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**Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment
Regional Activity Centre**

**The Eighth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting
and the Expert Meeting on assessment of eutrophication and marine biodiversity
Toyama, Japan, 13-15 September 2010**

**Report of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the
implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)**

Implementation of NOWPAP activities since the 7th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Report of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 7th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in Toyama, Japan on 14-15 September 2009.
2. Details on the activities of the NOWPAP CEARAC will be presented by the CEARAC Director under separate agenda item, therefore only brief information on three other RACs is given below.

DINRAC - Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre

3. DINRAC has continuously developed and maintained the following databases (available at the DINRAC website):
 - Database on NOWPAP Institutions: <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapInstitution.php3>
 - Database on NOWPAP Experts: <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapExpert.php3>
 - Database on NOWPAP Coastal and Marine Environmental Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) Applications: <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapGIS.php3>
 - Database on Marine Litter: http://dinrac.nowpap.org/MALITA_WhatIs.htm
 - Database on Coastal and Marine Nature Reserves: <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapNatureReserve.php3>
4. Reference Databases on Atmospheric Deposition (AD), River and Direct Inputs (RDI) of contaminants and ICARM have been also established and maintained through cooperation with POMRAC:
 - Atmospheric Deposition (AD): <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceAD.php3>
 - River and Direct Inputs (RDI): <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceRDI.php3>
 - Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM): <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceICARM.php>
5. The 14th NOWPAP IGM approved DINRAC workplan and budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, including the following activities.
 - Update of database on coastal and marine nature reserves in the NOWPAP region.
 - Update of meta-database on contaminants and nutrients in the NOWPAP region.
 - Investigation of alien species and their potential damage in the NOWPAP region (national and regional reports will be published in October 2010).
 - Development of visualized DINRAC website (pilot phase, highlighting nature reserves in the NOWPAP region, has been launched in mid-2010).

MERRAC - Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre

6. In 2009, MERRAC had completed the following specific projects:
 - Minimum Level of Preparedness (led by China and Russia).
 - HNS Response Operation Guidelines (led by China and Russia).
 - HNS Database (led by Korea).
 - HNS Training Manual (led by Japan).
 - Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response (led by MERRAC Secretariat).
 - Regional Report on Sea-based Marine Litter (led by MERRAC Secretariat).
7. MERRAC has maintained the following databases, available at the MERRAC website:
 - List of oil spill response equipment, institutions and experts in the field of marine pollution preparedness and response.
 - List of oil spill accidents over 10 tons.
8. The 14th NOWPAP IGM approved MERRAC work plan and budget for 2010-11 biennium, including the following activities:
 - Expert meeting was organized on 5 September 2010 in conjunction with “Sakhalin Project Forum” and full-scale NOWPAP DELTA oil spill exercise.
 - Regional report on HNS preparedness and response.
 - Other specific projects on oil and HNS issues.
 - Marine Litter issues (under RAP MALI).

POMRAC – Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

9. In 2009, POMRAC had completed the following activities:
 - Development of Regional Overview on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM).
 - Regional Overview on Atmospheric Deposition Models (ADM) in the NOWPAP Region.
 - Regional Overview on River and Direct Inputs (RDI) of Contaminants to the Marine and Coastal Environment in the NOWPAP Region (with Special Emphasis on the Land Based Sources of Pollution).
 - POMRAC activities related to RAP MALI (with other RACs).
 - Development of Reference Database for ICARM (with assistance of DINRAC).
10. POMRAC has also maintained its website, including reference databases developed in cooperation with DINRAC.
11. POMRAC experts co-organized a workshop on ICARM during the 2009 East Asian Seas Congress (23-27 November 2009, Manila, Philippines) and co-convened a

session with PICES on Marine Spatial Planning (30 October 2009, Jeju, Republic of Korea).

12. The 14th NOWPAP IGM approved POMRAC workplan and budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, including the following activities:
 - Preparation of the Regional Overview “Atmospheric deposition of contaminants in the NOWPAP region with special case studies on anthropogenic and natural changes”.
 - Preparation of the Regional Overview “River and direct inputs of contaminants in the NOWPAP region with special case studies on anthropogenic and natural changes”.
 - Preparation of the draft of the second “State of Marine Environmental Report” for the NOWPAP region (with more focus on socio-economic issues, climate change and issues of biodiversity conservation).
 - Marine litter (with other RACs).
13. POMRAC has also maintained its website, including reference databases developed in cooperation with DINRAC.
14. POMRAC held its 8th Focal Points Meeting in May 2010 to discuss details of their activities in 2010-2011 biennium.

Other Activities

15. In addition to specific projects carried out by NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres, several activities were implemented and coordinated by the Regional Coordinating Unit as described in the following sections.

Building partnerships

16. NOWPAP RCU and RACs staff have continued actively developing partnerships with many relevant organizations, programmes and projects in the region. Close relations were established and maintained with the following partners (in alphabetical order):
 - East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU);
 - GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA);
 - North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES);
 - UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC);
 - UNDP/GEF Project on the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME).
17. NOWPAP partners were involved in co-organizing of numerous events, which improved sharing of information, coordination of related activities (e.g., on ICARM, remote sensing applications and other issues) and raising public awareness (see below).

