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Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting of
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Xiamen, the People's Republic of China
23-25 October 2007

Report of the Meeting

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Introduction

1. The First Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held on 14 September 1994 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP). The Second IGM (20 November 1996, Tokyo, Japan) approved the geographic scope of the Action Plan as well as a tentative scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for 1997. The Fourth IGM (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, People's Republic of China) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centres (RACs). The Fifth IGM (29-30 March 2000, Incheon, Republic of Korea) adopted a procedure for the establishment the NOWPAP RCU, as well as its terms of reference. The Sixth IGM (5-6 December 2000, Tokyo, Japan) decided to establish and implement a new activity, NOWPAP/7, on the "Assessment and Management of Land-Based Activities" within the NOWPAP programme of work. The Seventh IGM (20-22 March 2002, Vladivostok, Russian Federation) requested the Directors of the RACs and UNEP to establish the appropriate fora of National Focal Points for each of the RACs. All NOWPAP RACs established their Focal Points fora during 2002-2003. The Eighth IGM (5-7 November 2003, Sanya, People's Republic of China) approved the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Regional Cooperation on Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region and the related Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the NOWPAP region. The Eighth IGM also approved the Terms of Reference for each of the RAC Focal Point Meetings. The Ninth IGM (2-4 November 2004, Busan, Republic of Korea) decided to develop a project to deal with marine litter. The Ninth IGM also agreed to hold an Intersessional Workshop around mid-2005 in the Republic of Korea to discuss new directions of work of NOWPAP RACs, the marine litter project and the increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

2. Since the inception of NOWPAP, the member states have acknowledged the importance of setting up a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) as a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of the Action Plan. In Resolution 2 of the Sixth IGM, the NOWPAP member states decided to accept the offers of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to co-host a RCU in Toyama, Japan and Busan, the Republic of Korea, respectively. The Host Country Agreements were signed by the Ambassador of Japan, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and the Executive Director of UNEP, in Nairobi on 16 September 2003 and 8 September 2004, respectively. Following the request of NOWPAP IGMs, UNEP has recruited the six staff members for the RCU. The RCU offices were inaugurated on the 1st and 2nd November 2004, in Toyama and Busan respectively.

3. The Tenth IGM (24-26 November 2004, Toyama, Japan) decided to start the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region, to expand the geographical coverage of the NOWPAP Oil Spill Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and to initiate new directions of work for the NOWPAP RACs. The Eleventh IGM (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, Russian Federation) decided to carry out the evaluation of the performance of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) in 2007 in order to further enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. The meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RCU and the Focal Points Meetings of CEARAC, MERRAC and POMRAC, and also adopted the General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing to facilitate information exchange among the member states and related organizations.

4. Following the offer of the government of the People's Republic of China to host the Twelfth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, the meeting was held on 23-25 October 2007 in Xiamen.

5. This document is the record of the discussions and deliberations of the Twelfth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the NOWPAP member states, namely the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The Director or representative of each of the four NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres also attended. The representatives from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), UNEP Regional Seas Programme, East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU), Sub-commission for the Western Pacific of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC WESTPAC), GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Project attended as observers. The full list of participants is attached as Annex II to this report. The list of documents is attached as Annex III.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

7. The Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 23 October 2007 in Xiamen, the People's Republic of China by Mr. Vladimir Lenev, Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation, host government of the Eleventh NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting. He extended a warm welcome to all participants in this meeting.

8. On behalf of the host government of this meeting, Mr. Ruisheng Yue, Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China, welcomed all participants to the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting. He stated that NOWPAP, as one of the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, has made substantial progress on the promotion of development, utilization and integrated management of seas and coastal areas since 1994, in particular after the establishment of the four RACs. During the implementation of MALITA, there have been dramatic achievements as a result of active participation and joint efforts of the NOWPAP member states. He pointed out that NOWPAP is facing a number of challenges for the smooth implementation of future activities. The issue of the increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund and seeking the multi-channelled financial support are among them. He also mentioned the need of some initiatives at appropriate time to consolidate and expand the outcomes of MALITA and oil spill contingency plan as well as to continue efforts to develop regional information network and environmental monitoring and assessment. He finally stated that the Chinese government would actively support and cooperate with the NOWPAP member states.

9. Dr. Elik Adler, UNEP Regional Seas Programme Coordinator, made an opening statement on behalf of Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP. He informed that UNEP is going through a period of reform and redefinition of its priorities and directions, in line with new concepts and strategies such as "One UN", "Medium Term Strategy", "Results Based

Management”, “Bali Strategic Plan” as well as decisions of UNEP Governing Council. As a part of this process, UNEP priorities and directions for oceans and coasts management were redefined. The new Strategic Directions of the Regional Seas Programme for the next 5 years (2008-2013) would also be discussed at the Ninth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas to be held in Jeddah later this month. As a result, some environmental issues would be on top of the agenda such as the impacts of climate change on oceans and coasts, biodiversity conservation in the high seas and the application of the ecosystem approach. These new priorities would be eventually applicable to the NOWPAP region as well.

10. He mentioned a new NOWPAP activity on the Integrated Coastal Zone and River Basin Management (ICARM) led by POMRAC that is in line with objectives of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan. He also commended the recent compilation of the State of the Marine Environment Report (SOMER) and encouraged NOWPAP to continue this kind of assessments regularly, using other available assessment results from GIWA, PICES, YSLME, etc. Regarding the previous lack of projects dealing with marine biodiversity, he mentioned several new NOWPAP projects in this regard within the framework of ICARM and in collaboration between DINRAC and MERRAC. He further stressed the importance of collaboration between NOWPAP RACs and RCU as demonstrated through the establishment of marine litter database, the preparation of SOMER and DINRAC website with links to marine environmental data and information in the region, taking into account the suggestions from the report of the RACs evaluation. He also mentioned the positive outcomes of MALITA, in particular, the organization of the International Coastal Cleanup campaigns with the financial support from the member states and working with its neighbours such as COBSEA, PEMSEA and YSLME. Finally, he stressed the importance of NOWPAP sustainability through the financial contributions from the member states.

11. Mr. Yasuhiro Hamura, Head of Delegation of Japan, expressed his government’s appreciation to the People’s Republic of China for hosting the meeting. He mentioned the progress made by joint efforts of the NOWPAP member states and RACs since 1994 such as establishment of RCU and RACs, completion of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the expansion of its geographical coverage, the launch of MALITA, and the development of HNS Spill Contingency Plan. In particular, he stressed the NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup campaigns, held successfully during the MALITA implementation in 2006 and 2007, in close cooperation among government agencies, research and educational institutions, NGOs and local citizens. This kind of efforts should be continued in the NOWPAP region. He ended up with stressing the cooperation among the NOWPAP member states for effective conservation of the marine environment in the region.

