



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015

**Global Targets**

**Local Benefits**

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

16-21 November 2015 • Furama Resort, Danang, Vietnam

## EAS Congress 2015

### International Conference Session 2:

#### Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

#### Workshop 1: Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

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## **Workshop Focus**

1. ICM has been recognized as a key approach for achieving sustainable development goals and implementing global instruments at the local level.
2. The East Asian Seas (EAS) region has over 20 years of experience in implementation of ICM and related approaches and applications.
3. The workshop, with presentations and discussions on national and local experiences from countries and various programs and projects in the region, served as a venue for taking stock of lessons learned, good practices, impacts and benefits of ICM implementation, challenges and gaps, and key actions to promote replication and scaling up of good practices and innovations.

## **Workshop Conclusions**

4. Integrated coastal management is necessary and is effective in addressing various issues and considerations related to biodiversity, fisheries, river basin pollution, water resources management, coastal development (e.g., tourism, aquaculture, and coastal settlements), climate change and disaster risk management, contributing to the achievement of local, national, regional and global targets.
5. Good practices and success factors that contribute to a cost-effective and sustainable ICM implementation include:
  - a) Application of a framework and participatory process for ICM development and implementation that has been tested and proven to work in the region, including demonstration in a small/pilot area and scaling up spatially to ecosystem level or functionally in terms of issues covered as capacity is developed; promoting accountability and ownership of the process at the local level;
  - b) Developing mechanisms that facilitate coordination and stakeholder participation include:
    - coordinated by the local government
    - inclusive, involving various stakeholders (communities, academe, private sector, NGOs and other partners), with policy, technical, human resource and financial support from national government
    - guided by a vision-oriented strategy and action plan
    - facilitating synergies and complementarities across agencies and sectors in implementation
    - balancing authority and consensus building processes;
  - c) Building capacity at the local, national and regional levels, involving various stakeholders from communities and coastal management practitioners to decision-makers; developing leadership/'champions' in governance at all levels;

- d) Enabling active participation of local communities by establishing confidence, building trust, empowerment and use of empirically-based practices and traditional knowledge such as the “*Satoumi*” concept in Japan;
- e) Using science to better understand and address problems considering new and emerging concerns, and to support better-informed decision-making;
- f) Using appropriate technical tools such as natural sciences (marine spatial planning and coastal use zoning, designation of conservation areas) and social sciences to address multiple use conflicts, promote coordination among users, change behaviours, and improve management of marine and coastal areas;
- g) Demonstrating benefits of ICM in terms of livelihood improvement and socioeconomic and financial incentives;
- h) Application of ecosystems approach in areas where problems transcend political and spatial boundaries, e.g. integrating river basin and coastal management, MPA networking; and
- i) Sharing of information and good practices on ICM implementation through various media.

### *Challenges*

- 6. Integration among the various sectors and levels of governments remains a challenge.
- 7. Generating buy-in among key stakeholders such as local leaders and decision-makers is not easy.
- 8. Changing behaviour does not happen overnight.
- 9. Tools need to be better understood and address problems considering new/ emerging concerns especially at the local and national levels.
- 10. Information technology is changing the way decisions and actions are being made.

### **Workshop Recommendations**

- 11. There is a need to think out of the box; not to do ‘business as usual; and seek innovative ways to address key issues facing all stakeholders on coastal resource management and protection.
- 12. There is a need to promote the scaling up and replication of ICM implementation and good practices including:
  - a) Strengthening horizontal and vertical coordination in terms of policies, legislations, planning process and timeframes; aligning national and local development strategies; mainstreaming ICM into local and national socioeconomic development plans; having a feedback mechanism from local to national level on good practices to support policymaking;

- b) Considering innovative approaches and mechanisms to foster cooperation and operationalize integrated management at scales that cover different administrative boundaries and issues, e.g., integrated river basin and coastal area management and MPA networking;
- c) Promoting integration of land and sea-use planning to harmonize multiple and conflicting uses of coastal and terrestrial areas;
- d) Strengthening of enforcement against violation of national and local laws on coastal protection;
- e) Continuously strengthening knowledge and capacity among stakeholders particularly the decision-makers;
- f) Developing and providing socioeconomic incentives and equitable sharing of benefits, considering the balance between environmental management and conservation and pursuing economic benefits and providing livelihoods to communities;
- g) Advancing the application of social marketing and social science approaches to change behaviour and facilitate transformative change;
- h) Facilitating public-private partnerships and engaging donors and other partners, particularly in areas where their participation is crucial to achieve the targets;
- i) Applying adaptive approaches in relation to new knowledge/data/ information and priorities, including exploring use of information technology and social media to develop an 'informed' public and engage them to take action;
- j) Implementing a system of rewards/incentives for local sites and stakeholders to recognize achievements in ICM implementation; and
- k) Documenting good practices, benefits and impacts, including successes and failures; facilitating sharing of information; developing/expanding networks for sharing/exchange of technical expertise, applicable methods and experiences among countries, programs and projects in the region; and using lessons learned and good practices at the local and national levels to guide interventions for scaling up and out.