



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS



## Charting a New Decade of Healthy Oceans, People and Economies

1-2 DECEMBER 2021 • Hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia

## 27th PEMSEA Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

26 October 2021, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (GMT+7)  
Online via Zoom

**ORGANIZER:**



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

**27<sup>th</sup> (Expanded) Executive Committee Meeting of  
Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)**

**PROCEEDINGS**

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## INTRODUCTION

- i. The 27<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting was held virtually on 26 October 2021 through a Zoom conference call. Representatives from 10 PEMSEA country partners (CPs)—namely Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam—attended the meeting along with representatives from PEMSEA non-country partners (NCPs), namely; International Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS) Center, IPIECA, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Ocean Policy Research Institute – The Sasakawa Foundation (OPRI-SPF), Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), and PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG). The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) served as the Secretariat for the meeting.
- ii. The annotated agenda, list of participants, and links to other reference materials (i.e, meeting documents; presentation file; group photos; and video recording) can be found in Annexes 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

## A. COUNCIL SESSION

### 1.0 Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions (EC/27/DOC/01c)

- 1.1 The EAS PC Chair, Mr. Arief Yuwono, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm (GMT+8) and acknowledged the presence of his fellow EC members, CPs, NCPs, and the PRF.
- 1.2 In his opening remarks, Mr. Yuwono emphasized the remaining work needed to be done for the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum, which prompted the expansion of the meeting to cover CPs and NCPs.
- 1.3 Coming from the last EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meeting in July 2021, which saw several significant improvements on the draft 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration, he reiterated the meeting's recommendation to have a regional long-term political commitment that is brief, yet clear in terms of expected outcomes, actions, and timeline, and at the same time cognizant of PEMSEA's strengths. There is a need for continued commitment on mainstreaming, integration, and promotion of ICM as an effective tool for scaling up the implementation of the SDS-SEA into national and local laws, policies, and programs to help attain blue economy. He also reiterated the importance of continued country support to PRF in delivering technical and secretariat services for SDS-SEA implementation as well as the need to ensure that the Declaration has enough flexibility to enable CPs to implement their commitments arising from the Declaration in their own respective context.
- 1.4 He expressed his hope that the 27<sup>th</sup> EC meeting will arrive at an initial concurrence on the latest version of the Ministerial Declaration in time for the final confirmation at the Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM) on 25 November 2021 and looks forward to hearing updates on other Congress-related matters as well as the next steps on the formulation process of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.
- 1.5 Ending his speech, Mr. Yuwono underscored the importance of PEMSEA taking the initiative and steering the discourse to sustain its momentum of building meaningful and transformative solutions towards the global ocean agenda amidst the new normal in an era of post-GEF support.

- 1.6 The Secretariat Coordinator of the PRF, Ms. Karen See, then presented the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions for review/approval of the meeting.
- 1.7 **Decision:** The agenda was approved as presented.

## B. TECHNICAL SESSION

### 2.0 2023-2027 Implementation Plan (IP) of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) (EC/27/DOC/02)

- 2.1 Ms. See presented the updates on developing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 during this segment.
- 2.2 She reminded everyone that the 13<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting recognized the need for a Technical Working Group (TWG) that will lead the development of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2028—from the drafting of the document and conduct of online consultations to the building of consensus and finalization of the plan. PRF then drafted the Terms of Reference of the TWG (TOR) (Annex 1 of EC/27/DOC/02), which was sent to PC members in August 2021 for consideration.
- 2.3 The core TWG will be composed of the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair of the EAS PC as the overall lead and advisers as well as the PRF as technical and secretariat support and will be assisted by voluntary representatives within the Council as nominated by their respective institutions during the period of August-September 2021.
- 2.4 Table 1 provides the list of PC representatives who have been nominated to assist the core TWG.

**Table 1. List of nominated PC representatives as support to the core TWG.**

Institution	Representative/s
<b>PEMSEA CPs</b>	
China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center (CPC)	<b>Mr. WEN Quan</b> Consultant, CPC; and Researcher, National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center, China
Department of Water Resources (DWR), Lao PDR	<b>Dr. Inthavy AKKHARATH</b> Director-General
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines	<b>Ms. Alita SANGALANG (Principal)</b> Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist, Coastal Management Division (CMD), Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Ms. Coleen Joyce BAUTISTA Project Development Officer, BMB-CMD
	<b>Mr. Jay ARIDIDON</b> Monitoring Officer, BMB-CMD Ms. Maria Delia Cristina VALDEZ

Institution	Representative/s
	<p>Officer-in-Charge, Solid Waste Management Division, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)</p> <p><b>Ms. Ma. Fatima Anneglo MOLINA</b>            Chief, Environmental Research and Laboratory Services Division, EMB</p> <p>Ms. Consolacion CRISOSTOMO            Chief, Policy, Planning and Program Division, EMB</p> <p><b>Ms. Mary Esther OFIAZA</b>            Officer-in-Charge, Project Management and International Affairs Section</p> <p><b>Ms. Michieko SIBUNGA</b>            Senior Environmental Management Specialist</p> <p><b>Mr. Jose Isidro Michael PADIN</b>            Chief Science Research Specialist            Coastal Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)</p>
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Timor-Leste	<p><b>Mr. Acacio GUTERRES</b>            Director General of Fishery, Aquaculture and Marine Resources</p> <p><b>Mr. Artur Maria PEREIRA</b>            Staff</p>
<b>PEMSEA NCPs</b>	
IPIECA	<p><b>Mr. Nai Ming LEE</b>            Project Manager, IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GISEA) Project</p>
Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF)	<p><b>Mr. Masanori KOBAYASHI</b>            Senior Research Fellow</p> <p><b>Dr. Atsushi WATANABE</b>            Senior Research Fellow</p>
Oil Spill Response Limited	<p><b>Mr. James TAN</b>            Industry Engagement Lead – Asia Pacific region</p>
PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG)	<p><b>Dr. FANG Qinhua</b>            Deputy Secretary General, PNLG Secretariat; and Director of Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University (XMU), China</p>

- 2.5 She clarified that the consultation process will nonetheless involve all Council members; the consultations are not restricted to the members of the TWG alone.
- 2.6 The following documents/information will be used as initial reference materials in the development of the plan:
- [SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022;](#)
  - [Results and recommendations from the midterm review of the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022;](#)
  - [Recommendations from the 13<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting on the priority governance and management programs of the new IP;](#)

- [PEMSEA’s Post-2020 Futures Report and Strategy](#);
- [Sustainable recovery measures of PEMSEA country partners in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as discussed in the Ocean Roundtable Dialogue of the EAS Congress 2021 held on 8 June 2021](#);
- Priorities and proposed actions, indicators of progress, and opportunities for cooperation under relevant global plans of actions; and
- [Draft PEMSEA Roadmap 2030](#).

