

**REPORT OF THE THIRD NOWPAP CEARAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING
(Toyama, Japan, 15-16 2005 September 2005)**

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 1st Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, The Republic of Korea, 14 September 1994: UNEP (OCA)/NOWPAP/IG.1/5).
2. In accordance with the workplan approved by Resolution 1 of the 7th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP/IG.7/10 Annex IV), CEARAC held the 1st CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) (Toyama, Japan, 25-28 February 2003), the 1st Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 3 (WG 3) (Busan, the Republic of Korea, 28-30 October 2003) and the 1st Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 4 (WG 4) (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 1-3 December 2003).
3. The 1st CEARAC FPM agreed on the CEARAC workplan for 2003 and identified the main issues to be focused on by WG3 and WG4. The 1st Meetings of WG3 and WG4 finalized the draft terms of reference for each WG and agreed on the long-term plan and work plan for 2004 and 2005 of each WG.
4. The 8th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Sanya, the People's Republic of China, 5-7 November 2003) approved the budget of \$150,000 for 2004 and 2005 for CEARAC activities. (UNEP/NOWPAP/IG.8/11 Annex I Resolution 1)
5. The 2nd CEARAC FPM (Toyama, Japan, 15-17 March 2004) adopted the revised workplan and budget for the CEARAC 2004 and 2005 activities and the Terms of Reference (TOR) for NOWPAP WG3 and WG4 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 2/10). After the 2nd CEARAC FPM, with the consultation and approval of UNEP and CEARAC Focal Points, CEARAC made a slight change in its allocations of the budget. The new budget plan focused on the National and the Integrated Reports of NOWPAP WG3 and WG4.
6. The 9th Intergovernmental Meeting (Busan, the Republic of Korea, 2-4 November 2004) agreed on the workplan and the entire NOWPAP budget for the 2004 and 2005 biennium including the revised budget of US\$150,000 for the CEARAC activities (UNEP/NOWPAP/IG.9/5/1).

7. Based on the decision of the 2nd CEARAC FPM, CEARAC also held the 2nd Meeting of NOWPAP WG3 (Qingdao, the People's Republic of China, 25-26 November 2004) and the 2nd Meeting of NOWPAP WG4 (Beijing, the People's Republic of China, 14-15 October 2004).
8. In WG3 and WG4, the meetings reviewed the preparation of the National Reports and discussed the contents of the Integrated Reports respectively. Moreover, WG3 reviewed the development of the Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) reference database, and WG4 reviewed the development of the Remote Sensing (RS) information network system.

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the meeting

9. The meeting was opened at 9:00 at the Conference Room in Tower 111 (Intec-Building), Toyama, Japan, on 15 September 2005 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Masanobu Miyazaki. He welcomed all the participants to the meeting. Welcoming remarks by Dr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP Coordinator followed.

Agenda Item 2 Organization of the meeting

10. The meeting elected Dr. Vladimir Shulkin as the Chairperson and Mr. Jianhui Zhang as the Rapporteur in line with paragraph 5.2 of the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP CEARAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.8 7/1). Dr. Shulkin was invited to give an opening statement and he expressed the importance of discussing future plans and making reasonable decisions.
11. Rules of procedure were established according to the Terms of Reference of the CEARAC focal point meeting, approved at the 8th Intergovernmental meeting (IGM). It was proposed that, for the purposes of this meeting, the rules used here be those of the UNEP Governing Council, adjusted as appropriate to suit the nature of the meeting.
12. English was the working language of the meeting. The secretariat provided a provisional list of the documents.

Agenda Item 3 Adoption of the Agenda

13. The director of CEARAC introduced the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 3/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 3/2) and the schedule of the FPM.
14. The agenda was adopted without any changes.

Agenda Item 4 Report of the NOWPAP coordinator on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

15. Dr. Tkalin, Coordinator of NOWPAP, reported on the progress of all NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period including the 9th NOWPAP IGM held in Busan, the Republic of Korea, 2-4 November 2004, the opening of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) for NOWPAP. The activities of RACs were also reported.

Agenda Item 5 Report of the director of CEARAC on the implementation of CEARAC activities in 2004 and 2005

16. The director of CEARAC reported on the implementation of CEARAC activities for 2004-2005 biennium and related expenditure of the budget. (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 3/4). He outlined the main achievements of the 2nd FPM (March 2004, Toyama), 2nd NOWPAP WG3 Meeting (November 2004, Qingdao), 2nd NOWPAP WG4 Meeting (October 2004, Beijing).
17. As NPEC related activities, the 3rd International Workshop on Marine Remote Sensing in the Northwest Pacific Region (October 2004, Beijing) and the first International Workshop on HAB in the Northwest Pacific Region (June-July 2005, Toyama) were introduced. Both were very successful in providing opportunities to exchange opinions in the region.
18. The meeting acknowledged the CEARAC activities for 2004 and 2005.

