EAS CONGRESS2024
XIAMEN, CHINA
6-8 NOVEMBER

WOW 19th
2024厦门国际海洋周
World Ocean Week in Xiamen

Blue Synergy for a Shared Future:
One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean

6-8 NOVEMBER 2024 • XIAMEN CITY, CHINA

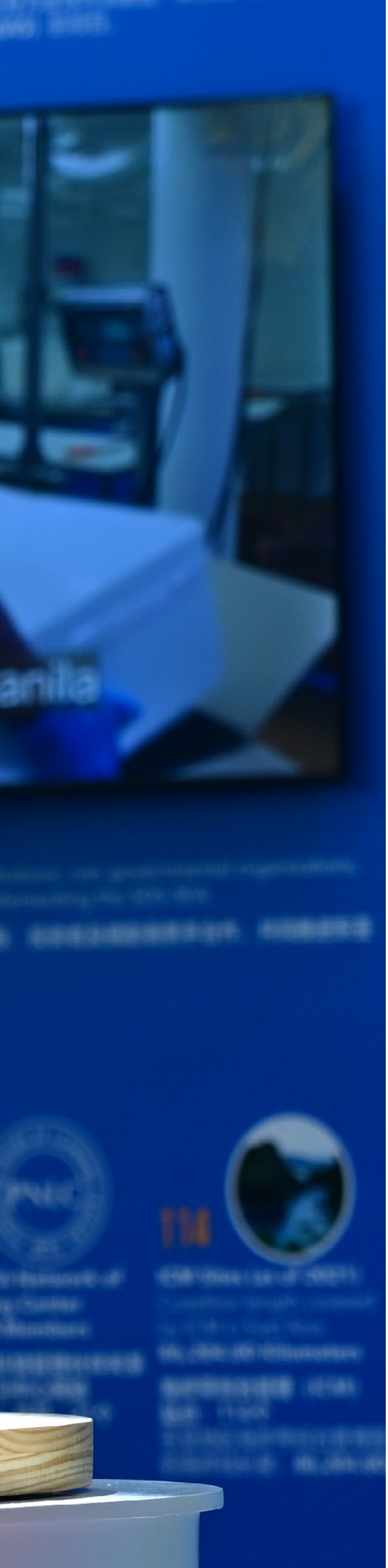
CONGRESS REPORT

中华人民共和国自然资源部
Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China

厦门市人民政府
Xiamen Municipal People's Government

PEMSEA


from R.O.K



FOREWORD

The seas of East Asia are not just bodies of water - they are the lifelines of our region, sustaining billions of lives and livelihoods. The East Asian Seas Congress 2024, hosted in the coastal city of Xiamen, brought together over 800 leaders, scientists, practitioners, and communities under a powerful vision: "Blue Synergy for a Shared Future: One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean."

This Congress marked a significant milestone in our collective journey, showcasing tangible progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) - from expanded ICM coverage to strengthened partnerships, from innovative solutions to transformed communities. At this critical moment, when our oceans face unprecedented challenges, the Congress demonstrated that hope lies in collective action. The adoption of the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration marks not just a commitment on paper, but a testament to our region's determination to work as one in protecting our shared marine heritage.

The discussions and outcomes captured in this report represent the seeds of transformation. From innovative technologies to community-driven solutions, we witnessed the power of bringing together diverse perspectives in pursuit of a common goal. The path ahead requires courage, innovation, and unwavering dedication to our shared vision of healthy oceans, people, and economies.

This event would not have been possible without our co-organizers - the Ministry of Natural Resources of China and the Xiamen Municipal People's Government. Our deepest gratitude extends to all PEMSEA Partners, the members of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) and PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), our sponsors and the many individuals who made the Congress a landmark event in regional ocean governance.

Together, we are not just observers of change - we are its catalysts.

Aimee T. Gonzales
Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2024 convened from November 6-8 at the Xiamen International Conference Center in China. The event, held in conjunction with the World Ocean Week in Xiamen, was jointly hosted by China's Ministry of Natural Resources, Xiamen Municipal People's Government, and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), drawing 855 delegates from 20 countries.

The three-day event brought together high-level government officials from the EAS region, international development organizations, regional secretariats, national agencies, local governments, academe and think tanks, private sector, foundations, young leaders, NGOs and grass roots organizations.

This year's theme, **"Blue Synergy for a Shared Future: One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean,"** resonates strongly with the vision and approaches of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). It gives emphasis on harnessing collective synergies across governments, organizations, and local communities to secure the sustainability and resilience of our shared ocean resource.

The Congress assessed progress on regional targets and global commitments while exploring pathways for enhanced collective action through cooperation and knowledge exchange. The program featured several key activities, including the 8th EAS Ministerial Forum, where country partners reinforced their commitment to sustainable ocean and coastal management through the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration. The International Conference offered plenary and parallel sessions focusing on ocean science, policy and practice, local solutions to global challenges, digital innovations, and blue financing.

Additional highlights included a Partnership Night that honored 30 outstanding ocean practitioners through the Humans of EAS award, and field visits showcasing Xiamen's successful ecological restoration and blue economy initiatives. Special side events featured joint learning forums and general assemblies of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) and PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC).

As a triennial event, the EAS Congress serves as a vital platform for stakeholders to share knowledge, build partnerships, and advance the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), supporting the vision of healthy oceans, people, and economies.

CONGRESS OVERVIEW

Blue Synergy for a Shared Future: One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean

The theme "Blue Synergy for a Shared Future: One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean" reflects the East Asian Seas region's recognition that our marine challenges transcend national boundaries, just as our solutions must bridge sectors, disciplines, and communities. In a region where over 2 billion people depend on coastal and marine resources, fostering synergies is not just an aspiration—it is an imperative for securing our shared future.

Blue synergy embodies our commitment to harmonizing actions across multiple dimensions: between national and local governments, across scientific and policy communities, and among public and private sectors. It represents our shared understanding that no single entity can address the complex challenges facing our ocean alone. From climate change impacts to biodiversity loss, from marine pollution to sustainable resource management, our challenges demand collaborative solutions that leverage our collective strengths and resources.

This vision builds upon PEMSEA's three-decade journey in regional ocean governance. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) in 2003, we have witnessed the power of partnership in transforming how we manage our coastal and marine resources. The expansion of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) to cover 40% of the region's coastline by 2020 demonstrates how synergistic approaches can scale local actions to achieve regional impact. Today, we extend its application to river basins and the neighbouring Arafura and Timor Seas

The Congress theme aligns seamlessly with global commitments while addressing regional priorities. It responds to the urgent calls of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It supports the ambitious targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and embraces the transformative vision of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Regionally, it advances the implementation of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 and accelerates progress toward the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030.

As we confront the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, the concept of blue synergy reminds us that our shared challenges require shared solutions. Through strengthened partnerships, innovative approaches, and collective action, we can build a future where healthy oceans support thriving communities and sustainable economies across the East Asian Seas region.

Objectives

The objectives of the EAS Congress 2024 International conference and exhibit include:

- **Showcasing** positive results and outcomes for replicating and scaling up integrated coastal management (ICM) across the region – whether local blue economy entrepreneurship programs, solid waste management, Eco-DRR, blue carbon, community-led habitat restoration projects or policy instruments like payments for ecosystem services, among others;

- **Facilitating** knowledge exchange between multiple stakeholders pursuing cutting-edge advancements in areas like renewable ocean energy, utilizing AI-powered solid waste systems, crowdsourced monitoring using smartphones and drones, climate adaptive infrastructure designs, blockchain-enabled traceability for responsible fisheries, innovative measures to mitigate marine debris, among others, to promote their wider application in the region utilizing existing partnerships, collaborative arrangements and networks; and

- **Quantifying and consolidating** the progress achieved over the past 3 years of implementing SDS-SEA across dozens of distinct indicators tied to habitat, communities, ecosystems – while also pinpointing specific actions to be elevated moving forward on harder-to-tackle issues.

Outcomes Achieved

Validated and/or novel best practice models and locally optimized solutions for sustaining the ocean while enabling prosperity, with such innovations amplified through regional knowledge sharing

Renewed momentum and mobilization of partnerships and resources to fulfill the collectively endorsed SDS-SEA vision, with progress gaps overcome through concerted near-term actions that countries agree to through the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration and other Congress commitments

Expanded connections between innovators across borders to accelerate the development application of technologies and approaches that drive "triple wins" - environment, social, and economic gains

Why This Congress Matters Now

The East Asian Seas Congress 2024 convened at a critical juncture. As the world enters the third year of the UN Ocean Decade, the region faces escalating pressures on its marine resources while simultaneously witnessing unprecedented opportunities for transformative action. The Congress timing aligned strategically with:

- Mid-point assessment of SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027
- Advancement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Implementation phase of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Accelerating climate action following COP27 and COP28

Furthermore, the East Asian Seas Congress 2024 brought together **855 delegates** from **20 countries**, achieving a notable **60:40 male to female ratio** that demonstrates progress in gender inclusion. The diversity of participants—from international development organizations to grassroots groups—reflected the Congress's success in embracing a "whole of society" approach to ocean governance.

