

NOWPAP MER/RAC

Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response
Regional Activity Centre



Report of 4th Meeting of NOWPAP Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response

15-18 May 2001

Qingdao, People's Republic of China

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UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/WG.15/19

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**FOURTH MEETING OF
NORTHWEST PACIFIC ACTION PLAN FORUM ON MARINE POLLUTION
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(Qingdao, People's Republic of China, 15 – 18 May 2001)**

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Background

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Region (NOWPAP) and three resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP (Seoul, 14 September 1994). Resolution 1 identified five areas of priority for implementation of the Action Plan, one of which was NOWPAP/4: Development of Effective Measures for Regional Cooperation in Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response. At the international level, the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response and Cooperation (OPRC) was adopted in November 1990 and entered into force in May 1995.
2. Based on the priorities set by the First Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP, the Programme Document, and Workplan and Budget for the 1997/1998 Biennium were adopted at the Second Intergovernmental Meeting.
3. For implementation of NOWPAP/4, establishment of a Forum was approved in the Programme Document. The objectives of the Forum are: (i) to exchange information on marine pollution preparedness and response; (ii) development of a regional contingency plan; and (iii) development of a regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
4. Based on the approved Programme Document and Workplan and Budget for the 1997/1998 Biennium, the first meeting of the NOWPAP Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response was held in July 1997 in Toyama, Japan. During the First NOWPAP Forum Meeting, the interim Terms of Reference were adopted, and the initial tasks were agreed and assigned to the forum participants. The procedure for intersessional work was also agreed upon among the Forum participants.
5. The Second Meeting of NOWPAP Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response was held in April 1998 in Taejon, the Republic of Korea, and the progress on the intersessional work was reported and preliminary discussion was carried out on the regional contingency plan and the regional MOU.

6. The Third meeting was held in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russian Federation in July 1999, and reviewed the progress of the initial tasks agreed at the Second Forum, and specially discussed the contents and type of the draft NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan and regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

7. At the Third Meeting, the People's Republic of China offered to host the Fourth NOWPAP Forum Meeting and this offer was approved by the Forum members. The place and time of the meeting was fixed as in Qingdao in 15-18 May 2001 through the communication between the secretariat and host country during the intersessional period.

8. Prior to the meeting, on 14 May 2001, a field demonstration on marine oil spill response equipment, crude oil terminal and others was carried out at the Huangdao Oil Terminal near the Jiaozhou Bay by the Shandong Maritime Safety Administration and Qingdao Port Authority, People's Republic of China.

9. Representatives of the States in the Northwest Pacific region, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as Japan, China, Korea and Russia respectively) participated in the meeting. The representatives of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MER/RAC) acted as secretariat for the Forum. The observers from relevant government agencies of NOWPAP member States were also represented. The Technical Expert of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) also attended the meeting. A full list of participants is attached in ANNEX I to the present report.

10. This report is the record of the deliberations at the Fourth Meeting of NOWPAP Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

11. The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. in Qingdao on 15 May 2001 by Mr. Vladimir Karev, Chairman of the Third Forum Meeting. He acted as Chairman until the election of the Chairman of the present meeting.

12. Mr. Jiang Yong, Director General of Shandong Maritime Safety Administration, on behalf of Shandong Maritime Safety Administration, People's Republic of China, welcomed the participants from UNEP, IMO, MER/RAC, the NOWPAP member States and REMPEC to Qingdao. He stressed that they performed successfully their joint field exercise last year in China and expressed his hope to strengthen the international and regional cooperation with neighbouring member States.

13. Subsequently, Mr. Elik Adler, Regional Seas Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of Mr. Klaus Topfer, Executive Director of UNEP and Mr. Jorge Illueca, Director of the Division of Environmental Conventions of UNEP, extended a warm welcome to all the participants and expressed his thanks to the MSA of the People's Republic of China for hosting the Fourth Meeting of NOWPAP Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response. He pointed out the great importance that UNEP has given to the implementation of NOWPAP, and emphasized his intention to facilitate the implementation of NOWPAP by assisting the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and establishing Regional Activity Centres (RACs). He welcomed the establishment of NOWPAP MER/RAC in Taejon, Republic of Korea, and expressed his hope for the successful activities of MER/RAC. He also mentioned the important results from the Third Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Monaco, November 2000), hoping that NOWPAP will participate to the next meeting.

14. Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos, Senior Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO), on behalf of Mr. William O'Neil, Secretary General of IMO, welcomed all the participants to this NOWPAP Forum Meeting and thanked the Chinese Government for its generous hospitality. In his remarks, he said that it was important that international cooperation and mutual assistance be organized in case of major accidents that require resources beyond the national capabilities. This Forum Meeting is an important step towards establishing a mechanism for preparedness, response and cooperation in the NOWPAP region, noting the establishment of MER/RAC and the IMO policy under OPRC 90 Convention.

15. Mr. Liu Shi, Deputy Director General of Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China, welcomed all the participants to Qingdao. He mentioned the Chinese National Contingency Plan, and emphasized the necessity of cooperation with other NOWPAP member States and assistance of UNEP and IMO. He described the current state of the development and implementation of environment prevention activities in China. He expressed his best wishes for a successful and fruitful meeting and declared the meeting officially opened.

16. The representative of Japan thanked the Chinese Government for its kind hospitality and for hosting this meeting, and UNEP, IMO and MER/RAC for their kind supports, hoping that meeting will be fruitful and successful.

17. The representative of Russia expressed his thanks to the Chinese Government, IMO and UNEP for their assistance to the NOWPAP/4 meeting.

18. The representative of Chinese Government expressed many thanks to UNEP, IMO, MER/RAC and REMPEC and member States for their efforts for the organization of the meeting.

19. The representative of Korea delivered his thanks to the host country, UNEP and IMO and also made a statement regarding the ratification by Korea of the OPRC 90 Convention, in November 1999, and regarding the establishment of MER/RAC.

20. Mr. Chang-Gu Kang, Director of MER/RAC, expressed his great thanks to the Chinese Government for hosting the meeting. He noted that MER/RAC had been established in Taejon Korea in 22 March 2000 with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by UNEP, IMO and KRISO/KORDI concerning the MER/RAC. He expressed his appreciation for the valuable support and advice from NOWPAP member States, UNEP and IMO, and expressed his willingness to carry out the mission of MER/RAC.

Agenda item 2. Organization of the meeting

2.1 Election of the Officers

21. Following the suggestion of Mr. Karev, the meeting unanimously elected Mr. Zhi Guang Lu, the Head of the delegation of the host country, China, as its Chairman, and Mr. Sang Eun Lee, Head of the Korean delegation, as the Rapporteur.

2.2 Organization of work

22. The meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the rules of procedure for the Forum in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

23. The Director of MER/RAC, on behalf of the secretariat, presented a provisional list of documents, as reproduced in ANNEX II.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

24. The meeting adopted the Agenda (ANNEX III), as introduced by the Director of MER/RAC.

Agenda item 4. Overview of the progress made in the intersessional period after the Third Forum Meeting

25. The representative of UNEP presented the overall history of NOWPAP and major results of the last Intergovernmental Meetings, held during the intersessional period after the third Forum meeting. He emphasized the role of the Regional Activity Centres in the implementation of NOWPAP. He also stressed the importance of the establishment of a Regional Co-ordinating Unit for NOWPAP for facilitating the implementation of regional activities.

26. Mr. Karev, Chairman of the Third Forum Meeting, reported on the progress made on the initial tasks agreed at the Third Forum Meeting.

Agenda item 5. Review of the progress made for each of the initial tasks agreed at the Third Forum Meeting, and identification of continuous work

27. The meeting reviewed the progress made in each of the initial tasks and identified the need for continuous work. The meeting agreed to discuss the task related to the draft NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan under Agenda item 8.

5.1. Focal Points

28. The representative of IMO presented document UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/5 and the meeting took note of the report.

29. The representative of Japan informed the meeting that changes in the governmental structures took place in Japan, and revised information on the focal points in line with the new structure would be submitted to MER/RAC as soon as possible.

30. The representative of UNEP, mentioned that NOWPAP MER/RAC Focal Points have been officially nominated during the intersessional period, and recalled that UNEP did not receive as yet an official letter of nomination from Russia.

