



**Building a Blue Economy: Strategy,
Opportunities and Partnerships in the
Seas of East Asia**
9-13 July



Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum (YF3)
Young Champions for the Oceans

CO-CONVENING AGENCIES:



**REPORT ON THE
OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES OF
THE THIRD EAST ASIAN SEAS
YOUTH FORUM**

*Partnerships in Environmental Management
for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)*

*Swedish International Development
Cooperation Agency (SIDA)*

*Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM)
of the Republic of Korea*

City Government of Changwon

**East Asian Seas Congress 2012
Changwon City, Republic of Korea
7 to 13 July 2012**

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The East Asian Seas Congress 2012
“Building a Blue Economy: Strategy, Opportunities and Partnerships in the Seas of East Asia”
Changwon City, RO Korea, 9-13 July 2012

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1. INTRODUCTION

The oceans and coasts of the East Asian region are among the most biologically diverse and productive areas in the world. However, these areas have been threatened over the years by various problems and issues due to rapid socioeconomic activities, population growth and several other factors.



The youth, as inheritors of the planet, have the most at stake. But they can also play a significant role in securing their future and that of generations to come, if their potential can be properly utilized. Existing efforts for the sustainable development of our oceans and coasts will only be sustained if the younger generation gets involved in environmental and resource management.

Now on its third cycle, the East Asian Seas Youth Forum gathered young leaders to share their experiences in protecting the oceans and coasts of East Asia. The Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum (YF3) was one of the special events of the EAS Congress, which was held from 8-13 July 2012 in Changwon City, Republic of Korea.

The YF3 included 91 participants, 48 of which were from 11 EAS countries including Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. Forty-three participants were representatives of various environmental youth groups in RO Korea.

Carrying the theme, “*Young Champions for the Ocean,*” the YF3 was designed to enhance awareness and to develop the potential of the youth of East Asia as future practitioners in coastal and ocean management.

Specifically, YF3 aimed to:

- a. Promote awareness on ocean and coastal governance among the youth;
- b. Identify actions/activities that the youth can engage in sustaining coastal and marine ecosystem services in the EAS region;
- c. Provide participants with practical knowledge, skills and materials, which they can apply and contribute to achieving sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment;
- d. Build a pool of inspired youth in pursuing ocean and coastal management endeavors;
- e. Strengthen and sustain the online network of the EAS Youth Network (EASYNet); and
- f. Encourage the participation of more individuals and youth organizations in EASYNet.

2. THE YF3 PROGRAM

Through the YF3, the new pool of young ocean stewards participated in various workshops that were designed to help them develop youth action plans that can be implemented in their own communities.

The youth delegates participated in the presentations and sharing of ideas of various experts and thought leaders at the plenary sessions and workshops of the *EAS Congress International Conference on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development towards a Blue Economy*. Aside from the plenary sessions and workshops, the youth delegates also had a chance to interact with the EAS Congress participants at the EAS Congress 2012 Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Partnership Dinners, and the field trip to the Yeosu World Expo 2012.

The Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum Programme details are provided in **Annex 2**.

3. YOUNG CHAMPIONS FOR THE OCEAN TOOLKIT

The *Young Champions for the Ocean Toolkit* was developed to serve as the overall guide for the Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum. The handbook outlined the YF3 activities and provided useful information on the value of the coastal and marine environments, thus building an understanding on the need to preserve and protect the oceans and coasts.

Included in the toolkit were the profiles of the speakers and other useful information. It also provided useful tips in developing project proposals that may be helpful in translating ideas and plans into on-the-ground actions. The youth stories section introduced some YF3 delegates and their activities in their communities.

Some important facts and figures on marine and ecosystem services were also provided to highlight the importance of taking on and continuing the efforts for the sustainable development of our oceans and coasts. Exciting opportunities and career options were also presented to stress the fact that ocean and coastal management is indeed an exciting field of specialization.

The Young Champions for the Ocean Toolkit can be downloaded at this link: www.scribd.com/doc/106519954/Third-East-Asian-Seas-Youth-Forum-Toolkit



4. ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

4.1 Preparatory Online Discussion

In preparation for the Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum, an online discussion board was set up at the EAS Congress website (eascongress.pemsea.org/yf3) to facilitate interaction among the youth delegates and to initiate discussions on the required outputs for the Youth Forum. Among the main points that were discussed included the concept of the youth exhibit for the EAS Congress, the youth statement and the youth action plans. Online discussions also continued on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/253495678091561).

4.2 Getting Ready for the Youth Forum and Getting to Know My Peers

4.2.1 Introduction to PEMSEA and the EAS Congress

Held at the Changwon Moonsung University, the YF3 officially started on 8 July with an introduction to PEMSEA's work and the EAS Congress. Ms. Daisy Padayao, Technical Assistant for Project Development of the PEMSEA Resource Facility, highlighted PEMSEA's role as a leading agency in promoting the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia. She also related that the EAS Congress has been organized since 2003 to strengthen the region-wide network of government agencies, international organizations, research and academic institutions and private companies advocating for effective and sustainable coastal and ocean governance. Ms. Padayao also discussed the outputs and outcomes of the previous Youth Forums held in China (2006) and the Philippines (2009).

4.2.2 Introduction of Third EAS Youth Forum Participants and Team-building Exercises



The youth delegates participated in various team-building exercises to foster camaraderie and teamwork among the delegates. Among these activities were: (a) the *activism speed-dating*, where delegates were asked to introduce their advocacy and their projects to their peers; and (b) *paint me a portrait*, where the delegates were asked to 'act out' a topic related to issues on marine and coastal management without the use of words.

