

NOWPAP MERRAC

Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response
Regional Activity Centre



P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon, 305-600, Republic of Korea
Tel : (+82-42) 868-7281, FAX : (+82-42) 868-7738
E-mail : nowpap@kriso.re.kr
Website : <http://merrac.nowpap.org>

Report of 7th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

MERRAC, Daejeon

18-21 May 2004

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THE SEVENTH NOWPAP MERRAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING
(MERRAC, Daejeon, 18-21 May 2004)

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Background

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three Resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, September 14, 1994; UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP/IG.1/5) by the States in the Northwest Pacific region: People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as China, Japan, Korea, Russia, respectively). Resolution 1 identified five areas of priority for implementation of the Action Plan, one of which is NOWPAP/4: Development of Effective Measures for Regional Cooperation in Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response. At the international level, International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response and Cooperation (OPRC) was adopted in November 1990 and entered into force in May 1995.

2. Based on the activities carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), such as the expert mission to the region in April 1994, and the Government-designed OPRC Experts Meeting on Sub-regional Cooperation to Enhance National Capabilities in Marine Pollution Emergency Preparedness and Response (Bangkok, November 1995), it was recommended that a Forum be created under the NOWPAP framework for the purpose of exchanging information on marine pollution preparedness and response. At the meeting, the objectives of the Forum were specified as followings: (i) to exchange information on marine pollution preparedness and response; (ii) to develop a Regional Contingency Plan; and (iii) to develop a related Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The NOWPAP Forum Members, with support from UNEP and IMO, have, through the four Forum Meetings held to-date, as well as the informal meetings and intersessional work, worked towards achieve these objectives.

3. Following these activities, the Informal Meeting of Experts on Marine Pollution Prevention in the North-West Pacific was held in Niigata in July 1996. The Forum was launched at its first meeting hosted by the Government of Japan (Toyama, Japan, July 1997). At the first meeting of the NOWPAP Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response, an interim Terms of Reference was agreed to facilitate its future work, and decided on the Forum's initial tasks and designation of responsibility for the tasks among the member States. The second meeting was held in Daejeon, Korea in April 1998, and agreed on the scope of the continuous work of the Forum members. The third meeting was held in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia in July 1999, and reviewed the progress of the initial tasks agreed at the Second Forum.

4. In March 2000, the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Region Activity Centre (MERRAC) was established at the Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering / Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KRISO KORDI), located in Daejeon, Korea based on the agreement of the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP (China, April 1999). MERRAC took on the responsibility of functioning as secretariat for the Meeting, as defined in its Terms of Reference.

5. The Fourth Forum Meeting, held in Qingdao, China in May 2001, considered the draft NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan prepared by IMO, and agreed that a technical discussion on the revised draft Plan would take place at the Expert Meeting, prior to the Plan being submitted to the next NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting for its final adoption. The same meeting also agreed that IMO prepare a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) taking into account the two existing draft MoU's, following the discussions on the type of document to be developed. The meeting also agreed that the Expert Advisory Group Meeting be organized to discuss the draft MoU prepared by IMO during intersessional period.

6. As agreed at the Fourth Forum Meeting, the Expert Advisory Group Meeting on NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was held in Tokyo, Japan, hosted by the Government of Japan, in 5-9 November 2001. The Expert Meeting discussed the texts of the draft NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and MoU, which had been prepared by IMO after the Fourth Forum Meeting. After a lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed on the "Text of the Draft NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan" and "Text of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Regional Co-operation Regarding Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region" (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/WG.16/7 ANNEX V and ANNEX VI, respectively).

7. Upon decision by the Fourth Forum Meeting, the name of the Forum was changed into "NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting", and the meeting would be organized periodically at MERRAC each year in May, starting with the Fifth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting.

8. The Fifth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, held in Daejeon 20-24 May 2002, concluded its work on the draft 'NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan' and the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on regional co-operation regarding preparedness and response to oil spills in the marine environment of the Northwest Pacific Region. The meeting agreed to hold a regional training course (IMO Level 2 Training Course) in Korea around October 2002, and to rearrange the intersessional activities into routine work of MERRAC and specific projects coordinated by MERRAC.

9. The Sixth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting held in Daejeon, 1-4 September 2003, finalized the draft NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and its MOU including the annexes, which were not completed by the 5th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 6/10).

10. The Eighth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), held 5-7 November 2003 in Sanya, China, adopted the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and its MOU, and approved the budget of MERRAC activities for the 2004/2005 Biennium.

11. Resolution 3 in the meeting report of the Eighth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP/IGM.8/11) reflects the decisions of the IGM as follows:

“RESOLUTION 3 - THE MOU AND THE REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN

The Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting.

- Adopts the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan as technical and operational guidelines for regional cooperation in cases of oil spill emergencies in NOWPAP region
- Approves the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Regional Cooperation Regarding Preparedness and Response to Oils Spills and decides that the MoU will be signed separately by each NOWPAP member
- Agrees that the text of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan can be used as interim technical/operational guidelines for cooperation in case of emergencies, between NOWPAP members until the MoU will officially come into effect
- Requests MERRAC, the UNEP/NOWPAP secretariat and IMO to facilitate the process of signatures of the MoU and conduct consultations with NOWPAP members regarding possible occasions to hold an appropriate high level and visible ceremony when the process of signatures will be concluded
- Took note of and discussed the proposal made by Japan to broaden the geographical coverage of the Regional Contingency Plan and requests Japan to circulate among NOWPAP Members a background document and decides that the proposal will be discussed by the 9th Intergovernmental Meeting.”

12. Based upon the agreement of the Sixth MERRAC Focal Point Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/WG/FPM 6/15), the NOWPAP Regional OPRC Training Course (IMO Level 2 Course), hosted and supported by the Government of Japan, was held in Shimonoseki, Japan, 10 – 14 November 2003, as one of the proposed activities of MERRAC for the 2002/3 Biennium and with technical support from IMO.

13. Representatives of the NOWPAP Members: China, Japan, Korea and Russia participated in the meeting. The representatives of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the

International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center (MERRAC) acted as secretariat for the meeting. Representatives of two other NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs), the Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) and the Pollution and Special Monitoring & Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC), participated in the meeting as observers. A full list of participants is attached in **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

14. The meeting was opened at MERRAC (Daejeon) at 10:00 a.m. on 18 May 2004 by Dr. Chang-Gu Kang, Director of MERRAC. In his opening remarks, Dr. Kang expressed his sincere thanks to UNEP, IMO and NOWPAP Members for their support and their contributions to the MERRAC activities relating to marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP region. Recalling that the Eighth IGM held in November 2003 finally adopted the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and associated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), he thanked again all the related persons for their contributions. He stated that MERRAC will do its best as the Secretariat responsible for the administration and co-ordination of the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan. He also expressed his hope that continuous support and contributions would be given to MERRAC's activities in order to increase regional capacity to prepare and respond to any major oil spill accident in the region. Dr. Kang acted as Chairman of the meeting until one was elected.

