

Report on CEARAC Marine litter activities

1. Background

“Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)” was established in 2014 by the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), host organization of NOWPAP CEARAC, with NOWPAP RCU with budgetary support from the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). This regional node aims (1) to enhance awareness of marine litter prevention actions at the national, local and grass-root levels, (2) to strengthen information exchange on best practices and measures for prevention of marine litter input among the NOWPAP member states, and (3) to enhance knowledge of GPML among local governments, NGOs/NPOs and local people in the member states. It was agreed that various information on marine litter is disseminated using the Northwest Pacific Regional Node.

At the 22nd NOWPAP IGM (2017), it was decided that the responsible body of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node is to be NOWPAP DINRAC from the 2018-2019 biennium on. So, in 2018, CEARAC provided data and information of the original Northwest Pacific Regional Node to DINRAC to open the new regional node.

Besides, the 22nd IGM requested to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) of Marine Litter Focal Points Meeting. Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) Working Meeting is held every year. However, from the point of view of the worsening situation of marine litter, including microplastics in the NOWPAP region, it is expected to strengthen the role of Marine Litter FPs. The first RAP MALI FPM was held back-to-back with 2018 NOWPAP ICC held in Busan, Korea in June 2018.

2. CEARAC’s marine litter activities in the 2018-2019 biennium

➤ Collecting information on national actions on marine microplastics

Marine microplastics became one of the serious marine environmental problems in the world. Northwest Pacific region is the most polluted sea area by microplastics, thus each member state started monitoring of microplastics and implemented various actions for their prevention. Sharing information of the situation and mitigation actions of microplastics among the NOWPAP member states is useful not only for their own benefits but also for other regions in the world to increase understanding negative impacts of microplastics and share best practices against the problem. Therefore, CEARAC has collected such information in the NOWPAP member states in the 2018-2019 biennium and publish a summary report. CEARAC has summarized information based on the past presentations from the member states, and sorted it into (1) monitoring on marine litter, (2) actions by the central government

(legislations, plan, and activity summaries in accordance with relevant legislations), and (3) actions by local governments and private bodies in the NOWPAP member states, respectively. After review by ML FPs, CEARAC will provide a developed summary report to DINRAC for updating the Northwest Pacific Regional Node.

Budget: US\$6,000 for MoU with Marine Litter Focal Points or nominated experts (US\$2,000/each state, except for Japan)

Deadline: December 2019

Output: Summary report on information of microplastics in each member state

➤ **Translation of contents of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node into Japanese**

At the 22nd NOWPAP IGM (2017), the NOWPAP member states requested to disseminate information in the Northwest Pacific Regional Node in the languages of the NOWPAP member states'. Since all texts of the regional node are written in English, and it is not easy for general public to visit the website and find/understand necessary information. Based on the request, CEARAC decided to translate the contents of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node into Japanese.

Translated text will be submitted to DINRAC by the end of 2019 to help refinement of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node in the language of each member state in future.

Budget: US\$3,250

Deadline: December 2019

Output: Japanese text of the contents of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node

➤ **Compiling and harmonizing marine litter monitoring data on beaches and submitting the collected data to DINRAC**

Same as the past biennia, CEARAC has continued compiling and harmonizing marine litter monitoring data collected by each member state. CEARAC has submitted data of Japan and Russia in 2016 to DINRAC.

Budget: In-kind

Duration: 2018-2019

Output: latest NOWPAP marine litter monitoring data

3. CEARAC's marine litter activities in the 2020-2021 biennium

➤ **Considering activities based on the review of RAP MALI**

Since NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) was developed in 2008, over 10 years have passed. During the last decade, situation on marine litter in the NOWPAP region was changed such by the occurrence of marine microplastic issues. Therefore, it is expected that RAP MALI will be updated/revised based on the current situation in the NOWPAP region. Through the discussion on updating the RAP MALI, CEARAC will implement relevant activities based on the needs/requests from the NOWPAP member states. Revision of RAP MALI will be discussed at the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) Focal Points Meeting held in Dalian on 26th September 2019.