



PEMSEA EC Meeting Report 21

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Manila Diamond Hotel
Manila, Philippines**

27 April 2018



DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE 21st EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Manila Diamond Hotel, Manila, Philippines

27 April 2018

A. Introduction

- i. The 21st Executive Committee Meeting was held at Diamond Hotel, Manila, Philippines on 27 April 2018. The meeting was attended by EAS Partnership Council Chair, Dr. Antonio La Viña; Technical Session Chair, Mr. Makoto Harunari; Council Co-Chair, Mr. Arief Yuwono; Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair, Mr. Vu Thanh Ca; and Technical Session Co-Chair, Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh.
- ii. Representatives from China and Vietnam participated as observers. The PRF served as Secretariat for the meeting.
- iii. The agenda for the meeting is attached in Annex 1. A full list of participants is attached as Annex 2.

B. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of Agenda

- i. Dr. Antonio La Viña, Council Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the Executive Committee members and observers to the meeting.
- ii. The Council Chair formally introduced Ms. Aimee Gonzales as the new Executive Director of PEMSEA.
- iii. The PEMSEA ED introduced the meeting agenda with a suggestion to move the agenda on SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022 as first item as it is also linked to the succeeding agenda items.
- iv. The 21st Executive Committee Meeting adopted the meeting agenda, with the proposed modification on sequence.

1.0 SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022

Discussion Highlights:

- 1.1 Ms. Gonzales provided the Executive Committee an update on the status of the development of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022. Taking into consideration the recommendations of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting (July 2017) and subsequent discussions with Country Partners, a simple and concise implementation plan was developed which emphasized its relevance to other related international and regional commitments and targets, including the UN SDGs.

- 1.2 Consultations with Country and Non-Country Partners as well as the UN, other regional and international organizations, research institutions, universities, INGOs and NGOs, investors and the business sector identified that ocean health and ocean governance and management are at the top agenda at global, regional, and national forums, with cross linkages on oceans, climate change, sustainable fisheries, biodiversity, plastics, nutrients, blue economy, etc.
- 1.3 The draft implementation plan provides more specific outcomes, indicators and targeted actions and schedules for priority governance and management programs for the next five years which aims to complement and add value to programs and objectives of PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners while collectively contributing to the regional and global commitments.
- 1.4 Mr. Makoto Harunari proposed to further minimize the volume of targets of the next 5-year plan and ensure that targeted actions and schedules are doable within the available resources and capacities in the countries and the region.
- 1.5 Dr. Vu Than Ca suggested the inclusion of regional/transboundary priorities as part of the plan, particularly giving importance on addressing plastics as a regional challenge in the East Asian seas as well as issues pertaining to migratory fish stocks. (*Secretariat note: pollution reduction and waste management is one of the programmatic priorities of the SDS-SEA*)
- 1.6 Mr. Arief Yuwono highly recommended the integration of national priorities/interests in the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan to encourage more country buy-in and facilitate easier mainstreaming into national plans.

Conclusions

- 1.7 The Executive Committee agreed that:
 - The SDS-SEA should take into consideration key national priorities to facilitate easier mainstreaming and translation of SDS-SEA targets and priorities into national plans and programs.
 - In terms of time coverage, it would be beneficial to check and see how the 5-year SDS-SEA Implementation Plan can be synchronized with existing national development plans.

Recommendations

- 1.8 The Executive Committee recommended:
 - The PRF to ensure that the SDS-SEA IP is concise and easy to understand, with realistic proposed actions and targets that reflect regional and national priorities and an executive summary;
 - The PRF develop a simple graphic presentation of the key programs and proposed actions and targets of the SDS-SEA IP which may be useful for better appreciation and understanding by Country and Non-Country Partners of the document
 - The adoption of the following work plan and schedule to finalize the SDS-SEA Implementation in time for adoption at the 10th EAS Partnership Council Meeting in July 2018:

Activity	Schedule
EC review the draft SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022	May 8 to May 20, 2018
PRF circulate the draft SDS-SEA IP, with inputs from EC, to Country and Non-Country Partners for in-country review	May 23 to June 15, 2018
PRF finalize the draft SDS-SEA IP taking into consideration suggestions/inputs from Country and Non-Country Partners, for submission to the 10 th EAS PC	June 18-22
SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 discussed and adopted at the 10 th EAS PC Meeting	July 25, 2018

2.0 Sixth Ministerial Forum

Discussion Highlights:

