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Fourth Meeting of the
Co-ordinating Body on
the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

22-23 April 1985
Metro Manila, Philippines

REPORT OF THE
FOURTH MEETING OF THE CO-ORDINATING BODY
ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas Action Plan, held in Bangkok, 9 - 11 December 1981 formed a Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), to serve as the overall authority to determine the content of the Action Plan, to review its progress and to approve its programme of implementation through periodic meetings of Governments.

2. In accordance with this decision, the Fourth Meeting of the COBSEA was convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Metro Manila, Philippines 22 - 23 April 1985.

ATTENDANCE

3. Representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand attended. Observers from UNESCO/IOC, WHO, and UNEP/ROAP were also present. A complete list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. In her welcome address, Ambassador R.V. Tirona, Philippines Assistant Minister for United Nations and International Organizations, expressed optimism for the continued implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan. In his keynote address (Annex II), Mr. J.C. Benitez, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Philippines, emphasized the need for regional cooperation in preserving environmental integrity in the utilization of shared marine areas in accordance with each participating state's development programs.

5. Mr. E.D. Gomez opened the business meeting on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP. He cited the accomplishments of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Action Plan and commended the efficiency of the States in implementing the programme. He expressed optimism for the continued success of the activities in the region.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Designation of Officers

6. Consistent with the procedures used by the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment, i.e. that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Rapporteur of COBSEA

would be designated on the same rotational basis, the bureau of the meeting was elected by acclamation as follows:

Chairman : Ms. Veronica Villavicencio (Philippines)
 Vice-Chairman : Mr. Moses Lee (Singapore)
 Rapporteur : Mr. Pravit Ruyabhorn (Thailand)
 Interim Coordinator : Mr. Appaduran Maheswaran (Malaysia)

2.2 Adoption of Agenda

7. The meeting adopted the agenda contained in Annex III to this report.
8. The list of documents relevant to the agenda items and made available to the participants in the meeting is contained in Annex IV of this report.

AGENDA ITEM 3: REPORT OF THE INTERIM COORDINATOR OF COBSEA

9. Mr. H. Haeruman, the outgoing Interim Coordinator, presented a report of progress achieved in the implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan since the Third Meeting of COBSEA in Genting Highlands in April 1984 (UNEP/IG.62/3).
10. The on-going Interim Coordinator noted the role of the EAS Action Plan in the management and protection of the region's marine environment through on-going or envisioned projects as supported by UNEP and COBSEA funds.
11. He reported on the project allocations for 1984-85 as follows (US\$):

	Trust Fund	Environment Fund
FP/0503-82-15 (EAS 2.2)	13,532	13,532
FP/0503-82-16 (EAS 4)	17,212	33,288
FP/0503-82-17 (EAS 1.1 & 1.2)	25,750	25,750
FP/0503-82-18 (EAS 2.1 & 7)	31,000	31,000
FP/0503-02-19 (EAS 3.2 & 3.3)	30,387	30,387
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	117,881	133,957

12. He requested that the body consider the implementation in 1985-86 of two projects which have been deferred for two years namely project EAS 5.2 "Support Programme for Contingency Planning" and project EAS 6.2 "Marine Sites for Dumping Hazardous Waste".

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP

13. Mr. E.D. Gomez, on behalf of the UNEP Executive Director, referred to

document UNEP/IG/62/4 and reviewed the evolution of the East Asian Seas Action Plan and its component projects. He outlined the tasks of COBSEA IV as follows:

- (i) review and modification (including additional activities) of on-going projects as required, within the limits of available funds;
- (ii) review of the Action Plan for Marine Mammals with respect to possible implementation within the framework of the EAS Action Plan, specifying funds available from the EAS Trust Fund and further financial support from UNEP;
- (iii) review of the budget and financial arrangements for implementation of the Action Plan and proposals for future allocations for approved projects;
- (iv) confirmation of contributions of member states for 1984-85 to ensure realistic budget allocations for existing and new projects;
- (v) formulation of formal requests to UNEP for continued overall technical coordination and supervision of implementation of the Action Plan and the EAS Trust Fund, if desired by COBSEA.

