



Bohai Sea Project Hailed in National Consultation, but Serious Challenges Still Ahead

SHANDONG PROVINCE, PR CHINA -- The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) and the Provincial and Municipal Governments of Liaoning, Hebei, Shandong, Tianjin and Dalian, in collaboration with PEMSEA, organized the Bohai Sea Forum and the National Consultation on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), held 15–18 May in Yantai, Shandong Province. The event distilled lessons learned from the implementation of the Bohai Sea Environmental Management Project (BSEMP) and generated valuable inputs as the country begins to draw up its national program for the SDS-SEA.

More than 50 participants representing agencies and local government units involved in the Bohai Sea project presented their studies and activities. The projects in Shuangdaizhi Estuary and tourism beaches in Qinhuangdao demonstrated positive and tangible results in habitat protection and pollution abatement.

Mr. Haiqing Li, Director-General of SOA Department of International Cooperation, commended BSEMP for developing a legal and organizational framework for interagency and intergovernment collaboration as well as the Bohai Sea SDS and site-specific action plans, adding that the mobilization of stakeholders and a team of national professionals is an important project legacy for the governments of various levels to carry forward. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Regional Programme Director of PEMSEA, lauded the achievements of the Bohai Sea project and at the same time emphasized the need for an effective supervision, monitoring and assessment platform for management interventions.

The Consultation following the forum incorporated the lessons from the Bohai Sea project to enrich the inputs in the design of the national program for the SDS-SEA implementation from 2007–2010. The SDS-SEA is a regional platform for collaborative actions for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia, endorsed by 12 countries through the Putrajaya Declaration in 2003. The national program is expected to reflect country and regional priority activities, particularly the development of a national coastal and ocean policy, the scaling up of integrated coastal management programs,

ecosystem-based management, knowledge management and sharing, public and private sector partnership, and the development of the regional coordinating mechanism for the SDS-SEA implementation. Mr. Li stressed the three important principles in designing the national program — land and sea integration, integrated management of environment and natural resources, and sustainable development. Further stakeholder consultations will be conducted by SOA to sharpen the future project focus.

On another note, Mr. Wang Shicheng, Deputy Director-General of Shandong Provincial Department of Ocean and Fisheries, proposed the reconstruction of the “Jiao-Lai Canal,” across Shandong Peninsula, connecting Jiaozhou Bay bordering the Yellow Sea with Laizhou Bay bordering the Bohai Sea. The Jiao-Lai Canal was built in ancient times to facilitate grain transportation. The reconstruction would provide a circum-peninsular circulation between the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea that is expected to increase their environmental carrying capacity. The proposal generated the interests of the participants and initial studies are expected to ensue.

Participants believe that the GEF Bohai Sea project, together with other initiatives, has helped slow down the deterioration of environmental quality in the Bohai Sea. However, existing efforts are far from sufficient when taken in view of the overall pollution status in the region. Devolution of more management responsibilities for, and enhancement of collaboration among, the local governments and stakeholders bordering the Bohai Sea and its river drainage basins may offer new hope for effective pollution abatement.



China and ROK Gear Up for EAS Congress

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- The People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea expressed overwhelming interest to participate in the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2006.

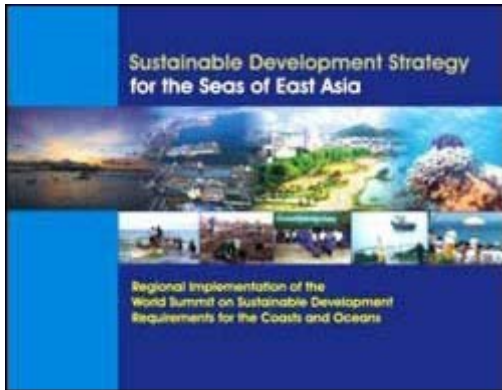
In recent PEMSEA forums and activities in the two countries, PR China and RO Korea recognized the significant opportunity that the EAS Congress will provide for the further enhancement of cooperation in the sustainable development of the East Asian Seas.

