



**EAS**  
**CONGRESS**  
**2018**

THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS

**25** Years of Partnerships for  
**Healthy Oceans, People and Economies**  
Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda

**27-30 November 2018** • **Iloilo Convention Center, Philippines**

## **SIXTH MINISTERIAL FORUM**

**The Courtyard by Marriott, Iloilo City, Philippines**



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
SIXTH MINISTERIAL FORUM**

**Courtyard by Marriott, Iloilo, Philippines  
29 November 2018**

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## THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL FORUM

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sixth Ministerial Forum was held at Courtyard by Marriott, Iloilo City, Philippines on 29 November 2018. Carrying the theme, “25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda”, the Sixth Ministerial Forum was hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines. Present in the forum were 11 Ministers and heads of delegations from the East Asian Countries, and about 50 observers from among the PEMSEA Non-Country Partners, together with members of PEMSEA’s East Asian Seas Partnership Council Executive Committee, representatives from PEMSEA’s sponsoring agencies, the GEF and UNDP, and some PEMSEA collaborators.

The Forum was chaired by Hon. Rodolfo Garcia, Undersecretary and Chief of Staff of DENR of the Philippines, while the PRF and DENR Ministerial Forum Team served as the Secretariat of the Forum.

The highlights of the Sixth Ministerial Forum, included:

- (1) The presentation of the key results of the Regional and National State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) reports on Blue Economy;
- (2) Delivery of individual country statements highlighting countries’ outlook, plans and initiatives related to the implementation of the SDS-SEA in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals; and
- (3) The signing of the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration on East Asian Region Moving as One for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies.

The Regional and National SOC Reports are key outputs of the PEMSEA member countries that looked into the countries’ ocean economy, ocean industries, valuation of coastal and marine ecosystem services, risks and pressures on oceans in the region, and examples of blue economy initiatives. The reports aim to provide the baseline for future assessments. Initial estimates show that the SOC provides a comprehensive approach to evaluate the contribution of oceans and coasts, impacts of human activity on the ocean, as well as monitor progress towards the SDGs, SDS-SEA, and other international agreements through the blue economy and ocean governance initiatives. Based on the reports, the oceans serve as an important source of income and jobs for countries in the EAS region, with significant share in countries’ GDP. While ocean’s ecosystem services are still not much valued in most countries, available information showed ocean as a natural capital represents 50-55% of ocean economy across the region. It is hoped that the SOC can be utilized as an important tool to advance scientific support, raise public awareness, promote good governance and partnerships for blue economy, and foster the development of synergies among the various sectors and stakeholders.

The Forum culminated with the signing of the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration on East Asian Region Moving as One for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies. The Declaration reaffirmed the countries’ commitment to the SDS-SEA, and in particular to achieving the remaining targets from the Da Nang Compact, regular updating of SOC reports, reducing or preventing marine pollution of all kinds, promotion of sustainable coastal tourism programs, support development of blue economy investment projects, and support operations of PRF as coordinating mechanism for SDS-SEA implementation through voluntary contributions beyond 2019.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL FORUM

Courtyard by Marriott, Iloilo, Philippines  
29 November 2018

### A. INTRODUCTION

- i. The Sixth Ministerial Forum was held on 29 November 2018 as part of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2018, which was held in Iloilo City, Philippines, 27-30 November 2018. The Ministerial Forum carried the EAS Congress theme, “25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda”. The Sixth Ministerial Forum was envisioned to re-affirm and to achieve post-2015 Strategic Targets adopted through the Da Nang Compact and to secure our shared vision of healthy oceans, people and economies through enhanced collaboration within the East Asian Seas region.
- ii. The Forum was organized building upon the agreements made in earlier Ministerial Forums as embodied in: (a) the 2003 Putrajaya Declaration, adopting the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as a platform for regional cooperation for coastal and ocean governance; (b) the 2006 Haikou Partnership Agreement, setting targets for integrated coastal management (ICM) and national marine and coastal policy; (c) the 2009 Manila Declaration, resolving to strengthen integrated coastal management as an effective management framework and a systematic approach to achieve sustainable development and climate change adaptation goals in the region; (d) the 2012 Changwon Declaration, enabling the development of an ocean-based blue economy in the region through the strengthened support for SDS-SEA implementation; and (e) the 2015 Da Nang Compact, adopting post-2015 Strategic Targets as key indicators of progress in implementing the SDS-SEA 2015 over the next 5 years.
- iii. Eleven countries were represented at the Sixth Ministerial Forum, namely: Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. The Ministers were accompanied by their country delegations. Representatives from 14 PEMSEA Non-Country Partners were present as observers together with the Executive Committee of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council, representatives from PEMSEA’s sponsoring agencies, the GEF and UNDP, and other observers from PEMSEA collaborators.
- iv. The Sixth Ministerial Forum programme and full list of participants are found in Annex 1 and 2 respectively.

## **B. MINISTERIAL FORUM PROPER**

### **1. OPENING OF MINISTERIAL FORUM PROPER**

- 1.1 Hon. Rodolfo Garcia, Undersecretary and Chief of Staff of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines, chaired the Ministerial Forum proper and formally opened the Forum. Undersecretary Garcia expressed the importance of the conclusions and recommendations from the EAS Congress International Conference in providing the region with good practices and innovative inputs on sustainable development of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems. He emphasized that the Ministerial Forum is crucial as it will provide a platform for the region's leaders to commit to the support and endorsement of local and national efforts to achieve sustainable development through discussions and signing of the Iloilo Declaration.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed distinguished Ministers and guests to the Ministerial Forum. He urged his fellow Ministers to share their views and exchange their opinions and make the Forum as informative and meaningful as possible.
- 1.3 The Chair requested the Executive Director of PEMSEA, Ms. Aimee T. Gonzales, to present the agenda and to introduce attendant documents for the forum. The Forum adopted the agenda as presented.

