

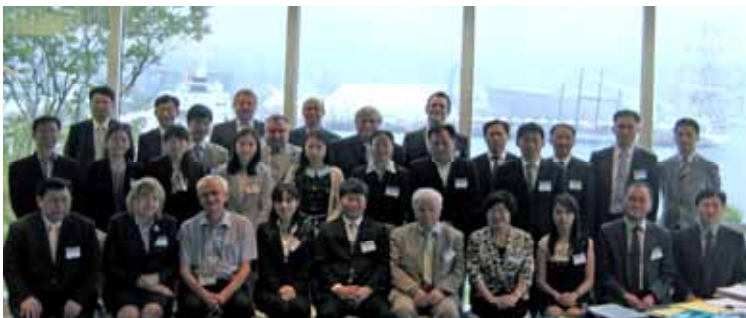


MERRAC and DINRAC organized their Focal Points Meetings

NOWPAP Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC) and Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) held their Focal Points meetings on 14-18 May and 23-24 May 2012 in Yeosu and Beijing, respectively.

At the MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, the following major activities were decided to be carried out for the next two years among other routine tasks:

- Compiling a report on the legislation and practice related to civil liability and compensation for marine pollution damage in the NOWPAP region;
- Developing practical assistance procedure and system under the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan;
- Preparing a manual on conducting oil spill response operational exercise and a pamphlet on HNS database and HNS spill response;
- Considering possible ways of involvement in the Global Initiative (GI) Programme through the cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues (IPIECA) in the NOWPAP region.



At the same time, the DINRAC Focal Points meeting decided the following major activities for 2012-2013:

- Preparing annual summary of major marine environmental data available in NOWPAP member states;
- Preparing a summary of the policies and measures for the prevention of coastal and marine pollution in NOWPAP member states;
- Organizing a workshop on marine invasive species to be funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN).

In addition to those activities, both MERRAC and DINRAC will participate together with the other RACs in the implementation of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and the preparation of the second NOWPAP State of Marine Environment Report.

NOWPAP at the 6th World Ocean Forum

During the Forum in Busan (4-6 June 2012), NOWPAP representatives delivered two presentations on international cooperation to address marine environmental issues in the Northeast Asia and on carbon capture and storage.

NOWPAP joint oil spill exercise in Yeosu

In conjunction with the International Exposition Yeosu Korea 2012, the 4th NOWPAP joint oil spill exercise was conducted on 18 May. Jointly organized by Korea Coast Guard and China Maritime Safety Administration under the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan, with participation of about 30 vessels, boats and aircraft, the exercise demonstrated the preparedness of NOWPAP member states to major oil spills at sea. Three previous NOWPAP joint oil spill exercises have been conducted in Russia, China and Japan respectively since 2006.



NOWPAP at Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea

NOWPAP joined other international organizations and projects at the Ocean and Coast Best Practise Area of the Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea to showcase its activities on oil spills preparedness and response and marine litter management. During the first week of the Expo, two lectures were delivered by NOWPAP staff on 16 and 17 May respectively introducing UNEP Regional Seas Programme and NOWPAP activities. Related materials were also distributed. The Expo will be continued till 12 August 2012.



NOWPAP Marine Environment WebGIS Platform

In May 2012, the NOWPAP Marine Environment WebGIS Platform developed by the Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center (DINRAC) was online with data on 276 Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, 272 Oil Spills, and 45 Harmful and Noxious Substance Spills in the Northwest Pacific. This platform will continue to be updated in the future. Please check below for details:

<http://dinrac.nowpap.org:83/WebGIS/index.html>



CEARAC and POMRAC convened their Focal Points meetings

NOWPAP Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) convened its tenth Focal Points Meeting (FPM) on 17-18 April 2012 in Toyama, Japan. The meeting reviewed CEARAC activities in 2010-2011 biennium, revised the terms of reference of CEARAC FPM, discussed and agreed on major activities to be implemented in 2012-2013:

- Preparation of a regional report on conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable use of marine resources through compiling and analysing data and information on marine protected areas;
- Refinement of common procedure for eutrophication assessment through its further application in selected areas in the NOWPAP region;
- Organization of the 4th training course on remote sensing data analysis.

From 24 to 25 April 2012, NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POMRAC) also held its tenth Focal Points Meeting in Kanazawa, Japan, and agreed to carry out the following activities in the 2012-2013 biennium:

- Finalization of the regional overview on ecosystem valuation, marine spatial planning and ecosystem based management in selected areas, as well as preparation of regional guidelines for integrated coastal planning and management;
- Preparation of a regional overview on persistent toxic substances (PTS) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs);
- Preparation of the second State of Marine Environmental Report (SOMER-2) for the NOWPAP region.

As SOMER-2 requires participation of all NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres, further consultations were held in order to finalize its structure and contents. In addition, both CEARAC and POMRAC will continue their activities related to the implementation of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in 2012-2013.

Prior to the Focal Points Meeting, a workshop on PTS and POPs in the NOWPAP region was organized jointly by Kanazawa University and POMRAC on 23 April at which experts from NOWPAP member states introduced current situation with PTS and POPs, shared novel monitoring approaches and study results, and discussed the structure of future regional overview mentioned above.

Member States adopted NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017

Taking into account suggestions of member states after the 16th Intergovernmental Meeting held in Beijing, China (December 2011), the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 has been finalized. In the coming 5 years, NOWPAP activities will be focusing on the following priority areas:

- Integrated coastal and river basin management;
- Regular assessments of the state of the marine environment;
- Pollution prevention and reduction, including harmful substances, hazardous waste and marine litter;
- Biodiversity conservation (including marine invasive species, MIS);
- Climate change impacts.

Meetings / events attended by RCU staff

- Asia Pacific Workshop on Global Partnership on Waste Management, 16-18 April, Osaka, Japan
- Asia Pacific Workshop on Integrated Solid Waste Management, 19-20 April, Osaka, Japan
- Courtesy visit to APN and EMECS, 26 April, Kobe, Japan
- Courtesy visit to OCEAN, 27 April, Okinawa, Japan
- The 9th Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), 9-12 May 2012, Busan, Republic of Korea
- UNEP Results Based Project Management Training, 24-25 May, Osaka, Japan

Visits to www.nowpap.org

From 1 April to 30 June 2012, NOWPAP website had been visited 2,054 times, among which 52% were new visitors.

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

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



Missions / events planned for the 3rd quarter 2012

- Courtesy visit to OCEAN, Okinawa Prefectural Government, Onna Village Government and JCG 11th District Office, 4-5 July, 2012
- East Asian Seas Congress 2012, 9-13 July, Changwon, Korea
- 2012 NOWPAP ICC and 6th International Ecological Forum, 17-20 July, Vladivostok, Russia
- 2nd APN Workshop on Climate Change, 9-10 July, Jeju, Korea
- JEAN Marine Litter Summit, 24-26 August, Kameoka, Japan
- UN Management Development Programme, 11-14 September, Glen Cove, U.S.A.