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Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Jeju, Republic of Korea
20-21 October 2008

Report of the Meeting

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Introduction

1. The First Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held on 14 September 1994 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP). The Second IGM (20 November 1996, Tokyo, Japan) approved the geographic scope of the Action Plan as well as a tentative scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for 1997. The Fourth IGM (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, People's Republic of China) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centres (RACs). The Fifth IGM (29-30 March 2000, Incheon, Republic of Korea) adopted a procedure for the establishment of the NOWPAP RCU as well as its Terms of Reference (TOR). The Sixth IGM (5-6 December 2000, Tokyo, Japan) decided to develop and implement a new activity, NOWPAP/7, on the "Assessment and Management of Land-Based Activities" within the NOWPAP programme of work. The Seventh IGM (20-22 March 2002, Vladivostok, Russian Federation) requested the Directors of the RACs and UNEP to establish the appropriate fora of National Focal Points for each of the RACs. All NOWPAP RACs established their Focal Points Meetings during 2002-2003. The Eighth IGM (5-7 November 2003, Sanya, People's Republic of China) approved the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Regional Cooperation on Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region and the related Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (RCP). The Eighth IGM also approved the TOR for each of the RAC Focal Point Meetings. The Ninth IGM (2-4 November 2004, Busan, Republic of Korea) decided to develop a project to deal with marine litter. The Ninth IGM also agreed to hold an Intersessional Workshop around mid-2005 in the Republic of Korea to discuss new directions of work of NOWPAP RACs, the marine litter project and the increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

2. Since the inception of NOWPAP, the member states have acknowledged the importance of setting up a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) as a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of the Action Plan. In Resolution 2 of the Sixth IGM, the NOWPAP member states decided to accept the offers of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to co-host a RCU in Toyama, Japan and Busan, the Republic of Korea, respectively. Following the request of the NOWPAP member states, UNEP has recruited six staff members for the RCU. The RCU offices were inaugurated on the 1st and 2nd November 2004 in Toyama and Busan, respectively.

3. The Tenth IGM (24-26 November 2004, Toyama, Japan) decided to start the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region, to expand the geographical coverage of the NOWPAP Oil Spill Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and to initiate new directions of work for the NOWPAP RACs. The Eleventh IGM (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, Russian Federation) decided to carry out the evaluation of the performance of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) in 2007 in order to further enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. The meeting

approved the revised TOR for the NOWPAP RCU and the Focal Points Meetings of CEARAC, MERRAC and POMRAC, and also adopted the General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing to facilitate information exchange among the member states and related organizations. The Twelfth IGM (23-25 October 2007, Xiamen, People's Republic of China) agreed to undertake the rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between the RCU Toyama and Busan office between December 2008 and January 2009, taking into account Resolution 4 of the Seventh IGM. The Twelfth IGM also approved, in principle, the draft NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) and the draft text of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Contingency Plan.

4. Following the offer of the government of the Republic of Korea to host the Thirteenth NOWPAP IGM, the meeting was held on 20-21 October 2008 in Jeju.

5. This document is the record of the discussions and deliberations of the Thirteenth NOWPAP IGM.

6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the NOWPAP member states, namely the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The Directors of each of the four NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RAC) also attended. The representatives from UNEP Marine Ecosystem Unit and UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility; East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU); Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA); and the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Project attended as observers. The full list of participants is attached as Annex II to this report. The list of documents is attached as Annex III.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

7. The Thirteenth IGM was opened at 09:00 a.m. on Monday, 20 October 2008 in Jeju, the Republic of Korea, by Mr. Ruisheng Yue, Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China, the hosting state of the Twelfth IGM. He extended a warm welcome to all participants in this meeting.

8. On behalf of the hosting government, Mr. Haeryong Kwon, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea, welcomed all participants to the Thirteenth IGM and appreciated RCU for preparing the meeting. He stated that NOWPAP have made remarkable progress and evolved to become a solid cooperative framework for the marine environment protection in the Northwest Pacific region since its inception in 1994. He expressed his government's appreciation to the member states for their help in the wake of the "Hebei Spirit" oil spill accident in December 2007 when the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan was activated and coordinated through the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC). Addressing the usefulness of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan, he wished that the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan would be put into practice as soon as possible. He also mentioned that the NOWPAP Trust Fund shortfall should be dealt with

by sincere efforts for payment-on-time of pledges and increase of the contributions to the Trust Fund to meet its annual target amount of US\$ 500,000. Finally, regarding the current financial constraints of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, he stressed the importance of streamlining RACs activities to avoid duplication and any inefficiency.

9. Mr. Ruisheng Yue, on behalf of the People's Republic of China, expressed his special thanks to the Republic of Korea for hosting the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and to NOWPAP RCU for organizing the meeting. He stated that NOWPAP as one of the Regional Seas Programmes has been implemented to protect the marine and coastal environment with substantial support of UNEP and efforts of the member states. In recent years, many projects and activities have been made remarkable progress within the framework of NOWPAP due to active participation and common efforts of the member states, the effective work of RCU as well as substantial inputs of RACs. In particular, the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan were commended. He mentioned challenges that NOWPAP is facing to move ahead such as strengthening the cooperation between RACs under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Meeting and assistance from RCU, issues of future strategic planning of NOWPAP, financial support and resource mobilization, the NOWPAP GEF project proposal, and the optimization and effectiveness improvement of RACs activities.

10. Mr. Masayoshi Mizuno, the Head of Delegation of Japan, expressed his deep gratitude to the hospitality extended by the Korean government and to RCU for organizing the meeting. He mentioned that NOWPAP focused on conservation and management of our regional seas to enable the member states to cooperate and take actions in a harmonious way, which would not be achieved with just a single country's efforts. He also mentioned that four RACs, as a good foundation, contributed to NOWPAP operations. He reported several progresses regarding NOWPAP implementation made in his country: the Basic Act on Ocean Policy was enacted in 2007 and a consolidated system to tackle the ocean-related issues being in place since then; and a number of policy-oriented committees to deal with the marine litter problems were established with the participation of relevant ministries and agencies, politicians, local governments, NGOs and academia. At regional scale, he referred to the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan activated during the oil spill incident last year and immediate and well-coordinated support from the NOWPAP member states, including Japan, as an indication of good cooperation under the NOWPAP framework. He also mentioned that two International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaigns held in China and Russia last September as good examples of the enhancement of the NOWPAP collaborative network. He then pointed out the necessity of raising public awareness on the NOWPAP performance, and stressed that tangible outcomes that directly benefit our society should be achieved and widely disseminated to the public. He called upon the attention of other member states that this meeting would provide an opportunity for them to review NOWPAP activities and to prioritize actions to be taken in order to improve and strengthen the NOWPAP operations.

11. Ms. Natalia Tretiyakova, Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation extended her gratitude to the government of the Republic of Korea for organizing the meeting. Acknowledging the importance of the action plan for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific region, she emphasized the support and interest of successful activities of the NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity

Centre (POMRAC). She appreciated the successful cooperation carried out by the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC) through activation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan. She also mentioned that the Russian government was ready to provide oil sorbents at that time. Taking into account the 2012 forthcoming APEC Summit to be held in Vladivostok, the Russian government is emphasizing the significance of the current and future activities of NOWPAP. She also informed that the Russian government is in process to prepare the decision on fulfilment of the financial commitments together with related ministries, taking into account the administrative reform in 2008.

12. The opening statement of Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, was delivered by Dr. Ellik Adler, UNEP Marine Ecosystem Unit Coordinator. He stated that UNEP was going through significant transformation and the programme of work for the whole organization was being realigned along the six major sub-programmes, such as climate change, ecosystem management, environmental governance, disasters and conflict, harmful substances and hazardous waste, and resource efficiency. This realignment is result-oriented and is expecting to bring substantial benefit to countries, regions and global community. In particular to NOWPAP, he mentioned that UNEP envisions being able to provide more programmatic and administrative support to the Secretariat to implement regional prioritized activities within the framework of the UNEP Mid-Term Strategy. In this regard, he mentioned future NOWPAP activities (e.g., climate change and biodiversity conservation) and that UNEP would commit to supporting the region through NOWPAP, taking into account programmatic advantages outlined in its Mid-Term Strategy.

13. Mentioning the RCU performance review to be undertaken in 2009 and RACs evaluation carried out in 2007, he suggested the overall assessment of the NOWPAP action plan, including RACs, RCU and other elements and functions of the NOWPAP infrastructure to initiate the update of the action plan or take other steps considered necessary for the region. He also pointed out that the scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund has not been changed since 1994 and some member states have not paid their pledges for a long time, stressing that the main source of funding for NOWPAP is the contributions from the member states to the Trust Fund. He further stated that UNEP would be delighted to learn that the NOWPAP member states would lead the other Regional Seas Programmes in terms of providing their Secretariat and RACs with adequate financial and human resources to address environmental challenges in the region efficiently.

