



PEMSEA EC Meeting Report 20

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTIETH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**PEMSEA Office
Quezon City, Philippines**

22 November 2017



PROCEEDINGS OF THE 20th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Quezon City, Philippines
November 22, 2017

A. INTRODUCTION

- i. The 20th Executive Committee Meeting was conducted by skype on November 22, 2017. The meeting was participated in by the EAS Partnership Council Chair, Dr. Antonio La Viña; Technical Session Chair, Mr. Makoto Harunari; Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair, Dr. Vu Thanh Ca; and Technical Session Co-Chair, Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh. Dr. Zhang Haiwen, Intergovernmental Session Chair and Mr. Arief Yuwono, Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair encountered internet connection difficulties and were unable to participate in the discussion. Mr. Liang Fengkui, State Oceanic Administration, China served as observer.
- ii. The PRF served as Secretariat for the meeting.
- iii. The agenda for the meeting is attached as Annex 1. A full list of participants is attached as Annex 2.

1.0 Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of Agenda (EC/17/DOC/01)

- 1.1 Dr. Antonio La Viña, Council Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Executive Committee.
- 1.2 The Council Chair welcomed and introduced Ms. Aimee Gonzales as the incoming Executive Director of PEMSEA, effective January 1, 2018.
- 1.3 Ms. Aimee Gonzales expressed her appreciation to the Executive Committee, and is looking forward to working with the Executive Committee, the Partners and the PRF staff.
- 1.4 Mr. Makoto Harunari, Technical Session Chair, congratulated Ms. Gonzales and wished her success as new PEMSEA Executive Director.

Recommendation:

- 1.5 The 20th Executive Committee Meeting adopted the meeting agenda as proposed.

2.0 Recommendations and Decisions from the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting and Actions Taken (EC/17/DOC/02)

Discussion Highlights:

- 2.1 Mr. Ross updated the Executive Committee on the status or actions taken by the PRF in response to the recommendations and decisions of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting which was held in July 2017.

- 2.2 In particular, Mr. Ross highlighted the successful conduct of the Blue Economy Forum which was held in Bangkok, Thailand on November 14-15, 2017, wherein draft National State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) Reports from 8 countries were presented, and representatives from regional programs as well as from ocean-based industries actively participated in support of scaling up blue economy.
- 2.3 Overall, the PRF is on track and is confident to complete the following remaining deliverables:
- a) Final draft of SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2017-2022 to be completed by December 30, 2017 and targeted for adoption at the 10th EAS Partnership Council in 2018.
 - b) Regional and National SOC reports targeted for completion and submission to the East Asian Seas Congress and 6th Ministerial Forum in 2018.
 - c) Knowledge Management (KM) platform targeted for official launch in 1st quarter of 2018.
- 2.4 The Executive Committee noted the progress and accomplishments since July 2017. In particular, the Executive Committee commended the success of the Blue Economy Forum and expressed interest on the release of the regional and national SOC reports by end of 1st quarter of 2018, and the final publication of SOC reports at the EAS Congress in November 2018.
- 2.5 The PRF is working on synthesizing the materials or information on SOC to enable better understanding and appreciation by ministers, policymakers, and various ocean-related sectors, etc.

Conclusion:

- 2.6 The Executive Committee recognized the value of the National and Regional SOC reports as a helpful and unique instrument that allows cross-sectorial approaches in the region. The development of SOC reports linked both environmental and developmental issues, and encouraged the involvement of various government sectors/agencies such as the Economic and Planning units, that were often not part of traditional environmental status reporting.

Recommendations:

- 2.7 The Executive Committee noted the progress and actions taken in line with the decisions of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting.
- 2.8 The Executive Committee recommended that Final draft of SDS-SEA Implementation as well as the full Regional and National SOC reports be completed and disseminated as per target schedule.

3.0 Progress Report on Status of East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018 and 6th Ministerial Forum (EC/17/DOC/03)

Discussion Highlights:

- 3.1 Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo, PRF Secretariat Coordinator, provided an update and highlighted the following key progress in line with the preparations for the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018 and the 6th Ministerial Forum:
 - After months of completing internal procedural requirements, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines have formally confirmed the hosting of the EAS Congress 2018 and the 6th Ministerial Forum on November 26-30, 2018 in Iloilo City, Philippines; and
 - First Information package on the EAS Congress 2018 developed and ready for dissemination to all PEMSEA Partners and collaborators
- 3.2 With regard to the preparation and organization of the 6th Ministerial Forum, Mr. Harunari expressed concern on the level of representation at the Ministerial Forum and requested the PRF to exert utmost effort in securing the participation and early confirmation of Ministers and high-level officials.
- 3.3 As part of the program development for the 6th Ministerial Forum, Mr. Ross indicated that in line with PEMSEA's efforts in developing an Ocean Investment Facility and Fund, it may be good to target and include such initiative for discussion by high-level officials during the Forum.
- 3.4 Mr. Ross further indicated that if progress is made in the coming months with regard to the development of a financing mechanism, the following questions may be considered to encourage substantial discussions:
 - How can we start funding the work being done in oceans?
 - What would be PEMSEA's contribution?
 - What are the possible contributions from other organizations and stakeholders?
- 3.5 On behalf of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China, Mr. Liang Fengkui, reiterated China's interest to convene a session/forum related to Blue Economy at the EAS Congress 2018.
- 3.6 Mr. Ross recalled that the Ocean Leadership Roundtable conducted in July 2017 served as a good avenue to discuss Blue Economy, however, in order to move forward it is important to raise the discussions at the level of agencies responsible for finance and development, and to work closely with other related national agencies through the support of PEMSEA National Focal Points.

