

Updates on the 16th East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This document provides relevant updates on the preparations for the 16th East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council (PC) Meeting which will be conducted in July 2024, and discusses the provisional agenda for the meeting.
- 1.2 Rule 6, Section 6.1 of the PEMSEA Rules of Governance mandates that the Partnership Council convene in July every year at a time and place to be set by the Executive Committee at least two months before each meeting. During Congress years, the Partnership Council Meeting shall be conducted as an event of the EAS Congress.
- 1.3 The PEMSEA Rules of Governance likewise stipulates that for Partnership Council Meetings, The PRF as Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda including the meeting and information documents and submit the same to the Executive Committee at least forty-five (45) days before the intended date of the meeting for review and comments (Item 1.3 of Annex 3).
- 1.4 The 16th EAS PC Meeting falls under a Congress year, and shall thus be considered as an event of the EAS Congress 2024. However, considering the need to streamline activities in this year's Congress due to logistical limitations, the PC Meeting shall be conducted as a pre-Congress event on 23-25 July 2024 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and shall be jointly organized by the PEMSEA Resource Facility and the Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The DENR serves as the PEMSEA National Focal Point for the Philippines and the host of the PEMSEA Resource Facility.

2.0 Provisional Programme

- 2.1 In line with the objectives of the EAS Congress 2024, the 16th EAS PC meeting shall primarily discuss agenda related to the progress report of countries on the first year of implementation of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, the 8th Ministerial Declaration, and EAS Congress 2024 activities.
- 2.2 Furthermore, the 16th PC shall tackle pending matters from the 15th EAS PC meeting, regular agenda, and review the decisions made by the Executive Committee during the intersessional period. Pending matters and status of Actions based on the proceedings of the 30th and 31st Executive Committee Meeting and the 15th PC Meeting include

| Agenda | Pending matters | Status of Action taken |
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| Development of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) System for the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 | Creation of ad-hoc working group to provide guidance on M&E Plan development and PC endorsement of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 M&E Plan | Done. The PC adopted the SDS-SEA IP M&E plan during the 15 th EAS PC Meeting. The PRF is refining the reporting templates for utilization of progress reporting during the 16 th PC Meeting. |
| Selection and Appointment of PRF Executive Director | Approval of Extension of current Executive Director for 2024-2026 Opening the call and search for PRF Executive Director 2027-2029 | Done. The PC approved the extension of Ms. Aimee Gonzales as PRF Executive Director for 2024-2026 Pending. The PRF is currently preparing to open the search for PRF Executive Director for 2027-2029 as well as develop a succession/transition plan for PRF staff. |
| Updating the PEMSEA Rules of Governance | Update the PEMSEA Rules of Governance to align to new requirements of funding entities as well as a means to sustain and enhance the delivery of PRF management services | Done. The PC provisionally approved the updated PEMSEA Rules of Governance during the Intergovernmental Session of the 15 th EAS PC Meeting |
| International Advocacies or Promotions of PEMSEA | Participation in regional and global ocean events to increase visibility and influence | Pending. While the PRF has strived to be present in important regional and global ocean events, operational budget limitations hinder the PRF from directly engaging in global events such as COP sessions of the UNFCCC and CBD, UN Decade of Ocean Science Conference, etc. |
| Assumption of IPB University as PNLC Secretariat | Transition of PNLC Secretariat from PRF to IPB University's Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS) | Ongoing. PRF continues to provide guidance to CCMRS-IPB as it assumes its role as PNLC Secretariat this year. |

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| Mechanism for raising and discussing Technical Session Related agenda | PRF to develop a mechanism for Partners to raise agenda items in the EAS PC Technical Session as well as during the inter-sessional periods | Ongoing. PRF is identifying emerging issues and global trends of interest to PEMSEA partners and is working with the Technical Session Chair and Co-Chair to develop an effective mechanism for discussion during PC meetings and intersessional periods. |
| PEMSEA Sustainability Plan updates | Development of the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program | Ongoing. PRF is currently conducting a review of BC methodologies from select EAS countries and will present the summary of the review to the BC consultation group during the 2 nd quarter. |