Raising public awareness

18. According to NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy, the following actions were taken by NOWPAP RCU and RACs:
 - NOWPAP homepage and RAC homepages have been maintained and constantly updated. News and information have been posted on the NOWPAP homepage in five languages (English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian) since 2006. Since August 2009 (when website statistics became available for NOWPAP RCU), average monthly visitors at the NOWPAP website was around 2,000, with visitors from more than 10 countries.
 - News about NOWPAP implementation was regularly posted at the partners' websites and introduced in their electronic newsletters (e.g., COBSEA, PEMSEA, WESTPAC, YSLME).
 - Information about NOWPAP activities was introduced to UNEP Headquarters (HQ), UNEP ROAP and GPA websites (and is currently available there).
 - Several brochures, leaflets, posters about NOWPAP activities were prepared and widely distributed. In addition to English, local languages were used when appropriate.
 - While attending a few global and regional meetings (e.g., East Asian Seas Congress 2009; 2010 World Ocean Conference; 12th Global Meeting of Regional Seas; CBD COP-10) as well as local events, RACs and RCU staff contributed to increasing NOWPAP visibility and attracting public attention to marine environment conservation by introducing the NOWPAP activities.
 - RACs and RCU staff also contributed articles to magazines, newspapers and newsletters and delivered lectures/presentations at a local level.

Resource mobilization and financial support from members

19. According to the NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy, several external funding sources were approached by the NOWPAP RCU and relevant information has been introduced to the RAC Directors and Marine Litter Focal Points.
20. In response to NOWPAP RCU request, UNEP Regional Seas Programme (RSP) provided financial support (US\$ 15,000) for the performance review of the NOWPAP RCU. UNEP RSP also kindly agreed to support (US\$24,000) NOWPAP brainstorming workshop on biodiversity conservation, which was held in Toyama, Japan, on 17 September 2009. In 2010, UNEP RSP provided funds (US\$5,000) to hire a consultant to collect information on marine and coastal biodiversity threats in the NOWPAP region.
21. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan allocated an earmarked contribution of US\$ 52,000 to support the NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) and Workshop in Hirado, Japan held on 26-28 March 2010.

NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

22. Implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI and plans for 2010-2011 were discussed at the 14th NOWPAP IGM. After approval in principle by the IGM, details of RAP MALI

workplan and budget for 2010-2011 were discussed at a RAP MALI working meeting on 28 March 2010 in Hirado, Japan. After endorsement by a working meeting participants, workplan and budget were circulated among NOWPAP National Focal Points and then approved.

Development of NOWPAP projects on marine and coastal biodiversity

23. Brainstorming Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (financially supported by UNEP RSP) was organized on 17 September 2009 in order to discuss and prepare project concepts for the consideration and approval by the 14th NOWPAP IGM. The brainstorming workshop was attended by experts from all four NOWPAP member states, representatives from NOWPAP partners (COBSEA, PICES and YSLME) and other international organizations and projects such as APN (Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research), CoML (Census of Marine Life), HELCOM, IUCN, UNU-IAS (UN University – Institute of Advanced Studies), OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information System), Ministry of Environment (Japan) and WWF-Japan. Eight NOWPAP RCU and RAC members also participated in discussions. Brainstorming was facilitated by a consultant hired by NOWPAP RCU with the kind assistance of UNEP RSP.
24. Among several possible projects related to biodiversity (BD) conservation in the NOWPAP region, preferences of most of participants were in the following order:
 - Assessment of the current status of BD in the NOWPAP region (so far, no such assessment has been undertaken and current research is mostly national; there were no attempts even to compare “red lists” of threatened species).
 - Assessment of climate change impacts and other factors on BD (with understanding that in many cases it’s hard to clearly distinguish climate change impacts from other causes).
 - Establishing networks of marine protected areas (MPAs), including taking into account typical habitat representation.
 - Developing a regional programme to deal with marine invasive species (most participants agreed that such activities are being implemented under the IMO umbrella and there are ongoing projects implemented by PICES and IOC-WESTPAC).
25. Possible funding sources, implementation arrangements, potential partners and other issues associated with these project concepts were also discussed.
26. NOWPAP has participated in the UNEP-initiated preparation of a global outlook on marine and coastal biodiversity, contributing regional input. A consultant has been contracted, using funds provided by UNEP, to collect and compile regional data and information to be reflected in the global assessment. This global outlook is due to be released at the upcoming 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.
27. The 14th NOWPAP IGM decided to develop a project proposal using the first concept (Assessment of the current status of BD in the NOWPAP region). The proposal has been developed by NOWPAP RCU and submitted for possible funding to the following donors:
 - Mitsui & Co. Ltd.;

- Toyota Foundation;
- Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN).

RCU performance review

28. According to the 13th NOWPAP IGM decision, RCU performance review was conducted by Mr. Alan Fox (a consultant hired by UNEP RSP) in May 2009. Mr. Fox report was discussed at the 14th NOWPAP IGM and several suggestions regarding the NOWPAP RCU Terms of Reference (TOR) were made after the meeting. The redrafted RCU TOR will be presented to the 15th NOWPAP IGM for discussion and approval.

NOWPAP development

29. Following the decisions of the 14th NOWPAP IGM, RCU and RACs have prepared a draft Medium-term Strategy (MTS) for NOWPAP. The following thematic elements are included in the draft MTS:
- Integrated coastal and river basin management;
 - Regular assessments of the state of the marine environment;
 - Pollution prevention and reduction;
 - Harmful substances and hazardous waste;
 - Biodiversity conservation (including alien invasive species);
 - Climate change.
30. The draft NOWPAP MTS will be discussed at the 15th NOWPAP IGM in November 2010.
31. Another document prepared for the 15th IGM discussion is the proposal on how to improve quality of NOWPAP technical reports.
32. With the approval of several documents by the 15th NOWPAP IGM (MTS, RCU TOR and procedures to improve quality of NOWPAP technical report), and with regular member states contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund, it is expected that NOWPAP will continue its activities aimed at improving and maintaining the state of marine and coastal environment in the NW Pacific.
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