

Report of the 5th 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).
11. The 4th FPM (Toyama, Japan, 8-9 March, 2006) acknowledged the report on the implementation of CEARAC activities in 2005 and the expenditures on CEARAC budget for the 2004-2005 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 4/3). The meeting also adopted the revised workplan and budget for the 2006-2007 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/ FPM 4/12) and the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM), which enables the FPM to establish and disband Working Groups of CEARAC, and agreed to submit the TOR to the 11th IGM. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare Guidelines on the establishment and disbanding of Working Groups for the next CEARAC FPM. The Meeting also requested that long-term objectives to be documented in workplan of CEARAC, regardless of the budget in the future.
12. The 11th IGM (Moscow, Russia, 20-21 December, 2006) approved the revised TOR for the CEARAC FPM with minor amendments that were made at the 4th FPM.

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting

13. The meeting was opened in Toyama, Japan, at 9:00AM on 18 September 2007 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Takeshi OGAWA. Welcoming remarks were made by NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Alexander TKALIN.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the meeting

14. The meeting elected Dr. Changkyu LEE as the chairperson and Dr. Leonid MITNIK 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).
15. 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.
16. English was the working language of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda

17. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/1) was introduced by the Secretariat with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/2). The meeting adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

18. Dr. TKALIN reported the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period including NOWPAP RACs evaluation and the Implementation of Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/3).

Agenda Item 5. Report on implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2006-2007 biennium

19. The Director of CEARAC reported implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2006-2007 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/4).
20. Dr. TKALIN pointed out that the title "Eutrophication Monitoring Guidelines by RS for the NOWPAP Region" is inappropriate. Dr. Leonid MITNIK and Dr. Yasuwo FUKUYO replied the title could be suitable. Dr. FUKUYO also added that some contents of the guidelines, especially definition of eutrophication should be further discussed between the WG3 and WG4 for future improvement.
21. In response to a question from Mr. TAKEMOTO, Dr. TKALIN pointed out the word "TBD" in the intersessional work is inappropriate. The Secretariat explained that USD 3,000 will be spent on preparation of documents for the 6th CEARAC FPM..
22. After reviewing, the meeting agreed on the revised report.

Agenda Item 6. Discussion on the draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium and recommendation to the 12th IGM

23. The Director of CEARAC presented workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/5).

Proposal for case study of HAB Hot Region

24. CEARAC Secretariat explained an activity of "Case Study of HAB Hot Region." (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/6).
25. The meeting suggested to add an analysis of relationships between HAB occurrences and key environmental parameters, and to use RS data to implement case studies.
26. Dr. TKALIN pointed out that the title "case study of HAB Hot Region" is inappropriate. The meeting agreed to change the title of this activity to "Proposal for HAB Case Studies"

27. After reviewing, the meeting agreed on the revised proposal.

Proposal for development of HAB Integrated Website

28. The CEARAC Secretariat explained HAB Integrated Website (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/7).

29. The meeting suggested cooperation with other organizations, e.g. PICES and IOC/WESTPAC. The RCU encouraged the Secretariat to ask scientists who participate in other organizations to introduce NOWPAP activities and collect information of their activities.

30. After reviewing, the meeting agreed on the proposal.

Proposal for development of educational materials for utilization of remote sensing data for coastal environment conservation

31. The CEARAC Secretariat explained development of educational materials for utilization of remote sensing data for marine environment conservation (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/8).

32. Dr. Dong-Beom YANG recommended the Secretariat to make the educational materials to be suitable for inexperienced users.

33. After reviewing, the meeting agreed on the proposal.

Proposal for the second NOWPAP training course on remote sensing data analysis

34. The Secretariat explained the second NOWPAP training course on remote sensing data analysis (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/9).

35. The meeting acknowledged the importance of efficiency evaluation of the 1st training course and requested the Secretariat to inform the results of questionnaires submitted by the participants in the 1st training course. It was also suggested to coordinate this activity with the development of the educational materials.

36. Dr. FUKUYO suggested to consider further modification of the training course, if necessary, comparing with other activities such as Training Through Research of WESTPAC/IOC and E-learning System of IOC/UNESCO for later bienniums.
37. The meeting acknowledged the importance of involvement of coastal managers. Dr. TKALIN suggested the Secretariat to organize training courses in other NOWPAP countries, which local coastal managers can attend without traveling long distance.
38. The meeting requested the Secretariat to negotiate with potential partners to support the training course financially.
39. After reviewing, the meeting agreed on the proposal.

Proposal for development of procedures for identification of eutrophication status for the NOWPAP Region

40. The CEARAC Secretariat explained the development of procedures for identification of eutrophication status for the NOWPAP Region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/10).
41. Dr. FUKUYO expressed his concern about missing of "HAB" in the proposal in order to emphasize the meaning of joint activity of both WGs.
42. The meeting acknowledged the importance of this project and requested the Secretariat to arrange more opportunities for discussions at an early stage to come out with more fruitful outcomes. The Secretariat stated that, in addition to the proposed schedule, one opportunity for discussion could be made in the 1st Coastal Environmental Assessment Workshop organized by NPEC in March 2008, in combination with the next FPM.
43. Dr. TKALIN suggested that 'assessment' was more appropriate than 'identification' and to change the title. The meeting agreed with his suggestion.
44. After reviewing, the meeting agreed on the revised proposal.

Discussion on the entire draft workplan and budget

45. The meeting discussed the entire workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium.
46. Mr. TAKEMOTO pointed out that there is a difference in CEARAC budgets for 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 bienniums. The Secretariat explained that the difference is because of MALITA implementation by CEARAC in 2006-2007.
47. Dr. TKALIN expressed his concern about LBS and marine litter related issues, and pointed that workplan and budget on these activities are not included in the CEARAC workplan and budget, though LBS and marine litter related issues are included in new directions of work of CEARAC approved at the 10th NOWPAP IGM.
48. Dr. LEE mentioned that marine litter related issues had already been implemented and its detailed workplan should be discussed in other occasions, not in this meeting. The meeting agreed to add marine litter related issues in the document.
49. Mr. TAKEMOTO pointed out that there is added value in CEARAC, DINRAC and POMRAC activities related to marine environmental assessment, he also emphasized that one of the main tasks of NOWPAP is sharing data and information on marine environment in the region.
50. The meeting agreed to submit workplan and budget to the 12th IGM (Xiamen, China, 23-25, October 2007) for adoption under the following conditions.
- To add additional workplan which describes that CEARAC will continue its task to tackle with marine litter problems.
 - To add "Other activities" in the budget table and to add note for marine litter related issues.
 - To change the titles of specific projects into appropriate ones as agreed before.

Agenda Item 7. Discussion on the draft mid- and long-term strategies of CEARAC and goals of NOWPAP Working Group 3 (WG3) and Working Group 4 (WG4)

51. The Secretariat presented the draft mid- and long-term strategies of CEARAC and goals

of NOWPAP Working Group 3 (WG3) and Working Group 4 (WG4) (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/11).

52. The RCU required the Secretariat set objectives of WGs not only to develop assessment tools but also to conduct assessment on coastal environment.
53. After reviewing, the meeting agreed on the working document.

Agenda Item 8. Discussion on draft Guidelines on establishment and disbanding of Working Groups

54. The Secretariat presented the draft Guidelines on establishment and disbanding of Working Groups of NOWPAP CEARAC (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/12).
55. Dr. FUKUYO requested to arrange opportunities to further discuss operation of the present WG3 and WG4. The Secretariat replied that an opportunity of the discussion is scheduled in the next biennium.
56. After discussion, the meeting adopted the draft guidelines.

Agenda Item 9. Arrangement for venue of the 6th CEARAC FPM

57. The meeting decided to hold the 6th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting in March 2008 in Toyama. The exact dates will be notified later.

Agenda Item 10. Other matters

58. The meeting was invited to raise any other issues relevant to the NOWPAP/CEARAC activities.
59. Dr. MITNIK presented a proposal for further advancement of CEARAC-POI website. Mr. Jianguo WANG and Dr. LEE indicated collaboration between the proposed website and activities of MERRAC and DINRAC.

60. The Secretariat explained an outline of the 1st Coastal Environmental Assessment Workshop and required advice for it from the meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 5/Inf3).
61. The meeting noticed that the workshop would be held in conjunction with the 6th CEARAC FPM, and agreed to submit ideas and advices for the workshop to the Secretariat by the end of September 2007. Then the Secretariat will decide the detailed contents of the workshop.

Agenda Item 11. Adoption of the report of the meeting

62. A draft report of the meeting was prepared by the Secretariat with the help of the Rapporteur. It was adopted by the FPs of China, Japan, Korea and Russia.

Agenda Item 12. Closure of the meeting

63. The meeting was closed by the chairperson at 5:00PM on 19 September 2007.