31. Following the suggestion by the Chairman, the meeting agreed that the member States should review and correct the list of their focal points, and inform MER/RAC accordingly.

32. China provided the secretariat with the revised list of its Focal Points.

5.2. Information system

33. The representative of Japan introduced the report on the information system (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/6) made during the intersessional period and recommended that MER/RAC should keep the list up-to-date. The Director of MER/RAC thanked Japan for the work done on compiling the data.

34. The representative of Korea informed the meeting that Korea Marine Pollution Response Corp. would join the correspondence group for the information system. He also suggested that the information system on experts in the NOWPAP region should be updated during the next intersessional period, including the personal contacts of expert in the list.

35. Following discussions, the meeting agreed that the relevant information should be put in an annex to the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan, and that the future work should be carried out by MER/RAC.

5.3. Joint training and exercises

36. The Korean representative introduced document UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/7. He indicated that IMO model training courses were currently being modified or adapted to the Region. The member States were requested to submit Information on training facilities and planned and/or existing joint training courses to the lead country.

37. The delegations of Japan and China provided information regarding exercises to be held in their respective countries.

38. Russia informed the meeting about joint exercises carried out during the last two years in the Baltic Sea and the Barents Sea regions respectively.

39. Following the suggestion by the representative of UNEP the meeting agreed to establish a database on exercises and training. The Director of MER/RAC informed the meeting that the Centre would develop a questionnaire on joint exercises and training.

40. The representative of IMO suggested that observers should be invited to important national and bilateral exercises and training activities from other NOWPAP countries that were not directly involved. He added that IMO would continue to provide MER/RAC with training materials.

5.4. Identification of sources of existing data on fate and effects of oil pollution

41. China submitted the report on oil spill incidents recorded in the region.

5.5. Information on existing and planned environmental sensitivity maps

42. Japan introduced document UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/9 regarding ESI maps and suggested that information contained in the report should be continuously updated. The Japanese delegation also invited other countries to present their developed ESI maps.

43. The delegations of Japan and Korea made presentations of their respective sensitivity mapping projects.

44. The representative of Russia stated that they were also developing ESI maps and that Russia would provide a description of the results of these activities.

45. The meeting agreed that the regional activities in this field should be further developed.

5.6. Existing and planned oil spill prediction models

46. Korea presented a report on the standard input format to the oil spill prediction model (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/10). It recommended that MER/RAC with member States should develop in the next two years an integrated oil spill prediction model covering the whole NOWPAP region.

47. The meeting agreed that the regional activities related to oil spill modelling should be continued.

5.7. Oil dispersants

48. Russia informed the meeting that the report on this task could not be submitted, since no information was received from member States. However, it was indicated that regulations and manual on use of oil dispersants were currently under preparation in their country.

49. Korea indicated that the regulations and the guidelines on the use of oil dispersant in their country are under preparation and would be submitted to MER/RAC after completion.

50. China informed the meeting that their regulations and guidelines on the use of oil dispersants have been developed as national standards in April of last year.

51. Japan stated that the national regulations on the use of oil dispersants had been already submitted before the Third Forum Meeting to the lead country.

52. The representative of IMO suggested that this issue should be addressed at the regional level in the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan, and that IMO/UNEP guidelines on the use of oil dispersants should be used for reference.

5.8. Bioremediation and other clean-up technologies

53. The representative of IMO informed the meeting that OPRC Working Group was currently preparing guidelines on bioremediation. The final draft was expected to be completed by the end of July 2001. He also indicated that the Third R and D Forum would be held in Brest, France in March 2002, and would focus on dealing with the spills of heavy fuel oil. He encouraged the NOWPAP member States to attend the next R and D Forum and to present the results of work carried out in their respective countries.

54. The representative of Korea presented the results of research on the development of bioremediation in Korea (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/12).

Agenda item 6. Designation of MER/RAC Focal Points

55. The representative of UNEP emphasized the need for more efficient structure of NOWPAP to facilitate the implementation of its designated functions. He suggested that most MER/RAC activities would be concentrated in Taejon: the focal points meeting around May and the interim meetings of experts around October. However, member States were encouraged to host regional activities such as meetings of experts, workshops, training and exercises in their respective countries. In this regard he also suggested that the meeting might wish to consider modifying the name of the future meetings into the "Meeting of MER/RAC Focal Points".

