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Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of  
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Toyama, Japan  
8-10 December 2009

**Report of the Meeting**

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## Introduction

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> IGM (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, People's Republic of China) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centres (RACs). The 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> IGM also approved the TOR for each of the RAC Focal Point Meetings. The 9<sup>th</sup> IGM (2-4 November 2004, Busan, Republic of Korea) decided to develop a project to deal with marine litter. The 9<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2004 in Toyama and Busan, respectively.

3. The 10<sup>th</sup> 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 RCP and to initiate new directions of work for the NOWPAP RACs. The 11<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> IGM. The 12<sup>th</sup> 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. The 13<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-21 October 2008, Jeju, Republic of Korea) decided to undertake the performance review of NOWPAP RCU using agreed methodology and criteria, revised in accordance with member states comments. The meeting encouraged the member states to facilitate and promote the implementation of NOWPAP RAP MALI at the national and regional level.

4. Following the offer of the government of the Japan to host the 14<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM, the meeting was held on 8-10 December 2009 in Toyama.

5. This document is the record of the discussions and deliberations of the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Division of Global Environment Facility; Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA); the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Project; and North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) 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 14<sup>th</sup> IGM was opened at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 8 December 2009 in Toyama, Japan, by Mr. Chul-Hwan Kim, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea, hosting state of the 13<sup>th</sup> IGM. He extended a warm welcome to all participants in this meeting.

8. On behalf of the hosting government, Mr. Eiji Yamamoto, the Head of Delegation of Japan, welcomed all participants to the 14<sup>th</sup> IGM and reminded about the overall goal of NOWPAP. While appreciating the results achieved so far, he stressed the necessity to re-energize the efforts to achieve that goal and ensure effectiveness, efficiency and financial sustainability.

9. The Governor of Toyama prefecture, Mr. Takakazu Ishii, expressed a warm welcome to all NOWAP members and UNEP. In his opening remarks he emphasized efforts of Toyama prefecture related to preservation of marine and coastal environment, such as limiting use of free plastic shopping bags, introduction of solar-powered boats, promotion of small hydro-electric power plants, etc. He also mentioned that in recent years Toyama prefecture hosted several important international meetings, such as Northeast Asia Environmental Partnership Forum, Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM), and others.

10. Ms. Guozhi Liu, the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China, expressed her special thanks to Japan for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting and to NOWPAP RCU for organizing the meeting. She also mentioned that many projects and activities have made concrete progress within the framework of NOWPAP due to the effective work of RCU as well as substantial inputs of RACs. She expressed her hope that this meeting will address the challenges ahead and the possible solutions.

11. Mr. Chul-Hwan Kim, the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea, expressed his deep gratitude to the hospitality extended by the Japanese government and Toyama prefecture. He

stressed that the marine environmental problems in Korea and in the region are coupled with rapid economic development and introduced Korea national efforts on environmental issues such as “Low Carbon Green Growth”.

12. Ms. Natalia Tretiyakova, the Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation, extended her gratitude to the government of Japan and Toyama prefecture for organizing the meeting. She informed all participants that the related ministries are in the process to prepare the Government decision on paying the increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund starting from 2010. Taking into account the forthcoming APEC Summit to be held in Vladivostok in 2012, the Russian Government is emphasizing the significance of the activities of NOWPAP.

13. Dr. Elik Adler, COBSEA Coordinator, delivered an opening statement on behalf of Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director. He mentioned that UNEP programme of work (PoW) is undergoing a major restructuring, from division-based to thematic-based and results-oriented. 2010-2011 PoW is organized along six thematic sub-programmes where all UNEP Divisions and Regional Offices will work together to achieve expected accomplishments. He also stressed the importance on the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that will be held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. In this regard, he mentioned several project concepts prepared by NOWPAP RCU which might be developed into full-scale project proposals and be implemented, contributing to the International Year of Biodiversity and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Northwest Pacific. He commended the Russian efforts to increase its contribution to the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

14. Dr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP Coordinator, expressed his sincere appreciation to the Japanese government and Toyama prefecture for hosting the meeting. He suggested to take into account the global issues, including biodiversity, while discussing future NOWPAP activities.