12. Mr. Chang Mo Kim, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea, on behalf of his government, expressed his gratitude to the government of the People’s Republic of China for hosting this meeting and to NOWPAP RCU for their hard work to organize the meeting. He stated that NOWPAP has emerged as the central mechanism for marine environmental cooperation in the Northwest Pacific region over the last decade; not only through its institutional arrangements but also through activities such as MALITA, Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and ICARM. He also stressed that this meeting would contribute to assessing NOWPAP efforts using the results of the RACs evaluation. In this regard, the issue of increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund should reach an agreement in order to stabilizing financial resources for the present and future activities. He closed that statement noting that the Korean government

remains as committed as ever to fully play its part in the activities carried out under the NOWPAP framework.

13. Mr. Vladimir Lenev, Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation, expressed his government's gratitude to the People's Republic of China for organizing this meeting. He said that the NOWPAP region is characterized by growing anthropogenic impact on the marine and coastal environment as a result of rapid economic development. He also stated that biodiversity conservation should become one of the most important tasks of the regional cooperation since the region has a unique biological diversity of marine and coastal ecosystems. In this regard, his government supported the establishment of a new RAC on biodiversity or an initiation of biodiversity programme within the framework of NOWPAP. He confirmed the proposal to create a new RAC on the basis of the Institute of Marine Biology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Finally, he wished that this meeting would contribute to the implementation of NOWPAP activities addressing the common goal to protect and improve the marine and coastal environment in the region.

14. Mr. Chon Il Kim, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made a short statement. He expressed sincere thanks on behalf of his government to all NOWPAP member states for allowing them to attend this meeting as observers, especially to the government of the People's Republic of China for hosting this meeting. He mentioned that it is for the first time for his government to attend the NOWPAP meeting and considered learning about NOWPAP activities through this meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2(a): Election of Officers

15. According to the NOWPAP practice, the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Meeting would be the representative of the host state, the Rapporteur would be the representative of the member state to host the next Intergovernmental Meeting, and two Vice Chairpersons would be the representatives of the remaining two member states, respectively. The meeting agreed to elect the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr., Ruisheng Yue, the People's Republic of China
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Vladimir Lenev, the Russian Federation
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Yasuhiro Hamura, Japan
Rapporteur:	Mr. Chang Mo Kim, the Republic of Korea

16. Mr. Vladimir Lenev introduced the elected Chairman of the meeting, the Head of Delegation of the host state, Mr. Ruisheng Yue,

Agenda Item 2(b): Organization of Work

17. The meeting agreed that the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council would be applied for the meeting, as appropriate. It was also agreed that the meeting would conduct its business in plenary with English as the working language.

Agenda Item 2(c): Adoption of Agenda

18. After considering the provisional agenda submitted by the Secretariat (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/ 1), the meeting adopted its agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organisation of the meeting:
 - (a) Election of officers
 - (b) Organization of work
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda
 - (d) Presentation of credentials
3. Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan:
 - (a) Programme implementation in 2006 – 2007
 - (b) Budget and Trust Fund
- 4 Reports of the RAC Directors on the implementation of work during 2006 – 2007:
 - (a) CEARAC
 - (b) DINRAC
 - (c) MERRAC
 - (d) POMRAC
5. Consideration of the draft texts of NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Contingency Plan and the associated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
6. NOWPAP RACs evaluation and proposal for RCU evaluation
7. Implementation of Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) and Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
8. Consideration of alternative proposal dealing with persistent toxic substances or biodiversity conservation

9. Consultations on increased contributions to the Trust Fund
10. Rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between RCU Toyama office and RCU Busan office
11. NOWPAP workplan and budget for 2008-2009
12. Preparation for the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the report of the meeting
15. Closure of the meeting

Agenda Item 2(d): Presentation of Credentials

19. The Heads of Delegations of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation presented their credentials to the Secretariat. The credentials were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on Implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

Agenda Item 3 (a) Programme implementation in 2006 – 2007

20. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Alexander Tkalin, presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/3). He briefed on the progress of the four RACs activities, with respect to their major outcomes achieved during the 2006-2007 biennium, and mentioned that the detailed reports of the four RACs would be presented by the RAC Directors under Agenda Item 4.

21. He introduced the background and the results of the evaluation of the performance of the four NOWPAP RACs and mentioned that further detailed discussion would be taken under Agenda Item 6.

22. He reported on NOWPAP efforts to establish and strengthen partnerships with the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), North East Asian Regional – Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA); North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) and UNDP/GEF Project on the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME). A Letter of Cooperation (LOC) between NOWPAP and YSLME was signed in May 2007. A similar LOC between NOWPAP and PEMSEA would be signed in late October 2007. He stressed that all these efforts would contribute not only to promoting mutual cooperation but also to increasing the visibility of NOWPAP in the region and beyond the region.

23. The NOWPAP Coordinator further introduced public awareness activities taken by NOWPAP RCU and RACs, in accordance with the NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy, such as maintenance and update of the NOWPAP homepages (including RACs); introduction of NOWPAP information through NOWPAP partners' websites and their electronic newsletters; participation in different global and regional meetings and local events; preparation and distribution of promotion materials.

24. He also explained NOWPAP efforts for resource mobilization, including approaching several external sources and sharing such information with RACs and Marine Litter National Focal Points. UNEP Regional Seas Programme kindly provided US\$ 33,000 that was (and would be) spent for NOWPAP RACs evaluation and for the RAP MALI (Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter) meeting. Some NOWPAP activities were further supported by the member states (e.g., marine litter workshops and International Coastal Cleanup campaigns) and regional partners (e.g., IOC WESTPAC).

25. He stressed that NOWPAP MALITA has been implemented successfully, in close collaboration with the four RACs and Marine Litter National Focal Points, and with support from the member states. He stated that MALITA was heading towards its end. However, NOWPAP activities to deal with marine litter issues would be continued through the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/7/2), developed as an outcome of MALITA and pending the approval by the Intergovernmental meeting. This issue would be further discussed in depth under Agenda Item 7.

26. He reported that NOWPAP GEF project proposal has not been entered into 2007 GEF pipeline and mentioned that this issue would be further discussed under Agenda Item 8.

Agenda Item 3 (b) Budget and Trust Fund

27. The NOWPAP Coordinator briefed on the financial arrangements for the implementation of NOWPAP and mentioned that this issue would be considered and discussed in depth under Agenda Items 9 and 11.

