



**Northwest
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Action Plan**



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Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Moscow, Russian Federation
16-18 November 2010

Report of the Meeting

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Introduction

1. The 1st Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held on 14 September 1994 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP). The 2nd IGM (20 November 1996, Tokyo, Japan) approved the geographic scope of the Action Plan as well as a tentative scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund. The 4th IGM (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, People's Republic of China) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centres (RACs). The 5th IGM (29-30 March 2000, Incheon, Republic of Korea) adopted a procedure for the establishment the NOWPAP RCU, as well as its terms of reference. The 8th IGM (5-7 November 2003, Sanya, People's Republic of China) approved the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Regional Cooperation on Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region and the related Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the NOWPAP region.

2. Since the inception of NOWPAP, the member states have acknowledged the importance of setting up a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) as a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of the Action Plan. In Resolution 2 of the 6th IGM, the NOWPAP members decided to accept the offers of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to co-host a RCU in Toyama, Japan and Busan, the Republic of Korea, respectively. Following the request of NOWPAP members, UNEP has recruited the six staff members for the RCU; the RCU offices were inaugurated on the 1st and 2nd November 2004, in Toyama and Busan respectively.

3. The 10th IGM (24-26 November 2005, Toyama, Japan) decided to start the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region, to expand the geographical coverage of the NOWPAP Oil Spill Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and to initiate new directions of work for the NOWPAP RACs. The 11th IGM (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, Russian Federation) decided to carry out the evaluation of the performance of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) in 2007 in order to further enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. The meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RCU and the Focal Points Meetings of CEARAC, MERRAC and POMRAC, and also adopted the General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing to facilitate information exchange among the member states and related organizations. The 13th IGM (20-21 October 2008, Jeju, Republic of Korea) decided to conduct RCU performance review with a focus on assessing effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of RCU activities related to overall goal and objectives of NOWPAP, including achievements of planned outputs. The 13th IGM also approved NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS (Hazardous and Noxious Substances) Spill Contingency Plan. The 14th IGM (8-10 December 2009, Toyama, Japan) decided on the enhancement of NOWPAP RCU performance, based on the performance review, and requested NOWPAP RCU, in close consultation with all NOWPAP RACs, to develop a draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy to facilitate an effective and efficient implementation of the Action Plan. Furthermore, taking into account that 2010 was designated as International Year of Biodiversity, the 14th IGM requested NOWPAP RCU to develop a project proposal on the assessment of the current status of marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region.

4. Following the offer of the government of the Russian Federation to host the 15th NOWPAP IGM, the meeting was held on 16-18 November 2010 in Moscow.

5. The meeting was attended by representatives of the NOWPAP member states, namely the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The

Directors of each of the four NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RAC) as well as representatives of the NOWPAP RCU also attended. The representative from the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) attended as an observer. The full list of participants is attached as Annex II to this report. The list of documents is attached as Annex III.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

6. The 15th NOWPAP IGM was opened at 10:00 on Tuesday, 16 November 2010, in Moscow, the Russian Federation by Mr. Yo OSUMI, the Head of Delegation of Japan, hosting state of the 14th IGM. He extended a warm welcome to all participants in this meeting.

7. On behalf of the hosting government, Mr. Igor MAYDANOV, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation, NOWPAP National Focal Point gave a welcome statement and appreciated RCU for preparing the meeting. He also conveyed the best regards to the participants from Mr. Yuri TRUTNEV, the Minister. He emphasized the role of the Ministry in overall coordination of NOWPAP activities in Russia. He also mentioned that the Far East of Russia and NOWPAP region are characterized by high marine and coastal biodiversity which is affected by growing anthropogenic pressure lately. Biodiversity conservation under growing anthropogenic stress is the most important task for regional cooperation. Addressing these problems requires timely and coordinated activities and measures that fully meet the goals and objectives of NOWPAP. He also stressed the importance of assessment of marine and coastal biodiversity, marine litter activities, oil spill preparedness and response. He expressed his hope that this meeting would significantly contribute to the Action Plan implementation and ensure its further development. On behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation, he also wished the participants a success in development of fruitful regional cooperation in a common mission which is the protection of marine and coastal environment.

8. Ms. Guozhi LIU, the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China, expressed her hope that this meeting would be fruitful. She believed that this meeting and common efforts of all participants would send a very positive signal to people in NOWPAP countries, to work together and coordinate activities while solving common problems of the marine environment.

