

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

Regional Seas Governance Mechanisms: NOWPAP example

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The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) was established in 1994 as an integral part of UNEP Regional Seas Programme. NOWPAP member states are China, Japan, Korea and Russia. The decision-making body of NOWPAP is an Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held every year, rotating among four countries. Most of NOWPAP projects are implemented by four Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and coordinated by the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) with two offices in Toyama (Japan) and Busan (Korea).

The overall goal of NOWPAP is the sustainable development of the region. Five objectives, specifying focal areas of NOWPAP activities, were agreed upon by member states in 1994. Later on, in 2005, member state agreed to new activities to be initiated by RACs. And in 2012, member states adopted NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 which is now being implemented by RACs and RCU.

Among the achievements and lessons learned during the 20-year history of NOWPAP, the following could be mentioned:

- Established intergovernmental mechanism allowing member states to address marine environmental issues of regional concern.
- Established sustainable institutional infrastructure to implement activities in the region: IGM + Trust Fund + RACs + RCU.
- Established close partnership relations with several projects and organizations in the region: PEMSEA, PICES, IOC WESTPAC and others.
- Enhanced UN presence in the region, serving as a regional platform for implementing global projects and initiatives.
- Raised awareness of national and local authorities as well as general public of marine environmental issues of a regional concern: marine litter, harmful algal blooms, oil spills, input of pollutants with rivers, biodiversity conservation, etc.
- Enhanced capacity of experts from member states in dealing with marine environmental problems.
- Developed regional agreements (adopted by member states) and guidelines to address marine litter, spills of oil and hazardous chemicals, eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, etc.



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Global Targets Local Benefits

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

About Alexander Tkalin:

Alexander Tkalin received his Ph.D in Geography (Environmental Conservation) from the State Oceanographic Institute in Moscow, Russia. He began his work in the NOWPAP region in 1987 as a project manager, leading scientist or principal investigator where he designed and implemented a few international projects with specialists from China, DPRK, USA and Japan on marine environment pollution of the NW Pacific marginal seas. From 1989 to 1999, Mr. Tkalin led several joint international multidisciplinary expeditions in the NW Pacific and its marginal seas with researchers from Japan, Republic of Korea, Vietnam and USA. From 1991 to 2003, he was involved in the preparation and implementation of the NW Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP as a national expert and as IOC UNESCO consultant. He published more than 30 articles (in English) on marine environment pollution problems in the NW Pacific, its marginal seas and coastal areas from 1991 to 2006. From 1994 to 2000, Mr. Tkalin was a member of the Coordinating Committee of NEAR-GOOS (North East Asia Regional - Global Ocean Observing System, consisting of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russia). From 1995 to 2000, he served as a project manager, principal investigator or chief scientist for several international marine environmental projects for the US Information Agency (USIA), EARTHWATCH, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, US Office of Naval Research (ONR) and International Science and Technology Center (ISTC). From 1995 to 2004, he then served as a member of Marine Environment Quality (MEQ) Committee of PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization), where from 1998 to 2000 he was the MEQ Chairman. The PICES member countries include Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia and USA. In 2000-2002, he worked as a programme officer for UNDP/GEF project (Tumen River Strategic Action Programme) in Beijing, China. Russia, Republic of Korea, Mongolia and China also participated in the project. In 2004, he was recruited by UNEP as a NOWPAP Coordinator where he was stationed in Toyama (Japan) from 2004 to 2008, in Busan (Korea) from 2008 to 2013, and in Toyama again from 2013 to now.