

Report on the Second NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litter (Toyama, Japan, 28-29 March 2007)

Result of the WS

Nineteen presentations were made by NOWPAP Member States (China, Japan, Korea, and Russia), NOWPAP staff and FAO/UNEP Consultants, including a keynote speech and special lecture. Around 90 people participated in the workshop.

Through the workshop, participants shared information on: (1) countermeasures implemented in specific areas; (2) the reduction and prevention efforts implemented in each country; (3) countermeasures against fisheries-related marine litter; (4) coastal cleanup; (5) marine litter management policies and systems; and (6) regional actions against marine litter, including in the neighbouring COBSEA Region. In the discussions of each session, participants actively exchanged opinions in the pursuit of more effective ways to solve marine litter problems. The information and opinions shared at this workshop help develop a Regional Action Plan on marine litter in the NOWPAP Region.

Opening Ceremony

1. The workshop was opened in Toyama, Japan, at 1:00 pm on 28 March 2007 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Takeshi OGAWA.
2. Opening Addresses were made by Mr. Kentaro TOMINAGA, Deputy Director of the Global Environmental Issues Division, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, and Dr. Motoyuki SUZUKI, Chairman of the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC).
3. Guest Addresses were made by Mr. Tatsuhiro IWAMOTO, Director General of the Civic Affairs & Environmental Department, Toyama Prefecture, and Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG, Deputy Coordinator of NOWPAP.
4. The Keynote Speech was made by Mr. Steve RAAYMAKERS, of EcoStrategic Consultants. He explained the background to and impact of derelict fishing gear (DFG) as well as the current actions being taken against DFG. In his speech, he emphasized that the global response should focus on exploiting the existing regulatory regime and available tools, saying that for future actions we need to “want to use them” and “know how to use them”.
5. A special lecture was given by Dr. Tatsuro MATSUOKA, of Kagoshima University. He introduced a study explaining the impact of ghost fishing caused by DFG. He also explained various processes from fishing gear loss to the dysfunction of ghost fishing. He emphasized the utilization management of fishing grounds, improvement of fishing gear and other methods to prevent DFG and ghost fishing.

Session 1

6. Mr. Jiangning CHEN introduced some of the marine litter cleanup campaigns carried out by Dalian Environmental Protection Volunteer Association (DLEPVA), and made various suggestions on future activities for NOWPAP, such as establishing action plans.
7. Mr. Toshifumi SHIWAKU reported the results of the seabed litter investigation conducted in the Seto Inland Sea in 2006, and presented some removal and disposal approaches that have been implemented in the area by local fishermen and the local administration. He also emphasized the importance of central government involvement since the marine litter problem in Seto Inland Sea is of a trans-boundary nature.
8. Mr. Yoon-Chan CHOI introduced the litter problems found in the Nakdong estuary and the study conducted by Busan City to identify the sources of the litter. He also stated that litter problems still have low priority compared to water quality issues, and expressed the need to develop a cost-sharing mechanism for litter removal.
9. The possibility of data sharing between the Dalian Environmental Cooperation Center and NOWPAP was suggested.
10. In response to a request for information on the activities in the other Regional Seas, one participant introduced a case of recycling fishing nets that have washed ashore. He emphasized the importance of countermeasures against sources of marine litter and introduced the Stormwater Quality Improvement Device (SQID) related to this issue in Australia.

Session 2

11. Dr. Linlin HU reported on the progress of the implementation of MALITA in China, including a review of the national legal instruments and the publishing of brochures, and the introduction of various Japanese and Korean experiences to SEPA. He also reported on the upcoming national marine litter workshop and ICC activity, as well as the plans for establishing national monitoring guidelines and national strategies for integrated marine litter management.
12. Dr. Takashi KUSUI presented the results of the marine litter surveys conducted over 9 years in the NOWPAP region, and stated that plastic was one of the most abundant forms of litter in this region. He emphasized the reduction and the control of the discharge of plastic products as one of the key issues for solving the marine litter problem.
13. Mr. Seong Oh IM introduced various marine litter reduction projects conducted by the Korea Marine Pollution Response Corporation (KMPPRC), and made some suggestions for multisectoral efforts towards the effective reduction of marine litter in Korea.
14. One participant asked about the containment boom implemented at estuary mouths in Korea and whether there was also a focus on prevention countermeasures against

sources of marine litter further upstream. It was explained that at present the central government, with the cooperation of various local governments, is developing a Front of Pipe approach, especially in the Busan area.

