



Mr. Dale Galvin, RARE Managing Director of Sustainable Markets and Innovative Finance, opened Day 2 of Ocean Talk.

Ocean Talk and SEA Exchange Focus on Blue Economy: Sustainable Fisheries, Ocean Plastics and Water Security

Sustainable fishing, responsible waste management and ensuring the steady and clean supply of water were the top subjects tackled by experts during the second day of Ocean Talk and Sea Exchange discussions at the ongoing 2018 EAS Congress.

Dale Galvin, RARE Managing Director of Sustainable Markets and Innovative Finance, discussed how irresponsible fishing practices, especially those being conducted by big firms, are greatly affecting the fishery sector's supply and value chain on a global scale. He described this situation as a "tragedy of the commons" in which fishermen are left with fewer fish that are smaller and of lower quality.

Galvin also emphasized the urgency of 'putting science in fishing' to effectively preserve and protect the oceans and marine species.

He then explained the necessity of careful and effective ways of studying how ocean produce could be used in some value-added activities and investments. These wise investments must be done in the fishery sector to avoid inefficiency and waste in the industry.

Galvin also expressed optimism that, with businesses and also governments coming in through green bonds to invest in fishery-related industries, there is a chance that sustainable fishing would soon be achieved.

For her part, Dr. Jenna Jambeck, Associate Professor at the University of Georgia, College of Engineering discussed the issue of marine pollution and ocean plastics.



Day 2 of SEA Exchange was hosted by Charles Goddard, Editorial Director of The Economist Asia Pacific.



Dr. Jenna Jambeck

She noted that in 1952, the production of plastics worldwide was only about 2 million metric tons but in 2017 it reached a staggering 8.3 billion metric tons—resulting to plastic wastage of 6.3 billion metric tons.

She pointed out that this is a big problem since majority of the plastic wastes end up in the oceans, posing great hazards to marine life and the overall health of the ocean.

Dr. Jambeck then proposed that an intervention framework must be initiated to limit, if not totally eliminate, plastics ending up in the ocean.

Meanwhile, Ms. Ruth Matthews, Programme Manager of Water Governance Department of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) deliberated on how water insecurity could pose a three-pronged problem of social, economic and ecological issues.

Matthews cited growing affluence and economic development as key factors that are affecting water resources and supply in the East Asia region.

She revealed that at least 4 billion people live in areas with water scarcity and that 3 in 10 people don't have access to clean water even as 80 percent of global wastewater is discharged without being treated.

Because of these and other related reasons, the water crisis was ranked as “high risk” by the World Economic Forum.

To address the situation, she proposed to efficiently use water resources, coupled with environmental protection and educating the people on how to utilize it.



Charles Goddard

The SEA Exchange that followed every keynote presentation invited members of the audience to ask questions and share their thoughts on each of the presentations.

On the topic of sustainable fisheries, stakeholder respondents were Dr. Cherdasak Virapat from the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia Pacific and Dr. Luky Adrianto from Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia.

On Marine Pollution and Ocean Plastics, Dr. Lev Neretin of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, Mr. Rob Kaplan of Circulate Capital, and Dr. Jose Padilla of the United Nations Development Programme posed their questions and shared their ideas and proposals.

For water security, stakeholder respondents were Dr. Icarus Allen of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Ms. Louise Whiting of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and Mr. Bruce Dunn of the Asian Development Bank.



Dr. Cherdasak Virapat



A Critical Review of 25 Years of Land Reclamation in East Asia

In East Asia today, coastal land reclamation is emerging as an attractive option to provision land for real-estate development. This is concerning because coastal land reclamation inevitably degrades the health of the coastal and marine ecosystems and threatens the livelihood, culture, and traditions of fishing communities. With sea-level rise, coastal waterfront development also increases the risk of natural hazards such as tsunami and storm water flooding.

Land reclamation should be seriously concerned regarding long-term resilience of the coasts and the people of East Asia. In this regard, this session reviewed various dimensions of land reclamation: history and current status, political economic drivers of land reclamation, the importance of preserving wetlands as migratory bird habitats, wetlands restoration, and policies.

