



Global Targets Local Benefits

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

16-21 November 2015

Summary Report of the Fifth Senior Government Officials' Meeting



Hosted by the Government of Viet Nam
Organized by PEMSEA, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam Administration of
Seas and Islands, and the City Government of Da Nang and supported by GEF and UNDP.

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
FIFTH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING**

**Da Nang City, Viet Nam
20 November 2015**

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Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Ministerial Forum**

Furama Resort, Da Nang, Viet Nam
20 November 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Fifth Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM) was held at the Son Tra Hall of the Furama Resort in Da Nang, Viet Nam, on 20 November 2015. Senior government officials from 11 PEMSEA Partner Countries participated in the meeting, namely: Cambodia, PR China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. The meeting agenda and list of participants are included in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.
- 1.2 Usec. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Intergovernmental Session Chair of the East Asian Sea Partnership Council, chaired the meeting. She welcomed the distinguished representatives of the Partner Countries to the meeting, emphasizing its importance in preparing for the Fifth Ministerial Forum on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia. Usec. Teh highlighted the key objectives and expected outputs of the Ministerial Forum, including the signing of the Da Nang Compact and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) 2015. The Da Nang Compact builds upon the agreements made in earlier ministerial forums and formalizes the region's pledge to the post-2015 Strategic Targets of PEMSEA and the updated SDS-SEA 2015.
- 1.3 Usec. Teh introduced the Ministerial Forum Annotated Program and briefly discussed each item.

2. REVIEW OF MINISTERIAL FORUM DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 The PEMSEA Secretariat gave an overview of the updated SDS-SEA 2015. Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, Executive Director of PEMSEA, recalled the extensive process of updating the SDS-SEA to include all the new international agreements and arrangements that have come out since 2003. The document was also updated in regard to the various capacities and progress made by participating countries and the priorities of countries that have changed.
- 2.2 The SDS-SEA 2015 was reviewed at multiple levels and comments and input into the document have been accommodated. After the final review, a comment for adding two definitions in the draft came in late in the process and no full consensus was reached. Appreciation was expressed to Viet Nam for withdrawing the comment. The additional definitions could be referred to future Partnership Council meetings for discussion and consideration.
- 2.3 The documents were approved as there were no questions raised during the open floor for comments. Mr. Ross requested the government officials to verify the details of the signatories of the Da Nang Compact. The corrections from Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Lao would be accommodated in the final version.

- 2.4 For the signature of the Compact, Indonesia confirmed that Mr. Heru Waluyo Koesworo will put his initials in the Compact on behalf of the government of Indonesia and bring the Compact for the signature of Mr. Karliansyah. Other countries are good to sign by the Ministers and heads of delegation.

3. BRIEFING ON THE MINISTERIAL FORUM LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 The meeting took up the physical arrangements for the forum. These included two venues: (a) the Furama Grand Ballroom for the Closing Ceremony of the International Conference; and (b) the Furama Ocean Ballroom for the Ministerial Forum Proper. Clarifications were made on the matter of seating arrangements, particularly on the capacity of the venues and the allotted seats for delegation members and interpreters. Concerns regarding dress code, matters on language interpretation and additional allocation of seats for delegation members were addressed.
- 3.2 The meeting discussed the method of signing the declaration, and the participants were informed that each country would get a copy thereof with complete signatures after the holding of the Ministerial Forum.
- 3.3 The meeting clarified the process of the facilitated discussion to be held during the Ministerial Forum proper. Delegations were requested to select one out of three questions that the Minister would respond to during the discussion. During the discussion, the Ministers will be called on to answer the questions following the alphabetical sequence of countries. While questions were preselected to ensure assigned respondents and to manage time, Ministers were invited to contribute to other points of discussion as well.

