

NOWPAP DINRAC



UNEP

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Report of 8th NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

DINRAC, Beijing, the People's Republic of China

19 – 21 May 2009

THE EIGHTH NOWPAP DINRAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING

(DINRAC, Beijing, People's Republic of China, 19-21 May 2009)

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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THE DRAFT REPORT OF EIGHTH NOWPAP DINRAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING

(Beijing, People's Republic of China, 19-21 May, 2009)

Background

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three Resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, 14 September 1994; UNEP (OCA)/NOWPAP/IG.1/5) by the States in the Northwest Pacific region: People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as China, Japan, Korea, Russia, respectively). Resolution 1 identified five areas of priority for implementation of the Action Plan, one of which was NOWPAP/1: Establishment of a Comprehensive Database and Information Management System.

2. The Second NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan (20 November 1996) adopted the Program Document describing the implementation of NOWPAP projects. Regarding NOWPAP/1, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO was designated as the implementing agency to prepare the project proposal for the second phase of the implementation.

3. Subsequently, the proposal for the second phase of the implementation for NOWPAP/1 was adopted at the Fourth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting held in Beijing, China (6-7 April 1999). The Meeting also decided to establish a network of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) for the implementation of the Action Plan.

4. In December 2000, the Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) hosted by the Environmental Information Center of State Environmental Protection Administration of China (SEPA) was established in Beijing based on the Resolution 2 of the Fourth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (ANNEX VI OF UNEP(WATER)/NOWPAP IG.4/7). DINRAC was designated to function as the secretariat for NOWPAP/1 and the NOWPAP/1 Coordinating Working Group (CWG) and took on the responsibilities as defined in its Terms of Reference.

5. Resolution 1 adopted at the Fourth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting also requested the NOWPAP Members to designate necessary members for participation in the NOWPAP/1 CWG. Following up on the nomination and designation of the members of the CWG, the NOWPAP/1 CWG was established. The First Meeting of the Coordinating Working Group for the Establishment of a Comprehensive Database and Information System (NOWPAP/1) was held in Beijing (23-25 May 2001). The meeting approved the workplan and budget for DINRAC for 2001-2003 and identified ten priority fields of activities developed by DINRAC.

6. The Seventh NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting held in Vladivostok, Russia (20-22

March 2002) approved the recommendations of UNEP that a network of Focal Points (FPs) for DINRAC has to be established by re-arranging the title, organization and the responsibilities of the existing Coordinating Working Group in order to improve the implementation of NOWPAP/1. The Seventh NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting also requested NOWPAP National Focal Points to nominate the DINRAC Focal Points for their respective countries.

7. Upon decision by the Seventh NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, the CWG and the CWG Meeting for NOWPAP/1 evolved into the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points and the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting respectively as the institutional arrangement. The Focal Points Meeting would be organized once a year, starting with the First NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting in 2002.

8. The First NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) was held in Shanghai, China (25-28 November, 2002). The meeting presented the NOWPAP DINRAC Report of activities 2001/2002 and reviewed the progress made by DINRAC for specific tasks agreed at the First CWG Meeting and also approved the activities and budget for NOWPAP DINRAC for 2002-2003 (UNEP/ NOWPAP/ DINRAC/ FPM1/13 ANNEX 3).

9. The Second NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was held in Sanya, China (29 October-1 November 2003). Besides the routine DINRAC activity report 2002/2003, the meeting mainly discussed and reviewed the General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing (Activity D) and the Establishment of Principles and Guidelines for NOWPAP Meta-database Management System (Activity E). The meeting also approved the workplan and budget for NOWPAP DINRAC for 2004/2005 (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM2/15 ANNEX 7).

10. The Eighth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting held in Sanya, China (5-7 November 2003) approved the workplan and budget of NOWPAP for 2004/2005, including the budget of \$150,000 for DINRAC activities (UNEP/NOWPAP/IG.8/11 Annex I). The meeting also approved the Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting.