A panel discussion following the presentations discussed the possibility for creating a regional reclamation watch program to share knowledge on land reclamation among PEMSEA's member countries. There was a consensus that, as reclamation becomes a profitable business, economic impact assessment alone is not sufficient to assess the real costs and long-term impacts of land reclamation. The session concluded that equity and sustainability, the two main goals of SDGs, should be the leading principles in evaluating the feasibility of present and future reclamation projects.

Turning Blue: The Role of Cities in Forwarding Blue Carbon Solutions Towards Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The ICLEI session provided a dynamic platform for local governments to showcase their innovative strategies supporting integrated coastal resource management. Through poster presentations, the session highlighted the efforts of Tubigon, Bohol; Dumangas, Iloilo; Oriental Mindoro; Puerto Princesa, Palawan; as well as the Coastal Cities at Risk: Investing in Climate and Disaster Resilience project implemented by Ateneo de Manila University and Manila Observatory.

During the session, the participants were given the chance to visit each poster and express their questions, feedback, and insights regarding the presented initiatives directly to the resource speakers. The activity culminated in a brief panel discussion facilitated by ICLEI SEAS Regional Director Victorino Aquitania.

DENR Usec. Shermin Rigor also graced the event, inviting the local governments, NGO representatives, academe, and other stakeholders to continue cooperating with DENR's efforts on protecting and conserving the environment.

As for the key takeaways from the session, the resource speakers noted that community engagement is a crucial ingredient of any environment-related activity. Another is that integrated coastal resource management should be mainstreamed into the local governments' plans and that there is a need to strengthen vertical integration to ensure that government initiatives are in line with the national government's thrusts and priorities.

Recommendations that emerged from the session are to encourage stakeholders in the local government to get involved with environment-related strategies and programs; strengthen the network and alliances of local government; and improve coordination between local government units and national government agencies.



From One to Many: Managing MPA Networks for a Collaborative and Adaptive Marine Biodiversity Conservation Actions

SMARTSeas PH Project highlights the importance of shared governance and collaborative management by different stakeholders in conserving biodiversity through establishing marine protected area (MPA) networks. Ms. Norievill Espana of SMARTSeas PH Project discussed how the Project used science-based concepts as decision support tools in priority-setting and evidenced-based conservation plans both at national and regional levels.

Atty. Alton Durban explained the crafting and adoption of a National Policy Framework on MPA Networks, which was crafted to provide science-based designs for MPA networks and common guidelines to maximize ecological benefits, determine appropriate coordinating mechanisms, and ensure sustainable funding.

Dr. Porfirio Aliño of the University of the Philippines (UP) Marine Science Institute discussed the need to set up a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System for MPA to include metric indicators on governance, ecological, and socio-economic that help monitor changes and determine progress in achieving management goals and objectives. Recent efforts show that effectiveness of MPAs has increased from between 10 to 15%, and collective efforts can help achieve management objectives.

Dr. Hazel Arceo of UP Cebu discussed the Competence Assessment tool, which was designed to assess the current competencies (as a strong predictor of conservation impacts) of the MPA managers and practitioners. She emphasized that improved effectiveness of MPA management is linked to individual competencies.

Towards the end of the session, it was noted that in assessing competency in financing, it should include skills in project development, which is useful in leveraging support to sustain MPA management. In terms of policy, the ASEAN has approved an instrument to establish an MPA Network in the region, which can be also used as basis of the proposed National Policy Framework.

Partnership Approaches Towards Delivering Global Good Practices Regionally

The session featured five presentations on the theme of oil spill preparedness and response. The Deepwater Horizon incident of 2010 was used to set the context for international, regional and national actions in implementing lessons learned and sharing good practices.

Valuable insights from the audience and speakers helped uncover a gap in the awareness of and clarity regarding SIMA (Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment). Whilst NEBA (Net Environmental Benefit Analysis) is a well-established principle within many national plans, the implications of the SIMA methodology were a new concept for many. There is need to raise awareness to the role of SIMA in building preparedness.

The discussion highlighted the need to overcome barriers that prevent access to all the tools in the responder's toolbox. These barriers may be in form of regulations that inhibit, rather than enable access to all the tools. In ASEAN, Insitu Burning was highlighted as a response technique that required greater investment in enabling policy development.

Various points were raised about the need to increase the value from oil pollution exercises in respect of frequency and collaboration between government and industry to enhance stakeholder participation. It was noted that the greater involvement of Customs and Immigration authorities, as the key to integrating international support, would be recommended in many exercises.