14. Mr. Gomez also informed the body of the availability of the various publications at UNEP Geneva to interested parties, including the UNEP Regional Seas Directory of East Asian Seas Marine Environmental Centres, which is the outcome of a preparatory activity of the EAS Regional Programme.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PROGRESS REPORTS ON APPROVED EAS PROJECTS BY PROJECT COORDINATORS

15. The Thai representative summarized the progress on EAS 1.1 "Observation of Maritime Meteorological Phenomena and their Influence on Water Movements," and EAS 1.2 "Study of Oceanographic Features with Emphasis on Hydrography, Water Masses, Water Circulation and their Effects upon Pollution Dispersion Pattern". With respect to EAS 1.1 a report on coastal meteorological phenomena based on secondary data will be available by May 1985. Equipment for deployment at permanent meteorological stations in the Gulf of Thailand were acquired in early 1985. For EAS 1.2, three cruises were carried out in 1984: one in January 1984, covering the entire Gulf of Thailand, with 13 stations for current measurements, conducted by the Hydrographic Department of the Royal Thai Navy; and two cruises conducted by the Department of Fisheries in March and September 1984, covering 25 stations in the Upper Gulf and three stations on the east coast for current measurements. Equipment for the three monitoring and reference stations for EAS 1.2 will be available soon.

16. The acquisition of a research vessel for a research cruise to be participated in by member states has been cancelled and activities now center on data gathering from the permanent monitoring stations. Data inputs from other member states have not yet been received.

17. The Indonesian representative reported on activities undertaken under EAS 2.1 "Survey of Sources and Oil Pollution Monitoring". The first intercalibration exercise, began in October 1983 and participated in by nine laboratories in four member states, was completed in December 1984. A draft report was distributed at this meeting. Participation of the National Operations Center for Oil Pollution (Philippines) was confirmed in January 1985.

18. The Joint Survey in the Straits of Malacca/Singapore proposed for July/August 1984 had been postponed as of COBSEA III.

19. The Indonesian representative also informed the body that ASCOPE had suggested collaborating with COBSEA on EAS 2.1 and the Indonesian project on Finger Printing of Tarballs, Crudes and Petroleum Products, as well as on EAS 2.2 of Malaysia.

20. The representative of Malaysia drew the attention of the meeting to the Regional Training Workshop on Toxicity Testing of Oil and Oil Dispersants which was held in Penang from 26 March - 6 April 1984, conducted as part of Project 2.2 "Cooperative Research on Oil and Oil Dispersant Toxicity in the EAS Region". The workshop demonstrated the methodology of toxicity testing and adopted a "Protocol for the Bioassay of Oil Dispersants". The workshop also recommended that an interim meeting of participants be convened after April 1985 in Australia and that a final meeting also be held in Jakarta after completion of the project to enable a final report to be produced.

21. In connection with EAS 3.2 "Assessment of Concentration Levels and Trends on Non-Oil Pollutants and their Effects on the Marine Environment in the East Asian Seas Region" coordinated by the Philippines, a Workshop on Environmental Monitoring was conducted May 28 - June 8, 1984 to establish methods for trace metal analysis in water, sediments, biota, and in ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Seas) intercalibration samples.

22. Five of the 9 participating national institutes have confirmed participation in an intercalibration exercise based on samples requested from the IAEA through UNEP.

23. Another environmental monitoring workshop emphasizing organo-chlorines is being planned for late 1985 in Papua New Guinea in cooperation with SPREP and IOC.

24. The project entitled "Study of Coral Resources and the Effects of Pollutants and other Destructive Factors on Coral Communities and Related Fisheries in the East Asian Seas Region" under Project EAS 4 is composed of various studies by the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The Philippines has five studies all of which were started in 1983. Of these 5 projects, only Study No. 3 has been completed, while the rest are to be continued until December 1985. The conclusion and recommendations for Study No. 3 will be included in the final report of the project.

25. The surveys of the state of coral resources of Indonesia and Malaysia are expected to have been completed based on their working schedules. Thailand, according to their present report is expected to continue until December 1985 with the receipt of an additional \$2,000 by Chulalongkorn University in June. With regards to the bibliographies of coral resources, Indonesia and Thailand have already submitted their own lists.

