

Report of the 4th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

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 (Toyama, Japan, 25-28 February 2003), the 1st Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 3 (Busan, the Republic of Korea, 28-30 October 2003) and the 1st Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 4 (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 1-3 December 2003).
3. The 1st CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) agreed on the CEARAC workplan for 2003 and identified main issues to be focused on by NOWPAP Working Group 3 (WG3) and Working Group 4 (WG4). The 1st Meetings of NOWPAP WG3 and WG4 finalized the draft Terms of Reference for each WG and agreed on workplan for the 2004-2005 biennium 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 the 2004-2005 biennium 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 2004-2005 biennium activities and the Terms of Reference (TOR) for NOWPAP WG3 and WG4 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 2/10). 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 budget of NOWPAP for the 2004-2005 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. WG3 and WG4 meetings reviewed the preparation for the National Reports and discussed the contents of the Integrated Reports respectively. Moreover, WG3 reviewed the development of HAB Reference Database, and WG4 reviewed the development of RS information network system.
9. The 3rd FPM (Toyama, Japan, 15-16 September 2005) reviewed the progress of CEARAC activities for the 2004-2005 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 3/4) and approved the draft CEARAC workplan and budget for the 2006-2007 biennium which was presented by the Secretariat (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 3/12). All the reports were agreed on for submission to the 10th IGM for adoption.
10. The 10th Intergovernmental Meeting (Toyama, Japan, 24-26 November 2005) approved the workplan and budget of NOWPWP for the 2006-2007 biennium including the budget of US\$150,000 for the CEARAC activities (UNEP/NOWPAP/IG.10/8).

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting

11. The meeting was opened in Toyama, Japan, at 9:00AM on 8 March 2006 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Masanobu Miyazaki. A welcoming remark was made by NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Alexander Tkalin.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the meeting

12. The meeting elected Mr. Norihiko Tanaka as the chairperson and Dr. Chang-Kyu Lee as the rapporteur in line with paragraph 5.2 of the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.8 7/1) due to the absence of the China FPs. The Secretariat announced that the China FPs had agreed to the continuation of the meeting in their absence.
13. Rules of Procedure were established. It was proposed that, for the purposes of this meeting, the rules used here be those of the Governing Council of UNEP, adjusted as appropriate to suit the nature of the meeting.
14. English was the working language of the meeting. The Secretariat presented a provisional list of the documents.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda

15. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 4/1) was introduced by the Secretariat with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 4/2). The meeting adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Implementation of CEARAC Activities in 2005

16. The Secretariat reported on the implementation of CEARAC activities in 2005 and also reported on the expenditures of CEARAC budget for the 2004-2005 biennium, focusing on 2005 activities. (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 4/3). The meeting acknowledged the report.

Agenda Item 5. Report of the CEARAC Workplan and Budget for the 2006-2007 biennium approved by the 10th NOWPAP IGM

17. The Secretariat reported on the CEARAC workplan and budget for the 2006-2007 biennium which had been adopted by the 10th IGM (Toyama, Japan, 24-26 November 2005).

Agenda Item 6. Discussion of Terms of Reference for CEARAC FPM

18. The revised draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for FPM was submitted by the Secretariat and was adopted with some changes on page 2 in the document for TOR for CEARAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 4/5). The meeting also agreed on submitting it to the 11th IGM of NOWPAP. Guidelines on the establishing and disbanding of Working Groups will be prepared for the next CEARAC FPM.

Agenda Item 7. Discussion and Approval of Terms of Reference for NOWPAP Working Group 3 (Harmful Algal Blooms) and Working Group 4 (Remote Sensing)

19. The revised draft Terms of References (TORs) for WG3 and WG4 were submitted by the Secretariat and were discussed. The meeting adopted the revised TOR for both WG3 and WG4 with minor changes.

Agenda Item 8. Review and Approval of NOWPAP WG3 Workplan for the 2006-2007 Biennium

20. The Secretariat explained the activities of WG3 for the 2006-2007 biennium as a part of the CEARAC workplan which was approved by the 10th IGM (Toyama Japan 24-26 November 2005).
21. Dr. Vladimir Shulkin requested that information on countermeasures against toxin-producing plankton be included in the booklet. Dr. Yasuwo Fukuyo indicated that it might be difficult to introduce countermeasures against toxin-producing plankton. The Secretariat suggested exchanging opinions about more detailed contents among the WG3 experts before and during the next WG3 meeting in Toyama in early July.
22. The meeting reviewed and approved the workplan of WG3 including the outline for making a booklet of countermeasures as the main activity of WG3 for the biennium.

