



East Asian Regional Workshop on World Ocean Assessment

The Regional Scientific and Technical Capacity Building Workshop on the World Ocean Assessment (WOA), contributing to the UN Regular Process, was held on 17-19 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. Workshop was co-organized by COBSEA, NOWPAP, IOC WESTPAC and GRID Arendal with financial support provided by UNEP, IOC WESTPAC and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). 55 experts from 12 East and South-east Asian countries, including four NOWPAP member states, participated in the workshop, together with 4 members of the UN Regular Process Group of Experts and representatives of co-organizers.

Workshop methodology was based on Australian experience and focused on the integrated assessment of the South China Sea. The trial assessment carried out at the workshop (along with pre-workshop assignments) confirmed that the Australian methodology could be applied for integrated assessments in other countries/regions (with appropriate modifications in parameter matrices for habitats, species/groups of species, pressures, etc.).



NOWPAP supported Marine Litter Summit

NOWPAP representative attended the Marine Litter Summit on 25-26 August 2012 in Kameoka City of Kyoto Prefecture, Japan where participants from environmental NGOs, central and local governments discussed ways of dealing with marine litter in Japan and in the region. The summit was organized by the Japan Environmental Action Network (JEAN) along with a river bank cleanup sponsored by local government, industry and citizen groups. The river bank cleanup campaign was organized the day before the Summit at Hozugawa River, in which 100 people participated. Contributing to the success of the Summit, NOWPAP has been participating in this annual event as an official supporter since 2005.



Oceans Compact launched

The Oceans Compact, an initiative to strengthen United Nations system-wide coherence to deliver on its oceans-related mandates was launched by the UN Secretary General in Yeosu City on 12 August 2012, the closing day for the 2012 Yeosu Expo. Representative of NOWPAP RCU, along with other UN agencies in Korea, participated in the closing ceremony. During the last days of Yeosu Expo, several important events were also held such as exhibition of UNEP, FAO and IMO in the UN Pavilion. Contributing to the successful launching, NOWPAP assisted in printing and delivering 870 copies of the Ocean Compact in Arabic, Chinese, English, Korean, Russian and Spanish languages.



Building public awareness

In conjunction with the 4th Northeast Asia Region Youth Environmental Program sponsored by the Toyama Prefectural Government, a special lecture on NOWPAP and its activities was delivered to local school students by the NOWPAP Deputy Coordinator on 19 August 2012. A complimentary speech was also given at the opening of a workshop where students from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russia shared their experiences on conducting environmental activities in their respective countries.



Contributing to local environmental awareness building, NOWPAP representatives attended a similar event in June 2012 campaigning for “Eco-life” in Toyama (the Eco-life campaign is promoting environmentally friendly approaches to daily life when driving, shopping, cooking, etc.).

NOWPAP at EAS Congress 2012

Joining PEMSEA country and non-country partners, NOWPAP participated in the 2012 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress, which was held on 9-13 July in Changwon City, Republic of Korea with the main theme of “Building Blue Economy: Strategy, Opportunities and Partnerships in the Seas of East Asia”. NOWPAP representatives attended the Congress plenary sessions and parallel workshops as well as the special partnership council meeting and the Ministerial Forum which adopted Implementation Plan (2012-2016) for the Sustainable Development for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). A NOWPAP booth was set up at the exhibition zone to display posters, publications and promotional items.



2012 NOWPAP ICC Campaign and Workshop in Vladivostok

As part of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, NOWPAP organized the 2012 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) and Marine Litter Workshop on 17-18 July in Vladivostok, Russia. NOWPAP Marine Litter Focal Points, ICC national coordinators, representatives of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Coordinating Unit as well as several Tokyo University students participated in the beach cleanup and the workshop. Working together with 30 local school kids, NOWPAP participants collected about 18 kg of marine litter from the beach and recorded the results in the ICC data card which was shared with Ocean Conservancy to be included in its annual ICC report.

The Marine Litter Workshop convened the next day provided an opportunity for the participants to share their experience in marine litter management, focusing in particular on the roles of local and central governments as well as non-governmental organizations.

The NOWPAP ICC and workshop were held as a side event of the 6th International Ecological Forum "Nature without Borders" which took place on 19-20 July in Vladivostok. NOWPAP activities on marine litter and oil spill preparedness and response were presented at the Forum.



Meetings / events attended by RCU staff

- Courtesy visit to Okinawa Prefecture Government, Japan Coast Guard 11th District Office (Okinawa Clean Coast Network Secretariat), Onna Village Government and Okinawa Institute for Science and Technology (OIST), 4-5 July, Okinawa, Japan
- APN Workshop on Impacts of Global Warming on Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the NW Pacific, 9-10 July, Jeju, Korea
- UN Management Development Programme, 10-12 July and 11-14 September, Glen Cove, U.S.A.
- UN Security Management Meeting, 23 August, Seoul, Korea
- Beach Cleanup in Toyama organized by NPEC, 12 September, Toyama, Japan
- Regional Experts Workshop on the Preparation of the Project Framework Documents (PFD) and Eighth Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (YSLME), 18-20 September, Beijing, China

Visits to www.nowpap.org

From 1 July to 30 September 2012, NOWPAP website had been visited 1,640 times, among which 53% were new visitors.



Missions / events planned for the 4th quarter 2012

- 14th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, 1-3 October, Nairobi, Kenya
- Meeting with MOFAT and MLTM of Korea, 8 October, Seoul, Korea
- 2012 PICES Annual Meeting, 12-19 October, Hiroshima, Japan
- Regional Workshop on Marine Invasive Species Problems in Northwest Pacific Region (hosted by DINRAC), 23-24 October, Qingdao, China
- Meeting with MLIT, MOFA and MOE of Japan, 24 October, Tokyo, Japan
- 17th NOWPAP IGM, 1-2 November, Jeju, Korea
- Biennium Conference of the Global Partnership on Waste Management, 5-6 November, Osaka, Japan
- 4th Japan Ocean Policy Conference, 1 December, Tokyo, Japan
- Management Development Programme (second module), 4-6 December, Glen Cove, U.S.A.