

## **Annotated Provisional Agenda**

### **Background leading to the meeting**

The Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) is one of the four Regional Activity Centres (RACs) to coordinate activities relevant to specific components of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). Since its inception in 2002, CEARAC has mainly worked on monitoring and assessing harmful algal blooms including red tides (under Working Group 3) and application of remote sensing techniques for monitoring and assessment of the marine and coastal environment (Working Group 4).

Since 2008 when CEARAC initiated an activity on eutrophication as a joint work of WG3 and WG4, most of its activities have been implemented in a collaborative manner of these two Working Groups. At the same time, CEARAC started expanding its working areas to marine litter and marine biodiversity, and following this transition, amendment of Terms of References (ToR) of CEARAC FPM was discussed at the 9<sup>th</sup> CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) in 2011 to suit CEARAC's priority in its future activities. Then, the meeting agreed the revised ToR which includes a paragraph on disbanding and establishing Working Groups in CEARAC, and the revised ToR was reported at the 17<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held in 2012.

In recent years, major CEARAC activities have been on monitoring and assessment of marine biodiversity, seagrass, eutrophication which are selected in accordance with the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023 as well as other national, regional and international fora such as Sustainable Development Goals. Along with carrying out these planned activities, CEARAC has put its energy on development of web-based monitoring and/or assessment tools by applying remote sensing techniques effectively and efficiently.

For the current biennium, 2020-2021, because of COVI-19 pandemic, the organization of the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM was postponed and the adoption of the Programme of Work (PoW) for the 2020-2021 was delayed until June 2020. Following the adoption of PoW, CEARAC concluded Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with UNEP for allocation of the budget for the 2020-2021 activities in June 2020. As the term of this funding agreement is for two years, the ending date of the contract is set at the end of June 2022.

The 18<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM, which was supposed to be held in 2020, was also postponed due to the impact of coronavirus; thus, the CEARAC Secretariat prepared

the implementation plans for six specific projects for this biennium and circulated the documents among its FPs for adoption through e-mail correspondences. Then, in September 2020, all FPs agreed the implementation plans and finally CEARAC started implementation of its activities.

The coronavirus situation has not been improved and restrictions on international travels and gathering of mass people have not been lifted in Japan yet. Considering such situation, the CEARAC Secretariat proposed to organize an online FPM, and the FPs agreed to organize the 18<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM virtually on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021.

The meeting will review the progress of CEARAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium and discuss potential activities for the next 2022-2023 biennium based on the outputs and outcomes of the current activities. Since the meeting time is shortened, relevant documents will be uploaded to CEARAC website one month prior to the meeting, and the FPs will be asked to provide their comments and suggestions to the Secretariat prior to the meeting, which will also be circulated among meeting participants in advance so as for the participants to spend the limited meeting time to efficiently discuss prioritized issues on CEARAC activities.

At the end of the meeting, only meeting resolutions will be prepared by the Secretariat for adoption by the FPs. Later, a formal full meeting report will be prepared and circulated among the FPs and other meeting participants as well. The decision of the 18<sup>th</sup> FPM, in which a draft workplan of CEARAC for the 2022-2023 biennium is included, will be reported at the next NOWPAP IGM for review and adoption.

## **The Eighteenth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting**

### **➤ DAY 1 (24 August)**

#### **Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting**

(Director of CEARAC chairs)

The 18<sup>th</sup> CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) will be opened at 13:00 (JST), on 24 August 2021 by the Director of CEARAC.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Organization of the meeting**

##### **2.1 Election of the officers**

(Director of CEARAC chairs)

The meeting will be invited to elect the chairperson and the rapporteur in line with paragraph 5.2 of the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP CEARAC FPM. The roles of chairperson and rapporteur rotate among the four member states.

## **2.2 Organization of work**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

Rules of procedures will be established. For the purpose of this meeting, the rules of procedures used in the 18<sup>th</sup> FPM will be those of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) with appropriate adjustments to suit the nature of the meeting.