9. Mr. Yo OSUMI, the Head of Delegation of Japan, extended his gratitude to the government of the Russian Federation for organizing the meeting. He acknowledged that since the first IGM in 1994 the NOWPAP member states undertook measures to protect the marine and coastal environment and achieved certain success, including recent ICC campaign in Hirado and Sakhalin Projects Forum in Wakkanai. He also noted the new Strategic Plan and 2020 biodiversity targets adopted at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya last month. NOWPAP countries can contribute significantly to the implementation of the Strategic Plan. He also emphasized that Japan will do its utmost to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of NOWPAP in discussing the TOR of RCU and Mid-term Strategy, among others. He asked UNEP to take a pro-active role in supporting NOWPAP. In terms of the issue on contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund, he expressed strong hope that a positive statement would be made during this meeting, otherwise the sustainability of NOWPAP Trust Fund would become uncertain. In this regard, he expressed his hope that the participants will leave Moscow with the sense of satisfaction.

10. Mr. Jinhyun LEE, the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea, expressed his deep gratitude to the organizers of the meeting. He considered that the 15th IGM would be important,

especially in relation to the contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Limited financial resources impose significant constraints to RAC activities. It is difficult to discuss new NOWPAP activities on e.g. marine biodiversity or climate change impacts without increase of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund. It is time to assess the effectiveness of NOWPAP mechanism by considering, for example, consolidation of two RCU offices. Regional cooperation is crucial in dealing with such marine environmental emergencies as recent oil spills in Korea and China.

11. Mr. Alexander TKALIN, NOWPAP Coordinator, presented the opening statement on behalf of Mr. Ibrahim THIAW, Director of UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), who unfortunately could not participate in the meeting in person. In his statement he mentioned about the interest to the recent activities of NOWPAP, including those related to marine and coastal biodiversity. He also noticed that the new Medium-term Strategy of NOWPAP under development could be only realized with a strong NOWPAP Secretariat and with financial sustainability that relies on timely contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2(a): Election of Officers

12. According to the NOWPAP practice, the Chairman of the IGM is the representative of the host state, the Rapporteur is the representative of the member state to host the next IGM, and two Vice Chairpersons are the representatives of the remaining two member states, respectively. The Meeting agreed to elect the following officers among the representatives of the NOWPAP member states attending the meeting:

Chairman:	Mr. Nuritdin INAMOV, Russian Federation
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Yo OSUMI, Japan
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Jinhyun LEE, Republic of Korea
Rapporteur:	Ms. Guozhi LIU, People's Republic of China

Agenda Item 2(b): Organisation of Work

13. The Meeting agreed that the rules of procedures of the UNEP Governing Council would be applied for the Meeting with necessary adjustments (e.g., meeting will be conducted in English). Mr. Nuritdin INAMOV, Chairman of the Meeting emphasized that all the agenda of the meeting should be completed within the allocated time. Mr. Yo OSUMI, the Head of the Delegation of Japan, reminded the participants that all the Meeting decisions should be made by consensus. Mr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP Coordinator, introduced the list of documents and the provisional timetable for the Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/INF/1 and UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/INF/3, respectively).

Agenda Item 2(c): Presentation of Credentials

14. Upon the request of the Chairman, Mr. Alexander TKALIN confirmed that the delegates of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation presented their credentials to the Secretariat, which were reviewed and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

15. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Alexander TKALIN presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/3). He briefed on the progress of the four RACs with respect to their major outcomes achieved during 2009-2010 and mentioned that the detailed reports of the four RACs would be presented by the RAC Directors under Agenda Item 4.

16. In addition to main outcomes of the RACs, he also reported on activities being implemented and coordinated by the RCU, including building partnerships, raising public awareness, resource mobilization and financial support from members, NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, project proposals on marine and coastal biodiversity assessment.

17. He also mentioned recent NOWPAP evolution, including the development of the Medium-term Strategy and RCU TOR revision, as well as the status of the implementation of resolutions adopted at the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting.

18. The report also covered the status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions by the NOWPAP member states. He pointed out that the issue of the Trust Fund contributions and unpaid pledges would be further discussed under the Agenda Item 9.

19. Finally, he suggested several recommendations regarding the financial and programmatic issues as well as institutional arrangements for the implementation of NOWPAP.

