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

25-26 March 1983
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

REPORT OF THE
SECOND 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 Co-ordinating 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 Second Meeting of the COBSEA was convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 25-26 March 1983.

ATTENDANCE

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Chief of the UNEP Fund Programme Management Branch, Mr. A. T. Brough, opened the meeting on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP. He cited the unique accomplishment of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Action Plan of having all the countries contribute to the Trust Fund and implement the programmes agreed in December of 1981 as scheduled.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

2.1 Designation of Officers

5. 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:	Mr. Herman Haeruman (Indonesia)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. S. T. Sundram (Malaysia)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Veronica Villavicencio (Philippines)

2.2 Adoption of Agenda

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: REPORT OF THE INTERIM CO-ORDINATOR OF COBSEA

8. Mr. K. Snidvongs, the Interim Co-ordinator, presented a report of progress achieved in the implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan since the First Meeting of COBSEA in Bangkok in April 1982 (UNEP/IG.44/3).

9. He reported that a consultant was sent on a mission to the various countries to finalize the project proposals agreed by COBSEA. The Executive Director of UNEP approved the matching funds from the Environment Fund and all project documents were signed towards the end of 1982 when trust fund contributions had been received.

10. He likewise reported that he was requested to represent COBSEA at the Pacific Science Congress in Dunedin, New Zealand. The Congress served as a good opportunity to bring together the various regional seas programmes in Asia and the Pacific.

11. In terms of the activities of the COBSEA projects, the following had been undertaken:

- UNESCO-UNEP Workshop on Coral Reef Survey Management and Assessment Methods in Asia and the Pacific (Phuket, Thailand, 13-17 December 1982);
- First Meeting of Participating National Institutes on EAS Project on Non-oil Pollution (Manila, Philippines, 14-17 February 1983);
- ASEAN-UNEP Workshop on Information and Data Exchange on the Seas of East Asia (Jakarta, Indonesia, 17-19 March 1983).

The other priority projects are in various stages of implementation.

12. Mr. K. Snidvongs reported on the discussions held with Mr. S. Keckes for future arrangements regarding the institutional and financial aspects, which should be addressed by the Second COBSEA Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

13. Mr. D. Elder, on behalf of the UNEP Executive Director, referred to document UNEP/IG.44/4 and reviewed the background leading to the adoption of the Action Plan and the Agreement of the respective Ministers of Environment to set up an East Asian Seas Trust Fund. The Governing Council of UNEP recommended to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the establishment of the Trust Fund and it was established under United Nations rules and with terms of reference approved by the Governments of the region with UNEP acting as the manager of the Trust Fund.

14. He explained the need for the revision of the already existing projects being funded by the Trust Fund and Environment Fund including their budget allocations to cover at least 1983. A decision concerning the institutional and financial arrangements beyond 1983 was also needed since the establishment of COBSEA, with UNEP acting as Secretariat as well as the Trust Fund arrangements were only valid until 31 December 1983. Therefore, the meeting was asked to consider the present arrangements and decide whether they should be extended, modified or terminated. It was explained that the eleventh session of the UNEP Governing Council, which would meet in May 1983, could be requested to extend the existing mandate of the Executive Director to manage the East Asian Seas Trust Fund and provide the technical Secretariat to COBSEA if the present meeting reflected such a desire in its report.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REVIEW OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

15. Mr. D. Elder reported on specific activities which the COBSEA had requested the UNEP Secretariat to undertake.

16. He indicated that the first draft list of marine science related institutions to be included in a regional directory for the East Asian Seas had been compiled by FAO through a co-operative project with UNEP. This list, together with questionnaires, was made available to delegations for checking and correction. The directory would be printed as soon as the questionnaires were returned.

17. He also reported that through the same joint project with FAO, a bibliography of marine science and pollution related publications had been compiled. To date, 1,200 entries had been gathered and the bibliography would be printed in the near future.

18. Finally, he indicated that as previously agreed the preparation of an overview of oceanography of the East Asian Seas and South China Sea was about to commence and was expected to be completed by the end of the year. This was being carried out through the consultancy of two oceanographers from Thailand who would visit oceanographic data and information centres in Japan, North America and Europe and compile the relevant information.

19. Mr. K. Snidvongs then summarized elements of the Action Plan as adopted by the 1981 Intergovernmental Meetings and stressed that in making its decisions the meeting should thoroughly discuss:

- a) How smooth and efficient are the present institutional and financial arrangements? How can they be improved and in what ways?
- b) Is the total contribution so far allotted to this programme sufficient to carry out the projects according to the work plans and objectives? If not, should they be increased, and, if so, by how much?

