



**COBSEA – the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia**

**REGIONAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP OF THE COBSEA YEOSU PROJECT:  
ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF SEA-LEVEL RISE AND COASTAL  
EROSION IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS**

**2012 INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT**

**AUGUST 2012**



**UNEP- United Nations Environment Programme  
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**COBSEA REGIONAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP OF THE YEOSU PROJECT:  
ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF SEA-LEVEL RISE AND COASTAL EROSION IN  
THE EAST ASIAN SEAS; Bangkok, Thailand 31 July-1 August 2012**

**INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT**

**A. BACKGROUND**

Coastal erosion is recognized as one of the major impacts of climate change-induced sea-level rise. The developing countries of the East Asian region face the prospects of severe loss of coastal ecosystems, communities and economic activities in the low-lying areas.

Given such concerns the COBSEA countries called for the development of a regional programme for coastal erosion management and guidance at national and local levels to assist their efforts in dealing with the issue. With the kind support of the Government of Korea a regional programme 'COBSEA Regional Programme for the Sustainable and Ecosystem-Based Management of Coastal Erosion in the East Asian Seas Region' was developed by COBSEA national authorities and experts to lay the foundation for a regional strategy or policy on coastal erosion.

In March 2011, the proposed project (Yeosu Project: Addressing the Challenge of Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Erosion in the East Asian Seas – Initial Implementation of the COBSEA Regional Strategy) was submitted by COBSEA to KOICA and the Organizing Committee of Yeosu Expo 2012. The project proposal was approved in December 2011 with a total budget of USD 400,000 to be implemented over two years in seven of the COBSEA member countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objective of the project is to build capacity in COBSEA developing countries in order to strengthen sustainability, resilience and wise management of threatened coastal resources and associated ecosystems.

This Inception Workshop, organized by COBSEA Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand, 31 July - 1 August 2012 served as a "commencement event" for the implementation of the project. The meeting brought together relevant national authorities and experts from six participating countries (China did not send participants to the workshop) as well as international experts from Canada, Singapore and Germany to discuss coastal erosion and coastal management issues in general and the Yeosu Project and its activities and requirements in particular.

This Workshop was made possible by the kind support of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Yeosu Organizing Committee which were represented at the workshop by KOICA representative.

**B. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the workshop was to agree on the implementation of the Yeosu project, by bringing together national authorities and international experts who would discuss various directions, options and possible activities.

The more specific objectives of the workshop were:

- To review the background, activities and requirements of the YEOSU Project;
- To provide national teams the knowledge base towards the project: climate change and sea-level rise, physical, morphological and sedimentological processes;
- To provide national teams knowledge and common understanding on the policy base of coastal erosion: coastal erosion management, policies, legislation, institutional arrangements and mechanisms, including soft management; and
- To gather inputs from national teams on National Assessment Reports (NAR) and national consultation meetings;
- To agree on the 'way forward' in the implementation of the project.

### **C. PARTICIPANTS**

The regional workshop was attended by 25 participants who consisted of:

- 17 representatives from 6 COBSEA participating countries (Nominated National Focal Point, National Consultant and National Authority);
- 1 representative from funding organization (KOICA and Yeosu Organizing Committee)
- 3 International Consultants (International Technical Advisor and Resource Persons)
- 4 COBSEA Secretariat

The full list of participants is given in **Annex 1**.

### **D. APPROACH, METHOD AND AGENDA**

The two-day meeting consisted of lectures, presentations and panel discussions.

The first day aimed at providing a general overview and background information on coastal erosion and on the need for a regional strategy or policy, on the Regional Resource Document developed by COBSEA and on the Yeosu project. Three presentations were made by the international experts: i) on the 'physical' aspects (such as climate change, sea-level rise, geomorphological and sedimentological processes); ii) on the 'policy' issues (such as coastal zone management, policies, legislation, institutional mechanisms, and mitigation measures) and iii) on COBSEA's regional programme to address coastal erosion and on the Regional Resource Document. Each presentation was followed by a plenary discussion session.

The second day focused entirely on matters specific to the Yeosu Project, its phases, activities, outputs and deliverables. This included discussions on the structure and contents of the proposed template of the draft National Assessment Report, on the national consultation meetings and on the next steps in project implementation.

During the second day, country presentations were also made as to their inputs to the questionnaire developed to initially assess coastal erosion situation and related management issues in respective countries.

The Agenda of the workshop is given in **Annex 2**.

## E. OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the Regional Workshop were:

1. Establishment of a core of national experts and institutions on coastal erosion through the Project National Focal Points (PNFP) and National Experts;
2. Technical level agreement on the contents and template of the draft “National Assessment Report (NAR)”. The revised NAR template is given in **Annex 3**;
3. Agreement on the organization of the national consultation and engagement meetings to discuss the draft NAR.
4. Agreement on the way forward and next steps for the implementation of the Yeosu project and its activities.