20. The Chairman offered to adopt the report at a later stage, when other agenda items are discussed.

21. Mr. Yo OSUMI, the Head of Delegation of Japan, suggested to mention the outcomes of the 14th IGM in relation to the RCU performance review in paragraph 3 of the report.

22. The delegate of the Republic of Korea remarked on successful activities related to pollution prevention and marine litter issues. He also mentioned that the RCU should set priorities among existing NOWPAP activities before suggesting new ones. He reminded that the NOWPAP Trust Fund is being reduced as numbers of activities increase, and by this reason the member states should make their contributions timely as well as make best efforts to increase contributions.

23. Ms. Natalia TRETIVAKOVA thanked the RCU for very effective reporting. She also mentioned that the activities of the RACs are too different to compare and prioritise them. By this reason, she recommended closer cooperation and coordination of RACs activities.

24. The meeting adopted the report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of NOWPAP for 2009-2010 as reflected in Resolution 1 attached in Annex I to the report of the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Reports of the RAC Directors on the implementation of NOWPAP programme of work during 2009-2010**Agenda Item 4(a): CEARAC**

25. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Norihiko TANAKA, the Director of CEARAC presented the report on the activities of CEARAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/4/1) during the period of 2009–2010.

26. In response to inquiry of the Head of Delegation of Japan asking about priorities among the activities of CEARAC, the Director of CEARAC explained that CEARAC will focus on assessment of eutrophication status and marine environment assessment, focusing on marine biodiversity.

Agenda Item 4(b): DINRAC

27. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Hongbo SHANG, the Director of DINRAC presented the report on the activities of DINRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/4/2) during the period of 2009–2010.

28. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China mentioned that DINRAC is attempting to significantly update its website platform and the relevant databases. The key of improvement of the DINRAC activities is in support from the other RACs. She also encouraged the RACs to share any updates for databases on DINRAC website.

29. The Head of Delegation of Japan appreciated the presentation. He mentioned that there were some differences between the distributed documents and the presentation of the DINRAC Director as was explained by the Director himself. Regarding the database on MPAs, Japan will soon clarify the definition of protected areas and thus the revision of the data will be for December 2011 as opposed to March 2011. He wondered if DINRAC TOR might have to be changed in the future. He also asked how DINRAC databases are related to other intergovernmental environmental organizations. Finally he expressed appreciation for the self-assessment contained in that reports as unique. In response, the Director of DINRAC said that they are trying to avoid any overlaps with similar databases of other organizations. He also mentioned that DINRAC greatly depends on NOWPAP National Focal Points who can decide what data should be included in the DINRAC databases.

30. The NOWPAP Coordinator also clarified the question about the different contents of the presentation of the DINRAC Director. Some delay in submitting of reporting materials occurred because of the Chinese holidays in early October. He also saw the second reason of difference in young and energetic character of DINRAC Director who was eager to improve his presentation.

Agenda Item 4(c): MERRAC

31. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of MERRAC, Mr. Seong-Gil KANG presented the report on the activities of MERRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/4/3) during the period of 2009–2010.

32. The representative of Japan pointed out that the oil spill exercises of MERRAC become more and more important, due to recent spills in different regions. He also pointed out that MERRAC report should be shared with Focal Points of MERRAC before presenting at the IGM. In response, the Director of MERRAC agreed to improve the practice.

33. The delegate from the Russian Federation commented positively on the recent NOWPAP DELTA exercise co-organized by Japan and Russia within the framework of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan.

Agenda Item 4(d): POMRAC

34. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of POMRAC, Dr. Anatoly KACHUR presented the report on the activities of POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/4/4) during the period of 2009–2010.

35. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed satisfaction with POMRAC activities which are considered as very important: preparation of the 2nd State of Marine Environment Report, that could serve as a basis for the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for the region, and ICARM activities which help to focus attention on important regional marine environmental issues, including emerging ones.

36. The Head of Delegation of Japan commented that POMRAC should utilize the existing data while preparing their reports, share best practices from member states and concentrate on the issues of common interest in the future.

37. The meeting approved the RAC reports on their work for 2009-2010 as reflected in Resolution 1 in Annex I attached to the report.

