



**Northwest
Pacific
Action Plan**



Distr.: RESTRICTED

UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16

16 August 2018

Original: English

Twenty third Intergovernmental Meeting of
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Moscow, Russian Federation
9-11 October 2018

REPORT OF THE 16th DINRAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING

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Background

1. NOWPAP DINRAC was established to coordinate regional activities relevant to data and information exchange and to provide the reliable and up-to-date information services related to marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region.

2. DINRAC has the specific objectives to coordinate regional activities, as specified in the Terms of Reference adopted at the Fourth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting. DINRAC was established recognizing that the activities under NOWPAP produce information on different topics from several sources; that there is the need for regional harmonization of data sets and information system, for development of databases and networks for linking relevant institutions in the region and for providing coherent information to serve the needs of the region, as well as the need to develop protocols for data sharing. The development of a comprehensive database and information management system for the region is also coordinated and implemented by DINRAC.

3. The 15th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) was held on 25-26 May 2017 in Beijing, China with the assistance of NOWPAP Regional Coordination Unit (RCU). The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in the intersessional period after the 14th NOWPAP DINRAC FPM and discussed and agreed the implementation plan for the 2018-2019 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM15/15).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The 16th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was opened on 30 May 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Excemon Beijing Hongxiang Hotel in Beijing, China. Dr. Feng YAN, Director of DINRAC gave an opening statement. Ms. Xuejiao HAN, Representative of the Department of Water Environment Management, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE), was invited to give a welcome remark.

5. Dr. Jeung Sook PARK, Focal Point of the Republic of Korea, suggested having second thoughts on formulating thematic areas of DINRAC's activities because DINRAC was already beyond period of metadatabase which is one of the objectives in Terms of Reference of DINRAC.

6. Dr. Ning LIU, Program Officer of NOWPAP RCU also gave a welcome statement. He suggested that DINRAC should consider a new direction, because DINRAC was facing challenges in data collections and utilization of data.

7. In line with paragraph 5.2 of the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points

Meeting, the meeting elected Dr. Qian Li, Focal Point of China as the Chairperson and Dr. Pavel Saliuk, Focal Point of Russia, as the rapporteur. Dr. Park raised a question of the status of the latest restructuring of Chinese Ministries.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

8. It was agreed to apply the rules of procedures for the meeting in line with the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting. English would be the working language of the meeting, and decisions would be made by the consensus of all Focal Points.

9. Dr. Yan gave a short introduction to the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16/1) and the Annotated Provisional Agenda of the meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16/2).

10. Mr. Norio Baba, Focal Point of Japan suggested to integrate the sessions of “Follow-up and review of SDG14.1 using NOWPAP mechanism (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM Ref/8)” “Thought of implementation for the NOWPAP regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter”, and “CEARAC’s introduction on the development of a Roadmap of Regional Action Plan on Biodiversity” into the agenda item 8, which was planned to discuss on DINRAC’s future arrangements and NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023.

11. All Focal Points of DINRAC agreed to the above-mentioned changes.

Agenda Item 3: Report of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the Implementation of NOWPAP Activities since the 15th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

12. Dr. Liu briefed the meeting on the progress of the NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period since the 15th DINRAC FPM including the activities of each RAC completed and the resolutions of the 22th NOWPAP Intergovernmental meeting held on 21-23 December 2017 in Toyama, Japan (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/IG.22/3).

13. Mr. Baba raised a question on the leading role of RAP MALI. Dr. Liu explained that the last IGM discussed this issue and requested RCU to develop the ToR of RAP MALI FPM.

Agenda Item 4: Review of the Final Status in the implementation of DINRAC’s Work plan for 2016-2017.

14. Dr. Yan briefed the meeting on the final status of the DINRAC activities during the intersessional period since the 15th DINRAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16/4).

15. In principle, the meeting adopted this report.

Agenda Item 5: Review of the Final Reports in the Implementation Status of DINRAC’s

Activities and Budget for 2016-2017.

16. Ms. Yinghao Chen, Representative of DINRAC presented the final report on the annual summary of major marine environmental data (MED) available in member states since the 15th DINRAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16/5).

17. Dr. Park raised a question about collection of historical data because it needed to be further clarified. She also highlighted that the current data format of MED needed to be reconsidered with more effective and concrete pattern.

18. Dr. Yan presented the final status on the annual update of existing databases since the 15th DINRAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16/8).

19. Dr. Park raised a question about the blank places in table 1 "Project activity for Annual update of existing databases" (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16/8).

20. Dr. Yan replied that the DINRAC would encourage Japan and China to give more data to fill in the data categories in these existing databases.

21. Dr. Yan presented the final report on the development of DINRAC Website (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16/9).

22. Dr. Saliuk raised a question on the possibilities of enhancing DINRAC website's popularity and influence regionally and internationally. Dr. Park suggested that DINRAC website could be linked with other regional partners' websites to improve its visibility.

