

Implementation of NOWPAP activities since the 11th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Report of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 11th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in Toyama, Japan on 11-12 September 2013.
2. Details of the NOWPAP CEARAC activities will be presented by the CEARAC Director under separate agenda item, therefore only information on three other RACs is given below.

DINRAC - Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre

3. The 18th NOWPAP IGM approved DINRAC workplan and budget for the 2014-2015, including the following main activities:
 - Annual summary of major marine environmental data available in the NOWPAP region.
 - Annual updating of existing databases in order to share the latest data in the NOWPAP region.
 - Maintaining and updating marine litter data and information.
 - Developing visualized DINRAC website and enriching the thematic maps in the web GIS system.
 - Collection of information on the threatened species in the NOWPAP region.
4. DINRAC completed the following main activities:
 - The *Atlas of Marine Invasive Species* in the NOWPAP Region was published.
 - Annual summary of major marine environmental data available in the NOWPAP region was prepared.
 - Summary of the policies and measures for the prevention of coastal and marine pollution in the NOWPAP region was prepared.
 - Update, maintenance and enrichment of DINRAC website were carried out on a regular basis.
 - In July 2013, DINRAC organized its 11th FPM where the work plan and budget for 2014-2015 biennium were discussed.
5. DINRAC has continuously developed and maintained the following databases (available at the DINRAC website):
 - Database on Major Environmental Data.
 - Database on NOWPAP Institutions.
 - Database on NOWPAP Experts.
 - Database on NOWPAP Coastal and Marine Environmental Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Applications.
 - Database on Marine Litter.
 - Database on Coastal and Marine Nature Reserves.
 - Database on NOWPAP Publications.

6. DINRAC will organize its 12th FPM on 16-17 June 2014 to discuss in detail the implementation of the planned activities.

MERRAC – Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre

7. The 18th NOWPAP IGM approved MERRAC workplan and budget for the 2014-2015, including the following main activities:
 - Real-time database on response equipment and experts.
 - Risk assessment of oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substance (HNS) spills in the NOWPAP region.
 - Web-GIS based NOWPAP oil spill response exercise program.
 - Expert Meeting to be hosted by Russia on technical issues related to marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP region (e.g. HNS issues).
 - NOWPAP Exercises (NOWPAP BRAVO, NOWPAP DELTA) to enhance regional capacity on marine pollution preparedness and response.
 - Other specific projects on oil and HNS issues.
8. MERRAC completed the following activities:
 - In June 2013, the 16th MERRAC FPM and the 8th Competent National Authority (CNA) Meeting were held in Incheon, Korea where the work plan and budget for 2014-2015 biennium were discussed.
 - The report on *Best Practices of Marine Litter Management in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Shipping Sectors in the NOWPAP Region* was prepared. Brochures based on the report for general public were prepared and translated into four NOWPAP languages in addition to English (for wide dissemination and use of best practices).
9. MERRAC has also maintained the following databases, available at the MERRAC website:
 - List of oil spill response equipment, institutions and experts in the field of marine pollution preparedness and response.
 - List of oil and HNS spill accidents over 10 tons.
10. The 17th MERRAC FPM and the 9th Competent National Authority (CNA) Meeting were held in Daejeon, Korea on 11-13 June 2014 where the work plan for 2014-2015 was finalized.

POMRAC – Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

11. The 18th NOWPAP IGM approved POMRAC workplan and budget for the 2014-2015, including the following main activities:
 - Development of the ecological quality objectives in the NOWPAP region with a regional workshop.
 - Practical application of NOWPAP Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management through regional workshop/ training course.

12. POMRAC has carried out the following main activities:
 - The *Regional Overview on Marine Spatial Planning and Ecosystem-Based Management in the selected Areas of the NOWPAP Region* was published.
 - *Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management (ICARM)* were finalized and are expected to be published in 2014.
 - The second *State of Marine Environmental Report (SOMER-2) for the NOWPAP Region* (with more focus on socio-economic issues, climate change and issues of biodiversity conservation) was finalized and is expected to be published in 2014.
 - The *Regional Overview on Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Issues of Ecological Concern in the NOWPAP Region* was finalized and is expected to be published in 2014.
 - In October 2013, POMRAC organized its 11th FPM where the work plan and budget for 2014-2015 biennium were discussed.
13. POMRAC has also maintained its website, including reference databases developed in cooperation with DINRAC.
14. POMRAC will organize its 12th FPM in August/September 2014 to discuss in detail the implementation of the planned activities.