The youth delegates were also divided into several discussion groups. These groups were asked to discuss issues, examples, current situations, trends and solutions on topics related to the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia. Among these topics were marine biodiversity, food security, natural disasters and climate change, manmade marine hazards, sustainable tourism and education. Each group was

asked to prepare a short discussion paper summarizing the points raised from their discussions.

The summarized discussion paper, entitled *The Seas and Coast on East Asia on the Eyes of Its Youth*, is provided in **Annex 3**. This also served as guide for the *Changwon Youth Declaration for the Protection of the Seas of East Asia*.

All activities were facilitated by Dr. Donna Paz Reyes, YF3 Facilitator, and Mr. Dwight Jason Ronan and Mr. Michael Villanueva, YF3 Coordinators.

4.3 Creating our Masterpiece: Setting up the Youth Forum Exhibit



On the afternoon of 8 July, the youth delegates started to put up materials for the YF3 booth at the EAS Congress Exhibition. The youth delegates were divided into several groups to work on their exhibit centerpiece and backdrops.

The youth delegates decided to create an underwater city as their exhibit centerpiece to represent their vow to continuously work towards the protection of the region's coastal and marine environment while their countries are in pursuit of economic growth. The delegates chose a running toy train as a symbol for continuous economic growth and cooperation towards the sustainable development of the region. Aside from the toy train, cardboard buildings and country landmarks were also placed in the exhibit centerpiece. Underwater elements, such as fishes, corals, mangroves, etc. made from colored paper and cardboard, were also used to decorate the exhibit centerpiece.

The exhibit's backdrop, on the other hand, highlighted the youth delegates' activities and other involvements related to marine and coastal conservation. One of the backdrops, labelled "*My Ocean, My Future, My Responsibility*," featured the photos of the youth delegates' activities in their communities, proof of why they are recognized as "Young Champions for the Ocean." Aside from these, a photo mosaic of Ferdi Rizkiyanto's artwork, '*What Lies Under*', using the portrait photos of the youth delegates were also presented. The other backdrop, entitled "*Saving the Seas, Fish by Fish*," was an interactive shout-out wall where visitors could write their commitments and actions on protecting the seas of East Asia. This backdrop featured a school of small fishes forming an outline of a larger fish, symbolizing the power of combined efforts and collaboration towards the sustainable development of the region's seas and coasts.

4.4 My Ocean, My Responsibility

4.4.1 EAS Congress Opening Ceremony and EAS Exhibition Opening



On 9 July, the youth delegates attended the opening ceremony of the EAS Congress 2012, where selected youth delegates proudly carried the flags of PEMSEA Country Partners, GEF, UNDP and the EAS Congress 2012.

The youth delegates also attended the opening ceremony of the EAS Congress Exhibition. At the exhibition area, the youth delegates presented their exhibit to the Congress participants and dignitaries, including South Korean Minister Kwon Do-Youp of the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs.

4.4.2 Keynote Speech by Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng

H. E. Mary Seet-Cheng, Co-chair of the EAS Partnership Council and Ambassador-at-large of Singapore to Cuba and Panama, inspired the youth delegates with her keynote address highlighting the value of integrated coastal management (ICM) and the role of youth in realizing a bluer economy. She highlighted how PEMSEA played an important role in promoting ICM strategies in different cities within the East Asian region. She also discussed the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, a self-assessment tool for cities to monitor and evaluate their biodiversity conservation efforts in an urban context. Using Singapore as her example, she presented how the youth can participate in activities aimed to protect our limited natural resources.



4.4.3 Lecture by Dr. Kem Lowry on “Making a Difference: Getting Involved in Coastal Management”

Dr. Kem Lowry of the University of Hawaii highlighted feasible strategies on how the youth can engage local communities. Dr. Lowry started his presentation by enumerating some of the lessons people have learned in protecting our oceans in the last 25 years. He also underscored the important roles of universities, donor agencies, NGOs and the youth in mobilizing resource management actions, particularly at the local scale. Dr. Lowry identified several strategies that can be used to further engage local communities. These include:



1. **Building awareness and understanding.** Dr. Lowry encouraged the youth to take part and initiate education and outreach activities. He cited several examples of educational strategies that are currently being used by different communities, as well as the use of technical or outreach reports to inform people; organization of educational workshops, which can be useful in increasing knowledge, teaching skills or encouraging action on an issue; site visits to reef habitats, successful community-managed activities or extreme examples of coastal pollution, to increase the understanding of opportunities and resource threats, and other educational media including video campaigns, websites and other social media.
2. **Monitoring resource conditions and resource-user behaviour.** Dr. Lowry identified monitoring as another means to involve local communities. Monitoring activities that can be conducted include coral reef monitoring, identifying illegal waste dumping sites, mapping illegal discharges in near-shore waters, identifying illegal fishing or gathering activities and identifying invasive species present in the resource site.
3. **Observation and enforcement activities.** Dr. Lowry shared the story of the Hawaiian Monk Seal Protection program, where volunteers are regularly trained by biologists to help protect the Hawaiian monk seal, an endangered species found mostly in Papahānaumokuākea Marine Monument in Hawaii. He also related the activities of the Miloli'i Coast Watch in Hawaii, a community observation program designed to prevent over-harvesting of fish.
4. **Individual and community capacity building** involves developing knowledge and skills to: (a) analyze natural conditions, including trends in resource conditions; (b) analyze, document, display and communicate information about resource and community conditions; and (c) work with communities to develop and implement management strategies.
5. **Documenting traditional knowledge** related to coastal resource management involves careful observation of ecological dynamics and biological cycle.
6. **Community-based management.** Dr. Lowry stressed the need for the youth to be involved in community-based management of marine protected areas.

Some of the intended benefits of this practice include: (a) increase in fish density, sizes, and diversity; (b) increased protection of vulnerable species; (c) decreased habitat loss from over-fishing; and (d) empowered local communities to manage their resources.

