

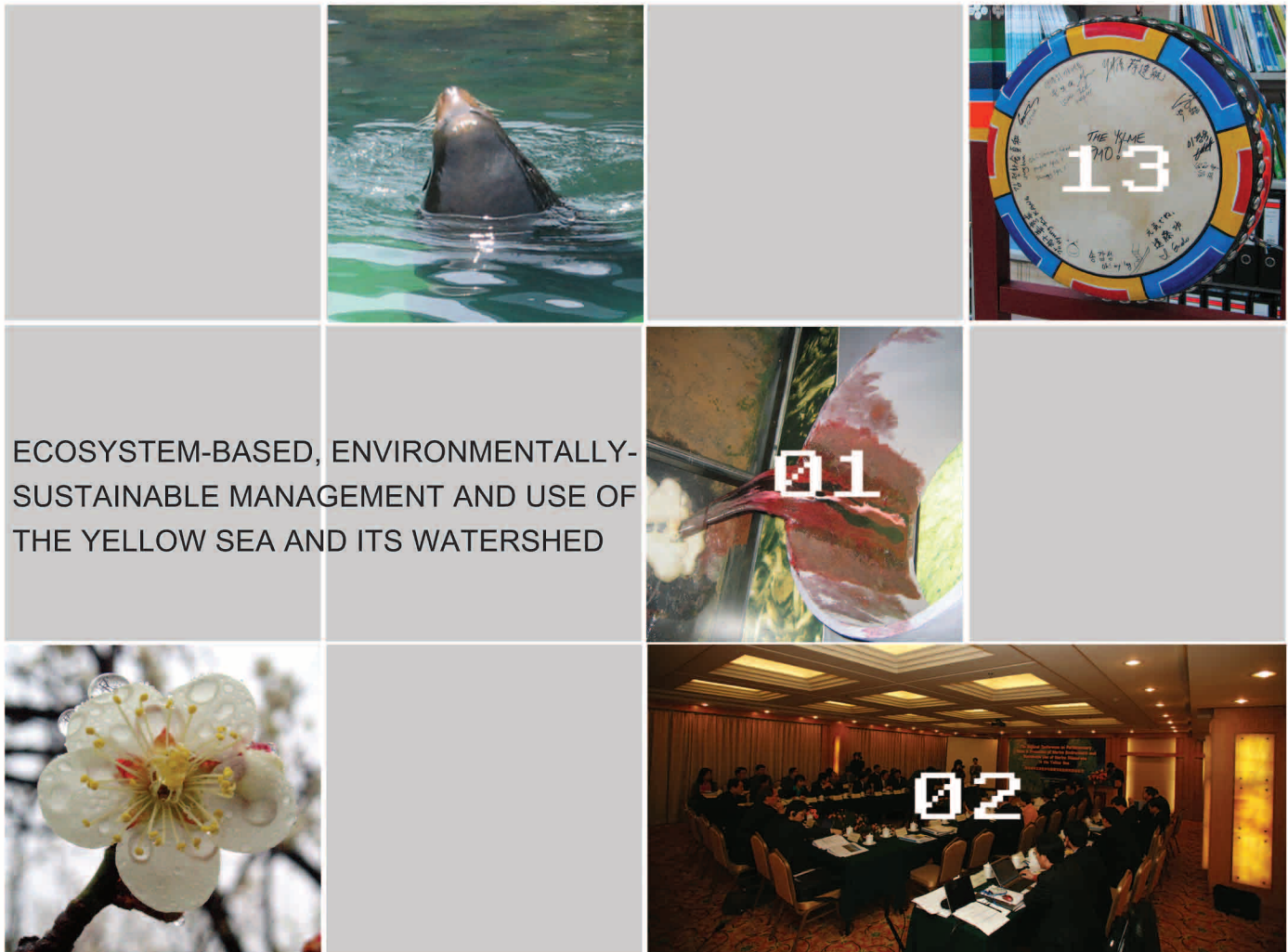
# NEWSLETTER

Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem



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## KOREA NGO Workshop

As one of public awareness activities under the Yellow Sea Partnership (<http://www.yslme.org/partnership/>), the “Korea NGO Workshop” was held in Ansan, Korea, 15-16 June 2006 to promote co-operation with local NGOs. More than 30 participants from over 12 NGOs, 1 government-affiliated institution, and 3 international organisations and projects attended the workshop. It was the second time for the YSLME Project to host this kind of workshop, targeting NGOs; the first Yellow Sea Partnership Workshop was organised in Beijing, China, in March 2006.

