



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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International Conference Session 1:

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

Workshop 2 Conclusions and Recommendations: Maritime Sector Contributions to a Blue Economy for the Seas of East

Prepared by the Chair, Mr Brian Sullivan, Co-Chair, Ms Franca Sprong and facilitators based on workshop presentations and moderated discussions and interactions between panelists and participants.

Workshop Focus and Relevance

1. This workshop emphasized the major contributions of the maritime transport sector to a blue economy in the East Asian Seas region considering that 80% of world trade is conveyed through the ocean and 32% of the world's hydrocarbons are derived from the ocean floor. However, while there is great potential for growth in the maritime economy, it also brings significant risks and potential negative impacts to the marine environment resulting from increased demand for services. Oil spills, air emissions from ships, transport of hazardous and noxious substances and climate change were among the environmental issues discussed during the workshop.
2. In addition, the workshop featured programmes and initiatives of international and regional organizations, selected national maritime administrations including industry organizations which demonstrated commitments to promoting environmental sustainability in the maritime sector including preventing and reducing the impact of oil spills from tanker accidents, climate change mitigation, promoting safety and health of workers and reducing environmental risks in port areas such as air emissions from shipping and port operations and building capacities in oil spill preparedness and response through government-industry partnerships.

Workshop Conclusions

3. **Growth potential of the maritime sector.** Shipping, port and oil and gas industries are major contributors to economic and social developments in the EAS region. Recent trends in these sub-sectors indicated increased opportunities and investments that would promote a blue economy in the EAS region.
4. **Ratification and implementation of IMO Conventions.** Ratification and implementation of IMO conventions and other international and regional instruments on marine environment protection help promote environmental sustainability in the maritime sector specifically through improved regional and national governance and comprehensive policies.
5. **Sustained efforts to mitigate environmental impacts.** Increase in shipping traffic and growing demand for the transport of oil by sea means increased risks to the marine environment. Prevention and mitigation measures for oil spill incidents have been given significant attention by international and regional organizations, national governments and industry players who have helped improve oil spill preparedness and build capacities in the EAS region.
6. **Government and industry cooperation** are effective means of promoting environmental sustainability in the maritime sector.

Workshop Recommendations

7. Governments should put in place the mechanisms necessary to ratify/accede to IMO Conventions, such as MARPOL 73/78, OPRC 90, BWM 2004, AFS 2001, CLC 92, Fund 92, HNS Conventions, OPRC-HNS in order to prevent, mitigate and reduce marine pollution by ships and gain access to compensation for damages caused by oil, and HNS spills in the circumstances stipulated in the said instruments.
8. Governments should strengthen legislation, develop comprehensive maritime policies, strategies and action programmes to promote a sustainable maritime transport system that enables growth of the maritime economy in the EAS Region.
9. Countries in the region should strengthen government-industry cooperation in building capacities for oil spill preparedness and response to sustain efforts in promoting a sustainable maritime transport system in the region.
10. Countries in the region should recognize the role of stakeholders and industry in strengthening capacities in oil spill preparedness and response and consider facilitating partnerships and cooperative arrangements with relevant organizations;
11. Countries in the region need to consider establishing mechanisms for strengthening regional and sub-regional arrangements for marine pollution, preparedness and response and effective operational response integration from regional to local levels.
12. Countries in the region should recognize the important role of PEMSEA in facilitating the implementation of IMO international instruments and other relevant instruments at the regional, national and local levels.