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF), Korea Ocean Research Development Institute (KORDI), Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), and Korea Environment Institute (KEI) believe that the Congress will provide a good avenue for the experts of RO Korea to interact and share their experiences with various other PEMSEA partners. The event will also allow participants from different disciplines to come together and discuss varied issues on coastal and marine development. It was estimated that about 50 participants from RO Korea will attend the event.

The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China and the Chinese Institute of Marine Affairs (CIMA) have also stepped up preparations for the Congress. The SOA, as host agency of the event, will provide the necessary support to ensure the smooth conduct of the conference. CIMA, on the other hand, is planning to organize and conduct a side meeting of directors of the Marine Affairs Institute of East Asia. The Director of CIMA, Dr. Gao Zhiguo, also expressed willingness to invite other participants to the meeting as well as provide supporting staff to the Congress.

The active involvement of PR China and RO Korea in the EAS Congress shows the countries' willingness to strengthen actions and commitment for the protection and sustainable development of the seas in the region.

The EAS Congress will be held in Haikou City, Hainan Province, PR China, on 12-16 December 2006. Further information on Congress activities can be found at www.pemsea.org/eascongress. Questions and comments on the Congress can be sent to congress@pemsea.org.

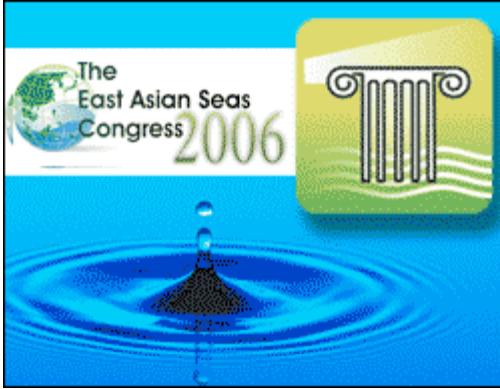


China to Contribute One Million RMB Annually to PEMSEA

BEIJING, PR CHINA -- Starting 2007, the People's Republic of China through the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) will contribute one million RMB or about \$125,000, every year for five years to PEMSEA, to support the Programme's transformation into a regional mechanism for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

Last May, the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China confirmed the appropriation of the said amount for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. This financial contribution is a clear demonstration of China's commitment to the sustainable development of the seas of East Asia. China's contribution, in particular, is intended to support the operations of the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), one of the major operating mechanisms of the SDS-SEA. The PRF will provide the secretariat and technical services for the implementation of the regional strategy.

The SDS-SEA was endorsed through the Putrajaya Declaration by the 12 East Asian countries in December 2003. The development and endorsement of the Strategy is considered as an important milestone as it provides a holistic framework for the management of the coastal and marine environment of the region. Through its implementation, the region hopes to be able to sustain the ocean resource as well as the growing economy of East Asia.



Financing Water, Sewage and Sanitation — A Major Theme at the East Asian Seas Congress

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Financing water, sewage and sanitation projects will be one of the major issues to be addressed during the East Asian Seas Congress 2006, which will be held from 12–16 December in Haikou City, Hainan Province, PR China, and organized by PEMSEA.

Water supply, sanitation and sewage are major issues facing the rapidly growing population of the East Asian seas region. According to the World Water Development Report 2002, 715 million people lacked access to improved water supply while 1.9 billion lacked access to improved sanitation in Asia. The situation is aggravated by the fiscal and capacity limitations faced by local government units in allocating funds and resources for much-needed water supply, sanitation and sewage treatment projects.

The theme entitled “Local Government Financing for Water, Sewage and Sanitation” explores the ways and means to finance environmental improvement infrastructure for wastewater and solid waste management in small and secondary townships. The concept of and experiences related to public-private sector partnerships and the paradigm shift in waste management will be further discussed. Various workshops and seminars around this theme will also be organized together with multilateral financial institutions with the objective of providing valuable information on project development and sustainability, and effectively obtaining, generating and managing funding for water, sanitation and sewage projects.

