

Implementation of NOWPAP activities since the 11th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting

Report of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 11th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in Tianjin, People's Republic of China on 9-10 October 2013.
2. Details of the NOWPAP POMRAC activities will be presented by the POMRAC Director under separate agenda item, therefore only information on three other RACs is given below.

CEARAC – Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre

3. The 18th NOWPAP IGM approved CEARAC workplan and budget for the 2014-2015, including the following main activities:
 - Pilot assessment of the impacts of major threats to marine biodiversity in selected areas of the NOWPAP region.
 - Trial application of the screening procedure of the NOWPAP common procedure for eutrophication assessment.
 - Case studies of seagrass and seaweed mapping in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region using remote sensing.
4. CEARAC has completed the following activities:
 - In October 2013, the 4th NOWPAP/PICES Training Course on RS data analysis was organized in Qingdao, China. 24 trainees funded by NOWPAP, PICES and the Chinese National Environmental Monitoring Centre as well as 19 self-funded trainees participated in the training course.
 - The regional report *Monitoring and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the NOWPAP Region* was published and is available in hard copies and on CEARAC website.
 - A report on refinement of common procedure for eutrophication assessment and its further applications in selected areas of the NOWPAP region was published.
 - The *Regional Report on Measures and Best Practices for Prevention of Marine Litter Input from Land-based Sources in the NOWPAP Region* was published. Brochures based on the report for general public were prepared and translated into four NOWPAP languages in addition to English (for wide dissemination and use of best practices).
5. The 12th CEARAC FPM was held on 2-3 July 2014 in Toyama, Japan, and agreed to carry out the following major activities in 2014-2015 biennium:
 - Trial application of the screening procedure of NOWPAP common procedure for eutrophication assessment.
 - Pilot assessment of the impacts of major threats to marine biodiversity in selected areas of the NOWPAP region.
 - Case studies of seagrass mapping in selected sea areas of the NOWPAP region using remote sensing.

6. CEARAC is continuing to carry out the following activities:
 - Implementing the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (with other RACs and RCU), including case studies on basin-wide collaborative actions for prevention of marine litter input from land-based sources in Japan as well as collecting marine litter monitoring data on beaches and submitting them to DINRAC for updating the online marine litter database.
 - Updating the CEARAC web pages on HAB and remote sensing

DINRAC - Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre

7. The 18th NOWPAP IGM approved DINRAC workplan and budget for the 2014-2015, including the following main activities:
 - Annual summary of major marine environmental data available in the NOWPAP region.
 - Annual updating of existing databases in order to share the latest data in the NOWPAP region.
 - Maintaining and updating marine litter data and information.
 - Developing visualized DINRAC website and enriching the thematic maps in the web GIS system.
 - Collection of information on the threatened species in the NOWPAP region.
8. DINRAC has completed the following main activities:
 - Annual summary of the major marine environmental data available for the NOWPAP region.
 - Summary of the policies and measures on the prevention of coastal and marine pollution in member states.
 - Update, maintenance and enrichment of DINRAC website on a regular basis.
9. DINRAC has continuously developed and maintained the following databases (available at the DINRAC website):
 - Database on major environmental data (newly developed, with 2012-2013 data).
 - Database on NOWPAP Coastal and Marine Environmental Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) Applications.
 - Database on Marine Litter (updated with 2013 data).
 - Database on Coastal and Marine Nature Reserves.
 - Database on NOWPAP Publications.
 - Databases on NOWPAP Institutions and Experts
10. The 12th DINRAC FPM was held on 16-17 June 2014 in Beijing, China, and agreed to carry out the following major activities in 2014-2015 biennium:
 - Continue updating existing DINRAC databases and visualizing DINRAC website.
 - Collect information on endangered/threatened marine species in the NOWPAP region.
 - Continue the preparation of annual summaries of major marine environmental data.

