

NOWPAP MERRAC

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



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The 11th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the 3rd Competent National Authorities Meeting

MERRAC, Daejeon
10-13 June 2008

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**THE ELEVENTH NOWPAP MERRRAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING &
THE THIRD COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES MEETING
FOR NOWPAP REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN**

(MERRAC, Daejeon, 10-13 June 2008)

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, namely 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 priorities 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, the 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 upon 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. The objectives of the Forum were specified as follows: (i) to exchange information on marine pollution preparedness and response; (ii) to develop the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan; and (iii) to develop the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Regional Cooperation Regarding Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills. The NOWPAP Forum Members, supported by UNEP and IMO, have worked towards achievement of these objectives through the four Forum Meetings held to-date as well as the informal meetings and intersessional work.

3. Following these activities, the Informal Meeting of Experts on Marine Pollution Prevention in the Northwest Pacific was held in Niigata in July 1996. The Forum was launched at its first meeting hosted by the Government of Japan (Toyama, July 1997). At the first meeting of the NOWPAP Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response, an interim Terms of Reference (ToR) was agreed to facilitate its future work, and decided on 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 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 the secretariat for the meeting, as defined its Terms of Reference.

5. Continuously, the Fourth Forum Meeting was held in Qingdao, China in May 2001 where the draft Plan prepared by IMO was considered. It was agreed that a draft MoU was taken 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 (Japan, November 2001) be organized to discuss the revised draft Plan and the draft MoU prepared by IMO during intersessional period.

6. 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, from the Fifth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting.

7. The Fifth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting held in MERRAC in May 2002 concluded the text of the draft Plan and the draft MoU and decided to rearrange the intersessional activities as the routine work of MERRAC and specific projects co-ordinated by MERRAC. The Sixth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting held in MERRAC in September 2003 considered and approved the draft annexes to the draft Plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 6/10) and agreed to forward the draft MoU and the draft Plan to the 8th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM). As the decision of Fifth and Sixth MERRAC Focal Points Meetings, the NOWPAP Regional OPRC Training Course (IMO Level 2 Course) were also held in Korea in October 2002 and Japan in November 2003, respectively, as an expert meeting.

8. The Eighth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held in Sanya, China in November 2003 adopted the Plan as technical and operational guidelines for regional cooperation in cases of oil spill emergencies in the NOWPAP region, and approved the text of the MoU on the regional cooperation regarding preparedness and response to oil spills (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/IG. 8/6/1). Based upon the decision of the Eighth NOWPAP IGM, MERRAC hosted the presentation ceremony of the signature of the MoU on NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 2 November 2004. The MoU signed by ministerial level were presented to MERRAC from the NOWPAP members and the Plan was finally established by all NOWPAP members. As this, the four countries of the NOWPAP region are now in a better state of preparedness and response for oil spills, as each of them may request assistance from other three NOWPAP members in cases of emergencies caused by large oil spills accidents.

9. The Seventh MERRAC Focal Points Meeting held in MERRAC in May 2004 decided that 'Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (CNA Meeting)' be organized once a year, in conjunction with the MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, in order to discuss the issues related to the implementation of NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 7/19). The meeting also agreed that two specific projects on sensitivity mapping and shoreline clean-up among the four MERRAC Specific Projects be concluded, and the revised reports be printed as MERRAC Technical Reports.

10. Based upon the decision of the Seventh MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, MERRAC also held the Expert Meeting in Qingdao, China on 15-18 November 2004 in order to discuss and review, at a technical level, various topics related to MERRAC Specific Projects and also the preliminary CNA Meeting in conjunction with the Experts Meeting to discuss the inception and implementation of the Plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/EM 04). The meeting agreed to forward the recommendation to the 8th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting.

11. The Eighth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the First CNA Meeting were held in MERRAC on 24-27 May 2005. The meeting also agreed that MERRAC Specific Project on oil dispersants be concluded, and the revised reports be printed as MERRAC Technical Reports. After reviewing the recommendation of the 2004 Expert Meeting, the meeting also agreed to initiate new projects Minimum Level of Preparedness lead by China with Russia and Regional Mapping of Vulnerable Resources lead by Japan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 8/18). In addition, the international symposium on oil spill preparedness and oil spill exercise, as a side event of the meeting, were held in Incheon, Korea.

12. The Tenth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Toyama, Japan, 24-26 November 2005) approved the expansion of the geographical coverage of the Plan and as well as new MERRAC's activities including Chemical (HNS) spill, marine based pollution (MARPOL and OPRC with IMO), Marine Litter (with other RACs) during 2006/2007 biennium and Ballast Water and Alien Invasive Species (with Globallast II), IMO convention, and Liability and Compensation at a later stage (UNEP/NOWPAP/IG. 10/10).

13. Based upon the decision of the Tenth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, the 9th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (MERRAC, 5-7 June 2006) agreed to amend relevant texts of the Plan based upon the procedure for revision to the Plan as defined at the article 2.5 of the Plan and to submit the draft revised ToR for MERRAC Focal Points Meeting to the Eleventh NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting for their approval. The meeting also agreed that MERRAC Specific Project on Regional Mapping of Vulnerable Resources be concluded, and Regional Oil Spill Prediction Model and Minimum Level of Preparedness be continued. As one of new MERRAC activities, the meeting decided the development of National Reports on HNS preparedness and response and sea-based marine litter issue in the region (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM

9/29). The meeting also modified the workplan and budget of MERRAC for the 2006/7 biennium taking into account the decision by the Tenth NOWPAP IGM.

14. Based upon the decision of the 9th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, MERRAC also held the 2006 Expert Meeting in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia on 7-9 November 2006 in order to develop the NOWPAP Regional HNS Spill Contingency Plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/EM 06). The meeting agreed to the finalized draft texts of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan and the associated MoU, incorporating the various comments made during the meeting. The meeting also agreed to submit these for consideration of the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting.