28. The representative of the People's Republic of China expressed her government thanks to RCU for coordination of the NOWPAP activities and to RACs for the implementation of their activities.

29. The representative of the Republic of Korea remarked with appreciation that most of previous IGM resolutions have been implemented successfully in the 2006-2007 biennium. However, he pointed out that the outstanding contributions of the member states exceeded US\$ 550,000. For the stable implementation of NOWPAP activities, he stressed that it is necessary for the member states to deposit their contributions faithfully.

30. The representative of Japan, regarding building partnerships, requested RCU to consult with the member states before making legal agreements with other international organizations such as YSLME and PEMSEA. Considering the financial status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, he requested RCU to make further efforts to obtain some financial support from other international organizations (World Bank and GEF).

31. The representative of YSLME project stated that regarding cooperative activities between NOWPAP and YSLME, the Letter of Cooperation, signed between the two bodies, is the most notable development, which would reconfirm the continuous cooperation.

32. The representative of WESTPAC mentioned the NEAR-GOOS-NOWPAP Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis, co-organized with CEARAC, as a successful model of regional cooperation. He further stressed that regional cooperation in the region (e.g., NOWPAP, COBSEA, PEMSEA and YSLME) is essential to avoid duplication of financial and human resources, in particular under the current concept of "One UN System" and this kind of regional cooperation should be continued.

33. The representative of COBSEA mentioned that since the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea are members to both NOWPAP and COBSEA, cooperation between the two Regional Seas Programmes is very useful. He informed that the COBSEA new activity directions (so called "white paper") would be adopted at the next COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting in January 2008 and available thereafter. In this regard, expertise of NOWPAP and its RACs would be a good example to learn with respect to the sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment in the East Asian region.

34. The representative of PEMSEA mentioned that regarding the regional cooperation, PEMSEA has successfully conducted its First Partnership Council Meeting in July this year. He also stated that PEMSEA has made a significant progress on contents and practices of the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). Regarding the ICM, NOWPAP partnership with PEMSEA would be beneficial for each other, in particular regarding the implementation of the new NOWPAP activity on the Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management.

35. Dr. Adler (UNEP Regional Seas Programme) pointed out that the current NOWPAP financial situation is close to critical: when the NOWPAP Trust Fund resources are exhausted, UNEP would not approve the workplans and project documents of NOWPAP RACs. As advised by Japan, regarding the importance of approaching the possible external funds, he encouraged RACs to seek national and international sources to mobilize additional funds.

36. The representative of the Republic of Korea recommended RCU to seek other external funds using opportunities of attending the international meetings (e.g., GEF International Waters Conferences). He also requested RCU to include in the report the figures of the financial support from the NOWPAP member states provided for organizing the NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup campaigns and workshops, in order to appreciate the member states' contributions as well as to see the actual cost of the NOWPAP activities.

37. The Head of Delegation of Japan suggested streamlining the current NOWPAP activities to ensure that they can be carried out within the NOWPAP budget available before initiating new activities, taking into account the current financial constraints.

38. The meeting adopted the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of NOWPAP for 2006-2007 (as reflected in resolution 1 in Annex I attached to this report).

Agenda Item 4: Reports of the RAC Directors on Implementation of Work during 2006–2007

Agenda Item 4(a): Report of the Director of CEARAC

39. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Takeshi Ogawa, presented the report on the activities of CEARAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/4/1) and the workplan and budget for CEARAC, as approved by the Fifth CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (Toyama, 18-19 September 2007).

Agenda Item 4(b): Report of the Director of DINRAC

40. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of DINRAC, Mr. Jianguo Wang, presented the report on the activities of DINRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/4/2) and the workplan and budget for DINRAC, as approved by the Sixth Focal Points Meeting (Beijing, 24-25 May 2007).

Agenda Item 4(c): Report of the Director of MERRAC

41. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the representative of MERRAC, Dr. Seong-Gil Kang, presented the report on the activities of MERRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/4/3) and the workplan and budget of MERRAC, as approved by the Ninth Focal Points Meeting (Daejeon, 15-18 May 2007).

Agenda Item 4(d): Report of the Director of POMRAC

42. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of POMRAC, Dr. Anatoly Kachur, presented the report on the activities of POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/4/4) and the workplan and budget of POMRAC, as approved by the Fourth Focal Points Meeting (Vladivostok, 8-9 October 2007).

43. The representative of Japan mentioned several important issues related to the implementation of NOWPAP activities, taking into account restricted NOWPAP budget. First, data collection on the marine environment in the region should be continued in order to share information among the member states and to raise awareness on the status of the marine environment. Second, effective/practical activities should be promoted in response to marine pollution (such as CEARAC activities on harmful algal blooms and remote sensing applications and MERRAC activities related to oil and chemical spills). For MERRAC future activity on ballast waters, it was suggested to be first discussed in relation to the international convention because the convention on Ballast Water Management has not yet entered into force. For DINRAC, it was suggested that meta-database should be completed as soon as possible and become operational. For POMRAC, it was suggested to focus on ICARM without initiating new activities under the framework of POMRAC.

44. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation appreciated outcomes of RAC activities and commented that RAC projects should be targeted for three major groups. First, policy makers; they should understand the ways how to improve the regional environment. Second, general public; to improve basic understanding on the marine and coastal environment. Third, other regional organizations; to achieve synergy through combining NOWPAP activities with the other international organizations involved in the same activities. He also remarked that a significant amount of the budget was spent to publish the meeting reports and suggested making the electronic versions of such reports. He further suggested that major research studies to contribute to the general understanding of the problem should be published not only in English but also in national languages of the NOWPAP member states.

45. The representative of People's Republic of China informed that the Second NOWPAP Joint Oil Spill Exercise, originally planned to be held in April 2008, would be postponed to October because of several reasons related to Beijing Olympic Games and the foggy weather conditions in April. She also invited Japan and Russia as observers while the exercise would be organized mainly by the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea.

46. The representative of Japan suggested, regarding the current financial status of NOWPAP, streamlining the publication of RACs activities as commented by the Russian delegation, holding the Focal Points Meetings of RACs in combination with their Expert Meetings, and reducing the number of participants of the Focal Points Meeting. He also urged RACs to reduce the budget as much as possible and to implement activities more efficiently and effectively.

47. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea, taking into account different progress on the RACs activities, suggested rationalizing the budget to be allocated to RACs. It was further commented that the same amount of the budget could be tentatively allocated to RACs and the detailed budgets for each RAC could be reviewed at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

48. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation pointed out that there is some overlapping between RAC activities on biodiversity issues such as biodiversity data and information, ballast waters and alien species. He suggested that biodiversity issue be strengthened in more effective way and in line with global change issues.

