

Report of the 6th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Background leading to this meeting

1. In accordance with the workplan approved by the Resolution 1 of the 7th NOWPAP IGM (UNEP (DEC)/NOWPAP/IG.7/10 Annex IV), CEARAC held the 1st CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) (Toyama, Japan, 25-28 February 2003), and the meeting agreed on CEARAC workplan for 2003 and identified main issues to be focused on by NOWPAP Working Group 3 (WG3) and Working Group 4 (WG4).
2. Following the approval at the 8th NOWPAP IGM, the 2nd CEARAC FPM (Toyama, Japan, 15-17 March 2004) adopted the revised workplan and budget for CEARAC activities for the 2004-2005 biennium and the Terms of Reference(TOR) for NOWPAP WG3 and WG4 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 2/10). After the 2nd CEARAC FPM, with the consultation and approval of UNEP and CEARAC Focal Points, CEARAC made a slight change in its allocation of the budget, and it was adopted at the 9th NOWPAP IGM with the workplan and budget of entire NOWPAP for the 2004-2005 biennium.
3. The 3rd CEARAC FPM (Toyama, Japan, 15-16 September, 2005) reviewed the progress of CEARAC activities for the 2004-2005 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 3/4) and approved the draft CEARAC workplan and budget for the 2006-2007 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 3/12). All the reports were agreed to be submitted to the 10th NOWPAP IGM for adoption.
4. The 4th CEARAC FPM (Toyama, Japan, 8-9 March, 2006) acknowledged the report on the implementation of CEARAC activities in 2005 and the expenditures on CEARAC budget for the 2004-2005 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 4/3) and adopted the revised workplan and budget for the 2006-2007 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 4/12). Following the 10th NOWPAP IGM decisions, the revised TOR for the CEARAC FPM, which enables the FPM to establish and disband Working Groups of CEARAC, was submitted by the Secretariat and agreed to be submitted to the 11th IGM for adoption. It was also agreed to prepare the "Guidelines on establishment and disbanding of Working Groups of CEARAC" for the 5th CEARAC FPM. There was a request to prepare a document on long-term objectives of CEARAC regardless of budget, and it was decided to discuss this issue in WG meetings and the 5th CEARAC FPM.
5. The 5th CEARAC FPM (Toyama, Japan, 18-19 September 2007) reviewed implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2006-2007 biennium. As for undecided Intersessional Work, the Secretariat proposed to prepare the documents for the 6th CEARAC FPM. The meeting agreed on the entire report. The meeting

requested some changes in the draft workplan including 5 proposals of new activities and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium and agreed on submission of them to the 12th NOWPAP IGM for adoption. The draft mid- and long-term strategies of CEARAC and goals of NOWPAP WG3 and WG4 were presented based on the request at the 4th CEARAC FPM, and the meeting agreed on the documents in general. The draft guidelines on establishment and disbanding of Working Groups of CEARAC were also presented. After discussion, the meeting agreed on the draft guidelines. Discussion on the operation of the present WG3 and WG4 will be scheduled for the next biennium.

6. The 12th NOWPAP IGM (Xiamen, China, 23-25 October 2007) approved the report of CEARAC on the progress in implementation of NOWPAP during the 2006-2007 biennium. The meeting also approved the presented workplan and revised budget for NOWPAP for the 2008-2009 biennium. In line with the decrease of the total budget of NOWPAP, new budgetary allocation of CEARAC activities during the biennium 2008-2009 was reduced from US\$150,000 to US\$140,000. The meeting also approved in principle the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), a major outcome of the NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) which was implemented for the last two years.

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting

7. The meeting was opened in Toyama, Japan, at 9:00AM on 6 March 2008 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Takeshi OGAWA. Welcoming remarks were made by NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Alexander TKALIN.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the meeting

8. The meeting elected Dr. Leonid MITNIK and Dr. Vladimir SHULKIN as the chairpersons and Mr. Chuanqing WU as the rapporteur in line with paragraph 5.2 of the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.8 7/1).
9. Rules of Procedure were established. It was proposed that, for the purposes of this meeting, the rules used here be those of the Governing Council of UNEP, adjusted as appropriate to suit the nature of the meeting.
10. English was the working language of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda

11. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/1) was introduced by the Secretariat with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/2). The meeting adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

12. Dr. TKALIN reported the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period, especially after the 5th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/3). In the report, he reminded the participants of discussion at 12th IGM on how to increase efficiency.

Agenda Item 5. Report on implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2006-2007 biennium

13. The Director of CEARAC reported implementation of CEARAC activities and expenditure for the 2006-2007 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/4).
14. Dr. Yasuwo FUKUYO made a suggestion for NOWPAP publications to put numbers for ease of reference. Dr. Tkalin agreed with this suggestion and agreed to consider it in the future.
15. The meeting achieved a consensus of distributing CEARAC publications at international conferences and through internet for disseminating CEARAC achievements in an efficient manner.
16. After reviewing, the meeting agreed on the report.

Agenda Item 6. Discussion on the revised workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2008-2009 biennium

17. The Director of CEARAC presented revised workplan and budget of CEARAC for the 2008-2009 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/5), based on the approval of the 12th NOWPAP IGM (Xiamen, the People's Republic of China, 23-25, October 2007).

