

NOWPAP DINRAC

Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center

The NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

Sanya, 29 October - 1 November 2003

The 2nd NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) was held on 29 October-1 November 2003 in Sanya, China. DINRAC was responsible for the organization of the meeting, which was attended by Focal Points and Experts from NOWPAP member states People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as China), Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation (hereafter referred to as Russia). A representative of UNEP, the director of POMRAC, a representative of CEARAC, as well as staff and experts from DINRAC also attended.



A representative of the Interim Secretariat of NOWPAP, Ms Hanneke Van Lavieren of the Regional Seas Coordinating Unit, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP, reported on the 22nd session of the UNEP Governing Council in 2003, which called for UNEP to continue to support the activities of the RACs through guidance and advice. She also pointed out that DINRAC played an important role in the collection and management of marine and coastal environmental data and information, which were fundamental for scientific and management activities and the regional exchange and sharing of data and information. She expressed her confidence in the dynamic, productive and efficient contributions DINRAC would make to the success of NOWPAP.

The meeting's major agenda items and conclusions included:

1. Presentation of the NOWPAP DINRAC Report of Activities for 2002/2003 by the DINRAC Director, which was approved by the meeting.
2. Presentation of reports on the status of data and information management systems in China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russia by Focal Points from each country.

3. Presentation of a review of the progress made by DINRAC for each of the initial tasks agreed after the First NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (2002). These include (1) national reports on the data and information network (Activity A); (2) the database of NOWPAP institutions and experts (Activity C); (3) updating, maintenance and enrichment of the DINRAC Website (Activity B).

4. Presentation of a draft review of the general NOWPAP Policy on data and information sharing (Activity D) and draft principles and guidelines for the NOWPAP meta-database management system (Activity E).

5. A revision of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting. The meeting agreed on the TOR with minor modifications, and to submit the draft to the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on NOWPAP for its final adoption.

6. Discussion and implementation of the DINRAC Project Document. The meeting agreed that the detailed workplan and budget allocation for each activity be discussed again at the Third NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting, based upon the decision by the Eighth IGM on NOWPAP on the budget of DINRAC.

Inside this issue:

- The 2nd NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting 1
- Workplan for the DINRAC Activities in 2004/05 2
- Introduction to the TOR for NOWPAP DINRAC FPM 3
- DINRAC Website 4
- 8th NOW PAM IGM 5
- NOWPAP Institutions and Experts Database 5
- Meetings and Communications 5
- Statement from Russian Focal Point, Dr N.A. Rykov 5
- Welcome
- Statement from Russian Focal Point, Dr Igor Rostov 6

Workplan for DINRAC Activities in 2004/05

The workplan for DINRAC Activities in 2004/05 has been discussed and approved by the 2nd NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting and was revised and confirmed by the 8th Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP (Sanya, China, 5-7 November 2003). The total budget of DINRAC for the 2004/05 biennium was also approved, with an allocation of US\$150,000 by the 8th IGM (Sanya, China, 5-7 November 2003).

Major activities in 2004/05 are as follows:

1. Activity B: Update, maintenance and enrichment of DINRAC Website (continued)
2. Activity D: Draft of the general NOWPAP Guideline on data and information sharing (continued)
3. Activity E: Establishment of principles and guidelines for the NOWPAP DINRAC meta-database (continued)
4. Activity F: Organization of DINRAC Experts Meeting
5. Activity G: Organization of Focal Points Meeting
6. Activity H: Cooperation, Communication of DINRAC activities
7. Activity I: Framework for the creation of the NOWPAP DINRAC meta-database
8. Activity J: Studies on GIS-type products within and outside NOWPAP
9. Activity K: Exchange of detailed information and publication of a Regional Overview

Brief Introduction to the Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

The terms of Reference for the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting have been approved by the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Sanya, China, 5–7 November 2003). They cover the following **elements**:

1. Background

2. Objectives

To exchange information on marine and coastal environmental data and information management in the NOWPAP region; to promote, coordinate and harmonize regional cooperation in the NOWPAP Region related to the establishment of a comprehensive marine and coastal environmental database and information management system.

3. Functions

4. Participation

NOWPAP members will be invited to participate in the DINRAC Focal Points Meeting. The NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points and representatives of each NOWPAP member should represent the relevant national authority, which has the responsibility and authority at the national level regarding the marine and coastal environmental data and information management. Each representative may be accompanied by advisors as appropriate. It is expected that NOWPAP members would ensure that their delegations reflect the full range of national expertise and interests.