The representatives of the Korean local NGOs as well as the international organisations made presentations on their activities with respect to environmental conservation in the Yellow Sea. The PMO also presented the Yellow Sea Partnership and introduced the results of its first workshop in China. The meeting then discussed how to strengthen the co-operation between Korean NGOs and the Yellow Sea Partnership.



The Korea NGO workshop group photo in the meeting room

As a result of the Workshop, the meeting reaffirmed the importance of co-operation and agreed to further consider the areas and activities in which to collaborate. The participating NGOs confirmed that they will have another meeting to discuss specific joint activities. For more information, please see the report of the Workshop which will be available soon online at: <http://www.yslme.org/>



## Parliamentary Conference: A GEF “FIRST”

The “Regional Conference on Parliamentary Roles in Protection of Marine Environment and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources in the Yellow Sea” was organized in Qingdao, China, 28-30 March 2006, as one of the public awareness activities of the Yellow Sea Project.



The panel discussion between Chinese and Korean Congressmen

This Conference, the first meeting of its kind under GEF projects, provided a forum where parliamentary members gathered to discuss marine environmental issues, and aimed to enhance the participation of a major stakeholder—the parliament—in the activities to protect the marine ecosystem and promote the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

Forty one participants from both China and Republic of Korea attended the meeting, including fourteen members from the parliamentary organizations. The parliamentary members as well as the regional experts made presentations on the environmental status, the needs and requirements for environmental protection, the legislative consideration of marine environmental protection, and the economic consideration of conserving marine resources. Panel discussions were conducted to address the active involvement of stakeholders such as NGOs, industries, and local communities in conservation activities. As a result of the Conference, the participating parliamentary members deepened their understanding of the serious environmental degradation in the Yellow Sea and recognised the strong need for taking action to address the problem.



The PMO and Supporting staff for the conference

action to address the problem. The members also acknowledged that it is necessary to further strengthen closer co-operation between the parliaments in China and Republic of Korea, and that regular meetings would help in achieving this objective. The parliamentary members agreed that the next conference will be organised in Korea, with the PMO continuing its role as meeting secretariat. Under your request to [info@yslme.org](mailto:info@yslme.org), the DVD material will be sent to you with recipient's delivery cost.



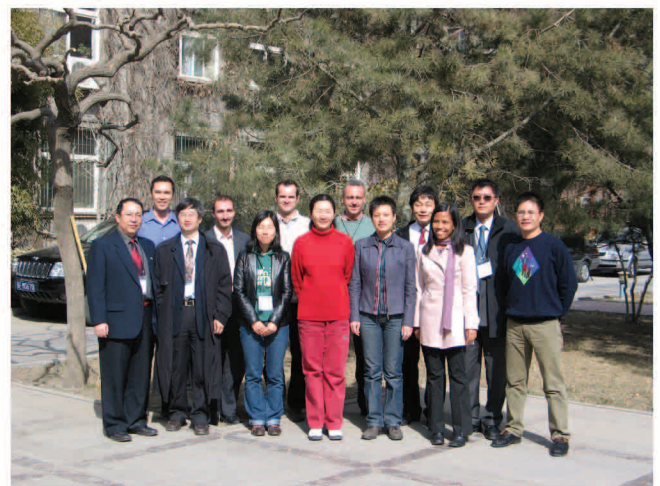
The Chinese and Korean participants



## Yellow Sea Partnership Workshop

A "Yellow Sea Partnership Workshop" was held (Beijing, China, 15-16 March 2006) with the objective to agree upon the final format of the YSP Public Awareness and Communications Strategy, and develop a mechanism for the co-operative participation of the members of the 'Yellow Sea Partnership' in an effort to raise local, national, regional and international awareness of the problems faced by the Yellow Sea and how the ecosystem can be improved by the mitigation or elimination of these problems. It is anticipated that this effort will lead to the strengthening of public support and participation in actions leading to the mitigation or elimination of these problems.

This public awareness and communications strategy was developed to produce a basic framework for coordinated actions of the numerous groups involved in the 'Yellow Sea Partnership (YSP)', including initially the YSLME, the WWF/KEI/KORDI Yellow Sea Eco-region Planning Programme (YSEPP), the MSC, and Wetlands International. The partnership is open and available for participation by any organisation interested in the activities identified in this strategy and additional partnerships have since been pursued.



The Partnership Workshop Group Photo

The following provide a sample of the current partnership members and represent the founding groups, based on meetings that took place during 2005/2006 and which resulted in the establishment of

various Memoranda of Understanding or agreements between parties.

