

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

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 5th CEARAC Focal Points meeting in September 2007. As details of the CEARAC activities will be presented by CEARAC Director, only information about three other RACs and other NOWPAP activities are briefly described.

12th IGM decisions

2. At the 12th NOWPAP IGM (October 2007, Xiamen, China), the following decisions, relevant to RACs, were made.
 - To approve the NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium (decreased to USD 1,000,000 from USD 1,179,000 for 2006-2007), and to request the RAC directors to introduce changes and prioritize their respective activities in line with the approved budget and in consultation with their respective Focal Points Meetings on priority activities.
 - To take note of the RACs evaluation report and to request NOWPAP RCU and RAC directors to implement NOWPAP activities and projects more effectively, efficiently and in a cooperative manner, taking into account strict budgetary situation and recommendations of the RACs evaluation report.
 - To encourage the member states to make the utmost efforts to increase their annual contributions in 2009-2010.
 - To encourage NOWPAP RCU, RACs, the NOWPAP member states and the Executive Director of UNEP to make all possible efforts to secure funds from external sources to the Trust Fund, including civil society, private sector, local governments, international and regional organizations and financial institutions, as well as to utilize the resources available in the most efficient and effective manner.
 - To approve, in principle, the draft NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, and to implement the NOWPAP RAP MALI as scheduled in close collaboration with the NOWPAP RACs, UNEP and other international organizations and programmes involved.
 - To submit the project proposal addressing land-based activities affected the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region to the GEF Secretariat for the pipeline entry in 2008, in consultation with the UNEP DGEF and member states.
 - To approve the draft text of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Contingency Plan (RCP).

DINRAC - Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre

3. DINRAC has developed and maintained the following databases:
 - Database on NOWPAP Institutions:
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapInstitution.php3>

- Database on NOWPAP Experts:
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapExpert.php3>
 - Database on NOWPAP Coastal and Marine Environmental GIS and RS Applications:
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapGIS.php3>
 - Database on Marine Litter:
http://dinrac.nowpap.org/MALITA_Whatis.htm
 - Coastal and Marine Nature Reserves:
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapNatureReserve.php3>
4. Reference Databases on Atmospheric Deposition (AD) & River and Direct Inputs (RDI) were established through cooperation between POMRAC and DINRAC:
- Atmospheric Deposition (AD):
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceAD.php3>
 - River and Direct Inputs (RDI):
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceRDI.php3>
5. The Regional Internet Communication System between DINRAC and the NOWPAP members has been tested for operation. With this system operational, DINRAC is expected to play a role of information clearinghouse for NOWPAP (in close collaboration with other RACs).

MERRAC - Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre

6. MERRAC Specific Projects on the oil spill prediction model, minimum level of preparedness and response, and HNS National Reports have been carried out by experts nominated by the NOWPAP members.
7. MERRAC has been preparing the regional report on sea-based marine litter (based upon the national reports from the NOWPAP members). MERRAC published the following documents regarding marine litter:
- Guidelines for monitoring marine litter on the seabed in the North Pacific region;
 - Guidelines for providing and improving port reception facilities and services for ship-generated marine litter in the North Pacific region;
 - Sectoral guidelines for the marine litter management (Commercial Shipping; Passenger Ships; Recreation Activities; and Fisheries);
 - Brochure on sea-based marine litter.
8. MERRAC has maintained the following databases via the MERRAC website:
- List of oil spill response equipment, institutions and experts in the field of marine pollution preparedness and response;
 - List of oil spill accidents over 10 tons.
9. In response to the worst oil spill disaster in the Republic of Korea occurred on 7 December 2007, the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been activated following a request of the Korean government. MERRAC has requested assistance from other NOWPAP member states in providing sorbents, coastal cleanup equipment, aircrafts and

helicopters for spraying dispersants. Among the emergency supplies available in all NOWPAP member states, Korean government, taking into account logistical issues, accepted kind offers from China and Japan. More than 50 tons of sorbents were shipped from China and 10 tons arrived from Japan by air along with 7 experts. Staff members of MERRAC and NOWPAP RCU helped to coordinate assistance from NOWPAP member states.

