

NEWSLETTER

Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem



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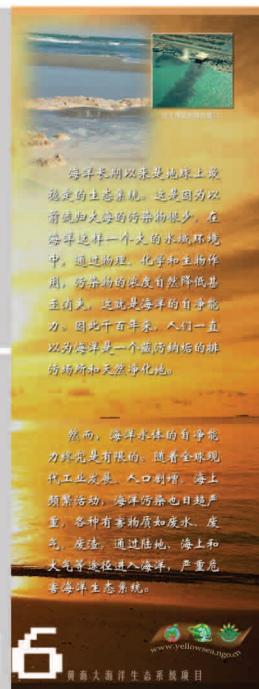
2007 January



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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 October 2006, the third round of Regional Working Group (RWG) Meetings were held for the Fisheries and Biodiversity Groups.

FISHERIES

The 3rd RWG Fisheries Meeting was held in Rongcheng, China, from 25-28 October 2006. Members and consultants reviewed the progress of activities in 2006, recommended improvements for completing activities, and suggested some new activities for the future. Final drafts of the national data and information collection reports and the regional synthesis report were reviewed and finalized. Progress reports for activities on carrying capacity, sustainable mariculture, and regional management strategies were reviewed. These reports are being finalized following the suggestions from the meeting.

Meeting participants suggested some new activities to be implemented in 2007 to improve information exchange and to enhance capacity building in sustainable mariculture issues. Please check future newsletter editions for updates on the new activities.



3rd RWG-Fisheries Meeting participants

BIODIVERSITY

The Regional Working Group for the Biodiversity Component (RWG-B) held its third meeting in Rongcheng, China, 20th – 23rd October 2006.

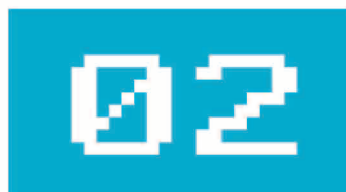
The Meeting reviewed the completed and on-going activities under the component since the second RWG-B meeting in 2005. Those activities include the national data and information collection and the regional synthesis of those collected data and information.

The Meeting also reviewed the draft Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) report with special reference to the Yellow Sea's biodiversity. Having had a careful analysis and extensive discussions on transboundary biodiversity problems, the Meeting prepared a revised causal chain analysis as an input for the subsequent version of the TDA.

Activities for 2007 and onwards were discussed with biodiversity regional targets considered. The Meeting agreed on some regional targets for the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) development, focusing on better management of introduced species and protection of vulnerable species. The relevant issues will be further discussed at the SAP Consultation Meeting in 2007.



3rd RWG-Biodiversity Meeting in progress



PROJECT HOSTS 3RD RSTP AND PSC MEETINGS BEFORE YEAR-END

The 3rd Regional Scientific and Technical Panel (RSTP) and the 3rd Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings were organised in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 20-24 November 2006. The RSTP reviewed the project progress during 2006, in particular the data and information collection, the Yellow Sea Partnership, the Parliamentary Conference as a major public awareness event, and other activities implemented during the year. The meeting particularly discussed and approved in principle the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), which is one of the major outcomes of the project. The RSTP also discussed and agreed on the workplan for 2007, with special emphasis on the preparation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

The PSC discussed the issues of the participation of DPR Korea in the project, the membership of NGO and private sectors in the PSC and the workplan and budget for 2007 onwards.

Both meetings expressed satisfaction with project implementation so far, not only for those activities defined in the Project Document, but also for other innovative activities, such the Yellow Sea Partnership and Parliamentary Conference.

During the PSC Meeting, YSLME and IOC/WESTPAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to advance collaborative efforts between the two parties.



MoU Signing Ceremony between Project and IOC/WESTPAC



ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH

YELLOW SEA YOUTH PROGRAMME OF MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE YELLOW SEA: ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH

“Appropriate Use of Marine and Coastal Resources”
Byunsan, Republic of Korea, 19-20 October & 2
November, 2006

In co-operation with the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project Management Office (PMO), Korean Network for Coastal Conservation (Coastal Korean Network [CKN]) conducted the 2nd activity of Youth Programme as one of the public awareness activities under the Project's Investment Component. In this Programme, the CKN organised 3 days activity for environmental education targeting middle school students in Republic of Korea (ROK).

The second activity, with focus on utilisation of marine resources, was held in Byunsan, ROK on 19 and 20 October and 2 November 2006. The activity consisted of lecture, field study, and discussion and summary like first activity held in Ansan on 14, 15 and 23 September 2006. The second activity invited various organisations and individuals co-operating with the CKN to organise those activities, including a local environmental NGO (CKN of Chonbuk Province), government-affiliated agencies (Korea National Park of Byeonsan-Bando), and local community organisations (Daebu Residential People for Environmental Preservation). The activity also was conducted in Korean with all the teaching materials prepared in the local language.

