

## Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

### Background leading to this meeting

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM (Toyama, Japan, 18-19 September 2007) reviewed the draft workplan including 5 proposals of new activities and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium and agreed on submission of them to the 12<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM (Xiamen, China, 23-25 October 2007) after some changes. The draft mid- and long-term strategies of CEARAC and goals of NOWPAP WG3 and WG4 were presented, and the meeting agreed on the documents in general. The draft guidelines on establishment and disbanding of Working Groups of CEARAC were also presented. After discussion, the meeting agreed on the draft guidelines.
2. The 12<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM adopted the presented workplan and revised budget for NOWPAP for the 2008-2009 biennium. In line with the decrease of the total budget of NOWPAP, new budgetary allocation of CEARAC activities during the 2008-2009 biennium was reduced to US\$140,000. Besides that, CEARAC was allocated US\$10,500 for implementing RAP MALI related activities.
3. The 6<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM (Toyama, Japan, 6-8 March 2008) adopted the revised workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, based on the approval of the 12<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM, with minor modifications. The 13<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM (Jeju, Korea, 20-21 October 2008) reviewed the progress of the CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium and adopted the report. Considering the severe condition of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, the possibility of tighter budget for the next biennium was suggested during the meeting.

### Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

4. The meeting was opened in Toyama, Japan, at 9:00AM on 14 September 2009 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Hidemasa YAMAMOTO. Then, welcoming remarks were made by NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Alexander TKALIN.

## **Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Meeting**

5. The meeting elected Dr. Yasuwo FUKUYO, FP of Japan as the chairperson and Dr. Chungkyu LEE, FP of Korea, as the rapporteur.
6. 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.
7. English was the working language of the meeting.

## **Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda**

8. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/1) was introduced by the Secretariat with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/2). Since Agenda Items 6 and 7 are closely related, the meeting decided to discuss these agenda items together.

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

9. Dr. TKALIN reported the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/3).
10. After Dr. TKALIN's explanation, Mr. Jianguo WANG inquired the situation of NOWPAP Trust Fund. Dr. TKALIN explained the current situation of NOWPAP Trust Fund and mentioned the potential cutback of the budget for each RAC for the 2010-2011 biennium.

## **Agenda Item 5. Report on implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium**

11. The Director of CEARAC reported implementation of CEARAC activities and expenditure for the 2008-2009 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/4).

12. Responding the question from Dr. Vladimir SHULKIN, the Secretariat corrected the time of termination of the activity of developing the educational materials for utilization of remote sensing data for coastal environment conservation. That is now in the final stage of completion and will be finished in September or October.
13. Mr. Xiaofeng KANG, FP of China kindly accepted to contact and coordinate with the Chinese expert to collect HAB information in the target sea area.
14. The meeting adopted the CEARAC report for the 2008-2009 biennium.

**Agenda Item 6. Discussion on the draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium and recommendation to the 14<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM**

15. The Director of CEARAC gave a brief introduction of a draft workplan and budget of CEARAC for the 2010-2011 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/5). In the explanation, he prioritized the following activities: implementing assessments of eutrophication status; updating the Integrated Reports on HAB and Ocean Remote Sensing; and organizing the 3rd training course on remote sensing data analysis.
16. The meeting requested the Secretariat to strengthen collaboration with other regional and international organizations and projects.
17. The meeting requested to revise the workplan and budget and make more detailed explanation for the organization of FPMs and the Expert Advisory Group Meeting, and Maintenance of Websites.
18. After having an extensive discussion on Agenda Item 7, the Secretariat submitted the revised budget plan with organizing two FPMs back-to-back with expert meetings.
19. The meeting agreed to submit the revised workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium, amounting to US\$ 140,000, to the 14th NOWPAP IGM.

## **Agenda Item 7. Discussion on specific projects for the 2010-2011 biennium**

20. The Secretariat explained workplans of each activity of CEARAC one by one.

### **7.1. Proposal for updating the Integrated Report on HAB for the NOWPAP Region based on the HAB Case Studies**

21. The Secretariat explained a workplan of updating the Integrated Report on HAB for the NOWPAP Region based on the HAB Case Studies (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/6).

