



## Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

Prof. Chul-Hwan Koh, the Technical Session Chair of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council, chaired the opening plenary of the second day of the EAS Congress International Conference.

The keynote speaker, Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General and Director of the ICLEI South Asia Secretariat emphasized the need for resilient cities that are prepared to absorb and recover from climate change impacts while maintaining essential functions, structures and identities. Focusing on three major areas – greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and rapid urbanization in the East Asian Seas region – ICLEI has observed that local actions are important for adapting and thriving in the midst of continual environmental changes. Moreover, linking action plans to funding sources and enhancing local capacity both support the realization of community-level initiatives that can eventually lead to global sustainability.

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Tuan, Vice Chairman of Da Nang People's Committee, shared the activities that Da Nang has been implementing to support building an environment-friendly city that can serve as a basis for developing a blue economy. The commitment of central government to sustainable development goals must be linked to local actions on the ground.

Mr. Dan Elby Habana, Board Member, Guimaras Province, Philippines, shared the local actions of Guimaras that endeavours to maintain a balance between economic development and environmental integrity through a multisectoral and participatory process. He envisioned that Guimaras will work towards its vision of a clean and green locality with healthy and productive ecosystems, and a strong and empowered community working towards sustainable development.

Dr. Delfin Ganapin, Global Manager, UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme shared five insights with the conference body on success factors in facilitating actions at the community level – inclusive growth that empowers the people, multisectoral steering committees, complementing the community and government plans, pooling of resources and replicating successes and lessons learned.

Professor Koh summarized the results of the session, stating that it is necessary to respond to climate change in order to secure sustainable development at the local level. Support is available, but unified and integrated actions by all sectors involved are the major success factors to sustainable development at the local level.



## Managing Risks in Climate Change and Disasters in the Seas of East Asia

The final day of the workshop showcased working models, case studies and good practices in climate change adaptation/disaster risk reduction (CCA/DRR) implementation, including post-disaster recovery efforts in countries in the EAS region. The various models presented included mainstreaming CCA/DRR into local development planning, use of traditional knowledge and sustaining ecosystem services to respond to impacts of climate change and disasters. Experiences in post-disaster recovery in the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan demonstrates the need to create risk-based land use plans for development.

Conclusions drawn from the workshop emphasized that adapting to climate change and disasters cannot be decoupled from development and management of coastal and marine areas. Panelists expressed that countries in the region should undertake efforts to improve their capacity to adapt. Integrating and institutionalizing CCA and disaster risk reduction management (DRRM) into country-level sustainable coastal management and development frameworks is necessary.

Participants highlighted that commitments from the three international agendas discussed – the Sendai Framework, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – need to be institutionalized through integration into national policies and practices in countries in the region. Likewise, programs developed under the framework of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) should target opportunities for capacity enhancement, knowledge and sharing of experiences. It requires integration at all levels of government, sectors, and disciplines. In the implementation of the ADAPT Strategy, it is necessary to set appropriate and specific targets. Program implementation, research and development should be undertaken through multi-country and multi-agency collaborative efforts. Replication of good practices needs to suit the specific country needs, and should be considered in capacity building and knowledge transfer efforts. Knowledge products need to be developed based on working models and good practices available to facilitate sharing and replication.



## Maritime Sector Contributions to a Blue Economy for the Seas of East Asia

This session emphasized the major contributions of the maritime transport sector to the blue economy in the East Asian Seas region. Mr. Brian Sullivan, Executive Director of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) cited that 80% of world trade is conveyed through the ocean and 32% of the world's hydrocarbons are derived from the ocean floor. While there is great potential for growth in the maritime economy, it also brings significant risks and potential negative impacts to the marine environment.

The presentation of Mr. Ho Kim Lan, Secretary General of Viet Nam Seaports Association (VPA), stressed that ocean-based economy in Viet Nam has high potential for growth as reflected in the ports' performance in terms of cargo throughput. Similarly, Mr. Do Duc Tien, Deputy Administrator of Viet Nam Maritime Administration (VINAMARINE), emphasized that the Viet Nam Marine Strategy 2020 identified specific targets to turn the country into a powerful maritime nation by 2020. The Philippines and Thailand have also put major efforts in promoting environmental sustainability in the maritime sector through ratification and implementation of International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions and regional instruments that will contribute to improved regional and national governance and comprehensive policies.