Agenda Item 5: Reports by NOWPAP member states and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation

38. The Head of Delegation of Japan shared information about the Tripartite Environmental Ministries Meeting (TEMM) held in Hokkaido, Japan, on 22-23 May 2010, and the summit among the three countries. TEMM and the summit agreed on the Action Plan where marine litter issues will be addressed using existing NOWPAP framework. Regarding the CBD COP10 held in Nagoya in October 2010, he expressed appreciation for active participation of member states and stressed the importance of new Strategic Plan and 2020 Aichi targets, including MPAs 10% coverage and protection of ecologically significant marine areas. Japan will conclude national biodiversity conservation strategy in 2011 and would like to see more active NOWPAP contribution (perhaps through UNEP) to the CBD implementation.

39. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Vladimir RADCHENKO, Russian National Delegate to the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), presented his statement (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/5/1) concerning the cooperation between PICES and NOWPAP. He introduced recent relevant activities of PICES as well as proposed several joint activities with NOWPAP in 2011.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of the draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy, 2011-2015

40. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented the draft Medium-term Strategy (MTS) for NOWPAP (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/6) that has been developed upon the request of member states at the 14th NOWPAP IGM in close consultation with RACs. He shortly described operational and thematic elements as well as suggested implementation mechanism.

41. In response to the request from Chairman, representatives of RACs and the NOWPAP member states commented on the draft. Most comments were about thematic elements and implementation of the proposed strategy, suggesting to add more detailed information.

42. The Director of CEARAC commented on MTS with their intention to consider eutrophication and biodiversity projects as priority ones. The Director of DINRAC mentioned 3 points: 1) DINRAC will follow NOWPAP member states decisions on future directions of work; 2) DINRAC is trying to use available budget in the most effective way, and having more funds would allow to further improve the quality; and 3) DINRAC is satisfied with the current implementation mechanism, in the future will follow the MTS. The Director of MERRAC emphasized the significance of coordination among RACs and mentioned four possible areas of future work for MERRAC under the MTS framework: 1) oil and HNS spills; 2) pollution prevention (focusing on sea-based sources); 3) ballast water (IMO convention), pending available financial and human resources; and 4) ship-related CO₂ emissions and/or any other climate change issue (such as carbon sequestration and storage in marine geological structures). As available funds are limited, at the moment MERRAC will focus on first two areas. The Director of POMRAC indicated that during the 8th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting there were no objections to the draft of MTS. He said that this strategy is timely and supported elements related to ICARM and regular assessments (which are being implemented by POMRAC in collaboration with other RACs).

43. The representative of Korea proposed to maintain current projects, not to develop new projects due to current financial constraints. He mentioned that MTS is lacking detailed information on some projects, in particular on biodiversity conservation and climate change. He suggested to prepare more detailed NOWPAP MTS, including budget, and to discuss it at the next IGM.

44. The Head of Delegation of Japan suggested that in general the MTS should have more prioritization, more time-wise and forward-looking approach, clear demarcation of roles, including the RCU role. While considering the next version at the 16th IGM, together with 2012-2013 work plan and budget, several points could be taken into account: 1) more supporting information on each suggested thematic element; 2) more details on interaction between implementing agents; 3) time frame; 4) relation to global environmental agenda (e.g., CBD COP10 decisions; how NOWPAP could contribute). Depending on the Russian Federation contributions, we might have to consider two scenarios: basic and ideal. Depending also on the future discussion of the new RCU responsibilities (RCU Terms of Reference), the institutional structure might be reconsidered as well.

45. The delegate of the Russian Federation indicated that such strategy is important as NOWPAP activities help in pollution prevention and coastal management. Nevertheless, she

suggested that more details on goals, expected results and concrete activities should be added. In addition to RACs and RCU, other stakeholders should be mentioned (e.g., IMO).

46. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China suggested to reflect several points in the NOWPAP MTS: 1) summary of current situation in NOWPAP; 2) if short- and medium-term objectives of the Action Plan are achieved or not (if not, why); 3) main marine and coastal environment problems in the NOWPAP region; 4) financial and human resources needed to address these main problems; 5) resource mobilization needed. She also suggested to provide more detailed information and to focus on regional priorities among member states versus global issues addressed by the existing intergovernmental mechanisms. Equal allocation of funds to each RAC was also recommended in order to continue ongoing projects, while improving coordination to avoid possible overlaps.

47. The NOWPAP Coordinator explained the fundamental difference between the strategy (which should be short and general) and programme of work (e.g., for biennium, more detailed) mentioning in particular paragraph 20 of the MTS (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/6). Nevertheless, he agreed that the RCU will revise current draft and present it at the next IGM together with 2012-2013 biennium work plan and budget for NOWPAP.

