



PEMSEA EC Meeting Report 23

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-THIRD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Seda Vertis North Hotel
Quezon City, Philippines**

17–18 October 2019



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A. Introduction

- i. The 23rd Executive Committee Meeting was held at Seda Vertis North Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines on 17 – 18 October 2019. The meeting was attended by EAS Partnership Council Chair, Mr. Arief Yuwono; Intergovernmental Session Chair, Dr. Vu Thanh Ca; Technical Session Chair, Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh; Council Co-Chair, Dr. Vann Monyneath; and Technical Session Co-Chair, Dr. Keita Furukawa who participated through teleconference.
- ii. Ms. Jeslina Gorospe and staff from the Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines participated as observers. The PEMSEA Resource Facility served as secretariat for the meeting.
- iii. The agenda for the meeting is attached as Annex 1; the list of participants is attached as Annex 2; the Council Chair's Opening Remarks is attached as Annex 3; Dr. Keita Furukawa's comments attached as Annex 4; and the meeting documents, presentations and photos are attached as Annex 5.

1.0 Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of Agenda (EC/23/DOC/01)

- 1.1. Mr. Arief Yuwono, Council Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the Executive Committee members, DENR representatives and the PRF Secretariat. The Council Chair informed the meeting that Dr. Keita Furukawa, Technical Session Co-Chair, would be participating through teleconference while Ms. Chen Yue, Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair, is unable to join due to an important business trip.
- 1.2. As newly elected Council Chair, Mr. Yuwono shared his vision for PEMSEA of having a) expanded membership extended not only to other countries but also to other stakeholders including international organizations, local governments, learning centres and various ministries such as fisheries, transportation, foreign affairs, etc, in sustaining the integrated and coordinated approach for coastal and ocean management; b) employ SDGs as a major entry point for collaboration and partnerships, highlighting that PEMSEA's Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) 2018 – 2022 implementation plan contributes to SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13 Climate Action, 14 Life Below Water, and 17 Partnerships; c) engage the youth in the region, as active partners in helping raise awareness and promote integrated sustainable solutions through social media and participation in local coastal and marine planning and policy fora; and d) endorse the need to develop further empirical studies on the links between ocean health and climate change particularly in the region He also encouraged EC members to actively engage in

the next 2 days of meeting to provide strategic direction on PEMSEA's work post 2020 and enhance its institutional viability.

- 1.3. PEMSEA Executive Director, Ms. Aimee Gonzales, presented the meeting agenda, many of which are direct follow up actions seeking the EC's formal endorsement and further guidance based on the decisions and recommendations the 11th Partnership Council meeting held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 24-26 July 2019.

Recommendation:

- 1.4. The 23rd Executive Committee Meeting adopted the meeting agenda as proposed.

2.0 Briefing of the PEMSEA Rules of Governance (EC/23/DOC/02)

Discussion Highlights:

- 2.1. Ms. Vida Isabel Vasquez, Secretariat Assistant, provided a briefing of the PEMSEA Rules of Governance for the Executive Committee to review their roles and responsibilities as well as to remind them of the efficient conduct of PEMSEA Meetings.
- 2.2. Ms. Vasquez highlighted three sections of the Rules of Governance, particularly Annex 3. The Rules on the Conduct of PEMSEA Meetings, Annex 11. Revised Terms of the Executive Committee, and Annex 12. Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee.
- 2.3. The briefing emphasized the major functions of the Executive Committee in overseeing the implementation of recommendations and decisions of the Partnership Council and providing guidance to the PRF and advice to the Partnership Council regarding the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 2.4. The Council Chair noted the extensive scope of the Rules of Governance and recognized the need to further study the document in carrying out the Executive Committee's duties. The PEMSEA ED also noted that the briefing also served as a review for the PRF Secretariat, given the recent turnover of staff.
- 2.5. Technical Session Chair, Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh, pointed out Section 1.7 of the Rules of Governance which states that, "The Executive Director of the PRF is the Chief Administrative Officer of PEMSEA. *He or his* designated representative will represent and act for and on behalf of PEMSEA in key functions or activities at the regional and global level", should demonstrate the inclusion of pronouns such as "she and her" in consideration of the current ED being female.

Recommendations:

The Executive Committee recommended that:

- 2.6. EC members use the Rules and Governance as guide to effectively perform their roles as EAS Partnership Council Officers.

- 2.7. PRF review and revise PEMSEA Rules of Governance to reflect gender balance and sensitivity.

3.0 Actions Taken on Matters Raised at the 11th Partnership Council Meeting (EC/23/DOC/03)

- 3.1. Ms. Vasquez updated the Executive Committee on the status or actions taken by PRF in response to the recommendations and decisions of the 11th Partnership Council meeting which was held in July 2019.
- 3.2. Ms. Vasquez apprised the Executive Committee that PRF is currently working on the recommendations of the Partnership Council and specific updates will be discussed in other agenda items of the meeting.

4.0 PEMSEA and the Decade of Ocean Science (EC/23/DOC/04)

- 4.1. Ms. Nancy Bermas, SDS-SEA Project Manager, summarized the key recommendations and scientific priorities identified from the Regional Planning Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas (RPW-NPWPMS) towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The 3-day workshop, attended by more than 160 participants from 18 countries, discussed the co-development of solution-oriented research strategies to address the six societal outcomes for the Decade.
- 4.2. Ms. Bermas shared the workshop's references to PEMSEA and ICM in line with the six societal outcomes. These include:
 - 4.2.1. A Clean Ocean: PEMSEA was cited as one of the organizations with initiatives on pollution reduction and management.
 - 4.2.2. A Transparent and Accessible Ocean: PEMSEA was cited as one of the organizations with initiatives on blue economy development.
 - 4.2.3. A Healthy and Resilient Ocean: PEMSEA was identified as one of the organizations with existing partnership, network and initiatives focusing on interdependency between ecosystems and development of ICM and MSP for Asia Pacific Region.
 - 4.2.4. A Predicted Ocean: Development of smart information decision support system based on simulation in support of ICM and MSP.
 - 4.2.5. A Sustainably Harvested and Productive Ocean: PEMSEA was identified as one of the organizations responsible in linking socio-ecological systems and trade off and blue economy
- 4.3. Discussions from the workshop revealed that 1) R&D priorities focus not only on scientific research needs (hard science) but also on socio-economic and policy research needs to help implement science-based policy actions and solutions/ activities (b) the term "Science for the Decade" is deemed to be more inclusive of indigenous knowledge

and citizen science, or references like “knowledge generation” rather than “new science”; and c) PEMSEA’s implementation of the SDS-SEA using ICM as the delivery mechanism to promote and facilitate science and policy interface remains relevant, significant and timely to the DOS.

- 4.4. In response to Technical Session Recommendations from the 11th Partnership Council Meeting, Ms. Bermas presented a streamlined list of research needs for the priority management programs the SDS-SEA (including the research/analytical needs of PEMSEA’s upcoming projects), which are in line with the six societal outcomes of the DOS. Comments and suggestions from Dr. Keita Furukawa were also reflected in the presentation (attached as Annex 5).