Charting Our Course: The Xiamen Ministerial Declaration

The Xiamen Ministerial Declaration represents a milestone in regional ocean governance, establishing a comprehensive framework for action while acknowledging current challenges and opportunities. The Declaration's significance lies in its recognition of both progress made and challenges ahead.

Key Acknowledgments

- **Progress in SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 implementation**
- **PEMSEA's strengthened role as regional platform on sustainable coastal and ocean development**
- **Alignment with global commitments including:**
  - UN SDGs
  - Paris Agreement
  - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
  - High Seas Treaty
  - UN Ocean Decade initiatives

Four Pillars of Action

Effective Governance

- Vertical, horizontal, and spatial integration
- Science-based decision making
- Integrated management approaches from 'ridge to reef'
- Enhanced monitoring and evaluation systems

Healthy and Resilient Ocean

- Ocean-climate solutions
- Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction
- Blue carbon market development
- Marine ecosystem protection

Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Blue Economy

- ESG and Blue Financing frameworks
- Regular state of ocean reporting
- Integration of 'ridge-to-reef' framework
- Climate-smart planning

Healthy People

- Blue food systems integration
- Enhanced food security
- Sustainable fisheries development
- Marine biotechnology advancement

Three Core Commitments

PEMSEA Partner countries pledged to:

1. Mobilize resources and forge strategic partnerships for SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027
2. Develop enabling policies aligned with national priorities
3. Strengthen blue synergies through a whole-of-society approach

Voices of Leadership: The Ministerial Forum

The 8th EAS Ministerial Forum brought together high-level representatives from ten country partners, each reaffirming their country's commitment and contributing unique perspectives on delivering the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration:

"We should all cooperate because no one country owns the vastness of the sea."

Hon. Paris Chuop
Cambodia's Secretary of State Ministry of Environment

"We support lasting prosperity and will continue to promote the SDS-SEA to forge deeper cooperation for even more beautiful, shared and productive East Asian Seas"

Hon. Sun Shuxian
Cambodia's Secretary of State Ministry of Environment

"Blue finance is essential for growth…We are the world's largest archipelago, so embracing the blue economy can improve the welfare of our people. The average annual investment required for the sustainable development of our marine, maritime and fisheries sectors is IDR 3.64 trillion, but we might eventually need several times that."

Hon. Dasrul Chaniago
Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry

"There are varied conservation solutions, with each country offering its own unique array… our country for instance has vast seagrass beds and mangrove forests – vital blue carbon ecosystems needed to stop climate change and to achieve our national goal of carbon neutrality by 2050."

Hon. Toru Ono
Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

"Every three years, we gather for the EAS Congress to chart our course under the SDS-SEA. We are all here to ensure we move in the right direction."

Hon. Chanthanet Boualapha
Lao PDR's Vice Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

"There are lots of Blue Economy opportunities. Fishing alleviates poverty and tourism generates much-needed jobs. We should develop and diversify our ocean economy,"

Hon. Donalyn Minimo
Philippine Department of Finance

"Technology is important. We are focusing on digital technology such as marine climate observation networks and are developing smarter ways to generate renewable energy from the sea via tidal and wave power,"

Hon. Yoon Hyunsoo
Republic of Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Capacity-building is very important. We should build technical skills to understand AI and analyze big data. We should drive the adoption of innovation and the use of new technologies, particularly to bolster climate resilience and to sequester atmospheric carbon,"

Hon. Rena Lee
Singapore's Ambassador for International Law

"We encourage PEMSEA to prioritize stakeholder-driven dialogue. We are committed to continuing our journey with PEMSEA and all other regional partners."

Hon. Domingos da Conçeicao dos Santos
Secretary of State of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry

"Green finance and green investment concepts are new and have great potential. With more than half of Viet Nam's population living in coastal areas, our green economy is not only a driving force for regional prosperity but also contributes to the development of the country,"

Hon. Nguyen Duc Toan
Vietnam Sea and Islands Administration Director

Youth Vision: Call to Action

The **2024 EAS Youth Call to Action for Blue Synergy and Inclusive Ocean Governance** represented the voices of future leaders, demanding urgent action for ocean protection and sustainable development. The Call to Action was developed during the EAS Youth Forum, conducted as a pre-Congress event in Uljin, RO Korea on 15-19 2024, and participated by 19 youth delegates from the EAS countries. Highlights of the Call to Action include:

1. Inclusive policies ensuring increased youth representation
2. Universal access to marine education and capacity building
3. Support youth-led local initiatives and solutions to ocean conservation
4. Ocean-based career development for youth
5. Cross-sectoral dialogues incorporating youth participation and perspectives
6. Increased investments in sustainable economies and initiatives
7. Strengthened regional cooperation and partnerships
8. Leverage the network for ocean and marine science and technology

Click to play YF Call to Action Video

Visit Youth Forum 2024 webpage

Building Momentum: Partnership Achievements

The EASC 2024 also witnessed renewal of partnerships and expansion of the PEMSEA Network. Among the notable outputs include:

Signing of MoA b/w Timor Leste & PEMSEA Resource Facility on the **implementation of the RoK funded Marine Plastics Pollution Project in Timor- Leste**

Forging a strategic partnership between ACB and PRF **under the UNDP-GEF-ASEAN ENMAPS project**

Signing of Letter of Cooperation between **PNLC and PNLG on joint learning and capacity building programs**

Launch of UNDP/GEF/ASEAN IRBM project **State of the River Basin reporting guidebook**

Presentation of **regional protocol on blue carbon accounting methodologies**

Endorsement of the establishment of a **technical working group for blue carbon under EAS Partnership Council Technical Session**

Joint MOU between **PNLC and Tangerang Mangrove Research Centre**

The event also saw the expansion of the PEMSEA network with new members joining both the PNLC and PNLG:

New PNLG members (59 members in total)

- Dongying Huanhai Institute of Marine Conservation & Development
- Yancheng City, China

New PNLC members (25 members in total)

- Mindanao State University-Naawan, Philippines
- National University of Laos, Lao PDR
- Guangdong Ocean University, China
- Fujian Institute of Sustainable Oceans (FISO), China

EASC2024 IN NUMBERS: A SNAPSHOT

855 participants from 27 Countries

- Cambodia
- China
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Lao PDR
- Philippines
- RO Korea
- Singapore
- Timor-Leste
- Vietnam
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Cook Islands
- Denmark
- Fiji
- India
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mozambique
- Pakistan
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- United Kingdom
- USA

Breakdown of Stakeholders:

88 IGOs and NGOs

47 Academic institutions

42 Local host institutions

15 National governments

22 Local governments

Gender balance:

60:40

International Conference in numbers

4 subthemes

44 session conveners

3 plenary sessions

9 sponsors

26 technical sessions

40 exhibitors

169 global and regional experts/resource speakers

CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Ceremony

The joint opening ceremony of the EAS Congress 2024 and World Ocean Week in Xiamen, conducted on November 6, 2024, showcased regional commitment to ocean sustainability. Dr. Vann Monyneath, PEMSEA Partnership Council Chair, set the tone with his powerful opening address:

> *"The challenges before us are unprecedented – from the accelerating impacts of climate change to the alarming loss of marine biodiversity and increasing marine pollution. Yet, in this moment of crisis, we also find an unparalleled opportunity to redefine our connection with the marine ecosystems that sustain us all."*

H.E. CUI Yonghui, Secretary of the CPC Xiamen Municipal Committee, delivered a keynote address sharing Xiamen's experiences in harmonizing human activities with marine conservation.

