



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015

Global Targets

Local Benefits

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

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East Asia Seas Congress 2015 International Conference Special Event

Roundtable Conclusions and Recommendations: Investing in a Blue Economy for Conservation and Impact

Prepared by Mr. Ryan Whisnant, PEMSEA, based on presentations, panel discussions and interactions among participants during the Roundtable.

Roundtable Relevance to Congress Theme

1. The post-2015 global sustainable development agenda must include scaled up investment in protecting, enhancing and sustaining coasts and oceans, benefiting local ecosystems and communities.
2. Investment in coastal and marine sustainable development represents an opportunity for the public and private sectors to protect and enhance critical ecosystem services in East Asia while contributing to economic growth and development.
3. There's no shortage of investment capital available, but project developers' expectations must be aligned with investor requirements and more work is needed to prepare projects for investment.

Roundtable Focus

4. The workshop provided an overview of the ICM investment landscape in East Asia and examples of investment models and potential investments.
5. The Roundtable provided a forum for project developers and investment experts to connect and discuss the issues, barriers and possibilities around scaling up investment in sustainable development of coasts and oceans.
6. A regional knowledge management platform is being developed to help projects become more investment-ready and facilitate discovery of investment opportunities by investors.

7. Participants reviewed a beta version of the investment features in the knowledge management platform and provided input.

Roundtable Conclusions

8. Scaling up investment in ICM-related sectors will be critical for achieving sustainable development goals for oceans and coasts in the region.
9. Investors recognize the potential in coastal and marine sustainable investments, but it is a nascent investment class with risk that requires further development of viable models.
10. Government plays a key role in providing proper governance and establishing an enabling environment for investment in the region.
11. There is no shortage of investment capital, but expectations must be aligned with investor requirements and more work is needed to prepare projects for investment. Help from experts and funding is needed to move projects from concept to feasibility.
12. The Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank can be a useful tool as an initial step for project developers and local governments to build an understanding of how to develop investments.
13. Deeper research is needed to understand ICM investments in the region and identify barriers and opportunities for addressing them.
14. A good pipeline of quality investment projects would be an asset for a certain class of investors looking for opportunities in the region.
15. Investment is complex, and an online platform can only do so much. Meetings, forums and other in-person services must be built around the platform to facilitate real investment.

Roundtable Recommendations

16. Explore opportunities for supporting local governments in establishing an enabling environment for investment (e.g., through PNLG and GEF/UNP project).
17. Further test the platform with investors and project developers, for example, by engaging with other World Bank-funded project to pilot beta version of the platform.
18. Engage PEMSEA's networks (particularly the PNLG), in identifying good quality potential investment projects, including in PNLG action plans.
19. Refine, validate and build the list of possible investments identified by countries under the GEF/UNDP project.
20. Develop in-person meetings, forums and other services for project developers and investors to complement the online platform.

21. Develop a portfolio of service providers and funding options for moving projects from concept to feasibility, based in real business rigor as a foundation for long-term sustainability.
22. As part of platform design, consider ways that the platform can facilitate investment in small and medium enterprises in particular.