In conclusion, Dr. Lowry pointed out that the youth can especially contribute in awareness-building and in assisting monitoring and enforcement activities. He encouraged the youth to start projects in their own communities on issues that they're really passionate about. In his words, "*Create better ocean and coastal futures in one river, one beach, one watershed, and one community at a time.*"

4.4.4 Welcome Remarks by the Changwon City Advisor Secretary on Environmental Policy

Ms. Mikyung Moon, Advisor Secretary on Environmental Policy of Changwon, welcomed the youth delegates in behalf of Changwon City Mayor Wan-su Park. She related that it was a privilege to welcome the delegates to Changwon City, RO Korea's first planned city. She talked about how Changwon City became one of the greenest cities in RO Korea, alongside the booming industrial developments in the city. She also mentioned Changwon City's popular bicycle campaign called '*Nubija*' (Nearby Useful Bike, Interesting Joyful Attractions). Started in 2008, the bicycle lending campaign has been proven effective to reduce gas emissions in the city and has promoted a healthy lifestyle among its residents. Since its inception, the service has operated a total distance of 36,751,610 km or equivalent to 7,718 tons of carbon dioxide from automobiles.



4.5 Continuing the Legacy: Link to Previous EAS Youth Forums

Ms. Chindavanh Souliyapack, 2009 YF delegate, shared how the Second EAS Youth Forum prepared her as a better ocean advocate, especially on her current role in the implementation of the Sedone River Basin Management in Lao PDR. According to Ms. Souliyapack, the workshops and other activities during previous youth forum held in the Philippines enhanced her knowledge on issues related to marine conservation and governance, especially on climate change. Aside from the workshops and plenary sessions, she also related how she appreciated and enjoyed the outdoor activities during the previous youth forum, including the mangrove planting activity and the ship visit and guided tour to the Training Ship Spirit of Mitsui OSK Lines (T/S MOL). Ms. Souliyapack also shared how her batch was able to draft the *Youth Statement 2009*, a declaration of commitment among the delegates of the YF2. Lastly, she related that she is still in close contact with her co-delegates on Facebook and other social media sites where they continue to share updates, experiences and opportunities related to their advocacy.



4.6 Championing My Cause: Project Proposal Writing Workshop

The youth delegates had the chance to interact with the National Coordinators of the UNDP-Small Grants Programme (SGP) to discuss ways in developing their youth action proposals. Among the National Coordinators present in the discussion were Ms. Ngin Navirak (Cambodia), Ms. Yi Liu (China), Ms. Catharina Dwihastarini (Indonesia), Mr. Poonsin Sreesangkorn (Thailand), Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Anh (Vietnam), and Ms. Sulan Chen (UNDP New York).



The panelists first discussed some of the important guidelines in applying for SGP grants. They stressed that the projects must focus on issues related to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, international water protection, prevention of land degradation or phasing out persistent organic pollutants and chemicals. The panellists also underscored some of the key criteria of SGP-approved projects including: (a) the participation of local community, particularly women and vulnerable groups; (b) strong partnerships with stakeholders; and (c) sustainability. After the presentation, the youth delegates were divided into groups. Each group had an interactive discussion with the SGP National Coordinators, with whom they were also able to present projects that they wish to implement in their own communities.

4.7 Bridging the Youth and Experts: Participation in the EAS International Conference and Workshops

On 10 July, the youth delegates had the chance to attend the presentations of various experts and thought leaders at the plenary sessions and workshops of the *EAS Congress International Conference on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development towards a Blue Economy*.

The youth delegates attended the plenary keynote speeches of Mr. Jong-Chul Lee of RO Korea's STX Corporation and Dr. Awni Behnam of the International Ocean Institute. Mr. Lee highlighted the private sector's contribution in realizing a blue economy while Dr. Behnam shared his view on the blue economy as an act of "*living with the ocean and from the ocean in a sustainable relationship.*"

The youth delegates were also divided into groups to participate in different workshops at the EAS International Conference. Among these were the workshops on the economic valuation of ecosystem services, monitoring and



reporting mechanisms for sustainable coastal and marine management, initiatives implemented to address biodiversity loss and certification of ICM practitioners.

4.8 My Ocean, My Future

4.8.1 Lecture by Prof. Rudolf Wu

In the afternoon of 10 July, the youth delegates were able to interact with various experts to inspire them to continue to pursue careers and other endeavours related to the protection of Mother Earth. Among the experts was Prof. Rudolf Wu of The University of Hong Kong, who stressed the fact that managing our oceans is a complex task and requires multidisciplinary action, including the youth's valuable inputs.



To illustrate this, Prof. Wu discussed the benefits people get from our oceans and the threats they currently face. He explained that the oceans serve as heat buffer, transporter and climate driver and that the oceans are the primary source of protein for 3 billion people and a source of livelihood for 200 million people. He emphasized the role of the oceans in driving the world's economy, highlighting the fact that 90% of our goods are transported through oceans and that 13 out of 20 world megacities rely heavily on its coasts. Despite all these, Prof. Wu stated that our oceans are also at great risk. Among these risks is global warming. Prof. Wu related information on the rise in sea level, habitat loss, migration and redistribution of fisheries resources and stronger oceanic storms. He also cited other major changes in the structure and functions of ecosystems, including mass mortality of fish and benthos, changes in species composition and food web, changes in trophic relationships, decrease in biodiversity and species richness and changes in life cycle and species distribution. Lastly, he emphasized that man's activities, such as overfishing and inefficient management of marine resources, also greatly affect our oceans.

4.8.2 Lecture by Dr. Luky Adrianto

Dr. Luky Adrianto of the Bogor Agricultural University led a lively discussion on some of the possible careers that the youth delegates may opt to do in the future. He gave a brief introduction on ecosystem services, threats to ocean life and scientific and technological challenges related to the sustainable development of the region's coasts and oceans.