The need to establish a robust surveillance strategy to coordinate the multiple demands that could arise in a response was highlighted, and therefore this would be a desirable objective to be included in many exercises. There was an expressed desire from some governments for help with capacity building for local/regional contingency plans within each country.

The growing imperative to implement effective post-spill environmental monitoring was discussed, highlighted by some examples of good (and not so good) practice from the region. In particular, there was an expressed desire to have in place more baseline data for suitable reference sites.



From @DENROfficial Twitter

Local Actions Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Targets

The PEMSEA Network of Local Governments session showcased the evolution of ICM into a system that provides an operational methodology for achieving international commitments and targets at the local level. Four case studies featured initiatives of local governments from Port Klang, Malaysia related to SDG 6 (water and sanitation); Xiamen, China related to SDG 11 (sustainable cities); Danang, Vietnam related to SDG 13 (climate action); and Guimaras Province, Philippines related to SDG 14 (life below water).

While variations in the level of implementation are apparent across the four ICM sites, the ICM framework and process that have been tested and refined over the past 25 years are flexible enough to adjust to the available capacity, financing, and socioeconomic and political settings of the four sites. The relevant knowledge and lessons learned generated from ICM implementation that started with two pilot sites in 1993 in Batangas Province, Philippines and Xiamen, China in 1993 and replicated in 46 PNLG members across 10 countries have laid the foundation for the evolution of the ICM system.

After 25 years of ICM practice in the East Asian Region, local governments must pursue ICM certification to encourage continual improvement of the ICM system and facilitate the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the level of performance and impacts in line with their respective SDG commitments and in support of scaling up ICM.

Partnerships to Scale Up Community-Based Ocean and Coastal Management

The session inquired into the coastal and marine-based projects of the GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP) of the UNDP and the collaboration with the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (YSLME). Moderated by Dr. Jose Padilla, the presenters were Ms. Yi Liu, Ms. Shin Shin Lee, Ms. Catharina Dwihastarini, and Atty. Rodolfo Ferdinand Quicho, Jr., who are SGP National Coordinators of China, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, respectively; and, Mr. Sangjin Lee of the YSMLE.

The discussions covered how projects generated greater results and enabling environments for scaling up as well as lessons learned from their experiences. The diversity of the projects reflects the priorities in their respective countries. The lessons learned from each community project provided valuable experiences at the national level. Among the important lessons cited were the indispensability of building partnerships with local and national governments and other stakeholders on the ground, the need for complementation with other large marine initiatives, and the importance of ensuring community benefits particularly through livelihood opportunities. The need for continuity of projects was underscored, especially because small grants projects only last for a maximum of two years, rendering many communities unable to continue their initiatives after the grant period.

The lessons learned from the case studies have provided the basis for upscaling and replication to other sites. Moreover, these have provided the basis for policy making.



Transforming Coastal Communities, Securing Futures

Coastal fisheries is a forgotten sector, often perceived as small, lacking in data and undervalued; yet, it is critical to food security, the livelihood of millions, national economies, and marine biodiversity in the region. To address this wicked problem, various stakeholders in coastal fisheries reform from Indonesia and the Philippines highlighted the importance of an integrated and holistic approach. Speakers shared solutions and innovations addressing issues on lack of data, securing preference for small-scale fishers, financing at provincial or regional scales, and replicating, sustaining and scaling community-focused management interventions.

USAID FISHRIGHT highlighted the use of science-driven, ecosystem-based approach for fisheries management that promote balance between ecological conservation and human well-being. Rare Indonesia shared how customary system and national government worked together to establish a network of managed areas in Raja Ampat. In this trailblazing model, provincial government allocated community fishing grounds privileges to an aggrupation of small scale fishers. Similarly, the city of San Carlos in Negros Occidental, Philippines has demonstrated that their political will and long-term investments towards coastal conservation and co-management have shown positive impacts on life below water and sustainable contributions to the lives of fishers.

Implementing community-focused solutions will require significant investments, which most of the local governments are unable to generate. Many local governments, in fact, rely on national government allotment. The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) of the Philippine Department of Finance pointed out opportunities that local governments can access to finance investments in sustainable costal fisheries. Reactors from regional and national governments and inter-government agencies also imparted similar proven solutions to address various coastal fisheries issues.

