



Closing Ceremony of the East Asian Seas Congress 2015 International Conference

The ceremony began with the presentation of the International Conference session conclusions and recommendations. Session 1 stressed the importance of strengthening regional collaboration, guided by international instruments, to scale up synergies and achievements in coastal and ocean governance and climate change adaptation. To address this, innovative legal and institutional mechanisms are needed to promote integrated implementation of policies, strategies and action plans at the national and local levels. Conclusions from Session 2 emphasized several good practices and success factors in ICM implementation. These successes can be replicated by involving stakeholders and establishing mechanisms that monitor progress and strengthen knowledge. Session 3 concluded that sustainable partnerships between the private sector and government are needed to translate the global sustainable development agenda into local benefits. Establishing and expanding methodologies to value natural capital can contribute to blue economy development and investment opportunities.

The Youth Forum delegation was invited to present their statement to the government Ministers as part of the closing ceremony. In the *Da Nang Youth Declaration: Charting the Future We Want*, the youth committed to work in partnership and peace as they empower their local communities to protect the sustainability of coastal and marine resources. The key

message to the Ministers in the region was the need to provide an enabling environment for the blue economy to thrive, and the imperative to pursue economic growth without sacrificing natural resources.

The overall conference conclusions and recommendations, presented by the conference Chair, Terence Jones, United Nations Development Program, highlighted the need to strengthen the broad base of partnerships that already exist. Intensive collaboration arrangements should be formed to efficiently address the challenges that the region faces in coastal and ocean management. Moving forward, an inclusive and participatory approach is needed to link local actions to global commitments. The updated Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA 2015) represents an effective framework to efficiently galvanize efforts to build a blue economy.

The interactive panel discussion including representatives from government, private sector and the academe underscored the importance of innovation and outside-the-box thinking to overcome challenges and unlock opportunities. The concerted efforts of all sectors must be integrated with the principles of sustainable development to continue the momentum towards building a blue economy.



Valuation of Coastal Ecosystem Services and Benefits and Coastal Use Zoning: Tools for Better Planning and Implementation

“Do not let the perfect be the enemy of the good,” offered Dr. Tundi Agardy, quoting Voltaire at the end of the session on Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Benefits and Coastal Use Zoning: Tools for Better Planning and Implementation. Dr. Agardy encouraged the participants in the session to utilize available, even limited, information in the conduct of valuation and coastal use zoning, and emphasized the urgency of actions on the ground.

The session aimed to share the various case studies on valuation and coastal use zoning and to provide guidance on the use of these tools in priority sites. Presenters offered a wide array of tools and methodologies used at various levels and scope of valuation and zoning from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and the European region.

Participants at the workshop expressed that the breadth of experiences on tools in the region enriches the discussion and provides a wide array of choices on the possible mix of tools and methodologies that can be used at the local level. To facilitate the use of these tools at the local level, participants were of one opinion that a multidisciplinary network of researchers and universities, including the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), will need to be strengthened to provide the necessary technical support for on-the-ground implementation.

The session, co-convened by the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) was participated in by more than a hundred participants from within and outside the East Asian Seas region. The KMI organizes an annual international workshop on valuation and marine spatial planning and this workshop forms part of that annual event. Dr. Jungho Nam, Chair of the session, introduced the 3rd Training Program on Marine Ecosystems Services and Spatial Planning and the 4th International Workshop on Marine Ecosystems to be held in Busan City in the second quarter of 2016. Further information can be obtained by emailing Ms. Jiyeon Choi of the Korea Maritime Institute at jchoi@kmi.re.kr.

Viet Nam Integrated Coastal Management Forum

Approval of the National ICM Strategy to 2020 and Vision to 2030 by the Prime Minister in December 2014 demonstrated Viet nam’s resolve to continually pursue sustainable coastal development. It is imperative to look back on the experiences and achievements, as well as challenges, in ICM implementation in Viet nam over the past years to chart the way forward in scaling up good practices over the next 15 years towards achieving Viet nam’s commitment to regional and international targets on ocean and coastal governance.

According to Mr. Vu Si Tuan, Deputy General Director of Viet nam Administration for Seas and Islands (VASI), ICM has been implemented in Viet nam for the last 15 years and has shown significant achievements and good results. However, there are also challenges in its implementation including the need to increase awareness of leaders at the provincial and local government level.