At the regional level, the GIZ Programme on Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region has made major achievements in reducing and mitigating safety, health and environmental risks in ASEAN ports as reported by Ms. Franca Sprong, Project Director of GIZ–Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region. In the shipping sector, increased shipping traffic in the region and growing demand for the transport of oil by sea means increased risks to the marine environment. Industry players like the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), IPIECA and Oil Spill Response Limited (OSR) have been proactive in terms of building capacities in oil spill preparedness and response and in providing technical support during oil spill incidents.

In the end, the workshop recognized that sustaining government and industry efforts in promoting a sustainable maritime transport system is essential to promote a blue economy in the EAS region.





## Coastal and Ocean Governance in the Seas of East Asia: From Nation to Region

Co-chaired by Ms. Lena Kern of the GIZ Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Project, Dr. Alan White of the Nature Conservancy and Dr. Gunnar Kullenberg, formerly from the International Oceanographic Commission of the UNESCO, day 1 of the session focused on regionalizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the lessons learned and collaboration of the different EAS initiatives and partnerships for win-win towards the sustainable development goals.

In his keynote message, Dr. Andrew Hudson of the UNDP Water and Governance Programme outlined the current challenges facing oceans and highlighted PEMSEA and other initiatives funded by UNDP-GEF as highly relevant to achieving the SDGs, in particular, Goal 14 on oceans and Goal 6 on water governance. Dr. Hudson is hopeful that the current decline of ocean health is reversible given the continuity of successful partnerships and initiatives in the large marine ecosystems (LMEs) and the unprecedented mobilization of ocean finance.

Initial discussion focused on the various regional seas governance initiatives and how they manage information and knowledge sharing, programming, capacity development, legislation and enforcement, and implementation of their respective strategic action programs. Based on lessons learned, areas of collaboration and good practices and approaches in project implementation of the ATSEA Program, CTI-CFF, NOWPAP, COBSEA, West and Central Pacific Fishery Commission were explored. Knowledge sharing and exchange and monitoring and evaluation (particularly in tuna stock assessment) were identified as key areas of collaboration for increasing the success of these initiatives.

The latter part of the discussion showcased partnerships between regional mechanisms and the business sector, and the small grants programs in support of coastal governance in empowering and engaging civil society organizations. Exemplary partnership arrangements include the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, hazard management in Da Nang, Vietnam, the UNDP Small Grants Programme, Southern Philippines Deep Sea Fishing Association in Zamboanga Philippines and the Reef Guardian organization in Sabah, Malaysia.

## Scaling Up ICM: Innovation and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

Application of ICM in different settings was presented during the workshop, considering the transferability of innovations and lessons learned. The workshop highlighted the importance of establishing marine conservation areas using integrated and participatory approaches, incorporating scientific basis and tools to scale up the necessary geographic coverage and improve the effectiveness of marine conservation areas towards meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Dr. Porfirio Alino, Professor of the Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, summarized by stating "If we conduct business as usual, it will take us 100 years to achieve our targets. MPA networking is an important mechanism to accelerate our efforts. We have to work together and the time is now."

The workshop also presented local and community-led initiatives and highlighted how ICM catalyzed awareness building on conservation and environmental protection, technical and financial support from various partners, improvement in knowledge and skills, and economic benefits, which led communities to move from unsustainable to more sustainable practices, resulting in improved environment and livelihoods.

The workshop participants agreed that integrated management is necessary, and in order for it to be cost effective, an operational framework and road map must be present, stakeholders should be engaged at multiple levels and empirically-based practices should be applied to better understand and address problems considering new and emerging concerns. One key message emerging from the workshop was the importance of behavioral change driven by incentives generated from implementation. Effective change also does not happen overnight and requires sustained effort over a period of time. Documentation and sharing of good practices, along with failures, will guide interventions for scaling up and replication.



## Roundtable: Investing in a Blue Economy for Conservation and Impact

The roundtable session showcased the needs, challenges and potential in investing in a blue economy in the East Asian Seas. Session chair Leo Paat, Senior Environmental Specialist of The World Bank, highlighted the financing gap of an estimated US\$300 billion per year in the blue economy, stating that “the challenge is to bring the projects and enterprise to a level aligned with investor expectations.”