The session ended with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Rare and BLGF, and an announcement of upcoming roundtable with coastal municipalities.



Interdisciplinary Research to Underpin Planning and Sustainable Management for Blue Economy

The session heard presentations from Mr. Andrew Bell, Prof Mel Austen, Dr Radisti Praptiwi, Prof Lota Creencia, Prof Lora Fleming and Dr Hong Ching about the UK Government's Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Blue Communities programme. The programme focuses on capacity building for research scientists working to support marine planning and resource management in UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves in the Southeast Asian region particularly Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, and in Sabah Marine Park in Malaysia. Collectively, the presentations illustrated the structure of the programme, its transdisciplinary nature which includes governance analysis, natural capital, ecosystem services and benefits, ecosystem and fisheries modelling, health and well-being in relation to the marine environment, renewable energy, and earth observation. The programme leverages opportunities to influence national policy, as well as to have direct impact to the communities in the study areas. The suggestions to improve the impact of the programme included:

- linking the initiative to the UN Decade of Ocean Science to improve reach and visibility; and
- linking outcomes and processes to develop innovative finance mechanisms.

The messages agreed to take forward for PEMSEA are:

- To use the most appropriate and competent networks to push forward the principles of transdisciplinary approaches to support marine planning, policy and management, particularly including the health sector for public spending efficiencies;
- Integrated planning such as source to sea and cross sectoral approaches supported by the evidence from transdisciplinary research; and
- Multi-national collaboration in transdisciplinary research can bring a whole range of benefits to the EAS region.



Filling the Pipeline: A Sustainable Ocean Investment Ecosystem for the Seas of East Asia

Bringing together experts from coastal and ocean sustainable investment across a variety of sectors, this workshop introduced the emerging investment ecosystem for the Seas of East Asia.

A panel of experts from organizations developing investment projects in the region, moderated by Bruce Dunn from the Asian Development Bank, presented examples of emerging investment cases spanning sustainable grouper aquaculture, new technologies and systems for stemming the flow of plastic waste into the ocean, reuse of treated wastewater in industrial parks and the establishment of co-management foundations for improved management of marine protected areas. Rob Kaplan, Founder and CEO of Circulate Capital, which is deploying US\$100M in funding to address ocean plastic pollution, shared that "there is no silver bullet way out of this problem," but initiatives like Circulate Capital can offer a suite of solutions to help address these issues.

The session's second panel, moderated by PEMSEA's Investment Specialist David Pangan, featured representatives from global and regional investment funds and facilities focused on oceans. These investors look to provide a range of assistance, including financial incentive for positive change, proof that investments can be successful, decreasing the risk and increasing returns of investments and investing in projects that deliver both social and financial returns to investors.

A key message emerging from the workshop is the need for capacity building and technical assistance for building investment pipeline. There is a role for PEMSEA, working with its global and regional partners, to continue facilitating innovative financing approaches that incentivize private sector investment, reduce or remove barriers to that investment and generate a stronger pipeline of investible projects with environmental and social benefit for local governments and other stakeholders in the region.

From Potential to Reality: Business Leadership for a Blue Economy in the Seas of East Asia

This session explored how to forge value-added partnerships between the business and public sectors for supporting blue economy and healthy coastal ecosystems and communities. PEMSEA opened the session by sharing background on the importance of blue economy for the region and PEMSEA's work to promote blue economy development based on its regional Strategic Action Programme. PEMSEA presented findings from research for a sustainable business roadmap for oceans for the region, which included companies expressing a need for policy updates relevant to business, help in setting science-based targets and support in prioritizing the sustainability agenda with government and other stakeholders.

The first panel, moderated by Ms. Anna Oposa from The Purpose Business, featured representatives from companies and projects in the region sharing their experience establishing partnerships for waste reduction in consumer products, eco-friendly coastal tourism, sustainable seafood and resource recovery and reuse in the textile industry. René Benguerel, Chairman and President of Meliomar, expressed that the "private sector has the responsibility and self interest in the sustainability of our ocean."