5. Sessions

The DINRAC Focal Points Meeting should be held once a year. Each session will discuss the timing of the subsequent session. At each session, the meeting will elect, from the official representatives of the NOWPAP members, a chairperson and a rapporteur. Election of officers of the meeting will be decided by consensus.

6. Tasks

To advise and make recommendations to the IGM on the workplan and budget of DINRAC through its Director; to periodically review and approve the implementation of the workplan and budget as approved by the IGM; to review pe-

riodic reports prepared by DINRAC; to identify and estimate cost of follow-up activities; and to implement relevant activities decided upon by the IGM.

7. Intersessional work

In principle, all intersessional work will be carried out by correspondence among the participants without financial provision. When specific funds are provided by the NOWPAP Trust Fund and/or other sources of funding, the tasks will be carried out with funds for intersessional work.

8. Experts Meeting

9. Secretariat

The DINRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Experts Meeting will be served by a Secretariat provided jointly (as appropriate) by DINRAC, the NOWPAP RCU, UNEP and IOC.

10. Decisions

The meeting will achieve decisions by consensus among the NOWPAP members. If consensus cannot be reached on administrative and procedural matters, a vote may be taken. Each NOWPAP member will have one vote. Such a decision will be taken by a majority of those NOWPAP members present and voting.

11. Procedure

12. Agenda

13. Budget and Expenses

The budget for the DINRAC Focal Points Meeting, the Experts Meeting and subsequent activities of DINRAC is supported by the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Other external funds should also be sought in accordance with the development of DINRAC activities. The Director of DINRAC will report to the Focal Points Meeting on expenditures of the NOWPAP Trust Fund related to the DINRAC activities. After approval of a report by the Focal Points Meeting, the Director of DINRAC will report on DINRAC expenditures to the IGM.

14. Report

15. Language

Update, Maintenance and Enrichment of the NOWPAP DINRAC Website

1. Background

URL: dinrac.nowpap.org

Webmaster: dinrac@zhb.gov.cn

Layout: updated in June 2003

2. Website Contents

Regional Seas: Introduction

About NOWPAP: Action Plan

NOWPAP DINRAC: Meeting Reports, Newsletters, Staff List

NowpapInstitution: Institutions / organizations in China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russia

NowpapExpert: Experts in China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia

Related Organizations: UN Organization, NOWPAP Origins, Member States, others

Related Activities: Intergovernmental Meetings on NOWPAPRAC, other related meetings



Documents: Oceans, Regional Seas, WSSD, National Programmes of Action Documents, Wastewater, Sewage Documents, Clearing-House Mechanism Documents, Reports and Studies

Contact Us: Contact information and staff list

Site Map: Columns, sub-columns and links

Feedback: Comments/suggestions to the webmaster

Internal Documents: History Documents, DINRAC Working Documents, DINRAC Outputs and Publications, National Focal Points, 1st NOWPAP1 CWG Meeting, First National Focal Points Meeting, 2nd National Focal Points Meeting

8th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting

Mr Wang, Director of DINRAC attended the 8th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held in Sanya, People's Republic of China, 5–7 November 2003, where he reported on the activities of DINRAC during 2002/2003 and the workplan and the budget of DINRAC for 2004/2005. The meeting approved the workplan and budget of NOWPAP for 2004/2005, including US\$150,000 for DINRAC activities.

The meeting adopted the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and approved the related MoU. The meeting also approved the Terms of Reference for the Focal Point Meetings of the four respective (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC, POMRAC) of NOWPAP.

The meeting outlined the progress made in the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU). The Government of Japan and the Executive Director of UNEP signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) for the Toyama Office. The negotiations on the HCA with the Republic of Korea are in their final stages, and UNEP is ready to begin the official recruitment of RCU staff pending final agreement on both HCAs.



NOWPAP RAC's Directors Meeting, held during the 8th NOWPAP IGM

(Sanya, China, 5-7 November, 2003)

Finalization of NOWPAP Institutions & Experts Database in the Northwest Pacific Region

In the First DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (Shanghai, China, 25–28 November 2002), the workplan and budget for 2002/2003 was approved. Activity C in the workplan is “Finalization of Institutions and Experts Database”.

