



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

**Summary Report of the
Fourth Senior Government Officials'
Meeting**

Changwon City, Republic of Korea
11 July 2012



**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
FOURTH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING**

**Changwon City, Republic of Korea
11 JULY 2012**

THE FOURTH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING (SGOM)

Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Ministerial Forum

Pullman Ambassador Hotel, Changwon City, RO Korea

12:30–14:00, 11 July 2012

SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Fourth Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM) was held at the Oriox Hall of the Pullman Ambassador Hotel in Changwon City, Republic of Korea, on 11 July 2012. Senior government officials from 11 PEMSEA Partner Countries participated in the meeting, namely: Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. The meeting agenda and list of participants are included in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.
- 1.2 Professor Raphael Lotilla, Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility, chaired the meeting. He welcomed the distinguished representatives of the Partner Countries to the meeting, emphasizing its importance in preparing for the Fourth Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia. Professor Lotilla highlighted the key objectives and expected outputs of the Ministerial Forum, including the adoption of the Changwon Declaration toward an Ocean-based Blue Economy and the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) Implementation Plan for 2012–2016. The Changwon Declaration builds upon the agreements made in earlier ministerial forums and calls attention to the regional efforts toward a blue economy and sustainable East Asian Seas.
- 1.3 Professor Lotilla introduced the Ministerial Forum Annotated Program and briefly discussed each item.

2.0 REVIEW OF STATUS OF PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTERIAL FORUM

- 2.1 The PEMSEA Secretariat gave an overview of the arrangements for the Ministerial Forum. The meeting was informed that ten PEMSEA partners were expected to adopt the Changwon Declaration and the Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2012–2016). Thailand, which is not yet a PEMSEA Country Partner, would be participating as an Observer in the forum. In line with this, the Chair reminded the participants that the countries that are not yet partners may join the partnership by signing the Haikou Partnership Agreement at any time.
- 2.2 It was further noted that some 29 members of country delegations, and the PEMSEA Executive Committee members, would be attending the forum. Thirty-seven (37) observers composed of representatives from PEMSEA Non-Country Partners, international organizations, and for the first time, the private sector and local governments, were also expected to attend.

- 2.3 The Minister of RO Korea's Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM), as host, would chair the Ministerial Forum.

3.0 REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION FOR THE MINISTERIAL FORUM

- 3.1 The documents for the Ministerial Forum were distributed to the participants, including those for the Ministers. The key documents included the Five-year Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2012–2016) and the Changwon Declaration toward an Ocean-based Blue Economy: Moving Ahead with the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.
- 3.2 Information documents prepared for the Ministerial Forum in support of the Declaration and Regional SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2012–2016) were also distributed, including: the PEMSEA briefing document, "PEMSEA's Transformation ... Why is it Important?"; the Regional Review of the Implementation of the SDS-SEA (2003–2011), which incorporated the synthesis of national SDS-SEA reviews; and the Country Reports and Ministerial Statements submitted on behalf of the Ministers.
- 3.3 The meeting reviewed the consultation and consensus-building process that was undertaken for the finalization of the declaration.

4.0 REVIEW OF THE MINISTERIAL FORUM ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The meeting took up the physical arrangements for the forum. These included two venues: (a) the Convention Hall for the Closing Ceremony of the International Conference and the Opening Ceremony of the Ministerial Forum and (b) the Amoris A Room at Pullman Hotel for the Ministerial Forum Proper. Clarifications were made on the matter of seating arrangements, particularly on the capacity of the venues and the allotted seats for delegation members and interpreters. Concerns regarding microphones, matters on language interpretation and additional allocation of seats for delegation members were addressed.
- 4.2 The meeting discussed the method of signing the declaration, and the participants were informed that each country would get an original copy thereof with complete signatures after the holding of the Ministerial Forum.
- 4.3 The arrangements for the wearing of the Durumagi — the traditional Korean dress — which was provided by the host minister to the ministers, were also discussed.
- 4.4 The meeting noted that, unlike in previous forums, Country Reports and Ministerial Statements would not be read aloud, but would instead be distributed in print to the participants. This approach was intended to give more time for the Ministers to engage in open discussions during the forum. In this regard, the senior government officials were requested to again relay the invitation to the Ministers to make interventions during the facilitated discussion of the forum.

5.0 CLOSING

- 5.1 The Chair reviewed the discussions of the meeting and asked for further queries and clarifications from the body. Professor Lotilla wrapped up the meeting by thanking all the participants for their support and expressed his confidence for the successful conduct of the Fourth Ministerial Forum, and declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX 1

PROGRAM

12:30 – 12:45	Registration of the Senior Government Officials Meeting and the Ministerial Forum
12:45 – 12:50	Opening Remarks Professor Raphael P. M. Lotilla Executive Director PEMSEA Resource Facility
12:50 – 13:00	Review of Status of Preparation in the Forum
13:00 – 13:15	Review of Documentation for the Forum
13:15 – 13:55	Review of the Forum Agenda and Arrangements
13:55 – 14:00	Closing

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ANNEX 2**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****CAMBODIA**

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