15. The Eleventh NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Moscow, Russia, 20-21 December 2006) approved Terms of Reference for MERRAC Focal Points Meeting with minor amendments after considering the draft revised ToR for MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, which was made the 9th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting. The meeting also decided to implement evaluation in order to assess the usefulness and effectiveness of the Regional Activities Centers (RAC) system as a whole and their individual performance in particular. Depending on the results, it would be reflected in RAC activities in order to improve their performance in the future and might be also used for efficient resource allocation to the RACs.

16. The Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Second CNA Meeting were held in MERRAC on 15-18 May 2007. After reviewing the draft texts of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan and the associated MoU which had been developed by the 2006 NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/EM 06/4), the meeting decided to submit the draft texts of the Plan and the MoU to the Twelfth NOWPAP IGM for their final approval. The meeting agreed to terminate the MERRAC Specific Project on Regional Oil Spill Prediction Model and to publish the result of the work as a technical report. Regarding the project on Minimum Level of Preparedness, the meeting concluded that NOWPAP members would carry out self-assessment of preparedness to respond to oil spills and self-evaluation on risk of oil spills using the developed methodologies. The meeting also agreed to compile up the National Reports and make a Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response, and on Sea-based Marine Litter.

17. The Twelfth NOWPAP IGM (Xiamen, China, 23-25 October 2007) considered the proposed workplan and budget for entire MERRAC activities for the 2008/2009 biennium agreed by the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 10/24). The meeting approved to allocate US\$140,000 to each of the NOWPAP RACs. The meeting approved the draft text of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan with minor modifications and requested to prepare and distribute the draft text of the Agreement to the Member states during the intersessional period for comments, aiming to adopt it at the Thirteenth NOWPAP IGM. The meeting also approved to implement the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter during 2008/2009 as a next phase of NOWPAP MALITA. Through the RACs

evaluation conducted by an independent international consultant, it was evaluated that MERRAC played an important role in oil and chemical spills contingency plan development.

18. Based upon the agreement of the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, the Eleventh NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Third CNA Meeting were held back to back on 10-13 June 2008 simultaneously, due to budgetary reasons. The list of the participants to the meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

The Eleventh NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

19. The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. at MERRAC (Daejeon) on 10 June 2008 by Dr. Chang-Gu KANG, Director of MERRAC. In his opening remarks, he thanked participants of the 11th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) and the 3rd Competent National Authorities (CNA) Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan. He expressed his sympathy to the government of Korea for the Hebei Spirit oil spill incident which occurred in December 2007. He thanked the NOWPAP members, IMO, UNEP and NOWPAP RCU for their support and contributions towards the efforts for dealing with the incident. He expressed the wish to have further co-operation developed with the context of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan with a view that this will contribute to conserving and protecting the NOWPAP sea area.

20. Mr. Bong-Gil LEE, Director-General of Korea Coast Guard (KCG), extended a warm welcome to NOWPAP RCU, IMO, NOWPAP member states and expressed gratitude to MERRAC staff for organizing the meeting. He noted that the Hebei Spirit incident which took place last December in Korea is the largest oil spill accident which has occurred in the NOWPAP sea area to date. He pointed out that it was difficult to prevent the spillage at the early stage of the incident; however, the Korean government had done its utmost to respond to the incident and to minimize the impact with active participation of volunteers. He expressed sincere appreciation to NOWPAP member states for their prompt assistance and support, and referred in particular to the sorbents provided by China and Japan, which was very valuable during the response operation to the incident. He stated that the accident provided important lessons to be considered at the regional level as well as at the national level of NOWPAP member states. He hoped this meeting will provide an opportunity to exchange relevant information among the participants and to accomplish practical cooperative mechanisms by reviewing NOWPAP response co-operative systems using the Hebei Spirit accident as a case study.

21. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG, Deputy Co-ordinator of NOWPAP RCU, welcomed all participants and congratulated the MERRAC secretariat for organizing the meeting. Regarding the RAC's evaluation conducted last year, he noted that the meeting would provide a good opportunity to consider future activities of MERRAC. In this context, he referred to two topics, marine litter and ballast water among others, which could be implemented in the future, based on the already established foundation for regional co-operation on oil and HNS pollution preparedness and response through MERRAC framework. He stressed the need for regional co-operation and underlined the importance of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan, in particular after the Hebei Spirit oil spill accident.

22. In his opening remarks Mr. Stefan MICALLEF, Deputy Director of the Marine Environment Division of IMO, on behalf of the Organization, expressed his condolences to the government of the People's Republic of China as a result of the recent earthquake. He stated that although it is heartening to note that through government enforcement and the shipping industry compliance of IMO's measures have resulted in a reduction of incidents, nevertheless, incidents do occur as evidenced by the Hebei Spirit Incident. In this connection, he underlined the importance of regional cooperation as recognized by the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol. He stressed that the development of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan is an important milestone in marine pollution mitigation in this part of the world for which other regions would look up to as a model and for an inspiration. He hoped that as the NOWPAP region gains more experience in HNS spill preparedness and response, such experience could be used to build capacity elsewhere through the Organization's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP). He expressed that IMO would work together with the NOWPAP members, NOWPAP RCU and MERRAC for promoting marine environment in this region. In his conclusion, Mr. MICALLEF expressed his appreciation to the government of Korea for hosting the two meetings.

23. The delegations of China, Japan, Russia and Korea expressed their thanks to MERRAC for organizing the meetings and gratitude to NOWPAP RCU, IMO, and MOERI/KORDI for their support to MERRAC activities. They expressed the willingness to continue co-operating in MERRAC activities and wished the meeting a successful and fruitful outcomes.

Agenda item 2. Organization of the meeting

24. The meeting unanimously elected Dr. Gennady SEMANOV, Head of Central Marine Research & Design Institute (CNIIMF), Russia, as chairperson, and Mr. Jijun LI, Director of Department of Ship Safety and Pollution Prevention of Shandong Maritime Safety Administration, the People's Republic of China, as Rapporteur, respectively.

25. The meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* as the rules of procedure for the meeting

in line with the provisions in the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, with English as the working language. The Director of MERRAC presented the provisional list of documents (**Annex II**), noting that additional documents would be submitted during the meeting.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

26. Dr. Chang-Gu KANG, Director of MERRAC introduced the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/1) and the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/2). The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in **Annex III**.