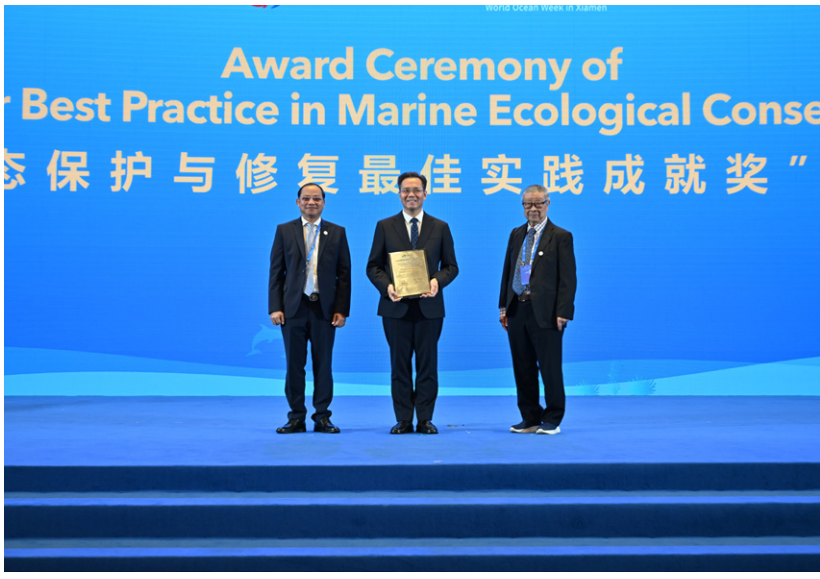
A highlight was PEMSEA's presentation of the "Achievement Award for Best Practice in Marine Ecological Conservation and Restoration" to Xiamen, recognizing its exemplary marine ecosystem protection initiatives. The ceremony also marked the launch of China's first National Ecological Protection and Restoration Bulletin 2024. This landmark publication comprehensively documents China's ecological initiatives across five key areas, from protection systems to restoration actions, covering both land and marine environments.

The Bulletin showcases China's achievements in ecological protection while offering insights and solutions to global environmental challenges.

H.E. SHEN Yueyue, Vice Chairperson of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, presented a vision for ocean governance through three key proposals:

> *"We must prioritize the ocean as a medium for building a community with a shared future for mankind to foster a 'peaceful sea'; treat the ocean as a strategic area for high-quality development to create a 'prosperous sea'; and view the ocean as a platform for ecological civilization to build a 'beautiful sea."*

These themes were reinforced by Vice Minister SUN Shuxian from China's Ministry of Natural Resources, who emphasized sustainable economic growth and equitable distribution of ocean benefits.



8th East Asian Seas Ministerial Forum

The Eighth East Asian Seas (EAS) Ministerial Forum marked a strategic shift by convening on the opening day of the EAS Congress International Conference 2024 at the Xiamen International Convention Center in China. This deliberate timing set a foundational tone for the entire Congress, ensuring alignment between ministerial objectives and the conference's thematic sessions.

The forum brought together ten PEMSEA Country Partners to advance the vision of "Blue Synergy for a Shared Future: One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean," focusing on catalyzing synergies to achieve the SDS-SEA vision of Healthy Ocean, Peoples, and Economies.

The forum focused on three key areas of cooperation with countries providing examples of how they are addressing the themes of the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration.

Synergy on Ensuring Inclusive Engagement & Science-Policy Interface

- Cambodia is implementing integrated coastal management along 440km of coastline while promoting gender equity
- Lao PDR, as 2024 ASEAN Chair, is leading water resource management initiatives
- Timor-Leste has established a new 51,000-hectare Marine Protected Area

Synergy on Innovations in Technologies and Approaches

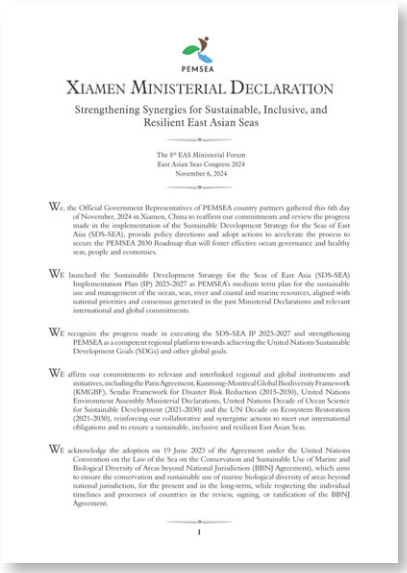
- China reported marine economy growth of 9.9 trillion yuan and restoration of 1,680km of coastline
- Japan became the first country to include blue carbon ecosystems in UN climate reporting
- South Korea is using satellites and AI to monitor oceans and improve aquaculture
- Singapore emphasized using new technologies to implement international ocean agreements

Synergy on Blue Financing and Investments

- Indonesia outlined ambitious plans requiring significant investment to grow their blue economy
- The Philippines is developing a Blue Economy Act and framework for blue bonds
- Vietnam shared their ocean economy strategy while highlighting funding challenges

Xiamen Ministerial Declaration

The Xiamen Ministerial Declaration, which outlines their commitment to strengthen synergies for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient East Asian Seas, was initially signed by seven Country Partners: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, RO Korea, Singapore, and Timor-Leste, with others to follow after completing internal procedures.


PEMSEA

XIAMEN MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Strengthening Synergies for Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient East Asian Seas

The 8th EAS Ministerial Forum
East Asian Seas Congress 2024
November 6, 2024

WE, the Official Government Representatives of PEMSEA country partners gathered this 6th day of November, 2024 in Xiamen, China to reaffirm our commitments and review the progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), provide policy directions and adopt actions to accelerate the process to secure the PEMSEA 2050 Roadmap that will foster effective ocean governance and healthy seas, people and economies.

WE launched the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) Implementation Plan (IP) 2023-2027 as PEMSEA's medium term plan for the sustainable use and management of the ocean, seas, river and coastal and marine resources, aligned with national priorities and consensus generated in the past Ministerial Declarations and relevant international and global commitments.

WE recognize the progress made in executing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and strengthening PEMSEA as a competent regional platform towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global goals.

WE affirm our commitments to relevant and interlinked regional and global instruments and initiatives, including the Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), United Nations Environment Assembly Ministerial Declarations, United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), reinforcing our collaborative and synergistic actions to meet our international obligations and to ensure a sustainable, inclusive and resilient East Asian Seas.

WE acknowledge the adoption on 19 June 2023 of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long-term, while respecting the individual timelines and processes of countries in the review, signing, or ratification of the BBNJ Agreement.

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Read Xiamen Ministerial Declaration

Key elements of the Declaration were presented during the Ministerial Forum and outlined the following key goals:

- **Catalyzing Achievements:** Leveraging over 30 years of PEMSEA collaboration and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) to further regional impact.
- **Reaffirming Commitments:** Reinforcing regional and global commitments to sustainable development.
- **Global Alignment:** Aligning with broader sustainable development and Blue Economy objectives.

The Declaration put forth 10 synergistic actions across four critical areas:

- Under Effective Governance, the actions focus on strengthening integrated management through three approaches: promoting vertical and horizontal integration across sectors using a 'ridge to reef' framework; leveraging science-based data and innovative technology

for better ocean monitoring and protection; and building synergistic approaches in coastal management through joint research, training, and knowledge sharing.

- For Healthy and Resilient Ocean, the strategy emphasizes ocean-climate synergy through three main actions: adopting ocean-based climate solutions using innovative technologies; implementing ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction as part of coastal management; and developing blue carbon market opportunities through PEMSEA's Blue Carbon Roadmap.

- The Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Blue Economy section outlines three key actions: engaging financial institutions to apply sustainable blue financing frameworks; updating ocean and coasts reports every five years to track blue economy progress; and incorporating ridge-to-reef frameworks and climate-smart planning into development plans.

- Finally, for Healthy People, the declaration focuses on integrating blue food and health into the ICM framework to address SDGs on Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, and Life Below Water, recognizing the crucial role of marine resources in food security and health systems.

Ministerial Field Visit

The Eighth EAS Ministerial Forum concluded with delegates visiting Wuyuan Bay, showcasing China's successful approach to ecological transformation. The 17-square-kilometer bay, once a salt-drying site and waste dump, has been transformed through a three-stage restoration process into a vibrant ecosystem that now hosts 90 bird species, including the iconic White Dolphin. This field visit demonstrated to the ministers how strategic environmental rehabilitation can successfully balance ecological restoration with economic development, serving as a model for sustainable coastal management in the East Asian Seas region.

International Conference

The 2024 EAS Congress International Conference was structured around four key subthemes that showcased various enabling conditions in which synergies can be established, maintained, or strengthened to ensure a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient ocean for the region as called for by the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration signed by heads of delegations by PEMSEA country partners on Nov 6, 2024 . The 2024 EAS Congress Subthemes are:

OCEAN SCIENCE, POLICY, AND PRACTICE

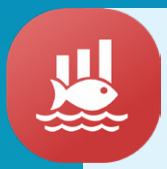
Advancing ocean knowledge and governance by building on integrated approaches and collaborative measures that bridge science, policy formulation and planning, and on-the-ground implementation to secure a healthier ocean.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Scaling local solutions and community-driven initiatives to combat transboundary and global threats such as climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable resource use of resources.

INNOVATION AND DIGITIZING OCEAN ACTION

Harnessing emerging technologies and innovative approaches such as AI, big data, and online knowledge sharing, among others, to accelerate evidence-based decision- making on sustainable coastal and ocean development.