Conclusions:

- 3.7 The Ministerial Forum serves as the highest policy-making body of PEMSEA in support of SDS-SEA implementation, it is therefore crucial that full Minister-level or high-level officials represent the PEMSEA countries at the 6th Ministerial Forum.
- 3.8 Ocean investments/financing is increasingly recognized as an important aspect of overall ocean governance. It is therefore integral to start tapping and engaging other government

ministries/agencies in ocean governance discussions (i.e., Economy, Finance and Planning).

Recommendations:

- 3.9 The Executive Committee acknowledged with appreciation the support of the Government of the Philippines, through the DENR, on the hosting and organization of the EAS Congress 2018 and the 6th Ministerial Forum.
- 3.10 The Executive Committee recommended that the PRF:
- disseminate the EAS Congress information package to all Partners and collaborators in the soonest time possible;
 - in collaboration with DENR- Philippines, PRF coordinate closely with the PEMSEA National Focal Points to provide information, encourage participation, and secure early confirmation of Ministers and high-level officials to the 6th Ministerial Forum;
 - include the discussion about the EAS Congress 2018 and 6th Ministerial Forum in the country visits to be conducted by the Council Chair and incoming ED in 2018; and
 - work closely with DENR-Philippines to ensure the successful organization of the EAS Congress 2018.

4.0 Progress on Development of a Sustainable Ocean Investment Facility Supporting SDS-SEA Implementation (EC/17/DOC/04)

Discussion Highlights:

- 4.1 Mr. Ryan Whisnant, PRF Director of Strategic Initiatives, provided updates on the development of a Sustainable Ocean Investment Facility supporting SDS-SEA implementation and presented a proposed work plan for launching an Ocean Investment Facility and Fund (OIFF) in accordance with the decisions of the 9th EAS PC Meeting.
- 4.2 Mr. Harunari reiterated that while he has no objection on the initiative, he emphasized that investments always come with a risk, and encouraged PEMSEA to proceed with the project in a very cautious way.
- 4.3 Dr. La Viña, believes that the overall direction that PEMSEA is taking is good, but it is integral that the Executive Committee is appraised on the progress on every step, and further requested the Executive Committee to provide the necessary guidance to the PRF.
- 4.4 Mr. Ross indicated that the PRF recognizes the associated risks of such investment initiatives and concurred with the Executive Committee on the need for cautious planning and putting in place stepwise actions. The risks, however, should not deter PEMSEA from moving forward. Mr. Ross believes that compared to other organizations, PEMSEA has an advantage in terms of the practical approach and strong work and partnerships that it has established on the ground. The PRF is also partnering with organizations who have the expertise and funds to leverage investments.
- 4.5 With guidance from the Executive Committee, Mr. Ross indicated that the PRF will work towards getting more substantial results by the 10th EAS Partnership Council Meeting in July 2018, and to target securing of more concrete investments before the EAS Congress 2018.

- 4.6 Ms. Gonzales encouraged the Executive Committee to look at the initiative as a value-added to PEMSEA. By undertaking such initiative, PEMSEA is not only developing investable projects but is basically establishing stronger partnerships. Through which, PEMSEA will gain more experience and information in developing portfolio projects that are bankable. She also recommended for PRF to look into other good examples of investments in various sectors such as fisheries, etc.
- 4.7 In relation to this agenda, Mr. Ross informed the Executive Committee of a letter addressed to the PRF from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) Japan, requesting the PRF to suspend all activities related to the development of a financial mechanism until further discussions are conducted with PEMSEA Country Partners related to voluntary country contributions.
- 4.8 Recalling the consensus decision made by the 9th EAS Partnership Council for PRF to proceed with the initiative, Mr. Ross requested for the Executive Committee's guidance on addressing the request from Japan.
- 4.9 Dr. La Viña stated that it is important for the Executive Committee to respond to MLIT, Japan. He further suggested for further internal discussion about the matter, and to consider possible scheduling of a visit to Japan by the Council Chair and incoming new Executive Director in early 2018 to ensure better discussion and understanding of Japan's concerns.