2.7 She then shared the updated timeline for developing the new SDS-SEA IP (see Table 2).

**Table 2. Updated timeline for developing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.**

Activities/Deliverables	Responsibility Center	Schedule
<b>Preparation and Consultation Phase</b>		
Finalize the TOR and establish the TWG	PRF	Oct. 2021
Share additional plans, strategies, and programs of the concerned country/organization that are deemed relevant as reference materials	CPs, NCPs, PNLG, and PNLC members to provide copies of relevant documents/information  PRF to consolidate and process the submitted files/information	Oct.-Dec. 2021
Online meeting to discuss the new SDS-SEA IP action programs, targets, indicators, and timeline for implementation based on the initial assessment done by PRF	TWG	Jan. 2022
Prepare the annotated outline (and supporting information/documents) for the new SDS-SEA IP as reference materials for the consultation	TWG	Jan. 2022
Conduct consultations with the TWG, CPs, NCPs, PNLG, PNLC, and other relevant stakeholders	PRF	Feb.-Mar. 2022
Present the annotated and results of the consultations at the 28 <sup>th</sup> EC Meeting	TWG	Mar. 2022
<b>Finalization and Approval Phase</b>		
Prepare the first draft of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027	TWG	Apr.-May 2022
Review the first draft	CPs, NCPs, PNLG, PNLC, and other relevant stakeholders	May 2022
Prepare the second draft incorporating the comments on the first draft	TWG	Jun. 2022

Activities/Deliverables	Responsibility Center	Schedule
Review the second draft	CPS, NCPs, PNLG, PNLC, and other relevant stakeholders	Jun. 2022
Refine and finalize the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027	TWG	Jul. 2022
Approve the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 at the 14 <sup>th</sup> PC Meeting	PC	Jul. 2022

2.8 On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) of Indonesia, Ms. Irene Aditya Yuniarti, Head of the Environment Quality Standards Section expressed their appreciation towards the PRF for its ongoing preparations in developing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and will submit the names of their representatives to the TWG.

2.9 **Decisions:**

- The Technical Session approved the Terms of Reference (TOR) and timeline for developing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and agreed to provide additional reference materials such as relevant country/organizational level strategies/plans in the next 5-6 years.
- MoEF Indonesia to send the Secretariat the names of their representatives in the TWG leading the formulation of the SDS-SEA IP.

**3.0 [EAS Congress 2021 \(EC/27/DOC/03\)](#)**

3.1 Dr. Vann Monyneath, Secretary General at the Ministry of Environment (MoE) Cambodia as host country of the EAS Congress 2021, provided updates on their preparations for the ongoing Congress. The MoE, along with other key Ministries in Cambodia, have created the working committees to prepare for the main Congress events on December 1-2, 2021, such as the 2021 PNLG Forum, Main Conference, Partnership Night, and 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum. Select Cambodian delegates shall convene together face-to-face at the Independence Hotel in Sihanoukville, Cambodia to join these events. Administrative and logistical preparations are well underway.

3.2 On behalf of MoE, he thanked PEMSEA partners for the support in organizing and participating in the different Congress events such as the collabs or knowledge-sharing sessions. Ms. See apprised the Technical Session about upcoming activities, particularly the collabs in November, under the EAS Congress 2021 (see Table 3):

**Table 3. Overview of remaining activities under EAS Congress 2021.**

Date and Time (GMT+7)	Event Title and Description	Organizers
3 November 2021 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Using Nature-based Solutions (NBS): Focusing on the Seaweed Beds and Marine Microalgae in China</b>  The workshop, which will be held in Mandarin, will share Chinese experiences in algae artificial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center (CPC)</li> </ul>

Date and Time (GMT+7)	Event Title and Description	Organizers
	<p>breeding and cultivation and rehabilitation of giant seaweed beds that contribute to carbon sequestration.</p> <p>The event is open to the public.</p> <p>Voov Link:  <a href="https://meeting.tencent.com/dm/ioqBpsq3vQQh">https://meeting.tencent.com/dm/ioqBpsq3vQQh</a>            No.: 640 258 607            Pin: 319321</p> <p>Visit the <a href="#">event's page</a> for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ocean University of China (OUC)</li> <li>• PRF</li> </ul>
<p>9 November 2021</p> <p>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Replicable Models on Marine Plastic Pollution Monitoring</b></p> <p>This collab will highlight the lessons learned from the ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO) and other efforts in Asia to reduce the flow of plastic waste into the ocean by providing examples of approaches to understanding and tackling the monitoring of plastic pollution issues while providing a platform in which peer-to-peer knowledge sharing can take place.</p> <p>The event is open to the public. To join, kindly register <a href="#">here</a> by 5 November 2021, 11:59 PM (GMT+7).</p> <p>Visit the <a href="#">event's page</a> for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEANO</li> <li>• PRF</li> </ul>
<p>11 November 2021</p> <p>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Seminar on Innovative Solutions to Address Biofouling in the ASEAN Region</b></p> <p>The seminar aims to shed light on the biological and chemical characteristics of biofouling and the economic impacts of invasive aquatic species transferred by biofouling; present the ways to obtain information on the economic impacts from relevant industries and other stakeholders; share information and knowledge on innovative solutions to combat biofouling; and identify and agree on cooperation needs across the marine value chain and beyond to support these innovative solutions and best practices on data and information sharing, policies, and programs.</p> <p>The event is open to the public. To join, kindly register <a href="#">here</a> by 9 November 2021, 11:59 PM (GMT+7).</p> <p>Visit the <a href="#">event's page</a> for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRF</li> <li>• Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)</li> <li>• International Maritime Organization (IMO)</li> </ul>