11. The Third NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 26-28 October 2004 in Busan, Korea. The meeting mainly discussed new suggested specific activities and mechanisms for implementation of DINRAC activities. The draft ToR for NOWPAP experts group and workplan and budget for NOWPAP DINRAC for 2004/2005 were also revised and agreed by the meeting. The Activity I on the Framework for the Creation of NOWPAP DINRAC Meta-database, Activity J on the Existing GIS-type Products from within and outside of NOWPAP region and Activity K on the Compilation of National Reports and Regional Report on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Data and Information were also agreed to be put into the DINRAC workplan for the biennium of 2004/2005.

12. In the Ninth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting held on October 30-November 2 2004 in Busan, Korea, the proposal for NOWPAP RACs evolution was put forward by UNEP for

discussion. The Activity I and Activity J were approved by the IGM to be implemented in 2005.

13. In accordance with the recommendations of the First Intersessional Workshop of NOWPAP held in Seoul, Korea, 25-26 July 2005, data resulting from other NOWPAP RACs activities (oil spills, HABs, atmospheric and river inputs of contaminants, etc.) and biodiversity data could be also included into DINRAC database. Contributions towards implementation of global biodiversity conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, etc.) and joint work with MERRAC on marine invasive species were also suggested for future DINRAC activities.

14. The Fourth NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 27-28 September, 2005 in Dalian, China. The meeting mainly reviewed progress of the Activity I on the Framework for the Creation of NOWPAP DINRAC Meta-database and the Activity J on the Existing GIS-type Products from within and outside of NOWPAP regions. The meeting also discussed and approved the proposed DINRAC workplan and budget for the 2006/2007 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 4/17 ANNEX VI).

15. The Fifth NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 10-11 May, 2006 in Shenzhen, China. The meeting mainly discussed DINRAC's newly expected activities and revised proposed workplan and budget for the biennium 2006/2007 based upon the decision of the 10th Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP. The meeting also agreed to submit "General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing" to the 11th IGM on NOWPAP for final approval.

16. The Sixth NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 24-25 May, 2007 in Beijing, China. The meeting mainly reviewed progress of the DOMRAC Activity I, K, L, M and O. The meeting also discussed and approved the proposed DINRAC workplan and budget for the 2008/2009 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 6/22 ANNEX VI) and agreed to submit the workplan and budget for the 2008/2009 biennium to the 12th IGM on NOWPAP for final approval.

17. Based upon the agreement of the Sixth NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting, the Seventh NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 13-14 May, 2008 in Beijing, China. The meeting agreed that the 8th DINRAC FPM in 2009 should be carried out longer than 2 days so more experts from related projects and organizations should be invited to contribute their proposals.

18. The 8th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 19-21 May 2009 in Beijing, China with the kind support from RCU. The meeting has concentrated on the discussion of the four proposals for the DINRAC activity workplan and budget in 2009 and in the biennium 2010/2011, prior to the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting to be held in December, 2009 in Japan.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

19. The Meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. on 19 May 2009 in Beijing, China by Mr. Jianguo WANG, Director of DINRAC. Mr. WANG expressed his welcome to all the participants and announced the opening of the meeting. In his opening remarks, he also thanked NOWPAP RCU and NOWPAP Members for their kind support and contributions to the DINRAC activities. Dr. Alexander TKALIN, Coordinator of NOWPAP delivered an opening statement to the meeting. He praised DINRAC for doing more than expected and suggested Members should prioritize activities and use budget wisely.

20. The delegates from China, Japan, Korea and Russia and other RACs expressed their thanks to DINRAC for hosting the Meeting and hoped the Meeting would be fruitful and successful.

Agenda item 2: Organization of the meeting**Agenda item 2.1: Election of the officers (Chairperson, Rapporteur)**

21. According to the Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 3/17), the Meeting unanimously elected Dr. Xiangbin PEI, Chinese Focal Point, as the Chairperson, and Mr. Yoshiharu NAGAYA, Japanese Focal Point, as the Rapporteur respectively.

Agenda item 2.2: Organization of work

22. The Meeting agreed to apply the rules of procedures for the Meeting in line with the provision in the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 3/17).

Agenda item 2.3: Adoption of the agenda

23. Upon the invitation of the Chairperson, the Director of DINRAC made a brief introduction to the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/1) and the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/2). He stressed that meeting should especially focus on the discussion of progress reports on DINRAC activities in 2008, proposal for new DINRAC activities and proposal for the DINRAC's workplan and budget in 2009 and in the 2010/2011 biennium.