1. New Questionnaires

The new questionnaires for collecting information for the NowpapExpert and NowpapInstitution are designed by DINRAC. After revision, on August 21, 2003 the new questionnaires were sent to the DINRAC Focal Points of NOWPAP Members including MoU to implement Activity C.

2. Databases

The new online databases for NowpapExpert and NowpapInstitution databases were developed before the end of October 2003. A search program has been developed for convenience. Information in the NowpapExpert and NowpapInstitution can be accessed through Internet at the URL <<http://dinrac.nowpap.org>>.

3. Data in the Databases

Records of NowpapInstitution and NowpapExperts from four countries' Focal Points have been entered into the databases. As of now, there is information from 122 institutions and 657 experts in the two databases in the member countries respectively.

4. Update

In each record in NowpapInstitution and NowpapExpert, there is a field called Last Date of Update, which refers to when the current information was updated.

The update information may be sent to DINRAC directly or through National Focal Point by Email or standard mail. DINRAC will be in charge of updates of NowpapExpert and NowpapInstitution.

The screenshot shows the 'NOWPAP DINRAC' website interface. The main heading is 'Database on Coastal and Marine Environmental Institutions in the Northwest Pacific Region'. Below the heading, there is a search form with fields for 'Country', 'Institution Name', 'Activity Field', and 'Keywords in Field or Acronym'. A table lists the number of records for four countries: China (16), Japan (66), Korea (19), and Russia (21). The total number of institutions is 122.

No.	Country	Records	Last Update
1	China	16	2004-01-15
2	Japan	66	2003-11-06
3	Korea	19	2003-10-20
4	Russia	21	2003-10-13

Total 122 institutions in the NowpapInstitution in 4 countries now.

The screenshot shows the 'NOWPAP DINRAC' website interface. The main heading is 'Database on Coastal and Marine Environmental Experts in the Northwest Pacific Region'. Below the heading, there is a search form with fields for 'Country', 'Expert Name', 'Expert Title', and 'Keywords in Field or Acronym'. A table lists the number of records for four countries: China (181), Japan (117), Korea (204), and Russia (126). The total number of experts is 628.

No.	Country	Records	Last Update
1	China	181	2004-01-15
2	Japan	117	2003-11-06
3	Korea	204	2003-11-21
4	Russia	126	2003-11-09

Total 628 experts in NowpapExpert in 4 countries now.

Meetings and Communications

1. Sixth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium

Upon the invitation of the North-East Asian Regional-Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), Mr Jianguo Wang and Ms An Tong of DINRAC participated in the Workshop on Development of Data and Products in Operational Oceanography, held on 21-22 April 2004 in conjunction with the Sixth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium in Hangzhou, China. The workshop aims to discuss the implementation of the NEAR-GOOS strategy at its second phase and the strengthening of collaboration with related organizations/programs in the region.

2. Eighth Session of IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee

Upon the invitation of the NEAR-GOOS, Mr Jianguo Wang of DINRAC participated in the Eighth Session of IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee for the NEAR-GOOS, held on 8-10 December 2003 in Beijing, China, and presented a paper regarding the activities of DINRAC. The main objective of the session was to discuss the second phase (2002-2007) NEAR-GOOS Strategy Plan.

3. Sixth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

Upon the invitation of the NOWPAP MERRAC, Mr Jianguo Wang and Mrs An Tong of DINRAC participated in the 6th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, held on 1-4 September 2003 in MERRAC (Daejeon, Republic of Korea). The meeting agreed to the Draft NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

4. 2nd NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Upon the invitation of the NOWPAP CEARAC, Ms Shang Yi participated in the 2nd NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting, held on 15-17 March 2004 in CEARAC (Toyama, Japan). The meeting agreed to the TOR for NOWPAP Working Group 3 (Harmful Algal Blooms) & Working Group 4 (Remote Sensing) and reviewed the Workplans of Working Group 3 and Working Group 4.

5. Seventh NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

Upon the invitation of the NOWPAP MERRAC, Ms Liu Liyuan of DINRAC participated in the 7th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, held on 18-21 May 2004 in MERRAC (Daejeon, Republic of Korea). Apart from routine tasks, the FP meeting mainly discussed the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and signatures of the associated MOU. The regional cooperation regarding Marine Litter was also highlighted in this FP meeting.