MERRAC – Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre

11. The 18th NOWPAP IGM approved MERRAC workplan and budget for the 2014-2015, including the following main activities:
 - Real-time database on response equipment and experts.
 - Risk assessment of oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substance (HNS) spills in the NOWPAP region.
 - Web-GIS based NOWPAP oil spill response exercise program.
 - Expert Meeting to be hosted by Russia on technical issues related to marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP region (e.g. HNS issues).
 - NOWPAP Exercises (NOWPAP BRAVO, NOWPAP DELTA) to enhance regional capacity on marine pollution preparedness and response.
 - Other specific projects on oil and HNS issues.
 12. MERRAC completed the following activities:
 - Development of practical assistance procedure and system under the regional oil and HNS contingency plan.
 - Development of manual on conduction of oil spill response operational exercise.
 - Development of pamphlet on HNS spill response and HNS database in the NOWPAP region.
 13. The 17th MERRAC FPM and the 9th Competent National Authorities (CNA) Meeting were held on 11-13 June 2014 in Daejeon, Korea, and agreed to carry out the following major activities in 2014-2015 biennium:
 - Assessing risk of oil spill incidents.
 - Developing online pollution reporting system.
 - Understanding floating marine litter distribution and impacts in the NOWPAP region.
 - Organization of an expert meeting in Russia on technical issues related to marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP region.
 - Organization of an oil spill field exercise (NOWPAP DELTA) in Russia to enhance regional capacity of marine pollution preparedness and response.
 14. MERRAC has also maintained and updated 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 and HNS spill accidents over 10 tons (past year information was added).
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15. In addition to specific projects carried out by NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs), several activities were implemented and coordinated by the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) as described below.

Building partnerships

16. NOWPAP RCU and RACs staff members continued actively developing and maintaining partnerships with many relevant organizations, programmes and projects in the region. Close relations were established and maintained with the following partners (in alphabetical order):
 - Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.
 - North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Corporation (NEASPEC).
 - North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES).
 - Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA).
 - UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC).
17. The 18th NOWPAP IGM (December 2013) approved the Agreement of cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) granting NOWPAP observer status at the IMO meetings.
18. After the NOWPAP/NEASPEC Joint Workshop on Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Marine Protected Areas in the Northwest Pacific held in March 2013 in Toyama, Japan, NOWPAP has followed up with NEASPEC and will serve as a member of the advisory committee for the North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN). NOWPAP RCU representative participated in the 19th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC in November 2013 providing views and suggestions on the NEASPEC strategic plan and also technical inputs on their current activities including MPAs networking. NEASPEC representative attended the 12th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting in July 2014 and expressed willingness to work with NOWPAP on subjects of mutual concern.
19. Since joining the Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM), NOWPAP has enhanced its relationship with IETC by sharing regularly NOWPAP information on marine litter activities and contributing articles to the GPWM newsletter. With the support of the GPA, a regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) is under development, being co-hosted by the Northwest Pacific Environmental Cooperation Centre (NPEC) and NOWPAP RCU.
20. For facilitating the cooperation between PICES and NOWPAP, a joint study group has been set up in 2014 with representatives of RACs and RCU serving as members from NOWPAP side. A marine litter session will be organized during the PICES 2014 annual meeting in Yeosu, Korea in October 2014 with NOWPAP as one of the co-conveners, and proposals for joint sessions and workshops for PICES 2015 annual meeting are being discussed between the RCU, NOWPAP RACs and PICES secretariat.

Raising public awareness

21. 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.
 - An electronic Newsletter (NOWPAP Quarterly) has been distributed by NOWPAP RCU through e-mail to member states and partners (since 2008).