Discussion Highlights:

- 4.5. Dr. Vu Thanh Ca, Intergovernmental Session Chair, suggested the need for greater clarity on PEMSEA’s role in the Decade of Ocean Science. He explained that PEMSEA has limited capacity to conduct primary research on the region’s needs like monitoring ocean data and data marine hydrographic. Dr. Ca also emphasized that with the imminent conclusion of the UNDP/GEF Scaling up SDS-SEA Implementation project, PEMSEA should identify its strong points and then pursue opportunities to link its work with the DOS.
- 4.6. Ms. Bermas agreed on the need to discuss and identify PEMSEA’s role in addressing the the research needs and capacities of its members. She highlighted that while ICM helps strengthen ocean governance, science remains an important factor in providing solutions. Ms. Bermas cited our partner universities’ research capacity to conduct studies in the region (e.g. the case of UP- MSI on ocean acidification), and some d country partners’ (China, Japan, RO Korea, and Singapore) capability to pursue scientific researches and develop innovative technologies on ocean and coastal areas. Providing access and helping local government understand and adapt/apply ‘new’ scientific information would be a useful role that PEMSEA can play. Ms. Bermas also noted that ICM as a delivery mechanism to implement SDS-SEA as a contribution to the DOS, remains valid and recognized as cited in the feedback generated at the IOC RPW-NPWPMS in Japan.
- 4.7. Dr. Vann Monyneath, Council Co-Chair, expressed his agreement to the scientific research needs identified in the presentation and emphasized the importance of partnership in addressing those needs. He cited the ongoing partnerships and discussions with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity on marine protected areas, and the commitments to address marine plastic in the region. Dr. Monyneath also stressed the importance of fostering science-policy interface in discussing the agenda for the DOS. Convening science-policy dialogues to promote sustainable actions and solutions would be a key role that PEMSEA can play in the region.

- 4.8. Dr. Furukawa enumerated three strong points of PEMSEA in line with the preparation for the DOS: a) the EAS region could take advantage of blue carbon and infrastructure, with the abundance of mangroves, seagrasses and tidal flats; b) PEMSEA help integrate indigenous and local knowledge to strengthen science-based solutions; and c) The State of the Oceans and Coasts reporting provides a good baseline data and an effective means to monitor projects and impacts of economic activities on the health of coasts and oceans in the region.
- 4.9. Ms. Johanna Diwa-Acallar, PRF Capacity Development Manager, noted that the universities designated as Regional Centers of Excellence and the 16 learning centres, which promotes ecosystem-based management approaches is a good entry point to consider in identifying R&D needs and capacities in the region.
- 4.10. Dr. Oh shared that according to the UNDP World Ocean Assessment, there are not too many economists and social scientists involved in the discourses that are dealing with environmental problems and identifying solutions. He suggested that they too be involved in the preparations for the DOS in the region.
- 4.11. Mr. Yuwono suggested that given PEMSEA's limited capacity and competency, there is a need to develop a set of criteria identifying crucial research issues in the region. The availability of resources and experts should also be considered.
- 4.12. Ms. Gonzales agreed with the suggestion to develop a criteria to further streamline the R&D priorities and clearly identify the role of PEMSEA and its partners to help implement the DOS agenda in the region. She highlighted local knowledge, particularly in developing science-based solutions; bringing in social scientists in discourses; and building research capacities in the region. , She highlighted that at the 11th PC meeting in Surabaya, non-country partners expressed interest and support to address R&D needs in the region for the DOS. This provides an opportunity to expand and involve non country partners more proactively in augmenting research capacity and resource constraints at PRF.
- 4.13. Dr. Jae Young Lee, PRF Deputy Head of Planning and Partnership Development, shared that upcoming projects like the Integrated River Basin Management enables research capacity development program looking at marine pollution. Convening such opportunities for capacity development programmes is a more feasible and tangible approach for PEMSEA.
- 4.14. Ms. Jeslina Gorospe, Philippine Representative, pointed out that ICM, particularly its direct involvement with local coastal communities, remains PEMSEA's strongest point. ICM provides opportunities to communicate scientific information to communities for science-based decision-making and policymaking. Focusing on and connecting with local

communities would provide useful to effectively addressing coastal problems caused by land based activities.

- 4.15. Ms. Bermas shared the experience of Batangas in pollution prevention and management, where the introduction of ICM framework to the local government proved effective in developing and sustaining an integrated plan for coastal communities. In the case of Manila Bay, nutrient load model and the impacts of loading were presented in a forum of the governors of the surrounding provinces. A similar process is intended to be applied to other basins in the region.
- 4.16. Dr. Ca noted that DOS is an opportunity for PEMSEA to showcase its strengths and expertise. Clarifying its strong points could help gain more support from partners and organizations.
- 4.17. Dr. Furukawa maintains that PEMSEA can be a platform to integrate and record information and best practices of science-based solutions in the region, like the case studies mentioned in the Philippines and those they have in Japan.
- 4.18. Mr. Yuwono noted that local knowledge is valuable in identifying solutions in coastal management issues. PEMSEA's access to these knowledge can strengthen and increase its competency and capacity to provide and facilitate science-based solutions. Expanding partnerships.
- 4.19. Ms. Bermas shared that all PEMSEA sites are expected to provide case studies and best practices from their experiences in the SDS-SEA implementation. Viet Nam, for one, is expected to produce 16 case studies, while China will have less than 10 case studies for the SDS-SEA project.
- 4.20. As a closing point, Mr. Yuwono noted that the discussion has been very interesting, and useful inputs were generated to provide strategic direction to further streamline R&D needs in the region. Similar to the IPCC, PEMSEA can play as a convener of research activities and scientific knowledge rather than undertake primary research themselves. With PEMSEA's current capacity and network, these knowledge and information can be made available to local communities.

Conclusions

The Executive Committee concluded that:

- 4.21. The scientific priorities and recommendations from the Decade of Ocean Science Regional Consultation provide important inputs for PEMSEA to further streamline its long list of R & D needs and realize its position as an organization capable of providing science-based solutions to its partners and relevant stakeholders.
- 4.22. ICM remains relevant as delivery mechanism to promote and facilitate science and policy interface and deliver blue economy solutions.

- 4.23. Integration of economics and social science concerns remain limited in scientific discourses. PEMSEA could play a role in facilitating its inclusion in the coastal and marine R&D agenda for the EAS region.

Recommendations:

The Executive Committee recommended that:

- 4.24. Establish the criteria and strategic direction for developing its R & D needs and agenda by considering: a) its strengths in ICM implementation; b) networking with local governments (PNLG) and academic institutions (PNLC); c) tapping the expertise of the non-country partners who offered to assist in addressing the R & D needs; d) reflect the crucial research and policy needs/ issues that are of immediate concern to the region; and e) available human and financial resources.
- 4.25. Facilitate capacity development through south-south, north-south cooperation.
- 4.26. Consider the opportunities provided by high level policy pronouncements addressing specific management concerns (e.g., Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region).
- 4.27. Consider integrating indigenous and local knowledge into the various R & D priorities, where applicable.
- 4.28. Document good practices generated from various projects implemented by PEMSEA, including its partners to support science-policy interface, including making available the results of pilot initiatives that demonstrate the integrated management of land- and coastal and marine environment and are ripe for scaling up.
- 4.29. Explore the possibility of playing a convening role rather than implementing scientific research activities similar to the IPCC approach where scientific knowledge is consolidated and reviewed and making the knowledge available to target audiences/beneficiaries.

5.0 Designation of PEMSEA Regional Center of Excellence in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (EC/23/DOC/05)

- 5.1. Ms. Diwa-Acallar provided an update on the formal approval of the designation of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) as PEMSEA's 3rd RCoE in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 5.2. Following the agreement at the 11th Partnership Council Meeting for Country and Non-Country Partners to review the document and submit their comments and recommendations for the approval of the Executive Committee, Ms. Diwa-Acallar informed EC that three Country Partners (Japan, Philippines and RO Korea) and one Non-

Country Partner (International Ocean Institute) submitted their endorsement to the PRF Secretariat.