Date and Time (GMT+7)	Event Title and Description	Organizers
<p>15 November 2021</p> <p>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Making Asia-Pacific Resilient to Climate Change: The Effort and Perspective of the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT)</b></p> <p>AP-PLAT was established at the 2018 Group of Twenty (G20) summit in Japan with the vision of helping Asia-Pacific countries to build a climate-resilient and sustainable society. Its activities revolve around: 1) developing scientific knowledge and information related to climate change impacts in the region; 2) providing support tools for stakeholders engaged in policy-making; and 3) providing capacity-building on climate change impact assessment and formulation of adaptation projects. In relation to this, the collab aims to present useful scientific tools and online capacity-building services available in AP-PLAT and discuss potential areas for collaboration/synergy between AP-PLAT and PEMSEA and the role of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Japan as a PEMSEA Regional Center of Excellence and promoter of capacity-building activities about AP-PLAT.</p> <p>The event is open to the public. Kindly register <a href="#">here</a> to join.</p> <p>Visit the <a href="#">event's page</a> for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IGES</li> <li>• Ministry of the Environment Japan</li> <li>• Center for Climate Change Adaptation (CCCA), National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan</li> </ul>
<p>16 November 2021</p> <p>2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Online Dialogue: Circular Economy Solutions to Reduce Plastic Waste and Marine Litter</b></p> <p>The forum will bring together experiences and perspectives from Europe and East and Southeast Asia in terms of strategies, tools, mechanisms, and success stories in sustainable plastic production and consumption. The forum will be organized under the GIZ-EU project entitled "Rethinking Plastics – Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter," which supports the transition of select countries in East and Southeast Asia to a circular plastic industry with the end goal of improving resource efficiency and reduced marine litter. The project provides advisory services and pilot projects in close cooperation with regional, national, and local partners.</p> <p>The event is open to the public. Kindly register <a href="#">here</a> to join.</p> <p>Visit the <a href="#">event's page</a> for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines</li> <li>• Rethinking Plastics: Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter</li> </ul>

Date and Time (GMT+7)	Event Title and Description	Organizers
<p>18 November 2021 1:30 PM - 4:40 PM</p> <p>19 November 2021 8:00 AM - 11:05 AM</p>	<p><b>2021 Joint Learning Forum of the PEMSEA Networks of Local Governments and Learning Centers</b></p> <p>Close to three decades of developing, implementing, and verifying the effectiveness of integrated coastal management (ICM) in terms of socioeconomic and environmental benefits have driven the replication and scaling up of ICM, covering more coastlines in the various countries in the East Asian Region. The replication and scaling up efforts were made possible with the issuance of necessary policies and supporting legislations by several countries in the region to support ICM implementation. As scaling up efforts continue to accelerate in the coming decade, it is critical that the next generation of coastal managers and practitioners are adept in ICM principles, concept, framework, processes, and tools to enable them to effectively carry out their tasks and contribute to achieving local, national, regional, and global targets in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>Target audience: Members of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) and PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC)</p> <p>Visit the <a href="#">event's page</a> for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNLG Secretariat</li> <li>• Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI), Xiamen University (XMU)</li> <li>• Xiamen Marine International Cooperation Center (XMICC), China</li> </ul>
<p>19 November 2021 8:00 AM - 4:05 PM</p>	<p><b>2021 International Conference on Blue Carbon</b></p> <p>The role of blue carbon in climate change mitigation and adaptation has now reached international prominence. Extensive blue carbon studies are helping policy-makers clarify the role and value of coastal resources in carbon sequestration and provide nature-based solutions to climate change challenges. To promote knowledge and experience sharing on blue carbon science and policy and facilitate international cooperation in this regard under the PEMSEA framework, the 2021 International Conference on Blue Carbon will be organized as an event of the EAS Congress 2021 and 2021 Xiamen World Ocean Week.</p> <p>The event is open to the public. Visit the <a href="#">event's page</a> for more information.</p> <p>Registration details will be shared to Council members once available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), China</li> <li>• PRF</li> <li>• Department of Ecological Restoration of Territorial Space, MNR, China</li> <li>• Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Ocean Development, China</li> <li>• Key Laboratory of Marine Ecological Conservation and Restoration, MNR, China</li> <li>• Observation and Research Station of Coastal Wetland</li> </ul>

Date and Time (GMT+7)	Event Title and Description	Organizers
		<p>Ecosystem in Beibu Gulf, MNR, China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Laboratory of Oceanic-Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Change, MNR, China</li> <li>• Marine Ecological Committee, China Ecological Society</li> <li>• SEE (Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology Foundation)</li> </ul>
<p>26 November 2021 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Training Session on Pollution Assessment and Management (PAM)</b></p> <p>The training will cover the concept, principles, and best practices in environmental risk assessment and management of chemical contaminants in water bodies from the standpoint of prospective, retrospective, and tiered approaches. The training will also provide an overview of emerging technologies in monitoring and assessment of marine pollution.</p> <p>The event is open to the public. Kindly register <a href="#">here</a> to join.</p> <p>Visit the <a href="#">event's page</a> for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP)</li> <li>• City University of Hong Kong (CityU)</li> <li>• Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)</li> <li>• Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)</li> </ul>
<p>27 November 2021 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>A Symposium on Recent Advances in Marine Environmental Research</b></p> <p>With the goal of paving the way for capacity-building and research collaboration in Asia-Pacific, this symposium will feature a series of talks on recent advances in pollution monitoring and control technologies, environmental risk assessment of emerging chemicals of concern, and ecological restoration through the eyes of leading experts from Hong Kong. Particular attention will be placed on toxins or man-made substances that pollute the ocean or affect its living biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKLMP</li> <li>• CityU</li> <li>• Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, PolyU</li> <li>• Department of Science and Environmental Studies, EdUHK</li> </ul>
<p>November 2021 (exact date and schedule to be determined)</p>	<p><b>Session on Innovations in Greenhouse Gas Reduction in East and Southeast Asia's Maritime Sector</b></p> <p>This is a regional project meeting that aims to discuss the progress of the Blue Solutions project preparation phase. In June 2021, the IMO and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMO</li> <li>• PRF</li> </ul>

Date and Time (GMT+7)	Event Title and Description	Organizers
	<p>PEMSEA embarked on the planning and preparation of a project designed to build and enhance greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies and capacities in the maritime sector among East and Southeast Asian countries, focusing on interface areas and interactions across ships, ports, and hinterland transport. The regional meeting will provide an opportunity for beneficiary countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, to share information on their respective national GHG pilot projects to be funded under the project, including their potential contribution to the achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</p> <p>By-invitation only.</p>	

- 3.3 Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of the PRF, then reminded the meeting to visit the EAS Congress 2021 website (<https://eascongress2021.pemsea.org/>) for full information about the Congress, including completed and upcoming events. She also reminded the Session about the expected outputs of the Congress, namely the signing of the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration and the PNLC Charter and the approval of the PNLG Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2022-2030 and the PNLG Declaration.
- 3.4 **Decision:** The Technical Session shall register for upcoming collabs where applicable and assist the Congress Secretariat in promoting the Congress by disseminating all available marketing materials to their respective information portals as an ongoing regular activity.