Dr. Adrianto emphasized that the today's youth should focus more on education, advocacy and outreach activities. Although, he related that careers related to policy and governance, as well as on scientific researches, are also viable career options for the youth. He also gave some useful tips on how to participate in saving the ocean at an early age, including:

- a. Mind your carbon footprint and reduce energy consumption;
- b. Make safe, sustainable seafood choices;
- c. Use fewer plastic products;
- d. Help take care of the beach;
- e. Don't purchase items that exploit marine life;
- f. Be an ocean-friendly pet owner;
- g. Support organizations working to protect the ocean;
- h. Influence change in your community;
- i. Travel the ocean responsibly; and
- j. Educate yourself about oceans and marine life.

Dr. Adrianto concluded his lecture with a quote from American ocean advocate Gail Osherenko: "*The most important key to success in ocean governance is leadership*". With this, Dr. Adrianto challenged the youth delegates to continue taking the lead in working for the protection of the oceans and encourage the younger generations to do the same.

4.8.3 Panel Discussion with Mr. Glenn Ricci and Mr. Joselito Guevarra

Mr. Glenn Ricci of the University of Rhode Island and Mr. Joselito Guevarra of the Oil Spill Response Limited led the panel discussion on other careers and opportunities related to ocean and coastal conservation. They gave some useful tips on building up the youth's experiences to be effective young ocean advocates.



Mr. Ricci emphasized that coastal management is a difficult field and, thus, requires commitment from the youth. He related that this field continuously evolves as time progresses, pointing out that despite the recent advancements in researches and technologies, coastal management issues also continue get more complex.

Mr. Guevarra, on the other hand, shared his personal experience how he got into the field, even though he started his career as a banker. He said that figuring out what to do in life is not an easy process. He stated that sometimes it takes years or even decades for some people to fully figure out one's 'niche' in the world. He underscored the importance of believing in one's self and taking risks in achieving one's dreams.

4.9 Saving the Seas through Social Media

On 11 July, Mr. John Eric Dylan Saet, Webmaster of the PEMSEA Resource Facility highlighted the potential of social media and other digital technologies in inspiring and encouraging more youth to engage in activities related to ocean and coastal conservation. Among the advantages he cited on using social media in environmental advocacy included: (a) its low cost; (b) wide reach; and (c) everyone, especially the youth, is already connected to social media.



Mr. Saet emphasized the importance of proper planning and evaluation in implementing social media strategies. He also underscored the importance of on-the-ground activities with regard to ocean and coastal management, pointing out that social media should only complement activities actually running on the ground. He gave the following tips in packaging messages over social media:

- a. Write it down;
- b. Set good goals;
- c. Keep it simple;
- d. Begin with the end in mind;
- e. Communicate with your audience;
- f. Use AIDA (Attention, Interest, Desire, Action);
- g. Choose your platform; and
- h. Time your efforts.

After Mr. Saet's presentation, several youth delegates shared their experiences in using social media in their advocacy. Youth delegates Justin Kim and Margaret Cody, both from Singapore, introduced *High Tide for Change*, a youth advocacy group aimed to raise awareness on coastal and marine conservation issues in East Asia through social media. They also shared their latest project "*Forgotten Teardrops: A Journey to the Seas of East Asia*," a made-for-TV film that follows the adventures of two teenagers as they visit successful environmental and economic sustainability projects in East Asia. Filipino youth delegates Anna Oposa and Cris Viray also related their experiences in using social media with their community projects funded by the Global Changemakers. Anna Oposa co-founded the *Save the Philippine Seas*, a movement to protect Philippines's marine resources through social media and lobbying for the enforcement of environmental laws, while Cris Viray started the *E-connect Project*, which aims to empower youth from Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Canada to protect the environment.



Dr. Donna Paz Reyes, YF3 facilitator, led the discussion on ways to strengthen the East Asian Seas youth network. The youth delegates recommended to maintain the use of their Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/253495678091561) to share updates, experiences and other opportunities related to ocean and coastal management. The youth

delegates also vowed to continue implementing projects (or even start new ones) in their communities. They also proposed to continue the discussion on strategies on how to use and/or apply the ‘*Changwon Youth Declaration on the Protection of the Seas of East Asia*’ in their local communities.

4.10 My Statement, My Commitment

Using the discussion papers developed during the Third EAS Youth Forum, the youth delegates collectively developed the *Changwon Youth Declaration for the Protection of the Seas of East Asia*. As one their main outputs, the Changwon Youth Declaration highlighted the youths’ recommendations and commitment to continue their efforts in protecting the region’s oceans and coasts.

The youth’s recommendations discussed in the Changwon Youth Declaration focused on threats to food security and marine biodiversity, natural and manmade marine hazards and effective awareness and capacity-building strategies in East Asia. In line with the Congress theme, the common vision set in the Changwon Youth Declaration was: *“We, the young champions for the oceans, envision a blue economy for the communities in East Asia that see and understand the value of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity through sustainable residential and industrial practices and knowledge enrichment.”*

The Changwon Youth Declaration was presented in the presence of the Ministers of PEMSEA Partner Countries and other Congress participants during the EAS Congress Closing Ceremony on 12 July.

In order to fully reflect the youth’s commitment to protecting the Seas of East Asia, the group chose one youth representative from each PEMSEA country to present the Changwon Youth Declaration. Ms. Suh Jean Hwang of RO Korea was chosen to present the youth delegates’ vision and recommendations. The remaining 11 youth delegates each gave short descriptions of their own activities and projects from their own countries, to illustrate how these delegates became ‘Young Champions for the Ocean.’

