



**UNDP/GEF PROJECT ENTITLED “REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS IN THE
YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM”**

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Report of National Project Co-ordinator – Republic of Korea

**PROGRESS REPORT FOR
JANUARY ~ NOVEMBER 2007**

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Progress Report covers progress of the project made during the period from January through November 2007.

Following the completion of the TDA (Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis) Report, activities for the 2007, the Third Year of the Project, have mainly been focused on the preparation of the SAP (Strategic Action Programme). A series of meetings have been organized by the Project Management Office (PMO); SAP Consultation Meeting in February, the 1st SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting in April, 1st Regional Science Conference on the Yellow Sea and 2nd SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group Meetings in August, etc.

Efforts have also been made to fulfill the cooperative study cruise which has been carried over from the last year. With strenuous efforts and coordination by the PMO, an agreement has been reached between two countries to launch a joint winter cruise in next January 2008.

The major activities and outcomes of the project in 2007 are described and listed by months in the report.

It is believed that the Project has been progressed well so far except for the delay of the joint cruise.

2. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

A. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

FEBRUARY

* **National Working Group Chairs Meeting** (1st/2007): 1 February 2007.

To review and discuss the concept of SAP, and agenda items for the SAP Consultation Meeting to be held in Xishuangbanna, China, 6-8 February. Endorsed the participation of four experts from Korea.

* **SAP Consultation Meeting**: 6-8 February 2007. Xishuangbanna, China.

NPC and three experts from Korea participated the meeting:

- Dr. Sinjae Yoo (KORDI), Ecosystem
- Dr. Sukjae Kwon (KORDI), Environmental Economics
- Dr. Suh Yong Chung (Myungji University), NGO-Law
- Dr. Hyung Tack Huh, NPC (also delegate for government).

Meeting adopted the concept of 'carrying capacity of ecosystem' as the major theme of the SAP, and decided to establish "SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group" for the preparation of SAP.

MARCH

* **National Working Group Chairs Meeting** (2nd/2007): 27 March 2007.

Meeting reviewed and discussed the following agenda items:

- 1) Cooperative study cruise
- 2) 1st SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group meeting
- 3) Regional Science Conference and others.

* **The 10th GSSC Meeting and Workshop**: 13-16 March 2007. Seoul.
NPC attended as an observer the 10th GSSC (GOOS Scientific Steering Committee) Meeting and Workshop held at Olympic Parktel, Seoul. sponsored by IOC and locally organized by KORDI.

APRIL

* **The 1st SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting**: 10-12 April 2007.

Hongchun, Korea.

The NPC/ROK has joined in the process along with 11 experts members of the Ad-Hoc Working Group.

The meeting has tentatively identified and reviewed the regional targets for the environmental management actions for the Yellow Sea, and also reviewed the draft programmes of the 1st Regional Science Conference scheduled for 14-16 August 2007.

MAY

* **WESTPAC Consultation Meeting**: 17-18 May 2007. Hangzhou, China.

NPCs (China and Korea) and Project Manager of YSLME attended the meeting. WESTPAC is the IOC Subcommission for the Western Pacific and a cooperative organization with YSLME Project. The meeting reviewed and discussed the current status, problems and programmes in the western Pacific region and cooperation with other regional programmes including YSLME Project.

* **Gene Pool Workshop**: 14-15 May 2007. Busan, Korea.

To review current status of gene pool information and research activities, and to identify genetic diversity and roles in the YSLME Project. Ten Korean scientists attended the workshop.

* **Symposium on Biological Diversity**: 22 May 2007. Ansan, Korea.

The symposium was held in commemoration of International Day for biological diversity sponsored by KORDI. Thirteen papers on the marine biodiversity have been presented.

JUNE

* **YSLME Workshop "Regional Ocean Color Algorithm for the Yellow Sea (YOC)- 1"**: 3-4 June 2007. Ansan (KORDI), Korea.

Present status of the existing regional OC algorithm and design of the YOC activities have been reviewed and discussed. Nine experts from China, Japan and Korea been participated in the workshop.

