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## PEMSEA News

### PEMSEA Contribution to Coastal Tourism Recognized

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**Manila, Philippines** – The Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) received a special recognition from the Sustainable Coastal Tourism in Asia (SCOTIA), a United States-Agency for International Development (USAID) Program, for its continuous support in promoting coastal tourism through its Public-Private Partnership initiatives for the development of adequate infrastructure for sanitation in Puerto Galera. Prof. Raphael P.M. Lotilla, PEMSEA Executive Director, received the certificate from SCOTIA Team Leader, Ms. Grace Favila; US-AID Representative Mr. John Lindborg; and Secretary Joseph Durano of the Department of Tourism, during the Sustainable Coastal Tourism Conference held on 28 May in Manila.

Mr. S. Adrian Ross (PEMSEA), Mr. John Lindborg (USAID), PEMSEA Executive Director Raphael P.M. Lotilla, Secretary Joseph Durano of the Philippine Department of Tourism, and Ms. Grace Favila (SCOTIA) during the Sustainable Coastal Tourism Conference.

According to Prof. Lotilla, the recognition given to PEMSEA by SCOTIA was truly special, as it "speaks volumes of the esteem that our collaborators and partners have for PEMSEA's work."

Prof. Lotilla thanked SCOTIA "for recognizing the good that we do as we assure them of our continuing commitment to build upon the legacy of our partnership."

PEMSEA and SCOTIA teamed up in 2006 as a response to the urgent call of the local government of Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, Philippines, to address the municipality's problems of sanitation and marine pollution that have begun to hurt their tourism industry. PEMSEA has continued to provide technical assistance while SCOTIA takes charge of education and information dissemination, as well as community relations to help the local government implement a sewage collection and treatment project using a public-private partnership approach.

During the conference, Mr. S. Adrian Ross, Chief Technical Officer of PEMSEA, shared PEMSEA's experience in public-private partnerships to facilitate the establishment of a wastewater treatment facility in Puerto Galera. Hon. Hubbert Dolor, Mayor of Puerto Galera also joined the panel.

The SCOTIA conference was attended by more than 150 participants composed of local government officials, representatives from government agencies, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations, experts in the fields of water and sanitation, as well as various stakeholders. The former Secretary for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ms. Elisea Gozun, served as Conference Chair.

# Vietnam Province Initiates Replication of Danang's ICM Project Experience

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**Thua Thien Hue, Vietnam** – Thua Thien Hue is one of four provinces in Vietnam's central region economic zone. The province is bordered on the north by Quang Tri Province, on the south by Danang City, on the west by Lao PDR, and on the east by the East Sea. The lagoon system in the coastal area embodies a unique eco-system, and has significant potential for development as an ecotourism site.

But Hue faces a number of issues that are having a negative impact on the sustainable development of its bountiful marine and coastal resources, including:

1. Pollution of the lagoon from industry, tourism, agriculture , aquaculture and human activities around the lagoon;
2. Overexploitation and destructive use of aquatic resources, particularly in the lagoon area;
3. Unregulated/uncontrolled mining of minerals, sand and gravel in the coastal area, wetlands, and rivers;
4. Natural disasters, including floods, coastal erosion and inlet instability;
5. Salinity intrusion into the Huong River, causing water supply problems for domestic and manufacturing use;
6. Conflicting uses of resources in the lagoon among fisheries, tourism, agriculture and domestic sectors; and
7. Poverty.

In November 2007, Thua Thien Hue Province expressed its desire to become an integrated coastal management (ICM) parallel site of PEMSEA. To determine the site's suitability for ICM implementation, a site evaluation mission was conducted on 11-12 April. The evaluation mission confirmed the ongoing initiatives of the local government as well as other stakeholders in the community for sustainable management of Hue's marine and coastal resources; identified the various challenges to sustainable development in Hue; and confirmed Hue's commitment to develop and implement an integrated coastal management program and to functioning as a PEMSEA ICM parallel site.

Hue Province has a coastline of 126 km, stretching from Phong Dien to Lang Co. The selection of Hue as an ICM parallel site provides an opportunity for a continuum of coastline in Vietnam under ICM management, stretching from Hue Province in the north, across Danang City, and through to Quangnam Province in the south. Danang is an ICM demonstration site, while Quangnam is an ICM parallel site of PEMSEA. Collectively, they cover a total coastline of 343 km, or more than nine percent of the coastline of Vietnam, excluding islands.