#### 4.0 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration (EC/27/DOC/04)

- 4.1 Ms. Gonzales presented an overview of the processes undertaken as part of the review and consensus building on the draft 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration. In particular, following the 13<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting in July 2021, the Secretariat has facilitated the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> round of consultations with CPs and NCPs as well as bilateral discussions with CPs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> draft Ministerial Declaration.
- 4.2 As a result of the series of consultations, the 4<sup>th</sup> draft EAS Ministerial Declaration was developed and presented at the meeting with the following key elements and proposed revisions:
- Brief and succinct formulation using clear and internationally accepted terminologies.
  - A revised section on PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 focusing on four key strategic objectives on effective governance, healthy ocean, healthy people, and healthy economies in line with the SDS-SEA vision while the detailed description of target priorities was reflected in a separate working document on the PEMSEA Roadmap.
  - Deletion of reference to other international instruments that are still undergoing deliberations (i.e., regarding UNFCCC-Net Zero Carbon; Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework) so as not to preempt the results of these deliberation.

- Inclusion of river and water resources in relevant sections, mainly to reflect the focus area of Lao as CP as well as other PEMSEA initiatives related to integrated river basin and coastal area management
- An updated section on Call for Action covering recognition and support to the PRF, strengthened partnerships, and commitment to green recovery.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> draft Declaration containing specific text suggestions or proposed revisions were presented as provided in Annex 4.

4.3 Ms. Gonzales further reminded the meeting of the remaining activities and schedule in support of the finalization of the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration (Table 4):

**Table 4. Schedule of remaining activities to finalize the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration.**

Activity	Target Date
Dissemination of the revised Draft Ministerial Declaration based on inputs from the 27 <sup>th</sup> EC Meeting in preparation for the Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM)	2 November 2021
7 <sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM (confirmation and endorsement of final draft to 7 <sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum)	25 November 2021
Release of Final Ministerial Declaration to all CPs for printing	29 November 2021
Adoption of 7 <sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration at the 7 <sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum	2 December 2021
Submission of signed copy of the 7 <sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration to the PRF	3-15 December 2021

4.4 On behalf of MoE, Cambodia, Mr. Prak Amida, the Deputy Secretary General of the National Council for Sustainable Development expressed the host country's appreciation to all partners for their support and inputs during the consultations on the draft Ministerial Declaration and noted that the latest draft is almost close to finalization. Mr. Prak indicated that the current iteration of the Declaration is acceptable to MoE and that they support the endorsement of the draft to the SGOM for final review.

4.5 On behalf of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of RO Korea, Ms. Soobin Shim, Deputy Director, Marine Environment Policy Division, suggested to insert the year "2016" as signature date of the Paris Climate Agreement under paragraph 4 of the draft Ministerial Declaration.

4.6 Representatives from each Country Partner apprised the meeting of the status of their consultations with regard to the draft Ministerial Declaration. In particular, while majority indicated no further or specific comments on the draft and the pending text in brackets, CPs indicated that in-country consultation processes are still ongoing within their respective PEMSEA focal ministries as well as with other relevant agencies. CPs will provide further updates to the PRF on the results of in-country consultations in the lead-up to the SGOM.

4.7 On the other hand, representatives from NCPs expressed their appreciation to the EAS PC and the PRF for engaging NCPs in the review process of the draft Declaration and expressed full support on the Ministerial Declaration's objectives.

- 4.8 Mr. Kobayashi Masanori, Senior Research Fellow of the Ocean Policy Research Institute – Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF), further indicated the importance of bringing the Declaration to the highest attention of various PEMSEA countries to ensure effective support and implementation of the work and initiatives that will arise out of the Declaration.
- 4.9 Mr. Yuwono concurred that the 4<sup>th</sup> draft Ministerial Declaration is more concise and comprehensive as compared to previous drafts. He underscored the importance of ensuring that the review and finalization of the Declaration remains transparent, participatory, and inclusive in order to guarantee that the Ministerial Declaration can be implemented by all PEMSEA partners once adopted.
- 4.10 Considering the limited time left before the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum, Dr. Keita Furukawa, Technical Session Co-Chair of the EAS PC, reiterated the request particularly to CPs in securing the final inputs and confirmation on the draft Ministerial Declaration, which will be subject to the final review and endorsement by the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM on 25 November 2021.
- 4.11 **Conclusions:**
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Ministerial Declaration has been found to be in order, brief and succinct, reflecting key inputs and suggestions generated during the consultation process with CPs and NCPs.
  - To ensure partners’ ownership and that the highest attention is accorded to the Declaration, it is crucial to have a transparent and inclusive process in the finalization of the document.
- 4.12 **Decisions:**
- The Technical Session agreed to finalize in-country consultations on the draft Declaration and to comment and/or confirm remaining proposed revisions on the 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Declaration in preparation for the final review at the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM.
  - NCPs shall provide updates on their delegation for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum to the PRF by 15 November 2021.
- 4.13 **Note from PRF:** In line with the agreed work plan and timeline for the finalization of the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration, an updated copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> draft Ministerial Declaration was released by the PRF to all Country Partners on 2 November 2021 together with a response form to facilitate the receipt of final inputs and/or initial concurrence on the draft by 17 November 2021 in preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM.

## C. COUNCIL SESSION

### 5.0 Other Business

#### 5.1 **Decisions:**

- CPs and NCPs to submit to the PRF a short write-up (maximum of 500 words) on the 2021 highlights/accomplishments of their respective organizations, including high resolution action photos of their work on coastal and marine governance, by 7 January 2022 for inclusion in the 2021 PEMSEA Annual Report.
- Council members agreed on a schedule for developing the 27<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting proceedings (see Table 5).

**Table 5. Schedule for developing the proceedings of the 27<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting.**

Activity	Target Date
Deadline for Secretariat to send the <b>draft conclusions and recommendations</b> to Council members	27 October 2021
Deadline for the Council to submit feedback on the <b>draft conclusions and recommendations</b> to the Secretariat and answer the <b>post-EC meeting evaluation survey</b>	29 October 2021
Deadline for the Secretariat to send the <b>draft proceedings</b> to the Council	3 November 2021
Deadline for the Council to submit feedback on the <b>draft proceedings</b> to the Secretariat	12 November 2021
Release of <b>final proceedings</b> to the Council	15 November 2021

## 6.0 Closing of the Council and Technical Sessions

- 6.1 Mr. Yuwono provided the highlights of the Council and Technical Sessions. He thanked Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh and Dr. Furukawa of the EC for their commendable chairmanship of the Technical Session, the PRF staff for facilitating the preparations of the 27<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting, and PEMSEA partners for their continued support.

## D. INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION

### 7.0 Approval of the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session (EC/27/DOC/06)

- 7.1 Ms. See presented the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session for review/approval of the meeting.
- 7.2 **Decision:** The agenda was approved as presented.