48. The Head of Delegation of Japan acknowledged the difference between the strategy and programme of work and suggested to have a concise, but more detailed, strategy for 2012-2017, in line with biennium work plans and budgets. He also commented on NOWPAP to be more connected to the global environmental agenda. Suggesting to adjust the level of ambitions to the available resources, he said that at the end the importance of NOWPAP reports will be judged by how they are being used in other regions. Desirable contribution of NOWPAP to the CBD targets was also stressed.

49. The Chairman summarized several points, stressing that the strategy should not be too lengthy or detailed. He suggested that NOWPAP strategy should take into account global environmental agenda, including UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements; previous IGM decisions should be reflected; should not be longer than 5-6 years and have some benchmarks; some detailed information, like background, could be moved to annexes; perhaps separate implementation plan is needed; financial aspects should be included; and, most important, future directions should be agreed by consensus.

50. The participants agreed that the draft NOWPAP MTS should be further developed into a concise but more detailed document which will be discussed at the next IGM along with NOWPAP work plan and budget for 2012-2013 (Resolution 3 in Annex I to the report of the meeting).

Agenda Item 7: Proposal to improve quality of NOWPAP technical reports

51. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented a proposal on how to improve the quality of NOWPAP technical reports and scientific publications (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/7) which was prepared by the decision of the 14th IGM in close consultation with RACs. He offered three levels of quality assurance and cross-checking scheme to improve the quality of the publications as well as feedback from the RACs.

52. The representative of the Republic of Korea appreciated the preparation of the guidance for quality assurance and suggested that the first level is enough but quality check by native speaker would be desirable.

53. The Head of the Delegation of Japan indicated that the first level of cross-checking is enough and there is no need to check English by native speakers in many cases. Quality of work is more important than language. He also mentioned that English native speakers don't necessarily improve English language unless they have good knowledge and dedication.

54. The representative of the Russian Federation supported all three levels of quality assurance (or at least first two levels) and suggested to call it "guidance".

55. The Chinese delegation reminded that there are two problems in quality assurance: contents and language. She proposed that the first level is quite enough for quality assurance, with native speaker check, when possible. She stressed that RACs should be responsible for the quality of their reports before circulating among their focal points.

56. The representatives of all four RACs responded to questions raised during the discussion. They agreed that the first level should be enough and mentioned that additional financial resources are needed for native speaker check. Electronic publishing (in PDF format) was suggested as a way to save resources.

57. The Chairman summarized that the technical reports could go through first level of the quality assurance done by RACs, but other levels are also desirable if budget is available. Meeting participants did not reach consensus on this issue and decided to continue discussions at the next IGM.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion of the revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and related issues

58. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/8). The revisions were suggested by Japan after the 14th IGM in paragraphs (c) and (d) in part 1, General coordination; paragraph (g) in part 2, Specific programme management tasks; and paragraph (c) in part 3, Resource mobilization. He also explained some implications related to these suggestions.

59. After discussion, member states agreed with the new wording in parts 2 and 3 related to public awareness activities and maintaining contacts with potential donors, funding organizations, foundations and partners.

60. After further discussions among member states on part 1, related to quality and consistency of NOWPAP projects and deliverables and respective roles of NOWPAP RCU and RACs, there was no consensus and therefore the meeting participants decided to continue discussions at the next IGM.

61. The meeting approved the RCU Terms of Reference with amendments in parts 2 and 3 and requested the RCU to prepare a discussion document for the next IGM, reflecting comments and suggestions provided by member states (Resolution 3 attached as Annex I to the meeting report).

Agenda Item 9: Situation with the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions from member states

62. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator reported on the current situation of the NOWPAP Trust Fund (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/9), stressing the necessity of increasing the total amount of contributions. He also mentioned unpaid pledges of the member states as well as related resolutions of the recent Intergovernmental Meetings.

63. The representative of the Russian Federation explained the reasons for delay with contributions of the Russian Federation to the NOWPAP Trust Fund and indicated that the payments of US\$ 125,000 will start from 2011, pending the Government decision.

64. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea added that since the balance of the Trust Fund is worsening year by year, affecting basic activities of NOWPAP RACs in 2010-11 and especially in 2012-2013, the participants would have to make a difficult decision to increase the Trust Fund contributions to ensure the sustainability of NOWPAP activities. He explained that the Korean Government might decide to increase their contributions starting next year, depending on other member states willingness to increase their contributions. He specifically mentioned that Chinese economy is progressing steadily and perhaps it is a right time for the People's Republic of China to re-consider their contributions.

65. The Head of Delegation of Japan highly appreciated the efforts of the Russian Federation to secure contributions to the Trust Fund and asked practical questions about the next steps to be taken.

66. The Chairman clarified that the funds are allocated in the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, but to remit them to the NOWPAP Trust Fund it is necessary to have Government decision which might be available till the end of the year.

67. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea reminded that his country contributes substantial amount of money to support the RCU office in Busan, three times more than to the Trust Fund, and asked about RCU role in mobilizing external resources. He also stressed that perhaps it would be necessary to reduce the number of RCU staff or their level (e.g., from P-5 to P-4) in case of failing to increase the target amount of contributions.

68. The NOWPAP Coordinator responded that, upon consensus reached by member states, any changes in RCU personnel and structure could be considered at the next IGM, before being communicated to UNEP Headquarters. In this case the RCU will help the National Focal Points with this issue and provide the needed information.

69. The Head of Delegation of Japan offered to discuss the RCU administrative costs and structure at the next IGM. He mentioned that the RCU performance review did not conclude that having two RCU offices hinders NOWPAP implementation. He supported the point of view of the Korean delegation about the equal payments of annual contributions to sustain the NOWPAP implementation. He emphasized the importance of keeping balanced budgets as the guiding principle. He also mentioned that Japan has continually contributed for RCU operation in Toyama, Japan (and it is not possible to recover unpaid pledge for 1998).

70. The delegate of the Russian Federation commented that at the next UNEP Governing Council Meeting in February 2011, the Russian Federation is expected to sign an agreement

with UNEP on a 10-year programme of cooperation, where NOWPAP will be included. She also explained the importance of NOWPAP activities for upcoming events such as 2012 APEC Summit in Vladivostok. She asked if the budget for 2011 should be changed reflecting new contributions.

71. The NOWPAP Coordinator responded with the suggestion not to change the approved budget for 2011 due to lack of time for RACs to use the additional funds.

72. The Head of Delegation of Japan mentioned that the balance of the Trust Fund in 2010-2011 greatly depends on the Russian contributions and asked the RCU to report regularly to member states on the progress.

73. The Chairman asked the delegation of the People's Republic of China to respond to the questions raised regarding their contribution.

74. The Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China expressed appreciation of the concerns to increase contributions, but pointed out that it should be based on the voluntary basis as well as common but differentiated responsibilities, referring to her statement at the 14th IGM.

75. The representative of the Republic of Korea suggested that in case of absence of the relevant contributions, the member states should have a plan to address this situation: perhaps to reduce RCU staff, change status, consolidate two offices.

76. The NOWPAP Coordinator suggested to follow accepted NOWPAP procedures for preparing proposals to be discussed during the intersessional period or at the next IGM.

77. The representative of the Republic of Korea suggested to prepare a proposal with detailed information on how to secure the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

78. The representative of Japan welcomed the suggestion of the Republic of Korea and proposed it to be prepared by Korea in close cooperation with RCU and with further feedback from member states.

79. It was supported by the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China who commented that all the documents should be distributed well before the meeting, and the participants should respect the procedures.

80. The representative of the Russian Federation also suggested to deal with this issue in a form of a written proposal at the next IGM.

81. The Chairman summarized the discussion saying that the participants agreed on preparing a discussion paper (by the Korean Government) by the end of January. The Chairman welcomed the efforts to secure the sustainability of the Trust Fund and reiterated the need to seek additional resources, including private sector, where RACs can play an important role.

82. The meeting agreed that the Korean Government will prepare a draft paper on possible measures addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP until the end of this year for possible feedback from member states till March 2011, and agreed to further discuss this issue at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

83. The meeting approved the scale of revised contributions as reflected in Resolution 2 attached as Annex 1 to the meeting report.

Agenda Item 10: Consideration of revised Resource Mobilization Strategy and Public Awareness Building Strategy for NOWPAP

84. The NOWPAP Coordinator briefly introduced the revised Resource Mobilization Strategy (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/10) and Public Awareness Building Strategy (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/11) for NOWPAP. He reminded that both documents were developed after the RCU establishment in 2005 and were presented to the 11th IGM in 2006. Since then, both documents were revised periodically.