- 5.3. Dr. Furukawa also confirmed a 'no-objection' stand from another non-country partner, the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI). The EC members also expressed a 'no objection' position. The Chair concluded the designation of IGES is formally approved.

Decision:

The Executive Committee decided that:

- 5.4. The designation of IGES as RCoE in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction is formally approved.

6.0 Other Updates

6.1. Other Updates on Potential RCOEs (EC/23/DOC/6.1)

- 6.1.1. Ms. Diwa-Acallar provided an update on three other institutions who expressed interests in potential designation as additional RCOEs. Xiamen University
- 6.1.2. Following the end of MERIT's funding, the programme has evolved into the State Key Laboratory for Marine Pollution (SKLMP) and submitted a formal letter to the PRF ED to request the designation of MERIT as "Regional Centre of Excellence in Marine Pollution" under the auspices of SKLMP instead. The recommendation of PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)'s Technical Committee is for SKLMP to undergo a re-designation process.
- 6.1.3. Xiamen University - Coastal and Ocean Management Institute has also submitted a formal letter of expression seeking to become an RCOE in Sustainable Coastal Development. This is a unique case of an existing ICM Learning Center seeking to become an RCoE, premised on their broad and expansive "sustainable coastal development" expertise which was built through years of involvement in ICM implementation in Xiamen.
- 6.1.4. It was also shared that an informal inquiry and discussion on potential designation of National University of Singapore – Center for International Law (NUS-CIL) as RCoE in Ocean Governance and Maritime Law was initiated in 2018.
- 6.1.5. Dr. Oh inquired on what initiatives have we been doing with MERIT as an RCoE in the past years. It was explained that the last engagement with MERIT was through a training course on contaminant analysis and risk assessment in the marine environment. This resulted to the development in 2016 and initiation in 2017 of a collaborative research between Burapha University in Thailand and MERIT related to application of artificial mussels (AM) for heavy metal monitoring in Bangsaen beach in Saensuk Municipality, Chonburi, Thailand. A multi-million funding was also awarded to a project proposal by the Batangas Environmental

Laboratory for organics analysis and upgrading of the laboratory as a result of the application of knowledge gained from the MERIT training course on AM. There was also a collaboration between our two RCOEs (MERIT and UP-MSI) on the application of the AM technology for heavy metal monitoring in various areas in the Philippines, and was tested in Manila Bay in 2014.

- 6.1.6. It was highlighted that beyond the designation of RCOEs, they should be more active in collaborating for joint activities and attending the events of PEMSEA. It was also noted that PRF should report more regularly during EC and PC meetings updating the body of the initiatives of the RCOEs.

Conclusion:

The Executive Committee concluded that:

- 6.1.7. The active participation of RCOEs is highly encouraged to collaborate closely with PEMSEA

Recommendations:

The Executive Committee recommended that:

- 6.1.8. PRF continue to coordinate with current applicants as RCOEs to complete the designation and re-designation process in time for the EC meeting in early 2020.
- 6.1.9. PRF to work with current RCOEs and ICM Learning Centres to be more proactive in engaging in joint activities and meetings and report activities at future EC and PC meetings as appropriate.

6.2. Updates on PNLG-PNLC Joint Event (EC/23/DOC/6.2)

- 6.2.1. Ms. Diwa-Acallar provided updates on PNLG-PNLC joint learning events for the information and reference of the EC.
- 6.2.2. The two initiatives between PEMSEA Network or Local Governments (PNLG) and PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC) are currently being planned for the latter part of October and the first half of 2020.
- 6.2.3. The 2019 Study Tour for Sustainable Coastal Development is being organized by Xiamen University - Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (XU-COMI) in coordination with the PNLG Secretariat, during the PNLG Forum in Xiamen, from 27 October to 4 November.
- 6.2.4. It was also shared that XU-COMI, in cooperation with PRF, is also planning a Leadership Forum during the first half of 2020. This Leadership Forum is proposed

for local chief executives and leading scientists as a platform for dialogue and information-sharing on existing initiatives relevant to key emerging issues, such as water resources use and conservation.

6.3. Knowledge Product on Blue Economy and Investment (EC/23/DOC/6.3)

Discussion Highlights:

- 6.3.1. In line with the outline presented during the 22nd EC meeting, Ms. Gonzales presented the final draft of the Knowledge Product: Enabling Blue Economy Investment for Sustainable Development in the Seas of East Asia - Lessons on Engaging the Private Sector for Partnership and Investment. PEMSEA consolidated and synthesized the lessons learned, best practices and understanding of gaps, challenges and opportunities from its blue economy efforts to develop a synthesis of knowledge to help guide its future activities and share knowledge that can benefit other projects, programmes and similar organizations that are attempting to implement conservation investment work towards promoting blue economy.
- 6.3.2. The output of SDS-SEA investment on blue economy and private sector engagement includes the Lessons on Engaging the Private Sector for Partnership and Investment; the project termination of outputs under the SDS-SEA project related to investment, blue economy and private sector engagement; and the Internal Insights Summary with lessons learned and internal-only recommendations informing the PRF's strategic planning related to blue economy investment.
- 6.3.3. Ms. Gonzales highlighted a number of key outcomes achieved by PEMSEA from the program over the past five years and shared several important lessons learned and recommendations from engaging the private sector and promoting the blue economy approach.
- 6.3.4. Dr. Ca expressed that PEMSEA is on 'top of the game' in fostering the Blue Economy approach in the region and it should disseminate and expand the work on blue economy. He also mentioned that not many understand the meaning and concepts of Blue Economy and PEMSEA should continue to help provide good examples and solutions in implementing the concept in the region. He also suggested developing a concept on what PEMSEA can do to sustain its work in promoting Blue Economy in the region and draw out in more detail how it can work on blue economy investments and to identify ways to sustain it.
- 6.3.5. In response to the query on the future direction of blue economy and private sector engagement, Ms. Gonzales stated that, PEMSEA has upcoming projects that have investment components in their design. Example of this include the Integrated River Basin Management Project which would provide practical

application of Blue Economy and engagement with private sector at the local level in seven countries in the region. She also reiterated the discussion during the 22nd EC Meeting regarding the modality for “Pre-investment services”. She discussed that to effectively provide an investment service, PEMSEA will have to look into: i. the legal structure allowing for disbursement of grants that result in investments; ii. a) access to investment and finance expertise to develop investible projects, b) either through inhouse staff, c) engaging the private sector on a case by case basis, or by forging a partnership with a private corporation that focuses on impacts investments/ blue economy growth in the East Asian region; and iii. the willingness of country partners to move into an incubating stage of a new PEMSEA service.

- 6.3.6. Dr. Ca discussed that the “legal structure” is very important and that we need to make a more detailed description/discussion on this. Regarding “engaging the private sector”, he mentioned that this is very interesting, however, it is not all the time the corporations provide funding for these projects; sometimes corporations rely on the government or projects for financial support and incentives.
- 6.3.7. Dr. Monyneath suggested that PRF and the Country Partners should explore how together, they can develop proposals to capitalize on country investment programs, i.e., using ICM as a screening mechanism in investing the initiative.
- 6.3.8. Ms. Gorospe discussed that the Philippines has good experience working with the private sectors on environment projects. These corporations provide direct funding support through outright grant and donations to environmental projects, such as dredging operations to support the Manila Bay project of the Philippine Government.
- 6.3.9. Mr. Yuwono concluded that a lot of things have been done by PEMSEA on Blue Economy and investment, and PEMSEA should take note of the recommendations to meet the challenges in the next step of pursuing future work.

