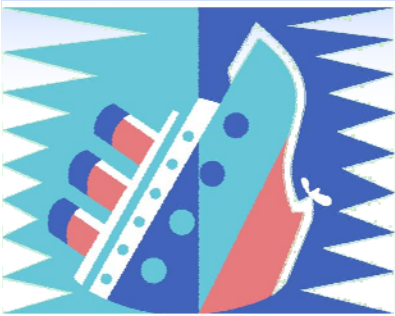




NOWPAP recent developments



The 2nd NOWPAP BRAVO exercise has been conducted successfully in January 2009 by NOWPAP member countries under the coordination of MERRAC. This exercise aimed at testing the communication between among NOWPAP members in response to oil spill incident. The 3rd NOWPAP BRAVO exercise is being scheduled for April 2009.

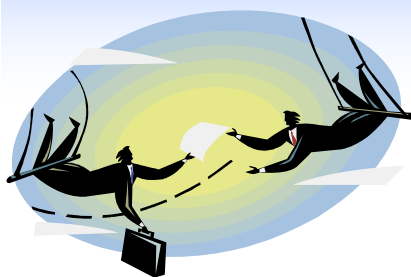
NOWPAP and PICES are developing cooperation as both sides are planning to have a joint session during the 2009 annual PICES meeting: "Marine Spatial Planning in Support of Integrated Management - Tools, Methods, and Approaches". In addition, NOWPAP is considering contribution to the PICES North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report and the Satellite Oceanography Summer School through providing experts for a relevant workshop and lecturer and materials for the summer school.



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NOWPAP RCU news



According to the decision of the 12th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), the relocation of the NOWPAP Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between Toyama and Busan RCU offices took place in December 2008. Now both offices are fully operational. After the relocation, a courtesy call has been paid respectively by the Coordinator and the Deputy Coordinator to Seoul and Tokyo.

A process for conducting RCU performance review has been started.

According to the member countries' suggestion and with the help from the UNEP Headquarters, a consultant has been hired to implement the review.



Two staff members leaving RCU

Two program officers from the NOWPAP RCU are leaving us on 31 March 2009, after working hard for four years trying to implement, promote and coordinate NOWPAP activities. Ms. (Dr.) Jeung Sook PARK, NOWPAP Scientific Affairs Officer, has reported to her Busan duty station in January 2005. Since that time, and thanks to her efforts, NOWPAP became much more known not only in our region but also as far away as South Africa and Jamaica. Being responsible for scientific and technical projects, Jeung Sook contributed substantially to the success of NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) and the development of the NOWPAP regional project focusing on the persistent toxic substances (PTS). Her help to NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (RACs) can be demonstrated, for example, by several project proposals which she prepared on climate change, invasive species and biodiversity conservation (as well as marine litter). She had also contributed, jointly with other staff, to the successful organization of NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meetings.



Mr. Norio BABA, NOWPAP Administrative Officer, has reported to his Toyama duty station in December 2004. Due to his personal efforts and skills, both RCU offices in Toyama and Busan became operational very quickly. Working away from headquarters (UNEP in Nairobi) is not easy, but Norio has managed all financial transactions for NOWPAP RACs, RCU and specific projects smoothly and in strict accordance with the UN rules and regulations. Norio not only successfully mobilized additional resources for NOWPAP activities, but also managed all budgetary requirements associated with the past, present and future NOWPAP projects, including project proposals to donors. Under his supervision, two programme assistants in Busan and Toyama are now doing online financial transactions and managing the overall NOWPAP budget in close contact with UNEP HQs.





Meetings / events attended by RCU staff

- Korean inter-ministerial workshop on climate change, 13-17 January, Jeju, Korea
- Asia-Pacific regional consultation meeting on the development of the Global Climate Change Adaptation Network, 1-4 February, Tokyo, Japan
- Marine Litter Forum organized by Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center, 14 February, Toyama, Japan
- 3rd Meeting on Countermeasures against Marine Litter in Japan organized by Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center, 26-27 February, Tokyo, Japan



Missions planned for the 2nd quarter of 2009

- World Ocean Conference 2009, 11-15 May, Manado, Indonesia.
- 8th NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting, 19-21 May, Beijing, China.
- 12th NOWPAP MERRAC FPM and 4th CNA Meeting & MERRAC Expert Meeting, 1-5 June, Daejeon, Korea.



Public awareness / Promotional activities

- Lecture on Marine Environment Protection for Chubu High School, 12 March, Toyama, Japan
- Display of posters and NOWPAP publications during the International Women's Day event, 6 March, Tokyo, Japan

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NOWPAP

NOWPAP is an acronym for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, which is a part of UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

NOWPAP was adopted in 1994 by its four member states:

People's Republic of China,
Japan,
Republic of Korea and
Russian Federation.

Four NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers are located in:

Beijing (DINRAC),
Daejeon (MERRAC),
Toyama (CEARAC) and
Vladivostok (POMRAC).

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