

SOF and PEMSEA Join Hands for Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development

TOKYO, JAPAN -- Efforts in preserving the marine environment and promoting sustainable use of coastal and ocean resources were given a boost with the signing of the Statement of Intention between the Ship and Ocean Foundation (SOF) and PEMSEA last 20 March 2003.

The two organizations agreed to collaborate in promoting the development and endorsement of a regional strategy for sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia, and building national capacities, especially at the local levels, to adopt integrated planning and management of coastal and marine areas. SOF and PEMSEA will jointly encourage support for the establishment and operation of a regional ocean think tank and technical working groups to provide recommendations, approaches and methodologies for the sustainable use of the Seas of East Asia, as well as co-organize related workshops/forums/conferences, including the forthcoming East Asian Seas Congress 2003.

The Statement of Intention was signed by PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng and Institute for Ocean Policy, SOF Executive Director, Mr. Hiroshi Terashima.

Japan's Initiatives Complement PEMSEA Activities

TOKYO, JAPAN -- Japan is planning to translate the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) into Japanese for circulation to various ministries for comments. This was among the plans of the Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Information and Transport highlighted during a meeting with PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng.

At the same meeting, Vice-Director General, Mr. Shoji Fujii, Ocean Division Director, Mr. Nobuaki Kon, and Special Assistant to the Director, Mr. Eiichi Muraoka, indicated Japan's intention to participate in the upcoming Senior Government Official's (SGO) Meeting. The SGO Meeting will review the SDS-SEA and prepare documents for presentation to the Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia which will be held in December as part of the East Asian Seas Congress 2003. The two groups also discussed ways of strengthening the network of governments involved in the Oil Spill Preparation and Response project and linkages with PEMSEA, and PEMSEA's possible involvement in the implementation of the Ballast Water Convention, expected to be adopted at the IMO General Assembly later this year.

Thailand Develops Ocean Policy

KOH CHANG, THAILAND -- PEMSEA shared its experiences and insights on coastal and marine policy development during the Joint Expert Consultation on Thai Ocean Policy held last 25-27 March. Thailand's Ocean Policy focuses on the need to address multiple use conflicts.

The draft policy document for Thailand represents a comprehensive national ocean policy review done for the first time, and addressed the need for developing a national coastal management framework to facilitate the formulation and implementation of integrated coastal resource management plans at the provincial and community levels.

At the consultation meeting, PEMSEA Senior Programme Officer, Dr. Huming Yu discussed PEMSEA's efforts in facilitating national coastal and marine policy development in the region. He highlighted the experiences and lessons learned from the practices in developing coastal strategies at PEMSEA's demonstration sites, cross-sectoral policies at the national level and the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia at the regional level. The draft Thai Ocean Policy makes special reference to PEMSEA's Guide for Developing National Coastal and Marine Policy as an information source.

Fun-run for Nature at Manila Bay

MANILA, PHILIPPINES -- About 5,000 stakeholders joined a fun-run in support of Manila Bay's environment. The 2003 "Takbo para sa Kalikasan" or Fun-run for Nature held last 9 February aimed at raising funds for the rehabilitation of mangroves in Manila Bay.

Participating in the 10km run were stakeholders from various sectors that included government, non-government, youth and business sectors, the military, and communities from within and outside of Metro Manila.

Staff from PEMSEA's Manila Bay Environmental Management Project and Regional Programme Office participated in the event, joining in the run along Manila Bay and setting up an exhibit to raise stakeholders' awareness on the importance of the environment.

The rehabilitation of mangrove areas is one of the concerns identified in the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy, as well as in a Refined Risk Assessment conducted by PEMSEA.

Linking LGUs and the Private Sector for Solid Waste Management

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- PEMSEA in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), is organizing an Investors Roundtable on 6 May at the DBP Building, Makati City.

The Investors Roundtable is a gathering of industry representatives, businessmen, financial institutions, donor agencies, policymakers, local government officials and other key stakeholders. The forum provides the private sector with an opportunity to learn about local investment projects from representatives of local governments—the project proponents—who will present environmental investment opportunities as well as government commitments with the objective of establishing long-term partnership arrangements with the private sector. The event provides an interactive platform for building more effective environmental management systems and sustainable delivery of public goods and services in the Manila Bay region.

Two solid waste management projects will be presented. For Bataan Province, the project involves a joint venture arrangement for the financing, construction and operation of a waste collection system, a centralized sanitary landfill to serve the whole province, three material recovery facilities (MRFs) to serve clustered municipalities, and a transfer system to haul residual wastes from each MRF to the landfill.

For San Fernando City in Pampanga Province, the project involves waste collection, and the financing and construction of a MRF, expansion of an existing compost facility into a large-scale centralized facility, and transport and haulage of residual wastes to the sanitary landfill in the Clark Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility.

At the roundtable, interested investors and operating companies will be invited to submit an expression of interest, and present a business proposal to PEMSEA and the project proponents for consideration, review and selection of a private sector partner.

Bataan and San Fernando City are ideal sites for the environmental investments as both are located within the Growth Triad Corridor of Central Luzon. Bataan is host to four special economic zones, including a number of shipping and petroleum-based industries while San Fernando City is Region 3's institutional center and financial hub.

Interested parties are requested to register in the Environmental Investments Network at <http://way.to/pemseainvestments> or contact:

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