49. Dr. Alder reminded how each RAC has evolved with designated specific tasks. The quality and quantity of the outcomes of NOWPAP RACs are outstanding in comparison with other programmes, in particular with respect to their limited budgets. RACs have their own governing bodies (Focal Points Meetings), consisting of the Focal Points nominated by the member states, which indicates presence of the decision making process of RACs. This meeting should respect such process. To overcome some duplication between RAC activities as previously commented by the member states, NOWPAP is in need of a coordinating mechanism between RACs such as was effective through the MALITA implementation. This practice could be replicated in dealing with biodiversity issues, ICARM, etc.

50. The representative of WESTPAC informed that the Seventh IOC/WESTPAC International Symposium on Natural Hazards and Changing Marine Environment in the Western Pacific will be held in May 2008 where NOWPAP experts could share their expertise within the region. He briefed the meeting of the Assessment of Assessments (AoA) of the Regular Process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (GRAME), including social and economic aspects, to which NOWPAP and WESTPAC could jointly contribute. He further mentioned that the NEAR-GOOS/NOWPAP joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Analysis and related teaching materials could be shared with and incorporated into Ocean Teacher Portal developed by the IOC/UNESCO Intergovernmental Ocean Data Exchange (IODE) Program when available.

51. The meeting approved the RAC reports on their work in 2006-2007 (as reflected in resolution I in Annex I attached to this report). The detailed discussion of RAC workplans and budgets would be continued under Agenda Item 11.

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of the draft texts of Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substance (HNS) Spill Contingency Plan and the associated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

52. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Seong-Gil Kang (MERRAC) introduced the draft texts of Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan and the associated MoU (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/5) that was discussed at the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (Daejeon, 15-18 May 2007). He requested to consider the procedures of the final adoption of the draft texts.

53. The representative of the People's Republic of China provided several editorial comments.

54. The NOWPAP Coordinator proposed to adopt the revised NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan at this meeting in principle. Regarding the associated MoU, there are two options: to sign it or to adopt it at this meeting. It should also be discussed when the revised MoU would enter into effect, e.g., after three or six months of its adoption. He further requested MERRAC to distribute the revised MoU to the NOWPAP member states by e-mail, taking into account minor editorial amendments raised at this meeting.

55. Dr. Adler explained that the revised MoU has no legal implications but requires the signing process. In this regard, he suggested changing the title of the original MoU to the "NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting Agreement on Oil and HNS Contingency Plan". In this case, the Contingency Plan would be entered into effect as soon as possible after its adoption at the Intergovernmental Meeting without signing process.

56. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea proposed to adopt the document at this meeting, taking into account its importance and urgency. He also explained that his government is ready to endorse this contingency plan.

57. The Head of Delegation of Japan stated that his government has no substantial problem to revise this document and requested UNEP to provide legal advice on this issue.

58. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation supported, in principle, the revised Oil and HNS Contingency Plan and suggested to adopt it without signing process. He also remarked that all NOWPAP member states are signatory countries to the OPRC Convention and no legal consideration would be necessary.

59. The representative of the People's Republic of China requested UNEP to clarify whether it is legally possible for the NOWPAP Intergovernmental meeting to adopt the two documents without signing process. She also expressed concern that some member states would need time for internal procedures to endorse the documents adopted at the Intergovernmental Meeting.

60. Dr. Adler explained that according to his understanding, there are no legal implications in the original text of MoU but he is not able to answer her first question and suggested further consulting with UNEP legal adviser. He suggested that MERRAC, together with RCU, modify the text of the documents (including changing the title of the document and editorial comments raised by the People's Republic of China) and distribute the amended documents within a month after this meeting. Then the member states could consult with their respective authorities, as necessary.

61. The representative of MERRAC proposed to keep the original MOU (already signed by ministers of the member states) and attach the IGM resolution to adopt the revised Oil and HNS

contingency plan to the original MOU. The revised draft texts would be circulated to the member states during the intersessional period and be finalized at the next IGM.

62. The NOWPAP Coordinator clarified that it is practically impossible to keep original MoU on the Oil Spill Contingency Plan because, as advised by UNEP, the revised MoU includes HNS spill issues and requires new signing process. As agreed by the member states, the Regional Contingency Plan could be adopted without signing process at this meeting and MERRAC would distribute the revised documents (NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting Agreement on HNS with attached Regional Contingency Plan) to the member states within one month after this meeting. Comments from the member states would be taken into account during the intersessional period.

63. The meeting agreed that MERRAC would distribute the revised texts of documents to the member states within one month after this meeting, taking into account editorial comments provided by the People's Republic of China, and then the member states would undertake their internal consultations until the next meeting (as reflected in resolution 6 in Annex I attached to this report).

Agenda Item 6: NOWPAP RACs evaluation and proposal for RCU evaluation

64. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented the report on evaluation of the performance of the four NOWPAP RACs (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/6) prepared by an independent international consultant in accordance with resolution 1.7 of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/8). He stated that the results of the report should be further used while considering RAC workplans and budgets.

65. The representative of Japan remarked that data acquisition on the marine environment is important to contribute to the goals of NOWPAP. Some RACs activities are also important for capacity building; for example, CEARAC established the monitoring system on harmful algal blooms and coastal assessment and MERRAC played an important role in oil and chemical spills contingency plan development. However, some other RACs activities were not as efficient. Regarding the current financial situation of NOWPAP, he suggested elaborating data sharing in order to assess the marine environment in the region, and evaluating and prioritizing all RACs activities for the future activities. He stressed the importance to streamline RAC activities and decrease number of meetings.

66. He further provided some editorial comments on the report of the RACs evaluation, such as cooperation with international organizations and participation of NGOs in the RAC Focal Points Meetings. He reiterated that it is too early to initiate new activities on land-based sources and ballast waters and to establish a new RAC under the current budget constraints. Finally, he requested RACs to prepare Focal Points Meeting documents in advance, at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

67. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that RACs should be focused on more results-oriented activities in the future. He requested RCU to pay more efforts to coordinate activities in order to avoid duplication between RACs and to report how to resolve this potential duplication among RACs at the next Intergovernmental Meeting. He also remarked that the Russian Federation might pay more attention to support POMRAC as mentioned in the evaluation report. He further commented on the need to improve the DINRAC performance and to consider the revision of the Terms of References of DINRAC. The results of the RACs evaluation should be reflected in the workplan and budget of NOWPAP for the next biennium. He requested RACs to provide the precise costs of RACs activities, including financial support from the host member state of the respective RAC, and to consider whether such activities are results-oriented while prioritizing RAC projects. He further proposed to evaluate the RCU performance in 2008 and requested RCU to prepare a proposal (scope and methodology), in consultation with UNEP, considering examples of other Regional Seas Programmes.