2.3 The proposed provisional program for the 16th EAS PC Meeting is as follows:

| Day | Time | No | Agenda | Action Requested |
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| 22 July | | | Arrival of participants | |
| Council Session | | | | |
| 23 July | 9:30 – 9:45 | 1.0 | Opening of the 16th EAS Partnership Council Meeting The Council Chair will open the 16 th EAS Partnership Council Meeting and provide a short recap of the major recommendations and decisions of the 15th EAS PC, the 31st and 32nd EC Meeting and Status of Actions taken. | |
| | 9:45 – 9:50 | 2.0 | Adoption of the Meeting Agenda | Adoption of the Agenda |

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| | | | The Council will be requested to review and adopt the Council Session Agenda. | |
| | 9:50 – 10:10 | 3.0 | Admission of National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service (NMHMS) as PEMSEA Non-Country Partner The Council will be requested to review the recommendations of the Executive Committee to approve the application of the NMHMS of PR China as a PEMSEA Non-Country Partner. | 1.0 Approval of the admission of the NMHMS as NCP 2.0 Recommendations on engagement of NMHMS with PRF and other PEMSEA partners |
| | 10:10 – 10:30 | 4.0 | Report of the Executive Committee (EAS PC) Chair The Council Chair will provide the EC’s perspectives and key policy recommendations pertaining to major PEMSEA issues tackled by the Executive Committee during the intersessional periods. | Acceptance of the Executive Committee (EAS PC) Chair’s report |
| | 10:30 – 10:40 | 5.0 | Report of the Executive Director The Executive Director will present the key accomplishments of PRF as technical and secretariat in 2023, as well as status of implementation relating to matters arising from the 15 th EAS PC meeting. | 1.0 Provide operational directives to PRF 2.0 Acceptance of the Executive Director’s report |
| | 10:40 – 11:00 | | Health Break | |
| Technical Session | | | | |
| | 11:00 – 11:15 | 6.0 | Opening of the Technical Session and Adoption of the Technical Session Agenda The Technical Session Chair will preside over the Technical Session with support from the Technical Session Co-Chair. | Adoption of the Technical Session Agenda |

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| | | | The Technical Session will be requested to review and adopt the Session’s agenda. | |
| | 11:15 – 12:00 | 7.0 | <p>EAS Congress 2024</p> <p>MNR, China and PRF shall present updates on the preparations for the EAS Congress 2024, including the Opening Ceremony and International Conference Sessions.</p> | Recommendations to enhance the participation in the EAS Congress and conduct of the International Conference of the EAS Congress |
| | 12:00 – 13:30 | | Lunch | |
| | 13:30 – 15:30 | 8.0 | <p>Progress Report on SDS-SEA Implementation 2023-2027</p> <p>The PRF shall present project updates and operational efforts that support the targets of the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027.</p> <p>The PEMSEA Partners (Country Partners followed by Non-Country Partners) will be requested to present their new, ongoing and planned initiatives/projects that contribute to the targets of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan</p> <p><i>A background report on Year 1 accomplishment will be prepared by PRF, ahead of the meeting. Its content and quality of information from each CP and NCP will be subject to information provided /active support from EAS PC</i></p> | <p>1.0 Identify key progress in SDS-SEA Implementation to highlight as accomplishment and/or targets/commitments in the 8th Ministerial Declaration.</p> <p>2.0 Identify areas for cooperation and collaboration between and among PEMSEA partners and PRF to improve achievement of SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 targets.</p> |

