

# Abstract

## SESSION 1:

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

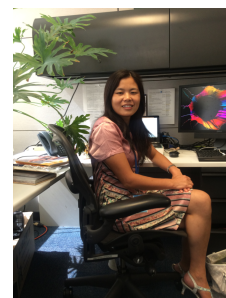
## WORKSHOP 1.3:

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

## Regional Seas Governance in East Asian Seas: the Need for Vertical Integration of Community-Based Action to National and Regional Management Process

**Sulan Chen**

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Effective regional seas' governance requires coordinated actions among countries bordering the seas and connected with the seas. It is important to have regional frameworks and coordination to manage transboundary environmental issues. It is to be noted though that policies and management plans developed by formal inter-state processes will eventually have to be implemented at local sites; hence community-based actions are critical to the effectiveness of these higher level policies. On the other hand, community-based coastal and marine waters projects are often local and stand-alone projects. Thus, they often lack consideration of regional linkages and perspectives. The presentation advocates a governance approach that utilizes nested and coordinated, set of local actions linked to the implementation of coherent regional frameworks. Such links between regional processes and local actions not only enhances the effectiveness of local actions in addressing international waters issues but also strengthens regional frameworks.

The presentation calls for the need to strengthen vertical integration of actions at regional, national and local levels, by incorporating local actions into national and regional management frameworks, and developing and implementing local actions in alignment with regional and national priorities and considerations. The paper draws its findings from community-based experience of projects in the East Asian Seas supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) which is implemented by UNDP as a mechanism to undertake a "local action, global impact" approach to achieve sustainable development. The presentation shares good cases of local actions in the East Asian Seas that should be replicated to achieve high local ownership and sustainability, and through linkages with other partners and entities, to generate scaled-up impacts. The presentation advocates strengthened collaboration between programs such as that of the GEF SGP with those that develop and implement regional initiatives and frameworks in the region.



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015  
16-21 November 2015 • Danang, Vietnam

**Global Targets**  
**Local Benefits**

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

**About Sulan Chen:**

Sulan Chen is the Programme Advisor for UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme covering its technical areas of international waters and chemicals, and overseeing 30 country programs in Asia, Europe and CIS. She has more than sixteen years of policy/program development, implementation, management and research experience in the areas of environment and sustainable development with UNDP, UNEP, the GEF and academics. She is a practitioner for integrated ocean and coastal management, and has been instrumental in forging the collaboration between regional initiatives and local action in promoting sustainable environmental management of the South China Sea and the Caribbean Sea large marine ecosystems. She has published a number of UN technical publications and articles in journals such as Ocean and Coastal Management, Environmental Development, Development, and China Environment Series. She obtained her PhD degree and Master's Degree from the University of Maryland at the College Park, and earned her BA degree from Nankai University, China.