23. Dr. Shirayama, Focal Point of Japan, gave a presentation on the Final Report on the Collection of Data and Information on Species Filed in the Red Lists of NOWPAP Member States Phase II. Dr. Shirayama suggested that the databases could be linked with Encyclopedia of life, and DINRAC could contact IUCN to provide the findings of this activity.

24. Dr. Park suggested that DINRAC could talk with WWF to increase the publicity of DINRAC's work.

Agenda Item 6. Discussion on DINRAC'S Implementation plan and Budget for 2018-2019 Biennium.

25. Ms. Chen presented the Implementation plan for Annual Summary of Major Marine Environmental Data Available in Member States.

26. Dr. Park suggested that the routine data and historical data should be separated in different phases with the consideration into future's MED activities.

27. The meeting agreed to suspend the activity of historic data collection for the time being.

28. Mr. Baba mentioned that it was critical to conduct an evaluation on the effectiveness of MED based on its outcomes since 2013.

29. Dr. Yan added that there would be a comprehensive data analysis report based on MED outputs by the end of this year. He also suggested that it could be done in the conclusive part of the report to provide end-users with an overall evaluation for MED.

30. Dr. Saliuk suggested to make unified and detailed tables for the MED activity for all national experts with separated cells for each parameter.

31. Dr. Saliuk presented the Implementation plan for Human Marine Activity Projects (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM16/12).

32. Dr. Park highlighted the necessity of improving communication and better understanding of DINRAC's activities because it was critical to have close communication in developing the scope of new activities to improve their performance and facilitate data and information collection.

33. Dr. Park also suggested organizing an expert meeting for DINRAC annually to prepare the detail of technical checklist in terms of data and information sources for new activities.

34. Mr. Baba made a presentation on the preliminary survey result for feasibility of the new project of DINRAC in Japan. He presented the number of ports in Japan and the publicly available statistical data for port in MLIT, FA and Aquaculture in Japan. He suggested to further consider data availability and data sources when designing the data form in this activity.

35. Dr. Saliuk confirmed that it was possible to further consult with focal points to revise data form and collection criteria within two months.

36. After lengthy discussion, the focal points reached a consensus on the selection of elements and parameters of data and information for sea ports.

37. Dr. Saliuk further introduced the AIS system used on ships and for vessel traffic services. He highlighted some statistics of sea ports.

38. Dr. Park commented that it was very critical to identify what type of port could be selected into the data collection in the activity. She pointed out that the activity needed to distinguish IMO's related regulation and the objectives in the activity.

39. Dr. Saliuk explained further that the activity could concentrate more on the Ports' Environment managerial methods.

40. Dr. Park asked the detailed data collection form with the enriched information based on the revised Implementation plan. It is very crucial to zoom in the scale of port's information.

41. Mr. Baba suggested to revise the Implementation plan based on more research related the Sea Ports in the NOWPAP region in two weeks and circulate it to all focal points of DINRAC for agreement in a month.

42. Dr. Saliuk mentioned that it was common to face similar issues in designing data formats when developing new activities.

43. Dr. Yan made a presentation on the Implementation plan for Sea Reclamation State and Management Project.

44. Dr. Park commented that this proposal was focused on reclamation areas of member states and raised a question about collection of data including laws and regulations related to

reclamation baseline of the project. She mentioned that there was an issue that Korea and Japan had before the year of 2000. Dr. Kun Lei suggested to set time period for each country to consider.

45. Dr. Yan suggested narrowing down the scope of the activity and converting the project into a case study. He further suggested that to select one or two accomplished reclamation areas to be targeted research object.

46. Dr. Kun Lei further explained that the outline of the Implementation plan for Sea Reclamation State and Management in NOWPAP region consisted of the development trend of reclamation activities, related laws and regulations, action plans or activities taken by different levels of government to address the negative impact of reclamation.

47. Dr. Saliuk raised a question about the scope and scale of data and information collection. Dr. Park commented that the data format based on the area, historical period, etc. should be reviewed further. Dr. Kun Lei agreed to provide the data format within 3 weeks after the meeting.

48. Dr. Shirayama made a presentation on the Implementation plan for the Collection of Data and Information on Endangered Species Filed in the Red Lists of NOWPAP region (Phase 3).

49. Dr. Saliuk asked the details of Japan red list. Dr. Shirayama explained that there was no paper publication or location information of the species in the red list.

50. Dr. Saliuk asked the region selection for species on the red list. Dr. Shirayama proposed to use the same area for Phase II, i.e. the NOWPAP wider area.

51. Dr. Liu suggested submitting the reports on the endangered species to the UNEP Publishing Board to publish them as official UN publications. Dr. Shirayama responded that DINRAC Secretariat needed to consider allocating budget for the publication.

52. Mr. Baba requested to assess the capability to maintain the database on the recommended actions to improve its performance.

