

Report of the 10th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Background leading to this meeting

1. In accordance with the workplan approved by the Resolution 1 of the 7th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) (14 September 1994, Seoul, Korea), CEARAC held its 1st Focal Points Meeting (FPM) (25-28 February 2003, Toyama, Japan). Among the agreements during the meeting, the 1st FPM approved the establishment of two Working Groups (WGs) under CEARAC, aiming to implement its prioritized activities related to coastal environmental assessment and special monitoring:

WG3: monitoring and assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) including red tides

WG4: remote sensing of the marine and coastal environment (RS)

Since then, the prioritized activities of CEARAC had been related to HABs and RS until recent years.

2. The 10th IGM (24-26 November 2005, Toyama, Japan) approved the new directions for the NOWPAP RACs including the new activities such as Land Based Sources of Pollution (with other RACs) and Marine Litter (with other RACs). Following the decisions of this IGM, new activities were included in CEARAC's workplan from the 2006-2007 biennium on, and the revised Terms of Reference for the CEARAC Focal Points Meeting was adopted in the 4th FPM (8-9 March, 2006, Toyama, Japan) and then approved at the 11th IGM (20-21 December 2006, Moscow, Russia).
3. In the 5th FPM (18-19 September 2007, Toyama, Japan), a draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium were presented, including a new activity on eutrophication as a joint activity of WG 3 and WG4. The 12th IGM (Xiamen, China, 23-25 October 2007) approved the presented workplan with a lower budgetary allocation to CEARAC activities (US\$140,000).
4. In the 7th FPM (14-15 September 2009, Toyama, Japan), along with the report on the implementation of the current activities for the 2008-2009 biennium, a draft workplan and budget of activities for the 2010-2011 biennium were presented and discussed, which included activities on HABs, RS, eutrophication as a joint activity of WG3 and 4, and a new activity on marine biodiversity, based on the views of

needs of more collaboration of WG 3 and 4 and expansion of CEARAC activities taking into account global attention to marine biodiversity.

5. The 8th FPM (13-15 September 2010, Toyama, Japan) was held back-to-back with the Expert Meeting on Assessment of Eutrophication Status and Marine Environment Focusing on Marine Biodiversity with CEARAC FPs, some experts of WG3 and WG4 and other experts on marine biodiversity and eutrophication. In this FPM, overall discussion on the entire CEARAC's activities was made while the expert meeting focused on more detailed progress of each activity including clarification and modification of actions to be taken for the second year of the biennium.
6. Prior to the 9th FPM, the Expert Meeting on Marine Biodiversity and Eutrophication in the Northwest Pacific Region was held (4-5 August 2011, Toyama, Japan) by the Northwest Pacific Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), the host organization of CEARAC, to exchange information on existing marine biodiversity activities in the NOWPAP member states, to review the final results of the eutrophication assessment implemented in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region, and to provide suggestions and advice to a draft workplan of CEARAC for the 2012-2013 biennium.
7. The 9th FPM (6-7 September 2011, Toyama, Japan) reviewed the progress of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium as well as discussed the presented workplan and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium for adoption of their submission to the 16th IGM (20-22 December 2011, Beijing, China) where the presented workplan was approved and a new budgetary allocation to CEARAC activities (US\$112,000) was decided except for the budget for marine litter activities (US\$3,000).
8. The 10th FPM was held on 17-18 April 2012 in Toyama, Japan to review and discuss the implementation of the CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium.

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the Meeting

9. The meeting was opened at 9:00 at the Conference Room 1 in Tower 111, Toyama, Japan, on 17 April 2012 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Hiroshi ONO. Then,

welcoming remarks were made by the representative of NOWPAP RCU, Mr. Masakatsu OHYAMA.

Agenda Item 2 Organization of the Meeting

10. The meeting elected Dr. Junlong LI, FP of China as the chairperson and Mr. Yuya YUKISHIMA, FP of Japan, as the rapporteur.
11. It was proposed that, for the purposes of the CEARAC FPM, the rules used in the meeting be basically those of the Governing Council of UNEP, adjusted as appropriate to suit the nature of the meeting. Decisions should be made by consensus and English was the working language of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3 Adoption of the Agenda

12. The Secretariat of CEARAC introduced the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/2).
13. The meeting adopted both documents.

Agenda Item 4 Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

14. The representative of NOWPAP RCU reported the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the 9th CEARAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/3).
15. The meeting acknowledged the report.