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| | 15:30 – 15:45 | | Health Break | |
| | 15:45 – 17:00 | | Continuation of Progress Report on SDS-SEA Implementation 2023-2027 The PEMSEA Partners will be requested to present their new, ongoing and planned initiatives/projects that contribute to the targets of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan | |
| | 18:00 – 20:00 | | Welcome Dinner/Partnership Night | |
| 24 July | 9:00 - 9:15 | | Resumption of Technical Session The Technical Session Chair shall provide a brief recap of the discussions made during the previous day and shall resume the conduct of the Technical Session. | |
| | 9:15 – 10:15 | 8.0 | Continuation of Progress Report on SDS-SEA Implementation 2023-2027 The PEMSEA Partners will be requested to present their new, ongoing and planned initiatives/projects that contribute to the targets of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan | |
| | 10:15 – 10:30 | | Health Break | |
| | 10:30 – 11:30 | | Continuation of Progress Report on SDS-SEA Implementation 2023-2027 including from PEMSEA regional projects managed by PRF and other NCPs | |

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| | 11:30 – 11:50 | 9.0 | <p>Results of NCP Survey</p> <p>The PRF shall present a summary report of the Non-Country Partners Survey which will identify areas of expertise and possible collaborations with PRF and PEMSEA Country Partners based on latest developments, emerging issues and other strategic opportunities for the EAS region</p> | Provide recommendations on ways forward presented by the survey report |
| | 11:50 – 12:00 | 10.0 | <p>Closing of Technical Session</p> <p>The Technical Session Chair or Co-Chair shall close the Technical Session.</p> | |
| | 12:00 – 13:30 | | Lunch | |
| <p>Intergovernmental Session <i>(Country Partners Only)</i></p> | | | | |
| | 13:30 - 13:45 | 11.0 | <p>Opening of the Intergovernmental Session and Adoption of the Intergovernmental Session Agenda</p> <p>The Intergovernmental Session Chair will preside over the meeting. The Session will be requested to review and adopt the Intergovernmental Session agenda.</p> | Adoption of the Agenda |
| | 13:30 – 14:30 | 12.0 | <p>8th Ministerial Forum and Ministerial Declaration</p> <p>The PRF shall provide updates on the preparations for the 8th Ministerial Forum (MF), and present the provisional programme of the MF and draft Ministerial Declaration.</p> | Recommendations to enhance the provisional programme of the Ministerial Forum and the working draft of the 8 th Ministerial Declaration |

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| | 14:30 – 14:50 | 13:00 | Updates on the PEMSEA Sustainability Plan The PRF shall present updates on the key activities highlighted in the PEMSEA Sustainability Plan, particularly on Blue Carbon Program and other services | |
| | 14:50 – 15:20 | 14.0 | PRF Work Plan and Budget for 2024 - 2025 | Approval of Work Plan and Budget |
| | 15:20 – 15:40 | 15.0 | Other business PEMSEA Country Partners may take this opportunity to raise other governance-related concerns. | |
| | 15:40 - 16:00 | | Health Break | |
| | 16:00 – 16:20 | 16.0 | Summary and Approval of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Technical Session and Intergovernmental Session The PRF Secretariat shall present the summary of conclusions and recommendations of the Technical and Intergovernmental Sessions. | Approval of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Technical Session and Intergovernmental Session |
| | 16:20 – 16:30 | 17.0 | PRF Secretariat Announcements | |
| | 16:30 – 16:40 | 18.0 | Closing of the Intergovernmental Session The Intergovernmental Session Chair shall adjourn the session. | |
| | 16:40 – 16:50 | 19.0 | Closing of the 16th EAS PC Meeting | |

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| | | | The EAS PC Chair or Co-Chair shall close the 16 th EAS PC Meeting. | |
| | 18:00 – 20:00 | | Dinner | |
| 25 July | TBC | | Field Trip in Puerto Princesa Details to be confirmed | |
| | 18:00 – 20:00 | | Goodbye Dinner | |

3.0 Actions requested from the Executive Committee

- 3.1 Provide feedback and recommend additional agenda and/or ways to streamline structure the Technical Session and Intergovernmental Session, if any.
- 3.2 Recommend interactive mechanisms for reporting SDS-SEA IP progress.
- 3.3 Approve the Provisional Agenda for the 16th EAS PC Meeting