

Abstract

SESSION 1:

A Decade of Partnerships in Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Synergies and Achievements

WORKSHOP 1.1:

Managing Risks in Climate Change and Disasters in the Seas of East Asia

Strategies in Responding to Disappearing Coastlines

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Rationale. The increased frequency and severity of coastal erosion in the East Asia Seas region led the UNEP to identify coastal erosion as “an issue of emerging concern” for the region. From 2012-2014, two related projects involving several strategies were implemented in seven countries to address this issue; six countries were covered in the first project and another joined the group under a second project.

Key Messages. The major strategies addressing coastal erosion involved the preparation of a National Assessment Report (NAR) for each country; a process of national consultation to assess the NAR and agree on the recommendations; the implementation of pilot interventions in two countries; and the production and distribution of a regional assessment report. Future proposed strategies include training workshops, use of key demonstration sites and a coastal erosion document that can be updated regularly.

Key Conclusions. The NARs serve as a fundamental reference in coastal erosion and coastal development and management as well as in developing new or updating existing national plans, policies and programmes on integrated coastal management at the national and sub-national levels. The national dialogue and consultation process enhances national coordination and cooperation between and among concerned national authorities and stakeholders. The identified capacity building activities and pilot interventions in the assessment reports can be used in the development and implementation of future regional programmes on coastal erosion management.



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Global Targets Local Benefits

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for
the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

About Poh Poh Wong:

Poh Poh Wong has a Ph.D. from McGill and is currently a Visiting Associate Professor at the School of Social Sciences and Centre for Coastal Research, University of Adelaide, South Australia. Trained as a coastal geomorphologist he has wide experience on the coasts of Southeast, South and East Asia and Indian Ocean islands. He was a Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) in the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and the MA (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment) which shared the Nobel Peace Prize with El Gore in 2007, and won the Zayed Environment Prize in 2005, respectively. He is also a CLA in the current Asia-Pacific Regional GEO-6 Assessment. In 2008 the National University of Singapore presented him with a Special Commendation Award. In 2014 his Future Mangroves proposal was awarded a winner for the Climate Change Adaptation category in the MIT Climate CoLab contest. From 2012-2014 he was Advisor/Consultant for two COBSEA projects to address coastal erosion in the East Asian Seas region. He has more than 130 publications and his research areas include coastal geomorphology, coastal management and tourism, climate change and sea-level rise, tsunami-impacted coasts, disaster risk reduction and mangroves. He is currently evaluating ecosystem-based management (EBM) to mitigate coastal erosion and sea-level rise. He is a Life Member of the Geological Society of Malaysia and the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems.