THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015
Global Targets
Local Benefits
Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the
Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

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International Conference Session 2:
Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

Session 2 Conclusions and Recommendations

The following conclusions and recommendations, prepared on the basis of three workshop reports of Session 2, were presented by Prof. Wong Poh Poh, Session Chair, at the closing of the International Conference on November 20, 2015:

Sessions Highlights:

1. ICM is recognized as a key approach for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and implementing global instruments at the local level. Coastal and marine management concerns are complex and transcend administrative boundaries, and therefore a single-sector approach does not work.

2. ICM practices in the EAS region have evolved into a system after over 20 years of experience in implementation. ICM provides building blocks for an applying ecosystems approach that transcend administrative boundaries.

3. Replication of innovative approaches and traditional knowledge (e.g., *Satoumi,* community-based management, etc*)* enables active participation of local communities.

4. Knowledge management should be a continuing and proactive service, which includes tools, products, networks and relationships – all are critical factors in the transference and effective use of good practices, innovations and lessons learned for scaling up partnership investments in the LMEs and coastal areas of the region.

5. Available tools for valuation of ecosystem service and benefits and coastal use zoning, if utilized in combination, support better planning and management of coastal and marine areas, with demonstrated ecological, social and economic benefits for coastal communities, local governments and private sector.

Session Conclusions:

6. ICM is effective in providing a common framework and process to address various issues including biodiversity, fisheries, river basin management, pollution reduction, water resource management, climate change and disaster risk reduction and management, contributing to the achievement of sub-national, national and global targets for sustainable development.

7. Good practices and success factors that contribute to sustainable ICM implementation:
    a) ICM implementation must be guided by a vision-oriented strategy and action plan;
    b) Embed capacity development throughout the ICM process involving various stakeholders from communities to practitioners and decision makers;

    c) Develop mechanisms that facilitate coordination and stakeholder participation;

    d) Use science to support better informed decision making;

    e) Enable participation of local communities by establishing confidence and building trust and use of empirically-based practices and traditional knowledge (e.g. *Satoumi);*

    f) Demonstrate the benefits of ICM in terms of livelihood improvement and socioeconomic incentives;

    g) Utilize available tools and methodologies at various stages of the ICM program to improve management, build capacity and change behaviour;

    h) Information and knowledge must be translated into products that are easily understood and applicable by targeted stakeholders/potential users of products and services; establish knowledge sharing partnerships and platforms to improve project implementation and facilitate investments;

    i) Establish/strengthen monitoring and reporting mechanisms (e.g., SOC reporting) to reflect progress, achievements and impacts of ICM program implementation.

Session Recommendations

8. Workshop 1: Promote scaling up of investments and replication of good practices:
    a) Strengthen horizontal and vertical integration of policies, legislations, planning processes and timeframes in scaling up ICM within countries;

    b) Align national and local development strategies and mainstream ICM into local and national socioeconomic development plans;

    c) Establish a feedback mechanism from local to national level to refine processes and support policymaking;

d) Build and strengthen knowledge and capacity among stakeholders particularly the decision-makers;

e) Develop and provide socioeconomic incentives and equitable sharing of benefits and livelihood to communities;

f) Implement a system of rewards/provide incentives for local governments and stakeholders for progress, achievements and impacts of ICM implementation;

g) Utilize ICM as building blocks for implementing IWRM/IRBCAM; and

h) Organize leadership forums to build political commitment and confidence in ICM.

9. Workshop 2:
   a) Mobilize and build the capacity of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers as a regional support network for scaling up ICM implementation, with support from partners (e.g., KMI), international agencies and donors, including strengthening the application of ecosystem valuation and marine spatial planning in priority sites under the *Scaling up SDS-SEA Implementation Project*

10. Workshop 3:
    a) PEMSEA with support from World Bank, CCRES and other international and regional organizations and programs should take the lead in facilitating documentation, sharing of knowledge products and services and tools, including consolidation of available KM tools and platforms and preparation of KM guidelines to improve the implementation of sustainable development programs and optimize investments.