20. He went on to point out that the existing programme is based on two sources of funds, namely, the EAS Trust Fund and the Environment Fund of UNEP. If there are more contributions expected to be paid into the Trust Fund during the next biennium (1984-1985), increased financial resources could be allocated to the existing projects and new ones could be started, regardless of the duration of the Trust Fund, which could be extended as necessary. If the COBSEA Meeting could indicate long-term commitments to the EAS Programme, he personally felt that UNEP would also. Although at present it may be impossible for the delegations to tell whether annual contributions could be increased for the 1984-1985 biennium, as the Programme had just started, it would suffice to give a symbolic figure which countries would do their best to achieve.

21. Finally, Mr. K. Snidvongs asked delegations to consider the legal aspect of the EAS Action Plan. So far this aspect was not included and it was suggested that the legal issue again be raised to find out where obstacles lie.

22. In reference to agenda items 3 through 5, there was general agreement that the Action Plan should definitely be continued to benefit individual countries as well as the region as a whole. In the light of financial constraints being experienced worldwide, the view was expressed that attention should be focused on a few key projects, i.e., the five ongoing projects, and that attempts should be made to seek additional sources of funding through UNEP.

23. With reference to legal aspects of the Action Plan such as a regional convention, it was pointed out that through developing and implementing the Action Plan, participating countries had become accustomed to working together on various programmes and had not lost sight of the need for a legal component. However it was still not considered opportune to take steps to formulate a regional convention.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROGRESS REPORTS ON APPROVED EAS PROJECTS AND DISCUSSION
OF PROJECTS EAS 6.2 AND EAS 5.2

24. The representative of Thailand presented a summary of progress in relation to the project on "Maritime Meteorological Phenomena and Oceanographic Features of the East Asian Seas" (UNEP/IG.44/7). The planned oceanographic cruise has not been accomplished due to budgetary constraints. In this regard, there was general consensus that the project should adopt an approach whereby each country collects oceanographic data in areas pertinent to EAS 1, with the lead country undertaking the data analysis. Thailand proposed to hold a workshop on this matter in 1983 to discuss operational details. A second option presented, of undertaking a regional oceanographic cruise, should be pursued only upon availability of funding and/or in co-operation with other countries studying the oceanography of the region, e.g. Japan or Australia. It should also take into account the WESTPAC activities. It was suggested that the co-ordinator of the project explore such possibilities with the help of the UNEP Secretariat and other relevant United Nations organizations.
25. The summary of progress for the project on "Survey and Monitoring of Oil Pollution," as contained in UNEP/IG.44/9, was presented by the representative of Indonesia. The need for a regional technical meeting to discuss methods of analysis and intercalibration studies for oil contaminants and to identify study sites, was stressed. Such a meeting is scheduled for July/August 1983.
26. The representative of Malaysia presented the review of the project on "Co-operative Research on Oil and Oil Dispersant Toxicity in the East Asian Seas Region," as found in UNEP/IG.44/8. The report discussed the reasons which delayed the toxicological work on oil dispersants, and the rescheduling of the regional workshop to July/August 1983 when it is hoped that renovations for the alternate site for the toxicological laboratory would have been completed.
27. The Philippine representative presented the review of the project "Assessment of Concentration Levels and Trends of Non-oil Pollutants and Their Effects on the Marine Environment of the East Asian Seas Region" (UNEP/IG.44/5). The report discussed the conclusions and recommendations of the First Meeting of Participating Institutes held in Quezon City, Metro Manila, 14-17 February 1983. The Metro Manila Meeting gave strong support for the re-inclusion of the sub-project on land-based sources of pollution in project EAS 3.
28. It was also pointed out that the Manila Meeting requested UNEP to try to find a conveniently located laboratory (such as the EPA Laboratory in Hong Kong) which could serve as a reference laboratory in the intercalibration exercise to be conducted within the context of the project. The meeting also recommended that UNESCO/IOC involve EAS national institutes in the scheduled training course in Australia (see paragraph 37 below).
29. The review of the project on "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" was presented by the Philippines (UNEP/IG.44/6). It was mentioned that the EAS is the only regional Action Plan of UNEP thus far that has an on-going coral reef project, and the experience of the EAS region can be shared with other regional action plans.
30. The representative of Indonesia presented a summary of progress on the "Development of National Co-ordinating Mechanisms for the Management and establishment of a Regional Data Exchange System" (UNEP/IG.44/9). WESTPAC (represented by the UNESCO/IOC observer) signified its willingness to co-operate in view of its activity on setting up data management centres. It was also pointed out that there should be agreement and co-ordination among the projects to avoid

duplication of work such as in the preparation of bibliographies and directories. It was stressed that recourse should be made to existing international information systems such as INFOTERRA, MEDI and ASFIS.