68. The representative of the People's Republic of China encouraged RACs to take into consideration the conclusions of the RACs evaluation report, together with several recommendations and options, in their future work. She also mentioned that the purpose of RACs evaluation was to share experiences and lessons learned between RACs but the report does not reflect this fact. Future evaluation work should reflect good practices and experiences to be learned.

69. The representative of the People's Republic of China mentioned a good example of collaboration between DINRAC and POMRAC on database establishment. In the future, data sharing among RACs should be promoted as DINRAC should play a role of a data provider for the whole NOWPAP system.

70. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation commented that RACs evaluation report confirmed that NOWPAP is developing in a right direction. He also stressed two recommendations of the report, addressing land-based sources of pollution and biodiversity issues, and suggested considering the way how to integrate these two issues into the programme of work of NOWPAP. He further suggested that the evaluation of RACs and RCU in the future should be undertaken at the same time, not separately.

71. The NOWPAP Coordinator supported the Russian delegate opinion that the evaluation of RCU is better to be done at the same time with the RACs evaluation. He also mentioned that the cost of the RACs evaluation was US\$ 20,000, so the next IGM might consider difficult to allocate adequate resources regarding the current financial constrains of NOWPAP.

72. Dr. Adler commented that each individual Regional Seas Programme should theoretically prioritize the activities to be carried out in the region and then dedicate such activities to RACs. The evaluation report is not just guidance for NOWPAP RACs but suggests possible ways to move forward, as a roadmap of NOWPAP. In this regard, RACs should take into account recommendations and suggestions provided in the evaluation report in their future activities. He further suggested postponing the RCU evaluation for two or three years; regarding the evaluation cost, he would try to mobilize UNEP resources.

73. The representative of the People's Republic of China stated that the evaluation of RCU is necessary but it would be better to be done two or three years later, after the rotation of staff between the two RCU offices (scheduled for January 2009).

74. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea supported the Chinese proposal to undertake the RCU evaluation in the second half of the year 2009 after the rotation of staff. He requested RCU to prepare the evaluation methodology before the next Intergovernmental Meeting for consideration.

75. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the Chinese position but reiterated that the RCU and RACs evaluation should be carried out at the same time.

76. The Head of Delegation of Japan supported that the best timing of the RCU evaluation is after the rotation of staff between the two RCU offices, and taking into account the resources available at that time. He also suggested the evaluator to make a presentation on the results of the RCU evaluation personally at the Intergovernmental Meeting.

77. The representative of IOC/WESTPAC suggested that the visibility of RACs and RCU at the national and regional level need to be taken into consideration when the next evaluation is carried out.

78. The meeting took note of the report of the RACs evaluation and requested RCU to prepare the Terms of Reference for the RCU evaluation for consideration at the next Intergovernmental Meeting (as reflected in resolution 1 in Annex I attached to this report).

Agenda Item 7: Implementation of Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) and draft Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

79. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented the report on the implementation of MALITA during 2006 and 2007 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/7/1). He summarized major outcomes of MALITA. First, NOWPAP marine litter database was established (led by DINRAC). Second, a regional overview on legal instruments, institutional arrangements and programmes related to marine litter was published on the basis of national summaries prepared by the Marine Litter National Focal Points. Third, marine litter monitoring guidelines and sectoral guidelines for shipping, fisheries and tourism were developed (led by CEARAC and MERRAC). Fourth, brochures, leaflets and posters were published and distributed to increase public awareness on the marine litter problem (done by RCU and all RACs). Finally, during the implementation of MALITA, marine litter workshops and International Coastal Cleanup campaigns (with side events such as meetings and exhibitions) were held successfully with the financial support from the member states. All these activities greatly contributed to raising public awareness and to developing a Regional Overview on Marine Litter in the NOWPAP region as well as a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI).

80. He stated that the most important outcome from MALITA is the draft RAP MALI (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/7/2). Since NOWPAP efforts to deal with the marine litter problem in the region should be continued through the implementation of RAP MALI, he requested to approve the draft RAP MALI. The detailed workplan and budget of RAP MALI would be developed at the RAP MALI Meeting on 20-21 November 2007.

81. Dr. Adler mentioned that NOWPAP MALITA has been implemented by similar approaches with other eleven Regional Seas Programmes: first to assess the regional status and then to develop regional strategy and incorporate such strategy into the programme of work. He stressed that NOWPAP MALITA outcomes have been outstanding, both in quality and quantity, and encouraged continuing this kind of activities in the NOWPAP region. He introduced three activities being developed by UNEP: the report on economic instruments that would be available in 2008; then report on abandoned and derelict fishing gear; and UNEP/IOC global guidelines on marine litter monitoring. Regarding the third activity, he reminded Japan and the Republic of Korea of nominating one national expert for the international Scientific Group to develop monitoring guidelines, as requested earlier.

82. The representative of Japan, while commending some outcomes of MALITA such as coastal cleanup campaigns and workshops, commented that some policy guidelines on marine litter management might not be effective because preparation time was very short for in-depth consultations and translating such guidelines into the national languages of the member states might be needed. He suggested concentrating on continuing marine litter data collection, considering scarcity of information on marine litter in some member states and strict budgetary situation. In this regard, the Japanese government is ready to provide data obtained by the national surveys. He also advised that national activities in the draft RAP MALI should be coordinated with national and local authorities and policies, taking into account different schemes of national legal framework of each member state to deal with marine litter. He requested RCU to improve the decision-making process on marine litter activities in the future. He further remarked that NOWPAP should implement marine litter activities on a step by step basis, i.e., focusing on three issues: data collection; workshops to exchange information and knowledge; and campaigns to raise awareness.

83. The representative of the Republic of Korea commended MALITA as one of successful NOWPAP projects and suggested continuing this kind of activities. He also suggested, if possible, moving "Concluding Remarks" of the RAP MALI to the appropriate place in the text and describing in detail the roles of RACs, in addition to activities to be implemented at the national and regional level. As an example on involvement of civil society, he introduced Korean experiences to cooperate with local governments in order to cope with the marine litter problem, with financial support from the central government and the active involvement of NGOs. Regarding the financial constrains of NOWPAP, he suggested minimizing the budget to be allocated to the RAP MALI implementation while utilizing external resources from the member states and private sector (as it has been done during the MALITA implementation).