Keynote speaker Prof. Durreen Shahnaz emphasized that investors should be able to generate financial return and simultaneously create social and environmental good. To draw more investors into the coastal and marine space, projects and enterprises must evolve towards being more investment-ready through the right structures and capabilities.

Panel presentations from investment experts from the Climate Bonds Initiative, Environmental Defense Fund and Encourage Capital generated a dynamic discussion centered on the crucial role of private capital in the blue economy. For instance, investment in sustainable fisheries has the potential to increase fish harvest in the East Asian Seas by 14% and double profits. Green bonds and other innovative financial products are also being developed to direct finance towards marine assets.

Case studies on investment projects were presented, illustrating the potential for blue economy investment. Examples included abalone ranching, mangrove conservation, wastewater treatment and seaweed farming. Participants agreed that the potential for blue economy investment remains unrealized because of a lack of investment-ready projects and enterprises.

To address this, PEMSEA launched a beta version of the Seas of East Asia Knowledge Bank (SEAKB), a platform for developing a pipeline of ICM investments in the region and helping investors to discover them. The roundtable concluded with gathering of input from the attendees on the continuing development of the platform. Overall, the session provided a valuable bridge of knowledge linking the development project and private investment spaces. Rocky Sanchez Tirona from RARE Philippines, expressed that it felt like “a whole year’s worth of professional development in one day.”

## Technical and Policy Workshop on Sustainable Nutrient Management

Participants including GEF-Global Nutrient Cycle (GNC) Project Collaborators, Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) members, representatives from governments, regional and international support agencies and private sector representatives gathered for a special workshop to discuss sustainable nutrient management.

The session began by establishing the context for the state of oceans related to nutrient management. Approximately 80% of marine pollution stems from land-based activities, in particular untreated wastewater discharges, and urban and agricultural runoff. This results in significant health, environmental and socioeconomic costs. Key issues include inadequate policies, lack of water quality standards for nutrients and lack of wastewater treatment facilities for domestic, industrial and agricultural wastes.

Countries and regional seas programs (e.g., SACEP, COBSEA and NOWPAP) highlighted the strategies and actions being taken at the local and national levels to address issues of nutrient management. RO Korea and China, for instance, have clear policies and standards and have made significant investments in wastewater management. Decision-support systems, such as the Global Toolbox for nutrient management, and effective communication tools can facilitate action planning. Consultations and coordination among government agencies, academe/scientists and communities are crucial to enhance understanding of the impacts of excessive nutrients, including the climate change interplay. Participants highlighted that ICM offers a good framework to integrate nutrient reduction in coastal strategies and environmental investment plans.

Participants focused discussion on the “Asian Platform” to support the GPNM, highlighting the need for further consultations with countries on the demand, and mechanism, to set up such a platform. Dr. Christopher Cox from the GPNM Secretariat suggested embedding the Asia Platform into existing mechanisms, such as the regional seas programmes, but champions are needed to support its institutionalization.





# EAST ASIAN SEAS Environmental Exhibition

With the theme "*Building Blue Economies and Connecting Partners*," 12 Country and 6 Non-Country Partners and collaborators showcased their coastal and marine management initiatives at the 2015 Environmental Exhibition of the EAS Congress.

The exhibition provided a glimpse of the good practices, innovative technologies and new approaches in coastal and ocean governance. The exhibit displays highlighted the different contributions of partners at the local, national and regional levels in achieving sustainable development targets and commitments in the region.







## Special East Asian Seas Partnership Council meeting

A special East Asian Seas Partnership Council meeting was convened with PEMSEA partners and collaborators attending the East Asian Seas Congress. The assembly witnessed the recognition of five new ICM Learning Centers by way of a signing ceremony of the Memoranda of Agreement between PEMSEA and Burapha University, Prince of Songkla University, National University of Timor-Leste, Oriental University of Timor-Leste and Zhejiang University. PEMSEA is excited to welcome these new universities as official partner institutions and to have them become members of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC).

Dr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, sent a congratulatory message on the successful convening of the East Asian Seas Congress. In particular, he extended appreciation to PEMSEA for integrating the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA 2015) and urged donors and bilateral agencies to support the implementation of this regional strategy. The GEF Secretariat in attendance also congratulated PEMSEA as an initiative found nowhere else in the world in terms of facilitating knowledge and experience sharing in scaling up ICM.

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