56. Upon the request of UNEP, the Director of MER/RAC circulated the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the National Focal Points Meeting for MER/RAC, which were made on the basis of the existing ToR of the Forum. He kindly requested to member States to review them and to submit their remarks to the secretariat before the end of the meeting.

57. China, Korea and Russia expressed their agreement with the UNEP's proposal, while Japan agreed in principle but requested more time for definite conclusion

Agenda item 7. Overview of the present regional cooperation system in marine pollution preparedness and response in the Mediterranean Sea region

58. Mr. Darko Domovic, Technical Expert of REMPEC, presented the regional co-operation system in the Mediterranean Sea region. He explained the history and scope of the Mediterranean Action Plan, its structure and components. In particular the representative of REMPEC presented the legal framework of the MAP, including the Barcelona Convention and its Emergency Protocol. He informed the meeting of the role, objectives, functions and activities of REMPEC, with an emphasis on activities related to the development of subregional systems for preparedness and response in the Mediterranean region, including relevant contingency plans.

59. The meeting took note of the information presented by REMPEC.

Agenda item 8. Discussion on the draft NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan

60. The report on the initial task on the NOWPAP Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation Plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/3) was reported by the Director of MER/RAC.

61. IMO provided clarification on the nature of the NOWPAP regional contingency plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/4), which was revised by an IMO consultant (Mr. Chris Harris) based on the comments provided at the Third Forum Meeting. He stressed especially that a regional contingency plan is not a treaty instrument. It is only a document establishing operational procedures for facilitating co-operation between countries when dealing with a major oil spill. He also mentioned that the commitment referred to in the regional contingency plan already exists under the OPRC 90 Convention.

62. UNEP suggested that the current meeting should discuss the principle of NOWPAP regional contingency plan, including main issues and items such as customs and immigration procedures, without entering into technical details, because an Expert Meeting would be organized to examine the draft Plan in depth. He also recommended the timetable for the finalization of the NOWPAP regional contingency plan: 1) distribution of new version by end of June 2001, 2) Expert meeting in October 2001, 3) approval by the next Forum in May 2002 and 4) final adoption by Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP in late 2002.

63. China and Korea expressed their consents with UNEP's proposal regarding timetable and activities. Russia supported the view of IMO, noting that the regional contingency plan is not a treaty instrument but an operational document. Russia accepted generally the proposal and indicated that this draft needed improvement.

64. Japan expressed its concern on the time schedule and this target should be considered flexible, stressing that enough discussion between member States is necessary.

65. Japan stated that three aspects concerning the draft regional contingency plan should be principally discussed and agreed upon:

- a) the legal character of the draft NOWPAP regional contingency plan,
- b) to which extend the NOWPAP regional contingency plan would interfere with national law and system,
- c) relationship between the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the NOWPAP regional contingency plan.

66. In reply to Japan, it was explained and understood that:

- a) the Regional contingency plan is not intended to be an international legally binding treaty but an operational technical document,
- b) although the regional contingency plan will contain some binding commitments those commitments should not be beyond the commitments already existing under the OPRC 90 Convention and national law,

- c) a MOU will be the way for: the confirmation of the political will of the countries to develop regional cooperation; to formally adopt the regional contingency plan; and, to agree to implement in case of joint operation the operational procedure set-up in the Plan.

67. The representative of Japan asked whether other countries have problem in harmonizing their respective national system with the proposed structure of the NOWPAP contingency plan.

68. The Delegate of Korea stated that Korea understood the concern of Japan regarding the possible consequences of the Regional Contingency Plan and of an MOU on the Japanese law and on their system of preparedness and response. He underlined that for an effective cooperation it was important to understand and take into account internal situation of each member State. However, he stated that Korea was of the view that the NOWPAP States should adopt instruments which should express the firm commitments of the States to cooperate together in case of major oil pollution and they should plan properly for such cooperation to be efficient. Those instruments shall reflect the commitments the States already had under the OPRC Convention and their own national legislations.