85. The Head of the Delegation of Japan indicated that the quality of RAC products might help in attracting potential external funding. He also advised RCU to seek additional funding resources, “untraditional” donors, not only foundations in Japan but also in other countries, and be more flexible in resource mobilization.

86. The representative of the Russian Federation complimented RCU efforts and suggested to consider IMO as a potential donor for some RAC activities, especially MERRAC.

87. The Head of the Delegation of the People’s Republic of China agreed with the Resource Mobilization Strategy in principle, but requested slight modification as the NOWPAP MTS will be further discussed at the next IGM.

88. The representative of the Republic of Korea suggested to concentrate on short-term projects first and then to try attracting attention of potential donors. Coordinating publication of RAC newsletters and their websites would be helpful to raise public awareness about NOWPAP.

89. Regarding Public Awareness Building Strategy (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/11), the Head of the Delegation of the People’s Republic of China suggested slight changes reflecting that the NOWPAP MTS will be further discussed at the next IGM.

90. The Head of the Delegation of Japan agreed with the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/11 in principle, but provided several comments: 1) good quality of NOWPAP products and their relevance are crucial in raising public awareness; 2) would like to see more references to NOWPAP work in bi- and multi-lateral discussions among member states, as in the case of TEMM, for example; perhaps RACs and RCU should be more “aggressive” in their efforts to promote NOWPAP; 3) perhaps, more focused, e.g. having a “flagship program” or “flagship publication”.

91. The delegate from the Russian Federation mentioned his personal experience from the side event during the CBD COP10 and UNEP booth there, where NOWPAP was introduced, among other Regional Seas programmes. She also mentioned that the Russian Federation delegation always brings NOWPAP issues to the discussions during the UNEP Governing Council meetings. She suggested to pay more attention to mass media and, if funds are limited, to find more creative ways in raising public awareness, including general public.

92. The revised Resource Mobilization Strategy and Public Awareness Building Strategy were approved with minor revisions (Resolutions 2 and 3 attached as Annex I to the report of the meeting).

Agenda Item 11: Preparation of the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting

93. The Chairman welcomed the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China to declare about the venue and time for the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting to be held in the People's Republic of China. She explained that People's Republic of China will consult with other member states and NOWPAP RCU regarding details of the venue and date after taking into account the UN meetings calendar.

Agenda Item 12: Other Business

94. The Chairman welcomed the member states, partners and RAC Directors to make any comments, statements, and suggestions to be shared.

95. The representative of the Republic of Korea mentioned their continuous support for the conservation of the marine environment in the North Pacific and implementation of NOWPAP. He also indicated their earmarked contribution of about US\$ 590,000 for RCU operation in Busan and MERRAC and US\$ 33,000 for marine litter activities (to compensate the reduction of budget in 2010-2011 as decided by the 14th IGM). He also mentioned NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Campaign and workshop which was held in Jeju followed by other international meetings such as the 3rd APEC Ocean Ministerial meeting and KORDI-IOC joint workshop on capacity building for the UN Regular Process and 2012 Yeosu EXPO. He reiterated their sustainable support to NOWPAP projects and activities.

Agenda Item 13: Adoption of the report and resolutions of the meeting

96. The representatives of member states discussed the draft meeting resolutions prepared by the RCU.

97. The delegation of the Republic of Korea requested more detailed information on RACs and RCU expenditures. After clarification on UNEP accounting procedures, member states agreed that such information could be provided upon request.

98. The delegation of Japan suggested slight modification to the UNEP Executive Director report. After clarification that such modification has to be approved by the UNEP Headquarters, it was agreed that the required changes will be introduced in the IGM report and next IGM documents. NOWPAP RCU was requested to contact UNEP HQ again for clarification of the necessity of the ED report and possibility to change it to e.g. RCU report.

99. After discussion, the meeting resolutions were adopted as shown in Annex I. It was also agreed that the report of the meeting with its annexes would be distributed by e-mail and then finalized by correspondence.

Agenda Item 14: Closure of the Meeting

100. After customary exchange of closing words, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:15 on Thursday, 18 November 2010.