Agenda Item 6 Review of NOWPAP Working Group 3 (Harmful Algal Blooms) intersessional activity and discussion of the proposed workplan and budget**6.1 Report of NOWPAP WG3(HAB) intersessional activity**

19. The secretariat reported on the WG3 intersessional activities of 2004 and 2005. The report reviewed activities of WG3 such as preparing the National Reports and the Draft Integrated Report on HAB for the NOWPAP Region, establishment of the HAB Reference Database and the *Cochlodinium* Homepage, and work of the *Cochlodinium* Corresponding Group (CCG). A summary of the First International Workshop on HAB in the Northwest Pacific Region (June 30- July 1, 2005, Toyama, Japan) was also given.
20. The secretariat announced that the National Reports will be published soon; and the Integrated Report is to be published by the end of 2005.

21. The HAB Reference Database (opened in April 2005) and the *Cochlodinium* Homepage (opened in September 2005) are now available. The secretariat agreed to introduce links to the database and the homepage on the CEARAC website as requested by the meeting. The secretariat also agreed to set an access counter to understand needs, as suggested by Dr. Ichiro Asanuma.
22. Dr. Yasuwo Fukuyo mentioned that the HAB Reference Database is still under development. The meeting agreed to collect more documentary information for the database.
23. The meeting agreed on the aim to avoid duplication of activities of other organizations and acknowledged that the HAB Reference Database is different from that of PICES. This database deals with publications on HAB; the database of PICES collects information on HAB events.
24. Dr. Fukuyo suggested that the activities of WG3 should be understood by the general public in the NOWPAP member countries. Therefore, *Cochlodinium* Homepage or pamphlets of *Cochlodinium* can be translated from English (official language of NOWPAP) into the mother tongue of each county. The meeting agreed it is important to translate general information for the public.

6.2 Draft Integrated Report on HABs for the NOWPAP Region

25. The secretariat presented the Draft Integrated Report on HABs for the NOWPAP Region. The meeting agreed there are many difficulties in standardizing information on HABs from different countries and suggested that efforts for standardization should be continued. Nevertheless, the present Integrated Report is the most comprehensive report on HAB so far.
26. The secretariat agreed to revise the terminology of monitoring 'site' and 'station' in the National Report of China (suggested by Mr. Zhang and Ms. Xin Jing) and to insert a table of contents.
27. The Integrated Report will be sent to WG3 experts, after some revision, as soon as possible. After approval by WG3 experts within two weeks, the report will be sent to CEARAC FPs for their approval, tentatively by the end of October 2005.

6.3 Workplan and budget of the NOWPAP WG3 (HAB)

28. The secretariat presented a plan to make a booklet of case studies of mitigation of red tide. The meeting agreed on the outline of the proposal, but suggested that the title and contents of the booklet would be reconsidered after hearing advice from WG3 experts.

29. The meeting agreed to consider making the updated National Reports and the Integrated Reports in the future when necessary, which was suggested by Dr. Fukuyo.
30. The meeting agreed on the necessity of collaboration between WG3 and WG4. Dr. Asanuma suggested having a joint working group meeting of WG3 and WG4 in 2006.

Agenda Item 7 Review of NOWPAP Working Group 4 (Remote Sensing) intersessional activity and discussion of the proposed workplan and budget

7.1 Report of NOWPAP Working Group 4 intersessional activities

31. The secretariat reported on the WG4 intersessional activities of 2004 and 2005. Following the secretariat's presentation, Ms. Jing gave supplementary comments about the 2nd WG4 meeting held in Beijing.
32. Dr. Hee-Gu Choi asked how the portal site on ocean remote sensing was established even though it was not on the list of CEARAC budget expenditure. The secretariat replied that the system itself was developed by NPEC funds, and collecting link information for the website was conducted by WG4 Members on a voluntary basis.
33. Dr. Choi suggested consolidating the websites for each of the CEARAC activities in order to improve appearance and give easier access to information. The secretariat agreed to renew the CEARAC website soon.

7.2 Draft Integrated Report on Ocean Remote Sensing in the NOWPAP Region

34. The secretariat presented the progress of the Draft Integrated Report on Ocean Remote Sensing in the NOWPAP Region.
35. Dr. Asanuma commented that it is confusing to add information which is not written in the National Reports to the Integrated Report, such as refinement of the guideline of Chapter 9. The secretariat explained their editing policy that new information or contents can be added if they are necessary to describe the situation, even the contents of the Integrated Report is based on the National Reports. The meeting agreed in general with the contents of the Integrated Report presented.
36. The Integrated Report will be sent to WG4 experts, after some revision, as soon as possible. After approval by WG4 experts within two weeks, the report

will be sent to CEARAC FPs for their approval, tentatively by the end of October 2005.

7.3 Remote Sensing of oil spills in the NOWPAP Region

37. Mr. Denis V. Darkin on behalf of Dr. Leonid Mitnik, the Russian Focal Point, presented Remote Sensing of oil spills in the NOWPAP Region and made suggestions about a training cruise during PORSEC 2006 and some ideas about possible collaboration of WG3 and WG4.

