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

**The Ninth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting
Toyama, Japan, 6-7 September 2011**

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

Implementation of NOWPAP activities since the 8th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Report of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 8th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in Toyama, Japan on 13-15 September 2010.
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.
 - Database on NOWPAP Experts.
 - Database on NOWPAP Coastal and Marine Environmental Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) Applications.
 - Database on Marine Litter.
 - Database on Coastal and Marine Nature Reserves.
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).
 - River and Direct Inputs (RDI).
 - Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM).
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.
 - Development of visualized DINRAC website.
6. In October 2010, national and regional reports on alien species in the NOWPAP region were published.
7. The 9th DINRAC FPM held on April 2011 in Hangzhou, China, agreed to carry out, among others, the following major activities:
 - Compilation of an Atlas of marine invasive species.
 - Collection of available data and information on sea water and bottom sediments quality (including major pollutants) in the NOWPAP member states.
 - Preparation of annual summary of policies and measures taken by NOWPAP members

on prevention of coastal and marine pollution.

MERRAC - Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre

8. The 14th NOWPAP IGM approved MERRAC work plan and budget for 2010-11 biennium, including the following activities:
 - Expert Meeting to be hosted by Japan on technical issues regarding the marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP region.
 - NOWPAP Exercises (NOWPAP BRAVO, NOWPAP DELTA) to enhance regional capacity on marine pollution preparedness and response.
 - Regional report on HNS preparedness and response.
 - Other specific projects on oil and HNS issues.
 - Marine litter issues (under NOWPAP RAP MALI).
9. In 2010, MERRAC has completed HNS training manual and published Regional report on HNS preparedness and response. NOWPAP BRAVO (communication) exercises were continuously conducted.
10. The 3rd Joint NOWPAP Oil Spill Response Exercise (NOWPAP DELTA) was conducted in Wakkanai, Japan on 4 September among NOWPAP member states followed by 2010 MERRAC Expert Meeting (Forum on Sakhalin Projects) on 5 September 2010.
11. MERRAC has also 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 and HNS spill accidents over 10 tons (provided to DINRAC to develop meta-database on marine pollution accidents).
12. At the 14th MERRAC FPM and the 6th Competent National Authorities Meeting held on June 2011 in Daejeon, Korea, the following activities, among others, were suggested for 2012-13 biennium:
 - Assessment of environmental impact of oil spill incidents in the NOWPAP region.
 - Compilation of information on legislation related to marine pollution damage, civil liability and compensation.
 - Organization of a full-scale field oil spill response in Korea in May-June 2012 during the 2012 Yeosu Expo.

POMRAC – Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

13. The 14th NOWPAP IGM approved POMRAC workplan and budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, including the following main 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 ICARM regional strategic plan.

- 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 issues (under NOWPAP RAP MALI).
14. POMRAC has also maintained its website, including reference databases developed in cooperation with DINRAC.
 15. POMRAC has held its 8th Focal Points Meeting in May 2010 to discuss details of their activities in 2010-2011 biennium.
 16. After May 2010, POMRAC Secretariat concluded MOUs with national and regional experts on each activity. Within ICARM, experts started preparation of the Regional Overview on marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management in the selected areas of the NOWPAP region.

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17. 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

18. NOWPAP RCU and RACs staff have continued actively developing and maintaining 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).
19. NOWPAP partners were involved in co-organizing of numerous events, which improved sharing of information, coordination of related activities and raising public awareness.
20. Within the UN system, NOWPAP maintained good relationship with UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP Regional Seas Programme, Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, IOC/WESTPAC and IMO which are important partners of NOWPAP.

Raising public awareness

21. According to NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy, the following actions were taken by NOWPAP RCU and RACs.
22. 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.
23. News about NOWPAP implementation were regularly posted at the partners' websites and introduced in their electronic newsletters (e.g., COBSEA, PEMSEA, WESTPAC,

YSLME).