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

27. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG, representative of NOWPAP RCU, reported the general progress of NOWPAP activities, and briefly introduced the activities of the other three RACs during the intersessional period since the Tenth NOWPAP MERRAC FPM. In particular, he recalled that the Twelfth NOWPAP IGM (Xiamen, China, 23-25 October 2007) had approved the NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan of Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in principle, and a draft text of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan. He noted that NOWPAP has also enhanced partnerships with other regional programmes and relevant organizations, and raised public awareness on marine and coastal environment (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/3).

28. Mr. Stefan MICALLEF, representative of IMO, made a presentation at the meeting on the latest IMO's activities (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/4). He informed the meeting on the outcome of the 56th and 57th sessions of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee, as well as the progress made by the 6th and 7th Meeting of the OPRC-HNS Technical group: He highlighted the activities related to marine environmental protection for the coming biennium under the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and the Major Projects, as well as the preparations which are underway for the organization of the IMO's 4th R&D Forum.

29. Subsequently, Dr. Chang-Gu KANG, Director of MERRAC, reported on MERRAC's activities made during the intersessional period since the Tenth MERRAC FPM (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/5). He also presented the expenditure of the budget of MERRAC for the 2006/7 biennium for the MERRAC activities (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/6). Delegations of NOWPAP members expressed appreciation to MERRAC for the successful implementation of these activities.

Agenda item 5. Review of the progresses made for each task agreed at the Tenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and identification of continuous work

30. The meeting reviewed the progress on Routine Tasks and Specific Projects since the Tenth MERRAC FPM (Annex VI of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 10/24) and identified the activities to be continued under each task and project.

5.1. Routine Tasks

Focal Points

31. Ms. Hyon-Jeong NOH, Consultant of MERRAC, introduced the document on the Focal Points (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/7 and Appendix 1). She noted that all NOWPAP members submitted their updated lists of the Focal Points, which was reflected accordingly in the present document considered by the meeting.

Information System

32. The Consultant of MERRAC introduced the report on the Information System (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/8 and Appendix 2). She reported that all NOWPAP members submitted the updated list of oil spill response equipment and, institutions and experts in the field of marine pollution preparedness and response. She informed that Korea and Russia identified those items of equipment which are available for external assistance.

33. The meeting urged member states to submit information on national performance standards and/or regulations on the application of non mechanical methods to MERRAC. It was suggested that MERRAC compile this information and report back at the next FPM.

Reports on Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents

34. The Consultant of MERRAC introduced the document on the Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/9 and Appendix 3). She stated that all NOWPAP members submitted an updated list of the oil and HNS spill incidents with spillage over 10 tons. NOWPAP members were requested to report oil and HNS spill incidents as soon as they occur using the existing POLREP format, with a view that MERRAC would upload the information on its website in order to share the information promptly.

5.2. Specific Projects

35. Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, Senior Consultant of MERRAC, reported on the general progress made in the implementation of Specific Projects, noting that all the draft reports of Specific Projects by the lead countries have been submitted to MERRAC (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/10).

36. The representatives of the lead countries or the lead experts for each project reported their results and recommendations on each Specific Project. The following Specific Projects were considered:

- Minimum Level of Preparedness (China and Russia):
(UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 4)
- HNS Response Operation Guideline (China and Russia):
(UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 5)
- HNS Database (Korea): (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 6)
- HNS Training Manual (Japan): (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 7)
- Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response (MERRAC):
(UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 8)
- Regional Report on Sea-based Marine Litter (MERRAC):
(UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 9)

37. Following the presentations, the meeting discussed the achievements and recommendations emanating from these projects and identified the future work that needed to be carried under the Specific Projects. The main conclusions of the discussion for each Specific Project are summarized as follows:

Minimum Level of Preparedness (China and Russia)

38. Following the presentation of Dr. Gennady SEMANOV (Russia) and Mr. Chunchang ZHANG (China) (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 4), the meeting agreed that a draft final report including the conclusions and recommendations will be prepared following receipt of the results of self assessment on preparedness and oil spill risk assessment. The draft final report including the consolidated list of conclusions and recommendations will be submitted to and reviewed by the forthcoming FPM meeting.

HNS Response Operation Guideline (China and Russia)

39. Following the presentation of Dr. Gennady SEMANOV (Russia) (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 5), the meeting agreed to continue with the development of a regional

HNS response operational guideline using the information and outline provided in the presentation as well as other national response guidelines, and other regional manuals, in particular the HELCOM Manual Vol.2. Japan and Korea agreed to share their national manuals with the NOWPAP members in English.

40. The meeting agreed to include a reference to HNS database developed by Korea in the operational guideline.

HNS Database (Korea)

41. Following the presentation by Dr. Moon-Jin LEE (Korea) (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 6), it was suggested the definition of HNS would need to be revised in line with what will be decided for the definition of HNS under the Plan.

HNS Training Manual (Japan)

42. Following the presentation by Dr. Shigeru YAMAGUCHI (Japan) (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 7), the meeting identified that a number of issues would require further consideration in the development of the HNS training manual on, e.g., exact target audience, duration of training course, and streamlining of the contents including using case studies from the region. In addition, the meeting noted that the OPRC/HNS TG will finalize two model HNS training courses at its next session to be held in October 2008, which could serve as a good reference for the NOWPAP HNS training manual currently under development. The meeting agreed to consider national training manuals of each member state when revising the HNS training manual.

43. The meeting agreed that further development of the HNS manual will contribute to a better understanding of HNS response issues and improve regional capability to deal with HNS spills.

Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response (MERRAC)

44. Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH (MERRAC) presented a proposed draft regional report on HNS preparedness and response (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 8). To supplement the identified gaps, the NOWPAP members were requested to submit relevant information after the meeting. After revising and updating the regional report, it was agreed that the report would be distributed during the intersessional period for review by NOWPAP members with a view that it can be appeared at next FPM.