### 8.0 Preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum (EC/27/DOC/05)

- 8.1 Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilin, PRF Consultant for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum, presented the following progress or accomplishments with regard to the preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM, 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum, and Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference:
- Programs for all three events completed and disseminated
  - Invitation letters and registration opened to target invitees
  - Country Guidance Document to facilitate preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum and post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference disseminated to CPs
  - Briefing for 8 country media focal points in preparation for the post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference conducted (briefing for Indonesia and Vietnam media focal points scheduled on 28 October 2021) and media advisory on the Ministerial Forum released

- Administrative and logistical arrangements together with MoE Cambodia, the Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk, and the virtual events producer are well underway

8.2 The Representatives of each CP shared updates with regard to their preparation for the three events (see Table 6).

**Table 6. Country preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM, 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum, and Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference.**

Country	Updates
<b>Cambodia</b>  <b>Dr. Vann Monyneath</b> Secretary General, Ministry of Environment (MoE)	<u>SGOM</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Delegation confirmed – H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Secretary of State, MoE</li> <li>• Other members of the delegation to be confirmed</li> </ul> <u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Delegation and Chair of 7<sup>th</sup> EAS MF confirmed – H.E. Say Samal, Minister, MoE</li> <li>• Support to Minister and assigned official to deliver country statement confirmed – H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Secretary of State, MoE</li> <li>• Members of Cambodia delegation confirmed and will convene face-to-face in Sihanoukville (Note: more than 200 participants expected to converge in Sihanoukville)</li> <li>• Draft Country/Ministerial Statement developed and undergoing final review and approval</li> </ul> <u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoE’s Communications Team in place and coordinating with PRF</li> </ul>
<b>China</b>  <b>Ms. Yu Xinwei</b> Deputy Division Director, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	<u>SGOM</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Delegation confirmed - Ms. Chen Danhong, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Department, MNR</li> </ul> <u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Delegation confirmed - H.E. Dr. Wang Hong, Vice Minister; and Administrator, State Oceanic Administration, MNR</li> <li>• Other members of the delegation to be confirmed</li> <li>• Country/Ministerial Statement being developed (to be delivered in Chinese; interpreter to be provided by MNR)</li> </ul> <u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Focal Point confirmed - Ms. Heyun Xu, Division Director, International Cooperation Department</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesia</b>  <b>Ms. Irene Aditya Yuniarti</b> Head, Environment Quality Standards Section, Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation	<u>SGOM</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of delegation being finalized</li> </ul> <u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with MoEF’s Minister ongoing</li> <li>• List of delegation to be finalized</li> <li>• Country/Ministerial Statement being developed</li> </ul>



Country	Updates
<p>Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)</p>	<p><u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Focal Point confirmed - Ms. Nuke Mutikania Mulyana</li> </ul>
<p><b>Japan</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Nobuhiro Hirashima</b> Director for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)</p>	<p>Note: At the time of the 27<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting, MLIT Japan was still finalizing its internal consultations on the list of their delegation. The following information was received after the 27<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting:</p> <p><u>SGOM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegation confirmed - Mr. Nobuhiro Hirashima, Director for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau, MLIT; and Mr. Kensaku Kobayashi, Coordinator for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau, MLIT</li> </ul> <p><u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of Delegation confirmed: H.E. Masayuki Takada, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, MLIT</li> <li>List of delegation to be finalized</li> <li>Country/Ministerial Statement undergoing internal consultations</li> </ul> <p><u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Focal Points confirmed - Mr. Nobuhiro Hirashima, Director for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau, MLIT; and Mr. Kensaku Kobayashi, Coordinator for International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau, MLIT</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lao PDR</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Phonexay Simmalavong</b> Deputy Director General, Department of Water Resources (DWR), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)</p>	<p><u>SGOM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of delegation being finalized</li> </ul> <p><u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS MF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of Delegation confirmed - H.E. Mme Bounkham Vorachit, Minister, MONRE</li> <li>Other members of the delegation to be confirmed but may come from MONRE's DWR, Department of Planning and Finance, and Department of Meteorology and Hydrology</li> <li>Draft Country/Ministerial Statement developed and undergoing final review and approval</li> </ul> <p><u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Focal Point confirmed - Mr. Aphideth Sengdala and Ms. Thongphun Oudomphet</li> </ul>
<p><b>Philippines</b></p> <p><b>Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh</b> Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</p>	<p><u>SGOM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of delegation being finalized</li> </ul> <p><u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of Delegation confirmed - H.E. Roy Cimatu, Secretary, DENR</li> </ul>

Country	Updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of delegation undergoing final review and approval. Proposed list submitted to Office of the Secretary includes the following individuals from DENR: PEMSEA National Focal Point (Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change, DENR); Secretary's Head Executive Assistant; Secretary's Chief of Staff; Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs; Director of Biodiversity Management Bureau</li> <li>Draft Country/Ministerial Statement developed and undergoing final review and approval. As back-up in case the Office of the President convenes an emergency meeting, the Secretary will also prepare a pre-recorded message with supporting images. Otherwise, the Secretary will be present live during the Ministerial Forum.</li> </ul> <p><u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Focal Point confirmed - Mr. Joseph Villaflor</li> </ul>
<p><b>RO Korea</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Soobin Shim</b> Deputy Director, Marine Environment Policy Division, Marine Policy Office, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF)</p>	<p><u>SGOM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of delegation being finalized</li> </ul> <p><u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of Delegation being confirmed - Vice Minister, MOF</li> <li>List of delegation to be finalized</li> <li>Country/Ministerial Statement - in view of the overlap of schedule with RO Korea's National Assembly Meeting, the Minister of MOF will pre-record his message, which will then be introduced by the designated Head of Delegation</li> </ul> <p><u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Focal Point confirmed - Ms. Jong Hyun-Jong</li> </ul>
<p><b>Singapore</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Valerie Chia</b> Senior Executive, International Policy Division, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE)</p>	<p><u>SGOM (Note: Information received after the 27<sup>th</sup> EC meeting)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegation confirmed - Mr. Hazri Hassan, Director of International Policy Division, MSE; Ms. Angeline Chui, Deputy Director, International Policy Division, MSE; and Ms. Valerie Chia, Senior Executive, International Policy Division, MSE</li> </ul> <p><u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of Delegation – undergoing further consultation (Note: In view of conflict of schedule, the Minister of MSE will not be able to attend the Ministerial Forum)</li> <li>List of delegation to be finalized</li> <li>Country/Ministerial Statement being developed and will include supporting PPT</li> </ul> <p><u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Focal Point confirmed - Ms. Valerie Chia, Senior Executive, International Policy Division, MSE</li> </ul>
<p><b>Timor-Leste</b></p>	<p><u>SGOM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of delegation being finalized</li> </ul>