- Global Village Beijing (GVB)
- Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI)
- Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Beijing
- UNEP Regional Seas Programme Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) China
- UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Project
- Wetlands International (WI)
- Worldwide Fund for Nature – China
- Worldwide Fund for Nature – Hong Kong
- Worldwide Fund for Nature – Japan
- WWF/KEI/KORDI Yellow Sea Eco-Region Planning Programme (YSEPP)

The successful outcomes from the workshop were:

1. An Agreement on the Yellow Sea Partnership Strategy - Its aims, purpose, targets/stakeholders, key messages, calls-to-actions and expected outcomes.
2. An agreed mechanism of operation for the Partnership.
3. Agreement on areas of collaboration, contribution and responsibility, and timing of activities.
4. An Agreement on Methods for the Evaluation of Success.
5. A Statement of Cooperation ratified by participating entities for the YS Partnership.



## Synthesis of national data and information

Consultants for the activity of regional data and information synthesis have been hired. One consultant for each of the environmental components has been hired, and all four consultants have started to analyse the data and information provided by the countries. The regional synthesis results-to-date will be presented at the third round of RWG meetings during August and September.



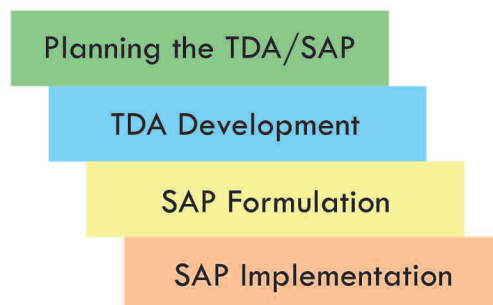
## Inter-Calibration Exercise - Round 1

The first round of nutrient inter-calibration exercise was completed in May. All together, seven labs (4 from China and 3 from Korea) participated in the exercise to compare their analytical results for nutrients in sea water. The tested nutrients were nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, phosphates, and silicates. The final report and results are available upon request from the PMO ([info@yslme.org](mailto:info@yslme.org)). The seven labs will participate in Round 2 using a different set of standards to test for the same compounds. Some labs may also alter their analytical methods based on the recommendations for improvement from Round 1.



## One Step Closer to the TDA

Work has begun on the regional syntheses of pollution and ecosystem data and information collected at the national level that will be used for the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). The consultants and institutions carrying out this activity are working with the national data collection teams to gather and assess the data, and will provide their final products during the middle of the year when work on the TDA is expected to begin.



Project Development



## Biodiversity Component Moves Towards TDA

A contract has been awarded to National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, Pusan, Korea, to collate and summarize Korean national biodiversity data and information for use in the development of the TDA.

A contract has been awarded to the NGO, Wetlands International, based in Beijing, China, to prepare a regional synthesis of data and information for biodiversity of the Yellow Sea and prepare a regional strategy for the development and management of habitat and species diversity through development of protected areas for the conservation and restoration of vulnerable species.



## Pollution Component Completes a New Activity

Five laboratories in China and Korea participated in the nutrient intercalibration exercise. This activity was aimed to enhance analytical capacity and compare results from different labs and countries for better future comparison of data. The labs were provided with Standard Reference Materials of various nutrients in sea water, and had to analyse the references.

The results have been submitted to the Queensland Health Scientific Services, Australia, for processing. Each lab will be informed of its analysis results with recommendations on how to improve the analytical skills. The labs will apply the recommendations in the second round of this exercise, scheduled to take place during the middle of the year.



## Fisheries Component Begins New Activities

A contract to develop a regional strategy for stock assessment of Yellow Sea fisheries has been awarded to a scientist from the Yellow Seas Fisheries Research Institute (China). The consultant will work with the RWG-Fisheries over the next few years to finalize the results which will be presented to the countries for evaluation.

A contract to establish the feasibility of a regional agreement for the use of fisheries resources in the Yellow Sea, and a proposal for measures to strengthen existing agreements, laws & regulations for the sustainable management of fisheries and mariculture in the Yellow Sea, has been awarded to the Marine Resource Assessment Group (MRAG), based in the UK with offices in the region. MRAG will work with the RWG-Fisheries over the next few years to finalize the results which will be presented to the countries for evaluation.

A contract has been issued to the Pusan National University, Pusan, Korea, for the development of regionally agreed methods for observing, monitoring and managing mariculture activities in the Yellow Sea, including guidelines for joint research programmes and training courses on sustainable mariculture.



## Investment Component Contributes to Understanding Socio-Economy of the Yellow Sea

The new activities under the Investment Component include the Governance Analysis and the Environmental Valuation.

The Governance Analysis examines the political environment that affects the environmental problems in the Yellow Sea. The regional experts will analyse the stakeholders, institutions, laws, and policies that are relevant to the management of the Yellow Sea's ecosystem.