14. Dr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP Coordinator, expressed his sincere appreciation to the Korean government for hosting the meeting and welcomed all participants. He stressed that NOWPAP became well recognized by the relevant organizations, programmes and projects in the region. He addressed the three issues among other agenda items to be discussed at the meeting: the GEF project proposal, rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between the RCU Toyama and Busan office, and the sustainability of the NOWPAP Trust Fund. He further commented that the success of the NOWPAP activities exclusively depends on the support from the member states and the implementation of activities and projects could be only possible when the contributions from the member states to the Trust Fund are being paid in time.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2(a): Election of Officers

15. According to the NOWPAP practice, the Chairperson of the IGM would be the representative of the host state, the Rapporteur would be the representative of the member state to host the next IGM, and two Vice Chairpersons would be the representatives of the remaining two member states, respectively. The meeting agreed to elect the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Haeryong Kwon, Republic of Korea
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. Natalia Tretiyakova, Russian Federation
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Ruisheng Yue, People's Republic of China
Rapporteur:	Mr. Masayoshi Mizuno, Japan

Agenda Item 2(b): Organization of Work

16. It was agreed that the UNEP Governing Council's Rules of Procedures would be applied through the meeting as appropriate. Japan pointed out that Rule 48 of the proposed Rules of Procedures would be subject to the traditional NOWPAP's decision-making by consensus. Subject to the point raised by Japan, the IGM adopted the Rules of Procedures by consensus. The meeting conducted its business in plenary with English as the working language. As necessary, working groups would be formed to discuss specific issues.

Agenda Item 2(c): Adoption of Agenda

17. After considering the provisional agenda submitted by the Secretariat (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/1), The People's Republic of China requested that the issues related to HNS be discussed during the meeting. The meeting adopted the agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Agenda item 2: Organization of the meeting:
 - (a) Election of officers
 - (b) Organization of work
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda
 - (d) Presentation of credentials
3. Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan:
4. Reports of the implementation of NOWPAP programme of work during 2007-2008:
 - (a) CEARAC

- (b) DINRAC
 - (c) MERRAC
 - (d) POMRAC
5. Reports by NOWPAP member states and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation
 6. Proposal on methods and criteria for RCU evaluation
 7. Consultations on increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund
 8. New NOWPAP RAC activities in 2008-2009 and 2010-2011
 9. Preparation of the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting
 10. Other business
 - NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Contingency Plan
 - 11: Adoption of the report of the meeting
 - 12: Closure of the meeting

Agenda Item 2(d): Presentation of Credentials

18. The delegates of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation presented their credentials to the Secretariat. The credentials were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on Implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

19. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Alexander Tkalin, presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/3). He briefed on the progress of the four RACs with respect to their major outcomes achieved during 2007-2008 and mentioned that the detailed reports of the four RACs would be presented by the RAC Directors under Agenda Item 4.

20. In addition to specific projects carried out by the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs), he reported on activities being implemented and coordinated by the Regional

Coordinating Unit (RCU). NOWPAP RCU and RACs have continued to developing partnerships through co-organizing events (e.g., workshops and training courses), sharing information and coordinating related activities (on issues such as Harmful Algal Blooms, Remote Sensing, Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management) with East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU), North East Asian Regional-Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) and UNDP/GEF project on the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME). The Letters of Cooperation with YSLME and PEMSEA, respectively, were signed in 2007

21. According to NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy, he reported on NOWPAP efforts to raise public awareness: maintaining and updating homepages of NOWPAP and RACs; posting NOWPAP news on websites and in newsletters of partners; introducing NOWPAP activities on UNEP Headquarters, ROAP and GPA websites; putting NOWPAP publications on the website of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) online reference system; preparing and distributing of brochures, leaflets and posters on NOWPAP activities; attending relevant global and regional meetings writing articles for magazine, newspapers and newsletters; and providing lectures and presentations.

22. He reported, in accordance with NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy, on NOWPAP efforts on approaching external funding sources and providing RACs and Marine Litter Focal Points with relevant information. In response to NOWPAP RCU request, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme provided US\$ 20,000 to organize a workshop on NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in November 2007 and would also support financially (within US\$ 15,000) the performance review of NOWPAP RCU to be undertaken in 2009. The NOWPAP Marine Litter Monitoring, Prevention and Control Meeting and International Coastal Cleanup Campaign were held on 11-12 September in Dalian, People's Republic of China with the financial support from the Chinese government. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan provide an earmarked contribution of US\$ 54,240 to support the 2008 NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup and Training Workshop on 26-28 September in Vladivostok, Russian Federation.

23. He explained that according to Resolution 5 of the 12th NOWPAP IGM, the NOWPAP project proposal on "Addressing Land-based Activities that affect the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region" had to be submitted to the GEF for the pipeline entry in 2008, in consultation with the UNEP DGEF and the member states. Based on this Resolution, the project concept was finalized by RCU in consultation with UNEP DGEF, but the submission of the GEF project proposal was suspended following to the request from both Japan and the Republic of Korea in August 2008 for further discussion on the contents of the proposal among the member states. In this regard, he requested the member states to consider and discuss this issue at the meeting, based on the three options presented to the member states prior to the meeting through the circular e-mail.

24. Dr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP Coordinator, summarised three options regarding the currently developed GEF project proposal: (1) to scale down the project in the manner that co-financing from the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea would be either reduced or deleted, but that co-financing from the private sector in areas where the on-going activities address Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) hotspots would be considered; (2) to redraft the

proposal in a way that only China and Russia participate while Japan and Korea participate mostly through attending the meetings; and (3) to stop attempting to have a GEF project on PTS.

25. He reported that the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) that was, in principle, approved at the 12th IGM (October 2008) and further discussed at the special meeting (November 2008) has started to be implemented right after approval of all member states in March 2008. Since then, sectoral guidelines developed during the NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) were translated into Chinese and Korean, respectively, and distributed to the stakeholders and the general public. POMRAC would also translate some guidelines into Russian. The Regional Overview on Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region was updated and published in May 2008. The NOWPAP Marine Litter Monitoring, Prevention and Control Meeting and International Coastal Cleanup (11-12 September in Dalian, China) and NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup and Training Workshop (26-28 September in Vladivostok, Russia) were organized, with financial support from the People's Republic of China and Japan, respectively.

26. He mentioned that the rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between the RCU Toyama and Busan Office would be undertaken in December 2008, in accordance with Resolution 3 of the 12th IGM.

27. The NOWPAP Coordinator briefed the meeting on the financial arrangements for the implementation of NOWPAP and mentioned that this issue would be considered and discussed in-depth under Agenda Item 7 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/7).

28. The alternate head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea appreciated RCU and RACs efforts to implement resolutions adopted at the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting and activities carried out during 2007-2008. He urged that the member states to pay their Trust Fund contributions faithfully for the overall implementation of NOWPAP activities. He requested RCU to make every effort to rotate Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between the RCU Toyama and Busan office in early January 2009 without any delay.

29. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China congratulated on accomplishing achievements as agreed at the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting, for example, the approval of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and signing the letters of cooperation with PEMSEA and YSLME, respectively.

30. The Head of Delegation of Japan stressed the importance of public awareness to disseminate the information about NOWPAP operations, achievements and accumulated data and reports and encouraged RCU and RACs to exert more efforts to raise awareness effectively and widely among the public through the utilization of existing mechanisms.

31. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation appreciated RCU to prepare the report of Executive Director and requested RCU to provide more options related to the GEF project proposal.

32. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China pointed out that the currently prepared GEF project concept is in line with the GEF strategy in International Waters focal area strategy for the current GEF phase (July 2006-June 2010) and it was favourably reviewed by many under the GEF framework. The GEF project, in terms of external funding sources, would strengthen the NOWPAP capacity and infrastructure through the GEF support. He suggested considering three alternative options prepared by RCU.

33. Dr. Elik Adler, UNEP Marine Ecosystems Unit Coordinator, explained that many Regional Seas Programmes (e.g., Caribbean, Mediterranean and Black Sea) have benefited enormously from the development and implementation of the GEF projects. Since the UNEP Headquarters encourages the Regional Seas Programmes to develop the GEF projects, he requested Japan and the Republic of Korea to explain why they suggested holding or deferring the submission of the project at this later stage of the project development.

34. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura from the UNEP Division of the Global Environment Facility (DGEF) stated that, following Resolution 5 of the 12th NOWPAP IGMs, the NOWPAP GEF proposal was developed by RCU as a feasible project concept, in consultation between the DGEF, in line with the GEF Strategy in the International Waters focal area, based on the project concept earlier endorsed by the NOWPAP member states and accepted to enter into the GEF pipeline. The NOWPAP project concept was cleared by the UNEP Project Approval Group without substantial comments and UNEP has been encouraged to submit the concept any time. However, upon the request from both Japan and the Republic of Korea to discuss the matter further at the IGM-13 among member states, the prepared concept had not been submitted to the GEF. As a result, RCU in consultation with DGEF, prepared the three options based on comments provided by Japan and the Republic of Korea.

35. He highlighted two issues raised by Japan and the Republic of Korea; the use of RCU resources for the GEF project, and the provision of co-financing, particularly by non GEF eligible countries. Since the GEF project proposal was developed by UNEP to contribute to the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan itself, it is understood that the use of RCU resources is justifiable, and that the co-financing would be provided by the member states and the NOWPAP Trust Fund. It was suggested that commitment for co-financing be provided during the project preparation phase in considering all possible sources of co-financing. In particular, the enhanced level of co-financing is expected from the on-the-ground demonstration activities in Japan and the Republic of Korea, in order to share and transfer experiences, information and results on these demonstration activities among and between the member states for mutual learning and replication. He finally pointed out that the proposal went through a series of formal/informal discussion with the NOWPAP stakeholders and relevant GEF focal points, and urged the member states to resolve this issue as soon as possible to have access to GEF resources in supporting of the implementation of the Action Plan.