15. Mr. Bong-Gil Lee, Director General of the Korea National Maritime Police Agency (KNMPA), Republic of Korea, extended a warm welcome to Korea to all the meeting participants. He stated that the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting has contributed to the regional co-operation in marine pollution preparedness and response and also has reached visible results as the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were adopted by the 8th IGM. He expressed his hope for a successful and fruitful meeting.

16. Dr. Ellik Adler, Interim Coordinator for NOWPAP and Regional Seas Coordinator, on behalf of Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, extended a welcome to all participants and expressed his thanks to KNMPA and KRISO/KORDI for their hospitality. He stressed that MERRAC is a good example for other NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres in implementing their respective activities, mentioning that MERRAC has made great progress, such as adoption of the MoU and Plan. He stated that it is necessary to make this document operational and dynamic, in order to use it as practical guideline for regional cooperation in case of emergency. He also mentioned that, although great progress was made by MERRAC, its budget for the 2004/5 biennium was decreased by more than 20% to US\$ 150,000 at the 8th IGM, due to limited resources available to the whole NOWPAP programme. He stressed that it is necessary to

increase the NOWPAP budget in order for RACs, including MERRAC, to implement their designated mandates and activities successfully without interruption.

17. Mr. John Ostergaard, Senior Advisor on Marine Pollution, Marine Environment Division, on behalf of Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) welcomed the participants to the meeting. In his remarks, he stated that adoption of the Regional Contingency Plan, which will provide the operational base of regional cooperation regarding marine pollution preparedness and response, is a great advance in the NOWPAP region, and emphasized that IMO would fully support its implementation.

18. The representative of China, Japan, Russia and Korea expressed their thanks to MERRAC for its kind hospitality and for the activities carried out in the last biennium and during the process of the adoption of the MoU and Regional Contingency Plan.

Agenda item 2. Organization of the meeting

19. Following the proposal made by the representative of Korea, the meeting unanimously elected Mr. Gennady Semanov, Head of Laboratory Environmental Safety of Maritime Transport, Central Marine Research & Design Institute (CNIIMF), as its Chairman, and Mr. Hailiang E, Deputy Director, Department of Ship Safety and Pollution Prevention, China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), as the Rapporteur.

20. The meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the rules of procedure for the meeting in line with the provisions in the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting(UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/5).

21. The Director of MERRAC presented a provisional list of documents (**Annex II**), noting that additional documents would be submitted by MERRAC during the meeting.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

22. The Director of MERRAC introduced the provisional agenda UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/1). The representative of UNEP suggested the addition of an agenda item under which he would present UNEP's latest activities related to Marine Litter, to be followed by a discussion on the possibility of the establishment of NOWPAP activities on Marine Litter. The participants agreed with UNEP's suggestion and the meeting adopted the amended Agenda (**Annex III**).

Agenda item 4. Overview of the progress made in the intersessional period after the Sixth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

23. The representative of UNEP presented an overview of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, including the NOWPAP, stressing the main objectives, principle activities and elements for viability and success of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, including the new strategic elements adopted by the 5th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas, Nairobi, 26-28 November 2003. He also reported to the meeting the main results of the Eighth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, held in Sanya, the People's Republic of China, 5-7 November 2003. He emphasized the adoption of NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and its associated MOU, the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) for NOWPAP and the approval of the workplans and budgets of the NOWPAP RACs for 2004/5.

24. Subsequently, Dr. Chang-Gu Kang, Director of MERRAC, reported on the activities implemented during the intersessional period after the last Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/3). He also presented a detailed report of expenditure and budget of MERRAC for the 2002/3 biennium (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/ FPM 7/4). The meeting expressed its satisfaction with MERRAC's activities. The representative of Japan mentioned that the detailed breakdown of the expenditures of the budget presented by MERRAC promoted the transparency of MERRAC's activities and the representative of UNEP expressed appreciation to the Korean Government for its financial support to the operation of MERRAC through the allocation of human resources. He also mentioned that in view of the RACs budgetary cuts, it would be necessary to save the resources through limiting the number of meetings (as was requested by the 8th NOWPAP IGM) and even through savings in some items during the organization of the meetings. The Director of MERRAC promised to cut down on expenditures as much as possible.

25. The Director of MERRAC also reported on the Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting as approved by the 8th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/5).

Agenda item 5. Review of the progress made for each of the tasks agreed at the Sixth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and identification of continuous work

26. The meeting reviewed the progress made in each of the tasks agreed upon by the Sixth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 6/15/Annex IX), and identified the needs for the follow-up activities.

5.1. Routine Tasks

Focal Points

27. Dr. Seong-Gil Kang, Senior Consultant of MERRAC, presented the document UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/6, and noted that the MERRAC National Focal Points of China, Japan and Korea, as well as the IMO Focal Point for MERRAC have changed during the last year. The meeting participants welcomed the new MERRAC Focal Points. He also informed the meeting that China, Japan and Korea had submitted revisions to the list of Focal Points and that this would be updated accordingly on the MERRAC website.

28. The representative of UNEP pointed out the need to include e-mail addresses in the lists of National Authorities responsible for Oil Pollution and that the telex number should be deleted from the list as the telex system is not operational anymore. The meeting agreed with the suggestion.

Information System

29. The Senior Consultant of MERRAC introduced the report on the Information System (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/7), noting that all the NOWPAP members had submitted updated information concerning equipment lists as well as information on institutions and experts related to marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP region, based upon the format developed for this purpose.

30. The representative of Japan raised a question on the availability of equipment for assistance to other NOWPAP members during joint response operations. He noted that the meeting should consider having in the list only equipment that may be available to other NOWPAP members in cases of emergencies. The representative of IMO noted that regional co-operation in case of large oil spills can become much more effective if accurate information on which equipment is really available for assistance is distributed to other Members. After a discussion, the meeting agreed to introduce to the present lists of equipment a note indicating which items are available for assistance to other Members. The secretariat requested the Focal Points to provide such information as soon as possible.

Reports on Oil Pollution Incidents

31. The Senior Consultant of MERRAC introduced document (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/8), noting that Japan, China and Korea had updated the list of oil spill accidents that occurred during the last year.

32. The representative of UNEP suggested that the location name of the pollution accident such as port name and country in addition to the longitude and latitude should be included in the data sheet. The representative of IMO also proposed that IMO ship number should be added after the name of the vessel involved in the incident. The meeting agreed to the proposals made by UNEP and IMO.

