approach at its fifth meeting as the primary strategy for achieving its goals of conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. This is in recognition of the fact that the best way to conserve biodiversity is to focus on approaches that encompass the essential structure, processes and functions of biodiversity, the interactions among organisms and the wider context in which biodiversity exists. In fact, the ecosystem approach arose as a result of the failure of single-sector approaches to conservation.

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) has been and continues to be a pioneer of the ecosystem approach through its focus on integrated marine and coastal area management. CBD and PEMSEA are therefore natural partners.

In fact, in a nautical sense, PEMSEA is an “anchor” for the work of CBD in East Asia on marine and coastal issues. Through the regional roll-out of the CBD programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity in the seas of East Asia, PEMSEA has been at the forefront of advancing and implementing integrated coastal approaches in the region.

PEMSEA was an invaluable partner for the Convention in the development of CBD Technical Series 76, on integrated coastal management in East Asia. PEMSEA has also been an essential partner for CBD in the

Sustainable Ocean Initiative, which has helped countries and partners define areas of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) within national jurisdiction and on the high seas.

The CBD Secretariat, with the support of the Government of Germany, manages the LifeWeb Initiative, which is aimed at developing financial and technical partnerships to support countries in the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. PEMSEA and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, another strong partner of CBD in the region, have developed a regional LifeWeb Expression of Interest in East Asia on integrated coastal management that is nationally endorsed and backed by the strong technical knowledge of PEMSEA and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the spirit of partnership, I call on all donors and technical partners to support this project. The Global Environment Facility and many governments have already committed significant funds for this work, but more is needed for the project to become fully operational and help to achieve the Aichi Targets by 2020.

Ambassador, ministers, colleagues, I thank you for your attention

**Statement of Partners and Collaborators at the Special
EAS Partnership Council Meeting**

Mr. Len R. Garces, WorldFish

On behalf of WorldFish, we congratulate PEMSEA for its leadership in convening the EAS Congress in Danang, Vietnam, with Theme of “Global Targets, Local Benefits. We also commend PEMSEA for bringing forward the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 2015 for East Asian Seas region. This is in recognition that seas in East Asia are important to the economy, livelihoods and food security at regional, national and local levels. Fisheries are also faced by overfishing and declining fish stocks due to impacts of coastal development and pollution and overexploitation due to pressures to meet the demand for fish as food due to growing population in several EAS countries.

We note that SDS 2015 calls for regional partnerships and enable organizations (e.g., national/local governments, NGOs and research institutes) to create synergies and achieve cumulative input in interventions to benefit stakeholders and countries in the EAS regions. WorldFish therefore manifest our interest and support to the successful implementation of the SDS 2015. Specifically, on interventions to:

1. Promoting equitable and sustainable fisheries and conservation of fish stocks and coastal habitats including strengthening governance and improving value chains;
2. Sustaining aquaculture development and participation of small-scale fishers; and
3. Strengthening capacity of national and local governments, and coastal communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and respond to natural disasters thus creating resilient communities and livelihoods in the region.

Again, we would like to thank the EAS Partnership Council for inviting WorldFish to this meeting and we look forward to our future partnerships with PEMSEA and EAS countries in the implementation of the SDS 2015 and the next EAS congress in 2018.