Workplan and budget for HAB Case Studies

18. CEARAC Secretariat explained an activity of “HAB Case Studies.” (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/6).
19. The meeting suggested cooperation with other international organizations which implements similar activities.
20. Mr. Xiaofeng KANG pointed out the difficulties for each expert to make satellite images in the report. The Secretariat will propose to provide the images of sea area for the case studies from the Marine Environmental Watch Project Homepage. It was suggested also to contact WG4 experts.
21. Dr. FUKUYO pointed out the ambiguity of the title of this activity and suggested adding some words to the title to state the objective of the activity more clearly.
22. Dr. SHULKIN suggested adding a chapter or a sub-chapter on human activities in the HAB case studies and analysis between HAB occurrence and environmental parameters.
23. The meeting approved the revised workplan. The meeting also agreed that revised workplan will be circulated among CEARAC focal points and WG3 members for their comments by March 2008 and subsequent finalization by Secretariat. The Secretariat asked focal points to select sea areas for HAB Case studies by the end of March 2008.

Workplan and budget for development of HAB Integrated Website

24. The CEARAC Secretariat explained HAB Integrated Website concept (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/7).
25. The meeting suggested the coordination with other databases, organizations and programs.
26. Dr. FUKUYO asked about the frequency of information updating of the website. He encouraged the Secretariat to develop connections to wider scientific community.
27. The meeting approved the revised workplan. The meeting also agreed that revised workplan will be circulated among CEARAC focal points and WG3 members for their comments by April 2008 and subsequent finalization by Secretariat.

Workplan and budget for development of educational materials for utilization of remote sensing data for marine environment conservation

28. The CEARAC Secretariat explained development of educational materials for utilization of remote sensing data for marine environment conservation (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/8).
29. Dr. Joji ISHIZAKA doubted the feasibility of assignment of work and budget breakdown. Then, he suggested assigning an expert (or the organization) to take a lead of the development.
30. The meeting approved the revised workplan. The meeting also agreed that revised workplan will be circulated among CEARAC focal points and WG4 members for their comments by April 2008 and subsequent finalization by Secretariat.

Workplan and budget for the second NOWPAP training course on remote sensing data analysis

31. The Secretariat presented outline of the second NOWPAP training course on remote sensing data analysis (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/9).
32. The Secretariat proposed that a short case study report would be assigned for trainees in the 2nd training course. Dr. ISHIZAKA suggested that a case study report might be more successful if the topic was focused on one easy subject considering the duration of the training course.
33. Dr. TKALIN emphasized the need of capacity building activity and mentioned his hope to continue this kind of activity. He also encouraged CEARAC to share the experiences and expertise in conducting capacity building activity with other RACs.
34. The meeting approved the workplan with the Secretariat's proposal to conduct the 2nd training course jointly with KORDI in Korea in 2008.

Workplan and budget for development of procedures for assessment of eutrophication status including evaluation of land based sources of nutrients for the NOWPAP Region

35. The CEARAC Secretariat explained the development of procedures for assessment of eutrophication status including evaluation of land based sources of nutrients for the NOWPAP Region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 6/10).

36. Dr. Changkyu LEE suggested combining category III and IV. The Secretariat replied to further consider the proposal through further discussion among the experts.
37. The chairperson introduced activities against eutrophication in Baltic Sea as a good reference for further development of the procedure.
38. Dr. TKALIN stated that it is important to be aware of the ultimate goal to find out the root cause of eutrophication and to manage nutrients load. He also emphasized collaboration with other organizations such as YSLME that shares the common subject, eutrophication.
39. The meeting approved the workplan. The Secretariat asked focal points and WG3 and WG4 experts to submit comments on draft procedures for the assessment of eutrophication status for the NOWPAP region by the end of March 2008.

Workplan and budget for updating and modification of website on oil spill monitoring

40. Dr. MITNIK explained the workplan and budget for updating and modification of website on oil spill monitoring (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/ 6/11). The secretariat clarified that the budget is included in intersessional work for 2008.
41. Recognizing that the main focus of MERRAC is oil spill preparedness and response, the meeting asked the Secretariat to contact MERRAC before start of this activity for further collaboration between CEARAC and MERRAC in order to avoid any duplication.
42. Meeting participants proposed to share remote sensing images and analysis results among experts of NOWPAP member states, as appropriate. For example, MERRAC could use some outcomes of CEARAC activity on oil spill monitoring.
43. The meeting approved the workplan.

Workplan and budget for Marine Litter Activities based on RAP MALI

44. The CEARAC Secretariat explained the assigned activities of CEARAC among Marine Litter Activities (RAP MALI)
45. The meeting approved the workplan.

Discussion on the entire draft workplan and budget

46. The meeting discussed the entire workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium.
47. Tentative date of WG meeting is begin of September 2008 in conjunction with regional workshop.
48. After discussion, the meeting agreed revised workplan and budget of CEARAC for 2008-2009 biennium with minor modifications.

Agenda Item 7. Arrangement for venue of the 7th CEARAC FPM

49. The meeting agreed with the proposal by Secretariat to hold the 7th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting in September 2009 in Toyama. The exact dates will be notified later.

Agenda Item 8. Other matters

50. NOWPAP RCU introduced possible forms of cooperation between CEARAC and relevant regional organizations and projects and asked the Secretariat to take it into account.
51. In line with pursuing mid- and long-term strategies of WG3 and WG4 and uncertainty of future budget situation, the Secretariat introduced CEARAC approaches on how to implement activities in the future and asked participants to submit comments and opinions by the end of March 2008. After receiving comments, Secretariat will circulate the re-drafted version among focal points and WG members for their further discussion (eg. During the WG meeting and other meetings).

Agenda Item 9. Adoption of the report of the meeting

52. A draft report of the meeting was prepared by the Secretariat with the help of the Rapporteur. It was adopted by all participants.

Agenda Item 10. Closure of the meeting

53. The meeting was closed by the chairperson at 11:00AM on 8 March 2008.