33. The representative of UNEP also recommended that MERRAC would carry out a statistical and geographical analysis using the data set on oil spills in the NOWPAP region during the last 10 years. MERRAC replied that it is necessary to set up a more comprehensive dataset in order to carry out this statistical analysis. China noted that it will submit the longitude and latitude data of the incidents locations, and Russia promised to collect the data on oil spill accidents and submit it to MERRAC as soon as possible. The representative of MERRAC said that MERRAC would first develop the guidelines and format for this statistical and geographical analysis and then circulate it to the Focal Points for their consideration and decision.

Training and Exercise

34. The Senior Consultant of MERRAC reported that, as agreed by the Sixth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, MERRAC held the NOWPAP Regional OPRC Training Course (IMO Level 2 Course) in Shimonoseki, Japan, 10-14 November 2003, with the support of the IMO, Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and Ship and Ocean Foundation of Japan. He presented a report on the training course (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/ FPM 7/9), noting that the participants of the training course were fully satisfied with the course.

35. The NOWPAP member representatives and UNEP and IMO expressed their thanks to the Japanese Government for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of the training course and stated that, taking into account the limited resources available, it is important to consider priorities and to take the right decisions regarding the kind of training courses or other activities that are necessary in order to implement the Regional Contingency Plan, which will shortly enter into force.

5.2. Specific Tasks

36. The Senior Consultant of MERRAC reported on the progress made on the implementation of the MERRAC specific projects during the last 2002/3 biennium, including their administrative and financial aspects (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/10). He also informed the meeting that all the draft reports had been submitted by the leading experts of the projects and then circulated to the MERRAC Focal Points for their reviews and comments, as agreed at the 6th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting.

37. Subsequently, the leading experts of the specific projects were invited to present to the meeting the results and recommendation of each project.

Oil Spill Prediction Model (Leading Country: Korea)

38. Dr. Moonjin Lee of Korea, who acted as a leading expert for the Oil Spill Prediction Model (OSPM) project, presented the draft report prepared by his expert group (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/11). He mentioned that each of the NOWPAP Members had operated their own Oil Spill Prediction Models to respond to oil spill accidents that may occur in their own regions but that no model had been developed to cover the whole NOWPAP Region in detail. He summarized that Japan and the Republic of Korea have models covering a wider range, but the resolutions (grid size) of those models are too crude to predict the behavior of oil spilt in the open sea accurately. He concluded that it seems it would be difficult to apply one of the existing models to the whole NOWPAP region because of the various oceanographic characteristics of the region. He advised that there is a need to establish an integrated Oil Spill Prediction Model to allow efficient and prompt response to major oil spill accidents in the NOWPAP region. Consequently, he suggested that it is necessary to initially develop a large grid size OSPM which covers the entire NOWPAP region and that for the detailed prediction in the coastal areas, NOWPAP Members use their own existing models.

39. During the discussion following the presentation of Dr. Lee, the participants pointed out that development of any OSPM requires a lot of financial and human resources, making it necessary to consider in detail the way to forward regarding the NOWPAP regional model. The participants also noted several points that need to be introduced in order to make the report more comprehensive and conclusive.

40. After a lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed on the future work and timetable for the OSPM project: 1) NOWPAP members submit to MERRAC their respective comments on the draft report of the expert group within 2 months; 2) the expert group revises the draft, taking into account the comments made by the Focal Points, 3) the next Expert meeting, to be organized around November 2004, will review the project again from technical, operational and feasibility viewpoints, including the needs, benefits and financial implications of a regional OSPM, and then submit their recommendations on actions to be taken in the future to the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting; and 4) the next 8th Focal Points Meeting would decide on the future activities regarding the Oil Spill Prediction Model.

Sensitivity Mapping (Leading Country: Japan)

41. Mr. Norio Baba of Japan, on behalf of Mr. Mario Uchida who acted as a leading expert for the specific project on sensitivity mapping, presented the draft report made by his expert group

(UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/12). Mr. Baba reported that the expert group analyzed comparatively the specifications and methodologies of the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps of the NOWPAP Members. He noted that different variants and approaches for the ESI mapping were already developed, used and maintained by the NOWPAP members under their respective national policies. He pointed out that there are both language and other technical differences among the national ESI methodologies. He stated that although the shoreline classification of the sensitivity maps of the NOWPAP Members is principally based on NOAA's ESI guidelines, there are some differences in the division of the sub-categories of the various ESI levels, styles, symbols and specification such as media, software/systems and language. He concluded that at the present it would be difficult and costly to standardize or harmonize the different methodologies and share the sensitivity maps among the NOWPAP members. He also noted that thousands of man-hours as well as large amounts of money, which would exceed the limitation of MERRAC budget, would be required to convert the existing systems into a single form of ESI Maps.

42. During the discussion that followed the presentation of Mr. Baba, the meeting participants exchanged views on the necessity for one integrated ESI system covering the whole NOWPAP region, and about the direction of any future activity. Consequently, the meeting agreed that: 1) the sensitivity mapping project should be concluded; 2) the draft final report will be circulated to MERRAC for 2 months for final comments; and 3) the report of this activity will be printed as a MERRAC Technical Report.

43. In reference to a remark made by a participant related to the geographical area of NOWPAP activities, the representative of Korea reminded the meeting of the practice that had been developed within NOWPAP meetings to use terms in accordance with the 2nd NOWPAP IGM resolution (UNEP/(WATER)/NOWPAP IG.2/5 ANNEX VII), which described the geographic scope of NOWPAP (by using latitudinal and longitudinal terminologies). The meeting agreed with this comment.

44. Dr. Gennady Semanov, the chairperson of the meeting, briefly introduced the Regional Mapping of Valuable Resources carried out by the Arctic Council and suggested this project could also be applied to the NOWPAP region. The meeting agreed that the expert group on Sensitivity Mapping should take the responsibility of studying and reviewing this project, with assistance from Dr. Semanov, and present their recommendations to the next Experts Meeting to be held around November 2004. The experts meeting should review the necessity and feasibility of the project and submit their recommendation to the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting.

Oil Dispersants (Leading country: Russia)

45. Dr. Gennady Semanov of Russia who acted as a leading expert for the specific project on oil dispersants presented the draft report prepared by his expert group (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/13). He explained that while NOWPAP countries have quite similar policies on oil spill dispersants application, the main difference is in the national

methods of testing and approving the various products that can be included in the list of pre-approved dispersants. This means that a certain dispersant which is approved in one NOWPAP member is not necessarily allowed for use in the other NOWPAP countries during joint response operations within the framework of NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Therefore he concluded that it is necessary to harmonize test procedures and lists of preapproved dispersants or to develop another approach which would allow for mutual assistance in dispersants application during oil spill emergencies.