69. The meeting considered the draft Regional Contingency Plan chapter by chapter. The main issues discussed by the participants are summarized as follows :

a) table of contents

- It was suggested to add a section on initial warning system in chapter 5 and a section on movement of personnel and equipment from one country to another in chapter 6.
- It was also suggested to remove from the list of annexes the Annex containing the map indicating the geographical coverage and area of responsibility.

b) Chapter 1 : Introduction

- Japan suggested that at this stage the reference to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a member State should be removed.
- Japan stated that it would be more appropriate to avoid the definition of "area of responsibility".
- It was suggested to insert in the section 1.6 "definitions" full and comprehensive definitions of the terms listed on page 7 of the draft document.

c) Chapter 2 : Policy and responsibility

- With a view to take into account the Japanese system of preparedness and response it was suggested to refer to national authorities and not only to a national authority with regard to the authority which shall be designated under section 2.2.
- The paragraphs concerning “official holders” should be simplified.
- The meeting discussed and agreed that MER/RAC should act as the secretariat of the Plan.
- The meeting also agreed that, at a later stage, the ToR of MER/RAC should be amended to reflect this responsibility. However, according to the present ToR that was a task the Forum could decide to give to the RAC.

d) Chapter 3 : Response elements and planning

- The representative of Japan explained that due to their organization they had some difficulties with the present wording used in the section related to the National On-Scene Commander (NOSC) / Supreme On-Scene Commander (SOSC) and the section related to the “command structure”. He suggested that drafting improvements should be considered.

e) Chapter 4 : Response operations

- No substantial comments were made on this chapter.

f) Chapter 5 : Report and communication

- The representative of Russia proposed to insert a new paragraph on “initial warning system” and he provided a text to that effect.

g) Chapter 6 : Administration, logistics and funding

- The representative of Japan referring to the paragraphs : 6.3 customs and immigration procedure, 6.4 overflight and navigational procedure, 6.6 medical insurance and medical assistance and 6.7 responsibility for injury and damage, stated that due to the possible implication of these paragraphs on the national legislation these should be studied carefully and might need drafting improvements.
- The representative of Russia proposed to add a paragraph on the movement of personnel and equipment from one country to another and suggested that the question of responsibility of a “vessel” in case of injury and damage when going to or leaving a site should also be considered in paragraph 6.7.

h) Chapter 7: Public information

- It has been agreed to change the phrase “public information” to “public relation”.

70. Several additional editorial changes were proposed, which will be taken into account by the Secretariat (IMO) when revising the draft.

71. The meeting agreed that comments and proposed amendments to the text should be sent to IMO and MER/RAC as soon as possible, with a view to enabling the preparation of the revised version of the draft Regional Contingency Plan which will incorporate the comments made and received and which will be circulated in the beginning of July, 2001.

72. The representative of UNEP proposed to change the present title of the original contingency plan. After discussion, the meeting agreed on a new title : “NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan”.

Agenda item 9. Discussion on the regional Memorandum of Understanding

73. The Director of MER/RAC presented the historical background of the development of a Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and recalled the proposals made by Korea and Japan at the last Forum meetings.

74. With reference to the proposed draft MOUs submitted by Korea and by Japan at the last Forum Meeting and to the report of the informal meeting held in Toyama in 1998, the representative of IMO stressed that an instrument, which could be an MOU, is needed for formally establishing the regional cooperation between NOWPAP member States in accordance with OPRC 90 Convention, and for officially adopting the Regional Contingency Plan. He also re-emphasized that such MOU should recall the main obligations the countries already had under the OPRC 90 Convention and which were relevant to the regional cooperation. The MOU should also specify that when the countries are cooperating in case of major pollution incidents they will act according to the principles set out in the Regional Plan adopted by the signing of this MOU. The representative of IMO pointed out that the proposals from Japan and Korea already contained some provisions of the OPRC 90 Convention.

75. The representative of Russia offered to distribute a copy of the draft Black Sea Agreement as an example of the MOU to be developed in the NOWPAP region. He also recalled that the MOUs of Paris and Tokyo concerning the Port State Control, were signed by maritime authorities.