36. The Head of Delegation of Japan explained his government position that Japan was not ready to support the current GEF project proposal focusing on PTS which did not deem to be an urgent issue in the region, comparing with those priority activities such as marine litter and other activities that RACs have taken. He also stated that the scale of the project and financial contributions required for both Japan and the Republic of Korea under the current proposal

seemed to be unrealistic and unfeasible, and stressed that more careful consultation and coordination by the NOWPAP RCU and DGEF should be sought after. However, he also stated that Japan encouraged NOWPAP to explore potential external funding sources to support the subject proposal, when considering the severe budgetary constraints of the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

37. The alternate head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea pointed out that the contributions from the member states to the Trust Fund had not been fully met, not allowing co-financing for the GEF project and suggested that NOWPAP concentrate on the currently on-going projects unless the financial difficulties are resolved.

38. Dr. Ellik Adler mentioned that the GEF project proposal had been discussed and developed for a long time. He recognized that NOWPAP did not have any GEF project with the YSLME and PEMSEA being implemented outside the NOWPAP framework, and that the current NOWPAP activities are mostly supported by the Trust Fund. In this regard, he stressed that the GEF project was a good opportunity for NOWPAP to mobilize the external funding sources.

39. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China expressed his disappointment that even though the GEF project proposal has been developed by several rounds of discussions through the previous IGMs, it failed to be submitted to the GEF Secretariat. Mentioning the efforts paid by UNEP and RCU to prepare the documents required by GEF, he suggested the member states keep their national position in a constant manner and improve the internal communication within a country to facilitate NOWPAP activities effectively.

40. The Head of Delegation of Japan mentioned that in the preparation phase of the GEF project proposal, suggestion to develop a project on PTS did not originate from the member states but from UNEP. He expressed Japan's willingness to consider other possibilities regarding how to make GEF project proposal available to the NOWPAP region without focusing on PTS. He encouraged the member states to consider some other themes, which would be of importance to the region and suitable to GEF criteria.

41. The delegate of the Republic of Korea pointed out the priority and the budgetary issues of the currently developed GEF project proposal and suggested re-considering the possible submission of the project proposal in the future.

42. The meeting agreed to discuss the issue at a small group meeting.

43. Dr. Takehiro Nakamura later summarized the results of the small group meeting on the GEF project proposal. The meeting agreed that the NOWPAP efforts on the current proposal focusing on PTS should not be continued since the current concept would not be an integral part of the NOWPAP but that the member states may come back to the issue when the member states have a better understanding of the priority issues and have addressed outstanding financial issues.

44. On the Trust Fund issue, the alternate head of delegation of the Republic of Korea suggested including the status of earmarked contributions to the RCU operations made by Korea and Japan in a table in the report of the Executive Director from the next year which is necessary for the donor countries to prepare their annual contribution plan for the RCU operations. Regarding the recruitment of new P-3 level staff and current P4 and P5 staff, whose contract would be terminated some time in next year, he mentioned the transparency of the recruitment process. He also suggested that the member states be able to give their inputs in the RCU evaluation process, including their own evaluation and the overall performance of staff so as to ensure their excellence are recognized while improve inadequacy.

45. Dr. Ellik Adler mentioned unpaid pledges of the member state and informed that the UNEP Headquarters is aware of this issue and has taken appropriate actions. He also suggested Korea to consider providing a secondment to the Busan RCU office, taking into account the rotation of the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between the RCU Toyama and Busan office, in addition to generous financial contributions from both Japan and Korea for the RCU operations.

46. After a lengthy discussion, the meeting adopted the report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of NOWPAP for 2007-2008 as reflected in Resolution I attached in Annex I to the report of the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Reports of the implementation of NOWPAP programme of work during 2007-2008

Agenda Item 4(a): CEARAC

47. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Hidemasa Yamamoto presented the report on the activities of CEARAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/4/1) and the modified workplan and budget for CEARAC, as approved by the Sixth CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (6-8 March 2008, Toyama, Japan).

Agenda Item 4(b): DINRAC

48. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of DINRAC, Mr. Jianguo Wang, presented the report on the activities of DINRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/4/2) and the modified workplan and budget for DINRAC, as approved by the Seventh Focal Points Meeting (13-14 May 2008, Beijing, China).

Agenda Item 4(c): MERRAC

49. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of MERRAC, Dr. Seong-Gil Kang, presented the report on the activities of MERRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/4/3) and the modified workplan and budget of MERRAC, as approved by the Eleventh Focal Points Meeting (10-13 June 2008, Daejeon, Korea).

Agenda Item 4(d): POMRAC

50. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of POMRAC, Dr. Anatoly Kachur, presented the report on the activities of POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/4/4) and the modified workplan and budget of POMRAC, as approved by the Sixth Focal Points Meeting (17-19 June 2008, Yantai, China).

51. The delegates of Japan made comments on each RAC activities. For CEARAC, confirming the importance of Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) and Remote Sensing related activities and the assessment of nutrients, he commended the growing cooperation on CEARAC activities among the member states and its success to assess the status of the marine environment in the NOWPAP region. For POMRAC, regarding Working Group 1 and 2 and ICARAM activities, he suggested that POMRAC prepare a concrete roadmap and plans to achieve expected outcomes of each activity. For MERRAC, the delegate pointed out that MERRAC's main mandates is to deal with oil pollution, and that marine litter and other issues were recently added as new activities to be carried out by MERRAC. Since most of the MERRAC experts who attended the Focal Points Meeting were experts on oil and HNS pollution, and most of them were not aware of the issues related to marine litter and ballast water, which was suggested by MERRAC, he recommended that careful consideration on the focal points' expertise and capability be made before initiating new activities.

52. The Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China suggested that the member states and other RACs continuously support DINRAC to provide and share data and information on the marine environment. He also suggested considering the way of optimizing RACs activities to improve efficiency. For example, each RAC has two or three meetings a year and invites representatives of other RACs to the meeting. As a result, significant financial resources are spent for this practice.

53. The Head of Delegation of Japan supported the Chinese comments to improve financial efficiency of RACs activities. Regarding the current budgetary situation of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, he stressed the importance of utilizing the limited budget in a most efficient manner and suggested prioritizing activities of each RAC. He also suggested that member states need to carefully analyze the proposed work plans by RACs and evaluate the outcomes of such plans in order to ensure the quality of the work of RACs. He also recommended that Intergovernmental Meetings be utilized as the best opportunity for the four member states to have in-depth discussions on review and evaluation on RACs activities and that a certain amount of time be spent on such discussions in the future Intergovernmental Meetings.

54. Dr. Elik Adler briefed the meeting on the historical background of the establishment of the four NOWPAP RACs with consideration of their activity-based capacity. He recommended re-considering each RAC activities and setting a strategic programme on identified priorities for the region, taking into account the results of the RAC evaluation carried out in 2007. He also suggested considering the overall evaluation of NOWPAP action plan with respect to function rather than structure.

55. The delegate of the Republic of Korea believed that each RAC has its own reasonable scope to operate effectively. While NOWPAP is still in the evolving process, it is too early to start focusing on very limited priorities but this issue should be discussed on the short-, mid- and long-term basis within the scope of each RAC.

56. The Head Delegation of the Russian Federation stated that each RAC activity is effective. Furthermore, RACs have their own agreed Terms of Reference and their activities were evaluated during the intersessional period. She deemed it to be little premature to evaluate RAC activities again at this stage. She also mentioned that the RAC reports contain technical issues and detailed technical discussions should be covered at the expert level, in particular due the limited time available to the Intergovernmental Meeting.

57. Upon the suggestions of the Chairman, the meeting agreed to discuss Agenda Item 8 on new RAC activities in 2008-2009 and 2010-2011, immediately after Agenda Item 4.

58. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator explained new activities of NOWPAP RACs for 2008-2011 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/8) since the Tenth IGM approved RACs activities for 2006-2007 only. Due to limited time, he suggested adopting new activities for RACs guidance in principle and further discussing at the next Intergovernmental Meeting, if necessary. He also suggested having the next IGM during 3-days period for in-depth discussion on each agenda item, including RACs report.

59. The Head of Delegation of Japan suggested elaborating future plans of RACs activities, on the basis of thorough evaluation and assessment on current activities. He recommended that IGMs provide such an opportunity for the member states to have in-depth discussions on future plans, spending a fair amount of time.

60. The delegate of the Republic of Korea agreed, in principle, the necessity of examination of RACs activities and mentioned the RACs evaluation carried out last year. He suggested investigating each RAC activities and its future plan for the RAC operation rather than undertaking another RACs evaluation. Furthermore, he suggested making a roadmap for future RAC activities at the meeting and according to the roadmap, the intergovernmental meeting could guide RACs activities, also taking into account the NOWPAP financial constraint. In response to the previous Japanese comments on MERRAC activities, he stressed that MERRAC activities related to marine litter, including the development of useful guidelines, have been successfully implemented as planned within the NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity.

61. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China suggested that the detailed technical issues related to certain RACs should be delivered through National Focal Points of each RAC and discussed at the respective RAC Focal Point Meeting while the Intergovernmental Meeting should provide the overall guidance of RAC activities.