46. In a discussion following Dr. Semanov's presentation, the meeting participants expressed various views related to the regional guidelines on oil dispersants. The meeting agreed that there was a need to continue the activities of the expert group, especially in order to answer the questions on the necessity, feasibility and applicability of: 1) a common regional policy on oil dispersants; 2) common tests and approval methods and/or list of dispersants to be used by all NOWPAP members, by sharing the results of national toxicity/efficiency tests between all NOWPAP members; 3) alternatively, to propose other operational methods under which joint dispersants application operations in case of emergencies would be practical, quick and efficient. The meeting agreed that Dr. Semanov and the experts group on dispersants will discuss and review these questions during the coming Experts Meeting and will make the necessary recommendations to the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting.

Shoreline Cleanup (Leading country: China)

47. Mr. Jijun Li of China, who acted as a leading expert for the specific project on Shoreline Cleanup, presented the draft Guidelines for Shoreline clean-up in the NOWPAP Region prepared by his expert group (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/14). The draft guidelines include an overview of shoreline protection and shoreline treatment or cleanup strategies, as well as shoreline treatment methods and response strategies to be applied to specific environments.

48. After the presentation of Mr. Li, the meeting agreed that: 1) the Shoreline Cleanup project could be concluded, and; 2) the final report should be printed as a MERRAC Technical Report after final review by the MERRAC Focal Points during the next two months. The meeting agreed that the NOWPAP members could submit relevant photos and/or any other graphical data which can be inserted into final report, based on the judgment of the authors and taking into account the costs of printing. Comments should be sent to Mr. Li with a copy to the MERRAC secretariat.

49. The representative of China suggested that there was a need to deal with the subject of 'Minimum Level of Preparedness' at the regional level, and if agreed, that China could act as the lead country for a new MERRAC specific project on this topic. After a discussion, the meeting agreed the topics for specific projects should be prioritized and determined by the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, based upon the recommendations of the coming Expert Meeting. The

meeting agreed that the representative of China should present the issue of Minimum Level of Preparedness at the Expert meeting to be held around November 2004.

Agenda item 6. Revision of the proposed workplan and budget for the 2004/2005 biennium, based upon the decision by the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP

50. The Director of MERRAC made presentation on the draft workplan and budget for MERRAC activities for the 2004/5 biennium (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/15), which was revised taking into account the decisions of the Sixth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 6/15) and the 8th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP/IG. 8/11 Resolution 1). He informed the meeting that the IGM considered the proposed workplan and budget for entire NOWPAP activities for the 2004/2005 biennium and then decided to allocate \$150,000 to each of the NOWPAP RACs, including MERRAC. This represents a cut of about 20% in comparison to the previous biennium and to the originally planned programme of work. He requested the meeting to review the new suggested budget and activities for MERRAC for 2004/5.

51. Following a discussion on this issue, and on other relevant priorities and activities of MERRAC, the meeting agreed on the modification of the workplan and budget as presented in **Annex IV** and **V**, respectively.

Agenda item 7. Discussion on the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan

52. The Director of MERRAC introduced the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and associated MOU (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/ IG. 8/6/1) to the meeting. He noted that the MOU and Plan were adopted by the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting as technical operational guidelines for regional cooperation in case of oil spill emergencies in the NOWPAP region. He also mentioned that the IGM decided that the text of the Plan could be used as of November 2003 as interim technical/operational guidelines for cooperation between NOWPAP members and for the NOWPAP region, until the MoU will officially come into effect in accordance with article 4.2 of the MoU. Subsequently, he presented to the meeting various issues relating to implementation of the Plan as listed in document UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/16. He especially noted the need to agree on process of signatures of the MoU and on the possible occasions to hold a visible, high level ceremony, on which 8th IGM requested UNEP and MERRAC secretariats to consult with NOWPAP members. Further, he invited the meeting to discuss other issues relating to the implementation of the regional contingency plan.

53. The meeting participants exchanged opinions on various possibilities regarding the level of signer, process of signatures, and timing and venue of the high level ceremony. The representative of UNEP mentioned that the secretariat will continuously consult with relevant authorities about level of signer, process of signature and timing of the ceremony. The representative of UNEP further informed the meeting that he has received an e-mail from the NOWPAP Focal Point of Russia informing that Russia has finalized the process of agreement of MoU on the Plan in accordance with the national rules of procedures. He kindly requested the other three NOWPAP members to make all possible efforts to finalize the internal processes that will allow signature of the MoU. He also noted that the IGM decided that the MoU will be signed separately by each NOWPAP member. He noted that, if NOWPAP members feel that this decision should be reviewed, an official note should be sent to MERRAC and UNEP secretariats which could then circulate it to all NOWPAP Focal Points for their consideration.

54. The representative of Russia clarified that Russia has finalized only the preliminary procedure of agreement of MoU on the Plan. The internal process of receiving the permission of the Government of the Russian Federation for the signature of the MoU is under progress now.

55. The representative of Korea stated that the Korean Government is now considering the possibility of having a high level ceremony relating to the adoption of MoU during the 9th NOWPAP IGM (planned for early November 2004 in Busan, Korea).

56. The representative of UNEP raised the issue regarding the establishment of a Component National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan (CNA meeting), in accordance with the article 2.4 of the Plan. The Representative of IMO noted that it would be advisable to contact with Secretariat of Helsinki Convention in order to obtain information on the structure, ToR and activities of their CNA meetings.

57. After a lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed to organize the CNA meetings once a year, in conjunction with the MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, in order to discuss questions related to the implementation of the Plan, response to actual incidents, organization of training courses and exercises and other relevant matters. The meeting also agreed that preliminary discussions on the inception and implementation of the Plan will be made at the coming Expert meeting in November.

58. In response to the request of the representative of Russia, the meeting agreed that if a NOWPAP member would like to suggest changes to the text of the Plan, it would be necessary to submit their suggestion in writing, including the reasons why such a change would be necessary, to the MERRAC secretariat, which will circulate the request for consideration to other NOWPAP members. The representative of UNEP noted that amendments which do not represent major changes in policy or substance of the Plan, could be discussed and agreed *ad hoc* during the Focal

Point Meetings.

59. Regarding the proposal made by Japan to broaden the geographical coverage of the Plan, the representative of UNEP noted that the 8th IGM requested Japan to prepare and circulate among the NOWPAP members a background document on this issue, with a view to conduct consultations on the subject prior to the next IGM. The representative of Japan replied that the background document is under preparation and that it will be circulated soon. He called upon the other members to bring to the attention of their respective NOWPAP Focal Points the distribution of the document for consideration in due time before the next IGM, as the matter will be discussed there.

Agenda item 8. Discussion on the Organization of the 2004 NOWPAP Expert Meeting to review technical aspects of the results from MERRAC Specific Projects and to develop scenarios of Training and Exercise against oil spill under the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan

60. The Director of MERRAC presented to the meeting the draft plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/17) for the organization of the Expert Meeting to review technical aspects of the results of the MERRAC Specific Projects, and develop scenarios of Training and Exercise against oil spill within the framework of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan. He explained that, in order to reply to the request made by the 8th IGM to decrease the number of meetings and in order to meet with the budget cuts of MERRAC, two expert meetings which were originally planned for 2004 and 2005 will have to be combined.