Country	Updates
<p><b>Mr. Artur Pereira</b> Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)</p>	<p><u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS MF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Delegation – undergoing consultation with the Office of the Minister. Should MAF Minister be unavailable, the Secretary of State of MAF (Vice Minister level) will serve as Head of Delegation</li> <li>• List of delegation to be finalized</li> <li>• Draft Country/Ministerial Statement developed and undergoing review</li> </ul> <p><u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Focal Point confirmed - Mr. Artur Maria Pereira</li> </ul>
<p><b>Viet Nam</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Nguyen My Hang</b> Deputy Director, Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation (DSTIC), Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)</p>	<p><u>SGOM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Delegation confirmed</u> – Mr. Nguyen Que Lam, Deputy Director General, VASI, MONRE; Dr. Nguyen My Hang, Deputy Director, DSTIC, VASI, MONRE; Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Hoan, Officer, DSTIC, VASI, MONRE; Ms. Nguyen Thuc Hien, Officer, DSTIC, VASI, MONRE</li> </ul> <p><u>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Delegation – undergoing consultation with the Office of the Minister</li> <li>• Country/Ministerial Statement being developed</li> </ul> <p><u>Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Focal Point confirmed - Ms. Nguyen Thuc Hien, Officer, DSTIC, VASI, MONRE</li> </ul>

8.3 On behalf of MoE, Cambodia, Dr. Monyneath expressed appreciation to all CPs who have already confirmed their respective Ministers or Vice Ministers and members of delegation for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM and 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum as well as for designating media focal points for the Press Conference preparations. Dr. Monyneath emphasized that the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum provides a crucial platform for the Ministers and senior government officials to demonstrate strengthened support and commitment towards highlighting the importance of the ocean in the overall sustainable development agenda as well as in contributing to the meaningful recovery from the global pandemic. In this regard, Dr. Monyneath reiterated MoE’s request for other CPs that have yet to confirm to try their best to secure the confirmation of their respective Ministers for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum.

8.4 Dr. Vu Thanh Ca, Intergovernmental Session Chair of the EAS PC, expressed appreciation to MoE Cambodia for their efforts in order to ensure the smooth and successful arrangements for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM, 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum, and the Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference. Dr. Ca noted the developments in each CP and expressed gratitude to all Country Partners for their support and active engagement in the preparations for the Ministerial Forum related events for November and December 2021.

8.5 **Conclusions:** The 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum serves as a crucial platform for the Ministers and senior officials of the region to demonstrate strengthened support and commitment of the importance of the ocean in the overall sustainable development agenda as well as contribute in bringing about meaningful economic recovery from the global pandemic.

- 8.6 **Decision:** CPs agreed to coordinate with the PRF and provide the needed information and requirements for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum in accordance with Table 7.

**Table 7. Work plan and schedule for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum.**

Activity	Target Date
Submission of list of country representatives for the 7 <sup>th</sup> EAS SGOM	5 November 2021
Dissemination of media advisories from PRF by country media focal points	8-12 November 2021
Submission of country/ministerial statements to PRF	12 November 2021
Final submission of list of delegation, consisting of the entire country delegation and the head, for the 7 <sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum and submission of the photo of the head of delegation (Minister/Vice Minister level)	Up to 15 November 2021
Program orientation and guidance for physical set-up – to be attended by the information technology (IT) focal person and the officer assigned to guide the head of delegation	12 November 2021 1-3 PM Cambodia time
Final confirmation of accredited media from countries	15 November 2021
IT check and program rehearsal for 7 <sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum using actual physical set-up – to be attended by the IT focal person and the officer assigned to guide the head of delegation	Batch 1: 29 November 2021  Batch 2: 30 November 2021  Both at 1-3 PM Cambodia time

## 9.0 [2021-2022 Work Plan of the PRF \(EC/27/DOC/07\)](#)

9.1 **On the 2021 work plan,** Ms. Gonzales reported that the PRF is on track in delivering its three objectives under the 2021 work plan. It has secured well beyond USD 2 million’s worth of funds to finance its operations in 2021 and will continue to achieve its USD 2 million budget target per year assuming the UNDP/GEF Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) project is approved for implementation by 2022 and that CPs commit to an annual (cumulative) contribution of USD 300k – 400k. The PRF is currently working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to have the project proposal approved by the GEF Secretariat this year to enable the project to commence its activities by June 2022. The PRF is also on track in delivering its adjusted 2021 committed activities under the SDS-SEA IP 2018-2022 and achieving a successful EAS Congress 2021.

9.2 **Key activities for 2022** include:

- Operationalization of the commitments in the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration through the refinement of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the development of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 with corresponding indicators, targets, training needs, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan, and budget.

- Implementation of ongoing initiatives and upcoming projects, the details and status of which are found in EC/27/DOC/07.
  - Partnerships and resource mobilization through country voluntary contributions, PRF technical/advisory services, multilateral and bilateral grants (e.g., through World Bank), private sector engagement, and exploration of individual membership-based contributions as a viable revenue source.
  - Pursuit of collaborative arrangements with the following:
    - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an offshoot of existing PRF arrangements with ASEAN under the ASEAN-Norwegian cooperation project on local capacity building for reducing plastic pollution in the ASEAN region [ASEANO]; and
    - Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) through PRF's work on Regional State of the Ocean and Coasts (RSOC) reporting.
  - Review of agreements with PEMSEA partners, especially inactive/former NCPs, the status of which will be reported at the 28<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting in March 2022.
  - Updating of procurement guidelines and development of a risk management plan as part of the PRF's efforts to ensure effective Quality Management System (QMS).
  - Strengthened activation of the Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB) through the UNDP/GEF Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase II (ATSEA-2) Project and ASEANO.
  - Election of PEMSEA governing officers, namely:
    - EC members;
    - PNLG President and Vice President; and
    - PNLC President and Vice President.
- 9.3 Ms. Gonzales informed everyone the Session that Tangerang Regency of Indonesia will host the 2022 PNLG Forum. She then requested the Session to:
- Provide guidance and recommendations on proposed activities for 2022, especially in light of the ongoing pandemic; and
  - Continue to provide political, technical, and financial support to the EAS Partnership and PRF.
- 9.4 She reiterated Mr. Yuwono's earlier statement—on the importance of PEMSEA taking the initiative and steering the discourse to sustain its momentum of building meaningful and transformative solutions in an era of post-GEF support.
- 9.5 **Conclusions:** The Intergovernmental Session expressed its support for the proposed 2022 key activities of the PRF. The Philippine Government will endeavor to increase its country contributions to PEMSEA's operations under its 2022 national budget (e.g., through joint activities) to not only sustain but scale up PEMSEA's sphere of influence and ensure that it remains fit with the needs of the region.
- 9.6 **Recommendations:** Atty. Annaliza Rebuelta-Teh, Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change of DENR Philippines, suggested the following:
- PRF to submit project proposals for funding under the 8<sup>th</sup> replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
  - PRF to communicate to the Council the needed support from each CP as part of its indicative budgetary requirements to improve and sustain its operations as the technical and secretariat arm of PEMSEA.