62. Regarding DINRAC activities, the delegate of the People's Republic of China suggested two new activities: (1) Knowledge-based on the marine environment in the region, taking into account the needs of users (e.g., scientists, policy makers, and general public); and (2) GIS-based visualization of the marine and coastal environmental data (for example, the FAO website containing GIS-based coastal and marine environment data on the global scale). He also stressed the importance of data and information sharing through the cooperation between RACs. In addition, he suggested that DINRAC should consider other activities deemed appropriate. Regarding MERRAC, its main activities related to international cooperation on oil spill preparedness and response. After conducting successfully the 2nd Joint Oil Spill Exercise in Qingdao, China, some difficulties were found in facilitation of movement of equipment and personnel through customs that should be improved in the future. A CD on the joint exercise prepared in Chinese would be translated into English and submitted to the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting.

63. The Head of Delegation of Japan, in response to the assessment and evaluation of RAC activities, stressed the need to prioritize activities and to decide the overall directions and policy decisions to guide the future activities of RACs in the IGM meetings, noting the facts that the technical and scientific issues are often discussed at the Focal Points of Meeting of RACs. He further commented on each RAC. For CEARAC, for the coastal environmental assessment, efforts should be continued to collect basic data and analyze the nutrient situation in the region in cooperation with other RACs. He requested DINRAC to further explain the necessity and urgency of the proposed activity regarding assessment of alien species listed in the DINRAC future plans, including some researches on invasive species and its potential damages. He also requested MERRAC to elaborate on the necessity and emergency of issues related to ballast waters and alien invasive species, and commented that, looking at the current limited budgetary situation, such activities should not be regarded as priority activities. For POMRAC, he suggested that POMRAC analyze the collected national data and incorporate such data into regional assessment. Regarding the RAP MALI, the Japanese government considered that RAP MALI meeting should have wider range of participation, from national and local governments, NGOs and civil society, to raise public awareness as widely as possible. The Head of Delegation of Japan also suggested that RCU play a coordinating role among RACs to streamline the relevant activities and to avoid unnecessary duplication of work.

64. The MERRAC Director mentioned that sea-based marine litter issue is related to the MARPOL Convention Annex V and a working group would be established to deal with the litter problem separately from the MERRAC Focal Points. Regarding the currently limited budget and human resources, he stated that new potential activities (e.g., ballast water and alien invasive species) could be only undertaken when the related budget is available while MERRAC would be focusing on its core activities (e.g., oil spills).

65. Dr. Ellik Adler suggested approving new RAC activities to be implemented during 2008-2011 and mentioned the necessity of comprehensive evaluation of the whole NOWPAP system in the future.

66. The meeting approved the RAC reports on their work for 2007-2008 as reflected in Resolution 1 in Annex I attached to the report.

Agenda Item 5: Reports by NOWPAP member states and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation

67. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives from the NOWPAP partners made short statements on behalf of their organizations: the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (YSLME) and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) attached as Annex IV to this report (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/5/1, 13/15/2 and 13/5/3). In addition, the UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) and North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) have provided their statements in written form, attached in Annex IV to the report (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/5/4 and 13/5/5).

68. The Head of Delegation of Japan explained the implementation of NOWPAP activities in Japan and addressed the assistance of the Japanese government when the oil spill incident occurred last year in Korea through the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan; the ongoing efforts at various levels in Japan to deal with the marine litter problem; and Japan's continuous assistance to raise public awareness through the ICC campaigns. He also suggested each member state to take their own approach to deal with marine litter issues, and expressed that Japan would share its experience, such as the Model Survey project on marine litter implemented by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and know-how with other member states.

69. Dr. Ellik Adler appreciated the NOWPAP partners' efforts to introduce their activities and suggested the member states to present their national reports from the next Intergovernmental Meeting as new practice of NOWPAP.

70. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China pointed out that the issue of national reports involves many implications such as budget issues, and there was no decision in the previous IGMs on it. He suggested that national report should be included in the report of the UNEP Executive Director, if any member state would like to present its implementation of NOWPAP activities at the national level.

71. The alternate head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea stressed the need of NOWPAP to increase cooperation with the international organizations to maximize the synergetic effects because NOWPAP has common elements with other organizations. Issues of climate change and its impact on the marine environment, jellyfish, harmful algal blooms and

UN's regular processes were suggested as examples for future cooperation between NOWPAP and other regional organizations.

Agenda Item 6: Proposals on methods and criteria for RCU evaluation

72. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented the methodology and criteria for the performance review of the NOWPAP RCU, in accordance with Resolution 1.8 of the Twelfth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/6). He suggested that the RCU performance review should be focused on assessing effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of RCU activities related to the overall goal and objectives of NOWPAP, including achievements of planned outputs, impact and sustainability of outcomes, stakeholder involvement and other relevant factors, since April 2005 when two RCU offices are fully in operation. The review could be carried out by preparing and sending questionnaires to the member states and NOWPAP RACs; interviewing RCU staff members (including travel to the two RCU offices); analysing the relevant documents; and preparing a report with recommendations. The estimated cost would be US\$ 20,000-25,000, generously supported (in part) by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. He also recommended hiring an independent consultant, preferably outside the NOWPAP countries but familiar with the region. Finally, he also mentioned the consideration of the overall assessment of NOWPAP, including RACs, RCU and action plan itself, in the near future as suggested earlier by Dr. Ellik Adler.

73. The Head of Delegation of Japan stressed the importance of this review and urged other member states and RCU fully utilize the results to find out best options to guide RCU to the right direction in order to improve its quality of work to serve the interests of the member states. He suggested that questionnaires be sent to relevant international organization partners besides National Focal Points and RACs directors; conduct telephone interviews with National Focal Points and RAC directors; when visiting the two RCU offices for discussion, the consultant could stop over at the capitals to have face-to-face discussions with the National Focal Points; and clarifying what kind of performance (e.g., coordination, management and implementation) would be evaluated. The delegate of Japan also requested RCU to carefully schedule the RCU performance evaluation activities, considering the remaining time before the next IGM. Regarding the travelling cost of the consultant, the delegate of Japan pointed out that it should be carefully planned to minimize the cost incurred, and stressed that only necessary financial resources should be spent from the Trust Fund.

74. Regarding the issues of the timing of the RCU performance review, raised by Japan and the People's Republic China, the NOWPAP Coordinator suggested carrying it out in the first quarter of 2009.

75. The alternate head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea suggested including the staff's role and performance to understand the practical operation of RCU; carrying out the evaluation as early as possible; and with regard to recruitment of the consultant for the RCU performance evaluation, making an appropriate procedure and distributing the list of consultant candidates to the member states for their approval; and taking into account the experience learned from the RACs evaluation. He also suggested, with regard to the methodology and criteria for the RCU performance review, that the key review question's items of 3.1 and 3.8 be deleted or added

with reference phrase based on the MOU contracted between UNEP and RCU host organizations/countries.

76. Dr. Ellik Adler suggested considering a consultant who has carried out the NOWPAP RACs evaluation with remark on his outstanding experience and deep knowledge on the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

77. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation provided some substantial and editorial comments on the document.

78. Regarding the travelling of an independent consultant to be hired, the meeting agreed that consultant should ideally visit all member states; taking into account both the advantages of the face-to-face talk and cost-effectiveness.

79. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China supported Dr. Ellik Adler's idea to select the suggested independent consultant, taking into account his wide experience (including NOWPAP RACs and RCU).

80. The delegate of the Republic of Korea suggested considering the wide scope of consultant candidates, in addition to the consultant candidate suggested during the meeting, and requested RCU to consult closely with the member states regarding the selection of consultant.

81. The meeting adopted, in principle, the Terms of Reference and related document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/6) and agreed that the NOWPAP Coordinator would distribute the modified document, taking into account comments and suggestions raised at the meeting, and within 10 days after this meeting member states should send their comments by e-mail.

Agenda Item 7: Consultations on increased contributions to the NOWPA Trust Fund

82. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator reported on the current status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, stressing the necessity of increasing the total amount of contributions of the member states to the Trust Fund. He also recalled related resolutions of the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting.

83. He mentioned that after the consideration of the current financial situation, the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting decided to reduce the budget for the 208-2009 biennium by approximately 15% from the previous biennium, to US\$ 1,000,000. If the situation with the Trust Fund contributions from the member states would not be improved by 2010, the budget of NOWPAP for the 2010-2011 biennium should be further reduced to US\$ 900,000. To resolve this issue and ensure the sustainability of NOWPAP activities, the annual target amount of the

Trust Fund contributions should be US\$ 500,000 as decided at the Second Intergovernmental Meeting (November 1996).

84. The Head of Delegation of Japan stated that, considering the current NOWPAP budgetary situation, which would be likely to go into deficit within next 5 years, this issue should be resolved very urgently. He suggested taking two immediate measures to resolve this difficulty, including the payment of the unpaid pledges of one member state and the increase of the level of annual contributions to the Trust Fund to US\$ 125,000 by each member state. He also mentioned the need to reduce the level of expenditure of RACs which should not exceed the actual level of the contributions to the Trust Fund if these two measures would not be implemented.

85. Dr. Elik Adler mentioned that it is uncommon for the international organizations not to pay their national pledges for a long time while other member states pay their pledges on time, which is also imposing burdens on other member states. In this regard, the UNEP Headquarters is taking this issue into account seriously.