## **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 is the representative of the host state, the Rapporteur is the representative of the member state to host the next IGM, and two Vice Chairpersons are the representatives of the remaining two member states, respectively. The meeting agreed to elect the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Eiji Yamamoto, Japan
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. Guozhi Liu, People's Republic of China
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Chul-Hwan Kim, Republic of Korea
Rapporteur:	Ms. Natalia Tretiyakova, Russian Federation

### **Agenda Item 2(b): Organization of Work**

16. The meeting agreed that the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council would be applied for the meeting, while decisions will be made by consensus as in the past. It was also agreed that the meeting would conduct its business in plenary with English as the working language. Responding to the suggestion from the delegate from Russia, Chairman confirmed that the timetable might be flexible and some agenda items might be re-scheduled as appropriate.

**Agenda Item 2(c): Adoption of Agenda**

17. After considering the list of documents and provisional agenda submitted by the Secretariat, the meeting adopted the agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting
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:
  - (a) Programme implementation in 2008 – 2009
  - (b) Budget and Trust Fund
4. Report on the RCU performance review
5. Reports of the implementation of NOWPAP programme of work during 2008-2009:
  - (a) CEARAC
  - (b) DINRAC
  - (c) MERRAC
  - (d) POMRAC
6. Reports by NOWPAP member states and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation
7. Evaluation and prioritization of RAC activities by member states
8. NOWPAP approach to global and cross-cutting issues such as climate change and biodiversity conservation
9. Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
10. Situation with the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions from member states
11. NOWPAP work plan and budget for 2010-2011
12. Preparation of the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting
13. Other business
14. Adoption of report and resolutions of the meeting
15. 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, Dr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP Coordinator, presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/3). He briefed on the progress of the four RACs with respect to their major outcomes achieved during 2008-2009 and mentioned that the detailed reports of the four RACs would be presented by the RAC Directors under Agenda Item 5.

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 COBSEA, PICES, YSLME as well as with Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC).

21. He also 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; preparing and distributing brochures, leaflets and posters on NOWPAP activities; attending relevant global and regional meetings; and providing lectures and presentations.

22. NOWPAP Coordinator informed the meeting on the status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, including contributions and expenditures.

23. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed appreciation to the Russian delegation to host the next IGM, mentioned financial problems which need to be solved, and also suggested RCU to prepare a comprehensive table showing in-kind and donor contributions with detailed information. He appreciated that the Russian Federation is willing to pay its contributions in the next biennium, while unpaid amounts from the Republic of Korea will be paid by the end of this year.

24. The representative of Japan appreciated the preparation of the report and efforts in establishing partnerships and seeking external funding sources. He also stressed that, in light of the current status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, Japan expects RCU to further try to seek potential external resources. He also pointed out that the UNEP Executive Director report contains a few recommendations regarding agenda items that are to be discussed at later stage, and suggested that IGM should not adopt the report until members discuss those other agenda items.

25. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation suggested to host the next IGM in the second half of 2010, the place and dates to be confirmed through correspondence.

26. NOWPAP Coordinator, in response to a question from Japan, provided examples of lectures and presentations made by RCU staff members to raise public awareness and mentioned that the details of these lectures and presentations were distributed among NOWPAP member states, RACs and partners through quarterly NOWPAP newsletters sent by e-mail.

27. After a clarification and discussion, the meeting agreed on preparation of comprehensive tables with an associated text describing all kind of contributions from member states, intergovernmental organizations and donors (starting from the next IGM).

28. Meeting agreed also to take note of the UNEP ED report and adopt it later, after discussion of other agenda items (as reflected in Resolution 1 attached in Annex I to the report of the meeting).

#### **Agenda Item 4: Report on the RCU performance review**

29. Mr. Alan Fox, an independent consultant contracted by UNEP, presented the report on the RCU performance review (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.14/4), focusing on conclusions and recommendations.

30. The Delegate of the Republic of Korea commended Mr. Fox on the exceptionally good report and recommendations. Regarding technical matters, Representative of the delegation of Korea requested information about RCU staff contracts renewal. This information will be circulated among member states by e-mail. He also expressed concern on slow process of reimbursement of travel costs to some meeting participants.

31. The representative of Japan commented on the specific paragraphs of the report recommendations with the suggestion that the meeting should agree which of those should be practically taken into account. He suggested to formalize a preparatory meeting between RCU and RACs prior to the annual IGM. He also pointed out that RCU could make more efforts in raising public awareness. He also mentioned that Japan could support the introduction of Imprest Account System at RCU, on the condition that RCU takes much larger responsibility regarding accountability and transparency and audits are conducted on a regular basis. He mentioned that if members find it necessary to revise the current TOR of RCU to reflect these changes in its future action, Japan is ready to discuss the details at this meeting.

32. In response to a clarification to RCU's accountability and transparency from Japan, NOWPAP Coordinator responded that relevant RCU staff members took appropriate training on financial management at the UNEP HQ.

33. Dr. Elik Adler, UNEP representative, explained that the performance of NOWPAP, as one of the Regional Seas programmes under UNEP framework, is considered as a positive one, and complimented on the achievements made by NOWPAP. He also mentioned difficulties in resource mobilization in a region where two member states are major donors and two other members are emerging economies. The RCU office co-hosted by two countries is also a major challenge. In relation to financial flexibility, he referred that there are such requests from other Regional Seas programmes.

34. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China proposed the RCU to improve the communications with RACs, to urge and enhance the communications and cooperation between itself and the RACs, as well as among the RACs. She mentioned that China's comments to the Performance Review should have reached the RCU in November 2009, and China would like to be confirmed on whether these comments have been incorporated into the revision. Then Mr. Alan Fox confirmed that he has made the revision in accordance with China's comments.

35. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed appreciation for the report made by Mr. Fox. She suggested RCU to pay more attention to the financial support from external sources such as International Maritime Organization (IMO). She also mentioned that careful monitoring of activities of each RAC is important in order to avoid duplication of the activities of RACs.

36. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea stressed the importance of the RCU coordinating role while implementing such multi-disciplinary projects as integrated coastal

management or biodiversity conservation in order to avoid overlaps and duplication. Flexibility of financial operations should be also considered to enhance efficient operations of RCU. He suggested peer review and cross-checking on NOWPAP publications produced by RACs and RCU to ensure quality.

37. After an active discussion by member states, Chairman requested Japan to prepare draft resolution on taking into account recommendations from Mr. Fox Report and revising RCU TOR for the discussion at the next IGM. As a result of internal coordination among member states, Japan reported that member states reached an understanding and the final draft was presented to the meeting for adoption (Resolution 2).

## **Agenda Item 5: Reports of the RAC Directors on the implementation of NOWPAP programme of work during 2008-2009**

### **Agenda Item 5(a): CEARAC**

38. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Hidemasa Yamamoto, presented the report on the activities of CEARAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/5/1) and the workplan and budget for CEARAC (2010-2011), as approved by the 7<sup>th</sup> CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (14-15 September 2009, Toyama, Japan).

### **Agenda Item 5(b): DINRAC**

39. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of DINRAC, Mr. Jianguo Wang, presented the report on the activities of DINRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/5/2) and the workplan and budget for DINRAC (2010-2011), as approved by the 8<sup>th</sup> Focal Points Meeting (19-21 May 2009, Beijing, China).

### **Agenda Item 5(c): MERRAC**

40. 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. 14/5/3) and the workplan and budget of MERRAC (2010-2011), as approved by the 12<sup>th</sup> Focal Points Meeting (1-4 June 2009, Daejeon, Korea).

### **Agenda Item 5(d): POMRAC**

41. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of POMRAC, Dr. Anatoly Kachur, presented the report on the activities of POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/5/4) and the workplan and budget of POMRAC (2010-2011), as approved by the 7<sup>th</sup> Focal Points Meeting (11-12 September 2009, Kanazawa, Japan).

42. The representative of Japan made a suggestion regarding MERRAC activities that effective use of budget for the publication of newsletters and reports is necessary, and that circulating draft reports among MERRAC focal points for cross-checking before submitting to IGM is also necessary. Regarding statistical data of DINRAC website, the representative of Japan requested DINRAC to circulate the data among member states.

43. The Delegate of the Russian Federation commended MERRAC activities, especially practical exercises. While stressing that activities of all RACs are important, a project on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) is considered as of high priority for NOWPAP as well as preparing the next version of the "State of Marine Environment" report for the NOWPAP region, which will be beneficial to all RACs.

44. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea suggested to develop a "master plan" (road map) to tackle future possible activities, which are to be implemented by RACs and RCU, addressing such cross-cutting issues as climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation in order to save resources and avoid duplication. Regarding POMRAC work on ICARM, he mentioned that close cooperation with PEMSEA is highly recommended and also emphasized that RCU role is important in this regard. ROK representative also suggested to MERRAC to consider increasing number of participants of communication exercises, including local governments, oil spill response companies, and relevant representatives from private sector, from each member state.

45. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China suggested to focus on improving efficiency of RACs work, improve mutual support and cooperation, avoid overlap and possible duplication. Regarding DINRAC activities, as data and information are crucial in preservation of the marine and coastal environment, all RACs and member states are encouraged to share the data with DINRAC. The representative of China also commended numerous activities of MERRAC, including specific projects and publications. In order to enhance capacity for oil spill preparedness and response, MERRAC made great achievements in close collaboration with member states.

46. Directors of MERRAC, DINRAC and POMRAC answered technical questions raised by the member states. The meeting approved the four RACs reports (Resolution 1 in the Annex I to the report of the meeting)

#### **Agenda Item 6: Reports by NOWPAP member states and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation**

47. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation stressed the significance of regional cooperation by illustrating MERRAC activities related to oil spill exercises. She also mentioned renewal of salvage and rescue fleet and several federal programs that are being implemented in Russia. She also emphasized the importance of activities of POMRAC in close collaboration with other RACs and establishment of a network of marine and coastal protected areas in the Russian Far East.

48. The representative of Japan explained about the recent developments related to marine litter: a recently enacted law on promotion of marine litter disposal and a two-phase project on marine litter survey by the Ministry of Environment. He then introduced Professor Jing Zhang of the Toyama University, who briefed the meeting on a joint research cruise with participants from NOWPAP member states in the NOWPAP region and requested cooperation from the member states for the success of the research cruise.

49. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives from the NOWPAP partners made short statements on behalf of their organizations: COBSEA, PICES and YSLME. Their statements were included in the meeting documents along with the statement from IOC-WESTPAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/6/1-4).

50. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China informed on the recent activities conducted in relation to marine litter, including a meeting among related ministries in

2008 and coastal cleanup campaigns in Dalian and Shanghai in 2009. She also mentioned their support to DINRAC.

51. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea commended the strong network with partners in the region, such as YSLME and IOC-WESTPAC, having common goals. However, establishment of a good relationship is not enough. He reminded NOWPAP RCU and RACs that their participation in international meetings should produce practical results and benefits to NOWPAP such as sharing available resources, best practices and coordinating the overlapping activities among them.

### **Agenda Item 7: Evaluation and prioritization of RAC activities by member states**

52. The Chairman mentioned that a discussion paper was prepared by the Government of Japan for this agenda item and also reminded the proposal of the ROK delegation to consider preparing a “road map” for future NOWPAP activities. He also reminded the meeting that overall NOWPAP work plan and budget (including each RAC budget) will be discussed under agenda item 11.

53. In response to the request from Chairman, the representative of Japan briefly described the priorities of each RAC activities based on the submitted discussion paper, stressing the importance of prioritization in light of the serious budgetary constraint of the Trust Fund as well as the need to facilitate efficient management of RAC activities. The representative of Japan invited his colleagues to explain details about each RAC activities. Concerns about MERRAC involvement in activities related to sea-based marine litter were expressed by other representative of Japan, indicating lack of expertise of the current focal points consisted mostly of coast guard officials. Other representatives also explained the prioritization of CEARAC, DINRAC, and POMRAC activities, emphasizing that efficient use of the limited resources is essential under the current budgetary constraint.

54. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea mentioned that two levels of prioritization might be considered: within each RAC and within NOWPAP as a whole (which should be prepared by the RCU).

55. Dr. Adler, UNEP representative, reminded the history of NOWPAP evolution in recent years and experience of other Regional Seas programmes as well as development of the UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy. Perhaps, developing a “road map” for the future activities is a good way forward.

56. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation suggested to adopt RAC reports as their activities for 2008-2009 biennium were approved by the NOWPAP IGM earlier.

57. The Chairman summarized the discussion and asked Korean delegate and UNEP representative to prepare draft resolution regarding “road map” for future NOWPAP activities (to be discussed by the next IGM). The meeting later on adopted a Resolution 3 (shown in the Annex I to report of the meeting) on preparation of the NOWPAP medium-term strategy (road map).