Agenda Item 9. Review and Approval of NOWPAP WG4 Workplan for the 2006-2007 Biennium

23. The Secretariat explained the activities of WG4 for the 2006-2007 biennium as a part of CEARAC workplan which was approved by the 10th IGM (Toyama Japan 24-26 November 2005).
24. The Secretariat explained that future prospects include the establishment of a Digital Library, supporting the RS training program. The meeting noted the continuing importance of collaboration with other NOWPAP RACs and international organizations.
25. Dr. Dong-Beom Yang expressed his concern about the budget for refinement of the guideline, especially conducting sea truth observations for validation of satellite data. The Secretariat replied that this concern can be solved using previously accumulated sea truth data in case study instead of conducting sea truth observation.
26. Dr. Lee expressed his concerns about lack of budget for the travel expenses of participants for the RS training program. The Secretariat replied that this concern may be solved through inviting mainly local people to participate in this program and possibly by obtaining support from other organizations.

27. The meeting reviewed and approved the workplan of WG4 including preparation of a guideline for eutrophication monitoring using satellite data for the NOWPAP Region and Remote Sensing training program on data analysis as the main activity of WG4 for the biennium.

Agenda Item 10. Discussion of other Intersessional Activities of CEARAC

10.1 Marine Litter Activity (MALITA)

28. Establishment of the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) which had been adopted at the 10th IGM was introduced by the Scientific Affairs Officer, NOWPAP RCU (Busan Office), Dr. Jeung-sook Park. Following the explanation of MALITA, the Secretariat explained the CEARAC activities related to MALITA.
29. The meeting confirmed that MALITA is the first project to be implemented by all four RACs.
30. A suggestion was made by Dr. Leonid Mitnik that observations could be made using remote sensing and the high concentration of litter in the open ocean should be monitored.
31. Dr. Ichio Asanuma suggested that storms and currents also could be monitored from space to predict marine litter movement.
32. Dr. Yang proposed to integrate underwater clean-up by SCUBA divers on a voluntary basis into MALITA. Dr. Park replied that MERRAC is responsible for sea based activities of MALITA including underwater clean-up. In addition, Dr. Park introduced a workshop on marine litter in Korea in June where this issue might be discussed.
33. The CEARAC workplan for MALITA was approved by the meeting.

10.2 The Report of the State of Marine Environment in the NOWPAP Region

34. The Director of Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POMRAC), Dr. Anatoly Kachur explained the objectives and the contents of the State of Marine Environment Report in the NOWPAP Region, which is a part of POMRAC activities for the 2006-2007 biennium. CEARAC will be taking leading role for some parts of the report.

35. Dr. Mitnik suggested including information collected from space in the section on oil spills.
36. The meeting agreed the CEARAC workplan for the implementation of the State of Marine Environment Report in the NOWPAP Region with some modifications.

Agenda Item 11. Review and Approval of Workplan and Budget of CEARAC for the 2006- 2007 Biennium

37. The Secretariat explained the CEARAC workplan and budget for the 2006-2007
38. The meeting agreed on the proposal made by Dr. Asanuma to add a note in Section 2.4.3 of the document (UNEP/NOWPAPA/CEARAC/FPM 4/12) that the Secretariat will provide a detailed workplan and, if necessary, the Terms of Reference for these activities.
39. Dr. Fukuyo expressed his hope that the long-term objectives can be documented in a workplan, regardless of the budget. The Secretariat agreed that this issue should be discussed in WG meetings and FPM. If necessary, long-term objectives recommended by WG meetings or FPM can be discussed at IGM.
40. Dr. Fukuyo advised CEARAC to consider criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of training programs and to organize training programs in cooperation with other international organizations if necessary.
41. The meeting approved the workplan and budget of CEARAC for the 2006-2007 biennium.

Agenda Item 12. Arrangement for Venue and Date of the 5th CEARAC FPM

42. The meeting decided to hold the 5th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting in September of 2007 in Toyama.

Agenda Item 13. Other matters

43. The meeting was invited to raise any other issues relevant to the NOWPAP/CEARAC activities.

44. Dr. Mitnik made a presentation about remote sensing applications for oil spill monitoring. Results highlighting the popularity of the CEARAC-POI website were also shown. Suggestions were made to improve it using more annotated images, including feedback from users, and cooperating more closely with other RACs.
45. Dr. Tkalin suggested making more links between the existing websites of each of the NOWPAP RACs and making this website easier to find.
46. The Secretariat outlined the organization and main contents of the 4th International Workshop on Marine RS to be held in Busan on 1-2 August 2006. Details will be made available to potential supporters by the end of this month.

Agenda Item 14. Adoption of the report of the meeting

47. A draft report of the meeting was prepared by the Secretariat with the help of the Rapporteur. It was adopted by the FPs of Japan, Korea and Russia. This draft will be sent to the China FPs for approval.

Agenda Item 15. Closure of the meeting

48. The meeting was closed by the chairperson at 4:00PM on 9 March 2006.