- 2.1 Dr. Jae-Young Lee, PRF Deputy Head of Planning and Partnership Development, presented the provisional programme of the Sixth Ministerial Forum and outline of Ministerial Declaration with a proposed workplan and schedule for the completion of the Ministerial Declaration.
- 2.2 The Executive Committee has no objection on the proposed Ministerial Declaration outline but encouraged the PRF to further identify more innovative/exciting targets or initiatives that would help address new and emerging issues on coastal and ocean development and governance in the EAS region, while contributing to achieving UN SDG targets.
- 2.3 As a key reference for the drafting of the Ministerial Declaration, Dr. Ca requested the PRF to ensure that most recent legislation and policies developed and/or adopted in several Partner Countries be reflected in the review of the accomplishments related to the Da Nang Compact.
- 2.4 The Executive Committee reiterated the importance of ensuring high level representation at the Ministerial Forum and expressed commitment to help encourage the Ministries in their respective countries to confirm the participation of Ministers and high-level officials.
- 2.5 The Executive Committee noted PRF's effort in consulting with Country Partners on possible host country for the EAS Congress 2021, and requested the PRF to continue with the consultations in order to formally secure the host country of next EAS Congress.

Conclusions:

- 2.6 The Executive Committee concluded that:
 - In order for the Sixth Ministerial Declaration to be substantive and valuable for the countries, it is important to identify clear objectives and targets

- It is important to consider new and emerging challenges and trends in the Ministerial Declaration, including gender mainstreaming, marine plastics, marine debris, migratory fish issues, tapping of media and technology-based initiatives, etc.

Recommendations:

- 2.7 The Executive Committee recommended the:
- Adoption of the proposed Provisional Programme for the Sixth Ministerial Forum
 - Adoption of the proposed outline and workplan for the Sixth Ministerial Declaration
 - The PRF to ensure that progress from countries in line with the Da Nang targets are reflected in the final reporting for the Ministerial Forum
 - The PRF, in collaboration with EC and the Country Partners, ensure the high level participation at the Ministerial Forum, preferably with heads of delegation not lower than the Vice Minister level
 - The PRF explore and secure participation of eminent persons at the Ministerial Forum to solicit more interest for high level participation from countries
 - The PRF continue the consultations with countries who have not yet hosted the EAS Congress to serve as next host, with Cambodia as the initial preference.

3.0 Progress Report on PEMSEA's Self Sustainability

Discussion Highlights:

- 3.1 In line with the recommendations of the Third-Party Assessment on PEMSEA's Self-Sustainability adopted by the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting, the PEMSEA Executive Director presented updates on PRF initiatives as well as options being explored in support of securing PEMSEA's self-sustainability.
- 3.2 The members of the Executive Committee expressed their appreciation and commended the PEMSEA ED for efforts undertaken to secure additional and expand possible sources of funding in support of PEMSEA's self-sustainability.
- 3.3 The members of the Executive Committee offered their support to the ED by providing assistance in identifying other possible funding sources and in securing more funding for the organization.
- 3.4 In order to promote and market PEMSEA better, the Executive Committee suggested for PRF to develop a brief information material that would highlight PEMSEA's success stories with detailed list of PEMSEA services.
- 3.5 Dr. La Viña provided his insights on the establishment of the proposed Core Team for Post 2020. He recommended the inclusion of experts who have been involved with PEMSEA in the past, particularly those who have had an active role with the organization. Furthermore, he conveyed his personal support and willingness to be part of the Core Team and encouraged other members of the Executive Committee to do the same, once their term ends.

Conclusions:

- 3.6 The Executive Committee commended the efforts undertaken by the PRF to diversify and expand funding options in order to secure the sustainability of PEMSEA.
- 3.7 The Executive Committee concluded that the proposed PEMSEA Core Team for Post-2020 would enable PEMSEA to tap on various experts and knowledge in developing PEMSEA's post-2020 strategy.

Recommendations:

- 3.8 The Executive Committee recommended:
- The PRF to identify a name/title for the proposed PEMSEA Core Team for Post-2020 and include the establishment of a PEMSEA Core Team Post-2020 in the Sixth Ministerial Declaration
 - The PRF to prepare an information brief about PEMSEA, its key successes and services in an easy to understand format that would be used to promote and market PEMSEA to various organizations and companies for funding grants and partnerships
 - The Executive Committee members to assist in their respective countries and organizations in promoting PEMSEA and in securing country support or joint funding opportunities.