- Recent news and information about NOWPAP activities were highlighted and shared on Facebook since 2011.
 - News about NOWPAP implementation were regularly posted at the partners' websites and introduced in their electronic newsletter (e.g., IETC and PEMSEA).
 - Information about NOWPAP activities was introduced to UNEP Headquarters (HQ), UNEP ROAP and GPA websites and contributed to the UNEP DEPI Dispatch.
 - Several brochures, leaflets, posters about NOWPAP activities were prepared and widely distributed. In addition to English, national languages were used where appropriate.
 - RACs and RCU staff also contributed articles to newsletters and delivered lectures/presentations at a local level.
22. While attending a few global and regional meetings (e.g., annual Global Meeting of Regional Seas, PICES Annual Meeting, EAS Partnership Council Meeting, IOC WESTPAC scientific symposium, etc.) as well as local events, RACs and RCU staff members contributed to increasing NOWPAP visibility and attracting public attention to marine environment conservation by introducing the NOWPAP activities.
23. NOWPAP RCU also continued to maintain close relationships with civil society including Japan Environment Action Network (JEAN), Okinawa Ocean Culture and Environment Action Network (O.C.E.A.N.), Our Sea of East Asia Network (OSEAN), Ocean Conservancy (OC) and Shanghai Rendu. In this regard, substantial efforts were made by the RCU helping O.C.E.A.N. in organizing the 2013 NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) in Okinawa and in completing the projects which O.C.E.A.N. was granted (by two donor agencies). These and others partners were encouraged to join the GPML and its Northwest Pacific regional node.

Resource mobilization

24. According to the NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy, several external funding sources were approached by the NOWPAP RCU and relevant information has been shared with the RACs and Marine Litter Focal Points (ML FPs). Recent efforts of the RCU and RACs in resource mobilization are shown in Table 1 below.
25. The RCU also explored opportunities to apply to the following donors in 2014: Nippon Foundation, Toyota Environment Activity Fund, Sumitomo Foundation, Fuji Film Green Foundation.

Table 1. Resource mobilization by the NOWPAP RCU and RACs in 2013-2014

Amount (US\$)	Funding source	Recipient and purpose of funding
33,600 32,000	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE)	NPO Okinawa O.C.E.A.N.: NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) and Workshop on Marine Litter Management in Japan (2013)
50,000	MOFA of Japan	RCU: NOWPAP ICC and Workshop on Marine Litter Management in Japan (2013)
10,000 5,000 5,000	UNEP GPA Office (through NOWPAP RCU)	CRAES: National report on China's environmental NGOs role in marine litter control (2013) CEARAC: Promotion of best practices and measures for prevention of marine litter input from land-based sources (2013) MERRAC: Promotion of best practices for minimizing marine litter in fishery, aquaculture and shipping (2013)
18,000	UNEP GPA Office (through NOWPAP RCU)	NPEC: Creation of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (2014)
Project proposals prepared		
TBD	Toyota Foundation	RCU and Pukyong National University: Understanding climate change impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems in the NOWPAP region (proposal was not finalized and submitted as two responsible staff members left the RCU in July-August 2014)
TBD	Mitsui & Co. Ltd. Environment Fund	CEARAC and Nagoya University: Assessment of hypoxic zones and their negative impacts on marine ecosystems in the northwest Pacific (proposal was not finalized and submitted as the proponent declined)
TBD	APN	RCU and Busan National University: How applying "Blue Carbon" concept could help mitigating climate change in the northwest Pacific (proposal was not finalized and submitted as two responsible staff members left the RCU in July-August 2014)

NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

26. NOWPAP member states have continued their efforts in organizing and supporting activities against marine litter such as ICC campaigns (all members), the Green New Deal Fund (Japan) and the Comprehensive Marine Litter Management Plan (Korea).
27. Sponsored by NOWPAP, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), and Japanese Government, the 2013 NOWPAP ICC campaign and workshop were successfully organized in October 2013 in Okinawa, Japan. The outcomes of these events were reported to the 18th NOWPAP IGM in December 2013.
28. CEARAC and MERRAC prepared two reports, respectively: *Regional Report on Measures and Best Practices for Prevention of Marine Litter Input from Land-based Sources in the NOWPAP Region* and *Best Practices of Marine Litter Management in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Shipping Sectors in the NOWPAP Region*. Based on these

two reports, brochures for general public were prepared and translated into four NOWPAP languages in addition to English (for wide dissemination and use of best practices). The *National Report on China's Environmental NGOs Role in Marine Litter Control* was prepared by ML FP of China and published. The report *Negative Impacts of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region* was published by MERRAC.