Agenda Item 5 Report on the implementation and the expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium

16. The Director of CEARAC reported implementation and the expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium, including RAP MALI (marine litter activities) (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/4).

17. Dr. Yasuwo FUKUYO, FP of Japan, asked about any statistical data about access numbers of CEARAC website. The Secretariat of CEARAC distributed the overview and explained the tendency of site viewers.
18. Dr. Changkyu LEE, FP of Korea, expressed concern that, while these websites are useful, brochures or handouts written in member states' language can still be used to further raise public awareness. Dr. FUKUYO added that user interface and site navigation improvements are necessary for site visitors to more easily find relevant information.
19. Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, representative of MERRAC, appreciated CEARAC for sharing information with MERRAC on oil spill images on the occasion of the 2010 oil spill incident in Bohai Bay, and then wished for a continuation of this type of collaboration. Dr. Leonid MITNIK, FP of Russia, added that further support on the development of the website is necessary.
20. Mr. Ohyama reminded that one of the RAP MALI activities for the 2010-2011 biennium was decided to be carried over into the 2012-2013 biennium.
21. After discussion, the meeting adopted the report on the implementation and the expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium.

**Agenda Item 6 Proposal for revising the Terms of Reference for NOWPAP
CEARAC Focal Points Meeting**

22. The Director of CEARAC explained the necessity of revising the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/5).
23. There were some questions about the mention of "Land-Based Sources of Pollution." After exchanging views of how to understand this term, it was decided to keep the term in the ToR.
24. The meeting agreed to have the Secretariat of CEARAC further revise the ToR and adopt the revision via correspondence by the end of April for the submission to the next NOWPAP IGM.

Agenda Item 7 Workplan and revised budget of CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium

25. The Director of CEARAC presented the overview of the workplan and the revised budget of CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/6).

7.1 Workplan and budget for preparing the regional report for conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services in the NOWPAP region

26. The Secretariat of CEARAC presented the workplan for preparing the regional report for conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services in the NOWPAP region with the current progress of this activity (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/7), and then asked CEARAC FPs to nominate experts for collecting information on monitoring and management in the selected MPAs and to select target MPAs from each definition of their state's MPAs.

27. Dr. Vladimir SHULKIN, FP of Russian, introduced the concept of Russian MPA network development.

28. Dr. Mitnik suggested that high resolution satellite images such as Landsat could greatly aid historical comparisons and the detection of changes.

29. Mr. Yukishima introduced the marine biodiversity conservation strategy developed by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment and expressed the need for information obtained through CEARAC activity on marine biodiversity for use by the Japanese government.

30. The meeting realized difficulties in selecting MPAs from the list in the meeting document. Then, the meeting asked the Secretariat to create a diagram to be used for selecting MPAs. The Secretariat prepared a draft matrix, classifying the types of MPAs.

31. The meeting adopted the workplan. CEARAC FPs agreed to review the draft matrix of MPAs and select target MPAs by 17 May. The meeting agreed to select 10 target

MPAs in total from each country from the various IUCN categories presented in the matrix. At least one MPA from each applicable category needs to be selected.

7.2 Workplan and budget for refinement of the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment towards eutrophication assessment of the whole NOWPAP region

32. The Secretariat of CEARAC presented the workplan for refinement of the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment towards eutrophication assessment of the whole NOWPAP region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/8). Since the Changjiang (Yangtze) River Estuary and its adjacent area of China is located outside of the geographical area of NOWPAP, Ms. Guihua DONG, FP of China, nominated the Jiaozhou Bay, instead of the previous area, for reassessment of its eutrophication status. She also mentioned that Dr. Zhiming YU will remain as the expert for this case study as in the previous biennium.
33. Dr. Shulkin pointed out that using a single reference value for measurement parameters is not feasible throughout the entire region. The Secretariat acknowledged this point, expressing that each case study should follow a standardized approach in deriving the necessary reference values.
34. Dr. Lee asked about how to evaluate “industrial wastewater” as a parameter. The Secretariat indicated that inclusion of this type of data was suggested by the case study in the Northwest Kyushu sea area; however, that it is only a recommended parameter and may be excluded if not available.
35. Dr. Shulkin suggested that atmospheric deposition of nutrients could be an important measure and that its use as such should be further discussed by experts. The Secretariat replied that atmospheric deposition could be included mostly as part of literature review process in the workplan. In addition, the Secretariat mentioned that it would be reasonable to include atmospheric deposition data as an assessment parameter if data are available.
36. The meeting adopted the workplan.