61. After a lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed that the main objective of the meeting would be to discuss and review, on a technical level, various topics related to MERRAC specific projects and the Plan, and make specific recommendations to the next Focal Points Meeting. The meeting agreed on the basic plan for organization of Experts meetings as follows:

a) 2 days of Working Groups of nominated national experts to discuss and recommend to next FPM:

- Regional Oil Spill Model (s) – Korea
- Regional Policy Dispersants(s) – Russia
- Minimum Level of preparedness – China
- Regional Mapping of Valuable Resources – Japan
- Primary discussion on future projects

b) 2 days of preliminary discussions on the Plan by representatives of the CNAs:

- Presentation and Analysis of National Contingency Plans (NCPs) (by CNA);
- Pollution warnings and Requests for assistance: Scenarios and possible responses; table top exercises;
- Case Studies and lessons learned;

- Specific topics of Plan such as: additional information on directories; joint training courses and exercise; financial matters of the Plan; Customs and immigration procedures; etc.

The representative of UNEP suggested that as many experts and/or relevant representatives of the Competent National Authorities (CNAs) as possible should be invited to this meeting, in order to establish a regional dialogue on the Plan. The meeting agreed that the MERRAC secretariat, with the assistance of IMO and UNEP, will organize the meeting and design its detailed content, mindful of the resources available.

62. The 7th meeting of the MERRAC Focal Points requested IMO to kindly support the organization and the operation of the Experts meeting, planned to be held in November in Qingdao. IMO was requested to assist the MERRAC secretariat in preparing the outlines of the substantive and organizational aspects of the meeting. At the same time the meeting agreed that during the Experts meeting the specific topics of the MERRAC projects will be covered and coordinated by the leading countries. The leading countries will also circulate the background documents no later than one month before the meeting, through the MERRAC secretariat.

63. The meeting welcomed the offer made by China to host this Experts meeting around November 2004 in Qingdao, China.

Agenda item 9. Arrangement of intersessional work, and venues and dates of the Eighth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

64. Following the presentation of the Director of MERRAC (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC /FPM7/18), the meeting agreed on the routine tasks and the specific projects coordinated by MERRAC for 2004/2005, as detailed in **ANNEX VI**.

65. The meeting decided to hold the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting in May 2005 at MERRAC in Daejeon, Korea.

Agenda item 10. Marine Litter

66. Dr. Eirik Adler of UNEP presented to the meeting the results of a Feasibility Study carried out by UNEP's Regional Seas Coordinating Office and the GPA on the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter. He noted that UNEP was concerned by the absence of a global programme or a global legal instrument which would tackle the problem of both the land based and marine based inputs of litter to the marine and coastal environment. He emphasized the global distribution, effects and damages of Marine Litter and the high public and political profile of the problem. He also noted

that the results of the study were that at present it would not be recommended to develop a global convention or action plan, but rather to develop the UNEP lead GMLI – Global Marine Litter Initiative, with IMO, UNESCO/IOC, FAO and Basel Convention as principle partners and in close cooperation with the civil society (Industry and NGOs) and interested donor countries. Lastly, he also noted that three Regional Seas Programmes were recommended as pilot project for the implementation of the GMLI – the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and NOWPAP.

67. In a discussion that followed UNEP's presentation the meeting shared the agreement that such an activity was of high priority for the NOWPAP region and it would be valuable to consider the development of regional cooperation in the field through the collaboration between MERRAC and CEARAC. However, the meeting felt that such a decision could not be taken by the MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and requested that the decision will be taken by the NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

68. The representative of Japan said that the Marine Litter issue is of high importance for his government and many related activities were developed by NPEC (which is the host organization for CEARAC), including regional activities and surveys with all NOWPAP countries. He noted that the experience gained at NEPC during the last 8 years should be used and that CEARAC would be happy to cooperate with MERRAC on this issue, pending the decision of the IGM.

69. The representative of Korea noted that NOWPAP is a good platform for the establishment of regional cooperation regarding Marine Litter and that this issue is of concern and priority for his government. Several Korean institutions gained a lot of scientific and operational experience in the field, such as KORDI/KRISO (which is the host organization of MERRAC) and that the Korean government would be happy to share this experience with all NOWPAP members, if the NOWPAP IGM will decide to develop this activity with the NOWPAP framework.

Agenda item 11. Other matters

70. The representative of China, Mr. E Hailiang, following the adoption by IMO of the new ballast water convention, and in view of the global and regional importance of the problems caused by the Invasion of Alien Species to the marine and coastal environment, recommended that the MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and subsequently the NOWPAP IGM, will favorably consider the development of regional and even global cooperation in this field. He noted that China is active in the GEF project GloBallast as one of the demonstration sites and is be willing to share its experience in the field. Mr. E Hailiang said China will develop a background document for the consideration of the next Focal Points Meeting, and subsequently of the NOWPAP IGM. The meeting agreed with this proposal.

71. The representative of Russia, Mr. Sergey Moninets, made a presentation on the proposal of using the Vladivostok Maritime State University potential for joint utilization of the environmental sensitivity (ESI) maps and oil spill prediction model (OSPM). He informed the meeting that during the last 5 years, the Maritime State University has been successfully operating the L₃ CRISIS system produced by Ship Analytics Int. (USA). The objective of this system is to control the information flows while organizing the emergency response operation, including oil spill response operations. The system could be well integrated into any organization structure even though originally it was designed according to the American Incident Command System (ICS). He suggested that it is necessary to consider the capabilities of the system and prospects to apply it to the NOWPAP area. The representative of UNEP requested Mr. Sergey to participate in the Expert meeting to be held in November of this year for more detailed discussion.

72. Mr. Masanobu Miyazaki, Director of CEARAC, informed the meeting on the activities of CEARAC, especially the ones related to oil spill monitoring using remote sensing. He said that CEARAC is now developing a website on remote sensing for oil spill monitoring and noted the possible future direction of this activity. The Director of MERRAC and the representative of UNEP commented that there was a need to inform, consult and cooperate between two RACs regarding the development of the CEARAC website on oil spill remote sensing monitoring in order to prevent duplication and confusion between users. The representative of Korea reminded the meeting that although cooperation of joint projects between RACs is encouraged, the mandate regarding oil spill issues was given primarily to MERRAC.

Agenda item 12. Adoption of the report of the meeting

73. The Rapporteur presented the draft report of the meeting with its annexes.

74. The report was adopted by the meeting as the record of its deliberations.

Agenda item 13. Closure of the meeting

75. After the customary exchange of courtesies the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 16:45 hrs on Friday, 21 May 2004.

