

## **Implementation of NOWPAP activities since the 9<sup>th</sup> CEARAC Focal Points Meeting**

### **Report of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit**

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 9<sup>th</sup> CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in Toyama, Japan on 6-7 September 2011.
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.
  - Database on NOWPAP Publications.
4. Reference Databases on Atmospheric Deposition (AD), River and Direct Inputs (RDI) of contaminants, and Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) have been also established and maintained through cooperation with POMRAC:
5. In October 2011, a proposal on a regional workshop on MIS problems in the Northwest Pacific region had been submitted to the CAPaBLE programme managed by the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN).
6. The 16<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM held in December 2011 approved DINRAC workplan and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, including the following activities.
  - Publication of the atlas of marine invasive species in the NOWPAP region.
  - Annual summary of major marine environmental data available in the NOWPAP region.
  - Exchange of information on the policies and measures for the prevention of coastal and marine pollution in the NOWPAP region.
  - Update, maintenance and enrichment of DINRAC website in a regular basis.
7. The 10<sup>th</sup> DINRAC FPM will be held in Beijing, China on 23-24 May 2012.

#### **MERRAC - Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre**

8. In 2011, MERRAC has developed the web database for public awareness, introducing negative impacts of marine litter in the NOWPAP region.

9. 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).
10. The 16<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM approved MERRAC work plan and budget for 2012-13 biennium, including the following activities:
  - Expert Meeting to be hosted by China on the 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. In particular, a full-scale field oil spill response in Korea will be organized in May 2012 during the 2012 Yeosu Expo.
  - Implementing specific projects including 1) Legislation and practice on marine pollution damage civil liability and compensation; 2) Environmental issues related to oil spill incidents and 3) Development of the practical assistance procedure and system under the NOWPAP RCP.
  - Marine litter issues (under NOWPAP RAP MALI).
11. The 15<sup>th</sup> MERRAC FPM and the 7<sup>th</sup> Competent National Authority (CNA) Meeting will be held in Yeosu, Korea on 14-18 May 2012.

#### **POMRAC – Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre**

12. POMRAC has held its 9<sup>th</sup> Focal Points Meeting in October 2011 to discuss details of their activities in 2010-2011 biennium, including the following activities:
  - Preparation of regional overview “Case studies of atmospheric deposition of contaminants with focus on the anthropogenic and natural changes on the selected areas of the NOWPAP region” (ongoing).
  - Preparation of regional overview “River and direct inputs of contaminants in the NOWPAP region with special case studies on anthropogenic and natural changes” (finalized, report published).
  - Review of current and future ICARM activities within the NOWPAP framework (ongoing).
  - POMRAC has also maintained its website, including reference databases developed in cooperation with DINRAC.
13. The 16<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM approved POMRAC workplan and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, including the following main activities:
  - Preparation of the regional overview “PTS and POPs issues of ecological concern in the NOWPAP region”.
  - Preparation of the regional overview “Applications of ecosystem valuation, marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management in the NOWPAP region”.
  - Preparation of “Regional guidelines for integrated coastal planning and management”.
  - Preparation 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. The Regional Workshop on PTS and POPs issues and the 10<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM will be held in Kanazawa, Japan on 23-25 April 2012.

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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 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):
- Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
  - 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 and raising public awareness.
18. 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. Contacts with the Great Tumen Initiative (GTI), Amur-Okhotsk Consortium, and North-East Asian Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) were renewed, exploring information sharing and possible cooperation in the future.
19. NOWPAP has joined the Global Partnership on Waste management (GPWM) which is being developed by the International Environmental Technology Centre of UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE-IETC). This partnership is expected to enhance local, national and regional capacity to deal with marine litter and achieve better impacts from NOWPAP activities.

### **Raising public awareness**

20. 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.
  - Electronic newspaper (NOWPAP Quarterly) has been distributed by NOWPAP RCU through e-mails to member states and partners (since 2008).
  - News about NOWPAP implementation were regularly posted at the partners' websites and introduced in their electronic newsletters (e.g., COBSEA, PEMSEA, 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, national languages were used when appropriate.
  - RACs and RCU staff also contributed articles to magazines, newspapers and newsletters and delivered lectures/presentations at a local level.
21. While attending a few global and regional meetings (e.g., UN Regular Process Workshop for Eastern and South-eastern Asian Seas countries; PICES Annual Meetings, etc.) 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.
  22. RACs and RCU staff also contributed articles to magazines, newspapers and newsletters and delivered lectures/presentations at a local level.
  23. For the 2012 Expo to be held in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, NOWPAP RCU (together with MERRAC) are working closely with subcontractors and UNEP headquarters preparing NOWPAP exhibition under the Ocean and Coast Best Practice Area (OCBPA), focusing on marine litter management and oil spill preparedness and response.

#### **NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)**

24. In September 2011, details of RAP MALI work plan and budget for 2012-2013 have been discussed at a RAP MALI working meeting which was held in conjunction with the NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign and workshop in China. In December 2011, report on the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI and work plan for 2012-2013 were presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> IGM and approved by NOWPAP National Focal Points. In 2011, the following activities were implemented.
25. CEARAC has published updated "Marine litter guidelines for tourists and tour operators in marine and coastal areas" (which was originally published in 2007).
26. DINRAC has continuously updated its ML database with monitoring results provided by the NPEC (Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center) and MLTM (Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs) for surveys conducted in Japan and Korea as well as ICC results from China and Russia. All national ML monitoring data and related information as well as the data from the State Oceanic Administration of China, are available at the DINRAC website (<http://dinrac.nowpap.org>).
27. MERRAC has continued to collect case studies on the negative impact of marine litter occurred in the NOWPAP member states (to be published in the early 2012).
28. 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).
29. 2011 NOWPAP ICC was held in Lianyungang, China with generous support from the host country in September, which contributed to the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.
30. In December 2011 the regional overview on marine litter in the NOWPAP region was updated with information provided by ML FPs and published.
31. 2012 NOWPAP ICC is expected to be held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, in order to raise public awareness, share experiences of NOWPAP member states, and promote the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI.

**Major resolutions agreed at IGM 16**

32. Acknowledging that contribution from the Russian Federation in the amount of USD 125,000 for 2011 was received, 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.
33. The meeting requested member states and RACs to provide suggestions for the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 which was adopted in principle, so that NOWPAP RCU could circulate the revised version among member states for their final review and approval correspondence.
34. The meeting requested member states to carry out activities to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter at a national and local level through the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI as scheduled, in close collaboration with relevant organizations, programmes and projects, including NGOs and private sector.
35. The meeting agreed that the Korean Government will revise a discussion paper on possible measures addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP and circulate among member states for their comments and suggestions before presenting it to the 17<sup>th</sup> IGM in 2012.

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