

Annex V

Requirements and Work to be implemented for the Working Group 3 : HAB including red tide

1. Establishment and organization of the Working Group

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific (NOWPAP) and three supporting Resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 14 September 1994). The Resolution 1 approved the five areas of prioritized projects, one of which was "NOWPAP/3 Establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme".

The discussions on the details of NOWPAP/3 continued in the following international meetings.

In the Expert Workshop on Establishment of a Collaborative, Regional Monitoring Programme (NOWPAP/3), NOWPAP Members submitted their respective reports on National Monitoring activities and reviewed National/Regional Monitoring programmes. This Workshop agreed on set-up some working groups. Among topics conceived as Coastal Environmental Problems for which CEARAC is responsible, the Workshop prioritized the problem of Harmful Algal Blooms including red tide (hereinafter referred to as HAB), and agreed on the establishment of a Working Group to evaluate and implement its monitoring plan.

The First Meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Establishment of a Collaborative Regional Monitoring Programme (NOWPAP/3), Beijing, China, 21-22 May 2001, agreed on the update for NOWPAP/3 Phase II, and discussed on how to operate the WGs.

Following the discussions and results of the First CEARAC Focal Points Meeting, Toyama, 25-28 February 2003, technical experts from NOWPAP Members are invited to the First WG Meeting to be held in the summer of 2003, in order to discuss the Plan of Work for Monitoring HAB in NOWPAP region.

2 Nomination of experts for WG3

Each NOWPAP Member will nominate two technical experts on HAB. The nomination will be reported to the NOWPAP RCU, tentatively performed by UNEP/DEC in Nairobi, not later than the end of April 2003.

One expert should be permanent member, and the other could be replaced in order to respond appropriately to individual meeting topics.

When necessary, experts working for the international organizations such as IOC-WESTPAC could be invited.

3 The Organization of first meeting of WG3

CEARAC also takes care of WG4 : Remote Sensing, and discussions in WG4 might be partly relevant to HAB monitoring. However at this initial stage, each WG had better concentrate on the identification of priority fields and agreement on the detailed Plan of Work for immediate activities. Therefore the two working groups will be held separately for their first meetings. The joint or separate organization of their second WG meetings will be investigated and decided after the first meetings.

4. The Provisional Agenda at the WG3 First Meeting

(1) Review of overall status of regional marine environment and understanding of priority subjects of WG3

Individual experts are supposed to submit their own understanding of environmental status in the NOWPAP region and research/monitoring activities by national/ international organizations. Thus all the participants will share the understanding on the degradation threat of marine environment in NOWPAP region, and on the counter measures taken by national institutes (research, monitoring, counter action, capacity building, etc).

The establishment of the common understanding is the starting point of overall WG activities. The discussion will follow on the identification and definition of subjects to be implemented by the WG for the time being (if possible with medium / long term strategy) within the framework of NOWPAP.

(2) Prioritization of Projects

Following the discussions in the previous session (1), projects which are appropriate and meaningful for the cooperation and objectives of NOWPAP Members will be identified. The projects should coordinate with activities implemented by any national and international institutes, paying as much efforts as possible for the harmonization and information sharing among relevant institutes in the region.

(3) Plan of Work for 2004-2005

Following the results of discussion made in the above (2), actions for the prioritized projects to be taken before the organization of the Second WG meeting should be clarified. Plan of Work corresponding to UN accounting years 2004-2005 will be drafted. Planning of regional HAB monitoring to be implemented immediately and harmoniously by NOWPAP Members shall desirably be included.

The draft Plan of Work 2004-2005 shall be submitted to the Second CEARAC FPM, and subsequently to the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP for its authorization.

(4) Finalization of WG3 TOR

Based on the general discussions at the First CEARAC FPM, TOR to define objectives and responsibility of the WG3 should be discussed and hopefully finalized. The finalized draft of TOR should be submitted to the Second CEARAC FPM, and subsequently to the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP for its authorization.