31. The Indonesian representative next introduced a proposal for EAS 5.2 "Support Programme for Contingency Planning" (UNEP/IG.44/10) as suggested at the First COBSEA Meeting. In the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out that the results of ongoing projects cannot provide inputs to the proposed project because of the delayed implementation of the EAS programme. While the importance of the proposal was recognized by the meeting, the additional consideration of the present budgetary constraints led to the decision of deferment of the project for the 1984-1985 biennium.

32. The Singapore delegate next presented the background of the project EAS 6.2 "Marine Sites for Dumping Hazardous Wastes" which had been approved by the First COBSEA Meeting, the implementation of which had been deferred. He indicated that this management project needs data from the oceanography project for its implementation. Because of the financial constraints referred to above, he suggested further postponement of implementation for the next biennium. This recommendation was also approved by the meeting.

33. The UNEP representative informed the group that upon request he had informally approached IAEA with respect to assisting in the future implementation of this project. IAEA indicated its willingness to consider inclusion of this project in its programme activities if given enough lead time. The meeting requested that UNEP follow-up on this possibility. It was also suggested that related activities of other United Nations bodies or groups such as IMO and GESAMP should be taken into account in the formulation of the project document in the future.

34. After reviewing progress of implementing ongoing projects, the meeting considered budget proposals for the period 1982-1983 and agreed that allocations should be as follows:

<u>EAS Project</u>	<u>1982/1983</u> (US\$)	<u>1984 (June)</u> (US\$)	<u>Total</u> (US\$)
1.1/1.2 (ES/FP/0503-82-17)	49,800	17,000	66,800
2.1 (ES/FP/0503-82-18)	17,700	47,000	64,700
2.2 (ES/FP/0503-82-15)	35,500	4,800	40,300
3.2/3.3 (ES/FP/0503-82-19)	34,000	18,600	52,600
4.1/4.2 (ES/FP/0503-82-16)	35,000	17,500	52,500
7 (ES/FP/0503-82-18)	27,000	11,000	38,000
	<u>199,000</u>	<u>115,900</u>	<u>314,900</u>

35. It was agreed that the UNEP Secretariat would prepare detailed project revisions including detailed budget allocations of each project in collaboration with respective co-ordinators and the Interim Co-ordinator using the above figures as ceilings and subject to funds available in the EAS Trust Fund.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ASSISTANCE OF UNITED NATIONS' SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

36. The UNESCO/IOC representative proposed the continuation of collaboration with UNEP and COBSEA in the pursuit of common objectives, as exemplified by the successful UNESCO/UNEP Workshop on Coral Survey Methods held in Phuket, Thailand in December 1982. A second workshop proposed to be held in Phuket in late 1983 on coral taxonomy is another example of collaboration. A second area of common interest where co-operation is desirable is in the field of marine data exchange. The assistance of IOC may be requested in relation to other matters such as oceanographic cruises, intercalibration exercises and workshops, etc.

37. Particular attention was drawn to the planned IOC/WESTPAC Training Workshop on the Use of Marine Organisms in Marine Pollution Monitoring to be held in Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia from 22 August to 11 September 1983, which could answer the training needs of the oil pollution and non-oil pollution projects of COBSEA. The Workshop would be limited to an intensive training component on the analysis of organochlorines, trace metals and hydrocarbons and bivalves. The analytical aspects at the technical level were designed to give 30 to 40 participants experience in the analysis of selected pollutants employing standard procedures and reporting formats. A pre-workshop intercalibration exercise (co-ordinated by EPA Laboratory, Hong Kong) has been carried out by over 30 laboratories of the WESTPAC region and will be followed up after the workshop with a second round intercalibration. The IOC would distribute uncompromised standard reference materials on a global basis through a co-ordinating regional laboratory to ensure intercomparability of analysis obtained by WESTPAC laboratories. A limited budget commitment from UNEP/COBSEA could contribute to the success of the workshop and address the training needs of two EAS projects. The meeting requested UNEP to explore with IOC how the additional resources needed might be found. It was suggested that the Interim Co-ordinator try to arrange for COBSEA representation at WESTPAC III.