English will be the working language of the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the agenda**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will explain the Provisional Agenda of the 18<sup>th</sup> FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 18/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 18/2). The meeting will be invited to consider the agenda items for adoption.

### **Agenda Item 4. Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the progress in the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

A representative of NOWPAP RCU will report the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the 17<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP CEARAC FPM (9-10 September 2019, Toyama, Japan) mainly focusing on the 2020-2021 biennium and including the outcomes of the Third NOWPAP Extra-ordinary Intergovernmental Meeting held on 27 January 2021 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 18/3).

### **Agenda Item 5. Reports on CEARAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will report the progress of CEARAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium including detailed reports on six specific projects (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 18/4 - 18/10).

## **5.1 Overall progress report of CEARAC activities**

### **5.2 Reports on specific projects**

#### **5.2.1 Assessment of the distribution of tidal flats and salt marshes in the NOWPAP region**

**5.2.2 Organization of a training course on e-DNA analysis**

**5.2.3 Updating HAB database and HAB reference database**

**5.2.4 Case studies of estimating seagrass blue carbon in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region**

**5.2.5 Improvement of the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) for assessment and monitoring of eutrophication using satellite chlorophyll-a**

**5.2.6 Organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP training course on remote sensing data analysis**

➤ **DAY2 (25 August)**

**Agenda Item 6. Proposals on CEARAC activities for the 2022-2023 biennium**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will present six project proposals for the 2022-2023 biennium, which will be a major part of a draft workplan of CEARAC (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 18/11 - 18/16). After explanation and discussion of respective projects, the meeting will also be invited to review and discuss a draft workplan of entire CEARAC activities with three budget plans prepared by the CEARAC Secretariat (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 18/17) for approval to send it to the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

**6.1 Proposals for specific projects**

**6.1.1 Implementation of pilot studies at significant tidal flats in the NOWPAP region**

**6.1.2 Organization of the first e-DNA training course**

**6.1.3 Update of Cochlodinium website**

**6.1.4 Construction of a seagrass blue carbon network in the NOWPAP region**

**6.1.5 Development of a cloud-based bio-optical database for satellite water quality monitoring in NOWPAP coastal waters**

### **6.1.6 Development of the remote sensing data analysis training programs and organization of training courses**

## **6.2 Draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2022-2023 biennium**

### **Agenda Item 7. CEARAC activities on marine litter**

#### **7.1 Collecting information on Actions and Best Practices on Plastic Litter in the NOWPAP region**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will share a workplan on marine litter with CEARAC FPs for their reference (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 18/18). The workplan will be submitted to the Marine Litter Focal Points Meeting to be held virtually in September 2021 and discussed there.

### **Agenda Item 8. Potential collaborative areas with Other RACs and/or NOWPAP partners**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat or representatives of other RACs and/or NOWPAP partner organizations will introduce their on-going activities and potential collaborations with CEARAC.

### **Agenda Item 9. Arrangement of the nineteenth NOWPAP CEARAC FPM**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will propose the venue and the time of the 19<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP CEARAC FPM for approval. It is planned to be held in 2022. This agenda may be skipped during the virtual meeting unless there is no important information to be shared in addition to text messages through e-mail or announcement posted on websites.

### **Agenda Item 10. Other matters**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The meeting will be invited to raise any other issues, especially relevant to CEARAC activities, to be discussed during the 18<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM. This agenda may be skipped during the virtual meeting unless there are no urgent matters raised by any FP and/or other meeting attendees.

### **Agenda Item 10. Adoption of the resolutions and the report of the meeting**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

Draft resolutions of the 18<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP CEARAC FPM will be prepared by the rapporteur and the CEARAC Secretariat for review and finalization. The meeting will

agree that the CEARAC Secretariat will prepare a more detailed draft meeting report and circulate it within 2 weeks after the meeting.

**Agenda Item 11. Closure of the meeting**

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The 18<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM will be closed by the chairperson at 16:00 on 25 August 2021.\*

(\*The ending time is tentative.)