84. The representative of the People's Republic of China, commending successful implementation of MALITA, including several workshops and coastal cleanup campaigns, commented that the Chinese government has recently paid more attention to marine litter issues

and developed some policies and measures in this regard. He supported further marine litter-related activities in the NOWPAP region and remarked on three particular issues. First, RAP MALI should be implemented in a practical manner, step-by-step. Second, the situation of the member states should be taken into account, e.g., in dealing with marine litter on seabed. Third, external funds should be utilized, if possible, and coordination with local level authorities is important for the successful implementation of RAP MALI.

85. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation mentioned that marine litter activity is one of the most important activities of NOWPAP that should be continued in line with global concerns. Since marine litter issues are covered by the different international organizations, NOWPAP should avoid duplication of work and be focused on practical issues such as raising public awareness. He supported translation of the developed guidelines and booklets into the national languages of the member states to attract more attention from the general public including school children. He also appreciated the generous support provided by other member states to implement MALITA.

86. The representative of Japan mentioned the currently on-going efforts of the Japanese government to promote the NOWPAP marine litter activities, such as voluntary financial support to organize a workshop and ICC campaign in the Russian Federation in 2008.

87. The representative of COBSEA mentioned that NOWPAP MALITA is a good example to deal with marine litter issues in the region. Since numerical models for assessing and predicting marine litter distribution are useful, he suggested that NOWPAP might develop and apply such models.

88. The meeting adopted, in principle, the draft text of RAP MALI and requested the member states to provide their comments in a written form by 6 November, two weeks prior to the RAP MALI Workshop on 20-21 November 2007. Thereafter, the revised RAP MALI would be disseminated to the member states (National Focal Points), finalized and adopted through e-mail (as reflected in resolution 4 in Annex I attached to this report).

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of alternative proposal dealing with persistent toxic substances or biodiversity conservation

89. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator reported on the current status of the NOWPAP GEF project proposal "Addressing Land-based Activities that Affect the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region". The project proposal has not been entered into the 2007 GEF pipeline. He mentioned that obtaining GEF funds for the NOWPAP GEF project proposal focusing on persistent toxic substances (PTS) in 2008 and thereafter is not easily foreseen, due to a sharper competition for financial resources for International Waters projects during GEF Phase IV (2006 – 2010).

90. He proposed two alternative options (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/8). The first option is to initiate a new project on land-based sources of PTS in the NOWPAP region, based on the already agreed GEF proposal developed by NOWPAP RCU in collaboration with UNEP DGEF and the member states. US\$ 100,000 from the NOWPAP Trust Fund would be required to undertake this activity. The second option is to initiate a project to address biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region. US\$ 60,000 would be required to organize a regional meeting in order to initiate this activity.

91. Dr. Adler explained that GEF procedures and priorities are currently being revising. He suggested considering options prepared by RCU or addressing other GEF priority issues such as climate change.

92. The representative of Japan suggested postponing consideration of two options prepared by RCU and using US\$ 100,000 (already allocated to the GEF project) for future activities regarding the current financial constraints.

93. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea mentioned the importance to get outside funding. However, taking into account difficulties to obtain the GEF funds, he suggested using US\$ 100,000 for other priority activities rather than the two options suggested.

94. The representative of the People's Republic of China supported the view point expressed by the Republic of Korea. If there is no positive sign to obtain the GEF funds on PTS project, she requested RCU to explore other options where possible proposal could be acceptable for the GEF.

95. After short discussion, the meeting agreed to continue approaching the GEF Secretariat in 2008 regarding the NOWPAP GEF project proposal focusing on PTS (as reflected in resolution 5 in Annex I attached to this report).

Agenda Item 9: Consultations on Increased Contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund

96. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented the current status of the Trust Fund, stressing the necessity of increasing the total amount of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and individual contributions of the member states to the Trust Fund. He also recalled related resolutions of the Tenth and Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 10/10 and UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/8).

97. The Head of Delegation of Japan explained that, due to difficult situation in Japan, his government has to reduce contributions to the international organizations. Nevertheless, he mentioned that his government has been making best efforts to maintain the current level of Japanese contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

98. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea stressed unsustainability of the current NOWPAP financial situation and suggested resolving this matter at this meeting with no further delay. He pointed out that the further delay to resolve this issue would jeopardize the whole NOWPAP activities and expressed his government willingness to increase its contributions to the Trust Fund to US\$ 125,000. He further remarked that even though this meeting could not reach the target amount of US\$ 500,000, considering the Japanese position that the current contributions is the maximum level for the time being, the increased contributions of the member states to the Trust Fund would be very meaningful and this matter should be resolved at the next meeting. He also attracted attention of the meeting that the amount of unpaid pledges to the NOWPAP Trust Fund exceeded US\$ 500,000 and stressed the importance for all member states to pay their pledges on time.

99. The delegation of the Russian Federation explained the reasons of not being able to pay its contributions in previous years, due to the internal procedures. He mentioned that his government is willing to make annual contributions of US\$ 125,000 but more time is required to resolve this matter internally.

100. The delegation of the People's Republic of China recalled that this issue has been discussed repeatedly since the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting. She suggested that the contribution scale of the member states be comprised of basic and additional portions, reflecting shared but differentiated responsibilities, taking into account different levels of economic development of the member states. Recalling resolution 2 of the Tenth and Eleventh Intergovernmental Meetings on the increase of the total amount of the Trust Fund and the contributions of all member states, she suggested that increasing contributions of all member states to the Trust Fund at the same time be necessary.

101. After several consultations among representatives of the member states between the sessions, and taking into account that the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation would try their best to increase their contributions to US\$ 125,000 each in 2008-2010, the meeting agreed to further discuss this issue at the next Intergovernmental Meeting (as reflected in resolution 2 in Annex I attached to this report).

Agenda Item 10: Rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between Toyama and Busan RCU Office

102. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator introduced background paper on this agenda item (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/9) and recalled resolution 4 of the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 7/10). He proposed three options: first, rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator only; second, rotation of all four professional staff members; and third, rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator with hiring two new professional staff members (P-3 level).

103. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea supported the option 1 (rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator only between the two RCU offices) in accordance with resolution of the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting.

104. The Head Delegation of Japan also supported the option 1 as the less expensive.

105. The representative of the People's Republic of China respected the two hosting member states being in favour of the option 1.

106. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation suggested considering cost-effectiveness, financial considerations and sustainability of RCU functions during such rotation. In this regard, he suggested modifying the period of rotation in the future to 6 or 8 years rather than 4 years.