4.0 Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA Implementation

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 in accordance with the decisions of the 9th EAS Partnership Council Meeting. Work is progressing in accordance with the schedule adopted by the 20th Executive Committee Meeting (November 2017). Highlights of progress and an accounting of the use of funds for the initiative were presented.
- 4.2 PEMSEA's new Investment Specialist, Mr. David Pangan, was introduced to the Executive Committee members. Mr. Pangan proceeded to present an overview of the work programme developed for implementation of the pre-investment facility and the services and benefits offered to PEMSEA partners.
- 4.3 Dr. La Viña expressed his congratulations to the PRF for its efforts and his continued support for establishing a pre-investment facility in support of SDS-SEA implementation.
- 4.4 Mr. Harunari reiterated that while he has no objection to the initiative, he encouraged PEMSEA to take a cautious approach, a sentiment echoed by Dr. Ca. Both re-emphasized the need for some form of financial return to the PRF from this initiative.
- 4.5 Mr. Yuwono highlighted the need to clearly convey the benefits of the facility to PEMSEA partners and the broader ocean community. This was supported by Mr. Liang Fengkui,

Director of International Cooperation, SOA, China and suggested for the initiative to be better and more broadly communicated with member countries. Mr. Liang further expressed SOA's support for the facility and re-iterated China's interest in collaborating on blue economy investment and financing activities.

- 4.6 In response to the concerns raised on the establishment of a pre-investment facility, the Council Chair conducted an 'EC members only' discussion to further clarify the purpose of the initiative. It was clarified that the USD300k allocated for the OIFF by Partnership Council is not an investment itself, capable of financial return, but is rather a programmatic budget for building the platform that would facilitate the creation of 'bankable' projects and match it to potential investors who can then identify investments capable of producing financial return.
- 4.7 The PEMSEA ED further emphasized that the establishment of a pre-investment facility is just one of the many options and initiatives being explored in support of SDS-SEA implementation.
- 4.8 The Executive Committee expressed their appreciation for the clarifications provided and requested the PRF to consider a more appropriate name for the facility to avoid confusion and to best convey its purpose. The members of the Executive Committee further expressed support to help communicate and clarify the role of the facility with PEMSEA Partners.

Conclusions:

- 4.9 The Executive Committee concluded that:
- Based on further clarification, the amount of USD300k allocated for the OIFF initiative is meant to facilitate the establishment of a financing facility that would enable PEMSEA to provide services in identifying and developing bankable projects as well as other funding opportunities
 - The Ocean Investment Facility and Fund (OIFF) initiative is just one of the many options/elements under the broader PEMSEA sustainable financing initiative in order to sustain SDS-SEA implementation as well as to contribute to PEMSEA's sustainability

Recommendations:

- 4.10 The Executive Committee recommended that:
- The PRF explore an appropriate name for OIFF in order to avoid confusion and better convey its purpose
 - The PRF ensure that services and benefits of the finance facility are clearly communicated to PEMSEA partners
 - The PRF to continue with its efforts in line with the initially agreed work plan and timetable on sustainable financing for SDS-SEA implementation

5.0 East Asian Seas Congress 2018

Discussion Highlights:

- 5.1 Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo-Aguiling, PRF Secretariat Coordinator, provided an update on the preparations for the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018, focusing on the ongoing finalization of the program for the different EAS Congress events, as well as securing of key speakers.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee noted that overall, the PRF serving as EAS Congress Secretariat in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines as lead host agency, has made significant progress with most key speakers and session conveners already confirmed and all Congress event programs developed.
- 5.3 In order to further strengthen promotions and marketing for the EAS Congress 2018, it was also emphasized that both international and local media will be engaged and more information campaign will be undertaken in the coming months.

Conclusions:

- 5.4 The Executive Committee commended the efforts undertaken thus far by the PRF and the Governments of the Philippines through DENR in the preparation for the EAS Congress 2018.

Recommendations:

- 5.5 The Executive Committee recommended that the PRF identify and work with the EC members on their specific roles for the EAS Congress 2018.

6.0 Other Business

Vacancy of the Intergovernmental Chair position

Discussion Highlights:

- 6.1 The Executive Committee was informed that Dr. Zhang Haiwen, Intergovernmental Session Chair, has transferred to China Institute for Marine Affairs (CIM) and will no longer be able to participate in Executive Committee and EAS Partnership Council Meetings.

Recommendation:

- 6.2 In accordance with the PEMSEA Rules of Governance, the Executive Committee recommended that Dr. Vu Than Ca, Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair will serve as acting Intergovernmental Session Chair in view of Dr. Zhang Haiwen's inability to participate in EC and PC meetings.