7.3 Workplan and budget for organization of the 4th NOWPAP training course on remote sensing data analysis

37. The Secretariat of CEARAC presented the workplan for organization of the 4th NOWPAP Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/9) and mentioned three potential partners for the activity: the China Ocean University of Qingdao, China University of Petroleum in Qingdao, and the State Key Laboratory SOED, Second Institute of Oceanography in Hangzhou.
38. The Secretariat of CEARAC called for suggestions from the Chinese FP regarding potential partners for the next RS training course. Ms. Dong agreed to follow up with the abovementioned issue and other potential partners and may provide names of possible Chinese lecturers for the training course.
39. Dr. Fukuyo offered to present information about the activity at the 9th Session of the IOC/WESTPAC in order to further cooperation, and requested the Secretariat to prepare necessary documents and presentation materials for the Session. The Secretariat agreed on Dr. Fukuyo's offer.
40. Dr. Mitnik suggested interactive sessions to teach trainees interpretation of satellite images in the next training course.
41. The meeting adopted the workplan.

7.4 Workplan and budget for maintenance of website and upgrade of the Marine Environment Watch System

42. The Secretariat of CEARAC presented the workplan of maintenance of CEARAC website and upgrade of Marine Environment Watch System with the access data to CEARAC website (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/10).
43. Dr. Joji ISHIZAKA, FP of Japan, pointed out that Korea's Geostationary Ocean Color Imager (GOCI) has potential to be a good source of information for CEARAC activities. He also suggested distributing the GOCI data through the Marine Environmental Watch System after obtaining permission from Korean authorities. Dr. Mitnik also indicated usefulness of GOCI from his experiences.

44. Dr. Ishizaka further expressed the need for varied and improved sources of satellite data, including SUOMI-NPP, and suggested CEARAC FPs to express the needs of the Second-generation Global Imager (SGLI), a Japanese satellite sensor which is under planning.

45. The meeting adopted the workplan.

Agenda Item 8 Workplan and budget of CEARAC Marine Litter Activities

46. The Secretariat of CEARAC presented the workplan of RAP MALI with the current progress (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 10/11).

47. The meeting adopted the workplan.

Agenda Item 9 Collaborative areas with other RACs and other regional and/or international organizations

48. Dr. Shulkin, as a representative of POMRAC, introduced the draft structure of “State of Marine Environment Report in the NOWPAP Region (SOMER-2)”(UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM10/Ref2).

49. Dr. Fukuyo asked for clarification of CEARAC’s involvement in this work as well as other RACs’ and RCU’s.

50. Dr. Shulkin answered that the nature of this work is as a collaboration of each RAC’s expertise and experiences, and explained the details of the structure. He added that support of other RACs will be under discussion in the upcoming POMRAC FPM.

51. The Director of CEARAC reaffirmed CEARAC’s participation in the SOMER-2 project, within the activity of CEARAC, such as the sustainable use of marine ecosystem services and primary production utilizing remote sensing imagery.

52. Korean and Japanese FPs suggested that RCU take an active role in writing the introduction and conclusion of the report. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG, Deputy Coordinator of NOWPAP RCU, replied that RCU is willing to provide coordination in

the implementation of the POMRAC's projects including assisting POMRAC in the process of drafting these sections.

53. After extensive discussion, the meeting expressed appreciation towards POMRAC's initiative and agreed to participate in the project while noting the necessity of refining the draft structure. They asked POMRAC to consider all comments at this and other RACs' FPMs and to revise the draft contents accordingly. The meeting recommended finalizing the structure by the end of May 2012.

Agenda Item 10 Arrangement of the 11th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

54. The Director of CEARAC proposed to hold the 11th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting in September 2013 in Toyama, Japan, and the meeting agreed on the proposal.

Agenda Item 11 Other matters

55. The meeting was invited to raise any other issues relevant to the CEARAC activities and no other issues were raised.

Agenda Item 12 Adoption of the report of the meeting

56. A draft report of the 10th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting was prepared by the Secretariat of CEARAC with the help of the rapporteur. After review, the report was adopted unanimously.
57. After revision, the meeting adopted the draft report.

Agenda Item 13 Closure of the meeting

58. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the 10th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting was closed by the chairperson at 13:00 on 18 April 2012.