Conclusions:

The Executive Committee concluded that:

- 6.3.10. PEMSEA is on ‘top of the game’ in fostering the Blue Economy approach in the region. It is also recognized that not many understand the meaning and concepts of Blue Economy and PEMSEA should continue to help provide good examples and solutions in implementing the concept in the region.
- 6.3.11. Forging partnerships with the private sector could be considered a way forward to contribute to PEMSEA’s sustainability. However, Country Partners have mixed experiences in working with the private sectors on environment projects wherein some private sectors provide funding support to environmental projects (e.g. San

Miguel Corporation support on Manila Bay), while others rely on the government or projects for financial support and incentives.

Recommendations:

The Executive Committee recommended that:

- 6.3.12. PRF develop in more detail what PEMSEA can do to sustain its work in promoting Blue Economy in the region, in light of the imminent conclusion of the Scaling Up SDS-SEA project. PEMSEA needs to draw out in more detail how it can work on blue economy investments and to identify ways to sustain it. The upcoming projects provide this opportunity given that investment component is built into their design;
- 6.3.13. PRF carefully examine the potential legal structure(s) that will allow for proper disbursement of grants, which could potentially lead to revenue generating investments for PEMSEA.
- 6.3.14. PRF look into how PEMSEA can gain more recognition on its work on Blue Economy, Sustainable Financing and Private Sector engagement through broader dissemination of its Blue Economy reports.
- 6.3.15. PRF and the Country Partners explore how together, they can develop proposals to capitalize on country investment programs, i.e., using ICM as a screening mechanism in investing the initiative.

7.0 PEMSEA Post-2020 Futures Report and Strategy (EC/23/DOC/07)

- 7.1. Ms. Gonzales provided a review of the PEMSEA Post-2020 Futures Report and Strategy, which was last presented at the 11th Partnership Council Meeting in Surabaya, Indonesia on July 2019.
- 7.2. Ms. Aimee Gonzales presented the following feedback received from partners during the 11th PC Meeting Technical Session to further its development into a practical and operational strategy or plan:
 - 7.2.1. Provide explicit references to international commitments such as UNSDGs and CBD post 2020 global biodiversity framework;
 - 7.2.2. Clarify the links between the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022 vis a vis the PEMSEA post 2020 report;
 - 7.2.3. Provide more specificity on the key priority issues that needs to be tackled by PEMSEA and break down the current broad description of the future trends and areas of cooperation;
 - 7.2.4. Develop a strategy that will clearly identify the roles/functions by the partners and PRF secretariat, identify resourcing requirements, clarify the partnership arrangement mechanisms particularly the role of non-country partners in helping

implement the post 2020 strategy, and identify the value add of PEMSEA vis a vis COBSEA and other regional mechanisms; and

- 7.2.5. Link the further refinement of the PEMSEA post 2020 strategy/operational plan with the discussions on PEMSEA's self-sufficiency.
- 7.3. Guided by these feedbacks, specific actions for the Post-2020 strategic objectives and thrusts were identified, which also enumerated the roles of partners including the Partnership Council, PEMSEA Resource Facility, Country and Non-Country Partners, National Contact Points, PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers, and the Executive Committee.
- 7.4. In her presentation she also reiterated some points from the earlier EC discussions noting that a) PEMSEA should not be making primary research but rather capitalize on the collaboration and partnerships particularly with partners who are capable of doing these hard research; and b) PEMSEA articulate its comparative advantage on fostering dialogues and solutions based on science-policy interface and capacity building and training development on integrated management approaches to implement SDS-SEA.

Discussion Highlights:

- 7.5. The EC provided their insights and comments on the following questions presented:
 - 7.5.1. What is EC's collective vision for PEMSEA's future?
 - 7.5.2. How should PEMSEA strengthen its position as an effective regional coordinating mechanism in the East Asian Seas?
 - 7.5.3. How do we match the above with PEMSEA's actions post 2020 based on SDS-SEA Implementation Plan and PEMSEA Futures Report?
 - 7.5.4. What will be the roles of country partners, non- country partners, PRF and EC in the delivery of the aforementioned actions?
 - 7.5.5. How do we present the operational plan at the 12th Partnership Council Meeting to ensure support and buy-in?
- 7.6. Mr. Yuwono recognized PEMSEA's unmatched role in providing support to governments, particularly on environmental issues. He noted that partnerships in PEMSEA remains powerful, as reflected on the 2018 EAS Congress. With this, PEMSEA's strong position in the region provides an opportunity to speak up about urgent global concerns like climate change. PEMSEA also remains a center of excellence in the region, which contributes to global concerns by facilitating science-policy interface and capacity building, and promoting network of partners in the region. Drawing up a list of experts in the region and research institutions will provide useful to maintaining and strengthening this position. Mr. Yuwono, however, expressed his concerns on the roles of the National Focal Points, particularly in convincing local stakeholders and the government. He suggests that they also be reminded of their roles and responsibilities under the PEMSEA rules of governance.

- 7.7. Dr. Ca noted that PEMSEA develop a strategic action plan to clarify and convince partners what PEMSEA can do to implement SDS-SEA and further contribute to the sustainable development. He emphasized that PEMSEA is and remains to be an intergovernmental organization, and cannot be an enterprise. He believes that PEMSEA can effectively address many issues by capitalizing on its existing services and projects, experiences and expertise. Furthermore, the implementation of integrated coastal management remains PEMSEA's strength and expertise. However, there remains some who do not fully understand the concept of ICM and are having difficulties implementing it. Continuous implementation and information dissemination through knowledge products, which identifies the strong and weak points of ICM, could help Country Partners in sustaining the implementation of ICM in their respective sites and address the challenges being faced beyond the current Scaling up SDS-SEA project. He also recognized the need to identify PEMSEA's experts and services to offer in order to encourage support from both country and non-country partners, particularly through engaging them to PEMSEA activities.
- 7.8. Dr. Monyneath agreed that there is a need to develop a strategic plan for PEMSEA, and suggested to focus concrete topics to work on, particularly for the next ten years. He further noted that PEMSEA consider the human and financial resources available, while also aligning its action to the global, regional and local needs. He emphasized that working with partners is very crucial in this matter. He reiterated the importance of the involvement of partners, particularly on policy making and decision-making processes in their respective countries, to encourage them to take ownership on the concept of ICM and to PEMSEA as an organization.
- 7.9. Dr. Oh believes that PEMSEA has the capability to gain support from willing funders (e.g. Sweden, Norway and UN agencies) to help address the serious environmental problems threatening the region (e.g. marine debris and eutrophication). Such efforts could help financially support the organization while also providing assistance to its partners. He however suggests that PEMSEA promote itself to gain more recognition and exposure within and beyond its network. He agreed with the suggestion to identify a pool of experts in the region willing to provide service, for PEMSEA be made more available and useful to its partners.
- 7.10. Dr. Furukawa pointed out that PEMSEA should serve as an integrated platform, discussing and working together with partners as a one, particularly on the urgent environment issues like the impending extreme sea level events brought about by climate change. Specifically, he suggested the need to invest on resources to send representatives or partners on regional or international conferences or speaking engagements to increase the organization's exposure. PEMSEA should also increase its recognition within its partners, particularly by integrating the region's experiences through case studies and events like the Congress. He also agreed on the importance of encouraging ownership from partners to gain more support and participation from

them. He suggested to develop a collective operational plan, which includes inputs from the Country and Non-Country Partners

- 7.11. Ms. Gorospe recognized the role of PEMSEA as a platform and integration of information and researches in the region, which provides guidance and empirical basis on policymaking and implementation on the ground. She expects PEMSEA to continue being a convener of policymakers and thought leaders, and a platform for information sharing in the region. These allow for opportunities to develop policies, which are grounded on science, informative and implementable on the ground. It is crucial that PEMSEA strengthen its position as the go-to organization for its partners and remain at the forefront of providing integrated solutions in addressing the marine and coastal concerns in the region. This can be done by making its knowledge products available and useful to its partners. Engaging partners and seeking their inputs, particularly the political and decision makers, could also provide valuable support in ensuring PEMSEA's institutional and financial viability.

