



NOWPAP 2011 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign



On 20-21 September 2011, NOWPAP conducted its annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign and workshop on marine litter prevention and control in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, China, as part of the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI). The events were organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, Jiangsu Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau, Lianyungang Municipal Government and NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU). The workshop was attended by representatives of NOWPAP member states (including NOWPAP marine litter focal points and ICC coordinators), NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (RACs), Ocean Conservancy as well as local citizens, experts and NGOs. The workshop was focused on discussing and sharing information on government measures on the marine litter prevention and control, public participation and private sector involvement. Participants agreed that efforts on addressing marine litter, including exchange of information, best practices and further promotion of ICC, should be continued in the region.

In conjunction with the ICC campaign, a working meeting was held on 20 September 2011 to discuss the NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan and budget for 2012-2013 which will be presented to the 16th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting for approval at the end of this year.

After the workshop, a beach cleanup was organized where the workshop participants joined 200 local volunteers and collected 75 kg of marine litter which was sorted and recorded in ICC data card provided by Ocean Conservancy. The most abundant items found on the beach were cigarette butts, cups and lids. The events were financially supported by China, Japan and UNEP. Next NOWPAP ICC campaign will be organized in Russia in 2012.

9th CEARAC Focal Points meeting

The 9th Focal Points Meeting of the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre of NOWPAP was held on 6-7 September 2011 in Toyama, Japan. The meeting has reviewed the progress of the current activities and steps to be taken in order to finalize the projects till the end of 2011:

- Compiling an integrated report on harmful algal blooms (HAB) for the NOWPAP region;
- Compiling an integrated report on ocean remote sensing for the NOWPAP region - towards assessment of marine and coastal environment;
- Compiling an integrated report on eutrophication assessment in the selected sea areas including evaluation of land-based sources of nutrients in the NOWPAP region.

Meeting participants agreed on the refinement of the common procedures for eutrophication assessment and discussed also new activities on marine biodiversity conservation focusing on selection of ecologically and biologically significant areas and the assessment of existing marine protected areas. These new activities will be included in the CEARAC workplan for 2012-2013, to be approved at the 16th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting in December 2011.



NOWPAP at the 16th Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC

NOWPAP coordinator attended the 16th Senior Officials Meeting of the Northeast Asia Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) on 1-2 September 2011 in Seoul. As one of the important regional cooperation mechanisms, NEASPEC has initiated and implemented several projects on nature conservation, trans-boundary air pollution, dust and sandstorms and eco-efficiency. Among the new proposals discussed at the meeting, NOWPAP is interested in contributing in the future to the “Strengthening Sub-regional Cooperation to Address Environmental Challenges Related to Trans-boundary Marine Pollution” which will be further elaborated at an expert consultation meeting next year.



Meeting of Experts on Marine Biodiversity and Eutrophication

The Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Centre (NPEC) organized a meeting on biodiversity and eutrophication on 4-5 August 2011 in Toyama, Japan. Experts at the meeting were from NOWPAP member countries (China, Japan, Korea and Russia), international organizations such as Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States. The two-day meeting was devoted to discussions on current and future activities for the Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) of NOWPAP. The suggested activities were presented to the Focal Points Meeting of CEARAC on 6-7 September in Toyama and will be presented also to the 16th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting later this year for final approval.



NOWPAP at the meeting on Sustainable Ocean Initiative

NOWPAP representatives attended the meeting on Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) held on 2-4 August 2011 in Kanazawa, Japan. Jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity and the United Nations University (Institute of Advanced Studies) with the support of the Government of Japan, the meeting discussed the long term vision, goals and approaches for the development of the SOI in order to contribute to the realization of Aichi Targets 6 and 11 adopted by CBD COP 10 October 2010 in Nagoya focusing on sustainable fishery and the marine protected areas.

School students visited RCU Toyama office

20 students from Toyama middle and high schools visited RCU Toyama office on 1 August 2011 and a presentation on NOWPAP and its activities was given to the students.



A NOWPAP promotion event on the Ocean Day

In conjunction with the Toyama port call of *Hakusan*, oil recovery and harbour dredging vessel, which participated in the third NOWPAP joint oil spill response exercise held in Wakkanai, Japan in 2010, NOWPAP Deputy Coordinator delivered a presentation to Toyama citizens introducing NOWPAP activities including those carried out under the NOWPAP regional oil spill contingency plan. The presentation was a part of a Toyama Prefectural Government programme of promoting public awareness of oil spill preparedness and response, which was arranged on 18 July, the Ocean Day observed as a national holiday in Japan. In addition, NOWPAP representatives attended a welcome ceremony for the arrival of *Hakusan* and exchanged gifts with the captain on 16 July.



Meetings / events attended by RCU staff

- International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific, 26-27 July, Yokohama, Japan
- JEAN Marine Litter Summit, 22-23 September, Matsuyama, Japan
- Side event at the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum, 28 September, Incheon, Korea
- International Symposium on Marine Litter organized by Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) and Yeosu Expo, 29 September, Incheon, Korea

Visits to www.nowpap.org

During the quarter (1 July - 30 September 2011), NOWPAP website had been visited 2,720 times, among which 50% were new visitors.

Ten most frequently visiting countries (out of 52 in total) were:

1. Japan
2. Republic of Korea
3. China
4. United States
5. Russia
6. Philippines
7. United Kingdom
8. Kenya

Missions / events, planned for the 4th quarter 2011

- 13th Global meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, 3-5 October, Busan, Korea
- PICES Annual Meeting, 14-23 October, Vladivostok, Russia
- 9th Focal Points Meeting (FPM) of POMRAC, 25-26 October, Khabarovsk, Russia
- 16th NOWPAP IGM, 20-22 December, Beijing, China