4.0 CLOSING

The Chair reviewed the discussions of the meeting and asked for further queries and clarifications from the body. Usec. Teh wrapped up the meeting by thanking all the participants for their support and expressed her confidence for the successful conduct of the Fifth Ministerial Forum, and declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX 1

PROGRAM

12:30 – 12:40	Registration of the Senior Government Officials Meeting
12:40 – 12:50	Opening Remarks by Chair
12:50 – 13:30	1. Review of Ministerial Forum Documents 2. Briefing on the Ministerial Forum Logistical Arrangements
13:30 – 13:35	Closing

ANNEX 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CAMBODIA

Mr. Long Rithirak
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Environment
48 Samdech Preah Sihanouk
Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh
Cambodia
Tel: +855 23 214027
Fax: +855 23 219287
Email: moeimo@online.com.kh

PR CHINA

Mr. Liang Fengkui
Associate Counsel
Department of International Cooperation
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue
Beijing 100860
China
Tel: +86 10 68019791
Fax: +86 10 68048051
E-mail: liangfengkuisoa@163.com;
fengkui@yahoo.com

Dr. Wang Shouqiang
Programme Director
First Institute of Oceanography
State Oceanic Administration
No.6, Xianxialing Road, Qingdao
Tel: +86 532 8889 3382
Email: wangshouqiang@fio.org.cn

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Kim Song Chol
Programme Director
General Bureau for Cooperation with
International Organizations (GBCIO)
Ministry of External Economic Relations
Jungsong-dong, Central District
Pyongyang
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Tel: +850 2 381 5926
Fax: +850 2 381 4654
Email: gbcio@co.chesin.com

INDONESIA

Mr. Heru Waluyo
Director, Marine and Coastal Degradation
Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Jalan D.I. Panjaitan Kav. 24
Kebon Nanas - Jakarta Timur 13410
Republic of Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 8590 5638
Fax: +62 21 8590 4929
Email: heruw.koes@gmail.com

JAPAN

Mr. Yasuhiro Ueda
Director for International Ocean Affairs
Ocean Policy Division
Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and
Tourism
Japan
E-mail: ueda-y2my@mlit.go.jp

Mr. Daisuke Miura
Special Assistant to the Director
Ocean Policy Division
Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and
Tourism
Japan
E-mail: miura-d2x2@mlit.go.jp

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. Singthong Panthamala
Technical Officer DWR
Department of Water Resources
Water Resources and Environment
Administration
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Nahaideio Road, Sisavath Village
Chantabouly District, Vientiane
Lao PDR
Email: stptml@yahoo.com

Mr. Phousavanh Fongkhamdeng
Deputy Director of Administration Planning
Department of Water Resources
Water Resources and Environment
Administration
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Nahaideio Road, Sisavath Village
Chantabouly District, Vientiane
Lao PDR
Email: lan_f@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINES

Hon. Manuel Gerochi
Undersecretary
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR)
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City
Philippines

Mr. Edwin G. Domingo
Overall Director
Foreign-Assisted and Special Project Service
(FASPO)
DENR, Philippines

Ms. Jeslina Gorospe
OIC-Chief, Project Monitoring and Evaluation
Division (PMED)
FASPO
DENR,
Philippines
Tel: +63 2926 8052; 929 6626 loc. 2054;
Telefax: +63 2928 0028
Email: bastian.lindy@yahoo.com;
pcd_04@yahoo.com

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Kim Hyun Tae
Director
Marine Environment Policy Division
Marine Environment Policy Bureau
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 44 200 5280,

Ms. Cho Kyongju
Assistant Director
Marine Environment Policy Division
Marine Environment Policy Bureau
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Email: ckj0403@korea.kr

SINGAPORE

Ms. Vanessa Lim
Executive
Ministry of the Environment and Water
Resources
Environment Building, 40 Scotts Road
#23-00, Singapore 228231
Email: Vanessa_LIM@mewr.gov.sg

TIMOR-LESTE

Mr. Narciso Almeida de Carvalho
Director General for Fisheries
Comoro Dili
Timor-Leste
Email: narcisoalmeida@yahoo.com

Mr. Augusto Fernandes
National Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture
National Directorate of Fisheries and
Aquaculture (NDFA)
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)
Comoro, Dili
Timor-Leste
Tel: +670 7255023
Email: fernandesa50@yahoo.com

Mr. Mario Cabral
Technical Adviser of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Comoro,
Dili, Timor-Leste
Tel: +670 77258327
Email: mariomarcab@yahoo.com

VIETNAM

Dr. Ngo Tuan Dzung
Deputy Director of DICST
Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands
83 Nguyen Chi Thanh Street
Dong Da District
Hanoi, Viet Nam
Email: dzung.ngotuan@gmail.com