

Report of the 9th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Background leading to this meeting

1. The 7th CEARAC FPM (14-15 September 2009, Toyama, Japan) reviewed the draft workplan and budget of activities for the 2010-2011 biennium, which included activities of WG3 and WG4, a joint activity of WG3 and 4 (assessment of eutrophication status), and a new activity on marine biodiversity, reflecting a need of more collaboration between WG 3 and 4 and expansion of CEARAC activities to other assessment indicators besides HABs and eutrophication. The meeting agreed to submit the workplan and budget to the 14th NOWPAP IGM.
2. The 14th NOWPAP IGM (8-10 December 2009, Toyama, Japan) decided to decrease the entire budget of NOWPAP for the 2010-2011 biennium due to the severe situation of the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Then, with the allocated budget of US\$107,000 to each RAC, CEARAC revised its workplan and budget to match the new budgetary framework.
3. The 8th CEARAC FPM (13-15 September 2010, Toyama, Japan) was held back-to-back with the Expert Meeting on Assessment of Eutrophication Status and Marine Environment Focusing on Marine Biodiversity. Until the 2008-2009 biennium, CEARAC held Expert Meetings on WG3 and WG4 once in every biennium; however, taking into account its expansion of the scope of work and prioritization of activities for the 2010-2011 biennium (eutrophication and marine biodiversity), it was necessary to organize a new expert meeting. Thus, the experts of these new fields were invited to the meeting as well as some experts of WG3 and WG4, who were also CEARAC FPs. At the 8th FPM, overall discussion of CEARAC's activities was made while the expert meeting focused on more detailed progress of each activity including clarification and modification of actions to be taken for the second year of the biennium.
4. The 15th NOWPAP IGM (16-18 November 2010, Moscow, Russia) approved the report on the progress in implementation of the planned activities of CEARAC during the 2010-2011 biennium. NOWPAP member states discussed thoroughly the NOWPAP Medium-term strategy and decided to further develop it into a document which will be used to prioritize NOWPAP activities for the next biennium work plan of 2012-2013 and beyond.

5. Prior to the 9th CEARAC FPM, the Expert Meeting on Marine Biodiversity and Eutrophication in the Northwest Pacific Region was organized (4-5 August 2011, Toyama, Japan) by the Northwest Pacific region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC) to exchange information on existing marine biodiversity-related activities in the NOWPAP member states, to review the final results of the eutrophication assessments implemented in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region, and to provide suggestions/advice to a draft workplan of CEARAC for the 2012-2013 biennium.

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

6. The meeting was opened in Toyama, Japan, at 9:00 a.m. on 6 September 2011 by the Director of CEARAC, Mr. Norihiko TANAKA. Then, welcoming remarks were made by NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Alexander TKALIN.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Meeting

7. The meeting elected Dr. Vladimir SHULKIN, FP of Russia as the chairperson and Mr. Junlong LI, FP of China, as the rapporteur.
8. Rules of Procedure were established. It was proposed that, for the purposes of this meeting, the rules used here be those of the Governing Council of UNEP, adjusted as appropriate to suit the nature of the meeting, e.g. decisions should be made by consensus.
9. English was the working language of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda

10. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/1) was introduced by the Secretariat with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/2).
11. The meeting adopted both documents.

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

12. Dr. Tkalin reported the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the 8th CEARAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/3).
13. Dr. Yasuwo FUKUYO, FP of Japan, emphasized his expectation of close cooperation among NOWPAP RACs and NOWPAP RCU.

Agenda Item 5. Report on the implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium

14. The Secretariat reported the implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/4).
15. Dr. Fukuyo asked about the mechanism of RAP MALI implementation since it is a collective work among the four RACs. He mentioned that this mechanism would be a good example for close cooperation of other RACs in CEARAC's marine biodiversity activities in the future. Dr. Tkalin and the Secretariat explained the system of RAP MALI implementation and mentioned the possibility of future collaboration on marine biodiversity similar to RAP MALI framework.
16. After discussion, the meeting adopted the report on the implementation and expenditure of CEARAC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium.