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ANNEX CONTENTS

- Annex I** List of Participants to the 7th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (MERRAC, Daejeon, 18-21 May 2004)
- Annex II** List of Documents for the 7th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
- Annex III** Agenda
- Annex IV** Timetable of the Activities of MERRAC for the 2004/2005 Biennium
- Annex V** Revised Budget for MERRAC Activities 2004/5 Biennium (as decided by 7th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, Daejeon, 18-21 May 2004)
- Annex VI** Existing Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions Expected Outputs for 2004/5 Biennium

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Annex I

**List of Participants to the 7th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
(MERRAC, Daejeon, 18-21 May 2004)**

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Annex I

List of Participants to the 7th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (MERRAC, Daejeon, 18-21 May 2004)

People's Republic of China

Mr. Hailiang E

Deputy Director
Department of Ship Safety and Pollution Prevention
China Maritime Safety Administration
Add: 11 Jianguomennei Ave. Beijing, P.R. China
TEL: 86-10-65292872
FAX: 86-10-65292875
E-mail: ehailiang@msa.gov.cn

Mr. Jijun LI

Deputy Director
Marine Pollution and Dangerous Goods Control Division
Shandong Maritime Safety Administration
Add: 21 Wuxia Road Qingdao City, Shandong Province P.R. China
TEL: 86-532-6671129
FAX: 86-532-6671125
E-mail: wfc@sdmsa.gov.cn

Mr. Xudong SUI

Deputy Director
Department of Dangerous Goods Control and Pollution Prevention
Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration
Add: 1, Wenanli Guizhou Road, Guangzhoudao, Tanggu District, Tianjin City, P. R. China
TEL: 86-22-66705323
FAX: 86-22-66707273
E-mail: suixudongcn@sina.com

Japan

Mr. Tamaki MURAKAMI

Director
Marine Environment Protection & Disaster Prevention Division
Guard and Rescue Department
Japan Coast Guard
2-1-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8918 Japan
Tel : +81-3-3591-9819
FAX : +81-3-3591-5085
E-mail : kankyoubousai@kaiho.mlit.go.jp

Mr. Nagayuki SUZUKI

Assistant Director
Marine Environment Protection & Disaster Prevention Division
Guard and Rescue Department
Japan Coast Guard
2-1-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8918 Japan
Tel : +81-3-3591-9819
FAX : +81-3-3591-5085
E-mail : nagayuki-suzuki@kaiho.mlit.go.jp

Mr. Norio BABA

Oceanographic Data and Information Management Officer
Oceanographic Data and Information Division,
Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department,
Japan Coast Guard
5-3-1, Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0045, Japan
Tel.:+81-3-3541-4295
Fax: +81-3-3545-2885
E-mail : norio-baba@kaiho.mlit.go.jp

Mr. Norihiko TANAKA

Deputy Director
Global Environment Issues Division
Ministry of the Environment
1-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8975 Japan
Tel:+81-3-3581-3351 ext 6755
+81-3-5521-8245
Fax:+81-3-3581-3348
E-mail:NORIHICO_TANAKA@env.go.jp

Republic of Korea

Mr. Du-Ho KIM

Director
Marine Pollution Response Division
National Maritime Police Agency
105, 1-ga Bukseong-dong, Jung-gu, Incheon 400-707, Republic of Korea
Tel : +82-32-883-1846
Fax : +82-32-888-0594
E-mail: kim5050@nmpa.go.kr

Mr. Yong-Hwan GIM

Director
Maritime Pollution Control Division
Yeosu Maritime Police Station
111-3, Munsu-Dong Yeosu-si, Jeonnam, 550-817
Republic of Korea
Tel : +82-61-654-2271
Fax : +82-61-651-4950
E-mail: yongwhan-gim@hanmail.net

Ms. Sun-Young KIM

Deputy Director
Environment Co-operation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
95-1, Doryeom-dong Jongno-gu
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 110-051
Tel :+82-2-2100-7748
Fax :+82-2-2100-7991
E-mail: sykim73@mofat.go.kr

Mr. Dong-Sik WOO

Deputy Director
Marine Environment Division
Ministry of Maritime and Fishery 50,
Chungjeong-no, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul,
120-715, Republic of Korea
Tel :+82-2-3148-6544
Fax :+82-2-3148-6545
E-mail: dwoo0047@momaf.go.kr

Mr. Myeong-Cheol CHEON

Assistant Director
Maritime Pollution Response Division
Korea National Maritime Police Agency
1-105, Bukseong-Dong, Jung-gu, Incheon, 400-707,
Republic of Korea
Tel :+82-32-883-1846
Fax :+82-32-888-0594
E-mail: seaes@nmpa.go.kr

Dr. Moonjin LEE

Senior Researcher
Korean Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering/
Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KRISO/KORDI)

Yuseong, P.O.Box 23, Daejeon, Republic of Korea
Tel :+82-42-868-7300
Fax :+82-42-868-7738
E-mail: mjlee@kriso.re.kr

Mr. Uk KIM

Manager
Response Team
Korea Marine Pollution Response Cooperation (KMPRC)
Dongsin Bldg.543, Dogok-dong Gangnam-gu,
Seoul, 135-270, Republic of Korea
Tel :+82-2-3498-8591
Fax :+82-2-3498-8687
E-mail: ukim@kmprc.or.kr

Russian Federation

Mr. Vladimir KAREV

Director
State Maritime Pollution Control, Salvage & Rescue Administration (MPCSA)
Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation
bid,1.1, Ul. Rozhdestvenka St., Moscow, 109012, Russian Federation
Tel: +7-095-959-46-95
Fax: +7-095-959-46-94
E-mail: mpcsa@morflot.ru

Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA

Deputy Director / Head of Marine Environment Protection Division
State Maritime Pollution Control, Salvage & Rescue Administration (MPCSA)
Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation
bid,1.1, Ul. Rozhdestvenka, Moscow 109012, Russian Federation
Tel: +7-095-959-46-93 / 95
Fax: +7-095-959-46-94
E-mail: kutaevang@mintrans.ru

Mr. Sergey MONINETS

Director
Sea Protection Institute, Vladivostok
Russian Federation Ministry of Transport
50a, Ul. Verkhneportovaya, Vladivostok, 690059,
Russian Federation
Tel./Fax +7-4232-51-52-70
E-mail: moninets@msun.ru

Mr. Anatoly YANCHUK

Director
Sakhalin Basin Salvage & Rescue Company (SAKHBASU)
52, Ul. Portovaya, 694000 Korsakov,
Sakhalin Region, Russian Federation
Tel. +7-424-35-223-22
Fax +7-424-35-404-07
E-mail sakhbasu@morflot.ru

Dr. Gennady SEMANOV

Head of Laboratory Environmental Safety of Maritime Transport
Central Marine Research & Design Institute (CNIIMF)
6, Kavalergardskaya Str., St.Petersburg, 193015, Russian Federation
Tel. +7-812-271-10-15
Fax +7-812-274-38-64
E-mail: Semanov@cniimf.ru