The ICM program in Hue also serves as a demonstration of national ICM scaling up and replication, using the Danang ICM demonstration site as the spring board to replication. On 9 October 2007, the Prime Minister of Vietnam signed Decision No. 158, which approved the development and implementation of a national ICM program focused on 14 coastal provinces. Thua Thien Hue Province was identified as one of the 3 ICM sites in north central Vietnam under the program. The lessons from Hue will be directly applicable in other coastal areas of Vietnam under the national ICM program.

## Guimaras Aims High Towards Achieving Its Sustainable Development Targets

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**Guimaras, Philippines** – Guimaras, an island province of the Philippines, located in the western Visayas, is well-known for its mangoes - its signature product; its pristine beaches and coves; and more recently, as the site of the worst oil spill in the history of the Philippines. On 11 August 2006, two million liters of bunker fuel were spilled into the Guimaras coast, causing an environmental and economic disaster that seriously affected more than half of its population living along its 238-km coastline that depended on the coastal and marine resources for their livelihood.. The results of the rapid damage assessment showed the magnitude of impacts on the ecosystems and population which were manifested in the loss of livelihood, health problems and degradation of the important coastal habitats including mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds.

The oil spill incident provided a window of opportunity for Guimaras to consider adopting an integrated management approach due to the problems encountered during the oil spill response process, which included lack of interagency coordination. Integrated coastal management (ICM) holds great promise particularly in promoting policy and functional integration and in helping the local government develop policies, strategies and action plans to address issues that affect its sustainable coastal development, including natural and man-made hazards prevention and management.

On 21 September 2007, the Provincial Government of Guimaras expressed its intent to implement an ICM program through a letter sent to PEMSEA. A site evaluation mission was conducted on 28-30 April 2008 to determine Guimaras' suitability for ICM implementation. The evaluation mission was able to identify the various challenges to sustainable development in Guimaras. The mission likewise assessed how the ongoing initiatives of the local government as well as other stakeholders that focused on the sustainable management of the Province's marine and coastal resources can be integrated and more importantly, confirmed Guimaras' commitment to ICM and to functioning as a PEMSEA ICM parallel site.

Guimaras is undertaking the necessary preparatory activities towards the development and implementation of a full-blown ICM program. The Governor of Guimaras, Hon. Felipe Hilan A. Nava, is spearheading the process. Governor Nava issued Administrative Order No. 4 (2008) establishing the Guimaras ICM Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) and the Project Management Office along with the necessary budgetary allocations for their initial operation. A Memorandum of Understanding is anticipated to be jointly signed by the Provincial Government, PEMSEA and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in July 2008 to officially recognize Guimaras as a PEMSEA ICM parallel site - a very unique site as it showcases the integrated management of an island ecosystem.

## Philippines Hosts EAS Congress 2009, Venue Set in Manila

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**Manila, Philippines** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, and the PEMSEA Resource Facility have confirmed that the site of the EAS Congress 2009 will be Manila, Philippines. The date for the Congress is set for 23 -27 November 2009.

A global center of marine diversity, an archipelago with more than 7,100 islands, and one of the longest coastlines in the world, the Philippines provides visitors with access to all that is wondrous and beautiful about the ocean and coastal resources, as well as insights into the challenges to sustainable development and management of those very resources.

The EAS Congress 2009 will be a venue for reviewing and sharing on-the-ground experiences in integrated management of coastal and marine resources. Carrying the theme, "Partnerships at Work: Local Implementation and Good Practices," the EAS Congress 2009 will highlight initiatives and good practices covering aspects of coastal and marine resource management and how government and non-government partnerships are contributing to regional and international environmental targets.

The City of Manila is a lively metropolis commanding a magnificent view of the world-famous Manila Bay and its golden sunset. This "Philippine Cosmopolitan Capital" blends regional cultures and flavors. Manila is home to Malacañan Palace, the official residence of the country's chief executive and one of the most historic structures in the Philippines. The Manila Cathedral, the seat of the Catholic Archdiocese of Manila, and the San Agustin Church, the oldest stone church in Metro Manila and one of the four Philippine Baroque Churches inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The EAS Congress meetings and workshops will be held in Asia's first international convention center, the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). The conference is expected to gather both government and non-government partners and other stakeholders from the academe, local communities, youth, and private sector from within and outside the region, as well as international and regional organizations and institutions, to ensure the steady advancement of partnership initiatives for the sustainable development of the East Asian Seas region.

For more information on the EAS Congress, visit [www.pemsea.org/eascongress](http://www.pemsea.org/eascongress).

For more information on Manila and the Philippines, visit the WOW Philippines website at: [www.tourism.gov.ph](http://www.tourism.gov.ph).

