

Abstract

SESSION 1:

Accelerating Actions for
Sustainable Development and
Climate Change

WORKSHOP 1.3:

Coastal and Ocean
Governance in the Seas of East
Asia: from Nation to Region

Integrated Coastal and Ocean Governance of Korea – Evolution & Innovation

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The area of Korea's territorial sea is 87,000 km², taking up 87% of the total area of the country, and length of the coastline is 14,700km. Korea's coast consists of beautiful and diverse natural landscapes such as estuaries, islands, tidal flats, sea cliffs, lagoons and beaches. Moreover, our coasts provide not only important habitats for marine life, but also the basis of livelihood for the people. Korea's marine economy has developed through the continuous use and development of the coast and ocean. However, since the 1980s-1990s, our coasts had been transformed into new lands for industrial, residential and agricultural uses in the wake of rapid industrialization and urbanization. Consequently, coastal wetlands were degraded and coastal water became polluted, gradually reducing the productivity of fishery resources.

As Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 had recommended 'integrated coastal management' in 1992 as a strategy to achieve the protection and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, the Coastal Management Act that focused on 'integration' and 'cooperation' was enacted 1999. Since it set the basic direction national policies, numerous and valuable fruits has produced, including the establishment of the national integrated coastal management plan, restriction on medium and large reclamation projects, the establishment of coastal management information systems, and raised public awareness.

However, several problems and concerns were exposed in the process of implementing the coastal management governance, such as insufficient management of natural resources, lack of mechanisms to reduce coastal conflict, and a deficiency in coastal ecosystem services evaluation. In response, coastal management act was amended in 2010 and 2014 in order to strengthen the management tools and policies – coastal water zoning system, target-based natural coast management and coastal erosion management system etc. - to better our current and future coastal societies. Since then, Korean government has prepared the change of the 2nd integrated coastal management plan to make it possible to communicate with the common people and to promote consensus building through deliberation. And we are working on recreate coastal and ocean governance to achieve sustainable development by rational and harmonized coastal system in order to realize ecosystem-based management, cooperation and power sharing.



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Global Targets
Local Benefits

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

About Jiyeon Choi:

Jiyeon CHOI is an associate research fellow of the Marine Policy Research Department of Korea Maritime Institute (KMI). This institute is a government-affiliated research entity under the Prime Minister's Office. Her researches cover coastal and marine spatial planning, ocean zoning, coastline and landscape management, coastal survey and evaluation system, coastal information management, and others. She has joined several international cooperation projects regarding integrated coastal management in East Asian Seas and Caribbean Sea. She has actively been involved in the process of the development of coastal management policies of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and supported local governments in developing and implementing coastal management plans and policies.