### **Agenda Item 8: NOWPAP approach to global and cross-cutting issues such as climate change and biodiversity conservation**

58. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented a brief background of consultations between RCU and RACs on this issue. While the decision regarding addressing climate change adaptation will be made by the Intergovernmental Meeting at a later

state, a brainstorming workshop focused on coastal and marine biodiversity was held in Toyama, Japan, on 17 September 2009. As a result, three project concepts to deal with biodiversity issues within NOWPAP were presented to the meeting (document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/7), Project Concept 1: State of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in the NOWPAP Region; Project Concept 2: Regional Marine Protected Areas Network; and Project Concept 3: Regional Marine and Coastal Invasive Species Strategy.

59. The Head of Delegation of China reminded that biodiversity conservation is in line with UNEP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) and therefore should be addressed by NOWPAP as well. She suggested at the first stage to concentrate on assessing the situation of the marine and coastal areas of NOWPAP before moving to more specific issues such as marine and coastal invasive species. Since there is no recognized definition of marine protected areas, it is hard to establish marine protected areas networks at the current stage.

60. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea suggested considering this issue taking into account future “road map” development, necessity of RCU coordination and fiscal constraints.

61. In response to a question from Japan, NOWPAP coordinator explained that the activities suggested under agenda item 8 are not intended to use funds from the Trust Fund. Instead, RCU is planning to contact external financial sources such as GEF, UNEP Regional Seas Programme and APN.

62. The representative of Japan supported in principle project concept on the assessment of current state of biodiversity with reservations regarding possible funding sources.

63. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation stressed the importance of the project concept related to networks of marine protected areas, not only for the Russian Far East, but also for the region as a whole.

64. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea reminded that Japan and the Republic of Korea suggested at previous IGM that NOWPAP GEF project should be initiated only after stabilization of the Trust Fund situation. He suggested to consider all three project concepts within the “road map” to be prepared.

65. The Chairman requested the RCU to prepare a draft resolution on the first project concept regarding biodiversity assessment in the NOWPAP region (to be implemented by experts from all member states), taking into account CBD COP-10 to be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The meeting adopted the resolution on developing a new project on biodiversity in the NOWPAP region (Resolution 5 in the Annex I to the report of the meeting).

### **Agenda Item 9: Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)**

66. NOWPAP Coordinator presented the report on the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI and plans for 2010-2011 (document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/8).

67. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed his satisfaction with the report and confirmed their strong support to activities related to marine litter in the NOWPAP region, due to its importance for all member states.

68. The representative of Japan stressed the importance of this issue and informed on recent developments in Japan, including adoption of the new law in July 2009. He suggested to approve budget later, along with overall NOWPAP work plan and budget under agenda item 11. He also pointed out that some activities suggested under RAP MALI workplan seem not have had enough coordination with relevant RACs, especially CEARAC and MERRAC and the Japanese focal

points to these RACs were not fully informed of the background information regarding coordination among RACs and RCU. Furthermore, other representative of Japan raised a question regarding suggested use of CEARAC guidelines, pointing out that guidelines only contain basic information and how to use such guidelines within the NOWPAP needs to be carefully deliberated by CEARAC.

69. Dr. Adler, UNEP representative, commended the achievements of NOWPAP in dealing with marine litter in recent years, along with other Regional Seas programmes. He also mentioned the importance of monitoring of marine litter and new UNEP/IOC guidelines.

70. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China introduced national efforts in inter-ministerial coordination and achievements in beach cleanup campaigns and suggested to adopt the RAP MALI work plan and budget for 2010-2011.

71. NOWPAP RAP MALI was approved in principle (Resolution 6 in the Annex I to the report of the meeting).

### **Agenda Item 10: Situation with NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions from member states**

72. 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting on this issue.

73. He mentioned that to secure the sustainability of NOWPAP activities, the annual target amount of the Trust Fund contributions should be US\$ 500,000 as decided at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting (November 1996). He mentioned also that Russia made a pledge in August 2009 for the payment of its annual contribution of US\$ 125,000 to the NOWPAP Trust Fund starting from 2010.

74. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation explained the current status of internal procedures and confirmed that the Russian Federation is willing to contribute annually US\$ 125,000, starting from 2010.

75. The representative of Japan explained that, in spite of the current financial difficulty that Japan has been facing, the Government of Japan has continuously and faithfully contributed to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in the past years. He also pointed out the necessity that each member state pays one fourth of USD 500,000, namely USD 125,000, to the Trust Fund in order to sustain the NOWPAP implementation, and that, without such commitments from other member states, it may pose a difficulty for Japan to obtain sufficient funds for NOWPAP from the national budget in the future.

76. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea suggested resolving this urgent issue as member states reached an agreement to increase the target amount of contributions to US\$ 500,000. He confirmed that his Government is willing to raise their voluntary contribution to US\$ 125,000 a year, given that other member states will be paying their contributions (promised to be increased in case of the Russian Federation). With regard to this, he pointed out that it is inevitable to reduce activities of RACs and RCU in case of failing to increase the target amount of contributions to US\$500,000 as well as to reduce RCU staff; for example, keeping one Coordinator instead of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator. He also added that without strong commitment by member states, it is hard to persuade his government to raise their amount of voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund and keep their current amount of contribution for RCU operation.

77. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China stated that China is willing to increase contributions to NOWPAP together with other member states. As to the contribution scale, she stressed that it should be based on the voluntary basis with the consideration of economic development level of member states. In addition, she mentioned that unpaid pledges should be paid timely and in full.

78. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed support for equal contributions among member states in principle, but suggested to keep the tentative scale of contribution as it is.

79. Dr. Adler, UNEP representative, suggested to consider mutual responsibility of member states for the NOWPAP Trust Fund and prepare a clear resolution on this issue expressing deep concern about the situation with contributions. He also suggested to consider requesting help of the UNEP Executive Director on resolving this matter.

80. The representative of Japan expressed concerns about the unchanged scale of contribution since 1996, when the status of economic development of member countries has become very different, and stated that all member countries are now capable to share equal responsibilities.

81. The Chairman welcomed the willingness of the Russian Federation to increase their contributions and reiterated that the sustainability of the Trust Fund is critical. He summarized that the meeting agreed upon keeping the tentative scale of contribution as it is and requested the RCU to prepare a draft resolution.

82. The meeting agreed to further discuss this issue at the next Intergovernmental Meeting as reflected in Resolution 4 attached as Annex I to the meeting report.

### **Agenda Item 11: NOWPAP work plan and budget for 2010-2011**

83. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented several options of the workplan and budget for 2010-2011 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/10) under two scenarios (with and without contributions from Russia), ranging from a maximum of US\$ 1,250,000 for the next biennium to a minimum of US\$ 700,000.

84. The representative of Japan supported the option with minimum allocation of funds for 2010-2011 biennium (US\$ 700,000) in order to preserve an accumulated balance in the Trust Fund as long as possible until additional contributions from member states become available. He also made a request for clarification regarding the appropriateness of paying 13% of contribution to UNEP HQ as programme support cost (PSC).

85. In response to a clarification requested from Japan, Dr. Adler explained that there is a case that UNEP HQ lowered the percentage of PSC, considering the fact that members are all developing countries. In case of NOWPAP, however, there are two financially powerful countries, namely Japan and ROK, and it may not be easy to get lower PSC from HQ; nevertheless, IGM could request RCU to obtain future clarifications on this matter from the UNEP HQ.

86. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea supported this suggestion in principle and mentioned one more option: to further decrease RAC budgets and increase allocations for RCU to ensure its coordinating role in implementing all NOWPAP activities. He also mentioned that reduced budget allocations for RAC activities should be complemented by member states.

87. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the same option in principle but from the other hand stressed the importance of all RACs activities, which should be financed by NOWPAP Trust Fund rather than by direct support from member states.

88. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China reiterated their position regarding voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund and agreed that activities might be reduced under budget constraints.

89. Dr. Adler, UNEP representative, expressed his concern on Russian unpaid contributions that create obstacles for other member states to raise their voluntary contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

90. After a follow-up discussion, the Chairman, taking into consideration budget constraints, proposed a compromise option with allocation of total amount of \$770,000 and invited member states to consider this suggestion carefully, taking into account that at the next IGM the whole NOWPAP budget might be re-considered again, depending on availability of additional contributions from member states.

91. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea supported the compromise option that the Chairman proposed and mentioned that potential GEF projects could be developed by the RCU only after the situation with contributions to the Trust Fund from member states is stabilized.

92. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China supported the compromise option with the suggestion of further discussion at the next IGM, depending on additional Trust Fund contributions.

93. The representative of Japan also agreed on the compromise option, while reiterating the importance to secure sustainable contributions from member states based on an equally-shared responsibility principle. He also suggested further discussion and possible revisions of the overall NOWPAP budget at the next IGM.