86. The alternate head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea suggested resolving this urgent issue as soon as possible, together with RCU, and considering the reduction of the NOWPAP budget to the level of the actual contributions to the Trust Fund unless the member states reach an agreement to increase the target amount of contributions of US\$ 500,000.

87. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the equal shared contributions to the Trust Fund between the member states. She also mentioned that this issue has a long story. The Russian government has carefully studied the matter and found out that the roots of the problem were in 1994 when the 1st Intergovernmental Meeting adopted the Northwest Pacific Action Plan without any credentials confirming the right for such adoption. Unfortunately, the consequence of that action reflects now. The Russian government has very tight discussions with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance to find out solution of this issue and hope to settle down the matter as soon as possible. The letter of 29 June 2008 signed by Mr. Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, has not been delivered to the relevant Russian ministry. She also mentioned that the equal share of the contribution should provide the equal opportunity to participate in all NOWPAP activities.

88. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China stressed that his government position has remained the same and the government is ready to increase contributions to the Trust Fund proportionately together with other member states. Considering the different status of each member state, he suggested that the contribution scale, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, should be composed of the basic and additional portions. He also recalled resolutions of the previous intergovernmental meetings that all NOWPAP member states should increase their contributions to the Trust Fund to the target amount of US\$ 500,000 per year in due time and requested the member states to prepare the increase of their contributions to the Trust Fund in order to resolve the financial issue as soon as possible.

89. Dr. Ellik Adler suggested the Chairman of this meeting sending a letter to the Russian ministries to address the NOWPAP financial issues in a positive manner.

90. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation requested UNEP to re-send the letter sent in July 2008 as well as to check the diplomatic channel to deliver such letter to the ministry properly to avoid any unnecessary misunderstanding in the future.

91. The Head of Delegation of Japan expressed the necessity to explore every possible channel, including a bilateral one, to assist the Russian Federation and to deliver such message to the Russian Federation.

92. The Chairman suggested the willingness of the member states to resolve, and to assist in resolving, this issue be reflected in a form of resolution of the meeting.

93. In response to the Japanese proposal, the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China and delegate of the Republic of Korea expressed their concerns over the use of bilateral channel, bearing in mind that NOWPAP operates on a multilateral basis.

94. The meeting agreed to further discuss this issue at the next Intergovernmental Meeting as reflected in Resolution 2 in attached as Annex I to the meeting report.

Agenda Item 8: New RAC activities in 2008-2009 and 2010-2011

95. Since discussion of this agenda item was relevant to Agenda Item 4 (reports on the implementation of NOWPAP programme of work during 2007-2008), the meeting agreed to discuss it immediately after Agenda Item 4.

96. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator briefed the meeting on new activities of NOWPAP RACs for the 2008-2011 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/8), bearing in mind the overall goals of NOWPAP and its collaborative mechanism to implement NOWPAP activities through RACs and RCU. The RSP Global Strategic Directions for 2008-2012 and the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy for 2010-2013 were available as information documents for this meeting (UNEP/GCSS.X/8 and UNEP(DEPI) RS.9/6).

97. In particular, he mentioned several activities for 2008-2011 such as implementation of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, preparation of the second State of Marine Environment Report for the NOWPAP region, implementation of the new project on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management, and further activities related to data and information management (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/8). Further new activities for each RAC were also recommended in the document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/8).

98. The Head of Delegation pointed out the procedural oversight made by RCU and DINRAC regarding the proposed "Assessment of the current situation with alien species and their potential damage in the NOWPAP region," stressing that DINRAC Director made no explanation when Japan requested further information regarding the necessity and urgency of the activity under Agenda 4. He also pointed out that other member states also did not discuss this matter at all. He called the other member states' attention that it would not seem to be effective to allow inclusion of such proposal without having any thorough deliberations and discussions especially when member states should prioritize the genuinely necessary activities within the limited budget of the Trust Fund.

99. After discussion, the meeting approved the new activities of NOWPAP RACs for 2008-2011 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/8. Rev. 1) as reflected in Resolution 1 attached as Annex I to the meeting report.

Agenda Item 9: Preparation for the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting

100. The Head of Delegation of Japan announced that Japan would hold the Fourteenth NOWPAP IGM in 2009, subject to budgetary appropriation by the Ministry of Finance in the end of 2008. He explained that once the budgetary appreciation was confirmed, Japan would consult with other member states and NOWPAP RCU regarding details of the venue and date.

101. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation and the alternate head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea appreciated the Japanese government to host the next intergovernmental meeting. It was also agreed that the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting would be held for three days.

Agenda Item 10: Other Business

Agenda Item 10(1): NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan

102. Two versions of draft resolution on the NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Contingency Plan prepared by MERRAC and RCU, respectively, were considered.

103. After a short discussion, the meeting adopted Resolution 3 on NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS contingency plan. It was agreed that the Plan would enter into effect immediately after adopting this Resolution.

Agenda Item 10(2): Other Business

104. The alternate head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea requested RCU to prepare the reduction of the budget and modify the workplan of RCU and RACs for the 2010-2011 biennium for discussions at the next IGM, based on the actual contribution level of the NOWPAP Trust Fund until the contributions to the Trust Fund are increased to the target amount.

105. The Head of Delegation of Japan proposed a draft text of resolution for consideration that addresses the importance of thorough analyses and discussions by the member states regarding the activities of RACs in order to enhance the performance of NOWPAP activities.

106. After a short discussion, the meeting agreed to consider the proposed text, sharing common concerns and recognizing the necessity of assessment and prioritization of RACs activities, in the future.

107. The delegate of the Republic of Korea asked to be informed of the overall process of P-3 recruitment and future P4 and P5 recruitment process in terms of transparency.

108. Dr. Ellik Adler explained that the NOWPAP RCU is administered by UNEP and the staff contracts are decided internally every two years, based on the performance evaluation. He also mentioned that the renewal or non-renewal contracts are decided according to the internal evaluation.

Agenda Item 11: Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

109. The meeting approved resolutions and agreed that the meeting report with its annexes would be distributed within one week and then finalized taking into account comments and suggestions raised by the member states.

Agenda Item 12: Closure of the Meeting.

110. The Chairman invited the member states and RAC Directors to make a closing statement if they wish to do so.

111. The delegate of the People's Republic of China appreciated the hospitality of the Republic of Korea, the Chairman's stewardship and RCU efforts. He also remarked to strengthen RCU and RACs activities to implement resolutions adopted at the meeting.

112. The Head of Delegation of Japan expressed his sincere gratitude to the Republic of Korea. He also extended his appreciation to other member states for their active participation to the discussions, and to Chairman for his stewardship. He mentioned that the progress made during the two-day meeting and pending issues should be further discussed at the next IGM.

113. The alternate head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed sincere gratitude to RCU staff for organizing the meeting. He mentioned that all participants share the common interest of concerning the marine environment and looked forward to seeing all next year in Toyama.

114. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed her thanks to the Korean government for arranging the meeting and appreciated fruitful outcomes of the meeting.

115. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 18:00 pm on Tuesday, 21 October 2008.

Annex I
Resolutions

Resolution 1

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

The Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves the report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the progress of the implementation of NOWPAP activities and the status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund,
2. Approves also the progress reports of the four Regional Activity Centres of NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC),
3. Approves new activities of NOWPAP RACs for 2008-2011 as presented in Table 1,
4. Encourages NOWPAP RCU to continue its efforts to develop partnerships with related organizations, programmes and projects in the region,
5. Encourages the member states to facilitate and promote the implementation of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) at the national and regional level,
6. Requests RCU and RACs to implement activities of the NOWPAP RAP MALI as scheduled, in close collaboration with relevant organizations, programmes and projects, including NGOs and private sector, and to seek possible external funding sources for RAP MALI implementation,
7. Decides to undertake the performance review of NOWPAP RCU using agreed methodology and criteria (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13.6), revised in accordance with member states comments.

Table 1. Activities of the NOWPAP RACs for 2008-2011

CEARAC	DINRAC
<p>2008-2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAB Case Studies and Integrated Website • Educational Materials and Training Course on RS Data Analysis* • Procedures for Assessment of Eutrophication Status for the NOWPAP Region (including evaluation of land based sources of nutrients)* • Marine Litter (with other RACs) – implementation of RAP MALI 	<p>2008-2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving as a NOWPAP Clearing-House (using a “switchboard” to provide links to resources available in NOWPAP member countries, e.g. HAB, marine litter, nutrients, contaminants, biodiversity, etc.) • Assessment of the current situation with alien species and their potential damage in the NOWPAP region • Maintaining and updating NOWPAP Marine Litter database (with other RACs)