* **Korea-China Joint Symposium and Workshop on Sustainable Mariculture**: 18-20 June 2007. Taean, Korea.

12 Korean and 8 Chinese scientists participated

* **The 24th Session of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission** __ (IOC/GA): 19-28 June 2007. UNESCO, Paris, France.

NPC of Korea attended and presented on the progress and reform of programme structure of the WESTPAC, and cooperative activities with other regional programmes including YSLME, PEMSEA, NOWPAP, etc

NPC of China also attended the meeting as the Head of Chinese delegation.

JULY

* **International Symposium on the Yellow Sea**: 10-11 July 2007. Seoul, Korea.

NPC attended the Korea-China Joint Symposium on the Yellow Sea held at the Seoul Olympic Parktel. The Symposium, co-sponsored by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) of Korea and State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China, was held in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the cooperative environmental research in the Yellow Sea by Korea and China.

Ms. Connie Chiang of PMO presented the results and next steps of the YSLME project.

AUGUST

* **National Working Group Chairs Meeting (3rd /2007)**: 1 August 2007. Seoul.

Discussed on the preparation for the 1st Regional Science Conference and 2nd SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting. Also discussed joint cruise station map proposed by PMO.

* **The 1st Regional Science Conference**: 14-16 August 2007. Hangzhou, China.

NPC/ROK attended the conference and chaired the keynote speech session. NPC/China also attended the meeting.

* **The 2nd SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting**: 18-20 August 2007.

Hangzhou, China.

Meeting noted and agreed on the followings:

- Requirements for the preparation of management actions,
- Guidelines for determining demonstration projects and site selection,
- Guidelines for feasibility studies,
- Establishment of SAP drafting group; number of members and workplan,
- Guidelines for NSAPs be prepared by PMO by the end of 2007.

NPC/ROK attended the meeting as an observer.

SEPTEMBER

* **Mariculture Carrying Capacity Symposium for the YSLME**:

4-6 September 2007. Rongcheng, Shandong, China.

Seven Korean scientists attended the symposium.

* **The 2nd Global Conference on LMEs**: 11-13 September 2007.

Qingdao, China.

NPC/ROK served as a member of Steering Committee, and attended and presented a paper concerning the activities of China and Korea in the YSLME Project. Mr. Yihang Jiang, Project Manager, attended and presented on the scientific findings and management targets of the YSLME Project.

* **APEC Workshop on Marine Ecosystem Identification and Mapping in the Asia-Pacific Region**: 14 September 2007. Qingdao, China.

NPC/ROK participated the Workshop, and delivered opening remarks as the representative of Korea. The workshop was held concurrently with the 2nd Global Conference on LMEs.

* **The 4th Regional Working Group-Biodiversity Meeting**: 17-19 September 2007. Ansan, Korea.

Four Korean scientists attended the meeting; Dr. Young Shil Kang (RWG-E Chair, NFRDI), Prof. Tae Won Lee (Chungnam Univ.), Prof. Gyung Soo Park (Anyang Univ.) and Dr. Seok Hyun Youn (NFRDI).

OCTOBER

* **The 4th Regional Working Group-Ecosystem Meeting:** 3-5 October 2007. Ningbo, China.

Four scientists attended the meeting; Dr. Sinjae Yoo (RWG-E Chair, KORDI), Prof. Daeseok Kang (Pukyung Univ.), Dr. Seong Heo (NFRDI), Mr. Sung Joon Song (Industrial Technol. R&D Center).

* **Inter-Calibration Summary Workshop:** 8-10 October 2007. Jeju, Korea.
Inter-calibration for nutrients, metals and organics.

* **Regional Conference on Marine Environment and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources in the Yellow Sea:** 11-14 October 2007. Incheon, Korea.

Congressmen, regional experts on the Yellow Sea, policy and legal experts and government officials from China and Korea participated. The Conference discussed the legislation and enforcement of marine laws and regulations as well as economy of marine resource use and environmental issues in the Yellow Sea.

NPC made a presentation on the YSLME project at the conference.