53. Dr. Park suggested considering the possibility of arranging an expert meeting on biodiversity-related activities with CEARAC in the near future.

54. The meeting agreed that the two new project proposals on ports and reclamation would be further trimmed through e-communication among DINRAC Focal Points within 3 weeks after this meeting, in particular with respect to data collection format and its scope.

Agenda Item 7 Discussion on the follow-up arrangements for the commitment of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

55. Dr. Yan gave a presentation on the Implementation plan for the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

56. Mr. Baba requested a clarification on demarcation of the role between DINRAC Focal Points and RAP MALI Focal Points in this activity. Dr. Liu explained that RAP MALI Focal Points were the decision-making body for activities related to RAP MALI and DINRAC Focal Points would provide technical advice to those activities.

57. Regarding the GPML Node, Dr. Park suggested to maximize the use of the existing DINRAC Marine Litter database (including CEARAC's Marine Litter Node), modify them according to Global format, if any, and then link to relevant organizations (e.g. GPML, UN Environment). She raised a question that it was significant to distinguish the functionality of marine litter pages on DINRAC website and new portal of regional node.

58. Dr. Yan further clarified that the new portal would absorb more data resources internationally and regionally and enhance the networking of the Regional node to achieve the comprehensive portal for NOWPAP in marine litter management.

59. Dr. Shirayama mentioned there was duplication in proposed activity on microplastics by DINRAC with those by CEARAC and requested to continue discussing this in the coming NOWPAP RAP MALI FPM. Dr. Yoshida agreed with the request.

60. Mr. Feng Xiao, the consultant for NOWPAP Regional Node, gave a presentation on thoughts for GPML NOWPAP Regional Node Network Program.

Agenda Item 8 Discussion on DINRAC's future arrangements and on NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023.

61. Dr. Yoshida briefly introduced the discussion paper on the Development of a Roadmap for Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation in the NOWPAP region.

62. Dr. Liu gave a presentation on Follow-up and review of SDG 14.1 using NOWPAP mechanism.

63. Dr. Yan gave a presentation on DINRAC's future arrangements and on NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023.

64. Dr. Park suggested to share information on biodiversity with Focal Points and experts, in particular the information of NOWPAP existing activities (including initiatives, publications) in this field before organizing a joint workshop with CEARAC. Related planning needed to be circulated and well consulted before each RAC's meeting during the biennium.

65. Dr. Saliuk mentioned that it was very difficult to identify the prioritized areas in the current direction document, and it was necessary to prepare the data obtained from the national experts in the form compatible with modern database management systems.

66. Dr. Kun Lei suggested that it was critical to use new technologies like big data in IT, to produce some WebGIS based "products" as more comprehensive data service to end-users.

67. Dr. Qian Li suggested more concentrating on the data utilization based on the implementation plans of DINRAC.

68. After lengthy discussion among focal points, it was agreed that DINRAC would work closely with CEARAC and other RACS to enrich the project of biodiversity.

69. Dr. Park mentioned that it was true that DINRAC's activities have not been appreciated, compared with other leading RACs, because its main role to maintain and develop the data and information network was not visible but DINRAC has made some change recently to strengthen its activities and meet its ToR.

70. Dr. Ning Liu suggested to discuss more on solutions and recommendations for the future directions of DINRAC. DINRAC could further discuss how to consolidate its thematic area.

71. Mr. Baba mentioned the NEAR-GOOS' cooperation with NOWPAP RACs and highlighted the importance of cooperation with other international projects.

71. Dr. Liu welcomed the participation of NGOs to this Focal Point Meeting and mentioned that it would be very critical to invite international partners to engage in DINRAC's activities.

Agenda Item 9 Arrangements of the 17th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

72. Dr. Park suggested hosting DINRAC FPM in Toyama where the RCU and the CEARAC are located in order to promote cooperation and collaboration with RCU and other RACs, taking into account the DINRAC MTS directions. It would be a good chance to get more partners involved into DINRAC's activities. It is suggested that DINRAC and CEARAC Secretariats to discuss about the possibility to hold the 17th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting in Toyama.

73. It is agreed that the venue and date would be determined in the intersectional period.

Agenda Item 10 Other matter

74. It was encouraged to enhance the cooperation with other RACS and regional organizations, especially for regional node.

75. Mr. Baba requested DINRAC Secretariat to prepare for meeting documents at least one month before the DINRAC Focal Points Meeting.

76. Ms. Miao Zhang, Representative from R Cube briefly introduced her role as DINRAC' consultant, and the representative of R Cube in the field of marine litter management and wished to cooperate with DINRAC Focal Points in the near future.

Agenda Item 11 Adoption of the meeting report

77. After review, a draft version of meeting report has been adopted by the focal points.

Agenda Item 12 Closure of the meeting

78. The meeting was closed on 31 May 2018 at 15:30.