

REPORT OF THE SECOND NOWPAP CEARAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING (Toyama, Japan, 15-17 March 2004)

Background leading to this meeting

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three Resolutions were adopted at the First NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, 14 September 1994: UNEP (OCA)/NOWPAP/IG.1/5). Resolution 1 identified five areas of priority for implementation of the Action Plan, one of which was NOWPAP/3: Establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme.
2. Following the decision of the Third NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, the responsibility for NOWPAP/3 (Regional Monitoring Programme) was jointly shared by the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) and the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POMRAC) to carry out regional activities.
3. Following the results of discussions at the First NOWPAP/3 Meeting (Beijing, China, 21-22 May 2001), the 7th Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, Russia, 20-22 March 2002) approved the resolution 3 Para.6, "the demarcation of the responsibilities and activities between CEARAC and POMRAC as presented by the secretariat in document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.7/8". Subsequently CEARAC was allocated with the responsibility to implement activities related to Working Group (WG) 3: Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) including red tide and Working Group (WG) 4: Remote Sensing of Marine and Coastal Environment.
4. In accordance with the workplan approved by the Resolution 1 of the 7th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP/IG.7/10 Annex IV), CEARAC held the First CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (Toyama, Japan, 25-28 February 2003), the First Meeting of NOWPAP WG3 (Busan, Korea, 28-30 October 2003) and the First Meeting of NOWPAP WG4 (Vladivostok, Russia, 1-3 December 2003). The First CEARAC Focal Points Meeting agreed on CEARAC workplan for 2003 and identified main issues to be focused on by WG3 and WG4. The First Meetings of WG3 and WG4 finalized the draft terms of reference for each WG and agreed on long-term plan and work plan for 2004/5 of each WG.
5. The 8th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Sanya, China, 5-7 November 2003) approved the budget of \$150,000 for 2004/2005 for CEARAC activities. (UNEP/NOWPAP/IG.8/11 Annex I Resolution).

6. The Second Focal Points Meeting was scheduled to review the Workplan for NOWPAP Working Group 3 and Working Group 4, Workplan and Budget for CEARAC for 2004/05.
7. Representatives of NOWPAP members: People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as China, Japan, Korea, and Russia, respectively) participated in the meeting. The representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), NOWPAP/DINRAC (Data and Information Regional Activity Centre), NOWPAP/MERRAC (Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre) and NOWPAP/POMRAC (Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre) and the Secretariat of CEARAC also participated in. A full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the meeting

8. The meeting was opened at 10:00 on 15 March 2004 am by Mr. Hiroyuki Ishitobi, Director of CEARAC in Toyama, Japan. He welcomed all the participants to the meeting, explained the future opening of the RCU office in Toyama and delivered welcoming remarks of Dr. Elik Adler, the interim coordinator of NOWPAP, who was absent from the meeting.
9. Mr. Tetsuro Mita, the deputy-director of Civic Affairs and Environment Department, the Toyama Prefectural Government gave the opening remarks. He thanked each of the participants for being here and expressed Toyama Prefecture's desire to cooperate in CEARAC activities
10. The director of CEARAC introduced Dr. Miguel D. Fortes (IOC/WESTPAC), specially invited guest of CEARAC, and requested that he give the opening remarks. Dr. Fortes spoke about establishing partnerships and their significance related to solving environmental issues at hand. He emphasized the close relationship between programmes and activities of NOWPAP and IOC/WESTPAC.

Agenda Item 2 Organization of the meeting

11. Dr. Hee-Gu Choi, Korea Focal Point, was elected as the chairperson for the Second Focal Points Meeting and Dr. Leonid Mitnik, Russia Focal Point was

elected to be the Rapporteur. Dr. Choi was invited to give an opening statement and she expressed her hopes for the success of the meeting.

12. The meeting agreed that the rules of procedure of the Focal Points Meeting (FPM) should follow the rules of procedures of the UNEP Governing Council.
13. English was set to be the working language of the meeting. The Secretariat presented a provisional list of documents as presented in Annex II.

Agenda Item 3 Adoption of the agenda

14. The Director of CEARAC introduced the provisional agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM/2/1) and the schedule of the FPM.
15. The agenda was adopted without any change (Annex III).

Agenda Item 4 Report of the Director of CEARAC on implementation of CEARAC activities in 2003

16. Following the presentation of the Director of CEARAC on the implementation of CEARAC activities for 2002/03 biennium and related expenditures of the budget (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM/2/3), the meeting reviewed and approved the budget of CEARAC for 2002/03, and noted the achievements of the 1st FPM and intersessional work (Annex IV).

Agenda Item 5 Report on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Focal Points Meeting of the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) of NOWPAP approved by the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting

17. The director of CEARAC explained the final version of the TOR for the CEARAC FPM approved by the 8th IGM (Annex V: UNEP/NOWPAP/IG.8/11 Annex IV).