76. The representative of China supported the preparation of a MOU for implementing the

regional contingency plan. Korea stated that a MOU is a more appropriate form than an arrangement for an interstate co-operative instrument and the legal nature of a MOU is not significant.

77. The representative of Japan mentioned that his country could not accept a legally binding document for the MOU.

78. After the discussion, the meeting agreed that:

- a) IMO will prepare a single draft MOU by the beginning of July, 2001, using the two existing draft documents submitted by Korea and Japan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/WG10/Inf.7, UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/WG.14/8) and taking into account the comments made by the member States,
- b) the draft will be presented at the Expert Meeting scheduled in October 2001 after circulation to member States, and
- c) the MOU will be submitted to the Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP in 2002 for final approval.

79. Japan reiterated its concern on the time schedule and this target which should be considered flexible, stressing that enough discussion between member States was necessary.

Agenda item 10. Discussion on the action to be taken for finalizing the Draft NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan and developing a Regional MOU including the possible establishment of an Expert Advisory Group meeting and identification of additional tasks for the Forum

80. The Director of MER/RAC made a presentation on the proposed plan on the organization of the Expert Meeting to be held in October 2001, noting its purpose, organization, and financial arrangement (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/13).

81. Following informal consultations, the representative of UNEP suggested that this Expert Meeting should be held in October in Japan subject to the confirmation and invitation of the government of Japan. He further asked Japan to confirm such invitation for hosting the meeting within a month time and suggested that the alternative could be the organization of the meeting in MER/RAC. The representative of Japan replied that Japan would inform within a month whether it will host the meeting or not.

Agenda item 11. Report of the Director of MER/RAC on its activities in 2000 and 2001

82. The Director of MER/RAC presented the major activities in 2000 and 2001 of MER/RAC established on 22 March 2000 (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/14).

83. Mr. Seong-Gil Kang, Senior Consultant, MER/RAC, presented NOWPAP MER/RAC homepage currently being developed (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/15). The member States were kindly requested to translate some specified items into their own languages. MER/RAC noted that certain information should be protected by the Password System. MER/RAC will identify relevant sections in the proposed homepage and will send the English version to the Focal Point for translation.

84. The meeting agreed with the proposal made by MER/RAC.

Agenda item 12. Review of the proposed workplan and budget for the 2002/2003 biennium of NOWPAP/4 and its recommendation to the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP

85. The Director of MER/RAC made a presentation on the draft workplan and budget for the 2002/2003 (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/16). Following a discussion on this issue the original draft workplan and budget were modified in order to reflect the suggestion made by member States and Secretariats. Modified and agreed upon workplan and budget are presented in Annex IV and V to this report.

86. Following a question by Japan, the Director of MER/RAC explained that the participation of D.P.R. Korea to the meeting was encouraged in previous Intergovernmental and Forum Meetings, and provisions for this decision were made in the budget.

Agenda item 13. Arrangement of intersessional work and venues and dates of the Fifth Forum Meeting

87. Following the introduction and presentation of the Director of MER/RAC, the meeting decided to organize the intersessional work as described in document UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP WG.15/17, as attached in Annex VI.

88. The meeting agreed to hold the next meeting of MER/RAC Focal Points in May 2002 in MER/RAC, Taejon.

Agenda item 14. Other matters

89. The meeting agreed to change the name of the Forum into "NOWPAP MER/RAC Focal Points Meeting".

90. IMO informed the meeting that the third R and D Forum on high-density oil spill response is to be held in March to 2002 in Brest France. Information on the R and D Forum are available on the IMO homepage. And NOWPAP member States are invited to participate in the R and D Forum. He also inform the meeting that IMO and UNEP will organize a conference end of 2002 in London on regional cooperation on preparedness and response to which secretariat center of regional agreement will be invited to participate. The aim of this conference will be to share experiences.

91. The participants watched the videotape presented by Russia regarding oil pollution exercise in Baltic Sea.

92. Mr. Chan-Yeon Cho, an observer from Korea Marine Pollution Response Corporation (KMPRC), made a presentation on the computer program of Oil Spill Information System.

