

NEWSLETTER

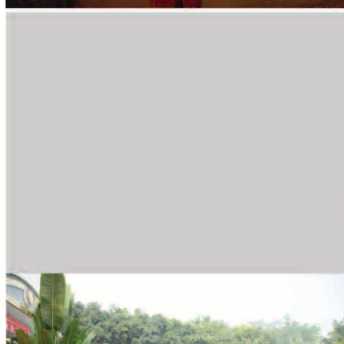
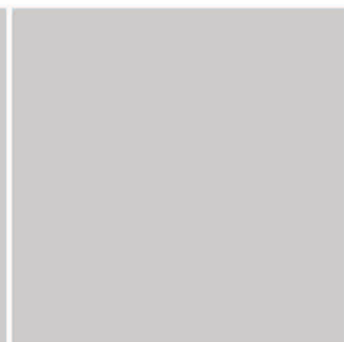
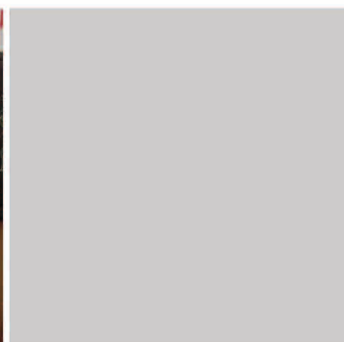
Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem



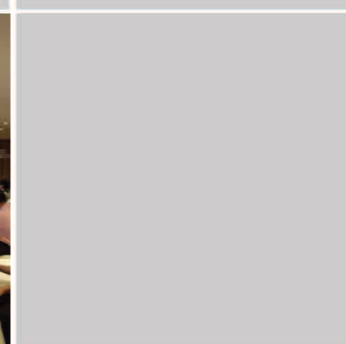
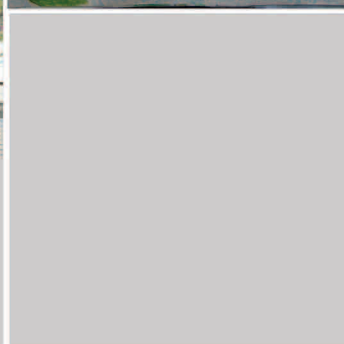
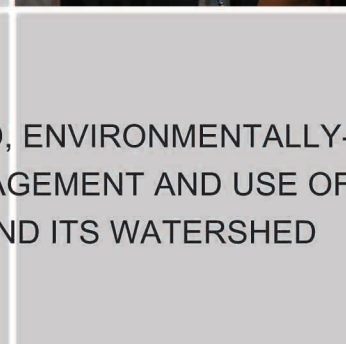
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ECOSYSTEM-BASED, ENVIRONMENTALLY-SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE YELLOW SEA AND ITS WATERSHED



UNDP/GEF Project Reducing Environmental Stress in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

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SAP CONSULTATION MEETING

The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Consultation Meeting was organised in Jinghong, China, 6-8 February 2007. Participants from China, Republic of Korea (ROK), and Japan with expertise in the fields relevant to SAP development attended the meeting.

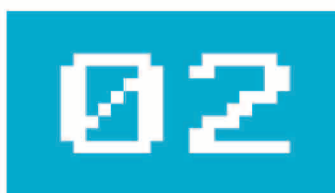
The meeting discussed and approved a number of issues, including the following:

- (i) Central theme of the SAP — Carrying Capacity of Ecosystem — to link together major environmental problems in the Yellow Sea as a starting point to determine management interventions;
- (ii) Identification process for Ecosystem Quality Objectives /regional targets;
- (iii) Major components of SAP;
- (iv) SAP preparation process; and
- (v) Establishment of the Ad-hoc Working Group for the SAP preparation.

As a result of the meeting, the participants produced a document, “Conceptual Procedure for SAP Preparation,” which incorporates the above points as well as other major elements that will compose the SAP. The Document is available from the Project’s website at <http://www.yslme.org/>.



The SAP Consultation Meeting in progress



OCEAN COLOUR ALGORITHM



Participants of the SAP Consultation Meeting

The project’s Ecosystem Component had been considering how to implement this activity for quite some time. At the 3rd RWG-Ecosystem Meeting in 2006, members agreed that an algorithm for ocean colour in the Yellow Sea had to be developed, refined, and tested. Following consultations with NOWPAP and scientists from China, ROK, and Japan, the Project will collaborate with these parties to hold a series of workshops on this topic.

A planning discussion was held in March to re-affirm the implementation of this activity. The planning meeting finalised some of the responsibilities, activities to be implemented, work schedule, participants that should be involved, and expected outcomes. The activity will be implemented throughout 2007. Please see later newsletter issues for updates on the activity.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SMALL GRANT PROGRAMME

Under the Small Grants Programme for 2006, two Project's partner organisations — the Liaoning Ocean and Fishery Department (LOFD), China, and the Citizens Institute for Environmental Studies (CIES), ROK — completed their public awareness activities to educate local communities in the Yellow Sea's coastal areas. Both organisations successfully implemented a number of activities. Here is a highlight of some of those activities.