Agenda item 3: RCU presentation on NOWPAP implementation since the 7th DINRAC FPM

25. The NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. TKALIN briefed the meeting on the progress of the NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period since the 7th DINRAC FPM including the

results of the Thirteenth NOWPAP Intergovernmental meeting held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 21-22 October 2008 (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/7). Brief introduction to current activities of CEARAC, MERARC and POMRAC was made and evaluation of RCU and Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI).

Agenda item 4: Overview of the progress made in the intersessional period after the Seventh NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

Agenda item 4.1: Report on the implementation of DINRAC Activities in 2008

26. The Director of DINRAC presented the report on the DINRAC activities implemented in 2008 (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/6-1). In his presentation, the specific activities implemented by DINRAC since the 7th NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting were introduced briefly.

27. Dr. TKALIN suggested that calculation on the number of visitors and hits of webpage should be made and the information reported to other FPs and RCU.

Agenda item 4.2: Report on the annual expenditure of DINRAC budget in 2008

28. The Director of DINRAC subsequently presented the report on the annual expenditure of DINRAC budget in 2008 (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/6-2).

Agenda item 4.3: Progress Report on the Creation of Regional Internet Communication System between DINRAC and NOWPAP Member Countries (Activity L)

34. Russian Expert, Mr. Vladimir ROSTOV, made an introduction of the progress of the Activity L (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/8). He gave an overview of this activity including the tasks, requirements and specifications, system function, system evolution, and summarized the implementation in different stages. He also summarized the outcomes and shortcomings. He raised two options (Annex IX) in 2009 and for the next biennium.

35. The meeting expressed thanks to Russian experts for their hard and important work.

36. Members all agreed that option 2 would be feasible, i.e. to update and maintain the Portal information resources on a voluntary basis.

Agenda item 4.4: Progress report on the Establishment of the Meta-database on Contaminants and Nutrients in the Coastal and Marine Environment (Activity N)

37. A DINRAC staff, Ms. Tong AN made an introduction of the progress of the Activity N (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/9). She introduced the background, expected results, actions required of this activity and the progress of implementation.

38. This meta-database has been established. DINRAC would keep on updating the information with the assistance of DINRAC FPs.

Agenda item 4.5: Progress report on the implementation of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

39. A DINRAC staff, Prof. Yudong ZHU made an introduction on the Progress report on the implementation of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI, UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/10). He briefed the background, work plan and budget of the project and introduced implementation of activities including regional overview, public awareness, maintenance of database and beach cleanups. He also mentioned the delay of regional overview due to the delay of national reports.

40. Dr. TKALIN mentioned that providing national information through Marine Litter FPs of Russia, Korea and China would be greatly appreciated.

41. Mr. Norio BABA thanked DINRAC for maintaining the database and suggested the web page should be updated.

Agenda item 5. Discussion on new suggested future activities in 2009 and in the 2010-2011 biennium

Agenda item 5.1: Proposal for the Investigation on Alien Species and its Potential Damage Evaluation in NOWPAP Region

29. Japanese expert Prof. Yasuwo FUKUYO was invited to make a presentation on the activities for invasive alien species in the region. He introduced work done by PICES and other organizations.

30. Dr. Sang-Jin LEE, NOWPAP Scientific Affairs Officer, subsequently made a presentation on biodiversity management and assessment. He highlighted the significance of biodiversity conservation and put forward possible activities.

31. Mr. WANG introduced the proposal on investigation of alien species.

32. Russian expert Dr. Konstantin A. LUTAENKO made a presentation on alien species problems in the Northwest Pacific region.

33. The meeting discussed the direction, contents, methodology and expected output of the new project on alien species. Participants had different opinions on the project and proposal.

Through the small informal discussion, draft proposal for development of a regional report on

invasive species in the NOWPAP region had been made, indicating the purpose, organization of working group, terms of reference for consultants, duration of the work and budget.

The meeting agreed to the proposal, as shown in Annex X.