For more information on the EAS Congress 2006 or to pre-register, please visit www.pemsea.org/eascongress or email congress@pemsea.org.



National Forum on SDS-SEA Implementation Successfully Concluded in Seoul

SEOUL, RO KOREA -- The government of RO Korea and other stakeholders in the country expressed commitment to play a stronger role in strengthening coastal and ocean management in the region through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). This was the general consensus reached at the recently concluded National Consultative Workshop on RO Korea's implementation of the SDS-SEA, which was co-organized by the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) and sponsored by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF).

The Workshop was opened by Dr. Lee Jung-Hwan, KMI President, and congratulatory remarks were delivered by Mr. Shin Pyong-Sik (Director General of MOMAF) on behalf of Minister Kim Sung-Jin, Dr. Yum Ki-Dae (KORDI President) and Dr. Chua Thia-Eng. The Workshop focused on the following objectives: to build the awareness of national and local leaders on the SDS-SEA; identify baseline activities, major gaps and country priorities for the national implementation of SDS-SEA; to identify specific country activities for the GEF/UNDP Project on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA; and to confirm the interest/commitments of potential collaborative institutions. About 70 officials and experts from the national government agencies, research institutions, universities, private sector, NGOs, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), and other relevant institutions of RO Korea participated in the Workshop.

These objectives were reached through the effective and successful presentations, information exchange, and discussion during the Workshop. In particular, the panel discussion on RO Korea's program of activities for the implementation of the SDS-SEA provided an opportunity to brainstorm on the current issues facing coastal and ocean governance in the country as well as the actions to be taken to address these. The active participation of the stakeholders and various government agencies helped enormously in bringing about a successful outcome of the Workshop.

The Workshop is one of the many initiatives being undertaken by PEMSEA as part of the preparations for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. The SDS-SEA, which was endorsed by the 12 East Asian countries in December 2003 through the Putrajaya Declaration, provides a common framework of action for the sustainable use and

development of the region's coastal and marine environment and resources. The establishment of regional mechanisms for the implementation of the SDS-SEA is currently being prepared by PEMSEA member countries and partners, and is expected to be formally endorsed at the East Asian Seas Congress in December 2006.



PEMSEA's Terminal Evaluation Calls for Renewed Support from GEF to Sustain the Programme's Gains

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES -- After more than two months of comprehensively assessing performance and finding areas for improvement, the Terminal Evaluation of PEMSEA ended with the official submission of the Terminal Evaluation Report on 26 April to the United Nations Development Programme and the International Maritime Organization, PEMSEA's Implementing and Executing Agencies, respectively. The 50-page report contains the findings, recommendations and lessons learned by PEMSEA's Terminal Evaluation Team, led by Dr. Gunnar Kullenberg, and with Dr. Kem Lowry and Dr. Cielito Habito as team members.

In partial fulfillment of the monitoring and evaluation requirements for all full-sized projects in the Global Environment Facility's International Waters portfolio, PEMSEA's Terminal Evaluation ushered the final stages of the current phase's project life. To ensure the accuracy and relevance of gathered information, the Terminal Evaluation Team undertook rigorous evaluation procedures and methods, including dialogues with the Regional Programme Office management and staff, field visits to selected PEMSEA project sites (Manila Bay, Bataan and Batangas in the Philippines; Chonburi and Port of Bangkok in Thailand; Sihanoukville in Cambodia and Danang in Vietnam), telephone interviews with PEMSEA's partners and project managers, desk reviews of PEMSEA documents and publications, and participation in PEMSEA's stakeholder workshops on SDS-SEA implementation.