In Dandong, China, the LOFD organised a drawing competition and an environmental education class for elementary school children, a knowledge contest for local residents, and a seminar on environmental laws and regulations for local industries and governments. The LOFD also organised an environmental campaign in Dandong's business district, providing educational materials such as boards, banners, and booklets. More than 3,800 students participated in the activities, and 8,000 booklets were distributed to various stakeholders. It is worth noting that the LOFD organised the above activities in co-operation with other local organisations, including the Dandong Education Committee and the Dandong Newspaper.



Drawings for the competition with the theme of "Taking The Ocean Protection To Heart" in Dandong city on 18 Sep 2006



Some drawings done by elementary school students



Speech Contest: "How Much You Know About The Ocean?"



Seminar on environmental laws and regulations at Donggang Port, Donggang city

Focusing on the Saemangeum, Secheon, and Shiwa areas, the CIES collected, exchanged, and shared with the local fishermen and residents, information about environmental issues relevant to Yellow Sea's tidal flats. Two workshops as well as interviews were conducted to explore a way for sustainable livelihoods among local communities that face serious environmental and social difficulties due to economic development in their areas. The CIES summarised the results of its activities in two newsletters, and more than 1,000 copies of them were distributed to the local communities.



Workshop with local people and expert on the Saemangeum area



2nd Newsletter on Sustainable Saemangeum by CIES



ENHANCING CO-OPERATION WITH WSFRI

The West Sea Fisheries Research Institute (WSFRI) of the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, ROK, invited Project staff to visit WSFRI, Incheon, explain the project, meet with WSFRI personnel participating in the project, and discuss possible future collaborative activities. Ms. Connie Chiang and Dr. Mark Walton from the Project Management Office visited WSFRI and gave a presentation on the project, explaining the next milestone to create the SAP.

Project staff took the opportunity to meet with new and existing Regional Working Group and National Working Group members of Biodiversity, Ecosystem, and Fisheries Components. A discussion session was held to answer any questions from WSFRI scientists, which clarified the objectives of the remaining years of the project and expected inputs from national institutes in developing the SAP.

The visit enhanced the co-operative spirit between the Project and WSFRI, and solidified the continuing friendly working relationship between the two parties.

It was agreed that joint activities should be organised by the two parties, including: (i) jointly organise a remote sensing workshop on ocean colour to identify a regional algorithm to be used in marine environment monitoring activities; and (ii) possibility of joint efforts in NOWPAP's Marine Litter Project and beach clean up activities. The Regional Co-ordinator expressed his interests in participating in some YSLME activities, e.g. the Regional Science Conference and the Youth Programme. The two parties agreed to continue participating in meetings of decision-making bodies of both projects as an observer.

The Regional Co-ordinator and the Project Manager agreed to explore the possibility to enhance the co-operative mechanism by exchanging a Letter of Agreement between the Regional Co-ordinating Unit of NOWPAP and the PMO of YSLME.



CO-OPERATION WITH IOC/WESTPAC AND NEAR-GOOS



NOWPAP REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR VISITED

THE PMO TO ENHANCE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE NOWPAP AND YSLME

Dr. Alexander Tkalin, the Regional Co-ordinator of NOWPAP, one of the UNEP Regional Seas programme, visited PMO on 15 March 2007 to discuss further co-operation and co-ordination. The Regional Co-ordinator exchanged project information with the staff of PMO, and the Project Manager of YSLME introduced major outcomes of TDA and workplan for preparing SAP, as well as other relevant activities planned for 2007.

From 18 to 19 January 2007, Ms. Connie CHIANG, an environmental Officer, attended the "11th NEAR-GOOS Co-ordinating Committee Meeting" in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was organised by IOC/WESTPAC Secretariat for the annual Northeast Asian Regional Global Ocean Observing System meeting. The Yellow Sea Project's database was introduced to NEAR-GOOS members, and opportunities to link the databases in the future were discussed.

The Project proposed a "one-stop shopping centre" for Yellow Sea marine environment data where users could access raw data of the Yellow Sea from just one database. This would save the user's time in searching for data, and raw data would allow the user to process the data into the required products. It was also suggested that this "one-stop shopping centre" should provide data of as many variables as possible, and not be limited to only physical oceanographic data. The Project and NEAR-GOOS' Data Management Working Group are in discussions to explore how to link the databases.



Participants of 11th NEAR-GOOS Co-ordinating Committee Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand.



Snapshot of the partnership website



YSP
WEBSITE

In February 2007, the Yellow Sea PMO renewed the Yellow Sea Partnership website, <http://partnership.iwlearn.org/>, providing id and password for each partner to post its own news and events by themselves. The objective for that site was to provide better-and-easy-to-use functions and foster mutual knowledge and understanding of the Yellow Sea's environment among a wide range of stakeholders. Almost 20 organisations were granted their account on the website and some of them have already posted their latest news and events. The account is endowed to not only the partners but also individuals and organisations who are interested in the partnership. If you would like to participate in the Partnership, or contact the existing members, send your request and contact information to info@yslme.org.