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15. In addition to specific projects carried out by NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs), several activities were implemented and coordinated by the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) as described below.

Building partnerships

16. NOWPAP RCU and RACs staff members continued actively developing and maintaining partnerships with many relevant organizations, programmes and projects in the region. Close relations were established and maintained with the following partners (in alphabetical order):
 - North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Corporation (NEASPEC).
 - North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES).
 - Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA).
 - UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC).
17. The 18th NOWPAP IGM (December 2013) approved the Agreement of cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) granting NOWPAP observer status at the IMO meetings.
18. After the NOWPAP/NEASPEC Joint Workshop on Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Marine Protected Areas in the Northwest Pacific held in March 2013 in Toyama, Japan, NOWPAP has followed up with NEASPEC and will serve as a member of the advisory committee for the North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN).
19. Since joining the Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM), NOWPAP has enhanced its relationship with IETC by sharing regularly NOWPAP information on marine litter activities and contributing articles to the GPWM newsletter. With the support of the GPA, a regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) is under

development, being co-hosted by the Northwest Pacific Environmental Cooperation Centre (NPEC) and NOWPAP RCU.

Raising public awareness

20. According to NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy, the following actions were taken by NOWPAP RCU and RACs:
 - NOWPAP homepage and RAC homepages have been maintained and constantly updated. News and information have been posted on the NOWPAP homepage in five languages (English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian) since 2006.
 - Electronic newsletter (NOWPAP Quarterly) has been distributed by NOWPAP RCU through e-mails to member states and partners (since 2008).
 - Recent news and information about NOWPAP activities were highlighted and shared on Facebook since 2011.
 - News about NOWPAP implementation were regularly posted at the partners' websites and introduced in their electronic newsletters (e.g., IETC, PEMSEA).
 - Information about NOWPAP activities was introduced to UNEP ROAP and GPA websites and contributed to the UNEP DEPI Dispatch.
 - Several brochures, leaflets, posters about NOWPAP activities were prepared and widely distributed. In addition to English, four national languages were used when appropriate.
 - RACs and RCU staff members also contributed articles to newsletters and delivered lectures/presentations at a local level.
21. While attending a few global and regional meetings (e.g., annual Global Meetings of Regional Seas, PICES Annual Meetings, IOC WESTPAC scientific symposium, etc.) as well as local events, RACs and RCU staff members contributed to increasing NOWPAP visibility and attracting public attention to marine environment conservation by introducing the NOWPAP activities.
22. NOWPAP also continued to maintain close relationships with civil society including Japan Environment Action Network (JEAN), Okinawa Ocean Culture and Environment Action Network (O.C.E.A.N), Our Sea of East Asia Network (OSEAN), Ocean Conservancy (OC) and *Shanghai Rendu* in order to raise public awareness on marine litter as well as strengthening cooperation between policy makers and civil society for enhanced marine litter management.

Resource mobilization

23. According to the NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy, several external funding sources were approached by the NOWPAP RCU and relevant information has been introduced to the RAC Directors and Marine Litter Focal Points (ML FPs). Recent efforts of the RCU and RACs in resource mobilization are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Resource mobilization by the NOWPAP RCU and RACs in 2013-2014

Amount (US\$)	Funding source	Recipient/purpose of funding
33,600 32,000	APN Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE)	NPO Okinawa O.C.E.A.N.: NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), NGO Forum, and Workshop on Marine Litter Management in Japan (2013)
50,000	MOFA of Japan	RCU: NOWPAP ICC & Workshop on Marine Litter Management in Japan (2013)
10,000 5,000 5,000	UNEP/GPA Office (through NOWPAP RCU)	CRAES, China: National report on China's environmental NGOs role in marine litter control (2013) CEARAC: Promotion of best practices and measures for prevention of marine litter input from land-based sources (2013) MERRAC: Promotion of best practices for minimizing marine litter in fishery, aquaculture and shipping (2013)
18,000	UNEP/GPA Office (through NOWPAP RCU)	NPEC: Regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (2014)

NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

24. NOWPAP member states have continued their efforts in organizing and support activities against marine litter such as ICC campaigns (all members), the Green New Deal Fund (Japan) and the Comprehensive Marine Litter Management Plan (Korea).
25. Sponsored by NOWPAP, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), and Japanese Government, the 2013 NOWPAP ICC and Workshop were successfully organized in October 2013, in Okinawa, Japan. The outcomes of the event were reported to the 18th NOWPAP IGM in December 2013.
26. CEARAC and MERRAC prepared two reports, respectively: *Regional Report on Measures and Best Practices for Prevention of Marine Litter Input from Land-based Sources in the NOWPAP Region* and *Best Practices of Marine Litter Management in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Shipping Sectors in the NOWPAP Region*. Based on these two reports, brochures for general public were prepared and translated into four NOWPAP languages in addition to English (for wide dissemination and use of best practices). The *National Report on China's Environmental NGOs Role in Marine Litter Control* was prepared by ML FP of China and published. The report *Negative Impacts of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region* was published by MERRAC.

27. DINRAC has continuously updated its ML database with monitoring results provided by the NPEC (Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan) and MOF (Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea) as well as ICC results from China and Russia. All national ML monitoring data and related information as well as the data from the SOA (State Oceanic Administration) of China, are available at the DINRAC website (<http://dinrac.nowpap.org>).
28. News and information related to marine litter have been posted on the NOWPAP homepage and continually updated by NOWPAP RCU, shared by e-mail with NOWPAP RACs and ML FPs.
29. Several brochures, leaflets, posters about NOWPAP activities against marine litter were prepared and widely distributed while attending a few regional meetings in order to share experiences of NOWPAP member states, and learn about recent developments elsewhere.
30. RAP MALI work plan for 2014-2015 has been approved by the 18th IGM and budget allocation is shown in Table 2 below.
31. 2014 NOWPAP ICC and workshop are expected to be held in September, in Boryeong City, the Republic of Korea.

Table 2. NOWPAP Trust Fund allocation for 2014-15 RAP MALI activities

	Budget, US\$
2014 NOWPAP ICC campaign and ML WS in Korea	20,000
2015 NOWPAP ICC campaign and ML WS in China	20,000
CEARAC (Case studies of basin-wide collaborative actions for prevention of marine litter input from land-based sources in Japan)	6,000
DINRAC (Establishment of a platform facilitating communication between the environmental NGOs and government authorities in China in relation to marine litter management)	6,000
MERRAC (Understanding of floating marine litter distribution and impacts in the NOWPAP region)	6,000
POMRAC (Case study on application of a “no special fee system” in Russian ports)	6,000
RCU (travel support and development of public awareness materials)	6,000
Total:	70,000

Other developments

32. The 18th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) was convened on 4-6 December 2013 in Toyama, Japan. Delegates from NOWPAP member states (China, Japan, Korea and Russia) attended the meeting. Directors of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres, representatives from UNEP Headquarters and NOWPAP partners (PICES and YSLME) also participated in the meeting. The meeting reviewed the progress of NOWPAP implementation for the last two years and discussed the workplan and budget for the 2014-2015 biennium. Member states agreed on the scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for the next two years reflecting increased Korea contribution starting from 2014. The meeting approved the Agreement of cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) granting NOWPAP observer status at the IMO meetings. Activities against marine litter and a suggestion to organize a symposium next year to mark the 20th anniversary of NOWPAP were agreed upon. The meeting report and resolutions were adopted (including approving the programme of work for the 2014-2015 NOWPAP biennium) by member states through correspondence after the meeting.
33. In conjunction with the 18th NOWPAP IGM, Toyama Prefecture and the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC) organized a symposium on international cooperation for the environmental protection and the representatives of UNEP and NOWPAP delivered key speeches on global initiatives on oceans under the framework of UNEP Regional Seas Programme and on NOWPAP activities.
34. In order to continue the discussion initiated at the 18th IGM and at the request of the chairperson of the 18th IGM, the first Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) was convened on 9-10 April 2014 in Seoul, Republic of Korea to address financial sustainability of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) offices in Toyama and Busan. Representatives of member states (China, Korea, Japan and Russia) as well as UNEP Headquarters attended the two-day special meeting. The extraordinary IGM focused on the issue of RCU restructuring aiming to keep the staffing costs within the current contributions of two RCU host countries (Japan and Korea). After intensive discussions, the meeting decided to reduce the total number of RCU UNEP staff members from six to four. The functions of the new posts for the two RCU offices will be discussed at the next ordinary IGM which is scheduled for late 2014 in Russia.