6. 2nd NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting

Upon the invitation of the NOWPAP POMRAC, Mr Yudong Zhu participated in the Working Group 2 Meeting held on 24-25 and the 2nd NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting held on 26-28 May, 2004 in Vladivostok, Russia. The FP meeting approved the TORs and the workplans for WG 1 and WG 2 as well as the POMRAC biennium workplan for 2004/05.



Far Eastern Regional ESIMO Center under construction

by Dr Nikolay.A.Rykov, Head of the Regional Oceanographic Data Center (RODC), Far Eastern Regional Hydrometeorological Research Institute (FERHRI), Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring

The subprogram "Unified system of information on the World Ocean condition" (ESIMO) – the main part of the Russian Federal target-oriented program, "The World Ocean" – is now being developed (Rostov, 2003). The users

of the system will be serviced by specific ESIMO centers. According to ESIMO plans, nine centers with different functions will be organized in 2004. One of them, the Far Eastern Regional ESIMO Center, will be created in the Far Eastern Regional Hydrometeorological Research Institute (FERHRI). Other marine organizations having their own information resources and technologies are welcome to participate in the Center's work.

The principles of the future Center's activities are explained briefly below.

The main goal of the Center is to organize and facilitate the cooperation of Russian Far East marine institutions in the provision of comprehensive information for government authorities, industry, science and the private sector using web technologies. The information provided must be sufficient for decision-making by users in terms of composition, volume, forms, nomenclature, and time-limits.

The Centers' major functions are connected with activities related to data collection; development of information technologies; and receiving and providing information products in oceanography, marine meteorology, biology, ecology; and other fields. The Center's activities include the following tasks:

- creation, storage, use and protection of information resources for the NW Pacific, adjacent seas, and coastal territories;
- establishment of metadata;
- development and improvement of systems to provide users with environmental information on the condition of the sea and atmosphere along with information on economic aspects and environmental monitoring; and
- scientific research.

Technical and technological aspects

The Center will deal with formats of data and information exchange, web technologies for data access, and calculation methods and models. Its equipment should be adequate for information collection, processing, storage and protection, interconnection with information sources and users, and integration of information flows into the united information space of ESIMO. Technical equipment will include the local processing network and means of interconnection with national and international networks. Technological equipment will consist of system, applied, and self-developed software.

The Center carries out comprehensive information support for marine activities, providing national data, accessible international data and information products for industry, research and environmental monitoring. The supply of this information is carried out mainly by means of telecommunication technologies.

The provision of information and services from state marine information resources will be carried out in accordance with the following principles of the Russian Federal Law--On information, informatization, and information protection (No. 24, Feb. 20,1995): (1) state marine information resources are open and accessible for users; (2) only confidential

information and information concerning state security is confidential; (3) information of common interest is provided to every category of users free of charge. A list of available information is prepared by the State Agencies and approved by the Federal Government; specialized information is provided to users within joint programs or according to agreements on information services for a user's fee.

Welcome

Dr Ellik Adler, Regional Seas Coordinator, from Division of Environmental Conventions, UNEP and Mr Jianguo Wang, Director of NOWPAP DINRAC welcome the new DINRAC Focal Points for Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Mr Shoichi KOKUTA and Dr KIM Sung-Dae were named the new DINRAC Focal Points for Japan and the Republic of Korea respectively.

DINRAC sincerely welcomes Mr Kokuta and Dr Kim and wishes the new Focal Points a productive and fruitful cooperation for DINRAC. DINRAC expresses its sincere thanks to Mr Taisei MORISHITA (Japan) for his invaluable support and many contributions to DINRAC activities in past two years.

The updated list of the Focal Points for NOWPAP DINRAC is as follows:

Japan

Mr Shoichi KOKUTA

Director for International Affairs Office, Technology Planning and International Affairs Division, Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Coast Guard

Dr Toru SUZUKI

General Manager, Research & Development, Marine Information Research Center (MIRC), Japan Hydrographic Association (JHA)

People's Republic of China

Ms CHEN Mo

Programme Officer, Division of Planning, Department of Planning and Finance, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA)

Dr PEI Xiangbin

Programme Officer, Division of Marine Environment Management, Department of Pollution Control, SEPA

Republic of Korea

Dr JEONG Hee-Dong

Senior Researcher, KODC/Oceanography Division, National Fisheries Research & Development Institute

Dr KIM Sung-Dae

Chief, Data Management Section, Republic of Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute

Russian Federation

Dr Igor Rostov

Head of Laboratory of Ocean Information and Ocean Monitoring, Pacific Oceanological Institute, Far Eastern Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences

Dr Nikolay A. Rykov

Head, Regional Oceanographic Data Center (RODC) Far Eastern Regional Hydrometeorological Research Institute, Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring



Dataware for marine activities in the Russian Federation in 2003

by Dr Igor Rostov, Head of Laboratory of Ocean Information and Ocean Monitoring, Pacific Oceanological Institute (POIFEB RAS), NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Point of Russian Federation

In Russia and abroad there has been a great deal of recent activity in the field of integrating diverse information resources, and their well-coordinated use to solve complex problems. Examples of such initiatives are the global systems of observation and monitoring for the marine environment, and their regional components – NOWPAP NEAR-GOOS.

The section Search by Subject produces references for 586 descriptions of available information resources according to the following subjects: analysis, forecast, observations, climate, and documents.

The section Search by Geographical Map provides an opportunity for fast access to and retrieval of information on various areas of the World Ocean.

Section Search by Marine Organization yields a catalogue of databases for 1206 organizations in Russia and overseas.

The section Applications provides the opportunity to access data provided by the GST channels, information on cruises/ "Cruise Descriptions" database, ARGO data, IODE data, the uniform dictionary of parameters (accessed by sphere, process, statistics, single parameters and groups).

The section Metadata presents data on research vessels and cruises, projects and programs, observation nets and devices, data files and databases, electronic atlases, data formats and software.

The section Decision Making contains a version of the regional system of decision-making based on various kinds of coastal and social-economic activities which require the dataware.

As a result of international cooperation, Russian organizations have the opportunity to obtain access to more than 11,600 cruises of research vessels from 64 countries for the period from 1870 to 2002: 1,895,000 oceanographic stations; 3,400,000 BT profiles and 140 000 CTD profiles; 800 series of current observations; 35,000 records of pollution observations; more than 10 million one-way vessel observations; etc.

The extensive partnership in the GOOS Program is responsible for integrating the majority of the international (IOC, WMO, UNEP) and national information systems and also the national programs. The 1st stage of creating the national "Unified system of information on the World Ocean condition" (ESIMO) of Russia in 2002-2003, has included the provision of complex information in support of the execution of the "Marine Doctrine of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020".

This activity has resulted in the publication on the official site of ESIMO of many papers and documents concerning the

analysis of the status and conception of data-ware at the second stage of execution of eight ESIMO projects in 2004-2007. The web-portal (site) <http://www.oceaninfo.ru> provides access to Russian and foreign databases/metadatabases and the ability to navigate within the ESIMO site according to region and nature of the coastal activity.

The ESIMO web-portal provides a great volume of information on the following topics: description of information resources; metadata; data on the marine environment; scientific, technical, legal, social-economic documentation and information; news and publications under the ESIMO subjects; and links. The site contains about 2000 references to foreign and national web-resources, systematized for 15 categories.

In the site section <<http://data.meteo.ru:8080/resource/index.jsp>> there is an integrating document – the electronic compendium, "ESIMO information resources – 2003", categorized by the general state of the problems to be solved, guidelines and results. The manual presents results of the generalization and analysis of information on the state of information resources and the technologies of processing, distribution, and use of information on the condition of the World Ocean, conducted by RIHMI-WDC of Roshydrom using an interagency base of metadata. The document presents catalogues of information included in the initial data from the first stage of ESIMO.

The catalogues were prepared by project executors. Summary characteristics of information resources on the situation in the World Ocean are presented, a brief background on marine data collection is provided, and the current state of observation systems is considered. National and international marine data sets and databases are described. Scientific-technical, regulatory and legal information and the results of international data exchange are presented. Users' demands to the information and the ways of satisfying the requirements are also considered.

Newsletter of NOWPAP DINRAC

The 2nd Issue of *the Newsletter of NOWPAP DINRAC* is published by NOWPAP DINRAC and is distributed free of Charge. We hope this newsletter will not only be informative, but also beneficial to communication needs.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center
(NOWPAP DINRAC)
Environmental Information Center (EIC),
State Environmental Protection Administration of
China
No.1 Yuhui Nanlu, Chaoyang District
Beijing 100029, P.R.China
Tel: 86-10-84640869
Fax: 86-10-84630849
Website: <<http://dinrac.nowpap.org>>
Email: dinrac@zhb.gov.cn