22. The meeting suggested closer communication with the NOWPAP member states and other international organizations and asked to mention this matter in this document and other proposals.

23. Dr. SHULKIN mentioned the inappropriateness of the subtitles of Chapter 4 in the revised HAB Integrated Reports.

24. The meeting adopted the workplan in principle with a request to the Secretariat to provide the revised document based on the discussion.

### **7.2. Proposal for updating the Integrated Report on Ocean Remote Sensing for the NOWPAP Region**

25. The Secretariat explained a workplan of updating the Integrated Report on Ocean Remote Sensing for the NOWPAP Region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/7).

26. Dr. Joji ISHIZAKA pointed out the ambiguity of the report title and suggested to add a subtitle to clarify the target of CEARAC's activity.

27. The Secretariat proposed to revise the report title, 'the Integrated Report on Ocean Remote Sensing for the NOWPAP Region (2011): towards Assessment of Marine and Coastal Environment', and the meeting temporarily agreed on it.

28. The meeting adopted the workplan in principle with a request to the Secretariat to provide revised document based on the discussion.

### **7.3. Proposal for organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP training course on remote sensing data analysis**

29. The Secretariat explained a workplan of organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP training courses on remote sensing data analysis (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/8).
30. The meeting suggested setting the numbers of participants outside of the NOWPAP member states depending on funding sources external to NOWPAP Trust Fund. The Secretariat answered to seek for external funding resources for organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> training course.
31. The Secretariat mentioned that the next training course will likely take place in Qingdao, China, where cooperation from the First Institute of Oceanography of State Oceanic Administration is prospected. Dr. Changqing WU expressed his pleasure to offer cooperation in organizing the next training course in China.
32. Mr. WANG suggested organizing a back-to-back event during the training course period in order for local communities to learn remote sensing techniques of monitoring the marine environment. The Secretariat agreed to consider such opportunities.
33. The meeting adopted the workplan in principle with a request to the Secretariat to provide the revised document based on the discussion.

### **7.4. Proposal for implementation of the assessment of eutrophication status by the NOWPAP member states**

34. The Secretariat explained a workplan of implementation of the assessment of eutrophication status by the NOWPAP member states (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/9).
35. Dr. LEE informed that the potential area for assessment in Korea will be at Jinhae Bay.
36. A small meeting consisting of one representative from each member state was held to clarify the objectives and tasks of this activity.

37. The small meeting confirmed the background of this activity and asked the Secretariat to revise the document based on the discussion.
38. The FPM meeting adopted the revised workplan in principle with a request to the Secretariat to provide more revised document based on the discussion.

#### **7.5. Consideration of a new marine assessment method focusing on marine biodiversity**

39. The Secretariat explained a new activity of Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), the host organization of CEARAC, on developing a new marine assessment method focusing on marine biodiversity (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 7/10).
40. The meeting requested to clarify whether this will be included in CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium or not. The Secretariat answered this activity will be included in CEARAC's ones.
41. The meeting requested the Secretariat to collaborate on this activity with the other RACs, e.g. on the marine invasive species project to be implemented by DINRAC.
42. Dr. ISHIZAKA suggested that remote sensing is a suitable tool to monitor change of coastal environment, which is one of the most important factors for marine biodiversity.
43. The meeting adopted the workplan in principle with a request to the Secretariat to provide the revised document based on the discussion.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Arrangement for venue of the 8<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP CEARAC FPM**

44. The Secretariat proposed to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> CEARAC Focal Points Meeting in summer 2010 in Toyama, Japan.

#### **Agenda Item 9. Other matters**

45. There was no other issue raised relevant to CEARAC activities by the meeting.

**Agenda Item 10. Adoption of the report of the meeting**

46. A draft report of the meeting was prepared by the Secretariat with the help of the Rapporteur. It was adopted unanimously.

**Agenda Item 11. Closure of the meeting**

47. The meeting was closed by the chairperson at 12:30AM on 15 September 2009.