The *Changwon Youth Declaration for the Protection of the Seas of East Asia* is provided in **Annex 4**.



4.11 Beyond My Confines

4.11.1 Outdoor Activities and My Korean Music Experience



On 12 July, the youth delegates were scheduled to go around Changwon City using the *Nubija* bicycles as part of their outdoor activity. However, due to heavy rains the night before, the bicycle activity was cancelled and had to be replaced with an ice-skating activity and Korean traditional games. Aside from these, the youth delegates also participated in a basket-weaving activity led by volunteers from the Changwon City Government. In the evening, the youth delegates were treated to a traditional Korean music performance.

4.11.2 Congress Field Trip to the Yeosu World Expo 2012



On 13 July, the youth delegates joined the other EAS Congress delegates to visit the Yeosu World Expo 2012. Considered as one of the largest exhibitions in the world, the Expo 2012 showcased pavilions from more than 100 countries and international organizations, including PEMSEA, focusing on the theme “*The Living Ocean and Coast*”.

4.11.3 EAS Congress Farewell Dinner



Capping off the activities of the Third EAS Youth Forum was the EAS Congress Farewell Dinner held on the evening of 13 July. On behalf of the youth delegates, Ms. Yintong Liu of Singapore thanked the organizers for giving the youth the opportunity to be part of the EAS Congress 2012. She summarized all the outputs and outcomes of the Youth Forum. In conclusion, she said *“As young champions of the oceans, we shared our culture, experiences, and contributions to achieve a blue economy. But more than that, we shared ourselves and built relationships that we hope will last forever.”*

Six youth delegates, collectively known as EASY (East Asian Seas Youth) vocal group, also serenaded the EAS Congress delegates with Josh Groban’s *“You Raise Me Up”*. Lastly, youth delegates from Timor-Leste, dressed in their traditional costumes, performed several East Timorese folk dances.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum proved to be a great opportunity to promote awareness regarding sustainable marine and coastal management among the youth of East Asia. The Youth Forum also served as a conducive venue to build a pool of inspired youth prepared to take action in protecting the region’s marine and coastal environment. One of the most noteworthy achievements of this year’s Youth Forum was gathering young leaders who are already involved in activities aimed to protect the Seas of East Asia. This year’s delegates included certified scuba divers, fisheries and ocean management researchers, marine and environmental engineers, animal rights advocates, community leaders, artists and volunteers.

The *Young Champions for the Ocean Toolkit* also served as a useful guide for the Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum. Aside from presenting vital information about the oceans and coasts of East Asia, it provided useful tips in developing project proposals and using social media in advocacy projects.

Collectively developed by the youth delegates, the *Changwon Youth Declaration for the Protection of the Seas of East Asia* reflected the youths’ commitment to strengthening their efforts to protect the region’s oceans and coasts.

The use of the youth delegates’ Facebook group page will be sustained to serve as a platform to discuss, share experiences and encourage each other to continue with their environment-related activities.

6. OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

The outputs and outcomes of the Third East Asian Sea Youth Forum included:

- The *Young Champions for the Ocean Toolkit*, which outlined the activities of the Third East Asian Youth Forum. Helpful information about the region's coastal and marine environment were provided, as well as several useful guides in developing youth project proposals and in harnessing the powers of social media.
- The discussion paper, *The Seas and Coasts of East Asia through the eyes of its youth*, which also served as a guide for the *Changwon Youth Declaration on the Protection of the Seas of East Asia*. These documents underscored the youth's view on the current status of the Seas of East Asia and their recommendations on how to address these issues.
- The *Changwon Youth Declaration on the Protection of the Seas of East Asia* and the outcomes of the Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum were presented at the: (a) Asia Pacific Youth Water Forum 2012 in Suwon, RO Korea; (b) 2012 Environmental Forum for International University Students in Seoul, RO Korea; and (c) Second UNESCO Looking Beyond Disasters Youth Forum in Sendai, Japan. It will also be presented at the Fifth UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassadors Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand and at the Global Changemakers Global Youth Summit 2012 in London, United Kingdom.

Annex 1
Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum Delegates, Speakers and Secretariat

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Annex 2
Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum Programme Details

DAY 00: July 07, 2012

08:00 – 18:00 Arrival and Registration of Youth Forum participants

DAY 01: July 08, 2012

08:00 – 12:00 THIRD EAS YOUTH FORUM WELCOME CEREMONY

Getting Ready for the Youth Forum: Introduction to PEMSEA, the EAS Congress and SDS-SEA

Getting to Know My Peers: Introduction of Third EAS Youth Forum Participants and Team-building Exercises

13:00 – 18:00 *Creating our Masterpiece:* Setting-up of Youth Forum Exhibit

DAY 02: July 09, 2012

09:00 – 10:35 EAST ASIAN SEAS (EAS) CONGRESS OPENING CEREMONY

10:55 – 12:30 Plenary Keynote and Exhibit Opening

14:00 – 14:20 *Keynote Speech*

H.E. Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, EAS Partnership Council Co-chair

14:20 – 15:20 *My Ocean, My Responsibility*

Dr. Kem Lowry, University of Hawaii

15:30 – 15:45 *Welcome and Keynote Speech*

Hon. Wan-su Park, Mayor of Changwon City, RO Korea

15:45 – 16:00 *Continuing the Legacy: My Link the Previous EAS Youth Forums*

Ms. Chindavanh Souliyapack, 2009 YF delegate from Lao PDR

16:00 – 19:00 *Championing My Cause: Project Proposal Writing Workshop*

GEF-Small Grants Programme National Coordinators

Ms. Ngin Navirak, Cambodia

Ms. Yi Liu, China

Ms. Catharina Dwihastarini, Indonesia

Mr. Poonsin Sreesangkorn, Thailand

Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Anh, Vietnam

DAY 03: July 10, 2012

08:30 – 09:30 Plenary Keynote

10:00 – 12:30 *Bridging the Youth and Experts: Participation in EAS International Conference and Workshop*

