

NEWSLETTER

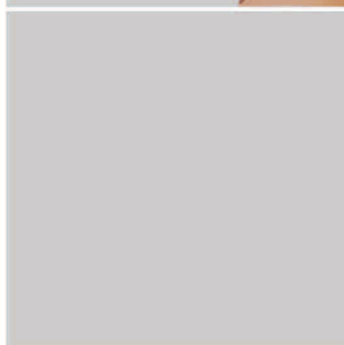
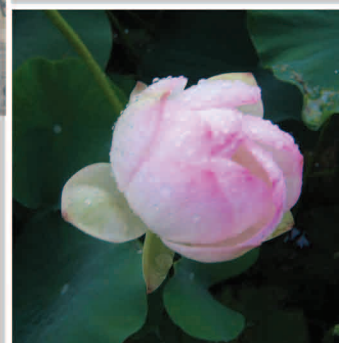
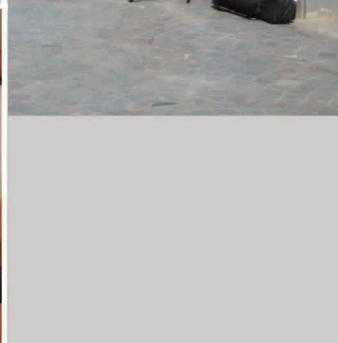
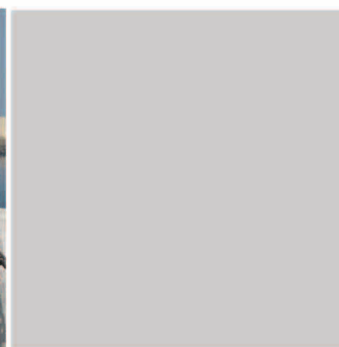
Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem



In this issue:

- 01 3RD ROUND OF REGIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS
- 02 FIRST EXPERT WORKSHOP ON POLLUTION FATE AND TRANSPORT
- 03 GOVERNANCE ANALYSIS REPORTS COMING SOON
- 04 TDA IS BEING FINALISED
- 05 THE PROJECT ORGANISES THE FIRST YOUTH PROGRAMME
- 06 LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP
- 07 SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
- 08 PROJECT GIS SYSTEM
- 09 IVAN SAYS HELLO AGAIN
- 10 INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME AT PMO CONTINUES
- 11 UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2006

2006 October



ECOSYSTEM-BASED, ENVIRONMENTALLY-SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE YELLOW SEA AND ITS WATERSHED

UNDP/GEF Project Reducing Environmental Stress in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

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3RD ROUND OF REGIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

In September, the third round of Regional Working Group Meetings were held for the Pollution, Investment, and Ecosystem Groups.

POLLUTION

The 3rd RWG-Pollution Meeting was held from 4th to 7th September 2006, in Dandong, China. One of the major outputs was the completion of the Causal Chain Analysis for pollution problems in the region which will be included in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis. At the meeting, members also reviewed the final data sets and information collected from China and Korea, and also the draft "Regional Pollution Data Synthesis Report." Members agreed on showing additional data in specified formats, such as in distribution maps, and trends with maximum, minimum, and average values, for the final report that will be published.

Recommended upcoming activities for the remainder of 2006 and 2007 include inter-calibration exercises for metals and organic compounds in sediment and biota, the Visiting Scientist Programme, a workshop on assessing marine environmental quality focusing on assessment methodologies used and how assessment can influence policies on eutrophication and marine litter reduction, a training workshop on phytotoxins in the marine environment, and an inter-calibration summary workshop.



3rd RWG-P Meeting participants and their spouses in Dandong, China.

INVESTMENT

The third Regional Working Group (RWG) Meeting for Investment Component was held in Dalian, China, 9-12 September 2006.

The Meeting discussed a number of completed and on-going activities, i.e. public awareness activities, NGO and private sector's membership in the PSC, and data and information management. The Meeting suggested recommendations for each activity and agreed to submit them to the Project Steering Committee(PSC). With respect to the regional GIS and meta databases established, the China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Center will prepare a proposal of future activities for the RSTP to consider.

The Meeting also discussed the preparation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The draft national governance analysis reports were prepared and will be published after necessary improvements are made. The Meeting considered the necessity of a regional governance analysis and agreed to prepare its outline for RSTP to examine. The draft environmental valuation guideline was prepared with the focus on mariculture. The Meeting agreed to continue co-operation with the consultants to improve the draft and to pursue the development of the regional valuation guideline.