Annex I

Resolutions

Resolution 1

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2010-2011 BIENNIUM

The Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves the report of the Executive Director of UNEP (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/3) on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP activities.
2. Approves also the progress reports of the four Regional Activity Centres of NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP during the 2009-2010.
3. Encourages the member states to facilitate and promote the implementation of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI).
4. Requests RCU and RACs to implement activities of the NOWPAP RAP MALI as scheduled, in close collaboration with relevant organizations, programmes and projects, including NGOs and private sector.
5. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their efforts to develop partnerships with related organizations, programmes and projects.

Resolution 2

SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND

Recognizing the need to implement current NOWPAP projects and to initiate new activities,

Sharing the sense of urgency to address the gap between expenditure and contribution level that has led NOWPAP Trust Fund to the severe budgetary constraints and diminishing NOWPAP activities,

Also recognizing the necessity to increase the total amount of contributions of member states to the NOWPAP Trust Fund to the target amount of US\$500,000, as agreed at the 2nd Intergovernmental Meeting,

Taking note of resolutions of the 14th and previous NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meetings on the necessity to increase the contributions from all NOWPAP member states and also taking note of different positions of member states regarding practical possibilities to increase their contributions,

Complimenting NOWPAP RCU for its efforts on approaching potential donors to seek external funding sources,

The Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Agrees to the total annual amount of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2011, in order to secure the sustainability of NOWPAP activities, as presented in Table 1.
2. Encourages member states to make their utmost efforts to increase their annual contributions.
3. Urges the member states to pay their unpaid pledges to the Trust Fund as soon as possible.
4. Approves the revised NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/10/Rev. 1), while taking into account comments made at the 15th IGM in the execution of the Strategy, and encourages the NOWPAP member states, NOWPAP RCU and RACs, to make utmost efforts to seek additional funding sources (including preparation of project proposals for external funding by RACs and RCU) as well as to utilize the resources available in the most efficient and effective manner.
5. Agrees that the Korean Government prepares a draft paper on possible measures addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP and requests the NOWPAP RCU to circulate it among the member states for their comments and suggestions, and agrees to discuss it at the 16th IGM.

Table 1. Scale of revised contributions

Member State	Annual contribution (US\$)
People's Republic of China	40,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	100,000
Russian Federation	125,000
Total	390,000

Resolution 3

NOWPAP EVOLUTION

Recalling our common commitment to the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP),

Recognising the necessity to prioritize and improve the efficiency of activities conducted by NOWPAP RACs and RCU, taking into account limited funds available,

Willing to enhance the quality, relevance and public awareness of the activities of NOWPAP,

Recalling the 14th IGM decisions on developing the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy and on enhancing NOWPAP RCU performance,

The Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Requests the RCU to further develop the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 for the next IGM, in close collaboration with RACs and member states, taking into account their comments and suggestions to document UNEP/NOWPAP/IG. 15/6.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU and RACs to work closely on the preparation of the biennium work plan of NOWPAP for 2012-2013 and NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy.
3. Approves the revised NOWPAP Public Awareness Building Strategy (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/11/Rev. 1), while taking into account comments raised at the 15th IGM in the execution of the Strategy.
4. Decides to continue discussing the Proposal on Improving the Quality of NOWPAP Technical Reports (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/7) at the next IGM.
5. Approves revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the NOWPAP RCU as presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/8/Rev. 1 and agrees to further discuss it at the next IGM.

Annex II

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Annex III

List of documents

Working documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan for 2009 – 2010
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/4/1	CEARAC Report of Activities, 2009 – 2010
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/4/2	DINRAC Report of Activities, 2009 – 2010
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/4/3	MERRAC Report of Activities, 2009 – 2010
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/4/4	POMRAC Report of Activities, 2009 – 2010
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/5/1	Statement of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/5/2	Statement of the UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/5/3	Statement of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/6	NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy, 2011-2015
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/7	Proposal to Improving the Quality of NOWPAP Technical Reports
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/8	Revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RCU
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/9	Status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions from the member states
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/10	Revised NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/11	Revised NOWPAP Public Awareness Building Strategy

Information documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/INF/1	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/INF/2	Provisional List of Participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/INF/3	Provisional Timetable
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/INF/4	MOUs between UNEP and RAC-hosting institutions, 2000-2002

- UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/INF/5 Template of agreement between UNEP and RAC-hosting countries of the Mediterranean Action Plan, 2010
- UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 14/11 Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan: report of the meeting