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**First Meeting of the Coordinating Committee  
for the Establishment of a Collaborative Regional  
Monitoring Programme (NOWPAP/3)**

**Beijing, China, 21-22 May 2001**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

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**Introduction**

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, 14 September 1994).
2. The Second Intergovernmental Meeting, which was held on 20 November 1996 in Tokyo, adopted the Programme Document describing the implementation of NOWPAP projects. Regarding NOWPAP/3, IOC of UNESCO was designated as the implementing agency to prepare the proposal for the second phase for the implementation.
3. The Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (Beijing, 6-7 April 1999) adopted the proposal for the second phase of the implementation for NOWPAP. Resolution 1 adopted at this meeting requested the member states to designate necessary members for participation in the NOWPAP/3 Coordinating Committee. Following up on the establishment of the Coordinating Committee, UNEP decided to convene a First Meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the Establishment of a Collaborative Regional Monitoring Programme (NOWPAP/3) with a view to establishing a working relationship between the different actors and RACs. The Meeting was originally scheduled for Vladivostok, 30 November-2 December 1999, but this meeting subsequently had to be postponed to the present.
4. This document is the record of the discussions and deliberations of the First Meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the Establishment of a Collaborative Regional Monitoring Programme (NOWPAP/3), in Beijing, P.R. China during 21-22 May 2001.
5. Experts designated by the States in the Northwestern Pacific Region (Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation) participated in the meeting. Additional experts, designated by the States for the corresponding NOWPAP/1 programme on the Establishment of a Comprehensive Database and Information System, also participated in the meetings as observers. Additional observers were present from Japan, People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea. The directors of the Regional Activity Centers corresponding to NOWPA/1 and NOWPAP/3 were also present in addition to a representative of the Mediterranean Action Plan. UNEP and IOC functioned as secretariat for the workshop. The full list of participants is attached to this report as **Annex 1** to this report.

**AGENDA ITEM 1:        OPENING OF THE MEETING**

6. The meeting was opened at 09:00 21 May 2001, in Beijing, People's Republic of China by Mr. Ellik Adler, Coordinator of Regional seas Programme UNEP. He acted as Chairman until the official election of the chairman of the present meeting.
7. On behalf of Mr. Klaus Toepfer, UNEP Executive Director and Mr. Jorge Illueca, Director of the Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr. Ellik Adler opened the meeting and introduced the various representatives.

8. On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, Mrs. Liu Xiuru, representative from the State Environmental Protection Administration gave a welcoming address. In her welcoming statement she referred to the sincere efforts of the Chinese government in the field of marine environmental protection and she expressed her hope that the present meeting would reinforce the successful cooperation in the NOWPAP region. She also alluded to the efforts of the Chinese government to secure a bid for the Olympic Games in 2008, which would go hand in hand with environmental protection in the country.
9. Mr. Elik Adler expressed his thanks to the Government of China for hosting the meeting. He then introduced the objectives of the meeting with particular reference made to the need to reach practical and achievable workplan for NOWPAP/3, due to current status of this activity which suffered of low level and slow pace of implementation and the challenges presented by that situation. He mentioned the request of the 6<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting (Tokyo 5-6 December 2000) to accelerate and intensify NOWPAP activities.
10. Mr. Maarten Kuijper, representative of the IOC, made a statement on behalf of Mr. Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary IOC, emphasizing the role of IOC as implementing agency under both phase I and phase II of NOWPAP/3 since 1997. He further thanked the Chinese Government for the excellent arrangements made by the local organizers.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

11. The meeting participants elected a Chairman and a Rapporteur as follows:  
Chairman: Mr. Li Guogang, People's Republic of China.  
Rapporteur: Mr. Anatoly Kachur, Russian Federation.
12. The Chairman, Mr. Li Guogang, proposed for the meeting's consideration that the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council, as applicable to the meetings convened by the Executive Director, would apply mutatis mutandis for this meeting. The meeting approved the proposal.
13. The Chairman proposed that the meeting carry out its work in plenary session in principle. The meeting approved the proposal. Furthermore the proposed timetable was introduced and approved.
14. The meeting was conducted in English. The Chairman introduced the provisional list of documents (UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP WG 15/inf.1). The final list of documents is attached to the present report as **Annex 2**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

15. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP WG 15/1) and the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP WG 15/2) were introduced by the Chairman. The meeting adopted the agenda, with minor modifications suggested by the delegation of Japan and the representative of UNEP. The adopted agenda is attached to the present report as **Annex 3**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4: OVERVIEW OF THE PREPARATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NOWPAP/3 PROJECT**

16. The representative of UNEP provided a short overview of the ten-year history and current status of the Northwestern Pacific Action Plan and the NOWPAP/3 component.
17. Mr. Anatoly Kachur, Director of POM/RAC, the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre in Vladivostok, provided a report on the establishment of the centre, including an idea on future operations, which included plans for intercalibration exercises for a regional network for atmospheric deposition of pollution and an inventory of monitoring activities as an update of the previously produced national reports. He referred to the current restructuring of the government of the Russian Federation that had compromised the implementation of the initial workplan for

POM/RAC.

18. Mr. Masamitsu Oritani, Director of CEA/RAC, the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre in Toyama, Japan, provided a report on the activities carried out in support of the establishment of the Regional Activity Centre, including the preparation for future operations. A brief overview of these activities is presented in **Annex 8**.
19. The Director of CEA/RAC, also responded to a question regarding role of the Japanese advisory panels in relation to both NPEC and the RAC. He reaffirmed that the role of the advisory panels was one of a consultative nature that provided the CEA/RAC with critical analyses of the present status of both remote sensing and bioassay techniques and their possible use in marine environmental monitoring. Responding to a question on Remote sensing, the Director of CEA/RAC mentioned the report of the First International Workshop on Remote Sensing of the Marine Environment in the Northwest Pacific Region, held in Toyama in 2000.
20. **Recommendation:** Following the reports on the Regional Activity Centres, and taking into account the present level of implementation of NOWPAP/3 activities, the meeting recommended that the respective host countries of the RACs, pay more attention to the regional role of the RACs and increase their support for the activities and responsibilities of the respective Regional Activity Centre.
21. The Chairman requested the representatives from the participating States to give presentations on the national activities carried out in support of the implementation of NOWPAP/3 project, with particular emphasis on those activities that were initiated since the completion of the previously published national reports. These national reports that were presented to the meeting are presented in **Annex 9**.
22. Mr. Li Guogang presented the national report of the People's Republic of China, with particular emphasis on the nation-wide network of monitoring stations that contribute their data to the SEPA environmental information centre.
23. Mr. Kuniaki Makiya of Japan presented the Japanese national report, with emphasis on those activities that are carried out in support of NOWPAP on top of the national routine monitoring programme. Reference was made to a survey and subsequent international workshop conducted to determine the possible application of remote sensing under NOWPAP/3. Studies have also been conducted on the water quality of some five major rivers debouching in the Northwestern Pacific.
24. Mr. Kim Hakgyoon of the Republic of Korea presented a comprehensive report on the Korean national monitoring programme with special emphasis on the monitoring of harmful algal blooms in Korean coastal waters. The system that is currently in use ensures the prompt detection of harmful algal blooms that require subsequent special mitigating measures.
25. Mr. Vladimir Shulkin of the Russian Federation presented an overview of the Russian monitoring activities relevant to NOWPAP covering the aquatic, marine and atmospheric environment. He indicated that the Tumen river was most important in terms of its input to the NOWPAP area, whilst Peter the Great Bay was the most polluted coastal area. In contrast, the Northwestern part of the NOWPAP area could still be considered pristine with the exception of certain river mouths with upstream mining activity. He further explained the various methods and gradation schemes used in the monitoring programme.
26. Mr. Saverio Civili, the representative of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), provided a comprehensive overview of the history and current status of the MAP and its components. He started his discussion with a chronological account on the different milestones and phases that mark the development of MAP, with due consideration to the difficult conditions under which the programme had to be developed. He then described the different phases of MEDPOL, the monitoring programme for the Mediterranean Sea which started in 1975 with a series of specific

projects. He described the legal instruments of MAP (the Barcelona Convention and various protocols) and the process of the establishment of the RACs in the hosting countries.