5.1 Draft Integrated Report on Harmful Algal Blooms for the NOWPAP Region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/5)

17. The Secretariat presented the draft Integrated Report on Harmful Algal Blooms for the NOWPAP Region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/5).
18. Dr. Fukuyo pointed out some inconsistencies in the contents and asked for clarification and modification of wording.
19. Dr. Shulkin wondered if activities on HABs would be continued in the future and asked about the future goal of HAB-related activities. The Secretariat answered that the data

update would be continued with help of CEARAC FPs and another revised integrated report might be published in 5 years or so.

20. Dr. Joji ISHIZAKA, FP of Japan, suggested importance of *Cochlodinium* and green algae blooms in relation to eutrophication in the whole NOWPAP region. The meeting agreed with his suggestion and to add more information on *Cochlodinium* and green algae blooms with the help of experts.
21. Dr. Fukuyo suggested that CEARAC could consider several topics such as countermeasures on HABs, relationship between HAB occurrences and eutrophication, and mechanisms of fish mass mortality in the future.
22. The meeting requested the Secretariat to revise the draft integrated report. The FPs were requested to provide comments on the draft report by the end of October. The revised Integrated Report based on the comments from FPs will be circulated for adoption by the FPs in November.

5.2 Draft Integrated Report on Ocean Remote Sensing for the NOWPAP Region: towards assessment of marine and coastal environment (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/6)

23. The Secretariat presented the draft Integrated Report on Ocean Remote Sensing for the NOWPAP region: towards assessment of marine and coastal environment (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/6).
24. Dr. Leonid MITNIK, FP of Russia, recommended including information on RADARSAT series in Chapter 2. He also pointed out algorithm development for oil spill detection as well as for other environmental parameters should be included.
25. Ms. Hye-Mi LEE, representative of MERRAC, stated her appreciation on behalf of MERRAC to the efforts of POI and CEARAC in providing satellite images on oil spill incidents in Bohai Bay. She asked for further CEARAC's cooperation in relation to MERRAC activities.
26. The meeting requested the Secretariat to revise the draft integrated report based on the provided comments and circulate the revision to the FPs for adoption. The revision will be sent to the FPs by the end of October.

5.3 Draft Integrated Report on eutrophication assessment in the selected sea areas including evaluation of land-based sources of nutrients in the NOWPAP Region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/7)

27. The Secretariat presented the draft Integrated Report on eutrophication assessment in the selected sea areas including evaluation of land-based sources of nutrients in the NOWPAP region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/7).
28. Dr. Tkalin and Dr. Sho NAKAMURA, as a FP of Japan, mentioned that the obtained assessment results could provide useful information for POMRAC activity on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management.
29. Dr. Tkalin pointed out the importance of standardized approach to set reference values for eutrophication assessment in each case study area for the future.
30. Dr. Fukuyo pointed out the necessity of considering ecosystem carrying capacity in each case study area to determine nutrients control targets, and importance of assessing effectiveness of management efforts for the future.
31. The meeting requested the Secretariat to revise the draft Integrated Report based on the provided comments and circulate the revision to the FPs for adoption. The revision will be sent to the FPs by the end of October.

Agenda Item 6. Discussion on specific projects of CEARAC for the 2012-2013 biennium

6.1 Activities on Eutrophication

32. The Secretariat presented a draft workplan on the refinement of the Common Procedures for eutrophication assessment towards assessment of the whole NOWPAP region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/8).
33. Dr. Ishizaka referred to the discussion at the expert meeting in August and suggested to conduct literature review. The Secretariat answered that literature review will be included in the revised workplan.

34. Dr. Fukuyo suggested adding the International Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Sea Center (the International EMECS Center) as a potential partner for this proposal. The Secretariat agreed with his suggestion.
35. While the meeting discussed possible expansion of selected sea areas, Dr. Changkyu LEE, FP of Korea, expressed difficulty in expanding target sea areas to off-shore due to limitation of available data. The meeting decided not to expand target sea areas but to focus on refinement of the Common Procedures for the next biennium.
36. Dr. Ishizaka re-emphasized the importance of literature review including ecological modeling and negative impacts of eutrophication in the NOWPAP region. Dr. Tkalin added that review on availability of monitoring data was also necessary. The meeting reached a consensus that these points were necessary steps toward the final goal of this project: assessment of the whole NOWPAP region. The meeting also decided to further explore ways to achieve the final goal as CEARAC activities.
37. The meeting adopted the proposed workplan on the refinement of the Common Procedures towards assessment of the whole NOWPAP region on the condition that the Secretariat would prepare the revised workplan and circulate to the FPs by the end of September.