New activities for 2007 were proposed for the RSTP to consider and for the PSC to approve. Those activities include Parliamentary Conference, Yellow Sea Partnership Workshop, and Workshop on Report and Proposal Writing.



3rd RWG-I Meeting Chinese participants(Right) and TDA consultant(Left)



3rd RWG-I Meeting Korean participants(Left) and Mr. Isao Endo(Right)

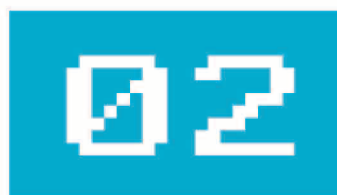
ECOSYSTEM

The 3rd RWG-Ecosystem Meeting was held from 18th to 21st September 2006 in Jeju Island, Korea. Similar to the RWG-Pollution Meeting, this group also reviewed the final data sets and information collected from China and Korea, and also the draft “Regional Ecosystem Data Synthesis Report.” The Meeting also completed the Causal Chain Analysis, and provided a list of “targets” that this component of the project should focus on for developing the Strategic Action Programme.

The Members agreed to hold a workshop next year on using remote sensing to monitor the Yellow Sea and develop a better ocean colour algorithm for the Yellow Sea. Members also decided that monitoring with the continuous plankton recorder should be carried out. Proposals for the two activities will be prepared and the activities will be implemented next year.



3rd RWG-E Meeting in progress



FIRST EXPERT WORKSHOP ON POLLUTION FATE AND TRANSPORT

The workshop was held from 31st August to 2nd September 2006 in Dalian, China, with the following objectives:

- Review the pollution data and information collected from China and Korea.
- Discuss and compare the available data, current understanding, and known procedures to analyse fate and transport of pollutants.
- Based on current understanding, consider and recommend some necessary actions for the Strategic Action Programme.

Participants from research institutes and universities in China and Korea, and UNEP NOWPAP gave oral presentations about various aspects of pollution in the Yellow Sea: current understanding, historical trends, sources of pollutant inputs, monitoring activities, pollutant investigation methods, modelling nutrient cycles, calculating nutrient budgets.

Based on the current understanding of pollutants in the Yellow Sea, the workshop gave some recommendations to mitigate pollution, which include, *inter alia*: better enforcement of regulations, targeting areas of outlet discharge, enhancing public awareness and sensitivity to pollution as a problem.



GOVERNANCE ANALYSIS REPORTS COMING SOON

To understand the underlying root causes of the Yellow Sea's environmental problems, two Governance Analysis studies, one study for China and one study for Korea, were conducted. Consultants from the Korea Maritime Institute and the Law School of Ocean University of China implemented the Governance Analysis for Korea and China, respectively, which consisted of three analytical works: stakeholder analysis, institutional analysis, and legal/policy analysis. The results of the studies contribute to the development of the regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), providing both the information about the root causes and the basic foundation for identifying possible future interventions. The final reports will be available at the end of November.



TDA IS BEING FINALISED

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) is one of most important outcomes of the project, and is being prepared. The final draft will be available for the forthcoming RSTP and PSC meetings in November.

Based on the data and information collected from the participating countries, and the regional syntheses for the various project components, Dr. Michael Bowers has been hired, based on an open bidding process, by the project, to prepare the TDA. With most data and information reports already available and reviewed, Dr. Bowers visited the PMO from 27 -31 August to discuss the draft TDA with the staff in the PMO, and agreed on the activities to prepare TDA for the RSTP and PSC. A detailed workplan was discussed and agreed.

Following the discussion, Dr. Bowers attended the Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group for Pollution, in Dandong, China, 4-7 September. In order to prepare a scientifically and environmentally sound TDA, there is a strong need to carry out a causal chain analysis, and identify technical options to address the root causes of the associated problems. Dr. Bowers led the discussion on the causal chain analysis, and prepared satisfactory results. With his rich experience in marine pollution research and monitoring and international co-operation, the analysis was carried out very smoothly. Following the RWG-P Meeting, he also attended the Third Meeting of RWG-Investment in Dalian, China, 9-12 September, and the RWG-Ecosystem in Jeju, Korea, 18-21 September.

The final draft TDA will be prepared during the end of October / beginning of November. The document will be submitted to the RSTP and PSC meeting for consideration. The consultant will incorporate the comments and suggestions into the final TDA, and finalise the document before end of December 2006.