15. Some participants were impressed by the activities on marine litter implemented by KMPRC and asked what kinds of social/economic backgrounds support these activities. The chair explained that KMPRC was funded by shipping companies and that it will continue these activities as a public company with the support of the central government.
16. One participant remarked that it is important to simultaneously employ two different approaches in the fight against marine litter; one which addresses the sources of marine litter (Front of Pipe), and a separate approach that addresses the abundant marine litter already in the ocean (End of Pipe).

Session 3

17. Mr. Shigeru FUJIEDA explained that foam plastic fragments are one of the major components of beach litter in Japan, with waste EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) floats as the major source. He also explained that waste EPS floats from some fishing ports are now being recycled through the use of EPS float compressors.
18. Dr. Rho-Taek JUNG introduced the results of a marine litter survey in Korean harbors and major fishing grounds using side-scan sonar. He also introduced some marine litter prevention, survey, recovery and treatment technologies that have been developed in Korea.
19. One participant remarked that it is important to expand EPS float recycling technology to other regions and asked about the next step forward in its expansion. In response to this comment, it was explained that fishing containers have been recycled for a long time, but that the recycling of EPS floats has only recently been implemented in Japan and that further progress depends on finding new ways to recycle EPS floats.
20. The expansion of EPS float recycling technology was encouraged by a participant who also wanted to know what the next step forward in its expansion would be.
21. It was explained that because the recycling of EPS floats has only recently been introduced, there is still insufficient data to show what percentage of EPS floats are currently recycled.
22. A suggestion to share the experiences of Korea, presented by Dr. JUNG, will be reflected in the sectoral guidelines to be developed under the NOWPAP MALITA project.

Session 4

23. Ms. Yoshiko OHKURA introduced the activities of JEAN, which included the implementation of International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns, environmental education and organizing conferences, etc. She concluded her presentation by stating the importance of multisectoral and international cooperation in solving marine litter problems.
24. Mr. Artur MAYSS reported on various cleanup campaigns conducted in the Far East of Russia, and informed the meeting of an ICC event to be held in Vladivostok in September 2007.
25. Ms. Yana BLINOVSKAYA revealed that marine litter is still not perceived as a major issue in Far Eastern Russian communities, and thus stressed the importance of implementing Public relations projects.
26. Participants appreciated JEAN's efforts, especially in forming extensive networks to conduct cleanup activities, securing funds and sharing local marine litter databases with NOWPAP.
27. One participant pointed out that getting adults involved in clean up campaigns is a key factor, since they are responsible for generating more litter than the children who usually participate in the campaigns. In response to this remark, an approach by the mass media to raise public awareness in Korea was introduced.

Session 5

28. Mr. Xiangbin PEI presented a report on the status of solid waste management in China, including a review of the relevant laws and regulations, national plans, institutional arrangements, treatment facilities, enforcement and compliance measures, and outreach activities.
29. Mr. Kentaro TOMINAGA introduced the policies and measures of the Japanese government designed to address marine litter, which were formed over four inter-ministerial meetings in 2006.
30. Dr. Won-Tae SHIN introduced some of the national activities implemented in Korea, and explained that a comprehensive national action plan is now under development. He also explained some of the efforts of the fisheries sector and other public relation activities.
31. Dr. Sergei MONINETS reported on the activities implemented in Russia in relation to MALITA, and pointed out some problems, such as the insufficient budget. He also reported on the 2nd workshop on marine litter in March 2007, which was attended by representatives from relevant governments. He also informed the workshop that the International Conference "Marine Ecology 2007" and the exhibition "Clean Port", will be held in October 2007 in Russia.

32. Participants suggested that the involvement of NGO and NPO in activities against marine litter is also a key factor.

Session 6

33. Mr. Steve RAAYMAKERS reported on the status of the Regional Review and the Development of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan on marine litter in the Seas of East Asia. He emphasized that marine litter is a trans-boundary issue requiring a trans-boundary response, including close cooperation between NOWPAP and COBSEA, and efforts to identify sources of marine litter in order to address the issue at its source.
34. Dr. Jeung Sook PARK reported on the current progress of the NOWPAP implementation of MALITA and introduced some best management practices of marine litter for the shipping, fisheries and tourism sectors, which will be referred to in the development of the NOWPAP sectoral guidelines for these sectors.
35. A public morality campaign initiated by NOWPAP was suggested by a citizen of Toyama City. In addition to this suggestion, the use of a slogan in each NOWPAP language selected through public competition was suggested. In response to this suggestion, it was explained that such public awareness activities have been included in MALITA.
36. One participant suggested making the best use of existing resources.
37. One participant suggested that this workshop should be continued on a regular basis.
38. Close cooperation between NOWPAP and COBSEA, as well as Japanese involvement in COBSEA, was suggested by more than one participant in order to share their experience and expertise in the fight against marine litter.



Participants to the 2nd NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litter

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