<p>2010-2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Implementation Structure for CEARAC Activities • Revised Integrated Reports on HAB and RS* • Coastal Environmental Assessments Methods for the NOWPAP Region (with other RACs)* • Marine litter (with other RACs) <p><i>*these activities will be implemented in collaboration with regional partners</i></p>	<p>2010-2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving as a NOWPAP Knowledge Base on Marine and Coastal Environment (more data and information is expected to become available through close collaboration with other RACs and regional partners such as COBSEA, WESTPAC and YSLME)** • GIS-based visualization of marine environmental data • Marine Litter database (with other RACs) • Other activities deemed appropriate <p><i>**taking into account the needs of users: general public, scientists, policy-makers</i></p>
<p>MERRAC</p>	<p>POMRAC</p>
<p>2008-2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and HNS Preparedness and Response (within the framework of NOWPAP RCP, including specific projects and training exercises) – in accordance with OPRC convention and OPRC-HNS protocol • Marine Litter (with other RACs) - implementation of RAP MALI <p>2010-2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and HNS Preparedness and Response (within the framework of NOWPAP RCP, including specific projects and training exercises) • Marine Litter (with other RACs) <p>Potential future activities*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballast Waters and Alien Invasive Species (within the context of IMO initiatives on ballast waters management) • Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL convention) • Liability and Compensation (CLC, Fund, Bunker and HNS conventions) <p><i>*depending on necessity and urgency and budget availability for 2010-2011</i></p>	<p>2008-2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Reports and Regional Overview on ICARM. • Follow-up on Atmosphere deposition and River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants as part of activities related to Land-based Sources of Pollution (with other RACs). • Reference Database for ICARM and Updated Reference Databases for AD and RDI • Marine litter (with other RACs) – implementation of RAP MALI <p>2010-2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further activities on ICARM (with other RACs and regional partners): Preparation of Overview “Land-based Sources of Pollution in the NOWPAP Region” and start of preparation of Strategic Plan on ICARM for the NOWPAP Region. • Revised Regional Overviews on AD and RDI for preparation of the “State of Marine Environment Report – 2” (with other RACs). • Updated Reference Databases for ICARM, AD and RDI. • Marine litter (with other RACs)

Resolution 2

SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND

Recognizing the need to implement currently on-going NOWPAP activities and to initiate new activities,

Sharing the sense of urgency to address the gap between expenditure and contribution level that, if continues, will soon lead NOWPAP Trust Fund to the severe budgetary constraints and diminishing NOWPAP activities,

Also recognizing the necessity to increase the total amount of the member states contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund to the target amount of US\$ 500,000 per year, as agreed at the 2nd Intergovernmental Meeting,

Taking note of resolutions of the 10th, 11th and 12th Intergovernmental Meetings on the necessity to increase the annual contributions of the member states as well as different positions of the member states with respect to practical possibilities to increase their contributions to the Trust Fund,

The Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Decides to endorse the following tentative scale of contributions of the member states to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for 2008 as presented in Table 2,
2. Urges the member states to make the utmost efforts in 2009-2010 to meet the target amount of annual contributions to the Trust Fund of US\$ 500,000.
3. Urges also the member states to pay their unpaid pledges to the Trust Fund as soon as possible,
4. Decides to further discuss this issue at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

Table 2. Scale of tentative contributions

Country	Basic %	Additional %	Total (US\$)
People's Republic of China	5	3	40,000
Japan	5	20	125,000
Republic of Korea	5	15	100,000
Russian Federation	5	5	50,000
Total	20	43	315,000

Resolution 3

NOWPAP REGIONAL OIL AND HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Being Members of the Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Co-operation Regarding Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (hereinafter referred to as the MoU) which was signed during 2004/5 at ministerial level of NOWPAP Members, the People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation,

Recognising the serious threat posed to the marine environment by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) pollution incidents as well as oil pollution incidents involving ships, offshore units, ports and terminals, etc.,

Taking into account the entry into force of the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol),

Bearing in mind that, in the event of an oil or HNS pollution incident, prompt and effective action is essential in order to minimise the damage which may result from such an incident,

Taking note of the necessity and importance of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan specifying operational procedures related to co-operation in case of emergency,

Being aware of the need to promote regional co-operation and to enhance existing national and regional capabilities of preparedness and response to marine oil and HNS pollution incidents,

Based on the Resolution 6 of the 12th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting which approved the draft text of the revised NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan,

The Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Adopts the revised NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan.
2. Agrees that the revised NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan comes into effect by adopting this resolution.

Annex II

List of Participants

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Annex III

List of documents

Working documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan for 2007 – 2008
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/4/1	CEARAC report of activities, 2007 – 2008
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/4/2	DINRAC report of activities, 2007 – 2008
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/4/3	MERRAC report of activities, 2007 – 2008
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/4/4	POMRAC report of activities, 2007 – 2008
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/5	Reports by NOWPAP member states and partners
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/6	Methodology and criteria for the performance review of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/7	Consultations on increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/8	New NOWPAP RAC activities in 2008-2009 and 2010-2011

Information documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/INF/1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/INF/3	Provisional timetable
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/INF/4	Report on UNEP's Oceans and Coasts Brainstorming: Towards a UNEP Integrated Strategy on Oceans and Coasts
UNEP/GCSS.X/8	Proposed UNEP Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013
UNEP (DEPI)/RS.9/6	Global strategic directions for the Regional Seas Programmes 2008-2012: Enhancing the role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/11	Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan: report of the meeting

Annex IV

Statement of NOWPAP partners

**Statement of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
(COBSEA)**

Ms. Srisuda JARAYABHAND, Coordinator of COBSEA

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, on behalf of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to NOWPAP for the invitation to participate in this 13th Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP here in Jeju Island. I also wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for the kind hospitality.

COBSEA, being another Regional Seas Programme like NOWPAP, has always regarded NOWPAP as a very close sister organization of UNEP with a similar vision and mission. The collaboration between NOWPAP and COBSEA has been well established, especially in the area of information management and marine litter.

The year 2008 was another milestone for COBSEA. The New Strategic Direction for COBSEA (2008-2012) was endorsed by member countries at the 19th Intergovernmental Meeting held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 22-23 January 2008. This new strategic direction identifies three thematic areas as priority for COBSEA namely marine and land-based pollution; coastal and marine habitat conservation; and management and response to coastal disasters. These areas are to be addressed through the four inter-linked strategies on information management, national capacity building, strategic and emerging issues and regional cooperation.

Since the 19th Meeting of COBSEA, several activities have been initiated to implement the strategic direction in order to enhance benefit to member countries.

For information management, work is well underway to finalize the establishment of the EAS Knowledgebase comprising national and regional databases. The National database will provide information on projects, programmes and the state of the coastal and marine environment of the East Asian Seas region. The Regional database will provide information on projects and programmes and sharing of lessons learned, which will facilitate coordination of projects at the national and regional levels. In this regard, NOWPAP has already provided useful inputs to the development of the regional database.

To enhance national capacity of members in implementing international obligations as signatories under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the review of the Implementation of marine pollution-related MEAs in COBSEA Member countries has been carried out. Based on the outcomes of the review on MEAs, the regional capacity building forum on Marine Pollution related MEAs forum was organized in Guangzhou, China in May this year to identify capacity

building needs of the countries and recommend capacity building activities to enhance the implementation of the relevant MEAs in the next biennium.

The development of the East Asian Seas Environment Outlook in collaboration with partner organizations is an example of an activity that is aimed at enhancing regional cooperation. The informal drafting group meeting was organized in February 2008. However, the first draft of the Outlook has been delayed due to the late submissions of the theme contributions.

For strategic and emerging issues, the 19th Meeting of COBSEA approved the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter or RAP MALI. Implementation of the RAP MALI was initiated at national and regional levels. Three pilot projects on awareness campaign were conducted in Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam

The regional activity this year was the organization of the Clean Up East Asian Seas Campaign 2008 and the 2nd COBSEA Marine Litter Workshop. The Cleanup Campaign was successfully organized with partners from national governments, NGOs, private sector and local communities. More than one thousand people participated in the beach and underwater cleanup in Pattaya. Four beaches from China, Malaysia, Korea and Thailand were selected to receive the COBSEA Clean Beach Award. Representatives from local government of these beaches also participated in the Workshop to share their experiences in keeping the beach clean. The Green Fins Photo Contest on the theme "Marine Litter, the Sea and the Coast" was successfully conducted. Workshop participants also discussed and recommended how to effectively implement the COBSEA RAP MALI. As NOWPAP have also adopted the RAP MALI, further collaboration regarding the implementation of the RAP MALI will be very useful for both organizations.

Finally I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to NOWPAP Member Countries and RCU for extending their support in COBSEA activities. I hope that cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations will further grow in strength in future and result in some joint activities that can further benefit all our members.

I wish NOWPAP and all its members a very successful and fruitful meeting.

Thank you.

Statement of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

Mr. Won-Tae SHIN

*Programme Specialist of PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)
Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)*

On behalf of PEMSEA, I wish to thank NOWPAP for inviting us to this important meeting in Jeju.

As you may be aware, PEMSEA has been evolving from a regional project to a regional cooperative mechanism with the mandate of the Haikou Partnership Agreement. PEMSEA is now governed by the East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council, which is composed of 11 country and 17 non-country Partners, including NOWPAP. Being a regional cooperative mechanism, PEMSEA is attempting to achieve measurable targets for sustainable development of coasts and oceans, as stipulated in the Haikou Partnership Agreement. Pursuant to these targets, PEMSEA has been providing technical services to Partners, as well as promoting collaboration among country and non-country Partners in implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

In July 2008, PEMSEA successfully concluded the 2nd EAS Partnership Council Meeting in Tokyo, Japan. The Meeting delved into several key issues pertaining to the implementation of the SDS-SEA and culminated in various recommendations and decisions. I would like to summarize a few issues that are particularly relevant to NOWPAP.