MERRAC

Dr. Chang-Gu KANG

Director
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response
Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC)
P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon, 305-600, Republic of Korea

Tel : +82-42-868-7260
Fax : +82-42-868-7738
E-mail : cgkang@kriso.re.kr

Dr. Seong-Gil KANG

Senior Consultant
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response
Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC)
P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon, 305-600, Republic of Korea
Tel : +82-42-868-7281
Fax : +82-42-868-7738
E-mail : kangsg@kriso.re.kr

Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH

Consultant
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response
Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC)
P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon, 305-600, Republic of Korea
Tel : +82-42-868-7205
Fax : +82-42-868-7738
E-mail : jhoh@kriso.re.kr

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Dr. Ellik ADLER

Senior Programme Officer
Chief of the Regional Seas Branch
Division of Environmental Conventions
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel : +254-(20)-624-544 / 033
Fax : +254-(20)-624-618 / 300
E-mail : Ellik.Adler@unep.org

IMO

Mr. John OSTERGAARD

Senior Adviser on Marine Pollution
Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-20-7735-7611
Fax: +44-20-7587-3210
E-mail: jostergaard@imo.org

CEARAC

Mr. Masanobu MIYAZAKI

Director
Special Monitoring & Coastal Environmental
Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC)
Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
5-5 Ushijima Shinmachi, Toyama, 930-0856, Japan
Tel. +81-76-445-1571
Fax +81-76-445-1581
E-mail: miyazaki@npec.or.jp

DINRAC

Ms. Liyuan LIU

Translator
Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC)
Environmental Information Center,
State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA)
No. 1 Yuhui Nanlu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, 100029,
People's Republic of China

Tel: +86 10 8464-3762-803

Fax: +86 10 8463-0849

Observers

Mr. Bong-Gil LEE

Director-General

Korea National Maritime Police Agency

105, Bukseong-dong, Jung-gu, Incheon, 400-707,

Republic of Korea

Tel : +82-32-883-1846

Fax : +82-32-888-0594

Mr. Suk Jae LIM

General Manager

Training Team

Korea Marine Pollution Response Cooperation (KMPRC)

Dongsin Bldg.543, Dogok-dong Gangnam-gu,

Seoul, 135-270, Republic of Korea

Tel :+82-2-3498-8690

Fax :+82-2-3498-8687

E-mail: sjlim@kmprc.or.kr

Mr. Chan-Youn CHO

Manager

Training Team

Korea Marine Pollution Response Cooperation (KMPRC)

Dongsin Bldg.543, Dogok-dong Gangnam-gu, Seoul, 135-270,

Republic of Korea

Tel :+82-2-3498-8591

Fax :+82-2-3498-8687

E-mail: cosmos@kmprc.or.kr

Ms. Jung-Eun KIM

Secretariat

Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response

Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC)

P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon, 305-600, Republic of Korea

Tel : +82-42-868-7214

Fax : +82-42-868-7738

E-mail : nowpap@kriso.re.kr

Annex II

List of Documents for the 7th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

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Annex II

List of Documents for the 7th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

Working Documents

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/2/INF1	List of Documents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/2/1	Time Schedule
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/3	Report on the Activities of MERRAC made after the 6 th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/4	Report on the Annual Expenditure of MERRAC Budget for the 2002/2003 Biennium
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/4 Annex I	Detailed Breakdown of the MERRAC Expenditure for 2002/2003 Biennium
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/5	Report on the Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting approved by the 8 th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/5 Suppl. A	Changes of the Revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting at the 8 th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/6	Report on the Focal Points
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/7	Report on the Information System
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/8	Report on the Oil Pollution Incidents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/9	Report on the Joint Training & Exercise (NOWPAP Regional Training Course, IMO Level 2 Course)
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/10	Progress Report on the Implementation of the MERRAC Specific Projects (Oil Spill Prediction Model, Sensitivity Mapping, Oil Dispersants and Shoreline Clean-up)
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/11	Final Draft Report on Oil Spill Prediction Model
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/12	Final Draft Report on Sensitivity Mapping
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/13	Final Draft Report on Oil Dispersants
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/14	Final Draft Report on Shoreline Clean-up
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/15	Draft Workplan and Budget for MERRAC Activities for the 2004/5 Biennium.
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/15 Annex I	Revised Expected Expenditure of the Budget 2004/2005 Biennium.
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/15 Suppl. A	Revised Budget for MERRAC Activities 2004/2005 Biennium.

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/16	The Implementation of NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/17	Proposed Plan on the Organization of the 2004 NOWPAP Expert Meeting to Review Technical Aspects of the Results from MERRAC Specific Projects and to Develop Scenarios of Training and Exercise against Oil Spill under the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/18	Draft Arrangements of the Existing Tasks and Identification of Additional Tasks for Intersessional Work

Reference Documents

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 6/15	Report of 6 th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (MERRAC, Daejeon, 1-4 September 2003)
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/IG. 8/6/1	Report of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and MOU approved by the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Sanya, Hainan Province, the People's Republic of China, 5-7 November 2003)
Progress Report on NOWPAP – March 2004	Progress Report on NOWPAP made by Dr. Ellik Adler, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP

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Annex III

Agenda

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Annex III

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organization of the meeting
 - 2.1. Election of the officers
 - 2.2. Organization of work
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Overview of the progress made in the intersessional period after the Sixth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting
 - 4.1. Report of the representative of UNEP on the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities made after Sixth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, including the adoption of NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan and its MOU.
 - 4.2. Report of the Director of MERRAC on the activities and the budget expenditures made during intersessional period after the Sixth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
 - 4.3. Report of the Director of MERRAC on the Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
5. Review of the progresses made for each of the tasks agreed at the Sixth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and identification of continuous work
 - 5.1. Routine tasks
 - Focal Points
 - Information System
 - Report on Oil Pollution Incidents
 - Training & Exercise: NOWPAP Regional OPRC Training Course, IMO level 2 Course (Shimonoseki, Japan, 10-14 November 2003)
 - 5.2. Specific Projects
 - (the leading experts for the project will be invited to report the results)*
 - Oil Spill Prediction Model
 - Sensitivity Mapping
 - Oil Dispersant
 - Shoreline Clean-up

6. Revision of the proposed workplan and budget for the 2004/2005 biennium, based upon the decision by the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP
7. Discussion on implementation of NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan
8. Organization of the 2004 NOWPAP Expert Meeting (to review technical aspects of the results from MERRAC Specific Projects including the development of the draft regional guideline on oil dispersant and shoreline clean-up, and to develop scenarios of spill training and exercise under the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan)
9. Arrangement of intersessional work and venues and dates of the Eighth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
10. Marine Litter
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the report of the meeting
13. Closure of the meeting

Annex IV

Timetable of the Activities of MERRAC for the 2004/2005 Biennium

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Timetable of the Activities of MERRAC for the 2004/2005 Biennium