THE PROJECT ORGANISES THE FIRST YOUTH PROGRAMME

The Youth Programme on “Marine and Coastal Environment in the Yellow Sea: Environment Education Programme for Youth” was held in Shihwa, Ansan from 14th to 15th September and 22nd September. The target group was young students in Korea who live near the Yellow Sea, to raise their awareness of the current environmental status and problems in the area which result from human activities, and to recognise the importance of marine conservation and encourage them to consider the possible actions for maintaining a sound environment in the Yellow Sea. The activity was implemented by the “Korean Network for Coastal Conservation,” which is a Korean NGO implementing activities for youths and local residents to train them in environment protection in the Yellow Sea.



Byulmang Middle School students in Shihwa, Korea

In the first programme, 40 middle school students from Byulmang Middle School who are interested in marine issues and are members of invention, marine book reading, and ocean study clubs gathered in Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute on 14th September, and engaged in science lessons. Dr. Hanjun Woo, marine expert of KORDI, gave the lecture on characteristics of tidal flats and marine resources in the Yellow Sea. The next day, students visited Banwol Wetland Park to observe the function of wetland and water plants and performed some hands-on experiments. The students also visited Shihwa reclaimed land to observe the habitat of salt marsh and trace the wide life in an artificial wetland. Finally, the students visited tidal flats in Daebudo to observe animals in the tidal flat and function of tidal flat. During the field study, students investigated the plants in the wetlands, walked on the tidal flat, and observed marine organisms in their habitats.



Field study in the tidal flat, Daebudo



Discussion session in Byulmang Middle School



Lecture on characteristics of tidal flats and marine resources in KORDI

On 22nd September, students gathered in the library of their school to summarise what they learned during the field study. In addition to a discussion session, the students produced a Yellow Sea map expressing what they observed.

Through the First Youth Programme, the importance of education for local young students was shown. The Project will implement the 2nd Youth Programme with another NGO, "People for Green World, in Gunsan, southern Yellow Sea on 19th, 20th and 27th October.



LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
TRAINING
WORKSHOP

As one of public awareness activities, the Training Workshop for Local Government Officers was organized in Jeju, Korea, 25-27 September 2006 with the theme of "Coastal Development vs. Protection of Marine Environment." The objective of this workshop was to familiarize the officials with the concept and tools to make rational decisions for both development and conservation. The workshop focused on the Multi-Attribute Decision Analysis as one of the approaches to integrate various issues—economy, environment, and society—relevant to the coastal development into the decision-making process.



Participants of Local Government Officer Training Workshop

A total of 17 participants attended the workshop from the Yellow Sea's coastal provinces and cities: 7 officials from China and 9 officials from Korea. Through the lectures, computer exercise, and group work, the participants obtained practical skills to design development plans in harmony with the environment and to solve conflicts among relevant stakeholders.



Group work during the Workshop



SMALL
GRANTS
PROGRAMME

The Small Grants Programme was established to invite more participation and build the capacities of stakeholders, especially local communities.

The Programme in 2006 focused on encouraging and educating local communities of the Yellow Sea's coastal area to facilitate marine conservation efforts. Out of total 23 proposals submitted (19 proposals from China, 4 proposals from Korea), six proposals were selected as recipients.

The Small Grants Programme is funding the following projects this year:

Organisation	Project title
Shihwa Lake Saver, Korea	Shihwa marine environmental education course for school teachers and youth groups in the Shihwa Lake region
Haimen Ocean and Fisheries Bureau, Nantong, Jiangsu, China	Liyashan oyster reef ecosystem protection, Nantong, China
Citizens' Institute for Environmental Studies, Korea	Program for exchanging information and experience about reclamation work among local communities in west coast of Korea: For a sustainable Yellow Sea
Dalian Maritime University	Community-based conservation of coastal ecology in Dalian, China
Liaoning Ocean and Fishery Department	Public propaganda and education for ecosystem protection around the northern Yellow Sea
Global Village of Beijing	Welcome to the green olympics and protect the Yellow Sea surrounding us: Costal community education and public participation



The Liaoning Ocean and Fishery Department produced the public propaganda.