The Environmental Valuation assesses the economic aspects of the marine and coastal resources. The regional procedure for Valuation studies will be developed, focusing on specific ecosystem characteristics.

The results of both the Governance Analysis and the Environmental Valuation will be available this summer, and further details will be announced in future newsletters.



## PMO welcomes Mariculture Advisor

The PMO welcomes Mr. G. Ivan Soto who will join us during June and July. Ivan will assist the PMO in the implementation of mariculture activities related to the Fisheries Component. Ivan has aquaculture as his main field of expertise. Sustainable aquaculture and mariculture management issues were part of his duties while sharing his working experience with several international organizations 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.



Mr. Ivan Soto at PMO Office

Trained in Aquacultural Engineering, Ivan has experience in aquaculture systems and sustainable aquaculture development in Latin America. His field of expertise allowed him to join international organizations such as FAO and UNEP prior to join the YSLME PMO. From 2001-2003, he worked for UNEP EAS/RCU with headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand assisting in the implementation of coral reef management projects and land based pollution programmes. Ivan holds a masters' degree on Aquatic Animal Resources Management from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

Ivan says, "I am happy to be back in Asia once again and even more delighted to see that the working environment I

found at the PMO on my very first day has the nice touch of people who is committed to deliver a high quality work. Being back in Asia is certainly an experience which I will take with commitment and responsibility. I believe that sharing friendship and professional experiences with my new colleagues will definitely become another nice working experience in Asia."



## Internship Programme 2006 Gets Underway

The Project launched its Internship Programme this year, and extends a warm welcome to Dr. Seonghwan Pae, the first intern who begins working at the Project Management Office in April 2006, for 6 months. Dr. Pae currently works in KORDI, and has vast experience working with regional biodiversity projects, such as the "WWF/KORDI/KMI Yellow Sea Ecoregion Planning Programme."



Dr. Seonghwan PAE at the Korea NGO meeting

The internship programme will be participated by: a) young government officers who are assigned the responsibilities of international and regional cooperation in protection of marine environment programmes, and who are interested in obtaining a better understanding of the United Nations system, and b) young scientists who are interested in obtaining a better understanding of the United Nations

system, and b) young scientists who are interested in understanding management and implementation of international and regional projects, to more effectively carry out relevant research activities to assist with transboundary management of the marine environment of their country.

The objectives of the Programme are to:

- Upgrade capacities of the Project's participating countries (China and Republic of Korea) in management and operation of regional and international marine environment-related projects;
- Enhance communications between the Project Management Office and relevant ministries for effective implementation of the Project;
- Facilitate better understanding of the intern in procedures for project design, approval, implementation, and facilitate improved regional co-operation between the Project and intern's original institute; and
- Assist in developing necessary human resources for current and future regional and international projects and activities on protection of marine environment and sustainable use of its resources.

Visit the YSLME Project website for future announcements about the Internship Programme.

Dr. Seong-hwan Pae says;

"I joined the YSLME PMO by internship programme. I am expecting busier summer PMO office ever. Please wish me good luck with my new daily life in Yellow Sea."



## YSLME says Good-bye to Jeffrey Archer

We show this issue of the newsletter by bidding farewell to our colleague, Jeff Archer. Here's a message from Jeff, bidding 'adieu' to everyone. My last day at the YSLME Project was on the 31st March, 2006. I want to acknowledge with deep thanks the kindnesses, friendship and support that I have experienced during the time that I have worked with you all.

It's not everyone who has a boss who is consistently cooperative, generous, and understanding, colleagues who are more like friends than workmates, and I feel that I've been blessed. Not only have I enjoyed working with you all; I have learned how a really good project office should be run. The experience that I have gained working for Yihang



The gift from PMO staff

Jiang and all of my friends at the PMO has been very important and will benefit me and my new workplace for the future.

Although I am excited to enter my new position, I am sad to leave all my friends at the YSLME Project and feel that our relationship has come to an end too soon. The YSLME Project is an extremely important project for this region (and for the world), and has reached an impressive level of achievement that I will be sad to not be a part of in the future. I am sure that the team at the YSLME PMO will continue to do a great job regardless.

So, to Mr. Yihang Jiang, Project Manager, the staff at the PMO, to Andrew Menz at UNOPS and all the staff at UNDP Seoul, to the NFPs and NPCs for China and Korea, to the members of the Regional Working Groups, to the members of the Yellow Sea Partnership, to all the folks at KORDI, and to all of the consultants whom I have had the pleasure of working with on a number of contracts, I say thank you and goodbye (for now).



Jeff and His wife, Danielle