Regional Report on Sea-based Marine Litter (MERRAC)

45. Ms. Hyon-Jeong NOH (MERRAC) introduced the draft regional report on sea-based marine litter to the meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 9). The meeting requested NOWPAP members to update the information including the lists of experts, authorities, and institutions working on marine litter issues in their respective countries. NOWPAP members were requested to submit the relevant information as soon as possible. The representative of NOWPAP RCU reminded the meeting of speeding up the conclusion of this activity and the Incheon Case Study given the fact that the whole MALITA project has been completed.

46. In light of the schedule of the MALITA project, the meeting requested MERRAC to circulate the final version of the regional reports on sea-based marine litter to Focal Points through e-mail correspondence following their review to submit the final reports to NOWPAP RCU as soon as possible.

Agenda item 6. Development of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan

47. Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, Senior Consultant of MERRAC, introduced the draft texts of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (Plan, Annex I in UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/11), which was approved by the Twelfth NOWPAP IGM (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/11).

48. The Chinese delegation presented some information on the definition of HNS and suggested that the definition of HNS should be revised. The meeting discussed and agreed to change the definition of HNS in line with the one used in OPRC-HNS Protocol. The meeting also agreed that the Annex containing the list of HNS would be used as examples of HNS to be covered by the Plan:

Original sentence:

Definition: for the purpose of the Plan, 'noxious liquid substance carried in bulk, referred to in bulk, referred to in the newly revised MARPOL Annex II'. The list of HNS to be covered under the plan will be added as a new Annex to the Plan on the basis of the consensus of the NOWPAP Members.

Revised sentence:

Definition: Hazardous and noxious substances means any substance other than oil which, if introduced into the marine environment is likely to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea. The list of examples of HNS to be covered under the Plan is set out at Annex IX to the Plan.

49. The meeting also considered two draft texts of the Agreement which reflected the addition of HNS to existing MoU on Regional Co-operation Regarding Preparedness and Response to Oil Spill in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (Annex III in UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/11). Following extensive deliberation on the two proposed texts of the Agreement prepared by MERRAC and NOWPAP RCU respectively, the Chinese delegation presented some situations on the legal and administrative procedures and suggested that the title of the “Agreement of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan” should be changed to “Resolution on the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan.” The meeting agreed to the draft text set out in **Annex IV**, and then submit to the next NOWPAP IGM for final adoption.

50. As one of outcome of NOWPAP BRAVO (Alarm Exercise), the Russian delegation proposed to replace the existing POLREP format with the IMO POLREP format. In reviewing each of the annexes of the Plan, the meeting agreed to replace the annex dealing with POLREP with the IMO POLREP format, which was considered the international accepted format utilized by other regions. IMO offered to provide MERRAC with this format including examples on how it is utilized with a view that and MERRAC would distribute this to all member states by email during the intersessional period. Taking into account that one specific project concerns the development of the database on HNS, the meeting agreed to utilize the database as a basis to develop the annex entitled “List of example of HNS to be covered under the Plan.”

Agenda item 7. Sea-based Marine Litter Activities

51. Mr. Xiaodong Zhong, Deputy Coordinator of NOWPAP RCU, reported on the implementation of NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA), and the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) approved by the Twelfth NOWPAP IGM (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/12).

52. Ms. Hyon-Jeong Noh, Consultant of MERRAC, reported on the MERRAC activities carried out under MALITA project and MERRAC workplan that will be implemented under RAP MALI (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/13). The meeting agreed to implement workplan, submitted by MERRAC, in general. For the development of public awareness materials, the meeting agreed that translation of guidelines and brochures in the NOWPAP member languages should be carried out in cooperation with RACs. For the assessment of port reception facilities, MERRAC introduced a guideline on port reception facilities. The meeting took note that to facilitate the RAP MALI project NOWPAP member states are encouraged to submit information on port reception facilities to the IMO GISIS website.

The Third Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (for Agenda 8 – 11)

Agenda item 8. Report and discussion on the Hebei Spirit Incident

53. Dr. Sang-Jin LEE, representative of Korea, reported on the Hebei Spirit incident which occurred off the Taean coastal area in Korea on 7 December 2007 including the events leading to the incident, the response operation, impacts of spills, international co-operation, and post actions (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/14). He stressed the lessons learnt from the accident, especially including the importance of managing the numerous volunteers and dealing with press media when an accident happens, etc. On behalf of the Korean government, he expressed the appreciation to all NOWPAP members and MERRAC for their kind support and cooperation during the response operation.

54. Ms. Hyon-Jeong NOH, Consultant of MERRAC, introduced the major MERRAC activities carried out during the response operation against the accident, which are implemented under the framework of NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (Annex II of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/14).

55. Representatives of China, Japan and Russia reported the relevant co-operative actions taken by their countries to assist in the response effort (Annex III to UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/14).

56. Following the presentations, the meeting had an exchange of view on the response activities, the lessons learnt from the accident and relevant co-operative activities among the members during the response operation. It agreed that a workshop/expert meeting to draw on the lesson learnt will be beneficial to the regional cooperation mechanism. The meeting agreed on the necessity of sharing experience and information through a workshop or a seminar, which learned from the accident. The meeting also discussed the use of volunteers in oil spill operation, and OSRL/EARL expressed their willingness to share guidelines on the use of volunteers for reference.

Agenda item 9. Report and discussion on the NOWPAP training and exercise carried out during the last intersessional period and to be held in the near future

57. Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, Senior Consult of MERRAC, introduced a progress report on the activities related to NOWPAP Training and Exercise (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/15).

58. Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA, representative of Russia, reported on the activities and outcome of

the NOWPAP BRAVO led by Russia in April 2008 (Annex I to UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/15). The meeting noted that the exercise was very meaningful and successful.

59. For more efficient implementation of the Plan, the meeting agreed to organize NOWPAP BRAVO (communication exercise) continuously and, especially on a regular base. The meeting decided to hold the exercise twice a year. Japan and Korea were invited to lead NOWPAP BRAVO during the intersessional period after the 11th MERRAC FPM, respectively.