26. As follow-up to the ASEAN-UNEP Workshop on Information and Data Exchange on the Seas of East Asia conducted under EAS 7 "Development of National Coordinating Mechanisms for the Management and Establishment of a Regional Data Exchange System", the Indonesian representative requested for inputs from member states for the "Manual on Procedures for Reporting and Exchange of Oceanographic Data" and the "Directory of Marine Scientists", and for submissions of National Lists of Publications on Marine Environment. These are expected prior to the conduct of a Regional Consultative Meeting on Data and Information Exchange scheduled for late 1985 in Indonesia.

27. The representative from Singapore informed the body that the project on management of hazardous waste should be taken up under the ASEAN Environment Programme II. In its place, it was proposed that Singapore be the lead country for a new project entitled "Cleaning Up of Urban Rivers", in line with the expressed concern among COBSEA member countries on land-based pollution which is known to account for 70-80% of coastal marine pollution.

28. The UNEP Representative reviewed the deliberation of a working group that discussed the status of project funds for the biennium 1984-85. In view of the information available, the meeting decided to allocate presently available funds as follows:

(i) Proposed Budget revisions of on-going projects

EAS 1	Oceanography (Thailand)	\$ 21,500
EAS 2.1	Survey of Sources and Monitoring of Oil Pollution/ 7. Information and Data Exchange (Indonesia) -	\$ 14,500
EAS 4	Coral Ecosystems (Philippines)	\$ 3,500

(ii) Approved projects from COBSEA III

EAS 5.2	Support Programmes for Contingency Planning (Indonesia)	\$ 40,000
EAS 3.1	Cleaning Up Urban Rivers (Replacing EAS 6.2) (Singapore)	\$ 22,000
	TOTAL	\$ 101,500

29. This amount will be allocated from the following available funds:

Trust Fund Surplus	1985	\$ 66,135
Environment Fund	1985	\$ 53,321
Subtotal:		\$ 119,456
Less remittance to EAS 4		\$ 6,399
Total available:		\$ 113,057

30. As the outstanding contributions to the Trust Fund are received by UNEP, COBSEA will prioritize new project proposals as follows:

1. EAS 6.1 Waste Discharge into Coastal Waters (Thailand)	-	\$ 41,000
2. EAS 3.4 Land-Based Sources of Pollution (Philippines)	-	\$ 45,360
3. EAS 4 Mangrove Ecosystems (Philippines)	-	\$ 40,000

Outstanding Trust Fund contributions are as follows:

1984	-	\$ 55,000
1985	-	\$ 86,000
Total	-	\$ 141,000

31. The delegate from Malaysia indicated that an amount of \$ 17,000 will be needed for EAS 2.2 in early 1986 for a workshop. The meeting decided to give priority to this request for 1986. Should there be any surplus from the 1985 funds, it may be allocated for this project.

32. The Coordinators of the various on-going projects, as well as of the new projects, were urged to prepare and submit their proposed revisions and new proposals to UNEP, with a copy to the Interim Coordinator as soon as these are ready.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

33. The meeting took note of the activities of IOC, the details of which are in Annex V of this report.

34. The observer from the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific proposed that COBSEA consider other sources of funding such as UNDP, EEC-ASEAN, and Australia-ASEAN Cooperative Programme, and confirm the report of COBSEA III, urging UNEP to make an all-out effort to assist COBSEA to secure the funding needed to improve priority projects.

35. The observer from the Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO presented a short discussion of the on-going projects in the Environmental Health Engineering Programme, and expressed its willingness to provide technical and other assistance whenever possible.

36. An observer from the Philippine ASCOPE Office provided information on the composition of ASCOPE and its activities, and reiterated the Council's willingness to cooperate with COBSEA, especially in the area of oil pollution, through the provision of data. COBSEA representatives endorsed such cooperation, underlining the need for more details on any cooperative programmes and financing.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR 1986 - 1987

37. Since it is anticipated that 1985 project activities will slide into early 1986, the meeting decided to postpone until the next COBSEA meeting in Singapore the discussion of the Workplan and Budgets for the 1986-87 biennium. In the meantime, all on-going and approved projects in 1985 will continue until early 1986. The delegates were reminded to prepare proposals for discussion at the next COBSEA meeting.

38. The meeting decided to request the Executive Director of UNEP to continue the overall technical coordination and supervision of the implementation of the EAS Action Plan by UNEP. Some concern was expressed about the possible effects of the relocation of the Ocean and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Center from Geneva to Nairobi. Thus, the meeting requested UNEP to ensure the most efficient coordination mechanism, particularly during the period until the next COBSEA meeting, including the possible involvement of a coordinator from the East Asian Seas Region.