* **The 4th Regional Working Group-Pollution Meeting:** 11-13 October 2007. Jeju, Korea.

Three scientists attended; Dr. Dong Beom Yang (NWG-E Chair, KORDI), Prof. Kyung Hoon Shin (Hanyang Univ.), Dr. Hee-Gu Choi (NFRDI).

* **The 4th Regional Working Group-Investment Meeting:** 16-19 October 2007. Jeju, Korea.

Three experts attended; Dr. Hak Bong Chang (NWG-I Chair, KMI), Dr. Sung Dae Kim (KORDI), Prof. Suh Yong Chung (Korea Univ.)

NPC/ROK participated the meeting as an observer.

* **Proposal and Report Writing Workshop:** 22-23 October 2007. Ansan (KORDI), Korea.

About 20 participants from the research institutes and government agencies of China and Korea have joined the Workshop.

NOVEMBER

* **The 4th Regional Working Group-Fisheries Meeting:** 7-9 November 2007. Soekcho, Korea.

Three Korean delegates participated the Meeting: Dr. Inja Yeon (NWG-F Chair), Dr. Do-Hoon Kim and Dr. In-Kwon Jang, all from the National Fisheries and Development Institute (NFRDI).

* **Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee Meeting (IMCC):** 21 November 2007.

The IMCC meeting is scheduled to be held to review the activities of the NWGs and to review and discuss the agenda items of the 4th RSTP and PSC meetings. Representatives of four ministries (MOFAT, MOMAF, MOE, MOST) and three research institutes (KORDI, NFRDI, KMI) will be attended the meeting. The Chairs of 5 NWGs will also be participated to the IMCC meeting.

* **The 4th Regional Scientific and Technical Panel (RSTP) and Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings:** 26-30 November 2007. Guangzhou, China.

Arrangements are being made for the 4th RSTP and PSC meetings by reviewing the agenda items and nominating the delegates for the meetings.

B. COORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION

i) The Cooperative Study Cruise

The Cooperative Study Cruise has been a major issue in the implementation of YSLME Project in 2007. Coordinations for the cruise map (sampling stations) have been made with the national experts and government officials. Through a series of meetings and discussions between PMO and NPCs of both countries, a tentative agreement on the revised cruise map and the winter cruise schedule has been reached:

- Winter Cruise:
 - Survey period: 5-25 January 2008.
 - Number of survey stations: 37 stations.
 - Sharing of samples: all samples will be equally shared both countries
- * Fisheries survey will not be conducted during the winter cruise, but remains as a pending issue for the next cruise.

ii) Data/Information Collection

Efforts have been made to complete the final reports of Data/Information Collection activities for two components, biodiversity and pollution. Among the data/information collection activities for four components (fisheries, ecosystem, pollution, biodiversity), final report for the biodiversity has been considerably delayed as it was submitted to PMO in March 2007. Revision for the pollution report has also been made through April 2007.

iii) Nomination for SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group

NPC, through consultation with NWGs, selected and nominated two experts to PMO as the members of the SAP Working Group:

- Fisheries expert: Dr. Jang-Uk Lee, Korean Fisheries Society
- Pollution expert: Dr. Dong Beom Yang, KORDI

iv) Evaluation/Nomination of Internship Candidates

NPC evaluated seven Korean applicants for the 2007 Project's Internship, and submitted an evaluation sheet to PMO. As there was no suitable candidate, PMO re-advertised for the Internship. Accordingly, NPC re-evaluated five additional applicants, and nominated Mr. Yunil Kim of Johns Hopkins University, U.S.A. based on the relevance to the project after the internship.