60. Mr. Chunchang ZHANG, the representative of China, introduced a draft plan of the 2nd Joint NOWPAP Oil Spill Exercise to be organized by China and Korea in Qingdao, China in September 2008 (Annex II to UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/15). The Chinese delegation informed the meeting that China will invite Japan and Russia to participate in the exercise as observers. In order to facilitate the relevant preparation, it was suggested to fix the exact dates of the exercise as soon as possible.

Agenda item 10. Report of Representatives of CNA on issues related to the latest progress in their respective countries

61. The representatives of each CNA of China, Korea and Russia reported case studies of oil and HNS spills and national training exercise from their respective countries to share experience and lessons.

62. Mr. Chunchang ZHANG, representative of China introduced their national training exercise in Bohai Sea in 2007, which mobilized 22 vessels, 2 aircrafts and more than 500 personnel.

63. Dr. Se-jin PARK, representative of Korea, reported the accident of Eastern Bright occurred on 26 December 2007 in Yeosu, Korea. The ship had been sunken owing to bad weather condition, which loads 1,000 tons of nitric acid. The leakage of the loaded nitric acid was not detected until now. He informed salvage activity for the sunken ship will be conducted in near future.

64. Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA, representative of Russia, reported oil spill occurred in Kerch straight, Azov-Black Sea on 11 November 2007. During the hurricane, the tanker Volgonft-139, Russian flag, had broken into two parts, resulting in spill of about 2,000 tons of heavy fuel oil, and M/V Nakhichevan with cargo of 2,366 tons of granulated sulfur on board had also been wrecked. She explained effort of the Russian Competent Authorities to respond to the accidents, together with impacts made by the spills. She also informed to hold a Joint Balex Delta Exercise in Baltic Sea in August 2008 and the result would be reported to the next CNA meeting.

Agenda item 11. Discussion on Efficient Implementation of NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan

65. After considering various opinions to improve the implementation of the Plan, the meeting agreed to organize a table top exercise at every CNA meeting. The meeting urged MERRAC to circulate scenarios to the NOWPAP members after developing it with technical support of IMO and OSRL/EARL.

66. Representative of Russia suggested that any regional and/or national trainings and exercises to be held in member states need to be informed in advance to promote more participation of other countries as appropriate.

The Eleventh NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

Agenda item 12. Discussion on the new MERRAC activities for 2008-2011 based upon the approval of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP

67. Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, Senior Consultant of MERRAC introduced the new MERRAC activities for 2008-2011 based upon the decision of the Twelfth NOWPAP IGM to the meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/18).

68. The meeting considered activities which may be undertaken in the future. The meeting agreed the importance of retaining its core activities under its present ToRs. In its exchange of view, the meeting considered a number of priority areas for future work: in particular, ballast water and alien invasive species within the context of IMO's initiatives on ballast water management, prevention of pollution from ships; liability and compensation, other emerging issues as instructed by IGM. In this connection, the meeting agreed that the themes would be prioritized on the necessity and urgency for the NOWPAP sea area, and the implementation of activities under these themes will depend on the budget allocation.

69. Following the long and constructive discussion, the meeting agreed to submit to next NOWPAP IGM the list on future directions of MERRAC for 2008-2011 as agreed by 11th NOWPAP MERRAC FPM (**Annex V**).

Agenda item 13. Discussion on the organization of the NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting

70. The meeting agreed to organize an Expert Meeting in format of workshop dealing with lessons learnt from the oil spills occurred in the NOWPAP region, e.g. Hebei Spirit incident.

MERRAC will prepare the meeting in cooperation with Korea, host country, with technical support from IMO and UNEP/NOWPAP RCU. The detailed draft plan of Expert Meeting will be circulated to NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points during the intersessional period.

Agenda item 14. Revision of the proposed workplan and budget for the MERRAC activities for 2008/2009 biennium, based upon the decision by the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP

71. Dr. Seong-Gil KANG, Senior Consultsant of MERRAC, reported a draft workplan and budget of MERRAC for the 2008/9 biennium to the meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/19), which has been revised taking into account the decision by the Twelfth NOWPAP IGM.

72. The meeting revised the draft workplan and budget for the MERRAC activities for the next biennium, and agreed to submit it to the 13th NOWPAP IGM for their approval, as attached in **Annex VI** and **VII**. In order to save MERRAC budget, the meeting proposed to change the way of financing RACs participations in MERRAC FPM.

Agenda item 15. Arrangement of intersessional work and venues and dates of the Twelfth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Fourth Competent National Authorities for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan

73. Following the presentation of the MERRAC secretariat, the Routine Tasks and the Specific Projects for 2008 were rearranged as attached in **Annex VIII**.

74. The Meeting participants agreed to hold the Twelfth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting in May 2009, in conjunction with the Fourth Competent National Authorities Meeting in order to save the budget. The meeting decided to organize the meetings in MERRAC.

Agenda item 16. Other Matters

75. Dr. Sergey MONINETS from Russia informed the meeting on the Marine Ecology-2007 international conference which was held in Vladivostok, Russia. He also informed that International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) event in September 2008 following the ICC event last year. He invited the participants to the next Marine Ecology-2009 conference in October 2009 in Vladivostok, Russia.

76. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG, representative of NOWPAP RCU, informed the meeting of the

East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009 will be held in Manila, Philippines from 23 to 27 November 2009. He encouraged MERRAC participation in the event. He suggested MERRAC to consider the possibility of providing a lecture on oil spill response for the Youth Programme of Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) to be organized in August 2008 in Buan, Republic of Korea. He also informed the meeting of a pilot project on oil spill of IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC).

77. Mr. Genki TERAUCHI, Researcher of Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC), introduced the future plan of the website on oil spill monitoring by remote sensing lead by NOWPAP CEARAC. He noted that relevant detailed information can be downloaded at CEARAC website (<http://cearac.nowpap.org>).

Agenda item 17. Adoption of the report of the meeting

78. The Meeting adopted the report of the meeting with its annexes following its presentation by a Rapporteur.

Agenda item 18. Closure of the meeting

79. After the customary exchange of courtesies the Chairperson will declare the Meeting closed at 02:10 p.m. on Friday, 13 June 2008.