94. After a summary of discussion was provided by the Chairman, meeting adopted NOWPAP work plan and budget as reflected in Resolution 1 attached as Annex I to this report.

### **Agenda Item 12: Preparation for the 15<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting**

95. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation announced that Russian Federation would host the 15<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM in the second half of 2010. She explained that the Russian Federation would consult with other member states and RCU on the venue and dates at a later stage.

### **Agenda Item 13: Other Business**

96. The Chairman invited the member states, observers and RAC Directors to make any comments and statements, suggestions to be shared.

97. No issues were raised.

### **Agenda Item 14: Adoption of report and resolutions of the meeting**

98. The representatives of delegates had a small group meeting and finalized the meeting resolutions, taking into consideration comments suggested by member states during the discussion.

99. The meeting adopted resolutions (Annex I) and agreed that the report of the meeting with its annexes would be distributed by e-mail and then finalized by correspondence.

**Agenda Item 15: Closure of the Meeting.**

100. After customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1:20 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 2009.

Annex I  
Resolutions

**Resolution 1**

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2010-2011 BIENNIUM

The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves the report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP activities during the 2008-2009 biennium,
2. Approves also the reports of the four Regional Activity Centres of NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP during the 2008-2009 biennium,
3. Approves further NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2010-2011 biennium as presented in the following table,
4. Decides that this approved budget may be amended at the next Intergovernmental Meeting, if additional contributions from member states become available,
5. Requests the RAC directors to introduce changes and prioritize their respective activities in line with the approved budget and in consultation with their respective Focal Points. Revised workplans should be circulated by the RCU among member states,
6. Decides to continue the consideration of the evaluation and prioritization of RAC activities at the next IGM,
7. Requests NOWPAP RCU to facilitate the implementation of work by providing support and assistance to the RACs.

**NOWPAP workplan and budget (in thousands of US\$)  
for the 2010-2011 biennium as approved by the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting  
(Toyama, Japan, 8-10 December 2009)**

Activity	Responsibility for implementation	2010-2011 Budget
<b>CEARAC</b>	<b>CEARAC</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>DINRAC</b>	<b>DINRAC</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>MERRAC</b>	<b>MERRAC</b>	<b>107</b>

<b>POMRAC</b>	<b>POMRAC</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>RAP MALI</b>	<b>RCU</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>GEF PPG</b>	<b>RCU</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Public Awareness</b>	<b>RCU</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Coordination of RACs</b>	<b>RCU</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Operation of RCU</b>	<b>RCU</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Implementation of NOWPAP</b>	<b>RCU</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>681</b>
<b>13% of the sub-total as Programme Support Cost</b>		<b>89</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>770</b>

## **Resolution 2**

### **ENHANCEMENT OF THE NOWPAP RCU PERFORMANCE**

Recalling the IGM agreement to review NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) performance and achievements since its creation in 2005,

Complimenting NOWPAP RCU increasing contribution to executing the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) with a recognition that its functions could be further enhanced in order to better serve the member states and the region,

Expressing the willingness to enhance the role of the RCU as the main coordinating mechanism for NOWPAP and wishing also to strengthen close cooperation between the RCU and the RACs,

Taking note, with appreciation, of the resulting conclusions and recommendations included in the 2009 RCU performance review submitted to the 14<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM,

The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Urges the RCU to perform the overarching responsibility for implementing IGM decisions, including a coordinating role for environmental protection activities among RACs, and a role to assure quality and consistency of projects and deliverables from individual RACs,
2. Encourages the RCU to enhance its preparations to better support the IGM hosting countries substantively and logistically and, inter alia, requests the RCU and RACs to jointly develop and submit more detailed and consistent work plans and budgets as well as a revised resource mobilization strategy, starting with the next IGM,
3. Requests that the RCU and RACs develop a proposal on how to increase the quantity and improve the quality of NOWPAP technical reports and scientific publications as well as work towards a more strategic approach for better communications and enhanced public awareness in the region, and that they report their efforts back to the 15<sup>th</sup> IGM,
4. Requests the RCU to solicit member states opinions on the necessity and proposals of possible RCU TOR revisions. Also requests RCU to present the results to the next IGM.
5. Requests the RCU to consult with the UNEP CSS on the possibilities for greater financial flexibility for the RCU to independently handle small financial transactions and legal instruments, while bearing in mind that greater flexibility requires greater accountability, verified through periodic audits, and to report the outcome back the 15<sup>th</sup> IGM.