BLUE FINANCING AND INVESTMENTS

Mobilizing public and private financing mechanisms to support long-term blue economy growth, marine conservation, and sustainable ocean industries across and beyond the region.

Key Outcomes

The International conference plenary and technical sessions' conclusions and recommendations echoes the action points cited in Xiamen Ministerial Declaration thus forming a continuum from the Ministerial Declaration to delivery of synergistic actions.

Subtheme 1: Ocean Science, Policy and Practice

Effective coastal and marine management should integrate scientific expertise, indigenous knowledge, and promote stakeholder engagement and collaborative partnerships to address complex ecological challenges.

Key Conclusions and Recommendations

- The EAS Congress is recognized as a very good platform to share experiences and good practices, transfer knowledge, as well as bring together the scientific community, policymakers and other stakeholders.

- There is a need to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration among the scientific communities, policymakers and practitioners to foster sustainable coastal and marine management.

- PEMSEA's Networks of Local Governments and Learning Centers are unique mechanisms which facilitate the linkage between science and local management practice. The use of these networks should be maximized to promote information and knowledge exchange between scientists and local policymakers. The linkage between these networks should be further strengthened to respond to priority coastal and management issues. Linking these existing networks with other "green" and "blue" networks should also be considered.

- PEMSEA should strengthen existing mechanisms to engage scientists, decision makers and implementers, including the documentation of good practices for wider audiences, beyond the region.

- The discussions highlight multiple ways for partnerships to support the implementation of the 30 x 30 commitment, including:
  - Helping bridge the ambitious gap whenever there are inadequate or insufficient policies to enable proper action.

  - Enabling the improvement of the design and implementation of interventions, ensuring equitability by incorporating marginalized groups and grassroot organizations to mitigate unintended trade-offs and consequences.
  - Realizing that partnerships that involve transnational actors are a means to access implementation where domestic and government resources are inadequate.

- The conservation landscape needs more investment and actions on:
  - Promoting equity and inclusion by harmonizing social, economic and gender inequities, plus promoting rights and knowledge on indigenous groups and local communities.
  - Embracing emerging technologies from data collection to analysis, to the promotion of safety and security in the fishing sector. Partnerships with technology innovators is critical to leverage these technologies to enhance the implementation of conservation objectives.
  - Bold political ambitions translated to clear and achievable on-ground action

- Nature-based solutions are vital for both climate change mitigation and adaptation and should be integrated into national policies. Regional collaboration and knowledge exchange among East Asian countries is essential in advancing marine conservation efforts; and developing strategies to strengthen future marine policies and enhance cooperation in alignment with the international framework

- ICM and PEMSEA networks need to consider a holistic approach, including the compatibility of climate and biodiversity action with a science-based approach, continuous improvement of the local legal framework, developing policy frameworks that address critical issues in marine and coastal environment, interdepartmental coordination with higher authorities, integrated enforcement mechanisms, science-based decision mechanisms, sustainable financial mechanisms and public participation and collaboration for local stakeholders.

- Acknowledge that the alignment of the SORB indicators with global and regional commitments and targets (e.g., SDGs, Paris Agreement, ASEAN Strategic Action Plan on Water Resources Management, etc.) contributes to the national government's reporting and reduces duplication in the reporting of progress to global and regional commitments.

- Potential impacts and economic costs of invasive aquatic species and biofouling to various industries such as shipping, port and marinas, fisheries and aquaculture are recognized as major threats to the East Asian Seas region and to the conservation of biodiversity. There is a need to request IMO to extend the technical cooperation program to assist countries in the development of baseline assessment; economic impacts towards the establishment of national strategies and action plans; promotion of sectoral involvement; and sharing information, research, innovations, and technology on biofouling management in the region.

Subtheme 2: Global Challenges, Local Solutions

Elevate the EAS Profile Globally: Various regional mechanisms and initiatives need to come together in key international events (i.e., UN Ocean Conference 2025) to showcase the collaborative efforts in the region and boost the visibility of the East Asian Seas at a global level, demonstrating Oneness.

Key Conclusions and Recommendations

- The triple planetary crisis (TPC)—encompassing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—exacts a heavy toll at the environmental, economic, and social level. These interconnected challenges form a complicated web of challenges that demands integrated and immediate action. While many organizations are actively involved in marine and coastal management, their efforts often remain isolated, limiting their overall impact. It is essential to develop a comprehensive understanding of the synergies and trade-offs involved in addressing these environmental issues. Therefore, a collaborative, whole-of-society approach involving the different regional mechanism or organizations in the region is vital to forge sustainable solutions and build a resilient future for the East Asian Seas. In addition to addressing the TPC, it is imperative to incorporate social dimensions of equality and equity to ensure that no one is overlooked in our efforts.

- Recognizing that various regional initiatives operate within the same government agencies and engage with similar focal points can result in inefficiencies, establishing a network of National Partners in the future could streamline coordination efforts across countries and enhance collaboration on joint actions. The collaboration of various regional organizations can begin modestly by leveraging existing regional action plans as valuable references. This approach will help identify collaborative initiatives, allowing stakeholders to tackle key challenges in a more strategic and synergistic manner.

- Immediate and easily achievable collaborative actions (for TPC) that can be initiated by various regional mechanisms and initiatives in the East Asian Seas (EAS) region may include:
  - Establish a Shared Knowledge Platform: Create a central platform for sharing best practices and key knowledge products, allowing stakeholders to easily access and exchange valuable information.

  - Enhance Communication of Success Stories: Effectively communicate and package stories, experiences, best practices, and results in a way that resonates with local stakeholders.
  - Utilize/Enhance Existing Tools: Avoid redundant efforts by coordinating the use of existing tools, such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) manuals, to enhance collaboration and resource sharing.
  - Map Regional Initiatives: Identify overlapping and complementary initiatives by mapping the mandates and focus areas of different regional initiatives, including a map as visual reference of various Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks in the EAS for example.
  - Increase Joint Capacity Building: Foster increased opportunities for joint capacity-building initiatives and knowledge exchanges among stakeholders.
  - Elevate the EAS Profile Globally: Boost the visibility of the East Asian Seas at a global level, especially at the UN Ocean Conference in 2025, by convening a regional session that showcases the impactful work being done in the EAS region.

- The North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) was recognized as a crucial platform for regional collaboration, aligning with mechanisms such as PEMSEA, COBSEA and IUCN Asia to strengthen MPA management and climate resilience. Approaches for climate resilience and addressing the combined crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss include: transboundary cooperation; and Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR); accelerated efforts to expand MPA coverage, enhance conservation outcomes, and build resilience; and strengthening networks like NEAMPAN and leveraging synergies with other regional initiatives.
- A joint effort to manage the Yellow Sea (including the development of conservation policies, activities and strategies among Korea, China and Japan) is vital for conserving biodiversity, supporting economic sustainability, and advancing the shared vision of a resilient and sustainable ocean.

- To strengthen marine ecological protection and restoration for sustainable development, there is a need to share experiences and successful cases, and actively promote exchanges and co-operation between China and ASEAN countries in the fields of:
  - latest technologies and methods in the fields of marine ecological disaster prevention and mitigation technologies,
  - marine ecological damage assessment,
  - marine ecological protection and restoration,
  - marine industry, science, and technology etc., to promote the sustainable development of the oceans.

- It is recommended to develop case studies to highlight the progress made in the Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme and feature the estuaries within the GEM Monitoring Network covering 40 different countries. This can aid in the establishment a global monitoring network to assess pollution levels of contaminants of emerging concern in estuaries and develop solutions for cleaner and safer estuaries.

- Environmental risk assessments serve as vital tools for the effective management of chemical contaminants and antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs) in our ecosystems. Standardized quantitative methods are essential for environmental ARG surveillance and risk assessment; and that training programs and research collaborations can equip researchers and policymakers with the essential tools and knowledge to effectively tackle both local and global environmental challenges.

- Strengthening oil spill preparedness and response from regional to local level to promptly respond to oil spill incidents should be prioritized. Sustained efforts on national/local government and industry cooperation and collaboration for effective preparedness and response to oil spills at the regional and national level are effective means of mitigating the impact of oil spills; and in promoting sustainability and resilience of oceans including utilization of industry good practices and tools that are readily available to countries.

- Marine plastic pollution is one of the most urgent environmental threats of our time, with far-reaching impacts on marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and human livelihoods. Mismanaged plastic waste enters our oceans, harming marine life, disrupting fisheries, and degrading vital coastal habitats. Addressing this issue is critical not only for the health of our oceans but also for the well-being of the coastal communities that depend on them for food, income, and cultural practices. The governments of RO Korea, Philippines and Timor-Leste affirmed their action toward combating marine plastic pollution, through the Marine Plastics ODA Project at 10 project sites of the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

- The survival and sustainability of metapopulations on an MPAN are dependent on its management effectiveness as well as in those of other adjacent MPANs as larval import from outside areas is required to sustain populations. To address connectivity, we need science to have sound evidence and make better decisions, but we also need to sustain and continue the work and generate knowledge. Connectivity means collaboration, collective leadership, champions, combining science with policy, and communication.