Lack of coordination among transboundary projects

The 2nd EAS Partnership Council Meeting reviewed several ongoing transboundary projects within the EAS region. The Council noted the lack of coordination at the regional and/or country levels among the various projects and implementing agencies/organizations, which is resulting in duplication of effort, inefficient use of resources, and limited sharing of knowledge, experience, skills and tools. As a measure for addressing the issue, the Council urged the PRF to increase its efforts to interact with the project offices/secretariats of sub-regional and regional projects and programmes, to develop concrete proposals for improving interaction with such projects and programmes.

The Framework of Partnership Programme

In concurrence with these coordinating efforts, the Council further recommended that the Partners of PEMSEA utilize the Framework of Partnership Programmes (FoPP) as a tool for improving the planning, coordination and tracking of marine and coastal management projects. The FoPP was seen as a useful instrument for national, sub-regional and regional projects and programmes alike, and the Council urged all Partners to work with the PRF to complete a region-wide FoPP for submission to the next Council meeting.

The SOC Reporting system

Likewise, the Council adopted the State of the Coasts (SOC) Reporting system as an operational tool of local governments implementing ICM programs. The SOC is designed to

provide local Chief Executives with information on environmental, social and economic changes and trends occurring in the coastal area, over time.

The Council envisions that the SOC reporting system will eventually be able to provide a more comprehensive indication of the environmental status and trends occurring in the coastal areas across the region as we move toward the goal of ICM coverage of 20% of the regional coastline by 2015.

Capacity Development through Training

The Council also encouraged PEMSEA Partners to coordinate and engage in various training opportunities by linking with capacity development initiatives on ocean and coastal management. The Council realized that country and non-country Partners have the capacity required to conduct comprehensive training in coastal and ocean management, but Partners need to strengthen complementarities and synergies for more effective and efficient delivery of such services. The Council urged the PRF to promote the various training courses, tools and services of PEMSEA, including the recently developed ICM model training course, ICM Code and PSHEMS (Port Safety Health and Environmental Management System) Code and Recognition Systems.

Climate Change Adaptation through ICM implementation

Much emphasis of the Council has been devoted to the climate change adaptation issue. Knowing that coastal communities are among the most threatened by climate change, it is evident that proper measures must be taken to protect lives and property in coastal areas. ICM has been identified as an effective tool to address the threats and impacts of climate change in coastal areas. From PEMSEA's experience, ICM can serve to operationalize a comprehensive climate policy with the help of ICM tools, such as capacity development, risk assessment, the State of the Coasts (SOC) reporting, and the Coastal Strategy and implementation plan. To highlight the effectiveness of ICM in addressing the climate change adaptation, the Council recommended the PRF to table the climate change adaptation through integrated coastal and ocean management as a major topic for the Ministerial Forum during the EAS Congress 2009.

EAS Congress 2009 and the 3rd Ministerial Forum

The EAS Congress 2009, which is scheduled to be held during 23 – 27 November 2009 in Manila, Philippines, is a key milestone event for PEMSEA. The highly anticipated and participated triennial event is designed to provide a venue for sharing information and partnership building, as well as an opportunity to review the progress made in line with the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

The EAS Congress 2009 will feature the International Conference with more than 20 workshops and seminars, the Ministerial Forum, the Youth Forum, and many other side events. The overall theme of the Congress is "Partnerships at work: local implementation and good practices." The theme for the 3rd Ministerial Forum has been set as "Climate Change Adaptation through Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management."

During the Congress, good practices in local implementation of ICM in promotion of the sustainable development objectives will be highlighted. These actions-on-the ground and local implementations of ICM, teeming with ICM success stories, will furnish you with a unique experience.

PEMSEA cordially invites NOWPAP and its member countries and partners to join the EAS Congress 2009 for sharing knowledge and lessons learned through the implementation of the NOWPAP activities. We hope that NOWPAP can play a significant role during the Congress and contribute to this highly participated event by co-convening a workshop of NOWPAP's interest. All participants of the Congress will benefit from NOWPAP's contribution.

In closing, PEMSEA would like to express its gratitude to NOWPAP and its member countries for their contribution to the implementation of the SDS-SEA. In line with the decisions of the EAS Partnership Council, the PRF is looking forward to developing concrete and tangible collaborative activities that both organizations can implement for the furtherance of the sustainable development objectives in the EAS region.

Lastly, PEMSEA expresses its utmost gratitude to the Government of RO Korea for the warm welcome and hospitality, as well as kind support for PEMSEA.

Thank you and a good day.

Statement of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project

*Mr. Yihang JIANG, Project Manager
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project*

Dear Distinguished Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to, on behalf of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project, express sincere thanks to NOWPAP for the invitation extended to the Project to participate in the 13th Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP in this beautiful island.

Personally, I have been involved in the development of Northwest Pacific Action Plan since beginning of 80's, and devoted some efforts in developing the NOWPAP projects. I have also been involved in the UNEP Regional Seas Programme within the UNEP family for more than 6 years. I am very interested to see the progresses that has been made so far in NOWPAP programme and projects. With full understanding of challenges in front of NOWPAP, I would like to congratulate the NOWPAP and its Regional Co-ordinating Unit for the hard work and meaningful achievements.

As some of you fully noticed, the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project has successfully prepared the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) to identify the environmental problems and associate causes for the Yellow Sea. Furthermore, the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) has also been prepared to identify the management actions to address

the environmental problems and priorities in the Yellow Sea. The SAP prepared by the YSLME project is based on the ecosystem-based approach, to provide comprehensive actions to address environmental problems in the Yellow Sea as a whole, in particular those cross-component problems.

During the implementation of the YSLME project, co-operation and co-ordination have been considered and implemented started from design of the project activities. With understanding that co-operation is critically important to solve the problems in the Yellow Sea, a Yellow Sea partnership has been established with participation of major organizations, institutes and projects, which includes UN organizations and projects, such as NOWPAP and PEMSEA, non-governmental organizations, such as WWF and Wetlands International, and research institutes, such as KORDI. The Partners are sharing necessary information and co-ordinate the activities in the Yellow Sea to protect marine environment and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. One of the good examples is the initiation of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion Supporting Project, initiated by WWF and financially supported by Panasonic to use about US\$ 18 million in biological diversity conservation in the Yellow Sea.

Apart from the activities under the Yellow Sea Partnership, co-operation between NOWPAP and YSLME has been considered and implemented in the fields of marine environment monitoring and assessment, data and information sharing and exchange, public awareness and capacity building and marine litter monitoring and cleaning. I am very pleased to inform you that during about 4 years implementation of YSLME project, we have fully shared relevant information on

marine environment protection, jointly organized project activities using shared financial resources, and achieved the common goals of the both.

I do wish to inform you an example on development of regional algorithm using ocean color remote sensing to monitor Chl-a, CDOM and suspended materials in the turbid waters in the coastal areas. This is the first attempt to have the regional efforts together in this field. The results so far have shown valuable achievements. This activity is one of the examples to co-operate with NOWPAP, IOC/WESTPAC and YSLME.

Through our effective co-operation, we provide maximum benefits to the coastal countries in the region and avoid duplication of efforts.

Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The challenges in front of us in protecting marine environment and sustainable using of marine and coastal resources are still waiting for our effective management, timely responses and meaningful co-operation of all the coastal countries in the region. While we are working on the harmful algal bloom problems in many sea areas of the region, the jellyfish bloom is bringing more environment disasters in the Yellow Sea and the East China Sea, and some other sea areas. Impacts of climate change on the marine ecosystems are waiting for us to provide more scientific information and possible adaptive management actions. Therefore it is critical for us to join hands and to work together to protect environment of OUR seas.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement of the UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific

*Mr. Wenxi Zhu, Acting Head
IOC Regional Secretariat for WESTPAC*

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to be invited for the 13th Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP. On behalf of the UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), I would like to extend our sincere thanks to NOWPAP for the kind invitation, and also wish to take this opportunity to commend NOWPAP for the achievements which have been made during the last inter-sessional period.

With the understanding that addressing regional concerns presents too formidable a task to be undertaken by any one nation and organization, WESTPAC has been attaching great importance to the partnership with NOWPAP. The history of cooperation between NOWPAP and WESTPAC could date back to the establishment of NOWPAP. To our delight, the spirit of cooperation has been well maintained over the past years. Recently, we have jointly sponsored training courses on Remote Sensing Data Analysis and established the website links for data and information sharing. Together with YSLME and NOWPAP, a regional ocean color algorithm has been developed for better assessment and monitoring of the primary productivity in the Yellow Sea.

Though substantial cooperation has been explored and implemented mainly in the field of data and information sharing and capacity building, the efforts are still far from enough to meet the expectations of our member states. To this end, WESTPAC has been sparing no effort over the past two years in restructuring itself to better serve the needs of its member states. Significant progress has been made in orienting itself through identifying strategic areas and initiating new regional projects, rectifying its deficiencies through establishing an advisory body, and improving regional capacity on marine science through setting up a regional network of training and research centers. It is owing to the joint efforts of its member states, Regional Secretariat and partners that WESTPAC is in a better shape than ever to cooperate with NOWPAP in facing the challenges imposed on the marine environment.