38. The WHO representative reviewed various activities of his organization related to the EAS Action Plan and recalled that WHO/PEPAS had implemented a WHO/UNEP Joint Project on Land-based Sources of Pollution in the East Asian Seas Region. He indicated that in addition to continuing to contribute in such projects, his organization could also help to develop (i) regional water quality criteria for protection of the marine environment, (ii) regional principles and guidelines for waste management and control technologies, and (iii) principles and guidelines for waste management and control policies. This help could be in the form of technical advisory services in collaboration with UNEP, organization of seminars and workshop jointly sponsored by COBSEA, UNEP and WHO.

39. The FAO representative stated that his organization supported intergovernmental and self-reliant programmes such as those established by COBSEA. FAO is positively concerned with the protection, conservation, exploitation and management of coastal and marine resources and thus had a continuing interest in the COBSEA programmes and activities. A number of national and regional FAO programmes deal with the environmental aspects of coastal and marine resources. The representative mentioned in particular the regional activities of South China Sea Fishery Development Programme, the Asian Regional Aquaculture Network, other fishery projects, and the Training and Research Pilot Programme in the Mangrove Ecosystem of Asia and Oceania.

He stated that FAO was also much concerned with the pollution problems caused by agro-chemicals. He also stated that the experience, information and data available with FAO, and the methodologies developed in FAO programmes could be useful to the COBSEA programme.

40. The UNEP conveyed messages sent to the meeting by the IAEA and IMO, both of which were unable to send representatives but nevertheless expressed interest in the meeting. The IAEA had indicated continued support in regional intercalibration programmes as well as interest in the project on the marine sites for dumping of hazardous wastes (see paragraph 33 above). IMO indicated interest in the ongoing projects on (i) oil and oil dispersant toxicity testing, and (ii) monitoring of oil pollution.

41. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the various specialized agencies and called on them to provide continued and increased support to the EAS projects.

AGENDA ITEM 8: REVIEW AND DECISION CONCERNING INSTITUTIONAL AND
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BEYOND 1983

42. The meeting reviewed the financial and institutional arrangements that had been established in 1981 and noted that all the contributions that had been pledged to the Trust Fund for 1982 had been paid in 1982. Two of the five contributions for 1983 had been paid and administrative arrangements were in hand by the other Governments to pay their contributions.

43. It was noted that the Environment Fund had either spent or committed funds totalling some US\$190,000 for the 1982-1983 biennium, excluding the cost of staff time involved in the co-ordination and support of the Action Plan.

44. The meeting was concerned that the overall level of funding for the Action Plan was less than its real needs and that additional sources of finance were needed if activities regarded as important to the overall coherence of the Action Plan were to be initiated. The Secretariat of UNEP undertook to assist COBSEA to articulate such activities as project proposals and use their best endeavours to secure additional funds through third party financing. In particular, the meeting asked UNEP to follow-up on projects for surveying land-based sources of pollution and the organization of a regional oceanographic survey.

45. In the meantime, the meeting unanimously requested the Executive Director of UNEP to seek the approval of the eleventh session of the Governing Council and the Secretary-General to an extension of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund through December 1985.

46. The meeting recognized that each of the member states of COBSEA was currently suffering severe budgetary problems but even so it was felt that the level of contributions by each state to the Trust Fund in 1984 and 1985 should be at least as high as the level achieved in 1982 and 1983. Some increase to maintain the real value of contributions was felt to be appropriate but it was recognized that the decision on such increases was a matter for Governments to decide.

47. At the same time, the meeting urged the Executive Director to allocate to the East Asian Seas Action Plan a greater share of the total funds available to the Regional Seas Programme than had been possible up to now.

48. In addition, the meeting unanimously endorsed the extension of the present institutional arrangements through December 1985 in accordance with the agreement reached by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas Action Plan held in

Bangkok, 9-11 December 1981 (UNEP/IG.31/6, paragraphs 36 through 51) and the roles of COBSEA and the UNEP Secretariat as interpreted by the Executive Director of UNEP in his report to the Second Meeting of COBSEA (UNEP/IG.44/4, paragraphs 18 through 22) (Annex IV).

AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

49. The representative of Malaysia invited COBSEA to hold its Third Meeting in Malaysia during February/March 1984.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF REPORT

50. After reviewing its content and annexes, the meeting unanimously adopted this report.

AGENDA ITEM 11: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

51. The representative of Malaysia expressed on behalf of all delegations gratitude for the excellent hospitality and arrangements made by the Government of Indonesia for the participants.