## 10.0 Other Business

10.1 Ms. Gonzales apprised the Intergovernmental Session that *The PEMSEA Story* coffee table book will be launched at the Partnership Night of the EAS Congress 2021 on December 1. *The PEMSEA Story* chronicles the 28-year long journey of PEMSEA from its days as a regional marine pollution project to its current state as an international organization with a legal personality coordinating the implementation of the SDS-SEA. An electronic version will be circulated to PC members by the week of 8 November 2021.

## 11.0 Closing of the Meeting

11.1 Dr. Vann Monyneath, EAS PC Co-Chair, gave the closing remarks. He thanked CPs and NCPs for their inputs and dedicated support throughout the consultation process for developing the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration and for making sure that the draft is aligned and supportive of their respective plans and priorities, including the green recovery agenda of EAS countries. He also extended his thanks to his fellow EC members for the regular direction and guidance provided to PEMSEA partners and the PRF for their dedication in making the Congress possible.

11.2 He hopes to receive the continued guidance of the Council in the year ahead during the formulation process for the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 as this will operationalize the PEMSEA Roadmap.

11.3 In the meantime, as the year 2021 comes to a close, he reiterated the statement made by the PRF during the Intergovernmental Session on ensuring the delivery of PEMSEA's remaining targets for 2021 under the current SDS-SEA IP, namely to:

- Develop a sound rationale for regional governance mechanism for the Arafura and Timor Seas;
- Demonstrate enhanced capacity to implement innovative policies, monitoring tools, and bankable projects to reduce marine litter at the local levels;
- Continue to provide country contributions to PEMSEA's staff and operations; and
- Help promote the EAS Partnership as well as the benefits and opportunities provided by ICM to blue economy and SDS-SEA implementation through the EAS Congress 2021 collabs.

11.4 He looks forward to seeing everyone in the upcoming Congress events and hopefully face-to-face next year in future meetings.

11.5 The meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM (GMT+8).

## ANNEX 1. Annotated agenda of the 27<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM	REMARKS	DOCUMENT NO.
<b>Council Session</b>		
<b>1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions</b>	The Council Chair shall open the meeting and request the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), as Secretariat, to present the agenda of the Council and Technical Sessions for review/approval of the meeting.	EC/27/DOC/01c
<b>Technical Session</b>		
<b>2. 2023-2027 Implementation Plan (IP) of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)</b>	The session is expected to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approve the TOR for developing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027;</li> <li>b. Endorse the timeline for developing the new SDS-SEA IP;</li> <li>c. Provide feedback on the reference documents and considerations in developing the new SDS-SEA IP;</li> <li>d. Agree to provide additional reference materials such as relevant country/organizational level strategies/plans in the next 5-6 years; and</li> <li>e. Enlist to volunteer as part of the Technical Working Group and/or note the composition of the TWG.</li> </ol>	EC/27/DOC/02
<b>3. East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2021</b>	<p>The session shall hear from the Secretariat on the latest updates on the ongoing Congress.</p> <p>The session is encouraged to register for upcoming collabs and is requested to: assist the Congress Secretariat in promoting the Congress by disseminating all available marketing materials to their respective information portals (as an ongoing regular activity); and provide feedback/suggestions on the ongoing Congress, if any.</p>	EC/27/DOC/03

AGENDA ITEM	REMARKS	DOCUMENT NO.
4. <b>7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration</b>	The session will provide comments and feedback on version 4 of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Declaration with the view to secure a final draft Declaration in time for the Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM) in 25/26 November 2021. The SGOM intends to seek country concurrence and endorse the final draft for approval and signature by Ministers at the 7 <sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum on 2 December 2021.	EC/27/DOC/04
<b>Council Session</b>		
5. <b>Other business</b>	The Secretariat will remind Council members to submit a short write-up (maximum of 500 words) on the 2021 highlights/accomplishments of their respective organizations, including high resolution action photos of their work on coastal and marine governance, by 7 January 2022 for inclusion in the 2021 PEMSEA Annual Report.  The session will also be encouraged to share other news/information that may be of interest to members, if any.	
6. <b>Closing of the Council and Technical Sessions</b>		
<b>Intergovernmental Session</b>		
7. <b>Approval of the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session</b>	The Intergovernmental Session Chair shall request the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), as Secretariat, to present the agenda of the Intergovernmental Session for review/approval of the meeting.	EC/27/DOC/06
8. <b>Preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum</b>	The Secretariat will also provide updates on the preparations for the Ministerial Forum.  Actions requested from the Intergovernmental Session are as follows:	EC/27/DOC/05



AGENDA ITEM	REMARKS	DOCUMENT NO.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. CPs to report or share during the 27<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting the status of confirmation of their respective Ministers and senior government officials (if not yet confirmed) as well as the status of preparations of their respective Ministerial Statements.</li> <li>b. EC members and CPs to indicate their availability during the proposed schedule for the SGOM (25 November 2021, 9-11 AM Cambodia time).</li> <li>c. Council Chair and CPs to indicate their free time for rehearsing the Ministerial Forum (29 and 30 November 2021, 1-3 PM Cambodia time).</li> <li>d. CPs and NCPs to provide delegation list and other requested information/documents to PRF in accordance with the 7<sup>th</sup> MF work plan and timeline (Section 3.0 of EC/27/DOC/05).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. 2021-2022 work plan of PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)</b></p>	<p>The Secretariat shall provide updates on the implementation of the 2021 work plan and an overview of the actions that will be pursued by PRF in 2022. The Session will be requested to provide guidance and recommendations on the proposed activities for 2022, especially in light of the ongoing pandemic, and continue to provide political, technical and financial support to the EAS Partnership and PRF.</p>	<p>EC/27/DOC/07</p>
<p><b>10. Other business</b></p>		
<p><b>11. Closing of the meeting</b></p>		

## ANNEX 2. List of participants of the 27<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting.

### EC Members

Name	Position	Email
Mr. Arief Yuwono	Chair, EAS PC	ay.yuwono@gmail.com
Dr. Vann Monyneath	Co-Chair, EAS PC	monyneath0777@gmail.com
Dr. Jae-Ryoung Oh	Chair, Technical Session, EAS PC	jaekordi@gmail.com, jroh@kiost.ac.kr
Dr. Keita Furukawa	Co-Chair, Technical Session, EAS PC	keita@meic.jp
Dr. Vu Thanh Ca	Chair, Intergovernmental Session, EAS PC	cavuthanh@gmail.com

### CPS

Country	Ministry	Name	Position	Email
Cambodia	Ministry of Environment (MoE)	Mr. Prak Amida	Deputy Secretary General, National Council for Sustainable Development	amidaau@gmail.com
		Mr. Long Rithirak	Deputy Director General, General Department of Environmental Protection	longrithirak@yahoo.com
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### ANNEX 3. Links to reference materials for the 27<sup>th</sup> PEMSEA EC Meeting.