27. The present, third phase of MED POL represents a shift from impacts and measurements of pollutants to the control thereof, and from marine to coastal environments. MED POL serves both status and trend monitoring and compliance monitoring. With the support of the Global Environmental Facility, MAP has also started to work on the implementation of a Strategic Action Plan to address pollution from land-based activities that has identified hot spots throughout the region and is providing incentives, targets and objectives for an effective reduction of pollution. He also noticed the apparent openness in recent years on reporting on local and regional pollution hotspots.
28. The UNEP representative emphasised the importance of the establishment of a Strategic Action Plan under NOWPAP/7, which corresponds to the GPA-LBA programme and for which currently a proposal is being drawn up.
29. A representative of the Russian Federation raised the question if there has been any noticeable improvement of water quality in the Mediterranean as a result of the MAP. In reply, Mr. Civili stated the pollutant input from urban centres and heavy chemical industries has been reduced, but that no improvement is seen in the field of small and medium sized industries.
30. The representative of UNEP promised to make some of the relevant documents of the MAP programme available to the region. Most of the documents are moreover available on the following website: <http://www.unepmap.org>.
31. The IOC representative introduced various IOC programmes in the region that are relevant to NOWPAP. He specifically mentioned the Atmospheric Input of Contaminants project established under IOC/WESTPAC and explained the significance of this pathway to the marine environment of the NOWPAP region. He further referred to mussel watch activities in the region, and the plans for the establishment of some NEAR-HOTO in the region, that would focus on novel monitoring approaches.
32. Apart from the WESTPAC programmes, the IOC representative also mentioned the EANET programme that focused on the design of an acid deposition monitoring network in East Asia. While this programme is not immediately relevant to the marine and coastal environment of NOWPAP, the approach followed under the programme did provide valuable lessons to the region. More information on EANET can be accessed via EANET's homepage: <http://www.adorc.gr.jp/eanet/>.
33. Mr. Dongyoung Lee of the Republic of Korea provided a short introduction to the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Programme that has started in 2001. He also presented a background to the programme focusing on the Korean-funded Yellow Sea Programme that preceded the UNDP/GEF programme and which saw its completion with a final workshop organised in April 2001 on Cheju Island, Republic of Korea. The objective of the UNDP/GEF Programme is ecosystem-based, environmentally sustainable management and use of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem and its watershed: reducing development stress and promoting sustainable exploitation of the ecosystem from a densely populated, heavily urbanised and industrialised semi-enclosed sea. The programme will initially last until 2005. The total budget foreseen under the programme is 24 million US\$, including in-kind contribution from the participating governments and 14 million US\$ provided by the GEF.
34. The IOC representative finally introduced two more international programmes in the region, those being the UNDP/GEF Tumen River Strategic Action Programme focusing its efforts on the Tumen River Basin and its transboundary international waters. The project office is established in Beijing. The other programme refers to the UNDP/GEF/IMO project, entitled PEMSEA (Partnerships in Environmental Management in the sea of East Asia). This programme focuses on the establishment of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) demonstration sites throughout the

Eastern Asian region. Relevant activities underway in the NOWPAP region are the Nampo ICM project, the Dalian ICM project, and the Bohai Sea Risk Assessment Study. This programme works principally with the provincial and local governments.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND WORKPLAN FOR THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS**