On the second panel, representatives from IUCN, Philippine Business for Environment and the World Ocean Council shared insights from their work facilitating private sector collaboration in the region for improved coastal management. Challenges highlighted included not speaking the business language and not effectively making a business case. At the same time, innovative examples of partnerships were shared.

Participants expressed the potential value in establishing a collaborative Sustainable Business Alliance for Oceans alliance between development partners and companies. Such an alliance should include value chain partners and competitors to tackle shared problems, share best practices and expertise for jointly developing concrete business cases. Amado Blanco from the Net-Works programs summarized this well, sharing that "it is possible to set up a platform where corporations can rethink how they do business where they do business in a manner that is good for environment and community."

PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC)

It was a full day for our friends from the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers.

In the morning, they convened the session on Higher Education Forum on *Implementation of UN SDG 14 and other related Ocean and Coastal Goals* where more than 10 top university officials shared, discussed and committed to strengthening collaboration within the network with an outcome that leads to education, research and outreach through various innovative activities under the PNLC framework. The opening session featured a keynote presentation followed by a presentation from PEMSEA while the plenary featured three presentations from ICM Learning Centers (LC) who are doing various efforts under ocean and coastal related SDGs. The panel discussion that follows explores other innovative activities through cooperation, collaboration and exchange initiatives among various higher education institutions in the region.

In the afternoon, a closed-door planning workshop followed. Burapha University was elected as the new Chair and Xiamen University as Co-Chair for 2019-2021. There were three break-out discussions on curriculum development, research development and training development. In the discussion, various proposals were generated such as the development of credit sharing scheme and ICM joint diploma, development of manuals on climate change and disaster risk reduction and research development. Among these, the session agreed on proposing collaborative engagement with local government in developing a joint training programme. A regional fellowship training programme can be developed under the PNLC-PNLC framework where PEMSEA can facilitate rolling up training in local sites for better policy making and decision making through scaling up ICM.

In the evening, two universities in Indonesia and one university in the Philippines newly designated as ICM Learning Centers were inducted during the Partnership Night as the newest members of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers. The representatives of Diponegoro University and Udayana University and the University President of Cavite State University, received their certificates of membership.





YF5 Provides Learning Opportunities for the Youth

The third day of the Fifth EAS Youth Forum continued with a series of activities led by several youth and ocean leaders. Challenging the youth to “stop global whining”, Miss Anna Oposa of the Save Philippine Seas encouraged the delegates to write letters to leaders regarding the environmental issues they are facing. Meanwhile, Mr. Pocholo Espina, the founder of SIP Philippines and the 2017 Youth Grant Awardee, inspired the youth with his initiatives to help reduce the use of plastic straws in Manila.

In her session, Dr. Jenna Jambeck, Associate Professor of the University of Georgia, enlightened the delegates with the statistics and implications of marine litter worldwide. She also encouraged the youth to push themselves outside their comfort zone, and provided an opportunity for the delegates to voice out their ideas and suggestions through the breakout discussion, world café.

Led by Mr. Hari Mahardika, the coordinator of the volunteer program of Pesisir Mengajar of Tangerang Regency, delegates from Cambodia, Japan, Singapore and Indonesia also shared their own environmental initiatives and projects in their community.

A workshop on project development ended the third day of youth forum sessions. With the guidance of the UNDP- GEF Small Grants Programme National Coordinators, Ms. Shin Shin Lee, Ms. Yi Liu and Ms. Catharina Dwihastarini, the youth created and presented problem trees and drafted proposals to the topics assigned to them.



SPECIAL SESSION

Gulf of Thailand Workshop on National Guidelines on Use of Dispersants and Oil Spill Contingency Planning at the Sub-regional Level Successfully Conducted

The national contact points (NCPs) of the Gulf of Thailand Cooperation on Partnerships in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response participated in the workshop organized by PEMSEA in collaboration with the IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative for South East Asia (GI-SEA) and ITOPF. During this workshop, the sub-regional oil spill contingency plan for the Gulf of Thailand was finalized. The NCPs agreed that the Plan will be adopted by the GOT participating countries—Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam in the next Annual National Contact Points Meeting scheduled in November 2019 in Cambodia.