- Strengthen researches and regional exchanges on new and potential red tide-causing species at multiple levels, including between inter-governmental and scientific level private sector etc., to prevent harmful algal bloom from initiation and earlier warning stage.

- There is a need to improve knowledge and understanding of tsunami warning and storm surge prediction; and highlight the research results, operational experiences and problems of common interest and new developments for storm surges and tsunamis.

Subtheme 3: Innovation and Digitizing Ocean Action

Ocean Innovations and Technology: The rise of digital twins, AI-driven monitoring, and underwater sensing technologies is revolutionizing ocean observation, enabling real-time marine ecosystem management and data-driven solutions for sustainable ocean practices.

Key Conclusions and Recommendations

- Multiple studies emphasize the importance of using advanced tools like data-driven analysis, spatial panel analysis and policy simulators for effective marine spatial planning (MSP) and resource management, digital twins and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven monitoring. These tools aim to balance conservation with economic interests and predict the impacts of various activities on the marine environment. Application of this tools requires cooperation between development project organizations, local governments, and communities to capitalize local knowledge and ensure effective implementation of programs.

- There is a need for global collaboration in deep-sea research. Recommended future actions include enhancing international capacity building, promoting cooperative research, and increasing the global awareness and protection of deep-sea environments. Future efforts will continue to focus on international cooperation, enhancing capacity building, and promoting the protection of deep-sea environments.

- Remote sensing technology training can improve the data sharing, technology application, governance, and sustainable management for the coastal areas of China-ASEAN countries. The Training Workshop concluded with the information exchange and experience in the development and application of remote sensing technology, in line with promoting the adoption of ocean-based climate solutions, including innovative technologies and strategies to better manage and protect coastal resources.

Subtheme 4: Blue Financing and Investments

Financial institutions and policymakers should prioritize developing diverse financing mechanisms - from blended financing to blue bonds - to accelerate sustainable ocean investments while strengthening marine conservation efforts and ocean governance frameworks.

Key Conclusions and Recommendations

On Financing and Investments:

- There is a need for nature to be fully integrated into core decision-making on public finance and private capital that we can deliver the shift in the financial architecture that is required for people and the planet.

- Much have been done to build and strengthen actions and knowledge in the East Asia Region. However, much more remains to be done to bridge the ocean governance and financing gaps to protect the marine ecosystem and unlock new revenue streams and economic growth through a sustainable blue economy.

- Concrete ways to finance this transition include conventional methods like grants and concessional loans these are offered by the GEF and other financing facility institutions, however, these are not long-term solutions nor sufficient to bridge large gaps in ocean financing; they should be seen as resources to help establish the enabling environment for larger sustainable efforts to succeed.

- There is a need for innovative financing such as blended financing, sinking funds, blue bonds, species and ecosystem bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, impact investment, guarantees and market activities to support conservation.

Marine Litter Fund

- The marine litter issue in East Asia has become an urgent environmental crisis, as the region contributes over 50% of the world's marine plastic waste. The problem is too vast for any single nation to tackle alone, making a collaborative regional response essential.

- "Integrated management from upstream to downstream, technological innovation for tracking, big data for analyzing marine litter issues, plus capacity building for effective marine litter management are essential.

- For Marine Litter Fund: Implementing a diversified funding approach, encouraging contributions not only from developed countries but also from local governments and the private sector. It was also suggested for the fund to operate with a long-term perspective, supporting comprehensive management of land and sea-based pollution sources. Another priority is to support technological innovation and capacity building, particularly for scientific research on emerging threats like microplastics.

Blue carbon

- There is a need to harmonize the blue carbon accounting framework for stakeholder feedback. Likewise, there is a need to facilitate more effective collaborations by gathering inputs on methods and identifying opportunities for additional methodologies. There is also a need to enhance capacity by training local stakeholders on standardized carbon accounting methods.

- Reiterating the importance of enhancing awareness on the potential of the blue carbon market, Governments, corporations, and academic institutions must collaborate to initiate campaigns that educate stakeholders including investors, local communities, and consumers regarding the significance of blue carbon in climate resilience.

Special Events

PNLG-PNLC Joint Learning Forum

The PNLG-PNLC Joint Forum was established for the purpose of linking academic institutions and local governments on sustainable development through science-based approaches and policy and management. It is recognized that both PNLG and PNLC are two strong pillars of PEMSEA to strengthen their regional platform for knowledge exchange and capacity development. Dr. Le Quang Nam, PNLG President, and Prof. Dr. Arif Satria of IPB University highlighted the need for strong cooperation and collaboration between PNLG and PNLC to achieve sustainable development in the coasts and seas.

The theme was Local practices on marine ecological protection and restoration under the ICM framework. There were different presentations and it first started with a keynote presentation from China on their initiatives and efforts on beach nourishment and protection to improve coastal resilience. The other presentations also covered how local governments' evolving practices and experiences implement various programs to address issues on biodiversity, conservation, climate change impacts, disaster risk reduction, pollution reduction and waste management, fisheries management, and sustainable livelihood.

With this, local governments have to partner and collaborate with established local universities, development partners, and NGOs with a common goal. In line with this, the partnerships can result in greater opportunities in securing funding and partnerships for different projects with the engagement of local communities and stakeholders.

The joint forum also determined ways forward including (1) capacity development between PNLG-PNLC to find new opportunities and address emerging challenges; (2) long-term practices need to be documented, shared, and be replicated like the narratives on East Asian Seas region being recognized for promoting ICM and covering approximately 40% of the coastline in the region; (3) identify platforms for knowledge exchanges and capacity development for decision-making and planning; (4) establishing a roadmap for the joint learning and support from PEMSEA projects; and (5) revisiting PNLG strategic plan and have this updated based on the recommendation action points from the forum.

PNLG General Assembly

The PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) General Assembly was conducted on November 7, 2024 and attended by almost 100 participants from PNLG member delegates and ocean scientists from various organizations and institutions.

One of the highlights of the assembly was the signing ceremony of a Letter of Cooperation between PNLG and the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC). This initiative was to strengthen and highlight the need to collaborate between organizations and academic institutions with the local governments to advance sustainable development in the seas of East Asia.

"It is our common responsibility to promote the sustainable coastal development in the East Asian Seas region. As the permanent home of the PNLG secretariat, Xiamen will be more than ready to work with PNLG members to promote and practice the integrated coastal management, promote the protection and sustainable utilization of coastal resources, deepen and expand

the blue partnership, build a community with a shared future for mankind and let the fruits of development benefit more people", said Mr. JI Xiangfeng, Vice Mayor of Xiamen Municipal People's Government

Furthermore, a keynote message was delivered by Dr. Zhou Lumin from the Xiamen Marine Experts Group on Harmony between Human and the Ocean: Xiamen Practice of Integrated Coastal Management.

Mr. WANG Antao, Deputy Director-General of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources, China stated that as the permanent home of the PNLG Secretariat, Xiamen City has been actively engaged in the continuous promotion of integrated coastal management and international cooperation in marine ecological and environmental protection, providing a model for the high-quality development of global bay cities.

Finally, Yancheng City of China and the Dongying Huanhai Institute of Marine Conservation were officially accepted as new members of the Network, resulting in 54 regular members within the PNLG.

The next Annual Forum of PNLG will be held in Jakarta Province of Indonesia in 2025.

PNLC General Assembly

The PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC) General Assembly convened at the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress in Xiamen, bringing together both new and longstanding members. This significant gathering marked the formalization of IPB University as the new PNLC Secretariat through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement. The assembly also welcomed four new members: Mindanao State University of Naawan (Philippines), University of Laos (Lao PDR), Guangdong Ocean University, and the Fujian Institute for Sustainable Oceans of Xiamen University (People's Republic of China). The event highlighted the PNLC's continued commitment to advancing sustainable coastal development in the region.

With partnerships and resource mobilization reaching full capacity, the PNLC remains committed to its mission. Four working groups were conceptualized, focusing on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and sustainable coastal development, habitat and biodiversity conservation, pollution reduction and waste management, and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction—aiming to promote biodiversity, the blue economy, and climate resilience. Engagement with the ASEAN ENMAPS project for ICM and Marine Spatial Planning Training was also discussed.