Conclusions:

The Executive Committee concluded that:

- 7.12. PEMSEA's works best in promoting science and policy interface and capacity development on integrated coastal and marine management in the region.
- 7.13. PEMSEA is an intergovernmental body and cannot be an enterprise. There is a need to clarify and convince partners what PEMSEA can do and services it can provide to implement SDS-SEA.
- 7.14. The application of the Integrated Coastal Management remains PEMSEA's strength and expertise. Continuous implementation and information dissemination through knowledge products, which identifies the strong and weak points of ICM, could help Country Partners in implementing ICM in their respective sites and address the challenges being faced.
- 7.15. Knowledge products and events like the EAS congress are good platform to share and disseminate information and experiences in ICM implementation and other coastal and marine projects in the region.

Recommendations:

The Executive Committee recommended that:

- 7.16. PRF identify and maintain a list of experts and institutional partners, as part of its strategy in strengthening PEMSEA's position as the go-to organization and remain in the forefront of providing integrated solutions in addressing the marine and coastal concerns in the region.

- 7.17. PEMSEA foster a more inclusive and participatory approach to encourage country partners and non-country partners, to take ownership of PEMSEA as an organization, and in turn provide more support and participation.
- 7.18. PRF invest resources to send representatives of PEMSEA (from Country or Non-Country Partners) to regional or international conferences or speaking engagements to increase the organization's exposure.
- 7.19. PRF conduct an interactive session during the Partnership Council to enhance participation of partners and seek their inputs regarding the financial viability and sustainability of PEMSEA.
- 7.20. The PRF develop and present a collective operational plan to continue to support and enhance PEMSEA's achievements, which includes inputs from the Country and Non-Country Partners.
- 7.21. PRF develop good proposals and share with potential funding agencies (e.g Sida, EU) to address the environmental problems in the region like marine plastics.
- 7.22. PEMSEA engage with political and decision makers to provide support and ensure PEMSEA's institutional and financial viability through presentation of strong arguments and best practices of PEMSEA's work

8.0 Expanding PEMSEA Partnerships (EC/23/DOC/08)

Discussion Highlights:

- 8.1. Dr. Jae Young Lee, PRF Deputy Head of Planning and Partnership Development, presented a report on the direction of Expanding PEMSEA's Partnerships, highlighting the history of its country partnership and engagement with non-PEMSEA countries and enumerating the benefits of a Country Partner.
- 8.2. There is a pressing need for solutions to sustain healthy oceans and coasts in the region that would require stronger collaborations and partnerships among the neighboring countries in East Asia. In order to accomplish this, PRF seeks to re-establish and formalize country partnerships to make PEMSEA a strong, coherent and effective regional coordinating mechanism.
- 8.3. PEMSEA has undertaken some engagements with PEMSEA Country Partners and non-PEMSEA members through the Putrajaya Declaration in 2003 involving Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Thailand that adopted the SDS-SEA as well as the development of new projects (i.e., integrated river basin management, reducing maritime transport emissions, and managing marine protected areas in the large marine ecosystems in the ASEAN region) with Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.

- 8.4. It would be beneficial for PEMSEA to have Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand become Country Partners in facilitating common strategic decisions not only for the projects but also in developing integrated policy recommendations for the region. Moreover, partnerships with ASEAN countries would increase the impact of PEMSEA's contribution to various international commitments.
- 8.5. The Executive Committee also recognized the importance of partnering with other international organizations particularly with ASEAN and COBSEA. By monitoring the decisions of ASEAN and examining the parallel programmes and activities of ASEAN and COBSEA, PEMSEA may be able to find opportunities for them to consider further collaborations and partnerships. If PEMSEA is able to forge such partnerships, PEMSEA could complement its work, activities, policies and expertise with theirs and enhance its regional implementation on the ground.
- 8.6. On approaching the ASEAN Countries in reopening partnership dialogues. Mr. Yuwono suggested two ways to address this. First, the Executive Committee reach out to friends and colleagues through their networks in identifying the right focal points of the countries. Second, to write a formal letter to the ministries with an explanation of the benefits of becoming a PEMSEA Country Partner.
- 8.7. Dr. Furukawa also proposed that PRF utilize organizations or networks outside country ministries, particularly PEMSEA Non-Country Partners, in persuading countries to join PEMSEA. He cited the case of Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI), a PEMSEA Non-Country Partner, which convinced Japan to join PEMSEA in 2002.
- 8.8. On strengthening the enumerated benefits of PEMSEA Country Partners, Dr. Oh suggested that it would not only be enough to highlight the advantages of PEMSEA Country Partnerships but also show the disadvantages of being a non-PEMSEA member state. The ED added that need to show the benefits of becoming a full partner vis-à-vis being a project collaborator only.

Conclusions:

The Executive Committee concluded that:

- 8.9. PEMSEA's collaboration with existing international organizations in the region such as ASEAN (policy making body) and COBSEA (regional coordinating body), could be important and could help enhance PEMSEA's implementation of policies and practices on the ground.
- 8.10. PRF's plans to expand membership of Country Partners (i.e., Brunei, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand) is welcome to foster stronger and coordinated regional actions on international commitments.
- 8.11. PEMSEA's network including Country Partners, Non-Country Partners, Learning Centers, etc, can play a vital role in encouraging other Countries to become new PEMSEA Partners.

Recommendations:

The Executive Committee recommended that:

- 8.12. PEMSEA identify focal points of other international organizations in the region (e.g. ASEAN and COBSEA). Inviting them to various events organized by PEMSEA could contribute to strengthening collaboration with them
- 8.13. PEMSEA monitor the decisions and activities of COBSEA and ASEAN that would help identify unique, complementary, and parallel areas or programmes for collaboration and knowledge sharing
- 8.14. PRF approach other member countries of ASEAN and COBSEA through both informal (e.g. utilizing relevant Non-Country Partners, projects) and formal channels (e.g. sending official letter to the country with an explanation of benefit as be a PEMSEA Country Partner)
- 8.15. In addition to identifying the benefits of being a PEMSEA Country Partner, PRF also show the costs of not being a country partner as well as the difference between a formal country partnership as opposed to being project collaborators.

