



Development of RCU staff project management skills

In line with UNEP efforts to strengthen project management capacity, NOWPAP RCU staff members have completed the "Projects in a Controlled Environment (PRINCE2)" online training courses. This internationally-recognized standard of project management covers the product-based planning, control and management which can be applied to any size and type of projects. RCU staff will use the project management skills to implement all NOWPAP ongoing and future activities.

Eco-life Act in Toyama

NOWPAP representative attended the Eco-life Act meeting and delivered a congratulatory address on 19 June 2011 in Toyama. The Eco-life Act campaign in Toyama started in 2007, encouraging ordinary citizens to take environmental friendly actions in their daily life. NOWPAP has been involved in the campaign through participating in the annual meetings where outstanding individuals were awarded by the governor of Toyama Prefecture for their excellent performance in practicing eco-life.



環境とやま県民会議総会及びエコライフ・アクト大会、(財)とやま環境財団設立20周年記念式典
平成23年6月19日 於 タワ-111 スカイホール

DINRAC and MERRAC convened Focal Points Meetings

Two of the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RAC) have convened their annual Focal Points Meetings (FPMs) where on-going activities and projects were reviewed and workplans were discussed for 2011 as well as for the next biennium. At the 9th DINRAC FPM held on 26-28 April 2011 in Hangzhou, China, it has been agreed to carry out, among others, the following major activities:

- compilation of an Atlas of marine invasive species;
- collection of available data and information on sea water and bottom sediments quality (including major pollutants) in NOWPAP member states;
- preparation of annual summary of policies and measures taken by NOWPAP members on prevention of coastal and marine pollution.

At the 14th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the 6th Competent National Authorities Meeting held on 7-10 June 2011 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, MERRAC considered implementing, among others, the following activities:

- assessment of environmental impact of oil spill incidents in the NOWPAP region;
- compilation of information on legislation related to marine pollution damage, civil liability and compensation;
- organization of a full-scale field oil spill response exercise in The Republic of Korea in May-June 2012 during the 2012 Yeosu Expo.

The proposed RAC workplans will be subject to approval of the 16th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) to be organized by the end of this year.

NOWPAP at the Inauguration of GTI Environmental Board

At the invitation of Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) secretariat, NOWPAP representative attended the Inaugural Meeting of GTI Environmental Board (held on 1-2 June 2011 in Beijing) as a resource person to introduce NOWPAP activities. GTI and its predecessor, the Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP), have been supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since early 1990s, as a regional intergovernmental mechanism to promote economic development and environmental cooperation in the Northeast Asia. GTI started to revitalize its activities in recent years in the areas of energy, transport, tourism, investment and trade, emphasizing environment as a cross-cutting sector. With the overlapping membership of China, Republic of Korea and Russia in both NOWPAP and GTI, and considering environment as an issue of mutual concern, both sides agreed to maintain close contacts in order to explore possible ways of cooperation in the future.



NOWPAP to host 13th GMRS

NOWPAP will host the 13th Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (GMRS) in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 3-5 October 2011. The focus of this annual meeting will be on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) to protect the marine environment from land-based activities. Previous GMRS meetings in recent years were held in Bergen (Norway), Bangkok (Thailand), Guayaquil (Ecuador) and other locations, hosted by individual Regional Seas programmes.

NOWPAP financial situation improved

After about 10 years of uncertainty, on 26 May 2011 the Russian Government had issued a Resolution resuming its commitment to annual contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund at a scale agreed by the Intergovernmental Meeting. With this commitment, financial sustainability of NOWPAP will be improved significantly, allowing to start new activities to address marine and coastal environmental issues of a regional concern.

APN granted a project on Impacts of Global Warming on Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Northwest Pacific

The Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), a network of member country governments that promotes global change research and strengthens interactions between the science community and policy-makers in the region, has recently approved the titled project. The highly-productive western North Pacific has experienced dramatic changes in oceanographic conditions and ecosystem structure, driven by climatic changes and anthropogenic interventions. It is intended to conduct comparative studies across NOWPAP countries (China, Japan, Korea and Russia) to evaluate regional differences in the responses of marine ecosystems to the changes in the NOWPAP sea area (33-52°N; 121-143°E) by a project team composed of natural and socioeconomic scientists. This project will provide scientific basis to decision makers in developing policy strategies that incorporate regional differences in marine ecosystems supporting fish stocks as well as in vulnerability and adaptation of fisheries industries to climate change. The project concept was initiated by NOWPAP and will be implemented under the leadership of Dr. Sukgeun Jung (Jeju National University, Republic of Korea).

NOWPAP/PICES/WESTPAC Joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis

In collaboration with the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), the Special Monitoring & Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) of NOWPAP will conduct an intensive training course at Pacific Oceanological Institute in Vladivostok, Russia from 8 to 12 October 2011 on the analysis of remote sensing data, with a focus on the Northwest Pacific Ocean. The course will consist of lectures by experts and hands-on tutorial sessions on analysis of satellite data, aiming at providing opportunities for students, young researchers and coastal managers to obtain useful skills and knowledge to utilize remote sensing data to monitor and assess the coastal and marine environment.

Financial support will be available for limited number of participants and deadline for submission of application is 30 June 2011. More details are available at this link:

http://cearac.nowpap.org/monitoring/3rdRST/1st_Announcement.html

This is the third time that NOWPAP jointly organizes such training course with partners in the region since 2007.



Meetings / events attended by RCU staff

- 2nd International Planning Meeting for 2012 Expo in Yeosu, Korea, 6 April, Seoul, Korea
- Informal meeting with Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) to discuss on the preparation for the 2011 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) and 16th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), 2 June, Beijing, China
- Courtesy calls to the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS) Center and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Kansai Center, 21 June, Kobe, Japan

Visits to www.nowpap.org

During the quarter (1 April - 30 June 2011), NOWPAP website had been visited 3,188 times, among which 30% were new visitors.

Ten most frequently visiting countries (out of 61 in total) were:

1. Republic of Korea
2. Japan
3. China
4. Russia
5. United States
6. United Kingdom
7. France
8. Australia
9. Canada
10. Philippines

Missions / events, planned for the 3rd quarter 2011

- Sustainable Ocean Initiative Launching and Programme Development Meeting organized by Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and Ministry of Environment, Japan, 2-4 August, Kanazawa, Japan
- Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC) Expert Meeting on Biodiversity and Eutrophication, 4-5 August, Toyama, Japan
- 16th North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation/Senior Officials Meeting (NEASPEC/SOM) and Expert Group Meeting (EGM), 1-2 September, Incheon, Korea
- 9th Focal Points Meeting (FPM) and the Expert Meeting of CEARAC, 5-7 September, Toyama, Japan
- 2011 NOWPAP International Cleanup Campaign (ICC) and Workshop in China, date to be decided, September, Lianyungang, China
- International Symposium on Marine Litter organized by Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)/Yeosu Expo, 28-29 September, Incheon, Korea