The second activity focused on the Byunsan area which is designated as a protected area due to its valuable marine resources with the theme, “Appropriate Use of Marine and Coastal Resources – Tour of Coast and Wetland Area along the Yellow Sea”. Middle school students of Napo Middle School, located in Buan City which is a relatively small school in terms of the number of students, were the target audience. The students in this school have few opportunities to participate in the training programme of the Yellow Sea and rarely learn its environmental problems.

On the first day, 19th October 2006, the lectures provided information on the marine and coastal environment in the Yellow Sea and on the status and feature of its local coastal region to promote the understating of students. On the second day, 20th October 2006, students participated in the field study in Byunsan and Gomso Bay in ROK which are registered as a national preservation sites and famous for the active environmental conservation efforts. Dr. Kim Yongmin from Korea National Park of Byeonsan-Bando introduced the coastal environment and major natural resources in the Byunsan National Park and guided the observation of the plants in the coastal region and sand dune. He explained the marine creature such as oyster, shells and small fishes, and stimulated the students' interests and curiosity in marine resources and emphasised the importance of protection of the environment.

Then, the students reviewed the field study and discussed future actions to protect the marine and coastal environment in the Yellow Sea. Most students expressed their satisfaction to participate in the hands-on activity and deepened their understanding of marine environmental issues and also their willingness to join the conservation activities to protect marine and coastal environment.

All students suggested having more opportunities to participate in educational programs, particularly a visit to "hotspots" where serious environmental degradation is observed. Some students also proposed to have a regular programme, similar to this Programme, to observe the marine environment.



Introduction of feature of coastal environment in Byunsan, ROK



Observation of salt field in Gomso bay, ROK



Observation of the marine creatures in the field study in Byunsan, ROK



Production of salt using sea water



THE PROJECT AND YSP at EAS CONGRESS 2006

The Project and the Yellow Sea Partnership (YSP) organized a session at EAS Congress 2006 (Haikou, Hainan, China, 12-14 December 2006)

Yellow Sea Partners met in “the Hawaii of the Orient,” Hainan Island, during the EAS Congress 2006, and organized a session about the YSP. The YSP demonstrated how collaborative efforts and pooling of resources from partners can extend public awareness activities to a wider stakeholdership, than if only one partner worked alone. Representatives from 11 partner organisations and over 30 participants joined the session to hear about the latest news from the YSP. Partners presented their public awareness activities, and discussed how to improve collaborative efforts in public awareness and participation.

For future implementation, the seminar discussed and recommended some new joint initiatives to be collaboratively implemented amongst the various partners. These include activities such as joint publication of a book on wetlands, a common logo for the YSP, collaboration of future youth programmes, and joint activities during World Wetlands Day 2007.



The Exhibition Booth at EAS Congress 2006, displaying the work of the partners



Mr. Chen Kelin, Wetland International – Beijing, giving his presentation at the EAS Congress 2006, while Mr. Wang Songlin of WWF-China listens attentively

Partners also hosted an exhibition booth displaying the coastal and marine environmental issues relevant to the Yellow Sea. The exhibition booth was visited by participants to the EAS Congress, who collected brochures, publications, and other outputs produced by the partners.



Mr. Tobai Sadayosi presenting the YSEPP work



THE PROJECT AND SCCBD SIGN MOU

In December, the Project signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP/GEF Project, “Biodiversity Management in the Coastal Area of China’s South Seas (SCCBD).” The SCCBD is a national project being implemented in China, but has overlapping geographical areas and some similar activities to the YSLME Project. Thus, the MOU is seen as a further advancement in regional co-operation for both parties and the entire region. The YSLME looks forward to collaboration with SCCBD, particularly in the field of biodiversity conservation and management.



The two project leaders signing the MOU in Haikou, China, 13th December 2006

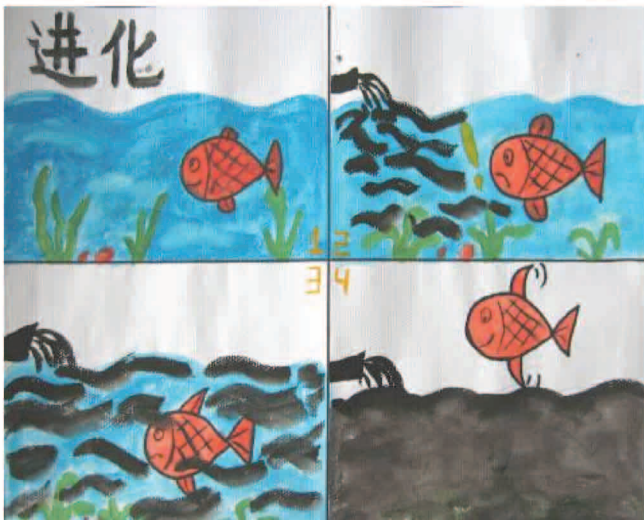


SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME SHOWS RESULTS

The Project’s partner organisations made progress under the Small Grants Programme in promoting public awareness on the Yellow Sea’s environmental issues. The six organisations, granted in 2006, had been implementing various activities in the Yellow Sea’s coastal area to educate local people, including fishermen, businessmen, school teachers, and children. The activities include organising seminars and workshops, training for trainers, painting contests, beach cleanup, site visits, and educational material production. The following highlights some of those activities:

- Shihwa Lake Saver had a training workshop for school teachers in July 2006 in the Shihwa watershed region, ROK;
- Citizens' Institute for Environmental Studies conducted field trips in July and September 2006 to Saemangeum, Janghang, and Sihwa areas in Republic of Korea (ROK) to understand current situation on local communities and developments;
- Liaoning Ocean and Fishery Department organised a drawing competition in Dandong, China, in September 2006 with the theme of “put our hearts into environment protection, tie our feeling with the ocean;”
- Global Village of Beijing held an exhibition for local community in Qingdao, China, in November 2006 on marine environmental protection in the Yellow Sea; and
- Haimen Ocean and Fisheries Bureau is preparing for a training workshop for alternative livelihood; meanwhile, Dalian Maritime University is preparing for a beach cleanup.





Public awareness activities organised by
Liaoning Ocean and Fishery Department



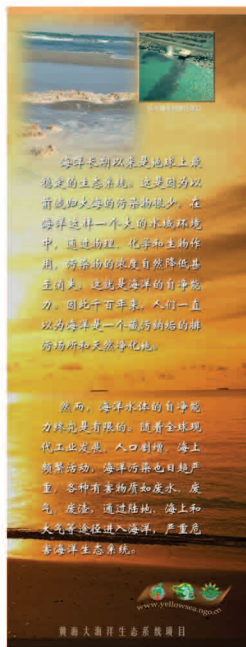
Poster produced by Global Village of Beijing

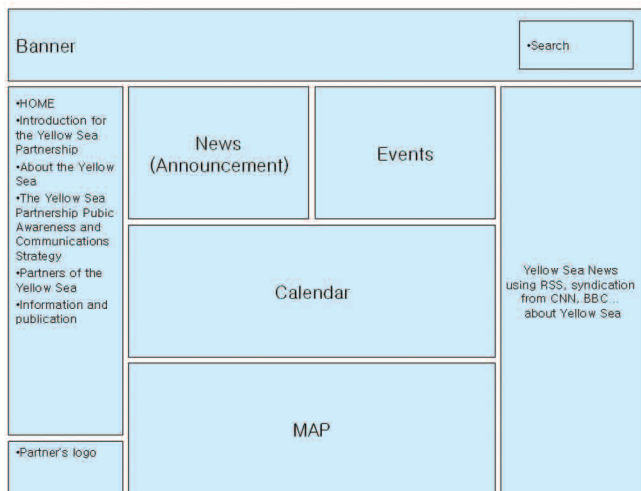


The workshop was designed for any project staff who would like to take advantage of the free tools and services offered by IW:LEARN to meet its aim and focused on how to use the IW:LEARN website toolkit to: (1) Enable any GEF project to have a powerful and easy to manage website (2) Utilize the internet based GIS Map server and standards for information exchange.

Around 25 IT specialists, concerned project parties from Lake Chad Basin GEF Project, Lake Victoria Environment Management Project, Nile Basin Initiative, GCLME Project, Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana, Marine and Coastal Environment Management Project (MACEMP), UNDP-GEF Dnipro Basin Environment Programme, PERSGA, and YSLME participated in the workshop.

The IW:LEARN team established the Yellow Sea partnership homepage with the website toolkit. According to the request from Ms. Euidea YUN provided during the workshop on the mock-up site, the IW:LEARN composed the website with News, Events, Schedule, and GIS Map section on the main page like below.





Mock-up home page site for all Yellow Sea Partnership members to upload their news by themselves in the future

The biggest benefit of the website made by IW: LEARN web toolkit is that the partners can update their news and schedule by themselves with provided ID and Password so it reduces the YSLME PMO's manual labour. The right section on the main page will produce the news about Yellow Sea on real time from CNN, BBC and international news site automatically using RSS technique.

After polishing the draft site, the PMO will publish the Yellow Sea Partner's web site in January 2007, with partner's ID & Password for each member to manipulate by themselves.



YSLME Project IT Administrator, Ms. Euidea YUN, attended the IW:LEARN Workshop



IVAN SAYS
GOODBYE

Mr. G. Ivan SOTO, the short term consultant, assisted the PMO in the implementation of the fisheries and mariculture activities, while the PMO was recruiting a new Programme Officer for the vacant post. Mr. Soto has returned to his home in Peru after finishing his mission with very professional and successful results. He organised the 3rd Regional Working Group Meeting for Fisheries and assisted with the RWG-Biodiversity Meeting in October, amongst numerous other tasks.

Ivan says that he would like to come back to Ansan, Korea if he has a chance. He expressed his sincere appreciation to everybody related to the YSLME Project and said goodbye (for now).



Mr. Ivan SOTO

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