9.0 Securing PEMSEA's Financial Sustainability (EC/23/DOC/09)

- 9.1. Ms. Gonzales discussed that PEMSEA has continually worked to transform itself to become a financially self-sufficient organization. PRF has conducted various studies such as the 2014 Strategy and Implementation Plan for a Self-Sustaining PEMSEA, 2016 Third Party Assessment, and 2018 PEMSEA Post 2020 Futures Report and Strategy, to help inform its actions in securing financial sustainability.
- 9.2. Ms. Gonzales reiterated that the need to secure PEMSEA's financial sustainability has been recognized and affirmed by several Ministerial Declarations (2015 Da Nang Compact, 2018 Iloilo Ministerial Declaration) and EC and PC decisions since 2014. The goal of PEMSEA's financial sustainability is not to become too dependent on any one major source of funding, but to have a diverse mix of funding sources from country contributions, to multilateral/bilateral grants, revenues generated from its services implemented by the Secretariat (i.e., port certification, facilitation and secretariat, technical, third party monitoring, etc.), and other sources.
- 9.3. Ms. Gonzales reported on the status of country contributions, revenue and other funding sources to date. The distribution of the sources of funds are as follows: Grants 93.75%, Country Contribution 3.88%, Technical Services 1.10%, Trainings and Workshops 0.70% and Port Certification 0.57%.
- 9.4. PRF is exploring other pathways towards financial sustainability. The potential sources of financing that could potentially add to the mix of traditional funding sources includes: i) EU Pillar Assessment; ii) Sustainable Investment Component in the design of Future PEMSEA Projects (a. IKI 'Reduction of Maritime Transport GHG emissions, b. UNDP-GEF

Managing the effectiveness of transboundary marine protected areas); and iii) Engagement with the Private Sector.

- 9.5. On country voluntary contributions, Ms. Gonzales reported that these have not been met with much success despite various country partners' efforts to secure funding for PEMSEA. Some countries have indicated difficulty in justifying the voluntary contribution to PEMSEA, which is considered a non-UN intergovernmental organization. Ms. Gonzales requested the EC to discuss the country contribution thoroughly, stressing that although the country contribution is not a big portion of PEMSEA's portfolio, it is necessary to have a sustained source of income to be able to support the PRF to develop more funding sources, implement more marketing activity and communicate the benefits of promoting PEMSEA.
- 9.6. Despite PRF's desire to understand the budgetary allocation process and timeline for each country, the available information is limited and quite complex to understand as other countries would prefer to process the request of securing voluntary contributions on their own.. Some countries, on the other hand, are open to discuss their respective budgetary procedures with PRF. As such, Ms. Gonzales requested the meeting to put this item on the table for further discussion and guidance from the Executive Committee.
- 9.7. Ms. Gonzales proposed to develop a protocol to assist some countries overcome the problem of the lack of guidelines in providing annual voluntary contributions to non-UN international organizations. The creation of this protocol may also amend the document on PEMSEA's international legal personality by establishing some agreements and obligations, according to their respective capabilities (i.e., voluntary contributions through cash or in-kind, secondment of staff, etc.), to support the organization. The mechanics of developing the protocol and the draft protocol content were presented to the EC for initial review. Considering that PEMSEA relies on project funding and its pipeline projects would only benefit a few country partners, a concrete agreement among the countries may be needed in order to sustain its operations.

Discussion Highlights:

- 9.8. Dr. Ca affirmed that PEMSEA is going towards the right direction in securing country voluntary contributions. He stressed that in order to sustain PEMSEA, PEMSEA should not narrow but broaden its field of work to find more opportunities. He also emphasized that contributions from countries is necessary to confirm their responsibility to contribute and support PEMSEA. He also emphasized the need to work on getting more projects as this would establish the connection between PEMSEA and the countries.
- 9.9. The Executive Committee also underscored the significance of international agreements. Although country partners have been re-affirming their commitments to PEMSEA through the adoption of Ministerial Declarations, it is still challenging to secure

their support, particularly for voluntary contributions, without an international treaty. The proposed protocol can establish an international agreement to help PEMSEA and the countries have a formal basis for voluntary contributions.

- 9.10. Dr. Monyneath raised his concern that the rationale for developing a draft protocol might confuse some countries and may need further explanation when this is presented to finance and other related ministries. Ms. Gonzales clarified that it is the first time that the protocol is being presented for the EC to provide comments and weigh its pros and cons. She reiterated that unlike other intergovernmental bodies like CTI-CFF where funding support is clearly stipulated in their founding agreement, PEMSEA relies on the e Ministerial Declarations in securing voluntary contributions. The protocol could help countries justify and guarantee contributions for PEMSEA. The Executive Committee acknowledged the clarification and advised the PRF Secretariat to evaluate the terms of the protocol
- 9.11. The Executive Committee concurred with PRF's approach to understand the varying country processes as it would help PRF deal with country consultations and receive national approvals. For instance, Ms. Gorospe shared that in the Philippines, a protocol or international agreement would have to be presented to higher levels of authorities at the legislative level for approval. During these discussions, national focal points should be able to present the benefits of the treaty as well as determine the government's apprehension about it in order to address them properly. The Council Chair added that PRF may need to be flexible during the development stages of the protocol to match some criteria that other countries may require.
- 9.12. The meeting also explored other alternative approaches or schemes to obtain voluntary contributions. Dr. Furukawa suggested to open the window for Non-Country Partners to also provide contributions. Dr. Lee proposed that cost-sharing agreement, similar to China, Japan, and RO Korea's set-up.
- 9.13. Ms. Gonzales appreciated the valuable feedback and reassured the meeting that this is just the initial discussion for the protocol and would still have to be refined and consulted with Country Partners.

Conclusions:

The Executive Committee concluded that:

- 9.14. There is a need for voluntary contributions from each country to support the operation and the sustainability of PEMSEA, however, the amount of voluntary contribution shall not be fixed and shall depend on the ability of the country to provide the contributions;
- 9.15. Projects provide an important connection to PEMSEA in dealing with countries, as such, PEMSEA should not narrow its focus but broaden its field of work based on the SDS-SEA to be able to generate more projects;

- 9.16. Countries have different procedures for securing funding and entering into a protocol and agreement depending on the nature of the agreement. For example, International agreement will require to pass through higher authority (e.g. Congress, Assembly, Parliament etc.);
- 9.17. Presenting the proposal for a protocol or collective cost sharing arrangement will be a good opportunity to gather comments from members of the PC and the governments to be able to properly address the concerns of securing support for the PEMSEA Resource Facility.

Recommendations:

The Executive Committee recommended that:

- 9.18. PRF ED conduct bilateral discussion with countries to understand the budget and appropriations process for each government and explore the appropriate type of agreement that can be used to facilitate agreement for the voluntary contribution.
- 9.19. PRF provide alternative approaches/schemes for obtaining the agreement on the country voluntary contribution (e.g. individual country cost sharing agreement, collective cost sharing agreement, protocol and other means).
- 9.20. PRF present the proposed options to the PC to gather comments from members of the PC and the governments to be able to properly address the concerns.
- 9.21. PEMSEA consider the potential for non-country partners to give voluntary contribution in cash or in kind.
- 9.22. In addition to the content presented on proposed protocol or collective sharing arrangement, PRF include an explanation on how the contributions will be used as well as the projected expenditures using the voluntary contribution.

10.0 Budget and Workplan 2019 – 2020

- 10.1. Ms. Gonzales apprised the Executive Committee of the country consultations with Japan and RO Korea after the 11th Partnership Council Meeting regarding PEMSEA’s budget and workplan for 2019 – 2020. Both countries expressed concern on the running budget deficit of PRF. They wanted more details in the budget presentation, Ms. Gonzales suggested that for consistency, the annual audit report format will be used in presenting forecasted budget for 2020-2021.
- 10.2. The EC noted the suggestion and provided no further comments nor feedback.