14:00 – 14:30 *Meet and Greet*

H.E. Ambassador Klas Molin, Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand

14:30 – 18:30 *My Ocean, My Future*

Prof. Rudolf Wu, The University of Hong Kong

Dr. Luky Adrianto, Bogor Agricultural University

Mr. Glenn Ricci, University of Rhode Island

Mr. Joselito Guevarra, Oil Spill Response Limited

DAY 04: July 11, 2012

08:30 – 10:00 *Saving the Seas through Social Media*

Mr. John Eric Dylan Saet, Asian Development Bank and PEMSEA

10:00 – 11:00 *Following My Feeds*

11:00 – 12:30 *Sustaining Our Herd*

13:30 – 18:30 *My Statement, My Commitment*

DAY 05: July 12, 2012

09:00 – 12:00 **EAST ASIAN SEAS (EAS) CONGRESS CLOSING CEREMONY**

13:00 – 14:00 *My Korean Music Experience*

14:00 – 18:00 *Beyond My Confines: Outdoor Activity*

DAY 06: July 13, 2012

08:00 – 19:30 **CONGRESS FIELD TRIP: YEOSU EXPO 2012**

Annex 3

The Seas and Coasts of East Asia on the Eyes of Its Youth

During the Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum, the youth delegates were divided in the several groups. Each group received different topics related to the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia. The delegates were asked to discuss issues, examples, current situations, trends, and solutions related to their assigned topics. These discussion papers served as guide for the Changwon Youth Declaration for the Protection of the Seas of East Asia.

Current State of the Seas and Coasts of East Asia

The Seas of East Asia are famous for its marine biodiversity and it is the home of more than a thousand flora and fauna species. It is also a source of food and livelihood for the residents of several coastal Asian countries. Thus, we need to put emphasis on the interconnection between oceans and human beings.

The marine ecosystem itself is a delicate structure; even a simple alteration to it can cause a drastic change. Over the centuries, humans have been messing around with this balance with our actions of greed. We have expanded industries and exploited resources for economic growth, without much foresight, consideration, and care for the environment. As a result, we are now facing issues like climate change, pollution, global warming, species endangerment, and extinction.

Currently, nations have imposed rules and regulations to protect and preserve the environment. However, there are still many who are ignoring these laws and are still engaged in these environmentally harmful activities. This is a vicious cycle, yet, it is not too late to stop this.

Here are the possible solutions that can be made and used.

- Government should reward incentives to local NGOs/volunteer groups
- Engage youths on social media platforms as a means to raise awareness about coastal issues
- Assign youths/community to be in charge of each unit to monitor the area for a period of time
- Evaluate the data collected and brainstorm on initiatives that are to be implemented to improve the condition
- Collaborate with local government or environmental organizations/institutions
- Employ experts/professionals as mentors
- Hold community-based orientation and lectures for youth
- Organize and promote student activities to collect litter along the coastal areas regularly

Marine Biodiversity

The East Asian Seas' marine biodiversity is one of the richest in terms of number of species of various fauna and flora. Many of these species are endemic to the East Asian Seas' regions.

The benefits of the marine ecosystem may be directly and indirectly felt. Some of the direct benefits we get are the food, the raw materials, and income from tourism activities. On the other hand, some of the indirect benefits are what we call the regulating services, comprising air quality maintenance, climate regulation, provision of habitat and nurseries, etc.

However, given the multitude of benefits given to us by the marine ecosystem, we are fast steadily destroying our marine ecosystems and damaging its biodiversity. The many threats that the marine ecosystem is suffering from include illegal and irresponsible fisheries operations, filthy production processes of companies, conversion of coastal areas into commercial and industrial establishments, invasion of exotic species, and global warming.

We envision a community that sees and understands the value of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity through responsible residential and industrial practices and through knowledge enrichment.

- a. *The government shall open opportunities for funded researches on biodiversity.* Based on the findings of the research, there will be an assessment of what needs to be done for the protection/preservation of possible endangered species/habitats. The government will team up with the local communities for a more effective implementation of the activities which came up from the assessment of the researches conducted.
- b. *Make sure that the industries along rivers and seas have an environmental management plan for their productions so that their water discharges and air emissions won't damage the marine ecosystem.* The government should also know the primary activities of the companies and the types of discharges and emissions they produce. Also, the government should also enforce the use of environment friendly technology for waste prevention and management of these companies.

We, the young champion of for the SEA promise to take action when the government, corporations, and other citizens are not doing their part in conserving the marine ecosystem. We will not remain idle and keep our mouths shut because we know that we are fighting for our survival and for the justice of the present and the future generations.

Food Security

Food security is a complex sustainable development issue which is not only linked to health through malnutrition, but also to sustainable economic development, environment, and trade.

Every country in the East Asia Seas encounters food security problems and here are some of them:

- *Water pollution.* Water, polluted by unsustainable human practices, affects organisms from coasts and oceans, thus, affecting the food chain.
- *Radioactive substances.* Earthquakes, volcanic eruption, and some anthropomorphic factors results in nuclear leaks, which might seriously pollute fishes and other food from seas.
- *Harmful fishing.* Illegal practices of catching fish cause serious threats.
- *Whale killing.* These activities, some of which are even approved by the local governments, cause the extinction of whale species.
- *Mangroves decimation.* A great number of mangroves in the coastline are decimated to clear land for shrimp farming.
- *Climate change.* Climate change has a strong influence on the biodiversity of marine organisms.
- *Poverty.* Poverty prevents people from getting healthy food. It also results in to poor food processing technology and ineffective health inspection management.