Agenda item 5.2: Proposal for the collecting and sorting out related national information on Marine Protected Areas in the NOWPAP region

43. A DINRAC staff, Ms. Tong AN was invited to make an introduction on Proposal for the collecting and sorting out related national information on Marine Protected Areas in the NOWPAP region (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/12). She briefed the meeting on the background, objectives, tasks, expected outcome, budget and a pilot study, etc. She raised some points for participants to consider while deciding to implement the project.

44. Dr. Igor ROSTOV, FP from Russia, also presented slides on Russian “Especially Protected National Territories” and showed support for the activity.

45. Korea and Japan FPs suggested to update and maintain the database on coastal and marine nature reserves in the NOWPAP region. After discussion, the meeting decided to allocate limited funds for update of database as DINRAC’s routine activity.

Agenda item 5.3: Proposal for the GIS-based visualization of marine environmental data

46. A DINRAC staff, Prof. ZHU was invited to make an introduction on Proposal for the GIS-based visualization of marine environmental data (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/13). He explained the background, objectives, categories of data, main functions of WebGIS, expected outcomes, etc.

47. Dr. TKALIN suggested using open source software and not taking oil spills as an example for pilot work, but marine protected areas instead.

49. Chinese expert Mr. Jing XU, noted that China supported the activity and suggested DINRAC should lead the project. Korea suggested that the project should be carried out under a long-term plan and step by step approach, and so a detailed proposal should be prepared before starting any full scale activity.

The meeting reached consensus on it.

Agenda item 5.4: Proposal for the collecting and reviewing information on climate change in the NOWPAP region

50. Mr. WANG was invited to make an introduction on proposal for the collecting and reviewing the existing information on climate change and its impacts on the marine and coastal

environment in the NOWPAP region (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/14).

51. Dr. ROSTOV, FP of Russia, supported the proposal by giving a presentation on Russia's assessment on climate change and relevant data. FPs of Korea and Japan and expert of China, however, suggested that the proposal should be delayed given the complexity of the issue and limited budget.

53. Dr. KANG from MERRAC suggested that an integrated and long-term strategy on how to deal with climate change issue within the framework of NOWPAP should be made before starting any specific activity by the RACs because this issue requires a lot of resources to cover. He also suggested to organize a task force making the strategy under the coordination of RCU and participation of four RACs during the intersessional period after the meeting. The result can be submitted to the IGM for their consideration. After the decision of IGM on this issue, such activities can be implemented in the future in a well-organized manner.

Agenda item 5.5: New Suggested Activities and Budget in 2009

55. A new revised DINRAC workplan and budget in 2009 was made as shown in Annex VI, taking into account the opinions on original document (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/15) from the participants. The meeting agreed the suggested activities and budget allocation in 2009.

Agenda item 5.6: Proposal for the Workplan and Budget for DINRAC Activities in 2010-2011 Biennium

56. Participants all agreed that though the trust fund might be reduced, it was necessary to have Focal Point Meeting annually. Budget for activities should be planned according to priority.

57. A new revised proposal for the workplan and budget for DINRAC activities in 2010-2011 Biennium was made taking into account the opinions of participants on original document (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/16). The meeting agreed to submit the revised DINRAC workplan and budget for the 2010/2011 biennium to the 14th NOWPAP IGM, as shown in Annex VII.

Agenda item 6: Draft Arrangement of intersessional work

59. Upon the invitation of Chairperson, the Director of DINRAC introduced the arrangement of intersessional work before the 9th NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 8/17). The leading country responsible for each activity is requested to report on the progress at the next DINRAC FPM.

58. Mr. BABA mentioned that cooperation with OBIS was agreed at the last FPM and actions were needed to facilitate the cooperation. The meeting agreed that contact would be made

with OBIS for its collaboration with DINRAC and Member countries.

The revised one is attached in Annex VIII.

Agenda item 7: Venue and date of the Ninth NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

60. The Meeting agreed that the Ninth NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting will be held in China in May 2010.

Agenda item 8: Other matters

61. No other issues were raised.

Agenda item 9: Adoption of the report of the meeting

62. The draft report of the Eighth NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting with its annexes were prepared by the meeting secretariat and Rapporteur for consideration and adoption. After the minor amendment, the report was adopted by the meeting as the record of its deliberations.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the meeting

63. After the customary exchange of courtesies the Chairperson declared the Meeting closed at 12: 30 on Thursday, 21 May 2009.