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Annex IV (Draft) Resolution on NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances
Spill Contingency Plan

Annex V Future Directions of MERRAC for 2008-2011

Annex VI Revised Workplan for MERRAC Activities for the 2008/2009 Biennium

Annex VII Revised Budget for MERRAC Activities for the 2008/2009 Biennium

Annex VIII List of the Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions and Expected Outputs for
2008

Annex IX List of the files in the CD-ROM

Annex I

List of Participants

Annex I.

**List of Participants to the 11th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and
the 3rd Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill
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Annex II

List of Documents

Annex II.

List of Documents for the 11th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the 3rd Competent National Authorities Meeting

Working Documents

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/2/INF1	List of Documents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/2/1	Time Schedule
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/3	Report on the Activities of NOWPAP Made After the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/4	Report on the Activities of IMO Made After the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/5	Report on MERRAC Activities Made After the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/6	Report on the Annual Expenditure of MERRAC Budget for the 2006/2007 Biennium
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/7	Report on the Focal Points
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/8	Report on the Information System
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/9	Report on the Oil and HNS Spill Incidents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/10	Progress Report on the Implementation of the MERRAC Specific Projects

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/11	Development of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/12	Report on NOWPAP RCU Activities Related To MALITA and RAP MALI
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/13	Report of MERRAC Activities on MALITA Project and Discussion of Future Plan For RAP MALI
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/14	Report on Activities Against the Hebei Spirit Incident
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/15	Report on the NOWPAP Training and Exercise
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/16	Latest Progress Report on the Oil/HNS Pollution Preparedness and Response in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/17	Discussion on Efficient Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/18	Discussion on Priorities of MERRAC Activities in 2008-2011
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/19	Draft Revised Workplan and Budget For MERRAC Activities For the 2008/2009 Biennium, Based Upon the Decision of the Twelfth NOWPAP IGM
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/20	Draft Arrangements of the Existing Tasks and Identification of Additional Tasks for Intersessional Work

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/21 Other Matters

Appendixes

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 1	Lists of National Authority or Authorities Responsible for Marine Oil Pollution in NOWPAP Members
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 2(I)	Information System on Equipment Lists Relating to Marine Pollution Response Operation
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 2(II)	Information System on Institution and Expert Lists Relating to Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 3(I)	List of Oil Spill Accidents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 3(II)	List of HNS Spill Accidents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 4	Report on Minimum Level of Preparedness and Response
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 5	HNS Response Operation Guideline
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 6	HNS Database
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 7	Manual for HNS Training
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 8	Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 9	Regional Report on Sea-based Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region

- UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 10 The Guidelines and the Brochure Developed by MERRAC During MALITA
- UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 11/Appendix 11 Marine Litter in the Northwest Pacific Region: The Approach of Incheon City, Republic of Korea, to Marine Litter Management

Reference Documents

- UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 10/24 Report of the 10th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the 2nd Competent National Authorities Meeting (MERRAC, Daejeon, 15-18 May 2007)
- UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 9/29 Report of 9th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (MERRAC, Daejeon, 5-7 June 2006)
- UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/11 Report of the 12th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Xiamen, People's Republic of China, 23-25 October 2007)
- UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 11/8 Report of the 11th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Moscow, Russian Federation, 20-21 November 2006)
- UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 10/10 Report of the 10th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Toyama, Japan, 24-26 November 2005)

Annex III

Agenda

Annex III

Agenda

The 11th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the 3rd Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (MERRAC, Daejeon, 10 - 13 June 2008)

The Eleventh NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

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 during the intersessional period after the Tenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting
 - 4.1. Report of a representative of UNEP and/or NOWPAP RCU on the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities made after the Tenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
 - 4.2. Report of a representative of IMO on the latest activities related to marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response
 - 4.3. Report of the Director of MERRAC on the activities and the budget expenditures made during intersessional period after the Tenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
5. Review of the progresses made for each of the tasks agreed at the Tenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and identification of continuous work
 - 5.1. Routine tasks
 - Focal Points
 - Information System
 - Report on Oil and Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS) Pollution Incidents

- 5.2. Specific Projects
(the representative of leading country or the leading expert for each project will be invited to report the results)
 - Minimum Level of Preparedness (China & Russia)
 - HNS related Specific projects
 - . HNS response operation guideline (China & Russia)
 - . HNS database (Korea)
 - . Manual for HNS Training (Japan)
 - Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response
 - Regional Report on Sea-based Marine Litter
6. Development of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan
 - 6.1. Discussion on the draft texts of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan with modifications (based upon the decision of the 12th NOWPAP IGM)
 - 6.2. Discussion on the draft text of the Agreement to add HNS part at the existing MoU on Regional Co-operation Regarding Preparedness and Response to Oil Spill in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific region (based upon the decision of the 12th NOWPAP IGM)
 - 6.3. Update of the existing annexes to the Plan and development of new annex of the Plan
7. Sea-based Marine Litter Activities
 - 7.1. Report on NOWPAP MALITA project and NOWPA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) by NOWPAP RCU
 - 7.2. Report on MERRAC activities on MALITA project and Discussion of Future Work on MERRAC activities for RAP MALI

The Third Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan

8. Report and discussion on the Hebei Spirit Incident
 - Report on the incident including the accidental situation, response operation, spill assessment, international co-operation, and post-actions (by Representative of Korea)
 - MERRAC activities during the accident (by MERRAC)
 - Co-operative actions taken by Member States (by Member States)
 - Discussion

9. Report and discussion on the NOWPAP Training and Exercise carried out during the last intersessional period and to be held in the near future
 - Report of a representative of Russia on the NOWPAP Bravo Exercise
 - Report of the draft plan on the Second Joint NOWPAP Oil Spill Exercise by a representative of China and/or Korea
10. Report of representative of CNAs on issues related to latest progress in their respective countries including (*if existed*)
 - National Contingency Plan
 - Case Studies and Lessons Learned from Recent Oil/HNS Spills
 - National/Sub-regional Training and Exercise
 - Others
11. Discussion on efficient implementation of NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan

The Eleventh NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

12. Discussion on the new MERRAC activities for 2008-2011 based upon the approval of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP
 13. Discussion on the organization of the NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting (*to be held in 2008 or 2009*)
 14. Revision of the proposed workplan and budget for the MERRAC activities for the 2008/2009 biennium, based upon the decision by the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP
 15. Arrangement of intersessional work and venues and dates of the Twelfth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Fourth Competent National Authorities for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan
 16. Other Matters
 17. Adoption of the report of the Meeting
 18. Closure of the Meeting
-

Annex IV

**(Draft) Resolution on NOWPAP Regional Oil and
Hazardous and Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan**

ANNEX IV.**(DRAFT) RESOLUTION ON NOWPAP REGIONAL OIL AND HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN**

BEING Members of the Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Co-operation Regarding Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (hereinafter referred to as the MoU) which was signed during 2004/5 at ministerial level of NOWPAP Members, the People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation,

RECOGNISING the serious threat posed to the marine environment by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) pollution incidents as well as oil pollution incidents involving ships, offshore units, ports and terminals, etc.,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the entry into force of the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol)

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

TAKING NOTE of the necessity and importance of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan specifying operational procedures related to co-operation in case of emergency,

BEING AWARE of the need to promote regional co-operation and to enhance existing national and regional capabilities of preparedness and response to marine oil and HNS pollution incidents,

BASED on the Resolution 6 of the 12 NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting which approved the draft text of the revised NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan,

1. Adopts the revised NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan
2. Agrees that the revised NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan comes into effect by adopting this resolution done at the 13th NOWPAP IGM.

Annex V

Future Directions of MERRAC for 2008-2011

Annex V.

Future directions of MERRAC for 2008-2011 agreed by 11th NOWPAP MERRAC FPM

MERRAC	<p>Previous Activities</p> <p>2004-2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil Spill Preparedness and Response • NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (RCP) and MOU • Specific projects on oil spill modeling; sensitivity mapping; dispersant application; shore clean-up • Training exercises <p>2006-2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Response (within a framework of NOWPAP RCP, including specific projects and training exercises) • Marine-Based Pollution (MARPOL and OPRC, with IMO) • Marine Litter (with other RACs) – implementation of MALITA
	<p>Activities for the current biennium</p> <p>2008-2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and HNS Preparedness and Response (within the framework of NOWPAP RCP, including specific projects and training exercises) within the framework of OPRC convention and OPRC-HNS protocol • Marine Litter (with other RACs) – implementation of RAP MALI
	<p>Proposed Future activities</p> <p>2010-2011</p> <p><u>core activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and HNS Preparedness and Response (within the framework of NOWPAP RCP, including specific projects and training exercises) within the framework of OPRC convention and OPRC-HNS protocol • Marine Litter (with other RACs) <p><u>potential future activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballast Water and Alien Invasive Species issue (within the context of IMO's initiatives on Ballast water management) • Prevention of pollution from ships (MARPOL Convention) • Liability and Compensation (CLC, Fund, Bunker and HNS Conventions) • Other emerging issues as instructed by IGM

Annex VI

Revised Workplan for MERRAC Activities for the 2008/2009 Biennium

Annex VI.**Revised Workplan for MERRAC Activities for the 2008/2009 Biennium, based on decision by the 12th NOWPAP IGM**

Date	Activities	Responsible Organizations
April 2008	NOWPAP Exercise Bravo	Leading country (Russia), NOWPAP Members, MERRAC
June 2008	Eleventh NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and Third Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
Sep. 2008	The 2nd NOWPAP joint exercise on oil spill preparedness and response (in China)	Lead country (China and Korea), NOWPAP Members, MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU
Nov. 2008 - Feb. 2009	NOWPAP Bravo Exercise (communication)	Lead country (Japan), NOWPAP Members, MERRAC
Feb.- Mar. 2009	Expert meeting (in format of workshop)	Lead country (Korea), NOWPAP Members, MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO
Apr. - July 2009	NOWPAP Bravo Exercise (communication)	Lead country (Korea), NOWPAP Members, MERRAC
May 2009	Twelfth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and Fourth Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
Jan. 2008 - Dec. 2009	Implementation of routine tasks and specific projects on scientific and technical issues, as defined by the FPM	Leading country, MERRAC, UNEP, IMO
Jan. 2008 - Dec. 2009	Implementation of the activities specified under the RAP MALI	MERRAC, NOWPAP Members, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO, RACs

Annex VII

Revised Budget for MERRAC Activities for the 2008/2009 Biennium

Annex VII.**Revised Budget for MERRAC Activities for the 2008/2009 Biennium, based on decision by the 12th NOWPAP IGM**

Activities	[DRAFT] Revised Budget based on decision by 12th NOWPAP IGM (US\$)		
	2008 Budget	2009 Budget	Total Budget
1. Focal Points Meeting & CNA Meeting	27,500	27,500	55,000
2. Expert Meeting in format of Workshop	-	25,000	25,000
3. Specific projects (tentative) - HNS Response Operation Guideline - HNS Database - HNS Training Manual	20,000		20,000
4. Coordination with IMO/UNEP and Regional Seas	15,000	15,000	30,000
5. Publications and other miscellaneous costs	5,000	5,000	10,000
6. Joint NOWPAP Oil Spill Exercise (in conjunction with existing Joint exercise in NOWPAP Region)	-	-	-
Total	85,000	55,000	140,000
RAP MALI (related to MERRAC) (approved by 12th IGM)	4,500	6,000	10,500

Annex VIII

List of the Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions and Expected Outputs for 2008

Annex VIII.