35. At the request of the Chairman, the representative of UNEP, provided an introduction to this agenda item, emphasising on the need to come up with a practical mechanism that will facilitate the implementation of the activities of NOWPAP/3 Phase II. He also pointed out the urgent need for specific definitions and agreement on the role of the Coordinating Committee, the Regional Activity Centres and the Working Groups.
36. The meeting was then engaged on an open and comprehensive discussion on these issues and on the development and follow up of NOWPAP 3 activities, based on the agreed upon workplan, described in document UNEP/IOC/NOWPAP WG.11/2/REV.1 (titled: "Proposal for NOWPAP/3 Phase II"), which was approved in the Expert Workshop on the Establishment of a Collaborative Regional Monitoring Programme held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 1-3 July 1998 and endorsed by 4th InterGovernmental Meeting in Beijing , the People's Republic of China, 6-7 April 1999.
37. Following a detailed proposal and an organogram presented by the representative of UNEP, the meeting discussed and examined different possibilities for the evolution of future NOWPAP 3 activities. The representatives of the NOWPAP countries also consulted with the Directors of POM/RAC and CEA/RAC, and with the representatives of MAP of IOC and of UNEP.
38. As a result of this discussion, the meeting felt that no substantial changes in the original proposed activities (which were described in document UNEP/IOC/NOWPAP WG.11/2/REV.1 and approved by the IGM) were suggested. Therefore, the present meeting of the Coordinating Committee was mandated to make slight functional modifications to the original proposal, in order to facilitate the implementation of the suggested activities.
39. Mr. Elik Adler explained the need for a careful appraisal of the working groups vis-a-vis the Coordinating Committee and the Regional Activity Centres. He suggested that the meeting should consider a prioritisation of four projects to be carried out under the programme, each with a corresponding Working Group, those being: (i) Atmospheric Deposition of Contaminants; (ii) River Inputs and Direct Inputs of Contaminants, (iii) Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) and Eutrophication; (iv) Remote Sensing and other novel monitoring techniques.
40. Following a discussion, the meeting agreed that there shall be no separate Working Group on novel monitoring techniques. Instead, CEA/RAC shall undertake necessary activities to assess the need of the future establishment of a special Working Group in this field for subsequent consideration by the Coordinating Committee.
41. The meeting also agreed to add the component of the monitoring of coastal waters to the Eutrophication and HAB Working Group.
42. In the perception of UNEP, the responsibility for coordination of these four Working Groups, could be divided between the two Regional Activity Centres, CEA-RAC and POM-RAC. Each of the Working Groups would have two representatives from each country and will be co-chaired by two countries. The role of the RAC Director is then to facilitate the effective implementation of the work from an organizational point of view, focusing on ensuring the timely organization of meetings, adequate follow-up by the Working Group members with the assistance and special involvement of the two co-chairs, and logistic support when needed.
43. Following an extensive discussion of the proposals made by UNEP and IOC regarding the role of the RACs and the clear division of the work among them, the role of the working Groups, the prioritisation of activities and the mechanism for their implementation, the meeting adopted a

detailed document titled: “Principles and Program of work for the Development of NOWPAP 3”. The document is detailed in **Annex 4**.

44. The meeting also approved the table of workplan and budget requested budget for the biennium 2002/3 which is detailed in **Annex 5**. This workplan will be brought to the review and approval by the next InterGovernmental Meeting (planned for Moscow, December 2001).
45. In principle, the meeting decided:
  - (a) four Working Groups will be established:
    - WG 1 (Atmospheric Deposition): co-chaired by Korea and Russia (under POM/RAC)
    - WG 2 (Rivers and Direct Inputs): co-chaired by Japan and Russia (under POM/RAC)
    - WG 3 (HAB & Coastal Waters Monitoring): co-chaired by China and Korea (under CEA/RAC)
    - WG 4 (Remote Sensing): co-chaired by China and Japan (under CEA/RAC).
  - (b) the composition, co-chairmanship, the responsibilities and the operating procedures of the Working Groups. The meeting also adopted the Terms of Reference of the working Groups as specified in **Annex 7** to this report.
46. The Coordinating Committee agreed that following the meeting, UNEP will request the NOWPAP Focal Point in each of the Member States to (re-)nominate their country representatives for each of the Working Groups.
47. The meeting subsequently discussed and drew up a draft terms of reference for the Co-ordinating Committee and the respective Working Groups for consideration at the next Intergovernmental Meeting. The Terms of References for the Coordinating Committee are attached as **Annex 6**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: INTEGRATION OF NOWPAP/3 AND NOWPAP/1**

48. The IOC representative explained that NOWPAP/1 builds on the various monitoring components that are part of NOWPAP/3. An effectively implemented NOWPAP/1 programme is crucial not only in drawing on the results of the other programmes, but also in offering the coherence needed between different programmes. He urged the meeting to take into consideration the need to interact with DIN/RAC in the implementation of the workplan.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER MATTERS**

49. A delegate of the Republic of Korea proposed that in light of the main objectives of the NOWPAP, the meeting might wish to consider establishing a Working Group on Modelling of the Marine Environment using monitoring data from the NOWPAP/3 programme once these become available.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

50. The draft report of the meeting was prepared by the Rapporteur for consideration and adoption. The meeting adopted the report as the record of its deliberations.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

51. Following concluding statements by each of the delegations pointing out the hospitality of SEPA and the Government of China, the Chairman closed the meeting at 17:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 22 May 2001.