52. The meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 11:10 hours on 26 March 1983.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

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 Co-ordinator of COBSEA
4. Report of the Executive Director
5. Review of the East Asian Seas Action Plan
6. Progress reports on approved EAS projects and discussion of Projects EAS 6.2 and EAS 5.2
7. Assistance of United Nations Specialized Agencies to the East Asian Seas Action Plan
8. Review and decision concerning institutional and financial arrangements beyond 1983
9. Other Business
10. Adoption of Report
11. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

- UNEP/IG.44/1 Agenda
- UNEP/IG.44/2 Annotated Agenda
- UNEP/IG.44/3 Report of the Interim Co-ordinator of COBSEA
on Implementation of the East Asian Seas Action
Plan 1982-1983
- UNEP/IG.44/4 Report of the Executive Director on the
Implementation of the East Asian Seas Action
Plan 1982-1983
- UNEP/IG.44/5 Review of Project "Assessment of Concentration
Levels and Trends of Non-oil Pollutants and
Their Effects on the Marine Environment in the
East Asian Seas Region" (Philippines, FP/0503-82-19)
and proposals for new activities and budget for
1983
- UNEP/IG.44/6 Review of Project "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" (Philippines,
FP/0503-82-16) and proposals for new activities
and budget for 1983
- UNEP/IG.44/7 Review of Project "Study of the Maritime Meteorological
Phenomena and Oceanographic Features of the East
Asian Seas Region (Thailand, FP/0503-82-17) and
proposals for new activities and budget for 1983
- UNEP/IG.44/8 Review of Project "Co-operative Research on Oil
and Oil Dispersant Toxicity in the East Asian
Seas Region" (Malaysia, FP/0503-82-15) and
proposals for new activities and budget for 1983
- UNEP/IG.44/9 Review of Project "Survey and Monitoring of Oil
Pollution and Development of National Co-ordinating
Mechanisms for the Management and Establishment
of a Regional Data Exchange System" (Indonesia,
FP/0503-82-18) and proposals for new activities
and budget for 1983
- UNEP/IG.44/10 Project Proposal on "Support Programme for
Contingency Planning"
- UNEP/IG.44/11 Report of the Meeting

Information Documents

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| UNEP/IG.44/INF.1 | List of Documents |
| UNEP/IG.44/INF.2 | List of Participants |
| UNEP/IG.44/INF.3 | ASEAN-UNEP Workshop on Information and Data Exchange on the Seas of East Asia |
| UNEP/IG.44/INF.4 | Comparing Coral Reef Survey Methods - Report of a Regional UNESCO/UNEP Workshop, Thailand, 13-17 December 1982 |
| UNEP/IG.26/6 | Report of the Meeting of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region (Manila, 27-29 April 1981) |
| UNEP/IG.31/6 | Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas Action Plan (Bangkok, 9-11 December 1981) |
| UNEP/IG.37/10 | Report of the First Meeting of the Co-ordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (Bangkok, 3 April 1982) |

ANNEX IV

EXTRACT FROM DOCUMENT UNEP/IG.44/4: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN
1982 - 1983

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

18. The Second Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas (9-11 April 1981) agreed that the overall authority to determine the content of the Action Plan, to review its progress and to approve its programme of implementation, including the financial implications, would be vested in the regular, periodic meetings of governments (intergovernmental meetings, i.e. COBSEA) participating in the Action Plan.
19. Specifically, COBSEA is expected to:
 - (a) review the progress achieved in implementing the programme since its previous meeting,
 - (b) evaluate the results achieved,
 - (c) adopt a work plan for implementing the programme in the biennium 1982/1983, and
 - (d) approve the budgetary resources required to support the workplan and their allocation.
20. The same meeting designated UNEP to be responsible to the Governments for the overall technical co-ordination and continuous supervision of the implementation of the Action Plan for the years 1982 and 1983. The decision to establish a regional co-ordinating unit as the Secretariat of the Action Plan was deferred to a later stage.
21. In order to provide for a continuous link between UNEP (as the technical Secretariat of the Action Plan) and COBSEA (as the overall authority for the substance of the Action Plan) in the periods between the meetings of COBSEA, the governments have designated the Chairman of COBSEA (who is at the same time the Interim Co-ordinator of the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment) to undertake this function.

22. As the technical co-ordinator for the Action Plan during the interim period UNEP has interpreted its role as being responsible, under the overall policy guidance of COBSEA, for
- a) providing secretarial assistance and backstopping for activities requested by COBSEA;
 - b) co-ordinating the technical implementation of projects with co-operating agencies and supporting organizations;
 - c) supporting selected activities approved by COBSEA with resources from the Environment Fund;
 - d) convening meetings of general nature (COBSEA and others);
 - e) managing the East Asian Seas Trust Fund.