**Resolution 3****NOWPAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY**

Taking in account the new *Marine and Coastal Strategy* of UNEP and other relevant strategies and activities carried out in the region by other organizations and programmes,

Taking note of the recommendations made by the recent performance review of the RCU and the 2006 review of NOWPAP RACs,

Wishing to develop, establish and eventually execute a NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy that will facilitate an effective and efficient implementation of the Action Plan by the RCU and the RACs,

Wishing also that the agreed upon by all NOWPAP stakeholders Medium-term Strategy will increase NOWPAP relevance, efficiency and effectiveness as a UNEP Regional Seas Programme,

The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Requests the RCU, in close consultation with all RACs, to prepare a draft Medium-term Strategy for NOWPAP, which will address and include, among others, the following elements:
  - i) Relevant decisions of IGMs;
  - ii) Relevant recommendations from the RACs review carried out in 2006;
  - iii) Relevant recommendations from the recent RCU review (2009);
  - iv) Main programmatic and operational elements and thematic areas, including emerging issues;
  - v) Any other issue or background document/information that, in the view of the RCU, will facilitate the development and establishment of the Medium-term Strategy.
2. Requests the RCU to present the final draft to the next IGM.

## Resolution 4

### SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND

Recognizing the need to implement current NOWPAP projects 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 contributions of the NOWPAP member states to the NOWPAP Trust Fund to the target amount of US\$500,000, as agreed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting,

Taking note of resolutions of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meetings on the necessity to increase the contributions from all NOWPAP member states and also taking note of different positions of member states regarding practical possibilities to increase their contributions,

#### The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Decides to maintain the current tentative scale of contributions of the member states to the NOWPAP Trust Fund as presented in the table below,
2. Encourages the member states to make the utmost efforts to increase their annual contributions in 2010-2011,
3. Urges the member states to pay their unpaid pledges to the Trust Fund as soon as possible,
4. Decides to further discuss this issue, including the sustainability of the Trust Fund, at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

#### Scale of tentative contributions

Member State	Annual contribution (US\$)
People's Republic of China	40,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	100,000
Russian Federation	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,000</b>

## Resolution 5

### NEW PROJECT ON BIODIVERSITY IN THE NOWPAP REGION

Recognising the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region,

Taking into account also that 2010 was designated as the International Year of Biodiversity,

Taking note further that the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan,

The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Requests the RCU to develop project proposal "Assessment of the current status of marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region, including main threats, pressures, impacts and trends, at the ecosystem, community, habitat and key species level".
2. Requests also to keep member states informed on the progress and ensure that the project is implemented in close collaboration between experts from all members.

## Resolution 6

### REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER

Acknowledging the successful start of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in the NOWPAP region, as a successor of the NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA), which has been implemented since November 2005,

The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves, in principle, the draft workplan and budget for NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (2010-2011) as presented in document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/8, taking into account national circumstances of each member state and strict budgetary situation of NOWPAP,
2. Agrees to approve the revised RAP MALI workplan by correspondence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2010,
3. Requests NOWPAP RCU to implement the NOWPAP RAP MALI as scheduled in close collaboration with the NOWPAP RACs, UNEP and other international organizations and programmes involved,
4. Requests also the NOWPAP member states, RACs and Marine Litter National Focal Points to fully support the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI.

## Annex II

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## Annex III

## List of documents

**Working documents**

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan for 2008 – 2009
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/4	Report of the performance review of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/5/1	CEARAC report of activities, 2008 – 2009
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/5/2	DINRAC report of activities, 2008 – 2009
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/5/3	MERRAC report of activities, 2008 – 2009
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/5/4	POMRAC report of activities, 2008 – 2009
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/6/1	Statement of COBSEA Secretariat
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/6/2	Statement of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/6/3	Statement of the UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/6/4	Statement of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/7	Possible project concepts on marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/8	Report on implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/9	Status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions from the member states
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/10	NOWPAP work plan and budget for 2010-2011

**Information documents**

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/INF/1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/INF/3	Provisional timetable
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/INF/4	UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/INF/5	UNEP Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 13/9 Rev.1 Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific  
Action Plan: report of the meeting

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/6 Report on NOWPAP RACs evaluation