Date	Activities	Responsible Organizations
February 2004	Publication of 3 rd MERRAC Newsletter	
May 2004	Seventh NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting	MERRAC, UNEP, IMO
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
-	Update of MERRAC Website	MERRAC
September 2004	Finalization of Reports : - Sensitivity Mapping in NOWPAP region - Guidelines for Shoreline Cleanup	
November 2004	Ceremony for MoU & NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan (during 8 th IGM, tentative)	
November 2004	Expert meeting	China, MERRAC, UNEP, IMO, NOWPAP Members
January 2005	Publication of 4 th MERRAC Newsletter	
May 2005	8 th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and 1 st Competent National Authorities for NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan	MERRAC, RCU, UNEP, IMO,
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
Jan 2004 - Dec 2005	Implementation of specific projects on scientific and technical issues	Leading country, MERRAC, UNEP, IMO

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Annex V

Revised Budget for MERRAC Activities 2004/5 Biennium

(as decided by 7th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, Daejeon, 18-21 May 2004)

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Annex V

Revised Budget for MERRAC Activities 2004/5 Biennium (as decided by 7th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, Daejeon, 18-21 May 2004)

Activities	Budget (USD)		
	2004	2005	Total
1. Focal Points and CNA Meetings	30,000	30,000	60,000
2. Expert Meeting - China, 10-11/ 2004: a) WG's to discuss and recommend to next FPM (by nominated experts; 2 days): - Regional Oil Spill Model (s) – Korea - Regional Policy Dispersants(s) – Russia - Minimum Level of preparedness – China - Regional Mapping of Valuable Resources – Japan b) Preliminary discussions on RCP (by representatives of the CNAs, 2 days): - Presentation and Analysis of NCPs (by CNA) - Scenarios and possible responses - Case Studies and lessons learned - Specific topics of RCP	42,000		42,000
3. Finalization of reports and conclusion of Projects: - Sensitivity Mapping in NOWPAP Region - Guidelines for Shoreline Cleanup	8,000		8,000
4. Coordination with UNEP, IMO and RCU	6,000	7,000	13,000
5. Update of Website	6,000		6,000
6. Publications and other Miscellaneous costs	2,000	3,000	5,000
7. MERRAC Specific Projects (12k USD to be determined by 8th MERRAC FPM)	4,000	12,000	16,000
Total	98,000	52,000	150,000

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Annex VI

**Existing Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions Expected Outputs
for 2004/5 Biennium**

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Annex VI

Existing Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions and Expected Outputs for 2004/5 Biennium

Tasks	Lead Country / Agency	Actions	Expected Outputs
1. Routine Task carried out by MERRAC			
1. Regional Contingency Plan	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and update the RCP - Facilitate the process on the signature of MoU - Organize the Competent National Authorities in conjunction with the Focal Points Meeting - Carry out regional activities as required by the RCP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Regional Contingency Plan - Regional cooperation system regarding marine pollution preparedness and response - Increased regional capacity on marine pollution preparedness and response
2. Focal Points Meeting and Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate and organize annual Focal Points Meeting and CNA meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary discussions on the implementation of the RCP - Update of Regional Contingency Plan
3. Experts Meeting	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate and organize annual Experts Meeting on topics agreed upon by the Focal Points Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experts Advisory Group Meetings / Reports and recommendations submitted to Focal Points Meetings
4. Information System	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous collection, update and dissemination of information - Maintenance and update of website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Efficient Information system in NOWPAP area regarding oil spill preparedness and response - Updated MERRAC website
5. Report on Oil Pollution Incidents	MERRAC and NOWPAP Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update, collection and submission of report on oil spill incidents over 10 ton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated database on oil spills in NOWPAP region

6. Training and Exercise	MERRAC	- facilitate the development and planning of joint training and exercise	- Developed scenarios and plans for field and table top of oil spill preparedness and response exercises in NOWPAP region
7. Communications	MERRAC	- Maintain routine communication links between relevant authorities in NOWPAP region	- Establishment of efficient communication system relevant to oil spill preparedness and response in NOWPAP area
8. Other Routine Tasks as described by the TOR of MERRAC or decided upon by the F.P Meetings	MERRAC		
2. Specific project coordinated by MERRAC for 2004/5 biennium			
Tasks	Lead Country / Agency	Actions	Expected Outputs
1. Oil Spill Prediction Model	Korea	- Coordinate, prepare and chair WG on Regional OSPM in the November Experts meeting - Finalize report of activity and recommend to next FPM on benefits feasibility (including estimated costs), and practicality to develop a Regional Oils Spill Prediction Model	- Workshop of experts, November 2004 - Review of the regional oil spill model - Report and recommendations to FPM
2. Sensitivity Mapping and Regional Mapping of Valuable Resources	Japan (and MERRAC)	- Finalize report of activity and finalize "Regional Report on Sensitivity Mapping in NOWPAP Region" to be printed as MERRAC Technical report - Coordinate, prepare and chair WG on "Regional Mapping of Valuable Resources" in the November Experts meeting - Recommend to next FPM on benefits feasibility	- Final "Regional Report on Sensitivity Mapping in NOWPAP Region" printed as MERRAC Technical report - Workshop of experts, November 2004 - Review, report and recommendations on the proposal to develop "Regional Mapping of Valuable Resources"

		(including estimated costs), and practicality to develop the “Regional Mapping of Valuable Resources” project	
3. Oil Dispersant	Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize report of activity - Coordinate, prepare and chair WG on “Regional guidelines for the use of dispersants” in the November Experts meeting - Recommend to next FPM on benefits feasibility (including estimated costs), and practicality to develop the regional guidelines - discuss and recommend to the next FPM practical approaches to answer questions related to joint operations of dispersant application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final report on activity - Workshop of experts in November 2004 - Recommendations on follow up to next FPM regarding Regional policy and guideline
4. Shoreline Clean-Up	China (and MERRAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize report of activity and finalize “Guidelines for Shoreline Clean-up in NOWPAP Region”, to be printed as MERRAC Technical report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final “Guidelines for Shoreline Clean-up in NOWPAP Region” printed as MERRAC Technical report - Final report of the activity
5. Minimum Level of Preparedness	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate, prepare and chair WG on “Minimum Level of Preparedness” in the November Experts meeting - Recommend to next FPM on benefits feasibility (including estimated costs), and practicality to develop the “Minimum Level of Preparedness” project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report and recommendations to next IGM
4. Other specific projects as decided by the FP meeting	MERRAC	<p>Make the necessary preparations for future consideration of MERRAC FPM and of NOWPAP IGM of additional projects, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine Litter (in cooperation with CEARAC) - Marine Invasive Species and Ballast Water - Reception Facilities. - Chemicals (MARPOL Annex II and HNS). 	Background documents, as deem necessary

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