11.0 Conduct of Expanded EC Meeting

- 11.1. Ms. Gonzales informed the Executive Committee that the terminal evaluation for the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Scaling Up Implementation of the SDS-SEA would commence from April to June 2020. During this period, seven participating country

partners (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam) would be busy preparing for the evaluation and conduct of site visits.

- 11.2. Taking into consideration the Country Partners' schedule and available resources, the ED apprised the meeting that the PRF Secretariat would conduct a regular Executive Committee meeting in April 2020. Furthermore, she suggested that the Executive Committee may wish to invite other observers as well (i.e., Japan or RO Korea) to continue discussions on PEMSEA sustainability and budget.

Conclusion:

The Executive Committee noted that:

- 11.3. The proposed Expanded Executive Committee Meeting will not take place. Instead, a regular EC meeting will be organized in light of the start of the terminal evaluation of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Scaling Up Implementation of the SDS-SEA in April – June 2020, which will involve seven country partners.

12.0 Other Business:

12.1. EAS Congress 2021

12.1.1. Dr. Monyneath informed the meeting that the Royal Government of Cambodia has approved the hosting of the EAS Congress 2021, in principle. Cambodia will provide an update to PRF on the 4th week of October to initiate discussion on technical and logistical preparations, including evaluation of venues and facilities.

12.1.2. In preparation for the EAS Congress 2021, to be hosted by Cambodia, the PRF and Ministry of Environment (MoE) Cambodia will discuss the theme and expected outcomes and to prepare the concept note. This will then be presented to the Country and Non-Country Partners at the next PC.

12.2. Vacancy of the Audit Committee

12.2.1. The Executive Committee reconfirmed the 22nd EC recommendation to endorse Ms. Corazon Davis of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines to replace former Council Chair Atty. Antonio La Vina as a member of the Audit Committee.

Recommendation:

The Executive Committee recommended that:

12.2.2. PRF proceed in seeking the formal approval of the Partnership Council through email correspondence on the appointment of Ms. Corazon Davis as a member of the Audit Committee.

12.3. 12th Partnership Council Meeting

12.3.1. Ms. Gonzales announced that the 12th Partnership Council Meeting will be held next July 2020 in the Philippines. Although the agenda, dates, and location are still to be determined, she has requested the EC to provide suggestions for the theme or resource persons for the Ocean Leadership Roundtable.

12.3.2. The EC noted PRF's request of suggestions on the theme and resource persons for the Ocean Leadership Roundtable to be held during the Partnership Council Meeting

13.0 Closing of the Meeting

13.1. The Chair expressed his appreciation and gratitude towards the members of the Executive Committee, Dr. Keita Furukawa's participation via teleconference, the representatives of DENR and the PRF Secretariat for contributing to the success of the meeting.

13.2. The meeting was adjourned on 18 October 2019 at 5:00pm.

ANNEX 1
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

ANNOTATED MEETING AGENDA

October 17, 2019 (Thursday)

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|--|
| 13:00 – 13:15 | 1.0 | Opening of the Meeting and Approval of 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. |
| 13:15 – 14:15 | 2.0 | Briefing of the PEMSEA Rules of Governance

In order to provide a better understanding of PEMSEA, the PRF Secretariat will provide an introduction and refresher session on the PEMSEA Rules of Governance. The discussion will include the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and Partnership Council Members as well as the Conduct of Meetings. |
| 14:15 – 14:30 | 3.0 | Actions Taken on matters raised at the 11th Partnership Council Meeting

The Secretariat will present a brief summary on the actions taken on matters raised during the 11 th PC Meeting.

The EC will be requested to provide feedback on the actions. (Some points will be discussed in detail in the other agenda items) |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | 4.0 | PEMSEA and the Decade of Ocean Science

The Secretariat will report on its participation on the Regional Planning Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the research needs of PEMSEA's upcoming projects. |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee Break | |

15:45 – 16:15	<p>5.0 Designation of PEMSEA Regional Center of Excellence in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>The EC will be requested to approve the IGES as PEMSEA’s third RCOE in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction based from the comments and recommendations submitted by Country and Non-Country Partners.</p>
16:15 – 17:00	<p>6.0 Other Updates</p> <p>6.1 Other RCOEs</p> <p>The Secretariat will provide an update on the other RCOEs: COMI and MERIT.</p> <p>6.2 Joint PNLG and PNLC Session</p> <p>The Secretariat will provide an update on the PNLG and PNLC Joint Session</p> <p>6.3 Knowledge Product on Blue Economy and Investment</p> <p>The ED will report the contents and conclusions of the Knowledge Product and seek the EC’s comments on the lessons learned and potential next steps in circulating the document.</p>
17:00	<p>Close of Day 1</p>
18:00 – 20:00	<p>Dinner</p>
October 18, 2019 (Friday)	
09:30 – 11:00	<p>7.0 PEMSEA Post-2020 Futures Report and Strategy</p> <p>The Secretariat will inform the EC on the revised Post-2020 Futures Report and Strategy based from the recommendations and comments received from PEMSEA Partners at the previous meeting.</p> <p>The EC will be requested to review the revised document and provide comments on the proposed roles of the Executive Council, Country Partners, Non-Country Partners and the PRF Secretariat on key deliverables.</p>

11:00 – 12:00	<p>8.0 PEMSEA Partnerships</p> <p>The Secretariat will present an overview of PEMSEA’s ongoing initiatives to invite other ASEAN member states to become Country Partners.</p> <p>EC members are requested to provide guidance on PEMSEA’s next course of actions.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Lunch Break</p>
13:00 – 14:30	<p>9.0 Securing PEMSEA’s Financial Sustainability</p> <p>Following the discussions on Agenda Item 2.0, the Secretariat will present a timeline of PEMSEA’s decisions and actions regarding its sustainability as well as the upcoming plans in 2020.</p> <p>The EC will be requested to provide suggestions and guidance on how to present options for financing and impress upon countries the need for voluntary contributions.</p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>10.0 Budget and Workplan for 2019 – 2020</p> <p>The Secretariat will report the results of discussions with select Country Partners. The EC will be requested to provide advice on making a strategic presentation for PC approval of the Budget and Workplan for 2020 – 2021.</p>
15:30 – 15:45	<p>Coffee Break</p>
15:45 – 16:45	<p>11.0 Conduct of Expanded EC Meeting</p> <p>The EC will be invited to provide inputs and recommendations on the conduct of the Expanded EC Meeting scheduled in April with Country Partners on PEMSEA’s Sustainability.</p>
16:45 – 17:00	<p>12.0 Other Business</p>
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Review of Conclusions and Recommendations</p>
17:30	<p>Close of EC Meeting</p>

ANNEX 2
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Arief Yuwono
Council Chair
EAS Partnership Council
Republic of Indonesia

Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh
Technical Session Chair
EAS Partnership Council and
Adviser,
International Cooperation Department
Korea Institute of Ocean Science and
Technology
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Dr. Vu Thanh Ca
Intergovernmental Session Chair
EAS Partnership Council and
Associate Professor
Hanoi University of Natural Resources and
Environment
Vietnam

Dr. Vann Monynneath
Council Co-Chair
Deputy Secretary General
National Council for Sustainable Development
Ministry of Environment
Cambodia

Dr. Keita Furukawa
Technical Session Co-Chair
Board Member
NPO Association Shore Environment Creation;
Senior Research Fellow
The Ocean Policy Research Institute,
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Japan

OBSERVERS

PHILIPPINES

Ms. Jeslina B. Gorospe
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Resources
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Ms. Camille Manalaysay
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PEMSEA SECERTARIAT

Ms. Aimee Gonzales
Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Dr. Jae-Young Lee
Deputy Head
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PEMSEA Resource Facility

Ms. Nancy Bermas
Project Manager for SDS-SEA Project
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Ms. Johanna Diwa
Capacity Development Manager
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Mr. Renato Cardinal
Programme Manager
for Partnership Applications
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Ms. Joyce Paigao
Communications Assistant
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Ms. Diwata Cayaban
Programme Support
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Mr. Jun Dacaymant
IT System Administrator
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Ms. Vida Isabel Vasquez
Secretariat Assistant
PEMSEA Resource Facility

ANNEX 3
OPENING REMARKS

Opening Remarks of EAS PC Chair Arief Yuwono

23rd PEMSEA Executive Committee meeting

Fellow members of the Executive Committee, including Dr. Keita Furukawa, who is joining us virtually, representatives from DENR, the PEMSEA ED and the PRF secretariat, good afternoon and welcome to the 23rd Executive Committee meeting. Mme Chen Yue, unfortunately could not join us for this meeting.