During the assembly, a Sustainability Plan was explored, including discussions on regional targets and the annual membership fee survey. The Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank was relaunched, and the Sustainability Initiative in the Marginal Seas of South and East Asia (SIMSEA) was presented, stressing the need for deeper, more comprehensive collaborations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Qinhua Fang concluded the session by emphasizing the importance of fulfilling the 2025 workplan and congratulated participants on the successful completion of the PNLC 2023-2024 workplan. With 25 members from various nations, the PNLC's membership continues to grow stronger each year.

PEMSEA-ACB Partnership Renewal

The announcement of a renewed partnership between the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) on 7 November at the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress underscores a shared commitment to the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems.

This collaboration reinforces a collective commitment to sustainable marine resource management, resilience, and biodiversity conservation, leveraging PEMSEA's expertise in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) to enhance ASEAN's capacity to meet international biodiversity targets and contribute to global conservation efforts.

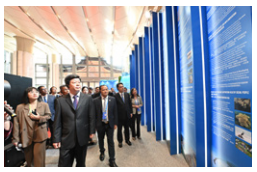
Through the ASEAN ENMAPS project –focused on the effective management of Marine Protected Areas across four key Large Marine Ecosystems in Southeast Asia–PEMSEA and ACB will work together to preserve the region's rich marine biodiversity. The joint efforts, formalized by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed in October 2024, are further supported by the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). ASEAN ENMAPS will cover four Large Marine Ecosystems–the Bay of Bengal, Indonesian Sea, South China Sea, and Sulu-Celebes Sea–with 11 pilot sites across Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

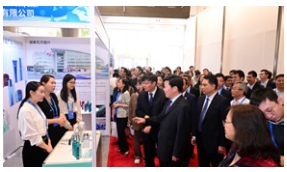
EAS Congress 2024 Exhibition

The EAS Congress 2024 Exhibition, held from November 6-8 in Xiamen, China, showcased innovative technologies and strategies for achieving a sustainable and resilient ocean. The exhibition was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by MNR Vice Minister Sun Shuxian, PC Chair Van Monyneath, and local officials, with PEMSEA Executive Director Aimee Gonzales delivering the opening address on the importance of collaboration in marine and coastal management.

Featuring 50 booths, the exhibition included 40 exhibitors from local and international organizations, with 31 China-based agencies and 9 international organizations presenting their efforts in coastal and ocean sustainability. The event also displayed 11 country panels and three centerpiece visuals from PEMSEA, MNR, and Xiamen.

The exhibition's key objectives were to showcase best practices and cutting-edge technologies, foster knowledge exchange, and build partnerships across sectors. A central theme was promoting collaboration between governments, businesses, civil society, and the international community to advance a sustainable, ocean-based blue economy. Participants explored solutions for regional challenges, including marine ecosystem services, coastal rehabilitation, and resilience.





The EAS Congress 2024 Exhibition successfully underscored the need for multi-stakeholder cooperation to drive sustainability in East Asia, providing a valuable platform for learning, sharing, and forging new partnerships to protect shared ocean resources.

Partnership Night and Humans of EAS Awards

The Partnership Night and Humans of East Asian Seas Award Ceremony held on 7 November during the 8th East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress in Xiamen, China, celebrated long-standing partnerships and collective efforts toward environmental sustainability in the region. The event, hosted at the Xiamen International Convention Center, brought together participants to honor those driving positive change in coastal and marine conservation.

Dr. Vann Monyneath, Chair of the EAS Partnership Council, opened the evening with a message of gratitude for key partners such as the PEMSEA Resource Facility, the Ministry of Natural Resources of China, and the Xiamen Municipal Government. His remarks highlighted their role in the success of the EAS Congress and ongoing regional cooperation.

A highlight was the presentation of the Humans of East Asian Seas Awards, which recognized 30 individuals for their transformative contributions to environmental management. Ms. Masako Bannai Otsuka, the top awardee, shared an inspiring message on behalf of the honorees.

The awards ceremony was followed by an inspirational speech from Dr. Chua Thia-Eng emphasizes the importance of leadership and partnerships in achieving sustainability goals. The evening concluded with a closing message from Deputy Director General Wang Antao of China's Ministry of Natural Resources, reaffirming the importance of continued collaboration to address regional environmental challenges. The rest of the evening featured traditional Xiamen performances, which set a festive tone for reconnecting and building new collaborations.

Field Visits

Field visits were organized by the Local Secretariat around Xiamen to showcase the city's natural ecosystems and sustainable urbanization initiatives.

PNLG members visited the Haicang District and Siming District of Xiamen, specifically at the Hairun Container Terminal and Yundang Lake, respectively gaining insights into sustainability and ecological preservation and innovations in green shipping.

Meanwhile, the Regular Participants' Field Trip included a tour in Wuyuan Bay Wetland Park in Huli District and in Yefangzhai, the southeast area of Xiamen to look into how ICM was utilized in the development of the bay.

Overall, the field visits provided participants with an engaging and educational experience, offering a deeper understanding of Xiamen's sustainable urbanization efforts and ecological initiatives.

Other Notable Achievements

The EASC 2024 had nine (9) sponsors:

ASEAN Center for Biodiversity

Blue Nature Alliance

High Seas Alliance

Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology

State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution, City University of Hong Kong

Korea Environment Institute (KEI)

Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation

Oil Spill Response Limited

Plymouth Marine Laboratory

The EASC 2024 was also supported by 44 conveners, composed of **PEMSEA Country and Non-country Partners (25%) , PEMSEA Networks,** including P**NLG and PNLC Members (9%), PEMSEA collaborators (11%), PRF-managed projects (8%), and other organizations (47%).**

PEMSEA Country and Non-Country Partners

1. ASEAN Center for Biodiversity
2. IPIECA
3. Korea Environment Institute (KEI)
4. Korea Institute for Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)
5. Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM)
6. Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)
7. Ministry of Natural Resources, People's Republic of China
8. Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, RO Korea
9. National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service, PR China
10. Oil Spill Response, Limited
11. Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
12. Plymouth Marine Laboratory

PEMSEA Networks (and PNLG Members)

1. PEMSEA Network of Local Governments
2. PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers
3. State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution, City University of Hong Kong
4. Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Ocean Development

PEMSEA collaborators

1. ASEAN
2. China PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center
3. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4. Our Sea of East Asia Network (OSEAN)
5. The First Institute of Oceanography

PRF-led projects

1. PEMSEA Resource Facility
2. GEF/UNDP/ASEAN Integrated River Basin Management Project
3. Marine Plastics ODA Project

Other organizations

1. Blue Nature Alliance
2. China Institute for Marine Affairs (CIMA)
3. China Oceanic Development Foundation
4. China Deep Ocean Affairs Administration
5. China PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center
6. COAST CARD Japan
7. UNEP- COBSEA
8. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
9. Forth Institute of Oceanography
10. GEF South China Seas Strategic Action Programme
11. Global Initiative for Southeast Asia Project (GISEA)
12. Global Ocean Forum
13. High Seas Alliance
14. Island Research Center, Ministry of Natural Resources
15. National Deep Sea Center, Ministry of Natural Resources
16. National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center, MNR, China
17. National Satellite Ocean Application Service
18. Second Institute of Oceanography
19. UNEP/GEF South China Sea – Strategic Action Programme Project
20. Third Institute of Oceanography
21. UN Environment Programme
22. World Wildlife Fund, China

Media Hits

The EAS Congress 2024 garnered more than 60 high-profile media hits from seven countries including China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.

Here are some of the media coverage on EAS Congress 2024:

CGTN America
The East Asian Seas Congress celebrates World Oceans Week

New China TV
2024 East Asian Seas Congress kicks off in China's Xiamen

Vietnam.VN
Towards sustainable development of the East Asia sea region

View EASC 2024 Media Hits page

Annex 1. Programme

Click here to view the EAS Congress e-Programme

Annex 2. Plenary and Parallel Session Summaries

November 6, 2024 | 1430-1730

a. **ST 3.1** Marine Spatial Planning Utilizing a Big Data-driven Policy Simulator Implementation of Evidence-Based Marine Spatial Management Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) (Read here)
b. **ST 3.2** Digital Deep-Sea Typical Habitats (Digital DEPTH) Symposium 2024 (Read here)
c. **ST 4.1** Marine Litter Fund Forum (Read here)
d. **ST 4.2** Seminar on Blue Carbon Policy, Regulation and Technology (Read here)
e. **ST 1.7** State of River Basin Reporting: Establishing the Baseline and Mechanism to Track Progress in the Source to Sea Continuum (Read here)
f. **ST 1.8** Biofouling Management in the East Asian Seas (EAS) Region (Read here)
g. **ST 2.10** Achieving Sustainability through Connectivity for Resilient ASEAN Seas (Read here)
h. **ST 2.15** From EEZs to the High Seas: Leveraging the ocean-climate biodiversity nexus in accelerating the implementation of ocean-climate action