Among the salient findings and recommendations of the Terminal Evaluation Team were:

- Continued GEF funding support for the PEMSEA project;
- Sustaining the momentum of progress already built in the region through the PEMSEA initiatives;
- Pursuing the proposal to establish the East Asian Seas Partnership Council with the accompanying Ministerial Forum; and
- Continued monitoring of the progress at the local, national and subregional levels established through partnerships and networks.

In addition, the Terminal Evaluation Report cited three important lessons learned:

- Success and sustainability hinges on the proper combination of key Programme ingredients.
- Partnerships must be inclusive, harnessing efforts and resources from all relevant stakeholder groups at various levels and in all aspects of the work.
- PEMSEA's combination of "top-down" and "bottom-up" impetus is effective in securing necessary political commitment.

With the publication of the Report, it is hoped that PEMSEA's achievements and lessons learned will benefit similar GEF projects and other interested parties.



Philippines Adopts ICM as a National Policy Framework, Manila Bay Project Cited

PASAY CITY, PHILIPPINES -- Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced the country's adoption of integrated coastal management (ICM) as a management framework for the sustainable development of coastal and marine environment and resources during the National Forum on Sustainable Development of Coastal Marine Resources, held on 7 June at the Hotel Philippine Plaza.

Executive Order No. 533 (EO 533), signed by the President, stresses the role of ICM in promoting sustainable development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources in order to achieve food security, sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation and reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards, while preserving ecological integrity. The integrated approach of ICM is crucial in addressing interlinkages among associated watersheds, estuaries, wetlands and coastal seas. EO 533 specifically mandates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to develop a national ICM Program, in consultation with other concerned agencies, sectors and stakeholders within one year. The national ICM Program will identify the relevant principles, strategies and action plans after balancing national development priorities with local concerns, define national ICM targets, and develop a national ICM coordinating mechanism. It is expected to provide direction, support and guidance to the local government units and stakeholders in the development and implementation of their local ICM programs.

In the same forum, the President also recognized the achievements of the Manila Bay Environmental Management Project, and cited its important role of serving as "a good test case to demonstrate that the country's most important bay can meet the needs of all sectors relying on it for food, livelihood, commerce and transportation, while protecting it from further degradation." In 2001, President Arroyo endorsed the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy, which laid down the framework of action for the Manila Bay region aimed at sustaining its capacity to provide food, resources and livelihood to an estimated 23 million Filipinos.

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Regional Programme Director, emphasized "that the case of Manila Bay requires constant attention and careful management because the challenges encountered by the country's coastal and marine management are overwhelming." He noted further that there is a need for concerted action to protect the

seas. “The Philippines, together with its neighboring countries, recognizes that the problems besetting the East Asian Seas are too complex for governments to handle alone,” Dr. Chua explained.

The Forum was co-organized by the DENR and was attended by representatives from national and local governments, NGOs, media and the private sector.



PEMSEA Signs Three MOUs with KORDI, KMI and KEI

SEOUL, RO KOREA -- Three Korean research institutions pledged cooperation with PEMSEA to broaden knowledge sharing and capacity building in integrated coastal management in the East Asian Seas region.

PEMSEA, represented by the Regional Programme Director, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, signed two Memoranda of Understanding with the Presidents of Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) and Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) on 9 May at the National Consultative Workshop, held in Plaza Hotel, Seoul, RO Korea. Another MOU was signed with the President of the Korea Environment Institute (KEI) on 11 May, during his visit to KEI.

The cooperation aims to enhance the knowledge and capacities of East Asian countries in the sustainable use and management of the region's coastal and marine environment. In particular, the agreements provide a formal framework for organization of joint training and technical workshops, knowledge sharing, development of research initiatives, and staff exchange. Long-term partnership programs for collaboration will be developed for the three institutions, which will also serve as basis for the signing of Partnership Operating Arrangements at the East Asian Seas Congress 2006.



Private and Public Sectors Engage Sihanoukville Community in Solid Waste Management

About a three-hour drive from the capital Phnom Penh lies Sihanoukville — home to the only deepwater port in Cambodia and harboring perhaps the most pristine beaches in the region.