7.4 Draft Workplan and budget for the NOWPAP Working Group 4 (Remote Sensing)

38. The secretariat presented a draft workplan and budget for the NOWPAP Working Group 4 for 2006 and 2007.
39. Dr. Choi commented that the budget in table 3.1 in document 3/10 was not clear in relation to the total budget of CEARAC. The meeting agreed to discuss the full CEARAC workplan and budget including the budget for WG3 and WG4 on the second day, as part of Agenda Item 10
40. Dr. Asanuma supported the idea of refining the guideline in the Draft Workplan for WG4 because having common guidelines for monitoring can be connected to consolidating data with consistency in the NOWPAP Region. Dr. Asanuma added that it could also be a first step towards exchange of environmental information among NOWPAP Members under MoU.

Agenda Item 8 Report of NOWPAP Intersessional Workshop

8.1 NOWPAP Evolution; New Directions for the NOWPAP RACs and RCU

41. Dr. Tkalin presented NOWPAP Evolution; New Direction for the NOWPAP RACs and RCU.
42. Dr. Tkalin explained that activities of WG3 and WG4 in CEARAC would be continued for the next biennium after approval by the 10th IGM. Dr. Tkalin added that activities on Marine Litter and Land Based Sources will be conducted in cooperation with other RACs. The meeting acknowledged the NOWPAP Evolution.

8.2 Establishment of a Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) (UNEP/NOWPAP/IS.1/4)

43. Dr. Tkalin presented the establishment of Marine Litter Activity (MALITA).

The activity of MALITA may be conducted by the budget which will be requested by RCU to the 10th IGM. RCU hoped that MALITA will be approved by the 10th IGM. The meeting acknowledged the idea of MALITA.

Agenda Item 9 Discussion of CEARAC New Activity –Marine Litter -

44. The secretariat presented a new CEARAC activity, which corresponds with “New directions for the NOWPAP RACs and RCU” and “Establishment of a Marine Litter Activity”. The meeting was invited to review this activity and discuss the preliminary workplan and budget (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FMP 3/11).
45. Dr. Choi expressed her concerns about budget allocations of the Marine Litter activity in CEARAC. The Secretariat stressed again that the Marine Litter activity in CEARAC is only possible if the budget from RCU is secured.
46. Dr. Tkalin explained that other new suggested activities of CEARAC such as Land Based sources and Marine Litter will be conducted, if GEF funds are gained and MALITA is approved in the 10th IGM.
47. Mr. Norihiko Tanaka, a Japanese FP and representative of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, reported that more than 10,000 items of medical wastes have drifted onto Japanese beaches during August 2005. Mr. Tanaka appreciated the positive and proactive attitude of CEARAC to marine litter issues. The Japanese government is seriously concerned about marine litter issues lately.
48. The secretariat and Dr. Tkalin explained that the budget of MALITA for NOWPAP is a subject of approval by the 10th IGM. NOWPAP RCU will reallocate the budget for MALITA to RACs while coordinating them appropriately.
49. Dr. Asanuma pointed out the importance of cooperation with other international organizations because marine litter is a worldwide problem.
50. Dr. Asanuma gave some additional information about Kuroshio, which is an important transporter of marine litter in the NOWPAP Region.

Agenda Item 10 Discussion of the proposed workplan and budget for 2006 and 2007 biennium and recommendation to the 10th IGM of NOWPAP

51. The secretariat introduced the draft workplan and budget of CEARAC for 2006 and 2007 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 3/12).

52. The secretariat stated the CEARAC preference for holding a joint meeting of WG3 and WG4 in summer 2006.
53. Dr. Tkalin made a proposal that 'Others' in 'Specific project' can include the Marine Litter Activity, Assessment and Management of Land-Based Activities (GEF PDF-B Project), State of Marine Environment Report; and stated that it is expected that funds will be allocated by the 10th IGM. The secretariat commented that some flexibility is needed with regards to the intersessional plan.
54. Dr. Fukuyo suggested the secretariat to make their best effort not to reduce the budget of existing WG3 and WG4 activities.
55. The meeting approved the draft workplan and budget of CEARAC for the 2006 and 2007 biennium and agreed on submitting it to the 10th IGM of NOWPAP.

Agenda Item 11 Arrangement for venue of the 4th CEARAC FPM

56. The meeting agreed the 4th Focal Points Meeting for NOWPAP CEARAC would be held tentatively on 16-17 March 2006, in Toyama, Japan, as suggested by the secretariat.

Agenda Item 12 Other matters

57. The meeting was invited to raise any other issues relevant to CEARAC activities. No comments were made.

Agenda Item 13 Adoption of the report of the meeting

58. A draft report of the meeting was prepared by the secretariat and approved by the rapporteur. The report was adopted by the meeting.

Agenda Item 14 Closure of the meeting

59. The meeting was closed by the chairperson.