## F. MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION/AGREEMENT AND WAY FORWARD

The workshop participants agreed on the following main steps in the development of the project:

1. The contents and proposed template of the draft National Assessment Report (NAR) will be revised by COBSEA Secretariat and the International Technical Advisor based on the comments and suggestions raised at the workshop. The revised NAR template will be sent to the countries for consideration and adoption for the preparation of their NARs.
2. The draft and final NAR will be prepared in English language or in local languages and translated into English.
3. National Consultants/Experts will submit to COBSEA the information and documents necessary to proceed with the preparation and processing of their contracts with UNEP COBSEA.
4. National Consultation and engagement meetings will be organized by the National Project Focal Points (assisted by the National Consultant). Those meetings will be planned and designed to discuss and agree on: i) the type of capacity building activities needed; ii) possible pilot projects (or ‘interventions’); iii) identify and design a ‘national roadmap’ towards strengthening the country’s policy, knowledge, capacity and community-level support and other related issues, as per need.
5. The next steps (or ‘way forward’) which was agreed upon is as follows:
  - a) COBSEA Secretariat to finalize contracts with National Consultants and with National Institutions – August 2012
  - b) National Consultants (NCs) to prepare the draft NARs - August-November 2012
  - c) National Consultants (NCs) to submit the draft NARs to PNFPs - December 2012
  - d) PNFPs to submit the draft NARs to COBSEA Secretariat and ITA - December 2012
  - e) International Technical Advisor (ITA) and National Consultation Team (NCT) to review draft NARs - January-February 2013
  - f) NCs and PNFPs (with ITA support) to prepare for the national consultations - March-April 2013; Organize national consultations - May-June 2013
  - g) NCs to finalize NARs, capacity building activities and roadmaps for intervention

6. PNFPs and NCs will cooperate with each other in the implementation of project activities and will endeavor to follow the way forward to ensure timely delivery of project outputs.
7. COBSEA will develop and publish an English language booklet/brochure for the 'laymen and general public' on coastal erosion. This publication will be translated into local languages.
8. COBSEA will insert the credits for the photographs in the published Regional Resource Document which were inadvertently excluded in the final version.
9. Based on the NARs, participating countries, in consultation with the COBSEA Secretariat, will try to develop a long term strategy for the implementation of the identified interventions. It was understood that this phase of the Yeosu Project does not aim to fund those possible interventions. However, such 'long term strategy', if developed, could serve as a basis for countries to apply for possible funding from donors.
10. Realizing the seriousness of the coastal erosion situation, the participating countries, and COBSEA Secretariat expressed appreciation to KOICA for its support and jointly, emphasized the importance of regional cooperation to address the matter through the Yeosu project.

## **ANNEXES**

- Annex 1** List of Participants  
**Annex 2** Workshop Agenda
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### **Sent by email separately**

- Annex 3** Revised National Assessment Report Template  
**Annex 4** Workshop Photos

## Annex 1 List of Participants

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**Regional Inception Meeting of the COBSEA YEOSU Project: Addressing the Challenge of Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Erosion in the East Asian Seas**

**31 July - 1 August 2012,  
The Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand**

**AGENDA  
Day 1, Tuesday 31 July 2012**

Time	Activity
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome Remarks <i>Dr. Ellik Adler, COBSEA Coordinator</i> <i>Ms. Jiwon Choi, KOICA and YEOSU Organizing Committee</i>
9:15 – 9:30	YEOSU project, background, overall goal and development, objectives, major activities <i>Dr. Ellik Adler</i>
9:30 – 9:45	Structure and content of the Workshop: objectives and activities <i>Dr. Wong Poh Poh, International Technical Advisor, Singapore</i>
9:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break and Group Photo
10:00 – 11:00	Policies in coastal erosion management; Role of government in addressing coastal erosion; examples at national and subnational levels; examples of policies in non-coastal sectors; <i>Dr. Larry Hildebrand, International Consultant, Canada</i>
	Discussion
11:00 – 11:45	The COBSEA Regional Resource Document- A Summary and lessons for YEOSU Project <i>Dr. Larry Hildebrand</i>
	Discussion
11:45 – 13:15	Lunch Break
13:15 – 14:15	Geomorphology, sedimentology and climate change in coastal erosion <i>Dr. Klaus Schwarzer, International Consultant, Germany</i>
	Discussion
14:15 – 15:15	Policy, legal and institutional mechanisms and mitigation measures to address coastal erosion <i>Dr. Wong Poh Poh</i>
	Discussion
15:15 – 15:30	Tea break
15:30 – 16:30	Yeosu project; the phases of project, detailed activities, outputs/ deliverables <i>Dr. Wong Poh Poh</i>
	Discussion
18:00 – 19:00	Reception

## Day 2, Wednesday 1 August 2012

Time	Activity
8:45 – 9:00	Introduction <i>Dr. Elik Adler</i>
9:00 – 9:15	Questionnaire for Initial Assessment of countries' present situation on Coastal Erosion <i>Dr. Wong Poh Poh</i> <b><i>Please note: Questionnaires must be filled and sent to COBSEA before 18 July 2012</i></b>
9:15 – 10:45	Country presentations on inputs to Questionnaire (15 minutes per country) <i>Country representatives</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:30	Planned National Assessment Reports (NAR) and National Consultation Meetings; <i>Dr. Wong Poh Poh</i>
11:30 – 12:15	Discussion on NAR and proposed template <i>Dr. Wong Poh Poh</i>
12:15 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 15:15	Panel discussion on questions/ issues raised during the workshop; + contributions from Workshop participants; <i>Dr. L. Hilderbrand, Dr. K. Schwartzer, Dr. Wong Poh Poh, Dr. E. Adler</i>
15:15 – 15:30	Tea break
15:30 – 16:00	Way Forward - Next steps in project implementation <i>Dr. Elik Adler</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Conclusion and Summary <i>Dr. Wong Poh Poh and experts</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Closing Remarks <i>Dr. Elik Adler</i>