PROJECT GIS SYSTEM

The Project's database system is being constructed by the China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Centre (CKJORC), and technically supported by the First Institute of Oceanography, China. The system is being finalised and will provide data share services such as metadata query, data query and map-based query for the information collected under the project. When the database is fully operational, the public will be able to access the database through Internet. The prototype application of YSLME GIS system is being designed and built through Microsoft Visual Studio . NET 2003, ESRI ArcIMS 9.0 and Microsoft SQL Server 2000.

The system will deliver:

- A digital base GIS map for the system with 1:250,000 World Vector Shoreline (WVS), administrative boundary units and rivers;
- A centralized database to manage the YSLME project data including fisheries, biodiversity, ecosystem, pollution and other environmental data;
- A metadata database for not only YSLME project data but also world ocean scientific data to promote scientific information sharing and accessing; and
- An ArcIMS-based Web server to provide powerful functions for dynamic and effective input, query and display of Yellow Sea environmental data in the database.



IVAN SAYS HELLO AGAIN

The PMO welcomes back Mr. G. Ivan SOTO who will join us from September until the end of November. Ivan will assist the PMO in the implementation of mariculture and fisheries related activities, as well as with the preparations for the 3rd Regional Working Group Meeting for the Fisheries Component that will be held in Weihai, China (25-28 October). Ivan's main field of expertise is aquaculture, with sustainable aquaculture and mariculture management issues as part of his duties while sharing his working experience with several international organisations in Asia, such as UNEP EAS/RCU, SEA START RC and FAO. Ivan will help the YSLME project to develop regional sustainable mariculture strategies, research on suitable carrying capacity guidelines for the region, and assess the fisheries and mariculture data collected at national level.

Ivan says,

"This is another good opportunity to express my gratitude to the PMO for giving me a chance to contribute with the achievements of the YSLME project. The truly nice working environment prevailing at the PMO surely will be of great help as always."

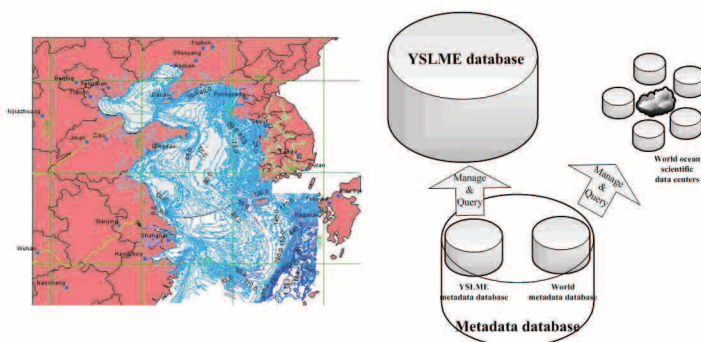


INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME AT PMO CONTINUES

Dr. PAE Seonghwan completed his internship programme at the PMO, and Ms. Jane WEI Yan, joined the PMO in August 2006.

Seonghwan says,

"I have been very delighted to know all of you in the PMO. With your great help, I could finish the learning process smoothly...it was really good experience of different working environment and upgrade the capacities in management and operation of regional and international marine environment-related project.



YSLME GIS Database System screenshot

It was also good to upgrade ability in communicating with the participating experts. Above all, I had an invaluable opportunity to review my current working habits and effectiveness of project management skills...”

Jane majored in English Language and Literature at university and was later trained in international law. She started to work for the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China in the Department of International Cooperation as a programme officer from 1998 and has been involved in SOA's cooperative activities with a number of foreign countries and international organisations. She participated in the national coordination work for YSLME project since early 2005. Now, as an intern in the PMO, she is trying to obtain a better understanding of the UN project management system, and improve her skills in project management.



Ms. Jane WEI Yan



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2006

YSLME Youth Programme – No. 2	19-20 October 2006	Byunsan, Korea
3 rd RWG-Biodiversity Meeting	20-23 October 2006	Weihai, China
3 rd RWG-Fisheries Meeting	25-28 October 2006	Weihai, China
3 rd RSTP Meeting	20-22 November 2006	Jeju Island, Korea
3 rd PSC Meeting	24-25 November 2006	Jeju Island, Korea
YSP Session and Exhibition at EAS Congress 2006	12-16 December 2006	Haikou, China

For a copy of the newsletter or publications, please contact the Project Management Office
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Schedule for 2006

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											EAS Congress Hainan																				Christmas																			

Legend:

- UN / Korea public holiday / weekend
- PSC / RSTP
- Regional Working Group
- Related Meetings
- Project Activity