

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF NOWPAP WORKING GROUP 3 (Busan, Republic of Korea, 28-30 October 2003)

Background leading to this meeting

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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. Resolution 1 of this of this meeting requested the NOWPAP Members to designate relevant representatives for participation in the "NOWPAP/3 Coordinating Committee and Working Groups".
4. Following the decision of the First Meeting of the CC, (Beijing, 21-22 May 2001), four Working Groups were established under NOWPAP/3.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. In the First CEARAC Focal Point Meeting, the main issues needed to be focused on by Working Group 3 were defined.

8. Experts from NOWPAP Members: People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as China, Japan, Korea and Russia, respectively) participated in the meeting. Experts from National Fisheries Research & Development Institute (NFRDI) of Korea participated in the meeting as observers and the Secretariat of CEARAC also participated.

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting

9. The meeting was opened at 10:00 am at the Conference Room of Haeundae Grand Hotel, Busan, Korea, on the 28th of October 2003 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Hiroyuki Ishitobi. He welcomed all the participants to the meeting and hope that the participants will share the knowledge on HAB with experts.
10. The Director of CEARAC introduced Dr. Hak-Gyoon Kim, the Director of Department of Oceanography and Marine Environment of NFRDI. He made a speech with a warm welcoming comment to the participants.
11. The Director of CEARAC introduced Dr. Hee-Gu Choi, CEARAC Focal Point of Korea. She made a speech on her expectation on this meeting.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the meeting

12. The meeting unanimously elected Dr. Yasuwo Fukuyo, the expert of Japan, and Dr. Chang-Kyu Lee, the expert of Korea, as its co-chairman, and Professor Mingjiang Zhou, the expert of China, as a Rapporteur.
13. The meeting agreed that the rules used be those of the Governing Council of UNEP, adjusted as appropriate to suit the nature of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda

14. The Provisional Agenda was introduced by the Secretariat with the Annotated Provisional Agenda.
15. The meeting adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 4. Finalization of the Terms of Reference for NOWPAP Working Group 3

16. The Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the NOWPAP Working Group 3 was presented by the Secretariat.

17. After a lengthy and productive discussion and after a comprehensive review of the members, all the comments had been taken into consideration. Subsequently, the meeting finalized the Draft TOR.
18. The Director of CEARAC explained that the finalized Draft TOR will be forwarded by the Secretariat to the 2nd CEARAC Focal Points Meeting for final adoption.

Agenda Item 5. Review and lessons learned of the experiences of Harmful Algal Blooms in the NOWPAP region

19. Dr. Hak-Gyoon Kim made a presentation on the Current HAB and Mitigation in Korea. He introduced the trend of Korean fisheries and coastal damages from HAB. He also introduced red tide warning system in Korea.
20. Dr. Osamu Matsuda made a presentation about red tide investigation in Seto Inland Sea, western part of Japan. He summarized that COD load control contributed much to the reduction of eutrophication level and occurrence of HAB.
21. Dr. Yasuwo Fukuyo made a presentation on the activities conducted by other international organizations, such as IOC, WESTPAC/IOC, ICES, PICES and APEC.

Agenda Item 6. Review and agreement of workplan for Working Group 3

6.1 Goals and works to be implemented by WG3

22. The Secretariat proposed goals and works to be implemented by Working Group 3. After productive discussion, the meeting agreed on the goals and works.

6.2 Identification of Important scientific issue to cope with the HAB problem

23. The Secretariat proposed that the Working Group would focus on red tide as the first priority issue in the NOWPAP region. The Secretariat also proposed that the relationship between red tide occurrences and eutrophication should be concerned as a scientific issue.

6.3 Establishment of Database on HAB

24. The Secretariat proposed the establishment of a meta-database consisted of secondary data, which included scientific reports and published literature. After a lengthy and productive discussion, the meeting agreed on the establishment of the meta-database.
25. The meeting defined the procedure and the tasks to be implemented by the Secretariat and Working Group members to develop the database and agree on them.

6.4 Identification and prioritization of needs for capacity building

26. Professor Mingjiang Zhou, the expert of China, and Dr. Tatiana Orlova, the expert of Russia, made presentations on the HAB monitoring system and research programme in their own countries.
27. The Secretariat reviewed the results of the Questionnaire answered by the expert of each NOWPAP Member about the prioritization of needs for capacity building.
28. The meeting recognized that the necessity to capability activity in NOWPAP region should be more clarified.

6.5 Information dissemination strategy

29. The Secretariat proposed the information dissemination strategy. The approaches were agreed with Working Group members as follows;
 - Enhancement of CEARAC web site to introduce the information on HAB.
 - Preparation and distribution of publicity materials.

6.6 Capability of CEARAC concerning WG3

30. The Secretariat explained the present state of the capability of CEARAC and some matters to be concerned regarding the capability to implement further activities.

6.7 Standardization of National reports and integrated report

31. The Secretariat proposed the format of the National report. After productive discussion, the meeting agreed to try to make a National report using the proposed format by the Secretariat. The feasibility of the format will be discussed and assessed at the 2nd meeting of Working Group 3.
32. The meeting discussed the draft of the integrated report provided by the Secretariat. The meeting agreed that each Working Group member would feedback comments and suggestions to the Secretariat by the end of 2003. The Secretariat will revise it by referring to the comments and suggestions by Working Group members. The Working Group members will review the revised draft of the integrated report provided by the Secretariat at the 2nd meeting of Working Group 3.

Agenda Item 7. Review and agreement of longterm plan for Working Group 3

33. The meeting reviewed and revised the Draft longterm plan for Working Group 3, by referring to several comments from participants.

Agenda Item 8. Review and agreement of 2004/5 workplan for Working Group 3

34. The meeting reviewed and revised the Draft 2004/5 workplan for Working Group 3, by referring to several comments from participants.

35. The meeting agreed the establishment of the corresponding group on *Cochlodinium*, which is one of the most concerned harmful species in the NOWPAP region. The meeting also elected Dr. Hak-Gyoon Kim and Dr. Yasuwo Fukuyo as co-leaders of the corresponding group.

Agenda Item 9. Other matters

36. The Director of CEARAC mentioned that the 2nd meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 3 is planned to be held in the end of October 2004 in Qingdao, China.

Agenda Item 10. Adoption of the report of the meeting

37. The Rapporteur reviewed and checked the draft report of the meeting prepared by the Secretariat and provided the meeting for revision and adoption.

38. The meeting adopted the report with minor modifications.

Agenda Item 11. Closure of the meeting

39. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11:45 on 30th October 2003.