

## 1. Background

“Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine litter (GPML)” was established by the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), host organization of NOWPAP CEARAC, with NOWPAP RCU using budgetary support from the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) in 2014. 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 NOWPAP countries. It was agreed that various information on marine litter is disseminated using the Northwest Pacific Regional Node.

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM, the responsible body of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node from the 2018-2019 biennium and on was discussed, and the member states decided DINRAC is a new host organization of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node. In 2018 and beyond, CEARAC collects information on marine litter in the member states and provide it DINRAC to enhance the Northwest Pacific Regional Node.

Besides, the 22<sup>nd</sup> IGM requested to develop the Terms of Reference of Marine Litter Focal Point 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 will be held back-to-back with 2018 NOWPAP ICC held in Pusan, Korea in June.

## 2. CEARAC’s marine litter activities in the 2016-2017 biennium

### ➤ Enhancing the Northwest Pacific Regional Node

Information on national and local governments’ efforts against marine litter input in Japan was collected and uploaded to the Northwest Pacific Regional Node using additional budget from GPA in 2015. In order to provide information from other three member states through the Northwest Pacific Regional Node, a new project “Enhancing the Northwest Pacific Regional Node” was proposed at the NOWPAP ML Working Meeting (24-25 September, 2015, Yantai, China) and approved.

CEARAC asked NOWPAP ML FPs of China, Korea and Russia to nominate experts to collect information on national and local governments’ and NGO’s efforts for marine litter prevention. Korean and Russian ML FPs nominated appropriate experts respectively and CEARAC contracted MoU with them. Then, using an agreed format, they collected and submitted necessary information to CEARAC in time. Submitted information is now uploaded

into the Northwest Pacific Regional Node.

In China, however, it takes time to nominate an appropriate expert. CEARAC plans to continue this work in the 2017-2019 biennium. An expert has not been nominated yet and necessary information has not been collected either.

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

**Deadline:** December 2017

**Output:** Updated website contents of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node

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

In the past biennia, CEARAC compiled and harmonized the marine litter monitoring data collected by each member state and submitted to DINRAC to upload the latest information on NOWPAP Marine Litter Database. In the 2016-2017 biennium, CEARAC asked ML FPs of the member states to provide monitoring data/results of 2015 and 2016, and monitoring data in 2015 was provided from Russia.

**Budget:** In-kind

**Duration:** 2016-2017

**Output:** latest NOWPAP marine litter monitoring data

### **3. 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 in the NOWPAP member states is useful not only for their own benefits but also for other regions to increase understanding negative impacts of microplastics and share best practices against the problem. Therefore, CEARAC collects such information in the NOWPAP member states in the 2018-2019 biennium and provide collected information to DINRAC for uploading to 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:** Added information of microplastics in each member state on the Northwest Pacific Regional Node

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

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM, NOWPAP member states requested that information in the Northwest Pacific Regional Node will be disseminated in NOWPAP member states languages. Since everything is written in English, and it is not easy for general public to visit the Northwest Pacific Regional Node and find/understand necessary information. Based on the request, CEARAC will translate contents of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node into Japanese.

Translated text will be submitted to DINRAC 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 will continue compiling and harmonizing marine litter monitoring data collected by each member state and submitting to DINRAC.

**Budget:** In-kind

**Duration:** 2018-2019

**Output:** latest NOWPAP marine litter monitoring data