In this regard, apart from the current existing cooperation, WESTPAC would further strengthen and expand the cooperation with NOWPAP on the activities on Harmful Algal Blooms, Remote Sensing Techniques and Public Awareness. Additionally, WESTPAC would gladly provide regular training opportunities to the young scientists from the member states of NOWPAP through its regional network of training and research centers once those centers are established soon.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Being both within the United Nations system, UNEP/NOWPAP and IOC/WESTPAC should commit themselves to serving the needs of the member states in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Keeping in mind the spirit of “delivering as one”, let’s therefore work together to concentrate our efforts, and eliminate unnecessary duplication. We are fully confident that with the generous support of the member states and unremitting efforts of the

Regional Secretariats, the partnership between NOWPAP and WESTPAC would be further strengthened in order to assist our member states in learning more about the nature and resources of the marine and coastal areas, and applying that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of marine environment and the decision making processes.

Finally, I wish the meeting a great success and everyone a pleasant stay in this beautiful island.

NOWPAP and PICES: Potential Areas for Collaboration

*Dr. Alexander Bychkov, Executive Secretary
North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)*

Dear Distinguished Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Unfortunately, because of the overlap with our Seventeenth Annual Meeting, PICES is unable to send an observer to attend the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP and this time we will only provide a statement on potential areas for collaboration between the two organizations.

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) is an intergovernmental scientific organization, established in 1992, to: (i) promote and co-ordinate marine scientific research (on everything from wind to whales) in the North Pacific and adjacent marginal seas; (ii) advance scientific knowledge about the ocean environment, global weather and climate change, living resources and their ecosystems, and the impact of human activities on them; and (iii) promote the collection and rapid exchange of scientific information and data on these issues. According to Article II of the PICES Convention, "The area which the activities of the Organization concern shall be the temperate and sub-Arctic region of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, especially northward from 30 degrees north latitude. Activities of the Organization, for scientific reasons, may extend farther southward in the North Pacific Ocean." The current membership of

PICES includes Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America (four of these countries are also members of NOWPAP). Details about PICES and its activities can be found on our website at <http://www.pices.int>.

While NOWPAP focuses on monitoring and assessment of environmental (anthropogenic) problems and PICES has much broader geographic and scientific scope, the two organizations have great potential for cooperation. In fact, some joint activities have been already taking place:

- In October 2005, NOWPAP co-sponsored a topic session on "*Ecological effects of offshore oil and gas development and oil spills*" at the PICES Fourteenth Annual Meeting in Vladivostok (Russia).
- In April 2006, PICES supported the symposium on "*Bioinvasions of non-indigenous species*" and the Fourth International Workshop on "*Remote sensing of marine environment in the Northwest Pacific region*" organized by NOWPAP/CEARAC in Busan (Republic of Korea), to discuss the introduction of non-indigenous species in the NOWPAP region and their potential economic and environmental threats and to exchange the scientific findings and monitoring technology on harmful algal blooms.
- In March and September 2008, PICES was involved in the First and Second Coastal Environmental Assessment Workshops carried out by NOWPAP/CEARAC in Toyama (Japan) to develop common procedures for coastal environmental assessment in the NOWPAP region, including nutrient enrichment, eutrophication and HAB occurrence.

- In May 2008, PICES was present as an observer at the Seventh DINRAC Focal Points Meeting held in Beijing (People's Republic of China) to discuss approaches on exchange of marine environmental data and information in the region.
- In October 2008, NOWPAP will be present as an observer at the PICES Seventeenth Annual Meeting in Dalian (People's Republic of China) and will address the Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ) Committees on potential areas of cooperation with PICES. In addition, a presentation on HAB-related activities of NOWPAP will be made by a representative of CEARAC at the meeting of the PICES Section on *Harmful Algal Blooms*. NOWPAP will also have a poster at PICES XVII outlining general information about the organization and highlighting its scientific objectives and recent activities.
- In November 2008, PICES will become one of supporters the Second NOWPAP Training Course on "*Remote Sensing Data Analysis*" to be held in Jeju (Republic of Korea).

We believe that the following two high priority PICES initiatives set the basis for close collaboration between the two organizations:

- development of the new integrative scientific program, FUTURE (Forecasting and Understanding Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of North Pacific Ecosystems); and
- preparation of the next North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report, NPESR.

FUTURE focuses on ecosystem forecasts and communication of these forecasts and their uncertainties to the society. The program considers climate change and its interaction with anthropogenic forcing as an important issue. Compared with its predecessor, the PICES Climate Change and Carrying Capacity Program, FUTURE has new emphases on anthropogenic influence on coastal ecosystems and forecasting of their changes. One of the three overarching themes identified in the Science Plan of FUTURE, "*How do human activities affect coastal ecosystems and how are societies affected by changes in these ecosystems?*", is especially relevant for NOWPAP. This theme includes the following sub-themes:

- What are the dominant anthropogenic pressures in coastal marine ecosystems and how are they changing?
- How are these anthropogenic pressures and climate forcing, including sea level rise, affecting nearshore and coastal ecosystems and their interactions with offshore and terrestrial systems?
- How do multiple anthropogenic stressors interact to alter the structure and function of the systems, and what are the cumulative effects?
- What will be the consequences of projected coastal ecosystem changes and what is the predictability and uncertainty of forecasted changes?
- How can we effectively use our understanding of coastal ecosystem processes and mechanisms to identify the nature and causes of ecosystem changes and to develop strategies for sustainable use?

To answer these questions, FUTURE plans to conduct retrospective analysis, observations, process studies and model development. In the implementation strategy of FUTURE, not only coordination of national programs but also cooperation with international programs is being planned. We consider NOWPAP as one of the important international partners and believe that multidisciplinary and large-scale research activities of FUTURE and environmentally-focused activities of NOWPAP will supplement each other, and both organizations will benefit from this collaboration.

In 2004, PICES produced a special publication titled *Marine Ecosystems of the North Pacific*. This document provided a status report on the ecosystems of coastal and oceanic regions throughout the North Pacific, approximately covering the 5-year period from 1998–2002 and

addressing system components from climate and hydrography through fish, birds and mammals. In 2007, PICES Science Board and Governing Council approved the concept that the next NPESR should be an incremental improvement over the pilot report. Thus, the new version will focus on the years from 2003–2008. Among other ecosystems, NPESR deals with coastal ecosystems of the East Asian Marginal Seas which are also of special interest to NOWPAP. Currently three phases are envisioned in the preparation of the report:

- Phase 1 will consist of Regional Chapters, each written for a scientific audience. Lead Authors for each chapter have been identified and are in the process of putting their teams together. All Regional Chapters will follow a common framework and are planned to be completed by June 30, 2009.
- Phase 2 will be a synthesis and integration of all regions, also written for a scientific audience, to develop a status report on issues that cross the entire North Pacific basin, and to determine to what degree basin-wide climate and ocean indices are affecting all regions simultaneously. Regional Chapters will provide important information for the synthesis and facilitate comparison among regions. The period from July 1–November 15, 2009, will allow for Lead Authors and their teams to undertake regional inter-comparisons and synthesis studies in preparation for a synthesis workshop to be held in late 2009. The deadline for publishing the Synthesis Chapter is March 2010.
- Phase 3 will be a brochure summarizing the major findings of the Regional Chapters and the Synthesis Chapter. The target audience for this brochure is non-scientific and includes policy makers, managers, and other interested members of society.

We expect similar benefits from collaboration with NOWPAP on NPESR as for FUTURE. Assessment of coastal environments of the Northwestern Pacific carried out by NOWPAP will enhance the ecosystem status assessment in NPESR, whereas the comparative analysis of various ecosystems in the North Pacific conducted by PICES will help generalize regional assessment by NOWPAP.

We believe that the long-term partnership between NOWPAP and PICES would be mutually beneficial for both organizations and envision the following means of cooperation:

- exchange of data and information;
- exchange of experts;
- co-sponsoring joint workshops and/or symposia;
- joint capacity building activities.

We invite NOWPAP to further discuss the ways how PICES and NOWPAP could interact and hope that specific proposals be developed by the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) of NOWPAP and Standing Committees and/or expert groups of PICES.

Potential joint activities to be considered for 2009 (in chronological order) include:

- A workshop to accumulate data/information on the state of the East Asian Marginal Seas from 2003–2008 for the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report will be held February 18–19, 2009, in Seoul, Korea. We invite NOWPAP experts to participate and provide information on oceanographic conditions, nutrient enrichment, eutrophication and HAB occurrence in the region.
- The third PICES Summer School on “*Satellite oceanography*” will be organized from August 23–27, 2009, in Seoul, Korea. In this course, principles and applications in three major areas (optical, infra-red and microwave) of satellite oceanography will be introduced to students who have little experience in the field (focus will be on Asian countries). In addition to lectures and seminars, hands-on training of image processing will be provided. Timing for the Summer School is in line with the launching of a Korean satellite. The subject of the

Summer School is important for early career scientists in the region and relevant to activities of NOWPAP, and we encourage NOWPAP to co-sponsor this event.

- The PICES Eighteenth Annual Meeting will be held from October 23–November 1, 2009, in Jeju, Republic of Korea. The overall theme for the meeting is “*Understanding ecosystem dynamics and pursuing ecosystem approaches to management*”, and we invite NOWPAP to co-convene a topic session or a workshop related to this theme. A proposal for a joint session/workshop could be submitted to a relevant Committee or an expert group at the upcoming PICES Annual Meeting (October 24–November 2, 2008, Dalian, People’s Republic of China), or this session/workshop could be selected from the list of events approved by the Science Board and Governing Council at this meeting.

We look forward to working closely with NOWPAP and wish your Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting a success.
