



Two Workshops on Marine Biodiversity Toyama, Japan

With the financial support from UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, NOWPAP successfully convened the Brainstorming Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity on 17 September 2009 in Toyama, Japan. Workshop was well-attended by experts from all four NOWPAP member states and representatives from NOWPAP partners (COBSEA, PICES and YSLME) as well as other international organizations and projects such as APN (Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research), CoML (Census of Marine Life), HELCOM (Helsinki Commission), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), UNU-IAS (UN University – Institute of Advanced Studies), OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information System), and WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature, Japan office).

Among several possible projects related to biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region, the following were recommended for the next NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting in December 2009 for consideration and approval:

- Assessment of the current status of biodiversity in the NOWPAP region.
- Assessment of climate change impacts and other factors on marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Establishing networks of Marine Protected Areas, including taking into account typical habitat representation.
- Developing a regional programme to deal with marine invasive species.



A brainstorming workshop was held back-to-back with the First Workshop on Marine Biodiversity in the Northwest Pacific Region on 16 September, where participants were briefed on the current situation in the region and planned activities of NOWPAP member states in relation to biodiversity conservation.



PICES International Summer School on Satellite Oceanography 2009

As part of the cooperative activities between NOWPAP and PICES, the CEARAC director and expert attended the PICES Summer School on Satellite Oceanography held on 25-28 August 2009 in Seoul National University, Korea.

The 4-day summer school was conducted for 36 postgraduate students, early-career scientists and other professionals from the North Pacific region. The event was sponsored by several Korean and international organizations and companies.

The CEARAC expert contributed to the success of the summer school by serving as the facilitator. This is the second time that NOWPAP and PICES have had this kind of joint activities: similar remote sensing training workshop was conducted in 2008.



NOWPAP integrated HAB website to be launched

CEARAC has developed a website dedicated to harmful algal blooms (HAB) which will soon be available.

From this dedicated website, regional integrated reports on HAB, reports on country case studies, public awareness brochures, database on experts, and some details on each case study will be available along with other information, such as meetings, events and links to other relevant organizations, programmes and institutions.

Marine Invasive Species project, commenced

As decided at the 8th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting in May 2009, a working group on marine invasive species (MIS) has been set up and started preparing national reports and a regional overview which are expected to be completed within several months.

NOWPAP RCU expert has also attended a MIS Workshop organized by COBSEA, which is developing a regional strategy on the marine invasive species.

7th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting

Kanazawa, Japan

The POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) has been held in Kanazawa, Japan, on 11-12 September 2009. The meeting discussed and agreed on new POMRAC activities for 2009 and for 2010-2011. The POMRAC activities in 2010-2011 biennium will be focusing on two major issues:

- Preparing the next edition of the “State of Marine Environment Report” for NOWPAP region
- Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM).

Within SOMER, two POMRAC working groups (on atmospheric deposition and on river and direct inputs of contaminants) are expected to contribute, as well as other NOWPAP RACs. Within ICARM, many different issues might be covered (pending availability of additional funds and decisions of NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting): climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, marine spatial planning, ecosystem valuation, applying ecosystem based management, etc.

7th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Toyama, Japan

The CEARAC FPM has been held in Toyama, Japan, on 14-15 September 2009. The meeting adopted the CEARAC work plan and budget for 2010-2011 biennium with focus on the following activities:

- Assessment of eutrophication status in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region.
- Updating integrated (i.e. regional) reports on Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) and on Remote Sensing applications for marine environment monitoring in NOWPAP region.
- Carrying out 3rd NOWPAP Training Courses on RS data analysis and applications.
- Developing a methodology for coastal environmental assessment with the focus on biodiversity.

While implementing these activities (pending budget availability after approval by the NOWPAP IGM), close cooperation with other international organizations and projects will be sought, such as PICES, IOC/WESTPAC, COBSEA, HELCOM, etc.

NOWPAP at Tunza Conference 2009

Daejeon, Korea

The NOWPAP Scientific Affairs Officer, Dr. Sangjin Lee, delivered a lecture on “Climate change and its effects on biodiversity” with the focus on conservation of marine environment at the Tunza International Children and Youth Conference.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in cooperation with UNEP National Committee for the Republic of Korea hosted a Tunza International Children and Youth Conference in Daejeon, Korea from 17 to 23 August 2009. The conference with a main theme of Climate Change brought together about 750 participants from 106 countries. Participants of the Daejeon gathering issued a declaration: “Listen to Our Voices: The Future Needs Strong Vision and Leadership”.

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the United Nations Secretary General, said that this global youth and children conference was the largest international gathering of young people launched to advocate the climate change-related actions under the “Seal the Deal” campaign.



The UNEP Executive Director Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP ROAP Director Mr. Park Yong-woo and Korea Prime Minister Mr. Han Soong-su also attended this meeting to emphasize its significance.

Public awareness / Promotional activities

As a part of NOWPAP promotion among local communities in Japan, Toyama office participated in the following activities

- Beach cleanup organized by Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), 8 September, Toyama, Japan.



- Introduction of NOWPAP activities at the 2009 Speech Contest for High School students in Toyama Prefecture, 20 September, Toyama, Japan

Missions planned for the 4th quarter

In the 4th quarter, RCU staff members are going to organize or participate in the following activities:

- 11th Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, 5-8 October, Bangkok, Thailand
- 4th International Ecological Forum, 6-8 October, Vladivostok, Russia
- Marine Litter Summit, 16-18 October, Shimonoseki, Japan
- International Workshop “Trans-boundary Environmental Problems in the East Asia”, 20 October, Fukuoka, Japan
- Meeting related to establishing a Regional Network of Marine Protect Areas in the Yellow Sea, 20-21 October, Seoul, Korea
- PICES 18th Annual Meeting, 23-30 October, Jeju, Korea
- Administrative Management Meeting, 26-30 October, Nairobi, Kenya
- 20th COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting, 2-5 November, Ha Long, Vietnam
- UNEP DEPI Management Retreat, 11-13 November, Nairobi, Kenya
- Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem project 6th RSTP/PSC RSTP/PSC Meetings, 17-19 November, Xian, China
- 3rd East Asian Seas Congress, 23-27 November, Manila, Philippines
- 14th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, 8-10 December, Toyama, Japan

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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