v) Nominations for Workshops/Meetings

- Nominations were made for the 1st Regional Science Conference, 2nd SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group meeting.
- Nominations of 15 experts for the 4th RWG Meetings.
- Nominated eight applicants for the Proposal and Report Writing Workshop, 22-23 October 2007. Ansan, Korea.
- Nominations for the 4th RSTP and PSC Meetings:
 - 4th RSTP:** Dr. Dong Beom Yang (Pollution) and Dr. Sukjae Kwon (Economist), in addition two RWG-Chairs.
 - 4th PSC:** Mr. Sun Bae Hong, MOMAF.
- Nominations for the Technical Planning Meeting for the Cooperative Study Cruise (Winter Cruise): 22-23 November 2007. Yantai, China.
 - Joong-Ki Choi, Eun Jin Yang, Sung Joon Song, Seung Heo

vi) Organization for Meetings

a) **National Working Group (NWG) Chairs Meetings** have been organized to review and discuss the progress of the project, the cooperative study cruises, and other project-related activities. Three meetings of the NWG-Chairs have been held, respectively, in February 1,

March 27, and August 1, 2007, and the 4th meeting is planned to have on 21 November 2007, concurrently with the IMCC meeting.

b) Regional Conference on Protection of the Marine Environment and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources in the Yellow Sea, 11-14 October

2007. Incheon, Korea. This is the 2nd China-Korea Parliamentary Conference for the Yellow Sea. Arranged to find speakers and panel discussants. NPC participated as the facilitator for the opening session.

c) Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee Meeting (IMCC), 21 November 2007. Seoul.

d) Several informal meetings were also arranged to deal with pending issues, i.e. the joint cruise.

vii) Arrangements for the 4th RWG meetings

For the 4th Regional Working Group meetings scheduled for during September – November 2007, arrangements were made to review the activities done since the 3rd RWGs held in 2006, evaluate the agenda items of the meeting by each component, and to nominate proper delegates to the 4th RWG meetings.

* Delegates Nominated:

Fisheries: Dr. Inja Yeon (NFRDI), Dr. Do-Hoon Kim (NFRDI), Dr. In-Kwon Jang (NFRDI).

Pollution: Dr. Dong Beom Yang (KORDI), Dr. Hee Gu Choi (NFRDI), Dr. Kyung Hoon Shin (Hanyang University).

Ecosystem: Dr. Sinjae Yoo (KORDI), Dr. Daeseok Kang (Pukyong National Univ.), Dr. Seung Heo (NFRDI), Mr. Sung Joon Song (Industrial Technol. R&D Center)

Biodiversity: Dr. Young Shil Kang (NFRDI), Prof. Tae-Won Lee (Chungnam National Univ.), Dr. Gyung Soo Park (Anyang Univ.), Dr. Seok Hyun Youn (NFRDI).

Investment: Dr. Hak Bong Chang (KMI), Prof. Suh-Yong Chung (Korea Univ.), Dr. Sung Dae Kim (KORDI), Dr. Hyung Tack Huh (NPC, Observer)

viii) Reinforcement of the National Working Groups

Members of the National Working Group-Biodiversity have been re-organized with eight (out of ten) new appointees. They are four from NFRDI, two from universities, and two from the research institutes:

- Dr. Byoung Seol Koh (NFRDI – benthic ecology)
- Dr. Seok Hyun Youn (NFRDI – marine biology)
- Dr. Hye-Sook An (NFRDI - biotechnology)
- Prof. Gyung Soo Park (Anyang University – marine ecology)
- Prof. Tae Jun Han (Incheon University - seaweed)
- Dr. Zang Geun Kim (NFRDI – whale)
- Dr. Min-Ho Son (Marine Environment Institute – marine biology)
- Dr. Si Wan Lee (Korea Inst. Of Environmental Ecology – fish ecol.)

ix) Cooperation with Other Organizations/Programs:

NPC/ROK participated to the following meetings and programmes of other organizations:

- 1) 10th GOOS Scientific Steering Committee Meeting and Workshop. 13-16 March 2007, Seoul, Korea.
- 2) WESTPAC Consultation Meeting. 17-18 May 2007. Hangzhou, China.
- 3) Symposium on Biological Diversity. 22 May 2007. Incheon, Korea.
- 4) 24th Session of IOC Assembly. 19-28 June 2007. Paris, France.
- 5) International Symposium on the Yellow Sea. 10-11 July 2007. Seoul, Korea.
- 6) 2nd Global Conference on LMEs. 11-13 September 2007. Qingdao, China.
- 7) APEC Workshop on Marine Ecosystem Identification and Mapping in the Asia-Pacific Region. 14 September 2007. Qingdao, China.