AGENDA ITEM 8: STATUS OF THE EAS TRUST FUND

39. The status of the Trust Fund was reviewed in detail. As of 1984, only \$53,000 was received while a balance of \$55,000 was still outstanding (UNEP/IG.62/4 Annex I). Since that time, Singapore had sent in its contribution of \$1,000 for 1985.

40. The Thai delegate suggested that reminders be sent out to countries with outstanding accounts and that a deadline be set for sending in contributions. Accordingly, UNEP was requested to immediately send out reminders for 1984 outstanding contributions. Reminders for the 1985 contributions should be sent out not later than July 1985.

41. The UNEP representative stressed the need for the contributions to be received early to facilitate planning and implementation of new projects.

Should contributions for 1985 not be received early, the disbursement will also be late and thus a balance from the 1984-1985 will be realized in 1986.

42. The meeting decided to request the Executive Director of UNEP to continue the management of the EAS Trust Fund for the 1986-1987 biennium, with understanding that UNEP will provide matching funds. This will include surplus funds from 1985 plus contributions to made in 1986 and 1987.

AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

43. The meeting noted the Global Action Plan for Marine Mammals as an important new development. Because of the need to properly plan the activities on marine mammals in the East Asian Seas region, it was decided to defer discussion of the Global Action Plan on Marine Mammals until the next COBSEA meeting. The member States of COBSEA were requested to prepare project proposals and submit them to UNEP and COBSEA as soon as feasible.

44. COBSEA took note of a decision made in Genting Highlands to invite Brunei Darussalam to join the East Asian Seas Programme. The meeting, therefore, reiterated its request to the Executive Director of UNEP that he formally invite Brunei Darussalam to become part of COBSEA.

45. In view of the need to seek additional support from third parties for the implementation of the EAS Action Plan, the meeting requested UNEP to increase its efforts to secure such funding support. In this connection, it was recommended that UNEP extend invitations to possible funding agencies such as SIDA, DANIDA, JICA, and IDRC to attend future COBSEA meetings as observers.

46. The delegate of Singapore invited COBSEA to hold its Fifth Meeting in Singapore in conjunction with the Ninth Meeting of the Asean Expert Group on the Environment, tentatively scheduled for April 1986. The meeting graciously accepted the invitation.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

47. After reviewing its content and Annexes, the meeting unanimously adopted this report.

AGENDA ITEM 11: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

49. The delegate of Malaysia expressed thanks to the Government of the Philippines, on behalf of the participants, for their hosting of the meeting and

for providing excellent facilities. The UNEP Representatives reiterated these thoughts and expressed UNEP's intent to vigorously support the continued implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan.

50. The meeting was formally closed by the Chairmen at 1500 hours on 23 April 1985.

ANNEX I

FOURTH MEETING OF THE COORDINATING BODY
ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (COBSEA)
22 - 23 April 1983
Metro Manila, Philippines

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country	Name	Designation
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ANNEX II

KEYNOTE ADDRESS OF HON. JOSE CONRADO BENITEZ
AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COORDINATING BODY FOR
THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA
MANILA, 22 APRIL 1985

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Once again I come before you to open this Fourth Meeting of the Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia or COBSEA for short. I see again a few familiar faces. While some friends are not with us today, the loss is mitigated by other vibrant personalities who are likewise equal to the task before us.

This is yet another expression of concern and commitment shared by like-minded people, to protect the common shared environment and resources of our region. Covering an area of over 3.5 million square kilometers which comprise our environmental "common", the East Asian Seas encompass the artificial delineation of the South China Seas, the Java, Flores, Banda, Celebes and Sulu Seas, the Malacca Strait and the Gulf of Thailand. This shared resource provides both the ecological and economic link among our countries.

According to not a few experts, no marine region in the world presents more diverse problems of environmental management than this, our area, gulfs and peninsulas, sluggish estuaries, narrow straits, indented landmasses and clusters of islands large and small. Indeed this region offers a formidable challenge to resource diplomacy and the reaching of a common and practicable environmental policy.