24. Information about NOWPAP activities was introduced to UNEP Headquarters (HQ), UNEP ROAP and GPA websites (and is currently available there).
25. Several brochures, leaflets, posters about NOWPAP activities were prepared and widely distributed. In addition to English, national languages were used when appropriate.
26. While attending a few global and regional meetings (e.g., 2010 Global Oceans 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.
27. RACs and RCU staff also contributed articles to magazines, newspapers and newsletters and delivered lectures/presentations at a local level.
28. NOWPAP RCU proposal (prepared together with all RACs) for the display at the 2012 Expo to be held in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, was preliminary accepted by organizers.

Resource mobilization and financial support from members

29. 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. In 2010, NOWPAP RCU identified several foundations in Japan which might fund projects on marine biodiversity. As a result, in collaboration with several proponents, applications were submitted to Mitsui Foundation, Toyota Foundation and Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). APN granted funds for NOWPAP-initiated project on impacts of global warming on coastal and marine ecosystems in the Northwest Pacific.
30. In response to the 14th NOWPAP IGM resolution, UNEP Regional Seas Programme (RSP) provided financial support (US \$ 5,000) to prepare rapid assessment of the current status of marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region in accordance with the indicators prepared by UNEP Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch. The rapid assessment was prepared by a NOWPAP consultant, Dr. Mark Walton, in April 2010 and the results were included in the UNEP Global Outlook.
31. Korean Government supported the NOWPAP ICC and Workshop in Jeju, Korea, which was held from 1 to 2 October 2010.
32. Global Programme of Action (GPA) provided financial support (US \$ 5,000) for marine litter activities including 2011 NOWPAP ICC campaign in China.

NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

33. In early 2010, 2010-2011 work plan and budget for the NOWPAP RAP MALI was approved by NOWPAP National Focal Points. Since then, the following activities were implemented.
34. DINRAC has added to its ML database monitoring results for 2009 provided by the NPEC (Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center) and MLTM (Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs) for surveys conducted in China, Japan, Korea and Russia. All ML monitoring data and related information, including the ICC (International Coastal Cleanup) results from China and Russia, as well as the data from the State Oceanic Administration of China, are available at the DINRAC website (<http://dinrac.nowpap.org>).
35. News and information related to marine litter have been posted on the NOWPAP

homepage and continually updated by NOWPAP RCU, shared by e-mail with NOWPAP RACs and ML FPs (Marine Litter Focal Points).

36. In September 2010, annual national ICC campaigns were organized in China and Russia.
37. NOWPAP ICC held in Korea on 1-2 October 2010, marked the 10th Anniversary of the ICC movement in the Republic of Korea.
38. 2011 NOWPAP ICC is planned to be held in Lianyungang, China in September which will contribute to the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

Development of NOWPAP projects on marine and coastal biodiversity

39. In response to the 14th IGM decision, to develop a project proposal on marine and coastal biodiversity assessment in the NOWPAP region, the following steps were taken.
40. NOWPAP RCU has also prepared several proposals to implement long-term biodiversity assessment in the region submitted (through different proponents) to Mitsui Foundation, Toyota Foundation and APN. While developing such proposals, NOWPAP RCU has contacted national experts in NOWPAP member states in order to establish working teams, select project leaders and project proponents. This kind of work will be continued with other donors.

Major resolutions agreed at IGM 15

41. The member states requested RCU and RACs to implement activities of the NOWPAP RAP MALI as scheduled, in close collaboration with relevant organizations, programmes and projects, including NGOs and private sector.
42. The member states encouraged the NOWPAP member states, NOWPAP RCU and RACs, to make utmost efforts to seek additional funding sources (including preparation of project proposals for external funding by RACs and RCU) as well as to utilize the resources available in the most efficient and effective manner.
43. The meeting agreed that the Korean Government prepares a draft paper on possible measures addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP and discuss it at the 16th IGM. Draft paper was received on 17 June 2011 and distributed among member states for their comments.
44. The meeting also requested NOWPAP RCU and RACs to work closely on the preparation of the biennium work plan of NOWPAP for 2012-2013 and NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy.