The List of the Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions and Expected Outputs for 2008

1. Routine Task carried out by MERRAC

Tasks	Lead Country / Agency	Actions	Expected Outputs
1. Regional Contingency Plan	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit the draft resolution on the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan to NOWPAP members to the next IGM for its adoption - Maintain or update the RCP including editorial amendments - Develop and/or update the appropriate annexes - Organize the Competent National Authorities for RCP - Carry out regional activities as required by the RCP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entering into force of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan by adopting the resolution at the NOWPAP IGM - Regional cooperation system regarding marine pollution preparedness and response - Increased regional capacity on marine pollution preparedness and response - Updated Annexes to the Plan (in particular the POLREP reporting form and the list of examples of HNS)
2. Focal Points Meeting and Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate and organize annual Focal Points and CNA meetings - Carry out follow-up to activities resulting from the two meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of relevant information on oil and HNS spill preparedness and response in the region - Update of Regional Contingency Plan
3. Expert Meeting (in a workshop format)	MERRAC and Host Country (Korea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize an expert meeting covering oil spills in the NOWPAP region (e.g., Hebei Spirit) - Prepare the meeting with technical support from IMO and UNEP/NOWPAP RCU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing of information, experience and lessons learnt during the response operation to a major oil spill - Increased regional level of preparedness and response against major oil spill - technical recommendation for inclusion in the RCP

4. Report on Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents	MERRAC and NOWPAP Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of oil spill incidents over 10 tonnes to NOWPAP Focal Points - Develop the format for HNS spill incident and gather relevant information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated database on oil and HNS spills in NOWPAP region
5. Information System	MERRAC and NOWPAP Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather information related to the national standards, regulations, and/or specific application rules of NOWPAP members related to the sorbents, and/or dispersant, and other response non-mechanical methods - Report it to next MERRAC FPM (as reference material to the Information System) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Information System
6. Training and Exercise	MERRAC and NOWPAP members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare 2nd Joint NOWPAP Oil Spill Exercise (to be led by China and Korea) - Carry out two NOWPAP Exercise Bravo (communication exercise) during the intersessional period under the leading role of Japan and Korea - Prepare a scenario for a table top exercise to be covered by the next CNA meeting - Facilitate the development and planning of joint training and exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scenarios and plans for field and table top of oil spill preparedness and response exercises in NOWPAP region - Implementation of the Joint Oil Spill Exercise - Carried out NOWPAP Exercise Bravo - Improved response capacity to oil spill - Improvement of communication system
7. Communications	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain routine communication links between relevant authorities in NOWPAP region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 FPM and/or IGM	MERRAC		

2. Specific project coordinated by MERRAC for 2008

Tasks	Lead Country / Agency	Actions	Expected Outputs
1. Minimum Level of Preparedness (concluded) ^{*)}	China and Russia	- Finalize the report for risk assessment and for evaluation of preparedness to oil spills in the region, after revising it in line with comments made by the FPM, and then submit it next FPM	- Established methodologies for the risk assessment and the evaluation of Minimum Level of Preparedness in the region - Network of relevant experts - Recommendations to improve the level of preparedness for considering by the next FPM
2. HNS related <i>Specific projects</i>	China and Russia	- Develop a regional HNS response operation guideline (including the response strategies)	- HNS response operation guideline - HNS database - Manual for HNS Training
	Korea	- Maintain the HNS database including the development of links to other chemical database	
	Japan	- Manual for HNS Training	
3. HNS regional report	MERRAC	- Finalize the regional report in accordance with the comments made by the FPM - Circulate final draft report to the Focal Points before the printing	- HNS status regional report
4. Regional report on ship-generated garbage	MERRAC	- Finalize the report for circulation to the Focal Points before final publication	- Regional report on ship-generated garbage

5. RAP MALI project	MERRAC	- Carry out the activities requested of MERRAC under the RAP MALI project, e.g., development of public awareness materials, assessment of port reception facilities, development of technical report, etc.	- Translated guidelines and brochures, relevant technical reports
6. Other Specific projects as described by the TOR of MERRAC or decided upon by the F.P Meetings and/or IGM			-
			-

*1) No budget is required

Annex IX

List of the files in the CD-ROM

Annex IX.

List of the files in the CD-ROM

- 1) Report of the 11th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the 3rd Competent National Authorities Meeting (MERRAC, Daejeon, 10-13 June 2008)

Agenda 4. Overview of the progress made during the intersessional period

- 2) NOWPAP Activities Made After the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (Mr. Xiaodong Zhong, NOWPAP RCU)
- 3) IMO Activities Made After the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (Mr. Stefan Micallef, IMO)

Agenda 5. Review of the progresses made for each of the tasks agreed at the Tenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and identification of continuous work

- 4) Self Assessment of oil spill risk in NOWPAP (Dr. Gennady Semanov, Russia)
- 5) Minimum Level of Preparedness (Mr. Chunchang Zhang, China)
- 6) HNS Response Operation Guideline1 (Dr. Gennady Semanov, Russia)
- 7) HNS Response Operation Guideline (Mr. Chunchang Zhang, China)
- 8) HNS Database (Dr. Moon-Jin Lee, Korea)
- 9) HNS Training Manual (Dr. Shigeru Yamaguchi, Japan)

Agenda 7. Sea-based Marine Litter Activities

- 10) Presentation on Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) and Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAP MALI) (Mr. Xiaodong Zhong, NOWPAP RCU)

Agenda 8. Report and discussion on the Hebei Spirit Incident

- 11) Report of Hebei Spirit Incident (Mr. Sang-Jin Lee, Korea)
- 12) Co-operative Actions Taken by China (Ms. Cuiming Xu, China)

13) Co-operative Actions Taken by Japan (Mr. Sumio Sekiguchi, Japan)

Agenda 9. Report and discussion on the NOWPAP Training and Exercise

14) Chinese comments on the NOWPAP BRAVO (Mr. Chunchang Zhang, China)

15) The 2nd Joint NOWPAP Exercise to be held in Qingdao in September 2008 (Mr. Chunchang Zhang, China)

Agenda 10. Report of representative of CNAs on issues related to latest progress in their respective countries

16) CNA Report of Russia (Dr. Natalia Kutaeva, Russia)

Agenda 16 . Other Matters

17) Marine Ecology (Mr. Sergey Moninets, Russia)

18) Website on Oil Spill Monitoring (Mr. Genki Terauchi, CEARAC)

