

Background leading to this meeting

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three Resolutions were adopted at the 1st NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) (14 September 1994, Seoul, the Republic of Korea: UNEP (OCA)/NOWPAP/IG.1/5).

In accordance with the workplan approved by the Resolution 1 of the 7th NOWPAP IGM (UNEP (DEC)/NOWPAP/IG.7/10 Annex IV), CEARAC held the 1st CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) (25-28 February 2003, Toyama, Japan). Among the agreements during the meeting, the 1st CEARAC FPM approved the establishment of two Working Groups (WGs) under CEARAC, aiming to implement its prioritized activities related to coastal environmental assessment and special monitoring:

WG3: monitoring and assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) including red tides

WG4: remote sensing of the marine and coastal environment

Following this decision, the 1st Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 3 (28-30 October 2003, Busan, the Republic of Korea) and the 1st Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 4 (1-3 December 2003, Vladivostok, Russian Federation) were organized. Since then, the prioritized activities of CEARAC have been related to HABs and RS under leadership of WG3 and WG4 members.

The 10th NOWPAP IGM (24-26 November, 2005, Toyama, Japan) approved the workplan and budget of entire NOWPAP for the 2006-2007 biennium including the budget of US\$150,000 for the CEARAC activities (UNEP/NOWPAP/IG.10/8). The meeting also approved the new directions for the NOWPAP RACs including the new activities of CEARAC such as Land Based Sources of Pollution (with other RACs) and Marine Litter (with other RACs). Following the decisions of this IGM, new activities related to marine litter were included in CEARAC's workplan from the 2006-2007 biennium on.

In the 5th CEARAC FPM (18-19 September 2007, Toyama, Japan), a draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium was presented, including a new activity on eutrophication as a joint activity of WG 3 and WG4, for adoption its submission to the 12th NOWPAP IGM.

Then, the 12th NOWPAP IGM (23-25 October 2007, Xiamen, China) approved the report of CEARAC on the progress in implementation of its activities during the 2006-2007 biennium and the presented workplan and revised budget for CEARAC for the 2008-2009 biennium.

In line with the shrink of the total budget of NOWPAP, a new budgetary allocation to CEARAC activities during the 2008-2009 biennium was reduced from US\$150,000 to US\$140,000.

In the 7th CEARAC FPM (14-15 September 2009, Toyama, Japan), along with the report of the progress in implementation of CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium, a draft workplan and budget of activities for the 2010-2011 biennium were presented and discussed. The draft workplan for the new biennium included activities of WG3 and WG4, a joint activity of WG3 and 4: assessment of eutrophication status, and a new activity on marine biodiversity, based on the views of needs of more collaboration of WG 3 and 4 and expansion of CEARAC activities to other assessment indicators besides HABs and eutrophication. Since marine biodiversity was a new field for CEARAC to take up and there would be substantial technical support from CEARAC's host organization, the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), budget for the related activities was not accounted for allocation from NOWPAP Trust Fund. The report on progress of implementation of the current biennium is included as an agenda item of the 9th CEARAC FPM.

The 8th CEARAC FPM (13-15 September 2010, Toyama, Japan) was held back-to-back with the Expert Meeting on Assessment of Eutrophication Status and Marine Environment Focusing on Marine Biodiversity. Until the 2008-2009 biennium, CEARAC held Expert Meetings on WG3 and WG4 once in every biennium; however, taking into account its expansion of the scope of work and prioritization of activities for the 2010-2011 biennium: eutrophication and marine biodiversity, it was necessary to organize a new expert meeting along with main focuses of its work for the biennium. Thus, the experts of these new fields were invited to the meeting as well as some experts of WG3 and WG4, who were also CEARAC FPs. In the FPM8, overall discussion on the entire CEARAC's activities was made while the expert meeting focused on more detailed progress of each activity including clarification and modification of actions to be taken for the second year of the biennium.

Prior to the 9th CEARAC FPM, the Expert Meeting on Marine Biodiversity and Eutrophication was held in 2011 (4-5 August, Toyama, Japan) by NPEC to exchange information on existing marine biodiversity-related activities in the NOWPAP member states,

to review the final results of the eutrophication assessments implemented in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region, and to provide suggestions/advice to a draft workplan of CEARAC for the 2012-2013 biennium.

The 9th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM will be held on 6-7 September 2011 and the meeting will review and discuss the outcome of the current activities and the proposed workplan for the 2012-2013 biennium for adoption. The documents for the 9th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM including the workplan and budget of CEARAC for the 2012-2013 biennium are prepared by the Secretariat taking into account history, outcomes and directions of CEARAC's past and current activities and the directions indicated in the NOWPAP Mid-Term Strategy.

The 9th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting will be opened at 9:00 at the Conference Room 1 in Tower 111, Toyama, Japan, on 6 September 2011 by the Director of CEARAC.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the meeting

2.1 Election of the officers

The meeting will be invited to elect the chairperson and the rapporteur in line with paragraph 5.2 of the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.8 7/1).

2.2 Organization of work

Rules of procedure will be established. It is proposed that, for purposes of this meeting, the rules used here will be those of the Governing Council of UNEP, adjusted as appropriate to suit the nature of the meeting.

English will be the working language of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Secretariat will introduce the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/2).

The meeting will be invited to consider the agenda for adoption.

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the progress on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

The representative of NOWPAP RCU will report the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the eighth NOWPAP CEARAC FPM (13-15 September 2010, Toyama, Japan) (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/3).

Agenda Item 5. Report on the implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium

The Director of CEARAC will report implementation and expenditures of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium, including RAP MALI (marine litter related activities) and the Secretariat will report the development of the following draft integrated reports. The meeting will be invited to review the reports.

5.1 Draft Integrated Report on Harmful Algal Blooms for the NOWPAP Region

(UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/5)

5.2 Draft Integrated Report on Ocean Remote Sensing for the NOWPAP Region: towards assessment of marine and coastal environment

(UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/6)

5.3 Draft Integrated Report on eutrophication assessment in the selected sea areas including evaluation of land-based sources of nutrients in the NOWPAP Region

(UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/7)

Agenda Item 6. Discussion on Specific Projects of CEARAC for the 2012-2013 biennium

The Secretariat will explain main activities which CEARAC plans to implement during the 2012-2013 biennium. The meeting will be invited to review and provide suggestions to respective activities.

6.1 Activities on Eutrophication

The Secretariat will present a draft workplan on eutrophication.
(UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/8).

6.2 Activities on Marine Biodiversity

The Secretariat will present a draft workplan on marine biodiversity.
(UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/9).

Agenda Item 7. Discussion on the draft workplan and the budget of CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium and recommendation to the 16th NOWPAP IGM

The Secretariat will present a draft workplan and budget of entire CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/10). The meeting will be invited to review and approve the draft workplan and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium and will agree to submit them to the 16th IGM for adoption.

Agenda Item 8. Arrangement of the 10th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM

The meeting will be invited to discuss the date of the 10th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting.

Agenda Item 9. Other matters

The meeting will be invited to raise any other issues relevant to the NOWPAP CEARAC activities.

Agenda Item 10. Adoption of the report of the meeting

A draft report of the meeting will be prepared by the rapporteur and the Secretariat for consideration and adoption.

Agenda Item 11. Closure of the meeting

The meeting will be closed by the chairperson at 17:00 on 7 September 2011.