The articles in the "Yellow Sea News" section originates from the portal site "GOOGLE.COM", using RSS technology to automatically convey recent news on the Yellow Sea. The next challenge for this site is to include a Yellow Sea GIS map. With the IW: LEARN's assistance, the map will be available online soon. More detailed information can be found from the website under the "User's Guide."



PMO GETS A
NEW OFFICER
FOR FIWHERIES
AND BIODIVERSITY

The PMO was glad to finally shift the workload onto the new staff member Mark Walton, who joined as Fishery and Biodiversity Program Officer in January 2007. Originally Mark trained as an aquaculturist working on a number of species in UK and Central America. However, he developed and interest in the complexities of fisheries while implementing the EU INCO Project, "Mud crab culture and management" with SEAFDEC ADQ (Philippines) and Can Tho University (Vietnam). He spent three years living in Vietnam and the Philippines working on mud crab fisheries, stock enhancement techniques and evaluating the benefits of mangrove reforestation. His love of mangroves and fascination with the relationship between mariculture and fisheries has led to consultancy work including mangrove replanting projects in the Philippines and mariculture claims assessment for oil spill damage. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Wales, Bangor, UK.



Mr. Mark WALTON at the SAP consultation meeting



Ms. Kyungyun LIM at the KORDI(Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute) campus



PMO's
TEMPORARY
FINANCE
ASSISTANCE

Ms. Kyungyun LIM has temporally joined the project to replace Ms. Kyungsuk LEE who is on maternity leave for 4 months until May. Kyungyun joined the PMO team on January 10th, 2007 as a temporary administrative assistant and her mission is to manage the project's accounting and assist with administrative issues. Kyungyun has long experience with accounting and management in global companies as a finance manager. Her AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountant) license will help the YSLME project to maintain daily accounting and administrative tasks and assist the PMO team regarding the management of the project activities.

The PMO welcomes her and has enjoyed her service since she joined our team.

Kyungyun says,

"This is good opportunity to learn how UN system runs and to contribute my experience and knowledge to the project even though I have a short-term contract. Thank you for giving me this chance and I would like to do my best."



UPCOMING
EVENTS
IN 2007

| Event | Date | Venue |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st SAP AD-Hoc meeting | APR.10 - 12 | HongCheon R. Korea |
| Genetic Diversity Workshop | MAY.14 - 15 | Busan R. Korea |
| Yellow Sea Partnership Workshop | JUN.12 - 13 (Tentative) | R. Korea |
| Regional Training on Mariculture Disease Control and Prevention | JUN.19 - 20 | R. Korea |
| Local Governance Training | JUL.10 - 12 (Tentative) | China |
| 2 nd SAP AD-Hoc | AUG.7 - 8 (Tentative) | TBD(To Be determined) |

More detail information on the schedule can be found in the YSLME PMO website.

| Event | Date | Venue |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| Regional Training On carrying capacity (mariculture) | AUG.7 - 8 | TBD |
| YOUTH Programme | AUG.11 - 12 | China |
| Regional Science Conference | AUG.14 - 15 | Hangzhou China |
| Report Writing | AUG.21 - 22 | TBD |
| 4th RWG Investment | SEP.4 - 7 | Korea |
| 4th RWG Biodiversity | SEP.17 - 20 | Soegwipo Korea |
| Parliamentary Conference | SEP.26 -28 | Korea |
| 4th RWG Pollution | OCT.11 - 14 | Jeju Korea |
| 4th RWG Fisheries | OCT.29 - NOV.1 | Seokcho Korea |
| 4th RWG Ecosystem | NOV.5 - 8 | Ningbo China |
| 4th RSTP/PSC | NOV.26 - 30 | China |

Announcement

First Yellow Sea Regional Science Conference

Hangzhou, China

14th to 16th August 2007

First Announcement

Conference Topics

- Provisioning Services
- Supporting & Regulating Services
- Cultural Services
- Good management practices

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairpersons

Dr. Sinjae Yoo – KORDI, Republic of Korea

Mr. Yihang Jiang – YSLME Project

Members

Ms. Connie Chiang – YSLME Project

Dr. Xianshi Jin – YSFRI, China

Dr. Young-Shil Kang – WSFRI, Republic of Korea

Mr. Randall Purcell – UNDP/GEF

Dr. Quan Wen – NMEMC, China

Mr. Xiaodong Zhong – NOWPAP RCU

Dr. Mingyuan Zhu – FIO, China

Mr. Wenxi Zhu – IOC/WESTPAC

Sponsors

UNDP(United Nations Development Programme),

UNEP(United Nations Environment Programme),

NOWPAP(Northwest Pacific Action Plans),

UNDP/GEF YSLME(Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem),

KORDI(Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute)

GEF(Global Environmental Facility)

More detail information on the schedule can be found in the YSLME PMO website.

For a copy of the newsletter or publications,
please contact the Project Management Office
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The First Yellow Sea Regional Science Conference will display the current scientific knowledge of the Yellow Sea, and discuss how the knowledge can be used for better management to ensure that the ecosystem continues to provide services to maintain its carrying capacity.