107. In response to the Russian intervention, Dr. Adler supported considering to extend the cycle of rotation from four years to six or eight years. He also suggested considering rotation of Coordinator and Administrative Officer at the same time.

108. The Head of Delegation of Japan suggested keeping the current cycle and condition of rotation as decided at the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting.

109. The representative of the Republic of Korea also proposed to keep the current modality of rotation. He pointed out that according to the decisions of the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting, the current arrangements of nationalities of staff would apply only to the first four years and suggested considering possible changes in nationality of staff.

110. The Representative of People's Republic of China suggested discussing this issue in the future.

111. The meeting agreed on rotation of Coordinator and Deputy-Coordinator in December 2008 - January 2009 (as reflected in resolution 3 in Annex I attached to this report).

Agenda Item 11: NOWPAP Workplan and Budget for 2008-2009

112. Upon the request of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented the NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/10). He suggested two options: the first option is to remain the budget scheme of 2008-2009 at the same level as in the previous biennium of 2006-2007 (US\$ 1.2M); and the second is to decrease the budget for the 2008-2009 biennium to US\$ 1.0M or 0.8M.

113. The representative of Japan distributed a proposal on the reduced budget scheme of NOWPAP activities for consideration of the meeting. The proposal contained two options with the total budget of US\$ 0.7-0.8M. She explained possible ways to reduce the budget for the next biennium: first, to prioritize and streamline activities; second, to reduce travel costs of RACs (to reduce the number of Focal Points Meetings and Experts Meetings of RACs or to hold the two meetings back-to-back, to reduce the number of participants from each member state in the RACs meetings, and to reduce number of participants of RACs in other RACs Meeting); third, to seek external resources (e.g., World Bank, GEF); fourth, to reduce publication costs of documents produced by RACs.

114. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea supported streamlining RACs activities, taking into account the current financial constraints of NOWPAP.

115. The representative of the People's Republic of China pointed out that the increased contributions to the Trust Fund and the budget scheme for 2008-2009 are linked to each other. In particular, she stressed that this meeting should respect the previous agreements as the issue on the increased contributions to the Trust Fund has been discussed since the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting and several resolutions were adopted reflecting the member states intentions.

116. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation commented that the way to reduce the budget should be focused on cutting down the costs to organize the RACs meetings but not diminishing RACs activities and public awareness raising. He suggested holding the RACs meetings back-to-back and reducing the number of participants of each member state in the RACs meetings.

117. The Head of Delegation of Japan remarked that even though the Japanese proposal is somewhat tight, it would be possible that the member states provide voluntary contributions to RAC activities when RACs develop concrete project proposals. The marine litter activity would be also supported by the member states.

118. The representative of the Republic of Korea pointed out that NOWPAP could not maintain the current level of activities and the budget for RACs should be reduced taking into account the results of RACs evaluation. Some projects such as marine litter activity could be financially supported by the member states, including some institutions and local government.

119. After consultations with member states delegations and UNEP, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented a compromised proposal on the budget for the next biennium (US\$ 1.0M).

120. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea raised the question if the new budget proposal prepared by RCU had taken into account suggestions and recommendations of the report of RACs evaluation and suggested to introduce some kind of competition among RACs for financial resources (giving incentive to RACs showing good performance to implement their activities). At least this issue could be further discussed at a later stage.

121. The representative of the People's Republic of China supported the revised budget for the next biennium, including allocation of US\$ 140,000 to each RAC, but pointed out that the report of the RACs evaluation clearly said that US\$ 150,000 is not sufficient to RACs activities. Nevertheless, she encouraged RAC directors to take into account suggestions and recommendations from the RACs evaluation report.

122. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the Chinese position. Regarding the report of RACs evaluation, he stressed again that the biodiversity issue should be reflected in the future activities. In this regard, he suggested taking into account biodiversity issues at this meeting. He further remarked that RACs should cut down travel costs but not costs of specific activities.

123. The NOWPAP Coordinator promised that RCU would keep in touch with GEF regarding possibility to submit the current NOWPAP GEF proposal on PTS or to develop a new project proposal according to GEF priorities. He also explained that biodiversity-related projects would be implemented by some RACs according to their workplans for 2008-2009.

124. The Head of Delegation of Japan shared the importance of biodiversity issues (mentioned by Russia) but noted that it would be difficult to develop a new activity with respect to the current financial constraints of NOWPAP. He also requested RACs to pay more efforts to cut down their costs and to seek external funding sources, including the Japanese government.

125. Dr. Adler suggested that RCU would inform the next Intergovernmental Meeting on possible ways to address the biodiversity issues within the framework of NOWPAP, in consultation with RACs and UNEP.

126. The meeting approved the workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium (as reflected in Resolution 1 in Annex I attached to this report).

Agenda Item 12: Preparation for the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting

127. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea announced that his government invites the Thirteenth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting in 2008 and date and venue would be decided at a later stage in consultation with the other member states and RCU.

128. The NOWPAP Coordinator suggested considering the possibility to hold the NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting biannually rather than annually.

129. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that regarding the urgent issues such as the increased contributions of the member states to the Trust Fund, the Intergovernmental Meeting should be held on an annual basis.

130. The Head of Delegation of Japan also preferred to have the Intergovernmental Meeting annually and suggested RACs to hold the Focal Points Meetings once in two years to reduce the budget.

131. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the current manner to hold the Intergovernmental Meeting annually.

132. The representative of the People's Republic of China was in favour of holding the Intergovernmental Meeting annually, regarding some important agenda items to be resolved such as the Trust Fund contributions.

Agenda Item 13: Other Business

133. The Chairman invited the member states, observers and RAC Directors to make any comments and statements, suggestions to be shared.

134. No issues were raised under this agenda.

Agenda Item 14: Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

135. The meeting approved resolutions and agreed that the meeting report with its annexes would be distributed within one week and then finalized by correspondence within two weeks.

136. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea recommended RCU to distribute the meeting report before closing the meeting, if possible.

Agenda Item 15: Closure of the Meeting

137. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 13:30 pm on Thursday, 25 October 2007.