C. Closing of the Meeting

- i. Dr. La Viña commended the members of the Executive Committee and the PRF Secretariat for the successful conduct of the meeting. He offered his congratulations and expressed his appreciation once again to Ms. Gonzales for the efforts and initiatives she had undertaken upon assuming her post.
- ii. The meeting was adjourned on 27 April 2018 at 2:00pm.

ANNEX 1
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Annex 1

21st Executive Committee Meeting

ANNOTATED AGENDA (as adopted by the Meeting)

27 April 2018

09:00 – 09:05

1.0 Opening of the Meeting and Approval of the Meeting Agenda

The Council Chair will open the meeting and request the Secretariat to present the Meeting Agenda for review and approval by the Executive Committee.

09:05 – 09:40

2.0 Update on SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022

The Secretariat will provide an update on the revised draft SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (IP) 2018-2022, and proposed work plan with target of having the SDS-SEA IP adopted at the 10th EAS PC Meeting in July 2018.

After the presentation, the Chair will request the EC members for further suggestions on the SDS-SEA IP and the proposed work plan or schedule.

09:40 – 10:30

3.0 Sixth Ministerial Forum

The Secretariat will provide a short update on the preparations for the EAS Congress and the Sixth Ministerial Forum. The Secretariat will present a working programme for the Ministerial Forum highlighting proposed key issues and target outcomes, including an outline for the Ministerial Declaration, and proposed work plan and timeline to complete the Ministerial Declaration.

The EC will be requested to provide inputs to the Ministerial Declaration outline and provide further suggestions/recommendations on topics/speakers that are crucial for the countries of the region and issues that would be of particular interest to the Ministers.

The meeting will also discuss the support needed from the EC in promoting and engaging various partners and collaborators to the EAS Congress, and discuss possible roles of the EC members at the EAS Congress and Ministerial Forum.

10:30 – 11:00	4.0 Progress Report on PEMSEA’s Self Sustainability
	<p>The ED will report on the results of the country visits undertaken in line with the objective to strengthen country ownership of PEMSEA and secure voluntary financial contributions in support of PEMSEA’s self-sustainability, as committed by country members in the 2015 Da Nang Ministerial Declaration.</p> <p>The ED will also apprise the meeting of ongoing efforts in securing GCF accreditation, as well as the exploratory discussions with various entities for possible collaboration with the aim of opening new avenues to support PEMSEA’s sustainability.</p> <p>Ensuring PEMSEA’s self-sustainability and strengthening country support requires concerted effort. The EC will be invited to share other possible opportunities that PEMSEA may tap, and identify ways on how the EC members can provide further support in this key initiative.</p>
11:00 – 12:00	5.0 Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SDS-SEA Implementation
	<p>The Secretariat will present a progress report on development of a sustainable financing mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation. The EC will be invited to provide further comments/suggestions and provide guidance on the overall process.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 – 13:30	6.0 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018
	<p>The Secretariat will provide a progress report with regard to the preparation for the East Asian Seas Congress 2018, highlighting key accomplishments made, line-up and status of major speakers, identified sessions and conveners.</p> <p>The Executive Committee will be invited to provide further suggestions/guidance to ensure the successful organization of the EAS Congress 2018.</p>
13:30 – 14:00	7.0 Other Business
	<p>The Executive Committee will be informed of the vacancy in the Intergovernmental Session Chair post in view of the inability of the current Intergovernmental Session Chair in future EC and PC meetings. The Executive Committee will discuss the situation and identify steps forward in line with PEMSEA Rules of Governance.</p>

The EC members will be invited to raise other related business to the meeting.

14:00

Closing of the Meeting

ANNEX 2
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Antonio La Viña
Council Chair
EAS Partnership Council
Philippines

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

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

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

Mr. Vu Thanh Ca
Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair
EAS Partnership Council
Vietnam

OBSERVERS

CHINA

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

Mr. Liu Haidan
The First Institute of Oceanography
State Oceanic Administration
China

VIETNAM

Dr. Nguyen Le Tuan
Director
Institute of Seas and Islands Research
Vietnam Administration of Seas and Island
Vietnam

PEMSEA SECRETARIAT

Ms. Aimee Gonzales
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

Mr. David Pangan
Investment Specialist
PEMSEA Resource Facility
PEMSEA Building
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

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

Ms. Diwata Cayaban
Programme Assistant
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