Forum participants reviewed the needs for regional cooperation and opportunities for integrating fisheries and marine protected areas management into ICM. The forum also identified support mechanisms to strengthen and facilitate implementation of the National Action Plan for the Viet nam ICM Strategy 2020, including challenges in implementing the bilateral cooperation between the Philippines and Viet nam on oil spill preparedness and response.

A number of opportunities for ICM scaling up in Viet Nam were discussed including the presence of VASI and its equivalent offices at the provincial levels; the recent enactment of the Law on Marine Resources and Environment, which provides the legal framework for ICM; an approved long-term strategy; and the development of a medium-term National Action Plan (NAP) to implement the ICM strategy.

ICM-related initiatives by the Integrated Coastal Management Program in the Mekong Delta and Marine Protected Area Management by IUCN offered mechanisms to support the implementation of the NAP. ICM was recognized as a key approach to marine protected area management across boundaries. Finally, participants discussed how the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA 2015) implementation will complement and support the NAP.



EAST ASIAN SEAS

5th Ministerial Forum

Ministers and Heads of Delegations from eleven countries in the East Asian Seas region arrived at the East Asian Seas Congress to attend the closing ceremony of the International Conference, hearing the final conclusions and recommendations delivered by the Session and Congress Chairs. Following a tour of the Environmental Exhibit, the procession moved to a special Ministerial Lunch, where special messages were delivered by representatives from business, academe and local government.

In the Ministerial Forum proper, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations discussed progress made and mid-term goals setting for implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). Hosted by the Minister of MONRE, Viet Nam, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Minh Quang, the Ministers and the Heads of Delegations actively participated in discussion identifying challenges and issues of sustainable development, sharing their insights into possible solutions and good practices. The statements of the Ministers and Heads of Delegations highlighted the progress in implementing the SDS-SEA in their respective countries.

Ministers and Heads of Delegations signed the Da Nang Compact, approving the post-2015 Strategic Targets of PEMSEA and the updated SDS-SEA 2015. The targets include four commitments by the countries, namely: establishing a self-sustaining PEMSEA by 2017, establishing a regional State of Oceans and Coasts reporting system by 2018, setting up national coastal and oceans policies in 100% of the countries and covering 25% of region's coastlines under ICM programs by 2021.

Guided by the SDS-SEA 2015 and the post-2015 Strategic Targets, the countries charted a path to continue their work on sustainable development of coasts and oceans. The Da Nang Compact reflects a firm commitment by the countries of the East Asian Seas region to moving the global sustainable development agenda forward in the region.





Three cities signed the PNLG Charter to become new members of PNLG.



Ms. Noraini Binti Roslan of the Kuala Selangor District Council of Malaysia is sworn in as the new President of PNLG.



Da Nang City turned over the PNLG flag to the host of the 2016 PNLG Forum, Ansan City, RO Korea.



PNLG Banquet

PNLG Forum

Over 40 local governments came together at the East Asian Seas Congress 2015 for the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) Forum. Participants developed a roadmap towards a Strategic Action Plan (2016-2021) in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA 2015).

The PNLG welcomed new members Ansan City, RO Korea, Pingtan City, PR China and Wenzhou City, PR China, further increasing the potential for ICM coverage in the region.

Ms. Noraini Binti Roslan of the Kuala Selangor District Council of Malaysia was sworn in as the new PNLG President, following the 3-year term of Mr. Prak Sihara, the outgoing President from Sihanoukville, Cambodia.



EAST ASIAN SEAS
Youth Forum

The Fourth EAS Youth Forum Concludes

The final day of the Fourth EAS Youth Forum started with a scavenger hunt, giving the participants an opportunity to work together one last time. The youth delegates were presented with a series of challenges, encouraging them to apply the leadership and teamwork skills they developed throughout the week. The scavenger hunt was designed to provide an opportunity to reflect on the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of youth in sustainable development in a fun, dynamic setting.

The Youth Forum was formally closed in a ceremony at the Da Nang People's Committee Hall. Participants provided their feedback on the EAS Congress, and expressed that they were

grateful for the rich experience from a full week. Li Qian Ling from China expressed, "I learned so much from the many amazing speeches, both in the youth forum and the International Congress." Participants were inspired by the talks, empowered by the skills development workshops and excited to return home to plan their own coastal management projects for future implementation.

Though the Youth Forum has drawn to a close, the participants recognized that it is just the beginning of new partnerships with other young environmental champions and continued work to protect and sustain the coasts and oceans of East Asia.

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