6.2 Activities on Marine Biodiversity

38. The Secretariat presented a draft workplan on two marine biodiversity-related activities (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/9) and asked the meeting to decide priorities of the activities.
39. Mr. Li inquired of the attitude of IGM on marine biodiversity within NOWPAP. Dr. Tkalin explained that the NOWPAP member states had agreed to start activities on marine biodiversity at the 14th IGM.
40. Mr. Li stressed that the time period for review of the workplan was short, thus couldn't obtain comments from the concerned ministries. He will provide comments from the concerned ministries of China to the Secretariat by the end of September.

41. The meeting discussed activities proposed by the Secretariat and requested to elaborate a revised project proposal. Cooperation with DINRAC for marine biodiversity activities was also suggested.
42. The revised draft workplan will be circulated to the FPs after receiving comments from Chinese FPs and more comments will be requested by the end of October.

Agenda Item 7. Discussion on the draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium and recommendation to the 16th NOWPAP IGM

43. The Secretariat presented two options of workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 9/10) - US\$117,000 and US\$147,000, which do not include budget for marine litter activities.
44. Dr. Tkalin explained the recent contribution status of the member states to the NOWPAP Trust Fund.
45. Dr. Nakamura expressed that NOWPAP Trust Fund is still facing a difficult situation.
46. Dr. Mitnik proposed to update oil spill website. The Secretariat appreciated his suggestion and replied that update of the oil spill website could be done within the budget to be allocated for maintenance of CEARAC websites.
47. Dr. Fukuyo suggested having a chance to discuss emerging issues in the NOWPAP region as a whole but not as a workplan for one RAC. Dr. Tkalin explained that the Medium-term Strategy is expected to be approved at the next NOWPAP IGM and later NOWPAP could start developing and implementing new activities.
48. Dr. Fukuyo pointed out that CEARAC should consider developing basic materials through review of past and current CEARAC activities which could promote better understanding on marine environmental issues in the NOWPAP region.
49. The meeting agreed to submit the two options of workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium to the 16th NOWPAP IGM.

Agenda Item 8. Arrangement of the 10th NOWPAP CEARAC FP

50. The Secretariat proposed to hold the 10th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting in spring 2012 in Toyama, Japan.

Agenda Item 9. Other matters

51. Dr. Mitnik made a short presentation on the use of satellite images for oil spill identification and marine biodiversity assessment.
52. Dr. Lee announced an international HAB conference to be held in September 2012 in Korea and expected involvement of CEARAC and NOWPAP. Also, He worried about the imbalance of the number of CEARAC FPs from the member states.
53. Some participants expressed their concern about the membership of CEARAC FPs in terms of their specialty along with the expansion of CEARAC's activities on marine biodiversity and eutrophication. They also expected continuation of activities on HABs and remote sensing in accordance with CEARAC's responsibility. The Secretariat explained that it would consider the necessity of the amendments of Terms of Reference (ToR) of CEARAC FPM and change of FPs.
54. Ms. Guihua DONG, FP of China, and Dr. Fukuyo requested the Secretariat to share expert meeting results among the FPs in a timely manner.
55. Ms. Tong AN, representative of DINRAC, informed that DINRAC would construct a new web GIS and asked cooperation on this activity. Dr. Ishizaka also suggested including lecture(s) on DINRAC activities in the 4th training course on remote sensing data analysis, which CEARAC plans to hold in China in 2013.

Agenda Item 10. Adoption of the report of the meeting

56. A draft report of the meeting was prepared by the Secretariat with the help of the rapporteur. After review, the report was adopted unanimously.

Agenda Item 11. Closure of the meeting

57. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed by the chairperson at 3:20 p.m. on 7 September 2011.