Since we face such many serious problems, solutions must be provided for EAS countries. These kinds of solutions could be divided into three parts.

- a. *Government.* Governments play such an essential role to solve food security problems.
 - *Policies on poverty (e.g. job creation, compensation, subsidization).* Poor people tend to earn money by unsustainable practices. For example, there is a lot of illegal fishing in many countries by poor people who cannot get enough food. Informal retailing and street sales are their convenient source of cheap food for low-income urban consumers. Because of that, local governments should guide activities to improve source of employment and income for the poor, particularly women.
 - *Policies on protecting water.* It should be mandatory for government to construct

water clean-up plants. Governments can also prohibit throwing garbage by serious punishments like what Singapore does.

- *Prohibit unnecessary whale killing.* Local governments should be prohibited from supporting illegal activities related to whale fishing.
 - *Improve the accuracy of disaster forecasting.* This solution mainly aims to prevent damages from earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters.
 - *Limit unreasonable fishery to protect bio-productivity.* Make a guideline, as well as monitoring mechanisms, for sustainable fishery.
 - *Implement fish cage strategy.* This might be a feasible solution to effectively manage fish population.
- b. *Education.* Education is another efficient way to solve this problem. It involves highlighting the importance of food security, especially to fishermen and food processing companies.
- *Educate fishermen on sustainable fisheries.* Fisheries are essential for daily life and trainings on effective fishing methods should be provided.
 - *Aquaculture education.* Aquaculture education is also essential since coastal pollution, habitat destruction, competition for land use and economics all limit aquaculture programs.
- a. *Others.* Apart from government strategy and education strategy, other strategies might be useful such as selective fishing and setting-up of associations that encourage local government to actively secure the sea. Protecting mud floods, mangroves and seagrass forests may also be helpful.

Climate Change and Other Natural Hazards

Climate change has already begun to transform life on earth. Around the globe, seasons are shifting, temperatures are climbing, sea levels are rising and all the while, our planet must still supply us – and all living things – with air, water, food and safe places to live in. If we don't act now, climate change will rapidly alter the lands and water we all depend upon for survival, leaving our children and grandchildren with a vastly degraded world.

As the young people who inherit the earth, we recommend the following ACTIONS

Awareness
Commitment
Technology
Initiative
Organization
Negotiation
Sustainability

We believe that these recommendations will help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Oil Spills and Other Man-made Hazards

An oil spill is the release of oil into the environment, especially the ocean, due to human activity. Oil spills are a dangerous ecological menace to beaches, groundwater, animals and humans. Oil spills can be controlled by chemical dispersion, combustion, mechanical containment, and/or adsorption. Spills may take weeks, months or even years to clean up.

Oil spills can be prevented by detailed management guidelines. Aside from this, wildlife response teams can also be trained in cases of emergencies. Oil spill emergency response is essential.

The first response step is to try to minimize its spread. Oil is less dense than water, so it floats on the surface of the water. Often a large boom (barrier) is placed around a portion of the spill or the tanker. The boom can also be used to help skim the oil off the surface.

Bacteria can be utilized to eat up the oil. It's known as bioremediation, the use of microorganisms to clean oil. Making environment-friendly ships and providing it with useful technologies is also important.

Marine Pollution and Issues with Solid and Liquid Waste Management

The main sources of pollution in the seas of East Asia are industrial wastes (factories, oil drilling plants, cargo ships, mining companies), agricultural wastes, and domestic wasters (residential areas, hotels, hospitals, and entertainment centers).

Weak enforcement of government policies and poor urban planning regarding solid and liquid waste management is also a problem. People's lack of awareness on proper environmental practices also contributes to the pollution problem.

The government, community, and individual are all responsible in solving the problem on marine pollution.

Firstly, the **government** should:

- Establish and enforce greener policies, law regulation and cooperation with other countries and private companies on sound waste management;
- Implement harsher punishment to the violators against environmental laws
- Stricter government regulations on industry and manufacturing
- Promote the usage of renewable energy sources so that off-shore drilling will no longer be needed
- Limit and regulate agricultural pesticides
- Implement proper sewage treatment
- Cut down on waste in landfills

Secondly, the **community** should:

- Have a well-planned waste management and urban planning in the communities
- Launch campaigns to collect trashes on river, and increase coastal clean-up activities

Thirdly, **every individual** should:

- shift to a greener lifestyle through practicing 3R: reduce, reuse and recycle- (for example, buying organic products, using less plastic bags)
- be more proactive in managing waste and cooperating with green initiatives locally

Water Conservation

Water conservation is a problem that is impossible to neglect. Yet, there seems to be an imbalance of efforts and initiatives to counter this situation in many communities.

In some countries, water conservation is a serious concern due to infrastructure that has much room for improvement and a lack of implementation of existing legislation. At the same time, other neighboring nations in the region seem to have little to no problem.

Even though context and a nation's specific situation are important to consider, there are clearly opportunities for nations in the East Asia to work together and collaborate in order to overcome water conservation problems.

There are many levels of solutions that we have observed from other countries. On a basic level, nations must establish rainwater catchments and an effective sewage treatment system. This kind of water has many alternative uses, such as watering plants which can improve ground integrity. There should also be pressure to resist reclamation of reservoirs, lakes and rivers. Instead, we urge using such bodies of water for ecotourism, for both local and foreign tourists. This would provide incentive to conserve water while offering cultural and financial value to the community.

Most of all, we share the vision for stronger public awareness, education, and contribution on an individual level is key to ensure sustainability for future generations.

Sustainable Tourism

Tourism plays an important role in the green and blue economic development of each country. It is both an economic booster and a problem which needs to be handled. We believed that tourism is one of the most powerful motivation forces in the advancement of countries economy among the East and South East Asian countries. However, we realized that tourism also brings great impacts to our environment.

