

Abstract

SESSION 1:

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

WORKSHOP 1.3:

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

Development of Ocean Governance at the National and Local Level under the Framework of UNCLOS, the Future We Want, and SDGs



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The comprehensive United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which came into effect in 1994, regulates almost all areas of ocean law. UNCLOS parceled up vast and originally integrated ocean spaces of up to 200nm from the shore and entrusted the management of these spaces to individual coastal states. While the preamble to UNCLOS states that “the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,” it does not necessarily provide a concrete framework for how states are to coordinate and cooperate in managing the oceans, for promoting peaceful use, conserving natural resources, and protecting the environment.

The UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in 1992, adopted the principle of “Sustainable Development” and the Agenda 21 Plan of Action. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 requires that “Coastal States commit themselves to integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and the marine environment under their national jurisdiction” and sets out the first action plan.

As we consider the implementation of UNCLOS and various action plans concerning Sustainable Development, including Agenda 21, the WSSD Plan of Implementation (2002) and The Future We Want (2012), I believe that the national initiatives of States, as constituent members of international society, hold the key to successful implementation.

The management of coastal areas, consisting of both land and sea, comprehensively, in which development, use, and protection of the environment are managed in an integrated fashion, instead of the long-familiar functional approach to managing fishing, transportation, land reclamation, etc., separately, has not been easy in many countries. Also, initiatives for comprehensive management of land and sea areas, which include systematic management of the vast ocean spaces extending up to 200 nautical miles from shore that make up the EEZ and continental shelf, have been new experiences for many countries and initially resulted in some confusion. It was in support of these initiatives that the various international action plans for SD were adopted, the regional, national, and other levels of initiatives were promoted, and ocean and coastal zone measures to be implemented were clarified.

Then, in September of this year, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a new plan of action, Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the Agenda, a concrete goal devoted to the ocean, titled “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” was adopted and action targets stipulated.

As these global initiatives move forward, I have great hopes that the countries in East Asia, under the PEMSEA framework and including the revised SDS-SEA, can share the achievements of their initiatives as well as the lessons learned, and through cooperation and coordination will implement comprehensive management of the ocean and coastal areas and sustainable development.



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Global Targets

Local Benefits

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

About Hiroshi Terashima:

Mr. Hiroshi Terashima joined the Japanese Ministry of Transport in 1965, retiring as Assistant Vice Minister in 1994.

He was the Technical Session Chair of the EAS Partnership Council until July 2013 and served as Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation from 1994 to 2002, followed by the Executive Director of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation.

He has long been engaged in development various proposals related to ocean policy, one result of which was the enactment of Japan's Basic Act on Ocean Policy.

He is currently the President of the Ocean Policy Research Institute, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation from 2015.