POMRAC – Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

10. POMRAC organized its 5th Focal Points meeting in Vladivostok in October 2007.
11. The following POMRAC reports were published:
 - Regional Overview on Atmospheric Deposition of Contaminants to the Marine and Coastal Environment;
 - State of Marine Environment in the NOWPAP Region.
12. POMRAC has started new activities on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) with national experts designated by the member states:
 - Development of National Reports on ICARM;
 - Development of Reference Database on ICARM (in cooperation with DINRAC).

Building partnerships

13. NOWPAP RCU and RACs staff have continued actively developing partnerships with many relevant organizations, programmes and projects in the region. Close relations were established with the following partners (in alphabetical order):
 - East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU);
 - North East Asian Regional – Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS);
 - GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA);
 - North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES);
 - UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC);
 - UNDP/GEF Project on the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME).
14. In addition to the Letter of Cooperation (LOC) with the Project Management Office of YSLME project (signed in May 2007), LOC with PEMSEA was signed in October 2007.
15. Three of those partners above participated in International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaigns and workshops in Busan (Korea), September 2007.
16. NOWPAP RCU Busan office hosted the 2nd Yellow Sea Partnership Workshop in October 2007. The workshop was attended by representatives of the organizations and NGOs relevant to Yellow Sea.

Raising public awareness

17. According to NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy, the following actions were taken by

NOWPAP RCU and RACs:

- NOWPAP homepage and RAC homepages have been maintained and constantly updated. News and information have been posted on the NOWPAP homepage in five languages (English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian) since August 2006.
- Information about NOWPAP was posted at the partners' websites and introduced in their electronic newsletters (e.g., COBSEA, PEMSEA, UNEP ROAP, YSLME).
- Several brochures, leaflets, posters about NOWPAP activities were prepared and widely distributed. In addition to English, local languages were used when appropriate.
- While attending a few global and regional meetings (e.g., 9th Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans; Forum in conjunction with Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting) and local events, RACs and RCU staff contributed to increasing NOWPAP visibility and attracting public attention to marine environment conservation by introducing the NOWPAP activities.
- RACs and RCU staff also contributed articles to magazines, newspapers and newsletters.

Resource mobilization and financial support from members

18. According to the NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy, several external sources were approached by the NOWPAP RCU and relevant information has been introduced to the RAC directors and Marine Litter Focal Points.
19. In response to NOWPAP RCU request, UNEP Regional Seas Programme provided USD 20,000 to organize a workshop on NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in November 2007.
20. The member states and local organizations also supported financially the ICC campaigns and workshops in Busan (Korea) in September 2007 and in Vladivostok (Russia) in October 2007.
21. During the 12th IGM, a representative of Japan mentioned that Japanese government is willing to provide financial support to marine litter activities implemented by RACs if good proposals were developed. Currently, several proposals from POMRAC and DINRAC are being finalized.

Marine Litter Activity (MALITA)

22. NOWPAP MALITA was supported by all member states and has been implemented successfully. The following are main outcomes of MALITA:
 - Development of NOWPAP marine litter database based on the available data and information.
 - Organization of six NOWPAP marine litter workshops for sharing and exchange marine litter-related information, including policies and best management practices at the national, regional and global level, as well as for building common understanding of the marine litter issue in the region.
 - Development of Regional Overview on Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region, and an Overview on Legal Instruments, Institutional Arrangements and Programmes Related to Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region.

- Development of Monitoring guidelines for marine litter (found on beaches and shorelines as well as on the seabed).
 - Preparation of sectoral guidelines for fisheries and shipping (commercial shipping; recreational activities; and passenger ships), guidelines for improvement of port reception facilities and services and a booklet on recycling plastic marine litter.
 - Organization of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaigns in Sakata (Japan) in 2006 and in Rizhao (China), Busan (Korea) and Vladivostok (Russia) in 2007.
 - Development of several brochures, leaflets and posters in English and in national languages for the purpose of public awareness raising.
23. Draft of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) has been developed and approved in principle by 12th NOWPAP IGM. A special meeting was organized in November to discuss and finalize RAP MALI with participation of representatives from the member states and RACs. After the approval by the member states by correspondence, implementation of RAP MALI will be started.