Allow me to begin with expressing my thanks to DENR, on behalf of the Executive Committee for hosting this meeting. We laud the Philippine government's continued support and commitment to PEMSEA. I believe we will be joined by Undersecretary Analiza Teh, the Philippines' national focal point for PEMSEA tomorrow so we can express our thanks to her personally then.

As the new Chair of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council and the Executive Committee of PEMSEA, allow me to express a few remarks to set the scene for this meeting. This initial reflections revolve around 4 themes.

1. Expansion of membership

I would like to see PEMSEA expanding and collaborating with new members, partners and collaborators at all levels – intergovernmental, country partners, local governments and learning centers. Expansion should not only be outside of countries, it should include collaboration with other ministries like fisheries, transport, local governments, etc. to sustain the integrated and coordinated approach that we advocate for.

We should also encourage more local governments to join the PEMSEA network of local governments.

Each EC member has its own network and spheres of influence. We should capitalize and use them as basis for such expansion and broader reach.

2. SDGs as the major entry point for collaboration and partnership

Last month, there was a global discussion on the progress made regarding the SDG implementation. The evaluation pointed fairly low progress in implementing goals 13-16 which deals with natural resource issues.

Working together to achieve SDG targets could be a major entry point for forging collaboration with partners. In our region, the implementation the SDS-SEA 2018-2020 is key to help secure UN SDG goals 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (climate action) 14 (life below water), and 17 (partnerships).

3. Engaging the youth in innovative ways to promote PEMSEA and its work

Many refreshing and innovative movers and shakers today are the youth, particularly in the environmental movement and the use of social media. They realize the enormity of the threats and pressures that they face tomorrow as a consequence of past and current unsustainable policies and actions.

PEMSEA should do more to engage them in communication and awareness raising activities.

4. Ocean health and Climate Change

IPCC methodology to measure GHG emissions sadly focus on land/terrestrial calculations. Coastal and marine issues hardly feature in these scientific reports. I am part of the special tasks to consolidate research of marine ecosystems and climate change. Perhaps one of the region wide activity that we can do is to review and assess what we know and gaps in literature on climate change in the EAS region.

We can also develop provocative think pieces like transforming carbon dioxide emissions into energy to solve the climate change problem, for example.

These are some of my initial ideas which I would encourage this meeting to brainstorm and discuss with all of you.

I encourage more discussion and a working meeting and less of the formal stiffness characteristic of intergovernmental meetings. The EC is here to help and guide the PEMSEA Resource Facility. We EC members should be more open and engaged in helping shape and transform PEMSEA in the next three years and in the short term, ensure a collaborative and positive country and non- country partner engagement at the next PC.

Thank you.

ANNEX 4
COMMENTS FROM DR. KEITA FURUKAWA

Comments from Dr. Keita Furukawa

1.0 Opening of the Meeting and Approval of Meeting Agenda

No objection

2.0 Briefing of the PEMSEA Rules of Governance

Noted

3.0 Actions Taken on matters raised at the 11th Partnership Council Meeting

Noted, and providing additional comment on Agenda 4.0, 7.0, and 8.0.

4.0 PEMSEA and the Decade of Ocean Science

The IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC/IPCC) has been published last month. It is emphasizing immediate action should be taken by integrated manner for enabling sustainable development. This is important message to support SDS-SEA implementation. Also, this is one of base material of the Decade of Ocean Science.

Points to be stressed are;

- Blue carbon / green infrastructure
- IK and LK of EAS regions
- Monitoring scheme (SOC enhancement)

So, we should mention the report as one of a base material and modify related column of Annex 2, as follows:

- Column Biodiversity - review of blue carbon/green infrastructure concepts and feasibility (Concept building is still needed), pilot projects and scaling up
- Column Climate change - Risk and vulnerability assessment of climate change and impacts on different sectors (fisheries; aquaculture; ecotourism; coastal communities; livelihoods; infrastructure) and marine ecosystems (wetlands; coral reefs; mangroves; seagrass; beaches; other habitats) in EAS regions (SROCC/ICPP can be a starting point of the assessment, nevertheless, we need to seek the way of taking special cases of the EAS and our IK and LK.) with view of Indigenous Knowledges and Local Knowledges.
- Column Climate change - Capacity development and IK, LK correction (IK and LK on CCA/DRRM are also need to be identified through the capacity development. The capacity development in ecosystem-based CCA/DRRM will be not only to disseminate knowledge to the local, but local can contribute by supplying the IK and LK) in ecosystem-based CCA/DRRM
- Column Ocean governance - Research on implementing, reviewing and revising (Not only implementing, but also reviewing and revising the methodologies if needed e.g. as shown in Annex 3, Ecosystem health report card is one of interesting system to be studied.) the State of the Coasts methodology at the local, regional and national levels

5.0 Designation of PEMSEA Regional Center of Excellence in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

No objection

6.0 Other Updates

6.1 Other RCOEs

6.2 Joint PNLG and PNLC Session

6.3 Knowledge Product on Blue Economy and Private Sector Engagement

No objection

October 18, 2019 (Friday)

7.0 PEMSEA Post-2020 Futures Report and Strategy

- What is EC's collective vision for PEMSEA's future?
 - I strongly agree on the strategic objective 1. PEMSEA will be an interpreter of global agenda to local action. No need to duplicate the global agenda, but we need to break down or filling a gap for implement action EAS.
 - To facilitate above mentioned action, the partnership in the PEMSEA should be activated with strong ownership of ourselves as a multi-stakeholder self-sustained platform. We should think about how to encourage partners for their active participation. Expansion of country partners will be one direction, and expansion of non-country partners (including scientific organization, business communities, and locals) will be the other direction.

8.0 PEMSEA Partnerships

No objection on inviting other ASEAN member states to become Country Partners.

I have no specific recommendation at a moment. May be the more PEMSEA exposure on regional / national conference in ASEAN countries can help to push the movement.

9.0 Securing PEMSEA's Financial Sustainability

No specific comment on this.

10.0 Budget and Workplan for 2019 – 2020

No specific comment on this

11.0 Conduct of Expanded EC Meeting

No specific comment on this

12.0 Other Business

No specific comment on this

ANNEX 5
MEETING DOCUMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND PHOTOS

Annex 5

The following references are accessible through the following links:

1. Meeting Documents:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13yiyzsdDtZJ2yqR42Xz9Cgtp0TpkHqb5>
2. Presentations:
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