- Meeting documents
  - Council and Technical Sessions - <https://tinyurl.com/EC27-Docs-CouncilAndTechnical>
  - Intergovernmental Session - <https://tinyurl.com/EC27-Docs-Intergovernmental>
- Presentation material - <https://tinyurl.com/EC27-Presentation>
- Group photos - <https://tinyurl.com/EC27-GroupPhoto>
- Video recording - <https://tinyurl.com/EC27-Recording>





## ANNEX 4. Fourth Draft of the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration (including suggestion made by RO Korea during the 27<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting).

### PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ADVANCING OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: ROAD TO 2030 FOR HEALTHY OCEAN, PEOPLE AND ECONOMIES

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We, the **[Official Government Representatives/ representatives]** of eleven countries bordering the Seas of East Asia, have virtually gathered this 2nd day of December 2021 to review the progress and scale up good practices in implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, chart our actions in the new decade to achieve our vision of healthy ocean, people and economies; and respond to the global call for a green recovery strategy post COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a global crisis that disrupted trade, travel, tourism, and fisheries industries, plunging national economies across the region and affecting the lives and livelihood of the people.

We take note of the need to address the impacts of COVID-19 by implementing green recovery **[plans]**, driven by a robust Blue Economy that boosts employment and equitable growth, and brings transformation towards responsible consumption, production and investment, while protecting our natural capital, enhancing resource efficiency and resiliency, and reducing carbon footprint.

We reaffirm our commitment to Blue Economy made in the Changwon Declaration in 2012 and Climate action under the Manila Declaration in 2009, and support the global efforts to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement **[signed in 2016]**, with mitigation and adaptation as crucial underlying principles in our strategies and actions to accelerate Blue Economy and Sustainable Development.

We have taken initiatives to protect our coastal and ocean ecosystems from the impacts of climate change, marine pollution and other unsustainable patterns of resource use, mindful of the ecosystem services that it provides, including hosting nine of the world's busiest container-shipping seaports, producing 80% of the world's aquaculture and 40 million tons of annual fish catch, and supporting a third of the world's coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.

We have achieved our targets set in the Danang Compact 2015, specifically 1) the completion of a regional State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) and ten National SOC reports on Blue Economy, 2) scaling up of integrated coastal management (ICM) covering an estimated 40 percent of the region's coastline and contiguous watershed areas, surpassing the 25 percent target coverage by 2021; and 3) facilitating the formulation, adoption, and implementation of policies, action plans and programs on coastal, rivers, associated watershed areas and ocean ecosystems.

We acknowledge the recognition of PEMSEA as a model for regional ocean governance and partnerships, and reaffirm the SDS-SEA as the regional framework of commitments for collaborative and inclusive actions, thus providing PEMSEA with the essential institutional foundation to take on a greater role in contributing to achieving global and regional commitments in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Climate Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Sendai Framework, which were confirmed through the Danang Compact and the Iloilo Declaration.

We welcome the United Nations proclamation of a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and the UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration and support the global efforts in facilitating access to ocean science data and information to support science-informed coastal and ocean policies and interventions.

We are grateful to our non-country partners, development partners, collaborators, and donors; the PEMSEA networks of local governments, learning institutions, and youth; as well as non-government organizations, local communities, private sector and the media, which continue to support PEMSEA in achieving the SDS-SEA vision and goals.

### **PEMSEA ROADMAP TO 2030**

We support the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030, which is anchored on SDS-SEA's vision and will complement PEMSEA Countries' green recovery plans. We commit to guide and work with the PEMSEA Resource Facility in the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030 and the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, based on the following regional priorities:

1. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE.** Improve policies for mainstreaming ICM and adopt relevant tools and mechanisms that will support an integrated, inclusive and science-based decision making process; and strengthen institutional, technical and resource capacities by adopting innovative financing mechanisms and generating knowledge and regional best practices on **[river]**, coasts and ocean management through learning and technology exchange platforms, science research and information management initiatives.
2. **HEALTHY OCEAN.** Scale up ICM as a proven sustainable management approach to strengthen coastal resilience and protect the health of **[river]**, coasts and ocean ecosystems from the threats and impacts of climate change, land-based pollution, marine litter and debris, unsustainable fishing practices, and other unsustainable patterns of use that lead to coastal and marine environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.
3. **HEALTHY PEOPLE.** Engage the community as responsible and effective stewards and enhance their capacities to protect and sustainably use and manage coastal, ocean **[and water]** resources thereby facilitating food security and nutrition, access to livelihood opportunities and better quality of life.
4. **HEALTHY ECONOMIES.** Accelerate blue investments and ensure efficient utilization of coastal and ocean ecosystems, **[and water]** resources, to support national green recovery initiatives that will generate jobs and livelihood and contribute to the countries' sustainable economic development.

### **CALL FOR ACTION**

We recognize the importance of the PEMSEA Resource Facility as **[the coordinating and enabling mechanism]** for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, **[which is aligned with the global targets / objectives / goals] [that EAS Countries have signed to]**. We further assure the PRF of our continued **[financial and technical / voluntary contributions and technical/ resource contribution and technical ]** support in sustaining partnerships in the region and call on our partners, local governments, private sector, academe, youth network, non-governmental organizations, financing institutions, and the international community to extend the necessary assistance to enable PRF to build regional capacities, facilitate knowledge exchange and leverage technical expertise, skills and resources for the sustainable management of coastal and ocean ecosystems.

COVID 19 has brought activities to a slow down, giving the environment and people a chance to reset and regenerate. As the world adjusts and works to manage the global pandemic and resulting economic crisis, PEMSEA should take the opportunity to lead in the green recovery to build better and healthier ocean, people and economies.

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