

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

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 6th CEARAC FPM in March 2008. As details on the CEARAC activities will be presented later on, this report will focus on the projects implemented by three other NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU).

DINRAC - Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre

2. According to its mandate, DINRAC has continuously developed and maintained the following databases (available at the DINRAC website):
 - 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 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) Applications: <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapGIS.php3>
 - Database on Marine Litter: http://dinrac.nowpap.org/MALITA_WhatIs.htm
 - Database on Coastal and Marine Nature Reserves: <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapNatureReserve.php3>
3. Reference Databases on Atmospheric Deposition (AD) & River and Direct Inputs (RDI) have been also established and maintained through cooperation with POMRAC:
 - Atmospheric Deposition (AD): <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceAD.php3>
 - River and Direct Inputs (RDI): <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceRDI.php3>
 - Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM): <http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceICARM.php>
4. DINRAC had its 8th Focal Points Meeting on 19-21 May 2009 in Beijing and the meeting suggested the new activities for the next biennium related to data and information on invasive alien species and on visualization of DINRAC website using the web-based Geographical Information System (GIS). After the meeting a working group was formed to implement the activity on invasive alien species with participation of national experts, RACs and RCU.

MERRAC - Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre

5. The 11th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) and the 3rd Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan were held in June 2008 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. The FPM approved MERRAC workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, based on the decision of the 12th NOWPAP IGM. The meeting also discussed a draft resolution on the NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Contingency Plan which was later on adopted at the 13th NOWPAP IGM.

6. MERRAC has been implementing the following Specific Projects:
 - Minimum Level of Preparedness (led by China and Russia);
 - HNS Response Operation Guidelines (led by China and Russia);
 - HNS Database (led by Korea);
 - HNS Training Manual (led by Japan);
 - Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response (led by MERRAC Secretariat);
 - Regional Report on Sea-based Marine Litter (led by MERRAC Secretariat).
7. MERRAC has also been implementing the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (with other RACs and RCU).
8. MERRAC has maintained the following databases, available at 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. NOWPAP BRAVO (communication) exercise was conducted in April 2008 (led by Russia), in January 2009 (led by Japan) and in April 2009 (led by Korea). The 2nd Joint NOWPAP Oil Spill Exercise was conducted in Qingdao, People's Republic of China, on 2 September 2008.
10. MERRAC organized its 12th Focal Points Meeting and 4th CNA meeting on 1-4 June 2009 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. An international workshop on response to marine pollution in the NOWPAP region was held on 5 June 2009 in Incheon.

POMRAC – Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

11. The 6th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting was held in June 2008 in Yantai, People's Republic of China, back-to-back with three working group (WG) meetings: WG 1 on atmospheric deposition of contaminants; WG 2 on river and direct inputs of contaminants; and WG on integrated coastal and river basin management (ICARM). The FPM approved POMRAC workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, based on the decision of the 12th NOWPAP IGM. The meeting agreed also to start developing the following documents:
 - Regional Overview on Atmospheric Deposition Models in the NOWPAP Region;
 - Regional Overview on River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants to the Marine and Coastal Environment in the NOWPAP Region (with Special Emphasis on the Land Based Sources of Pollution).
12. POMRAC has implemented the following activities within the new ICARM project, with national experts designated by the member states and a regional consultant:
 - Development of National Reports on ICARM;
 - Development of a Regional Overview on ICARM;
 - Development of Reference Database on ICARM (in cooperation with DINRAC).

13. POMRAC experts agreed to co-organize a workshop on ICARM during the 2009 East Asian Seas Congress (23-27 November 2009, Manila, Philippines) and co-convene a session with PICES (“Marine Spatial Planning in Support of Integrated Management - Tools, Methods, and Approaches”) in Jeju, Republic of Korea, on 30 October 2009.
14. POMRAC has also maintained its website, including reference databases developed in cooperation with DINRAC.
15. POMRAC will organize its 7th Focal Points Meeting on 11-12 September 2009 in Kanazawa, Japan.

Other NOWPAP activities

16. In addition to specific projects carried out by NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres, several activities were implemented and coordinated by the Regional Coordinating Unit as described in the following sections.

Building partnerships

17. 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).
18. NOWPAP partners were involved in co-organizing of numerous events, which improved sharing of information, coordination of related activities (e.g., on HAB, RS, ICARM and other issues) and raising public awareness (see below).
19. In addition, NOWPAP has shared its successful story of developing the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan with the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) in order to help them to get their oil spill contingency plan adopted.

Raising public awareness

20. 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 2006.
 - News about NOWPAP implementation were regularly posted at the partners’ websites and introduced in their electronic newsletters (e.g., COBSEA, PEMSEA, WESTPAC, YSLME).

- Information about NOWPAP activities was introduced to UNEP Headquarters (HQ), UNEP ROAP and GPA websites (and is currently available there).
- Information about NOWPAP publications has been sent through UNEP HQ to ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts) and is available online.
- 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., World Ocean Conference 2009) as well as 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 and delivered lectures/presentations at a local level.

Resource mobilization and financial support from members

21. According to the NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy, several external funding sources were approached by the NOWPAP RCU and relevant information has been introduced to the RAC Directors and Marine Litter Focal Points. Recently, the RCU has been in touch with APN (Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research) for possible funding for RACs activities which have been discussed with RACs
22. In response to NOWPAP RCU request, UNEP Regional Seas Programme (RSP) provided financial support (US\$ 15,000) for the performance review of NOWPAP RCU. UNEP RSP also kindly agreed to support (US\$30,000) NOWPAP brainstorming WS on biodiversity conservation to be held in Toyama, Japan, on 17 September 2009.
23. With the support of Chinese Government, NOWPAP Marine Litter Monitoring, Prevention and Control Meeting and International Coastal Cleanup was organized in Dalian, People's Republic of China, on 11-12 September 2008.
24. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan provided an earmarked contribution of US\$ 54,240 to support NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup and Training Workshop in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, on 26-28 September 2008.

NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

25. According to the NOWPAP RAP MALI, DINRAC has translated several sectoral guidelines (which were developed by MERRAC) into Chinese language; POMRAC has translated the guidelines into Russian; and MERRAC has translated the sectoral guidelines and brochure into Korean language.
26. Regional Overview on Marine Litter in the NOWPAP region has been updated and published in May 2008. Another publication, "Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region" which was composed of the regional ML overview and NOWPAP RAP MALI, was published in August 2008 with the financial support of UNEP Headquarters.
27. MERRAC published two reports in 2008: "Marine Litter Management - the Approach of Incheon City, Republic of Korea"; and "Regional Report on Sea-based Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region".

28. The following NOWPAP marine litter-related events were implemented in 2008 (where representatives from member states, international organizations and partners actively participated):
- NOWPAP Marine Litter Monitoring, Prevention and Control Meeting and International Coastal Cleanup in Dalian, People's Republic of China, on 11-12 September 2008;
 - NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup and Training Workshop in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, on 26-28 September 2008.

Administrative issues

29. According to the decision of the 12th NOWPAP IGM, rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between Toyama and Busan RCU offices has been done in December 2008.
30. Two new P3 staff members in RCU Toyama and Busan offices (Administrative Officer and Scientific Affairs Officer, respectively) were recruited. They have started their duties in May 2009. The contracts of Ms. Jeung Sook Park and Mr. Norio Baba expired at the end of March 2008 and they have returned to their national institutions.
31. According to IGM decisions, NOWPAP RCU performance review is being conducted and the final report will be presented to the 14th NOWPAP IGM on 8-10 December 2009 in Toyama, Japan.
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