But while our islands may be variedly irregular in configuration, inhabited by people of varying cultures, these have not deterred us from confronting the common issues and concerns of the region in an atmosphere of determination, cooperation and sharing. Indeed we have exhibited once again a resolve to undertake, despite the odds and difficulties, programs to protect our environment. Once again we have proven how far even a little can go. I refer to the Trust Fund for the East Asian Seas which, despite a myriad of problems, is able to continue to grow.

With three or four years experience behind us in implementing the Action Plan for the East Asian Seas, we should pause and reflect, though momentarily, to review and assess the modestly successful projects with the not so successful ones. There is a need to mold this Action Plan into one that is uniquely ours, utilizing methods and resources indigenous to our region, and guided by our peculiar strengths as well as limitations.

We cannot blindly pattern our programme on industrialized, western models. This may not be cost-effective and may not be relevant to our developing economies.

Considering the financial resources we are contributing from our own pockets, no matter how small, we should take extra care to ensure that the programmes being implemented are efficient, relevant and suited to the needs of our people.

We must therefore keep in mind the peculiar characteristics of our regions: population figures, especially in littoral territories (80 million in Java alone), serve to indicate the scale of population pressures and the magnitude of the problem of controlling land-based sources of pollution; the volume of shipping in, or passing through, our seas exerts a tremendous impact on our marine environment. Whether in terms of vessel weight or tonnage of cargo, the Malacca Strait is perhaps the second busiest shipping route, second only to the English Channel. The traffic which the Malacca Strait is unable to absorb is, in turn, routed through the Lombok Strait off the coast of Bali. The shipping especially of petroleum and other energy resources through the region is likely to continue to increase.

We have been spared thus far, despite the high volume of vessel traffic, from shipping catastrophes. With the continued increase in population growth, as well as economic activities, competing demands on marine resources will likewise increase. The need to plan for development of these areas must be undertaken and great thought given to the environmental soundness of the projects. The challenge is again one of harmonizing environmental management into the development process. The development of coastal marine and offshore resources is bound to fail in the long run unless it is environmentally sound. Planning in these areas must likewise consider the foremost need for food of our peoples. Critical areas for fisheries must be protected.

I am therefore heartened to note the priority concerns you have identified. But once again we must remind ourselves that the imperatives of development often do not wait for scientific studies. Let us not be left out or left behind by our people's need for employment and livelihood for survival. We must move ahead with our plans and projects.

Especially for my country, which has a coastline of about 18,000 kilometers, whose 52 million people rely mostly on the sea for livelihood and well-being, the results of your studies and deliberations and the eventual recommendations that you will make are of primordial interest. The task will not be easy. As has been pointed out on many occasions what we are trying to do is preserve the integrity of the environment without unnecessarily dislocating the development processes and economic activities upon which our increasing population depends for its survival.

Yet the issues must be confronted and addressed if we must preserve the environment and the bounties of our seas in order for their ecosystems to be able to replenish themselves and serve the needs of the people themselves.

For this purpose, it is to be happily noted that the implementation of our Action Plan has involved the participation of some 30 institutes and hundreds of managerial and research personnel in meetings, workshops, and training courses. This will assure that whatever recommendations will be reached will have been tested for acceptability and effectivity.

Congratulations are in order for the member countries of the COBSEA and the United Nations Environment Programme for the move thus far taken in this area of high and common concern.

Let us all sustain our efforts in the service of our countries and peoples in this region of the world, and let the fruits of our efforts be a showcase, to the rest of the world, of cooperation and friendship in the service of man and nature.

May I therefore extend to this body the congratulations and assurances of support of my government and the Ministry of Human Statistics.

Thank you.



ANNEX III

AGENDA

1. Opening of meeting
2. Organization of meeting
 - 2.1 Designation of officers
 - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the Interim Coordinator
4. Report of the Executive Director
5. Progress reports on ongoing EAS Action Plan projects
6. Assistance of International Organizations to the East Asian Seas Action Plan
7. Workplan and budget for 1986/87
8. Status of the EAS Trust Fund
9. Other business
10. Adoption of Report
11. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