## SOC Evaluates ICM Implementation on the Ground

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**Batangas, Philippines** – Fourteen years have passed since integrated coastal management (ICM) was initiated in the Batangas Bay region. The experience has since been replicated in two other bays in the province, namely the Balayan and Adjacent Bays, and the Tayabas and Adjacent Bays region. But apart from the geographical expansion of ICM efforts, has there really been progress achieved on the ground. Has ICM created impacts on the sustainable marine and coastal environment and more importantly to the well-being of Batangueños?

To date, there are no indicators and reporting systems in place to assess the progress and impact of ICM implementation by local governments. The State of the Coasts (SOC) reporting system, which incorporates process, state and impact indicators, is being developed by PEMSEA primarily to document and evaluate what has been achieved by ICM implementation. Piloted in Batangas province, a seven-day field survey covering nine coastal municipalities (Balayan, Calaca, Calatagan, Lemery, Lobo, Mabini, Nasugbu, San Juan and Tingloy) and one coastal city (Batangas City) was conducted to document local issues and management responses, as well as to validate results.

The survey focused on 36 core indicators, covering governance (policy, legislation, institutional arrangements, public awareness, capacity development and financing mechanism) and well as sustainable development issues common to coastal areas (natural and man-made hazard management; habitat restoration and management; water supply use and management; sustainable livelihood and coastal fisheries management; and pollution reduction and waste management). Interviews were conducted with municipal leaders, heads of city/municipal planning departments, agriculture, environment, engineering, health and disaster management offices, as well as community leaders. Documents concerning coastal development and management were also reviewed. Coastal issues were also validated from the on-site survey and documented through photos.

The SOC field survey was conducted by the PEMSEA Resource Facility in collaboration with the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resource Office (PG-ENRO) of Batangas.

The results of the survey are still being analyzed. It is expected that the SOC report for Batangas Province will be available for dissemination in July 2008. The SOC report will hopefully serve as an operational tool for local Chief Executives to monitor and manage coastal programs more effectively. It is further envisaged that this first SOC report will provide an incentive and example for other ICM sites in the region to develop and implement an SOC reporting system in their respective locations.



## **Xiamen Gears Up for 2008 World Ocean Week (XWOW)**

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**Xiamen, PR China** – The Xiamen Municipal Government is aiming to exceed the achievements of the 2007 XWOW, which was attended by 500 participants from 33 countries. To meet the challenge, the Xiamen Oceans and Fisheries Bureau brought together representatives from the State Oceanic Administration, the United Nations Development Programme in China, Xiamen University, the Fujian Provincial Oceans and Fisheries Bureau, and PEMSEA to plan and discuss the organization of the 2008 XWOW, scheduled on 7-13 November. The First Organizing Committee meeting was held in Xiamen on 23 April.

The meeting deliberated on the lessons learned from the 2007 XWOW to further strengthen and improve the organization of this year's event. The gathering also developed a five-year plan (2008-2012) for XWOW, including measures to transform into an international event of similar standing as the World Water Week in Stockholm.

The Municipal Government of Xiamen's main objective is to ensure that emerging and critical issues affecting sustainable coastal development are discussed, knowledge is shared, and strategies and actions are identified. By providing a platform for international cooperation and exchange of management experiences, Xiamen is showing the way among coastal cities and local governments through the XWOW forum.

## PEMSEA Welcomes New PRF Staff

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**Quezon City, Philippines** – PEMSEA welcomes Ms. Maida Aguinaldo, Mr. Renato Cardinal, Mr. John Eric Dylan Saet and Mr. Andre Jon Uychiaoco to the PEMSEA Resource Facility.

Ms. Maida Aguinaldo joins PEMSEA as Technical Assistant of the Learning Center. Prior to joining PEMSEA, Ms. Aguinaldo worked as Coastal Resource Management/Collection Area Management Planning Specialist at Reef Check-Philippines. Maida has a degree in Community Development from the University of the Philippines. As Technical Assistant, she will provide support to the establishment and mobilization of the regional and national task forces including periodic review of task force applications, updating and maintaining the task force database. She will also be assisting in the design and packaging of learning materials and the design, development and standardization of training modules.

Mr. Renato Cardinal is Audit/Certification Officer. Mr. Cardinal has a degree in Metallurgical Engineering and brings to PEMSEA over 14 years of experience in audit and systems review of ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 and IMS requirements from Neville Clark Philippines Incorporated. As Audit/Certification Officer, Ato will be responsible for overseeing the development, testing and verification of the ICM code in selected countries, including the formulation of a recognition and certification system that conforms to ISO 9001 (Quality Management), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management) certification standards, among others.

Mr. John Eric Dylan Saet joins the PRF as Webmaster. Jed has a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science from the University of the Philippines. Prior to joining PEMSEA, he worked for the Ayala Foundation, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Organization for Migration. Jed is currently developing the East Asian Seas Congress website as well as enhancing the current PEMSEA website into an information one-stop-shop.

