

## **Annex IV**

### **Draft Terms of Reference for NOWPAP Working Group 3**

**Reviewed by the First Meeting of NOWPAP WG3**

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#### **1. Background**

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 First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, 14 September 1994 : UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP/IG.1/5). Resolution 1 identified five areas of priority for implementation of the Action Plan, one of which was NOWPAP/3 : Establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme.

Following the decision of the Third Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), the responsibility for NOWPAP/3 (Regional Monitoring Programme) was jointly shared by the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) and the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) to carry out regional activities.

The Fourth IGM (Beijing, 6-7 April 1999) adopted the proposal for the second phase of the implementation of NOWPAP, in which the establishment of Coordinating Committee (CC) was expected as an outcome for the Activity NOWPAP/3. Resolution1 of this of this meeting requested the NOWPAP Members to designate relevant representatives for participation in the “NOWPAP/3 Coordinating Committee and Working Groups”.

Following the decision of the First Meeting of the CC, (Beijing, 21-22 May 2001), four Working Groups were established under NOWPAP/3.

Following the results of discussions at the First Meeting of the CC, the Seventh IGM (Vladivostok, 20-22 March 2002) approved the resolution 3 Para.6, “the demarcation of the responsibilities and activities between CEARAC and POMRAC as presented by the Secretariat in document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.7/8”. Subsequently CEARAC was allocated with the responsibility to implement activities related to Working Group 3 : HAB(Harmful Algal Blooms) and Working Group 4 : Remote Sensing of Marine Environment.

The Seventh IGM also adopted the proposal as regards to the allocation of new responsibilities and activities to the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) out of the necessity to move from a project-based implementation of activities to RAC-based activities. Following the approval of the Seven IGM to establish the fora of the RAC's Focal Points, the CC for Activity NOWPAP/3 evolved to become the CEARAC Focal Points Meeting.

In the First CEARAC Focal Point Meeting, the main issues needed to be focused on by Working Group 3 were defined.

Noticing the difference of definition and usage of the term "HAB" among the NOWPAP Members, standardized concept of HAB phenomenon will be necessary for WG3. HAB will be defined as proliferation of microscopic algae which can cause massive fish kills, contaminate seafood with toxins, and alter ecosystems in ways that human perceive as harmful. Therefore water discoloration by microalgae, popularly called as red tide, will be in the target phenomena of WG3, as high biomass of microalgae can alter the environment. Proliferation of toxic algae will be also one of the target phenomena, as shellfish and other filter feeders become toxic inadequate for human consumption.

## **2. Objectives**

The main objectives of the NOWPAP Working Group 3 will be to promote coordinate and harmonize regional cooperation in the Northwest Pacific region regarding monitoring of HAB and management of the adverse effects.

## **3. Functions**

The functions of NOWPAP Working Group 3 will be to:

- (a) Identify concrete cooperative actions in the NOWPAP region regarding HAB.
- (b) Carry out concrete cooperative actions in the NOWPAP region for the purpose of exchanging information on HAB.
- (c) Evaluate the outcome of the cooperative actions and propose further activities.

#### **4. Participation**

- 4.1 NOWPAP Members will be invited to participate in the Working Group 3. Both the representatives of each NOWPAP Member and the experts for Working Group 3 should be of sound scientific and administrative knowledge and experience in Harmful Algal Blooms. CEARAC Focal Points could be also experts for the Working Group 3.
- 4.2 Other relevant international and/or regional bodies and organizations concerned with Harmful Algal Blooms in the NOWPAP region may be invited to participate in the meeting of the Working Group 3 as observers.

#### **5. Sessions**

It is expected and recommended that the meeting of Working Group 3 will be held once a year. Each session will discuss the timing of the subsequent session.

#### **6. Tasks**

The Working Group 3 will carry out the following tasks;

- (a) To make and implement the workplan.
- (b) To prepare reports of its outcomes and report them to CEARAC.

Specific tasks will be as follows;

- (a) To standardize format of the national report of each NOWPAP Member and review the integrated report prepared by CEARAC.
- (b) To establish database of literature and published information on HAB.
- (c) To identify and prioritize the needs of the region to cope with HAB.
- (d) To establish information dissemination strategies utilizing a web site and booklets.
- (e) To organize regional activities such as workshops and training courses.

#### **7. Intersessional Work**

In principle, all intersessional work will be carried out by correspondence among the participants.

#### **8. Secretariat**

The Working Group 3 will be served by a secretariat provided by the CEARAC.

## **9. Decisions**

The working group 3 achieves decisions by consensus among the Working Group members. If consensus cannot be reached on administrative and procedural matters, voting may be taken. Each Working Group member will have one vote. Such decision will be taken by a majority of those Working Group members present and voting.

## **10. Procedure**

The Working Group 3 shall adopt, *mutatis mutandis*, the rule of procedures of the UNEP Governing Council.

## **11. Agenda**

The secretariat, in consultation with and under the guidance of the Chairperson, will prepare a provisional agenda for each session of the meeting. Any participant in the meeting may request the secretariat to include specific items in the provisional agenda prior to the final one.

## **12. Budget and Expenses**

The initial budget for the Working Group 3 is supported by the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Other external funds shall also be sought in accordance with the development of the Working Group 3 activities.

## **13. Report**

The Working Group 3 will consider and adopt a report at each of their session. The reports will be circulated to all participants in the meeting. The director of CEARAC will present the reports to CEARAC Focal Points Meeting.

## **14. Language**

The working language of the Working Group 3 will be English. The host country may interpret English into the language of the host country for the purpose of disseminating the session discussion to a wider audience.