Conclusions:

- 4.10 In keeping with the decision of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting, it is crucial for the Executive Committee to oversee the entire process of developing the sustainable investment facility in support of SDS-SEA implementation, in close coordination with the PRF.
- 4.11 With the increasing focus and recognition of coastal and ocean contributions to sustainable development, it is integral for PEMSEA to move beyond development of plans and link such efforts to investments in order to further strengthen the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

Recommendations:

- 4.12 The Executive Committee noted the progress made and recommended the following:
- The Executive Committee continue to oversee the overall process of this initiative;
 - The PRF proceed with the development of a sustainable ocean investment facility in support of SDS-SEA implementation in accordance with the proposed work plan and schedule;
 - The PRF provide regular updates and seek regular consultations with the Executive Committee regarding the development of investment facility, and to deliver a progress report at the 10th EAS Partnership Council Meeting in July 2018.
- 4.13 In addressing the request from MLIT, Japan, the Executive Committee recommended that:
- The Council Chair issue a response to MLIT, Japan on behalf of the Executive Committee; and

- The PRF explore the possibility of organizing a meeting by the Council Chair and incoming ED with PEMSEA's NFP in Japan in early 2018.

5.0 Proposed Schedule for Incoming ED and Council Chair's Country-by-Country Discussions on Voluntary Contributions in Support of PEMSEA's Sustainability (EC/17/DOC/05)

Discussion Highlights:

- 5.1 In accordance with the decision of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting, a proposed schedule for Country-by-country visits by the incoming Executive Director and Council Chair was reviewed.
- 5.2 The proposal prioritized the visit to countries that have yet to confirm voluntary country contributions to PEMSEA including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The visits are targeted to be finished by March before the 21st Executive Committee Meeting in 2018.
- 5.3 In order to maximize the travel and reduce possible costs, Dr. La Viña proposed to visit the Mekong countries in one week, if feasible, or to schedule two countries in a week.
- 5.4 The country visits will be high-level in nature targeting meetings with the respective Ministers or Vice Ministers and National Focal Points of PEMSEA.

Recommendations:

- 5.5 The Executive Committee recommended:
 - The adoption of the proposed plan for Country-by-Country visits in early 2018, taking into consideration the comments from the meeting;
 - The PRF coordinate with the respective countries to secure and confirm availability of the Minister or Vice Minister and National Focal Point.
 - Based on country confirmations, the PRF finalize the schedule and coordinate arrangements for the country visits.

6.0 Other Business

- 6.1 There were no other business raised during the meeting.

7.0 Closing of the Meeting

- 7.1 Dr. La Viña expressed his appreciation to the members of the Executive Committee and to the PRF for the substantive and concise meeting discussion. He further expressed excitement to the coming year with the celebration of PEMSEA's 25th anniversary and the inclusion of Ms. Gonzales in PEMSEA as new Executive Director.
- 7.2 The Meeting was adjourned on 22 November at 3:00PM.

Annex 1

20TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

November 22, 2017 (Wednesday)

- 14:00 – 14:10** **1.0** **Opening of the Meeting**
 1.1 Review of the Agenda
 1.2 Introduction of the Incoming Executive Director to EC Members
- The Council Chair will open the Meeting and request the Secretariat to present the agenda.
- The Incoming Executive Director, Ms. Aimee Gonzales, will be introduced to all the Executive Committee members.
- 14:10 – 14:20** **2.0** **Recommendations and Decisions from the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting and Actions Taken**
- The Secretariat will provide a short summary report on the status of actions taken with regard to the key recommendations and decisions from the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting. Some of which will be further discussed at the 20th EC Meeting. The EC will take note of the actions taken and provide further guidance on pending items.
- 14:20 – 14:45** **3.0** **Progress Report on Status of East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018 and 6th Ministerial Forum**
- The Secretariat will provide an update report regarding the hosting and organization of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018 and the 6th Ministerial Forum in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines.
- Based on the first EAS Congress 2018 Information Package, the Secretariat will present the proposed focus, objectives and targets for the EAS Congress 2018. The EC members will be requested to provide further inputs and guidance on the development of the EAS Congress program as well as in the overall organization of the EAS Congress and the Ministerial Forum 2018.
- 14:45 – 15:30** **4.0** **Progress on Development of a Sustainable Ocean Investment Facility Supporting SDS-SEA Implementation**
- Following the adoption by the 9th EAS Partnership Council of PRF's proposal to establish an innovative financing mechanism to support and accelerate SDS-SEA implementation (Ocean Investment

Facility and Funds or OIFF), the Secretariat will apprise the 20th EC Meeting of the progress made in developing the OIFF.

The EC will be requested to consider the approach, work plan, schedule and budget allocations identified in the design, development and implementation of the OIFF, as well as to provide further advice on achieving a sustainable financing mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation.

15:30 – 15:45

5.0 Proposed Schedule for Incoming ED and Council Chair’s Country-by-Country Discussions on Voluntary Contributions in Support of PEMSEA’s Sustainability

In accordance with the decision of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting, a proposed schedule and agenda for the conduct of country-by-country high level discussions on strengthening country ownership of PEMSEA and voluntary contributions in support of PEMSEA’s sustainability, will be discussed.

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Executive Committee

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

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

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

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

Observer

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

PEMSEA Secretariat

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

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

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

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

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