(1) Working Documents

UNEP/IG.62/1	Agenda
UNEP/IG.62/2	Annotated Agenda
UNEP/IG.62/3	COBSEA Interim Coordinator's Report
UNEP/IG.62/4	Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the East Asian Action Plan in 1984 - 1985
UNEP/IG.62/5	Study of the Maritime Meteorological Phenomena and Oceanographic Features of the East Asian Seas Region (Thailand)
UNEP/IG.62/6	Survey of Sources and Monitoring of Oil Pollution (Indonesia)
UNEP/IG.62/7	Cooperative Research on Oil and Oil Dispersant Toxicity in the East Asian Seas Region (Malaysia)
UNEP/IG.62/8	Assessment of Concentration Levels and Trends of Non-Oil Pollutants and their Effects on the Marine Environment in the East Asian Seas Region (NEPC/RP)
UNEP/IG.62/9	Study of Coral Resources and the Effects of Pollutants and Other Destructive Factors on Coral Communities and related Fisheries (NRMCRP)
UNEP/IG.62/9 Add.1	Workplan and Budget for 1986 - 1987
UNEP/IG.62/10	Development of National Coordinating Mechanisms for the Management and Establishment of a Regional Data Exchange System (Indonesia)
UNEP/IG./11	Cleaning Up of Urban Rivers
UNEP/IG./12	Report of the meeting

(2) Information Documents

- | | |
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| UNEP/IG.62/INF.1 | Provisional List of Documents |
| UNEP/IG.62/INF.2 | List of Participants |
| UNEP/IG.62/INF.3 | Marine Mammals: Global Plan of Action |
| UNEP/IG.62/INF.4 | Marine Mammals: Global Plan of Action (Annex) |
| UNEP/IG.62/INF.5 | Directory of Marine Environmental Centers in East Asian Seas. UNEP Regional Seas Directories and Bibliographies. Rome, FAO, 138 p. |

ANNEX V

OBSERVATIONS OF THE IOC REPRESENTATIVE ON POSSIBLE
COOPERATION WITH COBSEA

The observer of IOC described the developments of the GIPME programme, the IOC Task Team on Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring, the jointly sponsored IOC-UNEP Group of Experts on Methods, Standards, and Intercalibration (GEMSI) and noted the cooperation between IOC and UNEP in developing the Regional components of the Marine Pollution Monitoring System (MARPOLMON) and the Regional Seas Programme.

He summarized the implications of the jointly sponsored Expert Group GEMSI in developing Standard Methods for both programmes, developing intercalibration exercises and training opportunities, and in promoting MUSSELWATCH activities at the regional level, in this regard, through collaboration between WESTPAC, COBSEA and SPREP.

The IOC Observer detailed the similarities in both programmes and referred to the achievements especially in intercalibration and training opportunities for trace metals in biota. Organochlorines were clearly lagging behind and a workshop on the analysis of organochlorines in biota has been accorded high priority by the IOC bodies.

The following programmes have been proposed by the IOC-WESTPAC Task Team in cooperation with GEMSI and SPREP:

1. A Workshop on Organochlorine Analysis has been proposed with IOC, COBSEA and SPREP participation for November 1985 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. A number of details regarding COBSEA funding and participation need to be clarified in light of SPREP proposals and the WESTPAC Task Team recommendations on coverage.
2. An intercalibration exercise on trace metals in biota is being analysed for 1985 jointly by IOC-IAEA with GEMSI serving the WESTPAC, SPREP and COBSEA regions. A coordination mechanism among COBSEA laboratories is required. A similar organochlorine intercalibration is in the planning stage.
3. GEMSI is preparing strategy manuals for Monitoring with Marine Sediments and consideration is being given to holding a workshop in the WESTPAC region.

4. An intercalibration workshop to estimate gross river fluxes of pollutants to the coastal tropical zones is planned for early 1986. The second preparatory meeting is taking place at Chulalongon University, Bangkok, 22-27 April 1985 and builds a number of bilateral studies and arrangements.
5. The marine pollution monitoring system for petroleum hydrocarbons (MARPOLMON-P) has concluded all developmental and testing phases and is operational in some regions. Standard, well-intercalibrated methodologies for dissolved hydrocarbons exist for implementation when appropriate, in the WESTPAC region.
6. The recently formed IOC Group of Experts on the Effects of Pollution, is looking at species and community effects of contaminants and tackling the definition of vulnerable areas as a contribution to the assessment phase of a comprehensive pollution plan.