Annex I

Resolutions

Resolution 1

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

The Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves the report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP activities during the 2006-2007 biennium,
2. Approves also the reports of the four Regional Activity Centres of NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP during the 2006-2007 biennium,
3. Approves further NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium as presented in the following table,
4. Decides that this approved budget may be amended at the next Intergovernmental Meeting, if necessary,
5. Requests the RAC directors to introduce changes and prioritize their respective activities in line with the approved budget and in consultation with their respective Focal Points Meetings on priority activities,
6. Requests NOWPAP RCU to facilitate the implementation of work by providing support and assistance to the RACs,
7. Takes note of the RACs evaluation report (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/6) and requests NOWPAP RCU and RAC directors to implement NOWPAP activities and projects more effectively, efficiently and in a cooperative manner, taking into account strict budgetary situation and recommendations of the RACs evaluation report,
8. Requests RCU to prepare the Terms of Reference for RCU evaluation, in close consultation with UNEP and NOWPAP member states, and decides to discuss the RCU evaluation at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

**NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium as approved by the
12th Intergovernmental Meeting in Xiamen, People's Republic of China,
23-25 October 2007**

Activity	Responsibility for implementation	2008-2009 Budget
CEARAC	CEARAC	140
DINRAC	DINRAC	140
MERRAC	MERRAC	140
POMRAC	POMRAC	140
RAP MALI	RCU	50
GEF PPG	RCU	24
Public Awareness	RCU	25
Coordination of RACs	RCU	20
Operation of RCU	RCU	100
Implementation of NOWPAP	RCU	106
Sub-Total		885
13% of the sub-total as Programme Support Cost		115
TOTAL		1,000

Resolution 2

SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND

Recognizing the need to implement current NOWPAP projects and to initiate new activities,

Also recognizing the necessity to increase the total amount of contributions of the NOWPAP member states to the NOWPAP Trust Fund to the target amount of US\$500,000, as agreed at the 2nd Intergovernmental Meeting,

Taking note of resolution 2 of both 10th and 11th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meetings on the necessity to increase the contributions from all NOWPAP member states and also taking note of different positions of member states regarding practical possibilities to increase their contributions,

The Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. In view of current budget constraints, decides to reduce the funding for activities in the 2008-2009 biennium, as reflected in the Resolution 1.
2. Decides also to endorse the following tentative scale of contributions to the Trust Fund for activities in the 2008-2009 biennium,

Member State	Annual contribution (US\$)
People's Republic of China	40,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	100,000
Russian Federation	50,000
Total	315,000

3. Requests the UNEP Executive Director to extend the NOWPAP Trust Fund until 31 December 2011.
4. Encourages the member states to make the utmost efforts to increase their annual contributions in 2009-2010 and urges the member states to pay their pledges to the Trust Fund on time,
5. Encourages NOWPAP RCU, RACs, the NOWPAP member states and the Executive Director of UNEP to make all possible efforts to secure funds from external sources to the Trust Fund, including civil society, private sector, local governments, international and regional organizations and financial institutions, as well as to utilize the resources available in the most efficient and effective manner,
6. Decides to further discuss this issue at the next Intergovernmental Meeting,

Resolution 3

ROTATION OF COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY COORDINATOR BETWEEN TOYAMA AND BUSAN RCU OFFICES

Taking into account resolution 4 of the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the establishment of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU),

The Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Agrees to undertake the rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between the RCU Toyama and Busan office in December 2008 - January 2009,
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU to undertake the rotation in consultation with UNEP and member states, and in accordance with UN rules and regulations.

Resolution 4

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER

Acknowledging the development of the draft Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in the NOWPAP region as an important outcome of the NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA), which has been successfully implemented since November 2005,

The Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves, in principle, the draft NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/7/2), taking into account national circumstances of each member state and strict budgetary situation of NOWPAP, as a next phase of NOWPAP MALITA,
2. Decides that the member states provide their comments on RAP MALI in a written form by 6 November 2007, 2 weeks prior to the RAP MALI meeting (Toyama, Japan, 20-21 November 2007),
3. Requests RCU to revise RAP MALI, taking into account comments to be provided by the member states and by participants of the RAP MALI meeting, and to prepare detailed workplan and budget,
4. Agrees to approve the revised RAP MALI by correspondence,
5. Requests NOWPAP RCU to implement the NOWPAP RAP MALI as scheduled in close collaboration with the NOWPAP RACs, UNEP and other international organizations and programmes involved,
6. Requests also the NOWPAP member states, RACs and Marine Litter National Focal Points to fully support the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI.

Resolution 5

NOWPAP GEF PROJECT PROPOSAL

Taking note of the NOWPAP GEF project proposal on addressing land-based activities that affect the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific region, developed according to the Resolution 4 of the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting,

The Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Requests the NOWPAP RCU to submit the project proposal to GEF Secretariat for the pipeline entry in 2008, in consultation with the UNEP DGEF and member states,
2. Requests RCU to keep close contact with UNEP DGEF in order to explore the opportunities to develop a new project proposal, in consultation with the member states and in line with the GEF priorities.

Resolution 6

NOWPAP REGIONAL OIL AND HNS SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Recognising the serious threat posed to the marine environment by oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents involving ships, offshore units, ports and terminals, etc.,

Bearing in mind that, in the event of an oil or HNS pollution incident, prompt and effective action is essential in order to minimise the damage which may result from such an incident,

Taking note of the necessity and importance of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (RCP), which specifies operational procedures related to cooperation in case of emergency (this RCP is based on the NOWPAP Oil Spill Contingency Plan adopted in 2003),

The Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves the draft text of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (RCP) with minor modifications,
2. Agrees in principle that the RCP will enter into effect on the date of adoption of the NOWPAP IGM Agreement (based on the MOU signed by the member states in 2004-2005) on this issue,
3. Requests the NOWPAP MERRAC and its Focal Points Meeting to prepare and distribute the draft text of the Agreement to the member states during the intersessional period for comments, aiming to adopt it at the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting.

Annex II

List of Participants

People's Republic of China**Mr. Ruisheng YUE**

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Annex III

List of Documents

Working documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan for 2006 – 2007
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/4/1	CEARAC report of activities, 2006 – 2007
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/4/2	DINRAC report of activities, 2006 – 2007
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/4/3	MERRAC report of activities, 2006 – 2007
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/4/4	POMRAC report of activities, 2006 – 2007
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/5	NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Contingency Plan and the associated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/6	Report on NOWPAP RACs evaluation
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/7/1	Report on implementation of Marine Litter Activity (MALITA), 2006 – 2007
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/7/2	NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/8	Consideration of alternative proposals dealing with persistent toxic substances or biodiversity conservation
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/9	Background paper on rotation of NOWPAP Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between Toyama and Busan RCU offices
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/10	NOWPAP work plan and budget for 2008-2009

Information documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/INF/1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/INF/3	Provisional timetable
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 10/7	Proposal for increased contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/8	Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan: report of the meeting