Recent improvements in transportation and road networks has made Sihanoukville even more accessible to tourists, with local tourists increasing from 4,585 in 1993 to 83,888 in 2003, and foreign tourists from 8,428 to 33,604 during the same period.

Like any developing tourist area, Sihanoukville is faced with the daunting problem of waste management. For the past years, the management of solid wastes is continually challenged by a web of difficulties ranging from poor infrastructure and solid waste facilities, limited budget for enforcement and lack of a systematic process in waste collection, to poor information among communities on health and sanitary measures. As the only deepwater port area, industrialization is more rapid. The municipality's capacity to address solid waste management (SWM), therefore, has become more difficult as industries and business sectors shift to nonbiodegradable materials in the production of goods, thereby increasing the volume of wastes being disposed every day.

Based on a 2001 study, only 30 percent of generated wastes are being collected. Projects on SWM, therefore, need to focus not only on improving waste collection facilities and services, but on involving communities in waste management.

A pilot project on community-based SWM in Village 1 Sangkat 4 is an initial step in involving the community in SWM. Supported by the PEMSEA Project in Sihanoukville, the Municipal Government, through the Department of Environment and the Commune Council, works with community members and the CINTRI Waste Company. The project has collected and properly disposed 175 T of wastes that have accumulated in the commune since 1992. Sangkat 4 is located at the town center where most business establishments are situated. Village 1 is in the inner part of the town center, which makes waste collection more difficult for the waste company.

The SWM Project includes baseline data gathering, training, a clean and green campaign, and household involvement in community cleanup and waste segregation. Getting the

school children to participate is also an important aspect of the project. About 70 percent of the households in Village 1 are composed of children 6–17 years of age, which emphasizes the essential role of the youth in the project. Extensive information campaigns are being done to inculcate proper waste management practices.

The project, while relatively small in scale, provides a venue where common problems of waste management are being solved through more flexible public-private partnerships. Aside from the CINTRI Waste Company, the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) – Department of Environmental Science, provides the necessary technical support in the analysis of baseline information and conduct of community training.



Training Course on IEIA for Coastal and Marine Areas Held in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, PR CHINA -- “What fascinated me was the concept of Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment which considers the combined impacts of various development projects on a given area and provides appreciation and comprehension of cumulative, synergistic and antagonistic impacts,” said Nguyen Thanh Lam of the Institute for Scientific Information in Vietnam on the training course on “Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment for Coastal and Marine Areas,” held at the City University of Hong Kong on 4-10 June.

Participated in by 32 representatives from Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, DPR Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, the training is the fourth of the five-part training on IEIA being organized by PEMSEA, Coastal Management Center (CMC) and the Centre for Coastal Pollution and Conservation, City University of Hong Kong. This is one of the initiatives under the Area of Excellence (AoE): Marine Research and Innovative Technology (MERIT) awarded to the Centre for Coastal Pollution and Conservation. The training was coordinated by Prof. Rudolf Wu and Dr. Paul Shin.

During the workshop, participants were given the chance to learn from experts from various departments of the City University of Hong Kong, including the Centre for Coastal Pollution and Conservation/Department of Biology and Chemistry and Department of Public and Social Administration, and the Department of Ecology and Biodiversity of the University of Hong Kong. An expert from the Environmental Protection Department, Hong Kong SAR Government was also invited as lecturer. The Training Manual on the IEIA for Coastal and Marine Areas produced by PEMSEA was used as a main reference material for the training. Case study presentations also increased the understanding of the application of IEIA in various contexts.

Following the training course, a one-day workshop on “Environmental Pollution and Applied Ecotoxicology” provided the participants additional information on using different toxicity tests for screening and risk assessment. The workshop included three presentations with guest speakers from City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University and Ghent University, Belgium, and was attended by all the participants including some 40 people from local government offices, universities, consulting firms and testing laboratories.