- 8) JCOMM International Symposium on Storm Surge. 2-4 October 2007. Seoul, Korea
- 9) International Experts Discussion on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management: Trends and Future Challenges of Coastal Management Policy. 9 October 2007. Seoul, Korea.
- 10) 2nd China-Korea Parliamentary Conference. 11-13 October 2007. Incheon, Korea.
- 11) 7th International Symposium on the Marine Sciences of the Yellow Sea and East China Sea (ISMY-VII). 12-14 October 2007. Incheon, Korea.

x) Others

Activities related to liaison, publicity, dissemination of data and information, coordination and cooperation with other organizations and programmes, etc. have been made for the followings:

- Recruitment of Biodiversity advisor
- Reports of Biodiversity and Pollution Data/Information Collection
- Small grants programmes (Call for Proposals).
- Meta and GIS database maintenance
- Regional Science Conference. 14-16 August 2007. Hangzhou, China.
- 1st SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting. 10-12 April 2007. Hongchun, Korea.
- 2nd SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting. 18-20 August 2007. Hangzhou, China.
- 2nd Parliamentary Conference. 11-13 October 2007. Incheon, Korea.
- The 7th International Symposium on the Marine Sciences of the Yellow and East China Seas (ISMY-VII). 12-14 October 2007. Incheon, Korea.
- SAP preparation
- Proposal and Report Writing Workshop. 22-23 October 2007. Ansan, Korea.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS, DIFFICULTIES, PROBLEMS

a) Initiation of the SAP and NSAP Preparation

The major achievements of the project in 2007 are: Establishment of SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group, finalization of conceptual procedure and structure of the SAP, organization of SAP Drafting Group, preparation of guidelines for NSAP development, etc.

Ten Korean experts have been involved in the process as the members of SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group, and as the consulting experts. For the successful development of the SAP/NSAP, it would be necessary to have more expertises at the national level which would require more financial support from the project, particularly for the preparation of NSAP.

b) Completion of Data/Information Collection and Regional Synthesis

Although there have been a considerable delay in submission of the final reports, the data/information collection have been completed and the TDA report has been finalized based on the collected relevant data. The regional syntheses for project components have also been finished.

c) Identification of Regional Targets and Potential Management Actions

Through the SAP Ad-Hoc Working Group meetings, regional targets (ecosystem quality objectives) and potential management actions have tentatively identified. These will greatly contribute to the preparation of SAP and NSAPs.

d) Agreement on the Cooperative Study Cruise

It is a remarkable progress that an agreement on the Cooperative Study Cruise between two countries has been reached; the winter cruise will be conducted during 5-25 of January 2008 at 37 sampling stations. Yet, it is regrettable that the fisheries stock assessment would not be included in the survey components.

It remains, therefore, to be further discussed for the second cruise (spring or summer) later.

e) Sharing of Data and Samples from the Joint Study Cruise

It is also a noticeable achievement that China and Korea have agreed to equally share all samples and data collected from the joint cruises, even though there has been existed a different of view in two countries on the sharing of samples collected from the joint cruise. The spirit of equal sample sharing could have a very sound impact on the future cooperative studies in the region.

f) Difficulties in Nominating Delegates to the RWG meetings

There still exist difficulties in nominating the delegates to the RWG meetings as many members of the national working groups are not available or unconcerned for the RWG meetings. It is necessary to encourage the scientists by providing them with more opportunities to work in the project through small grant programmes, workshops, symposia, trainings, etc.

Limited number of experts and organizations have been involved in the project so far.

g) More Governments' Involvement Needed

As the SAP and NYSAP will have to be reviewed and endorsed by the governments, it is necessary to have more active and better involvement of them not only during the course of preparation but also review and endorsement processes of the SAP. This matter could be expedited further through the upcoming RSTP and PSC meetings.

Date: 20 November 2007