93. Japan proposed that the possibility be considered of extending the coverage of the NOWPAP area in the context of the Regional Contingency Plan to the east part of the Sakhalinsk where the major oil production project is started recently.

94. The Representative of REMPEC extended the invitation to NOWPAP member States to attend specialized regional training activities organized by REMPEC in the Mediterranean, indicating that in each course found interesting by NOWPAP countries, REMPEC could accommodate several trainees from NOWPAP region. He emphasized that, although the possible participation of such guest trainees would be free of charge, REMPEC could not bear their travel and DSA expenses and that these should be financed from either NOWPAP or other sources. He suggested that REMPEC would regularly inform MER/RAC of such training activities.

Agenda item 15. Adoption of the report of the meeting

95. The Rapporteur presented the draft report of the meeting together with its annexes.

96. The report was adopted by the Forum as the record of its deliberations.

Agenda item 16. Closure of the meeting

97. Representatives of MER/RAC, UNEP, IMO, REMPEC and member States thanked the People's Republic of China for its warmly welcoming and arrangement for the meeting. All the

delegates thanked the Chairman for his excellent organization of the meeting and appreciated assistance provided by UNEP, IMO and MER/RAC.

98. The representative of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Chi Shaung Long, made a closing statement, thanking UNEP, IMO, MER/RAC and participants for achieving the objectives of the Forum.

99. The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 11:35 hrs on 18 May 2001.

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- Annex IV** Timetable of the Activities of MER/RAC for the 2002/2003 Biennium
- Annex V** Proposed Budget for the 2002/2003 Biennium for MER/RAC Activities
- Annex VI** Existing Initial Tasks, Required Actions and Lead Country/Agency

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Annex I**List of Participants to the 4th Meeting of NOWPAP Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (15-18 May, Qingdao, People's Republic of China)****Japan****Mr. Masaya OKUYAMA**

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Annex II**List of Documents for the Fourth Forum Meeting**

UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/WG.15/2/INF1	List of Documents
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/2/1	Time Schedule
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/3	Report on the NOWPAP Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plan (NOWPAP/OPRC Plan)
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/4	The draft NOWPAP Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plan (NOWPAP/OPRC Plan)
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/5	National Focal Points for Oil Spill
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/6	Report on the Information System on Equipment and Experts in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/7	Report on Joint Training and Exercise
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/8	Report on the Identification of Source of Existing Data on Fate and Effects of Oil Spill within the NOWPAP States
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/9	Report on the Available Information on Existing and Planed Environmental Sensitivity Index maps and Related Information on Coastal and Marine Resources

UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/10	Report on the Oil Spill Prediction Model
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/11	Report on the Oil Dispersant
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/12	Bioremediation and other Oil Spill Clean-up Technologies
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/13	Proposed Plan on Organization of the “Expert Advisory Group Meeting” on NOWPAP Contingency Plan and Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/14	Report on the Activities of MER/RAC in the 2000/2001 Biennium
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/15	Activities of MER/RAC on Development of NOWPAP/4 Homepage and Publication of MER/RAC Newsletter
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/16	Proposed Activities for the 2002/2003 Biennium of NOWPAP/4
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/17	Arrangements of the existing initial tasks and identification of additional tasks for intersessional work
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/18	Report on the overall progress made on the initial tasks during intersessional period after the third forum meeting
UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/WG.15/19	Report of the meeting

Annex III

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organization of the meeting
 - 2.1. Election of the officers
 - 2.2. Organization of work
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Overview of the progress made in the intersessional period after the Third Forum Meeting
 - 4.1. Report of the Representative of UNEP on the results of Fifth and Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP
 - 4.2. Report of the Chairperson of the Third Forum Meeting on overall progress made on the tasks agreed upon at the Third Forum Meeting
5. Review of the progress made for each of the initial tasks agreed at the Third Forum Meeting, and identification of continuous work
 - 5.1. Focal Points
 - 5.2. Information system
 - 5.3. Joint training and exercises
 - 5.4. Identification of sources of existing data on fate and effects of oil pollution
 - 5.5. Information on existing and planned environmental sensitivity maps
 - 5.6. Existing and planned oil spill prediction model
 - 5.7. Oil dispersant
 - 5.8. Bioremediation and other clean-up technologies
6. Designation of MER/RAC Focal Points
7. Overview of the present regional cooperation system in marine pollution preparedness and response in the Mediterranean Region
8. Discussion on the draft NOWPAP regional contingency plan
9. Discussion on the regional Memorandum of Understanding
10. Discussion on action to be taken for finalizing the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan and developing a regional MOU including the possible establishment of an 'Expert Advisory Group Meeting' and identification of additional tasks of the Forum