November 7, 2024 | 1000-1200

a. **ST 1.1** From Ratification to Implementation: Asia High-Level Dialogue on the High Seas Treaty
b. **ST 1.2** Sharing Experiences and Best Practice in Sustainable Management of MPAs (Read here)
c. **ST 1.3** Mobilizing Actions Beyond the 30 x 30 Commitment Through Institutional Partnerships (Read here)
d. **ST 1.5** Area-based Marine Ecosystem Management for the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Read here)
e. **ST 2.2** Training Workshop on Pollution Assessment and Management (Read here)
f. **ST 2.6** Harmonizing Oceans: Transboundary Strategies for Climate Resilience in North-East Asia (Read here)
g. **ST 2.8** Marine Plastics ODA Session (Read here)
h. **ST 2.12** 13th East HAB Symposium/ Exchange the latest status of red tide in East Asia and the discussion on the prevention and mitigation on harmful algal blooms-hypoxia at the background of "Ocean Decade" (Read here)
i. **ST 2.13** International Symposium on Tsunami Warning and Storm Surge Prediction and Mitigation in the Asia-Pacific Region (Read here)
j. **ST 2.14** China-ASEAN Marine Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Symposium
k. **ST 4.3** Start-up and Leadership Development for Sustainable Blue Economies (Read here)

November 7, 2024 | 1430-1730

a. **ST 2.1** Strategic Collaboration in Tackling the Triple Planetary Crises in the East Asian Seas Region - Climate Change and Marine Impacts; Nature and Marine Biodiversity Loss; Marine Pollution (Read here)
b. **ST 2.3** Capacity Building Workshop on the Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme (Read here)
c. **ST 2.4** Perspectives on collaborative actions for effective oil spill preparedness and response (Read here)
d. **ST 2.7** Yellow Sea Biosphere Conservation Cooperation (Regional Cooperation for the Yellow Sea Ecosystem Conservation) (Read here)
e. **ST 1.1** From Ratification to Implementation: A deep-dive on the High Seas Treaty, Part V: Capacity-building and Transfer of Marine Technology
f. **ST 1.6** Reinforcing the PEMSEA Network Through a Multi-layered Ocean Governance Methodology (Read here)
g. **ST 1.9** Engaging Stakeholders in River Basin Planning and Risk Management
h. **ST 3.3** China-ASEAN Ocean Remote Sensing Technology Training Workshop (Read here)

Annex 3. List of Speakers

1. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director, PEMSEA Resource Facility
2. Akbar, CEO, Yapeka, Indonesia, Representative of Local NGO and Fishery Community, Blue Partnership Action Fund Partner
3. Akiko Yamamoto, Regional Team Leader, UNDP in Asia and the Pacific
4. Ambassador Janine Coye-Felson, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations in New York; Co-chair of the BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Commission
5. Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean
6. Amr Hamouda, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Egypt
7. Andrew Hume, Senior Environmental Specialist, Global Environmental Facility
8. Angelica de Castro, Programmes Department, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
9. Arsenio Tanchuling, Fisheries Management Area 1 Management Board Member
10. Assoc. Prof. Eur. Ing. Ts. Ir. Dr. Syuhaida binti Ismail, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
11. Atty. Arsenio Bañares, Chief Fishing Regulations Officer, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippines
12. Atty. Cole Yokingco, Senior Policy Manager, Conservation International Philippines
13. Bangyi Tao, Second Institute of Oceanography
14. Bassem Jalali, Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer, Tunisia & Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
15. Benedict Agulto, Regional Lead for Asia, Blue Nature Alliance
16. Chan Wai Soen, Hong Kong Observatory Development, Research and Administration Branch Geophysics, Time and Marine Meteorological Services
17. Chen Guangcheng, Research Fellow of Third Institute of Oceanography, MNR.
18. Chenyu Xu, Professor, Zhejiang University
19. Claudia Binondo, Division Director, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB)
20. Dang Thuy Binh, Senior Lecturer of the Institute of Biology and Environment, Nha Trang University
21. Darren Waterman, Engagement Director, Oil Spill Response, Ltd.
22. Diane Factuar, Consultant, PEMSEA Resource Facility
23. Dongsheng Zhang, Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
24. Douling Lu
25. Dr. Anthony Grima, University of Malta
26. Dr. Atsushi Watanabe, Senior Research Fellow at the Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
27. Dr. Chua Thia-eng, PEMSEA Chair Emeritus

28. Dr. Chen Bin, Third Institute of Oceanography
29. Dr. Chong Chen, State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP), City University of Hong Kong
30. Dr. Choong-ki Kim, Senior Research Fellow, Korea Environment Institute
31. Dr. Firdaus Agung, Director for Marine Conservation and Biodiversity, Directorate General for Marine Spatial and Ocean Management, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia
32. Dr. Handoko Adi Susanto, Project Manager, ATSEA-2
33. Dr. Hide Sakaguchi, President, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (Japan)
34. Dr. Hin Lyhour, Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia
35. Dr. Jongho AHN, Korea Environment Institute
36. Dr. Jungho Nam, Senior Research Fellow, Korea Maritime Institute
37. Dr. Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
38. Dr. Keita Furukawa, Technical Session Chair, PEMSEA
39. Dr. Keoduangchai Keokhamphui, Department of Water Resources, Lao PDR
40. Dr. Luky Adrianto, Professor, IPB University
41. Dr. Maria Antonia Tanchuling, UP Institute of Civil Engineering.
42. Dr. Michael Abundo, CEO,OceanPixel
43. Dr. Minhan Dai, Professor of Marine Biogeochemistry, Xiamen University
44. Dr. Mochammad Riyanto, IPB University
45. Dr. Nygiel Armada, Fisheries biologist, Philippines
46. Dr. Pham Ngoc Bao, Deputy Director, Adaptation and Water Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
47. Dr. Sheila Vergara, ASEAN ENMAPS Project Manager and Chief Technical Adviser of ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
48. Dr. Suchana Apple Chavanich, Thailand
49. Dr. Suk-jae Kwon, EAS Partnership Council Technical Session Co-Chair
50. Dr. Vann Monyneath, EAS Partnership Council Chair, PEMSEA
51. Dr. Victor Nikijuluw, Senior Ocean Advisor, Konservasi Indonesia
52. Dr. Won-Tae Shin, Regional Project Manager, MOF/PEMSEA ODA Project, PEMSEA
53. Dr. Xuewei Xu, National Deep Sea Center, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
54. Dr. Yonvitner, CCMRS, IPB University, Indonesia
55. Dr. Yuxing Wang
56. Dun Wang
57. Guan Yao, Fourth Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
58. Haiwen Zhang, Former Director General, China Institute for Marine Affairs, China
59. Hon.Rena Lee, Ambassador for International Law, Singapore

60. Hon. Aishath Inaya, Deputy Minister at Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives
61. Hon. Mr. Domingos da C. dos Santos, Secretary of State for Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (MALFF), Timor-Leste
62. Hui Shen
63. James Tan, Senior Spill Response Specialist, Oil Spill Response, Ltd, Singapore
64. Jiabiao Li, Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
65. Jianwen Qiu,Hong Kong Baptist University, China
66. Jiaying Cui
67. Jongmyoung Lee, Director, Korea Marine Litter Institute of OSEAN, RoKorea
68. Junhui Shi, Zhejiang Lab, China
69. Kan Zhang,
70. Kang, Seungwon, Senior Research Scientist, Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology, RoKorea
71. Lee Nai Ming, GISEA
72. Lee, Hyi Seung
73. Maeve Nightingale, Senior Program Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Thailand
74. Masanori Kobayashi, Senior Program Officer, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Japan
75. Maya Puspita, Head of Research and Development, Indonesian Seaweed Association
76. Mr. Ketut Putra, Consultant, Blue Nature Alliance, Indonesia
77. Meas Rithy, Deputy Director of Department of Coastal Zone Marine Conservation, Ministry of Environment
78. Milen Dyoulgerov Vollen
79. Minji Lee, Republic of Korea
80. Mitsunori Iwataki, Japan
81. Moonho Son
82. Mr. Julio Cordano, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations in New York, co-facilitator, Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2024
83. Mr. Thanongxay Douangnoulak, Department of Water Resources, Lao PDR
84. Mr. Anders Poulsen, Senior Project Manager, SCS-SAP Project
85. Mr. Ben Patrick Soliguin, National Project Coordinator, IRBM
86. Mr. Chandath Him, Cambodia
87. Mr. Delio da Costa, Youth Delegate from Timor-Leste, East Asian Seas Youth Forum
88. Mr. Duncan Currie, Legal and Political Advisor, High Seas Alliance
89. Mr. Gregg Casad, Senior Compliance Advisor of WildAid
90. Mr. Le Dai Thang, EAS Intergovernmental Session Co-chair, Executive Committee of PEMSEA
91. Mr. Linlin Zhao, Fourth Institute of Oceanography

92. Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Coordinator, COBSEA
93. Mr. Mamerto Q. Rodrigo, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO), Daanbantayan Municipality, Philippines
94. Mr. Mark Carr, Professor, University of California
95. Mr. Mikhail Paolo D. Rosil, MENRO Office, Bulan Municipality, Philippines
96. Mr. Oudomsack Philavong, AWGWRM Chair and Director General, Department of Water Resources, MONRE, Lao PDR
97. Mr. Prak Visal, Director, Division of Public Relations, and International Cooperation
98. Mr. Richard Delaney, Interim Executive Director, Center for Coastal Studies, US; President, Global Ocean Forum Board of Directors
99. Mr. Srey Sunleang, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
100. Mr. Walter Oliveira Soares, Beach Monitoring Coordinator, National University of Timor-Leste, Dili, Timor-Leste
101. Mr. Woorak Seo, KOEM
102. Mr. Xinping Chen, Senior Researcher, Marine Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration Division, National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service of Ministry of Natural Resources, China
103. Mr. Yongseuk Kang, CEO, KOEM
104. Mr. Zhang Zhaohui, Deputy Director of China-PEMSEA Coastal Sustainable Management Center
105. Mr. Zhuang Hongfei, First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
106. Mrs. Dongmei Tang, China Deep Ocean Affairs Administration, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
107. Ms. Anabelle Cayabyab, Head, Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Cavite, Philippines
108. Ms. Anna-Marie Laura, Senior Director, Climate Policy, Ocean Conservancy
109. Ms. Aya Silva, Vice President, RARE Philippines
110. Ms. Casandra Tania, Biodiversity Specialist, ATSEA-2
111. Ms. Catie Mitchell, Research Assistant, Global Ocean Forum
112. Ms. Chong YU, Chief representative of WildAid Beijing Office
113. Ms. Daisy Padayao, Technical Officer, PEMSEA Resource Facility
114. Ms. Danielle Yeow, Lead, Climate Change Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore
115. Ms. Demilade T. Adedipe, PhD Student, City University of Hong Kong
116. Ms. Haidee Piniero, Marine Plastics Pollution Consultant, PEMSEA Resource Facility
117. Ms. Irene Marie Villar, Assistant Department Head, Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office Pampanga, Philippines
118. Ms. Jing WANG, Director of Marine Conservation Program, SEE FOUNDATION

119. Ms. Jiyoon Kim, Senior Researcher, Korea Maritime Institute
120. Ms. Johanna Diwa-Acallar, Capacity Development Specialist, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
121. Ms. Kristina Di Ticman, Blue Carbon Consultant, PEMSEA Resource Facility
122. Ms. Li Shuyun, First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
123. Ms. Loreley Picourt, Executive Director, Ocean & Climate Platform, Co-focal Point for Ocean and Coastal Zones, Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action
124. Ms. Margarita Victoria Caballa, Project Management Specialist and COBSEA lead on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems
125. Ms. Mi-Jin Lee, Research Associate, North-East Asian Marine Protected Area Network (NEAMPAN)
126. Ms. Nancy Bermas, Project Manager, Integrated River Basin Management Project, PEMSEA Resource Facility
127. Ms. Sukhui Lee, KOEM, RoKorea
128. Ms. Thecla Keizer, Deputy Head of International Office, Plymouth Marine Laboratory
129. Ms. Viktoria Varga Lencses, Program Coordinator, Common Oceans Program; Senior Fishery Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
130. Nam, Jong-Oh, Senior Research Fellow, Korea Maritime Institute, RoKorea
131. Nang Mya Han, Marine Science Department, University of Myeik
132. Natsuko Nakayama, Japan
133. Norman Ramos, Oil Spill Response, Ltd
134. Pan Xinchun, retired Vice Mayor, Xiamen Municipal Government
135. Patrick YEUNG, Climate Action Platform, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network
136. Peiyuan Qian,Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
137. Pengbin Wang, China
138. Prof. Dimuthu Wijeyaratne, Professor, University of Kelaniya
139. Prof. Guanqiong Ye, Professor, Zhejiang University
140. Prof. Jing Xu, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences
141. Prof. Kishore Boodhoo, Professor, University of Mauritius
142. Prof. Liu Chunlong, Professor of Fisheries, Ocean University of China
143. Prof. Yitong Chen, Professor, Ocean University of China
144. Prof. Zhi Li, Professor, Xiamen University, China
145. Prof. Icarus Allen, Chief Executive, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK
146. Prof. Kenneth Leung, Director, State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution, HK
147. Prof. Xinhong Wang, Professor, Xiamen University
148. Prof. Xuemei Mao, Professor, City University of Hong Kong
149. Rebecca Hubbard, Executive Director, High Seas Alliance
150. Renato Cardinal, Consultant, PEMSEA Resource Facility
151. Rhodora Azanza, Professor Emeritus of the Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines

152. Rizza Sacra-Dejucos, Asia Regional Coordinator, High Seas Alliance
153. Ruiyan Zhang, Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
154. Sapawan "Ploy" Ponlaboot, Youth delegate from Thailand
155. Shenghui Li, Chinese Youth Delegate, East Asian Seas Youth Forum
156. Shubash Lohani, PEW Charitable Trust
157. Son, Woo-Ju, Postdoctoral Researcher, Korea Maritime and Ocean University
158. Songhui Lv, Jinan University
159. Suzan El-Gharabawy, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Egypt
160. Vincent Hilomen, Consultant, ASEAN ENMAPS Regional Fisheries and Connectivity
161. Vivek Anand ASOKAN, Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
162. Xiang Gao, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
163. Xinfeng Dai, Second Institute of Oceanography, MNR
164. Xu Guodong, Director, NMHMS-MNR
165. Xu Suning, Researcher of Land Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center, Ministry of Natural Resources
166. Xu Xingyong, Fourth Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources
167. Yang Liu, Ocean University of China
168. Yang Suzhen, Associate Researcher of Fourth Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources
169. Yefei Ren, Institute of Engineering Mechanics,China Earthquake Administration
170. Yinfeng Guo, National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service (NMHMS), MNR
171. Yinxia Fang, Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
172. Yip Weng Sang, Meteorologist at Malaysian Meteorological Department
173. Yoo, Jeseon
174. Yoonjung Lee, Associate Research Fellow, Korea Maritime Institute
175. Zeng Jiangning, Researcher of the Second Institute of Oceanography, MNR
176. Zhai Haiwen
177. Zhan Tian
178. Zhang Yao, Senior Research Scientist of National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service, MNR
179. Zhaohe Luo, Third Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources
180. Zhi Li, Xiamen University
181. Zhoping Lee
182. Zou Yarong, Researcher of National Satellite Ocean Application Service

Annex 4. List of Exhibitors

1. Xiamen Oamic Biotechnology Co.,Ltd.
2. Goldensun (China) Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd
3. Xiamen Bioendo Technology Co.,Ltd.
4. Xiamen Chengheng Oriental Co., Ltd.
5. Xiamen Huison Biotech Co.,LTD
6. Xiamen Canco Biotech Co., Ltd.
7. Anjoy Foods Group Co.,LTD.
8. Xiamen Yuanzhidao Biotechnology Co.,Ltd.
9. Xiamen Bluebay Science & Technology Co.,Ltd.
10. Guangxi Academy of Oceanography
11. UN Decade Collaborative Centre on Ocean-Climate Nexus and Coordination
12. Zhejiang University
13. Dongying Municipal Bureau of Ocean Development and Fisheries
14. Wild Aid
15. China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center
16. Oil Spill Response Limited
17. ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
18. Blue Nature Alliance
19. ATSEA-2
20. Island Research Center, MNR
21. National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS)
22. Second Institute of Oceanography, MNR
23. Xiamen Ocean Vocational College
24. Xiamen Medical College
25. Fujian Institute of Oceanography
26. Fisheries Research Institute of Fujian
27. National Satellite Ocean Application Service (NSOAS)
28. The institute of seawater desalination and multipurpose utilization, MNR
29. Center for Coastal Marine Resources Studies-IPB University (CCMRS-IPB)
30. PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC)
31. The Republic of Korea (MOF/KIOST)
32. The Republic of Korea (MOF/KOEM)
33. Jimei University
34. SEE Foundation
35. Fourth Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
36. PEMSEA
37. Xiamen University
38. National Ocean Technology Center
39. Third Institute of Oceanography, MNR
40. First Institute of Oceanography, MNR

Annex 5. Photos

Session and event photos are available here.

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XIAMEN, CHINA
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WOW 19th
2024厦门国际海洋周
World Ocean Week in Xiamen

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