The country NCPs presented their completed/updated national guidelines on dispersant use to review and harmonize policies and procedures including the list of dispersants to be used in the three countries to ensure prompt response to trans-boundary oil spill incidents. The workshop recommended that GOT countries should explore developing a map for dispersant use zones in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region. National consultation workshops will be conducted to facilitate adoption of the national guidelines. On the other hand, the sub-regional guideline on the use of dispersants in the Gulf of Thailand will be updated based on policies and existing arrangements and procedures of the GOT countries.

In January 2006, PEMSEA initiated the signing of a Joint Statement on Partnership in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Cooperation (OPRC) in the Gulf of Thailand by Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. The Joint Statement contains a tripartite intergovernmental agreement, which commits participating countries to mutual support and assistance in combating oil spills in the Gulf of Thailand region.

The GOT cooperation is now a model for sub-regional arrangement in oil spill preparedness and response.

FUN AT THE CONGRESS

Students and guests from universities and institutions in Iloilo and Guimaras enjoying the EAS Congress 2018 exhibits.



Newly-Launched PEMSEA Publication Commemorates 25 Years of Sustainability Efforts



In celebration of PEMSEA's 25th Anniversary, a special publication called *Local Contributions to Global Sustainable Development Agenda: Case Studies in Integrated Coastal Management in East Asian Seas Region* was officially launched during the Partnership Night at the Royal Garden Hall.

The book highlights the sustainable efforts and successes in the East Asian Seas region over the past 25 years. Further, it showcases the integrative and collaborative coastal governance demonstrated in the region to achieve the goals of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) with Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as an approach. It also contains case studies that illustrate the effectiveness of the ICM system as a sustainable development framework.

"If ICM system is effectively implemented, we can achieve many of the SDGs over time—initially at the local level and, through its geographical and functional scaling up, at sub-regional and national level," Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, PEMSEA Chair Emeritus and one of the book's editors, proudly claimed during his message.

Dr. Chua's speech was followed by congratulatory messages from Mr. Kong Vitanak of Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia, Dr. Vu Tanh Ca, Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair of PEMSEA's



Executive Committee, Dr. Luky Adrianto, Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences of Bogor Agricultural University in Indonesia, Ms. Natalie Degger, Deputy Project Manager and Training Specialist of GEF IW:LEARN, and Dr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor for Marine, Coastal and Island Ecosystems of the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub.

The book launch concluded with a celebratory toast by PEMSEA Executive Director Ms. Aimee Gonzales and a book signing with the publication's editors Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, Dr. Chou Loke Ming, Dr. Gil Jacinto, Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, and Mr. Danilo Bonga.

PEMSEA Partnership Night

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, PEMSEA celebrated its Partnership Night with Executive Director Aimee Gonzales welcoming delegates who had been partners of the organization for a long time, as well as new delegates who now belong to the wide PEMSEA network. Through a quarter century of partnerships for the seas of East Asia, PEMSEA has achieved a great deal in pursuing healthy oceans, people and economies.

Ms. Gonzales grouped these achievements into five categories: 1) the promotion of and assistance with policy reform, 2) the creation and support of pilot sites, 3) building partnerships in the region, 4) developing processes for integrated coastal management, and 5) seeing the value in people.

Some of those who played a pivotal role in these achievements were recognized, with Dr. Angel Alcala and Dr. Chua Thia-Eng receiving Ocean Legend awards, and Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross receiving a special citation for his work. Dr. Alcala was acknowledged for offering to PEMSEA a portion of the DENR compound to be used as its headquarters during its early years, thus enhancing the profile of the organization. Meanwhile, Dr.

Chua was recognized for his 30 years of promoting ICM as the methodology for achieving goals in coastal and marine area management. Mr. Ross, a former Executive Director of PEMSEA, was honored for his unwavering commitment to pursuing the noble objectives of the organization.

The plaques of recognition were personally handed by the members of PEMSEA's Executive Committee that include Dr. Tony La Vina, Mr. Makoto Harunari, and Mr. Arief Yuwono together with Ms. Gonzales.

Specific networks within PEMSEA present were the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG), the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), and the PEMSEA Network of Young Leaders (PNYL). PEMSEA Capacity Development Manager Johanna Diwa officially welcomed three new members to the PNLC: Diponegoro University, Udayana University, and Cavite State University. The PNYL is the newest network, being established at this very EAS Congress.

May the great work of PEMSEA and its partners continue for another 25 years!



#SeasAsOne