As the developing countries share similar problems such as increase the number of vehicle that lead to traffic, water pollution, energy crisis and education, we call upon to reduce and solve the problems that we face nowadays such as but not limited to:

- a. Tourism's sustainability should be the priority of policymakers.
- b. Community-based protection of tourist sites should be encouraged, especially with the youth's involvement.
- c. Strict environmental policies in tourism sites should be implemented.
- d. Government should collaborate with NGOs, and special interest partners for tourism sites.
- e. Number of tourists visiting an area should be regulated.
- f. Construction of hotels and resorts near the coasts should be regulated.
- g. Only the green-certified hotels and resorts, especially those with effective CSR activities related on seas conservations should be allowed to operate.
- h. Touching marine creatures in the ocean such as fish, coral reefs should be strictly prohibited.
- i. Selling and buying rare, protected, endemic, and endangered species should be strictly prohibited.
- j. Dolphin shows should be reduced (Philippines, Thailand, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore).

Education

We noticed that the environmental education programs in our countries are not enough to address the need for action. Students are not exposed to the issues, and thus can become apathetic to these problems.

Although our countries have good environmental laws, these laws are ineffective if they are not implemented and enforced properly.

Our governments also usually focus on issues such as reducing poverty and economic development. However, we believe that through sustainable development and keeping the concept of green growth in mind, the government can still achieve its main goal of economic development.

A few of the solutions that we propose touch on education for students, as well as the grassroots communities and tourists, use of media and youth involvement.

- *Environmental education for students:* Include mandatory education subjects into school curricula that are proper, gradual and continuous. Preschoolers can start learning about the environment early, and as they get older, become more exposed to the problems and issues facing the environment. Field trips should start with nature appreciation before moving on to going to places where environmental issues are visible. More classes could be held outside of the classroom, and incorporate a methodology where students learn by observation instead of just reading things from a textbook.
- *Education for the grassroots and tourists:* Local government units and communities must work together to start programs that will educate those who affect and will be affected by marine pollution (e.g. fisherfolks). They must know the proper solid waste and marine management, and be able to make their livelihoods sustainable. If such a pilot project succeeds in one area, other areas may be prompted to follow suit. It is also important to educate the tourists, and to promote sustainable ecotourism.
- *Use of media:* For children, using environmental books, films and cartoons that are interesting will help raise their awareness. Documentaries that are well-written and interesting are ideal for targeting the youth and older. Big names and celebrities who become environmental advocates would be able to educate their fanbase as well. The power of social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc) will be useful in spreading awareness and campaigns for the environment.
- *Increase of youth involvement and awareness:* The youth have a big stake in the environment, and having more events such as the EAS Youth Forum or even local events will allow for better networking among groups and countries. Such networking will be able to show the youth that they can learn from other countries, and they can help each other achieve their goals.

Through all these things, education can be a major player in achieving sustainable development and a green economy.

Annex 4 Changwon Youth Declaration for the Protection of the Seas of East Asia



CHANGWON YOUTH DECLARATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

Vision

We, the young champions for the oceans, envision a blue economy for the communities in East Asia that see and understand the value of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity through sustainable residential and industrial practices and knowledge enrichment.

Background

The Seas of East Asia are famous for their rich marine biodiversity. They are the home of more than a thousand species of flora and fauna. They are a major source of food, livelihood, and income from the transportation of goods and tourism activities. Tourism is one of the driving forces in the advancement of our countries' economies.

However, the marine ecosystem is threatened from illegal and irresponsible fisheries operations, the filthy production processes of companies, the conversion of coastal areas into commercial and industrial establishments, the invasion of exotic species, and global warming.

Thus, we need to put emphasis on the interconnection between oceans and human beings to conserve our seas.

Recommendations

We believe that there needs to be a multi-stakeholder and multi-lateral approach to solve these problems.

Governments need to engage NGOs and volunteer groups. They should open funding opportunities for research projects. The governments should enforce the use of environment-friendly technology

for waste prevention and management. They should create additional policies and impose strict penalties to the violators of environmental laws.

The central governments and the **local communities** need to team up for more effective implementation of laws and projects. Communities must be directly involved in decision-making processes combining traditional knowledge with groundbreaking innovations. We encourage community-based protection of tourist sites by limiting the number of tourists and promoting sustainable practices. Their participation is essential in improved management of wastes and response to natural and manmade disasters such as oil spills, earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding and landslides.

Education is a major player in achieving a blue economy. Mandatory environmental subjects should be introduced to schools starting at the pre-school level. These subjects should be proper, gradual, continuous, and must focus on issues relevant to their countries.

We should take advantage of **social networking sites** such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to raise awareness about coastal and marine issues, and constructively engage the youth by sharing opportunities to be involved in environmental initiatives.

There should be emphasis on **individual action**. Every person must commit to a more environment-friendly lifestyle by purchasing quality local products, being more proactive in managing wastes, and supporting promising local projects.

In summary, these are our proposed **EASY (East Asian Seas Youth) ACTIONS**:

Awareness
Collaboration
Technology
Initiative
Organization
Negotiation
Sustainability

We, the young champions for the oceans, are already taking action.

We, the young champions for the oceans, will not remain idle and apathetic because this is for our survival. Recognizing the efforts and sacrifices of the past generations, we are eagerly fighting for justice of the present and future generations.

We are the young champions for the seas of East Asia. Save our seas, save our future!

**Agreed upon by the delegates of the Third East Asian Seas Youth Forum, held in Changwon City, Republic of Korea from July 8 to 13, 2012, supported by the Partnerships in Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia, Swedish International Development Agency, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs of RO Korea, and the City Government of Changwon.*