Mr. Andre John Uychiaoco is the Technical Officer for Project Development and is responsible for providing technical assistance in the implementation of the SDS-SEA and related coastal strategies and action plans in the region. He will particularly support the development of the State of Coasts, as well as preparations in the development of several manuals and guides, case studies and project proposals. Andre obtained his doctorate in Ecology and Evolution at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Masters in Community Development from the University of the Philippines. Prior to joining PEMSEA, he worked with the UP Marine Science Institute, handling projects on the development and implementation of a common database of marine protected areas.

Maida, Ato, Jed and Andre join other staff as PEMSEA enters its new phase focusing on the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

## NOWPAP Strengthens Links with Partners

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NOWPAP has recently increased exchange with partners through participation in a number of international meetings and workshops.

On 7-10 April, NOWPAP activities were presented at the 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands (attended by over 400 participants from 70 countries). NOWPAP is trying to bring interested partners, such as PEMSEA, to share their experience in Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM), and have received positive response.

At the 2008 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Conference on 23-25 April, NOWPAP marine litter activities and future plans were introduced to 60 attendees, including the ICC national coordinators from the United States and around the world. NOWPAP publications on marine litter were distributed to participants. The Ocean Conservancy, the ICC initiator and advocate, has expressed its willingness to participate in a training workshop planned by NOWPAP in September 2008, in order to further promote the ICC campaign in the region.

Presentation on NOWPAP efforts in marine litter monitoring has been made at the meeting of the UNEP/IOC Technical Working Group (TWG) on 1-3 May. TWG members discussed the first draft of the UNEP/IOC Operational Guidelines on Survey and Monitoring of Marine Litter. Experience accumulated by NOWPAP member states in marine litter monitoring will be taken into account while finalizing the UNEP/IOC Guidelines, along with expertise from OSPAR, HELCOM and other programmes.

In order to strengthen partnerships with other organizations and programmes in the region, NOWPAP participated in the 7th IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium "Nature Hazards and the Changing Marine Environment in the Western Pacific" and the 12th Session of the NEAR-GOOS Coordinating Committee which took place on 21-25 May. Both meetings were organized in conjunction with 7th Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific on 26-29 May. Presentations on NOWPAP current and future activities were delivered for strengthening further cooperation with partners.



## USAID's SCOTIA Project Shares Lessons Learned

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USAID's environmental project Sustainable Coastal Tourism in Asia (SCOTIA) - Philippines recently held its end-of-project conference to share best practices with local governments and resorts outside of its project sites. These project sites included leading coastal tourism destinations like El Nido, Panglao island, Mactan island, Balayan Bay, Moalboal and Puerto Galera.

The primary message of the conference was that proper environmental management is critical for protecting the tourism value of our country. Hence the lessons shared focused on environmental management like solid waste management and sanitation. Of special interest was the innovative low-cost, low-technology reed bed sanitation system that SCOTIA assisted many resorts to install. SCOTIA highlighted how it built local capability for setting up community-wide solid waste management systems that achieved waste reduction levels that were higher than the targeted 25 percent.

The lesson that attracted the most attention from the participants, especially the 2 governors, 17 mayors and over 40 other LGU officials nationwide was the concept of environmental user fees. Environmental management costs money and yet it conflicts with the common notion that nature is free. The conference emphasized that when a tourist visits a place like Puerto Galera and enjoys its natural beauty for a couple of days, he leaves behind not only garbage but also human wastes like urine and feces, which must be treated properly so as not to destroy the touristic value of the place. On this basis, the LGU has the moral and legal right to collect environmental user fees. The conference cited the example of Puerto Galera which has collected close to PhP 7 million since it started collecting such a fee in November 2007. With such a financing source in place the local government unit has purchased the land for its centralized sanitation system and is currently preparing to bid out the first phase of the construction which is estimated to cost close to PhP 100 million.

Secretary of Tourism Joseph "Ace" Durano gave the keynote address which also highlighted the need to protect the environment for the sustainability of the tourism industry. For the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Asst. Sec. Ana Lisa Teh also gave a clear message that there must be a balance between environment and tourism as an economic activity. A certificate of Special Recognition was given to the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) for "its persistent and resolute support in promoting Public-Private Partnership for the development of adequate infrastructure for sanitation in Puerto Galera." It was received by PEMSEA Executive Director Raphael P.M. Lotilla.

Aside from SCOTIA, 15 other environmental projects, non-profit organizations and private environmental service suppliers set up exhibits at the conference hall to inform LGUs and resort-owners how they can better protect their coastal environment.