29. With the support of GPA, the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter has been created. A website dedicated to the regional node has been developed by CEARAC/NPEC (http://www.npec.or.jp/NWPacific_node/).
30. DINRAC has continuously updated its ML database with monitoring results provided by the NPEC (Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan) and MOF (Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea) as well as ICC results from China and Russia. All national ML monitoring data and related information as well as the data from the SOA (State Oceanic Administration) of China, are available at the DINRAC website (<http://dinrac.nowpap.org>).
31. News and information related to marine litter have been posted on the NOWPAP homepage and continually updated by NOWPAP RCU, shared by e-mail with NOWPAP RACs and ML FPs.
32. Several brochures, leaflets, posters about NOWPAP activities against marine litter were prepared and widely distributed while attending a few regional meetings in order to share experiences of NOWPAP member states, and learn about recent developments elsewhere.
33. The 2014 NOWPAP ICC will be held in September 2014 in Boryeong, Korea and the details of implementing the RAP MALI work plan for 2014-2015 will be discussed at a RAP MALI working meeting at the same venue.
34. RAP MALI work plan for 2014-2015 has been approved by the 18th IGM and budget allocation is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2. NOWPAP Trust Fund allocation for 2014-15 RAP MALI activities

	Budget, US\$
2014 NOWPAP ICC campaign and ML WS in Korea	20,000
2015 NOWPAP ICC campaign and ML WS in China	20,000
CEARAC (Case studies of basin-wide collaborative actions for prevention of marine litter input from land-based sources in Japan)	6,000
DINRAC (Establishment of a platform facilitating communication between the environmental NGOs and government authorities in China in relation to marine litter management)	6,000
MERRAC (Understanding of floating marine litter distribution and impacts in the NOWPAP region)	6,000
POMRAC (Case study on application of a “no special fee system” in Russian ports)	6,000
RCU (travel support and development of public awareness materials)	6,000
Total:	70,000

Other developments

35. The 18th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) was convened on 4-6 December 2013 in Toyama, Japan. Delegates from NOWPAP member states (China, Japan, Korea and Russia) attended the meeting. Directors of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres, representatives from UNEP Headquarters and NOWPAP partners (PICES and YSLME) also participated in the meeting. The meeting reviewed the progress of NOWPAP implementation for the last two years and discussed the workplan and budget for the 2014-2015 biennium. Member states agreed on the scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for the next two years reflecting increased Korea contribution starting from 2014. The meeting approved the Agreement of cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) granting NOWPAP observer status at the IMO meetings. Activities against marine litter and a suggestion to organize a symposium next year to mark the 20th anniversary of NOWPAP were agreed upon. The meeting report and resolutions were adopted (including approving the programme of work for the 2014-2015 NOWPAP biennium) by member states through correspondence after the meeting.
36. In conjunction with the 18th NOWPAP IGM, Toyama Prefecture and the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC) organized a symposium on international cooperation for the environmental protection and the representatives of UNEP and NOWPAP delivered key speeches on global initiatives on oceans under the framework of UNEP Regional Seas Programme and on NOWPAP activities.
37. In order to continue the discussion initiated at the 18th IGM and at the request of the chairperson of the 18th IGM, the first Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) was convened on 9-10 April 2014 in Seoul, Republic of Korea to address financial sustainability of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) offices in Toyama and Busan. Representatives of member states (China, Korea, Japan and Russia) as well as UNEP Headquarters attended the two-day special meeting. The extraordinary IGM focused on the issue of RCU restructuring aiming to keep the staffing costs within the current contributions of two RCU host countries (Japan and Korea). After intensive discussions, the meeting decided to reduce the total number of RCU UNEP staff members from six to four. The functions of the new posts for the two RCU offices will be discussed at the next ordinary IGM which is scheduled for late 2014 in Russia.