11. Report of the Director of MER/RAC on its activities in 2000 and 2001
 - 11.1. Report of the Director of MER/RAC on its activities in 2000 and 2001
 - 11.2. Report on the development of a NOWPAP/4 home page and publication of NOWPAP Newsletter
12. Review of the proposed workplan and budget of MER/RAC for the 2002/2003 biennium and its recommendation to the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP
13. Arrangement of intersessional work and venues and dates of the Fifth Forum Meeting
14. Other matters
15. Adoption of the report of the meeting
16. Closure of the meeting

Annex IV

Timetable of the Activities of MER/RAC for the 2002/2003 Biennium

Date	Activities	Responsible Organizations
Jan.-Apr. 2002	Intersessional Work after the Fourth Forum Meeting	MER/RAC, Lead Country/Agency
May 2002	Fifth NOWPAP MER/RAC Focal Points Meeting	MER/RAC, UNEP, IMO
Jun. 2002- Apr. 2003	Intersessional Work	MER/RAC, Lead Country/Agency
Oct. 2002	Expert Meeting	MER/RAC, IMO, UNEP
May 2003	Sixth NOWPAP MER/RAC Focal Points Meeting	MER/RAC, UNEP, IMO
Jun.-Dec. 2003	Intersessional Work	MER/RAC Lead Country/Agency
Oct. 2003	Expert Meeting	MER/RAC, UNEP, IMO

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Annex V

Proposed Budget for the 2002/2003 Biennium for MER/RAC Activities

Activities	2002 Budget (US\$)	2003 Budget (US\$)	Total Budget (US\$)
1. Focal Points Meeting	35,000	35,000	70,000
2. Expert Meeting	35,000	35,000	70,000
3. Oil Spill Prediction Model (Lead country: Korea)	20,000		20,000
4. Sensitivity Map (Lead country: Japan)	20,000		20,000
5. Oil Dispersant (Lead country: Russia)	20,000		20,000
6. Shoreline Clean-Up and Bioremediation (Lead country: China)	20,000		20,000
7. Coordination with IMO/UNEP and Regional Seas	10,000	10,000	20,000
8. Publications	5,000	5,000	10,000
9. Consultancy	10,000	10,000	20,000
Total	135,000	135,000	270,000

- 1) Budgets for the meetings and activities is for two participants from each country except for the host country and may include participation of D.P.R. Korea

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Annex VI

Existing Initial Tasks, Required Actions and Lead Country/Agency

Initial Tasks	Required Actions	Lead Country / Agency
1. NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and MoU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of draft - Convening of Group of Expert Meeting - Preparation of second draft and review of Focal Points Meeting 	IMO & MER/RAC
2. Focal Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Routine update - Periodic review by Focal Points Meeting 	MER/RAC
3. Information System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalization of collection of information - Classification and management of information 	MER/RAC
4. Joint Training & Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of proposal for Regional training & exercise programme - Review and adoption of programme by Focal Points Meeting 	Korea
5. Fate and Effects of Oil Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of data on pollution incidents in the region - Review by Focal Points Meetings 	MER/RAC
6. Sensitivity Maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of special group of national experts - Development of regional programme - Review and adoption of programme by Focal Points Meeting 	Japan
7. Oil Spill Prediction Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of special group of national experts - Development of regional programme - Review and adoption of programme by Focal Points Meeting 	Korea
8. Oil Dispersant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of special group of national experts - Development of regional programme - Review and adoption of programme by Focal Points Meeting 	Russia
9. Shoreline Clean-Up and Bioremediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of special group of national experts - Development of regional programme - Review and adoption of programme by Focal Points Meeting 	China

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