Agenda Item 6 Presentation of the head of IOC/WESTPAC on potential partnership between IOC/WESTPAC and NOWPAP

18. Dr. Fortes discussed IOC's role in generating and sharing data and introduced IOC/WESTPAC's recent activities in Western Pacific. He focused on NEAR-GOOS activities mentioning the importance of remote sensing of coastal environment. The accomplishments, vision and strategies of NEAR-GOOS at its

- 2nd phase were also presented. He went on to discuss a possible relationship between NOWPAP and NEAR-GOOS as their activities overlap in various areas (Appendix I).
19. Dr. Yasuwo Fukuyo, Japan Focal Point and concurrent coordinator of the WESTPAC-HAB programme explained its activities, especially “red tide watcher” and training through research (TTR) projects.
 20. The Chairperson emphasized the partnership between IOC/WESTPAC and NOWPAP.
 21. Dr. Mitnik suggested that Dr. Fortes’ presentation be made available on the internet and Dr. Fortes agreed to the suggestion.
 22. Dr. Ichio Asanuma, Japan Focal Point suggested a capacity building strategy based on filling the gaps that exist between various countries and Dr. Fortes made mention that different regions have different issues and that they can complement each other. He emphasized the importance of partnerships. Dr. Dong-Beom Yang, Korea Focal Point also agreed that continuous partnerships are needed.
 23. Mr. Osamu Mizuno, Japan Focal Point commented on the need of coordination to avoid duplication of activities. Dr. Fortes replied by emphasizing the importance of gap analysis and niches, and to find the area where two organizations can cooperate. He also mentioned that implementation of any activities should be at the RAC level.

Agenda Item 7 Review and approval of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for NOWPAP Working Group 3 (Harmful Algal Blooms)

24. The Secretariat explained the draft TOR for Working Group 3 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM2/5) and the participants discussed and amended the tasks as shown in document (Annex VI).
25. Ms. Xin Jing, China Focal Point expressed her concern about the rule of decision in the case when a consensus cannot be reached among NOWPAP Members. The Director of CEARAC mentioned that CEARAC would clarify specific rules of procedures of the UN, but we should follow the UN rules at this moment and leave the relative provision as it is.
26. The meeting adopted the amended TOR for Working Group 3.

Agenda Item 8 Review of NOWPAP Working Group 3 (Harmful Algal Blooms) Workplan

27. The Secretariat explained the draft workplan for Working Group 3 (Annex VII).
28. The participants discussed the difficulty of Working Group 3 in establishing a collaborative regional monitoring programme but noted that Working Group 3 should work to that aim in its capacity.
29. The participants pointed out the importance of cooperation with other RACs such as DINRAC, POMRAC and other international organizations to implement the activities effectively.

Agenda Item 9 Review and approval of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for NOWPAP Working Group 4 (Remote Sensing)

30. The Secretariat presented the draft TOR for Working Group 4 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM2/7) and the meeting adopted the TOR for Working Group 4 with some changes(Annex VIII).

Agenda Item 10 Review of NOWPAP Working Group 4 (Remote Sensing) Workplan

31. The Secretariat introduced the draft workplan for Working Group 4 (Annex IX).
32. Mr. Mizuno suggested that as the tasks of Working Group 3 and Working Group 4 have some common focuses, there should be communication between the groups and discussion about detection methods of red tide and eutrophication followed.
33. Dr. Fukuyo appreciated the workplan for Working Group 4 on red tide and eutrophication and suggested the cooperative work with Working Group 3, as these are also important study topics of Working Group 3.
34. Dr. Mitnik as the chairperson of the 1st Working Group 4 meeting gave a supplementary presentation on the CEARAC website on remote sensing for oil spill monitoring.
35. Dr. Seong-Gil Kang, Senior Consultant of MERRAC, pointed out that MERRAC is in principal responsibility on oil spill issues under the framework of NOWPAP and that consultation to coordinate CEARAC's activities on oil spill monitoring by

remote sensing is needed. The director of CEARAC admitted the necessity of cooperation and coordination between the two RACs.

36. The Secretariat explained public outreach activities, the CEARAC website and newsletter along with setting forth the expectations for NOWPAP members.
37. Dr. Fukuyo invited Working Group 4 to send members to the International Symposium of Red Tide Watcher project of WESTPAC-HAB to be held in March 2005.

Agenda Item 11 Review and agreement of CEARAC Workplan and Budget for 2004/05

38. Director of CEARAC presented the draft workplan and budget for CEARAC activities for 2004/05 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM/2/9) and the meeting approved them (Annex X).
39. Discussion about the saving of money by combining, cutting back and overlapping meetings was held as well as seeking funding from outside organizations.

Agenda Item 12 Arrangement for intersessional work and venue of the 3rd FPM

40. The director of CEARAC suggested that the third FPM would be held in Toyama, Japan in March 2005 and the meeting approved his proposal.

Agenda Item 13 Other matters

41. Dr. Fukuyo suggested that future discussion be held on the possibility of obtaining a budget for research. Dr. Kang explained MERRAC's attempt in seeking outside funding.

Agenda Item 14 Adoption of the report of the meeting

42. The Rapporteur reviewed and checked the draft report of the meeting prepared by the Secretariat and presented it to the meeting for revision and adoption.
43. The meeting adopted the report with minor modifications.

Agenda Item 15 Closure of the meeting

44. The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 19:30 on 16th March 2004.