### **2. PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL STATE OF OCEANS AND COASTS (SOC) REPORTS ON BLUE ECONOMY**

- 2.1 On behalf of PEMSEA, Ms. Maria Corazon Ebarvia, consultant on Blue Economy, presented the Regional and National SOC Reports which focused on blue economy growth in the EAS region.
- 2.2 An overview of the Regional and National SOC reports was covered, including defining the blue economy; scope and size of the regional ocean economy; ocean industries; size of the ocean economy contribution of ocean industries to the gross national product (GDP) and employment; valuation of coastal and marine ecosystem services; risks and pressures on oceans and LMEs in the region; state of the LMEs; and examples of blue economy initiatives. Status, and innovations challenges and activities for transforming to blue economy were presented for fisheries and aquaculture, coastal and marine tourism, ports and shipping, managing pollution, conserving ecosystems and biodiversity, and ending IUU fishing. The need for responsible, sustainable and inclusive approaches was lessons learned in the preparation of the SOC Reports, estimation of the ocean accounts and ecosystem services, identifying risks to ocean health and ocean economy, and the response in terms of blue economy initiatives and ocean governance were highlighted. Emerging blue economy industries, managing pollution, conserving ecosystems and biodiversity, and ending IUU fishing were linked to the SDGs.
- 2.3 Countries were encouraged to scale up and replicate the blue economy initiatives and link them to SDGs and other international agreements. There are opportunities in working with international organizations and NGOs on advocacy, policy-making and action planning, while emerging industries (e.g., sustainable seafood sourcing and processing, green ports, ecotourism,

marine renewable energy, marine biotechnology), and management of wastewater and solid waste offer opportunities for investors and private sector operating companies.

- 2.4 Countries were also encouraged to update and regularly present the SOC Reports, taking into account the lessons learned and key recommendations to improve the reports.

### **3. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

- 3.1 The Ministers delivered their respective country statements, highlighting shared innovative policies, legislations, frameworks and guidelines that are being considered, put forward, expanded on or implemented in their countries related or contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).
- 3.2 Hon. Vann Monyneath, Deputy Secretary General, General Secretary of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia informed the Forum that Cambodia has recently embarked on the review of policies, legislation, institutional mechanisms, programs and projects relevant to sustainable coastal and marine development to allow the country to fully understand what needs to be improved and/or strengthened in order to advance their goals and in support of the implementation of the SDS-SEA. He emphasized that the Ministry of Environment facilitated the completion of the first National State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) Report which comprehensively analyzes the country's situation related to ocean economy, the status of the marine and coastal environment, the pressure and threats to the ocean economy and ocean health, blue economy development, and a review of enabling policies and overall ocean and coastal governance. In recent years, Cambodia has worked with China in studying and preparing for marine spatial planning (MSP) which can be a roadmap to help Cambodia reduce conflicts in using marine resources, increase funding for assessment and mapping marine ecosystem, and improve science-based decision making processes. Cambodia also prepared a Priority Development Plan for China-Cambodia Marine Affairs Cooperation (2014-2020).
- 3.3 Hon. Zhang Zhi, Director General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources, PR China, highlighted several legislative measures that were put forward in support of their efforts on coastal and marine environmental protection, including: revising of the *Law of Marine Environment Protection of the PR China*, releasing of the *Regulation on Management Measures of Sea Reclamation Control*, and the *Marine Eco-redline System*. At the institutional aspect, China has also launched some new initiatives. An example of which is the designation of principal government officials with positions of "River Governor" or "Bay Governor" which includes responsibilities of managing and protecting rivers, lakes and bays within their respective administrative jurisdictions. Efforts on ecological conservation and restoration was also intensified by implementing series of national programs such as "Blue Bay", "Mangrove in South and Tamarix in the North", and "Eco-Island". He stressed that China stands ready to enhance the collaboration with the countries in the region to better understand, utilize, and conserve our oceans, as well as to confront the challenges of ocean and coastal sustainable development, with the aim to contributing to the realization of regional sustainable development goals.
- 3.4 Hon. Ri Myong San, Vice Minister, Minister of External Economic Relations, DPR Korea, informed the Forum of the country's efforts on ICM implementation. Since ICM was introduced in some

parts of Nampho City as a demonstration area in year 2000, the ICM program has resulted to significant successes, experiences and contributed to capacity development in the field. The DPRK has bolstered up the consultation system for the implementation of SDS-SEA and proposed the expansion of ICM from Nampho area along the West Sea of Korea to Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang area situated along the East Sea of Korea. On June 11, 2014, the DPRK government adopted a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly No. 48 "On Setting up Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang International Tourist Zone". The country has been implementing the national strategy for developing maritime science and technology, the national strategy for development of fisheries and the tour-oriented plan for developing economic development zone, after making the environmental protection in waters off Wonsan a top priority. He noted that Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone construction is a massive project now underway for the sustainable economic development in the coastal area which is targeted to be completed by 2019. Vice Minister Ri underscored the positive impact of PEMSEA's capacity-building initiatives which contributed to significant improvements in coastal management of PEMSEA member countries and expressed hope for the continuity of PEMSEA programs particularly on capacity development for the benefit of the countries and sustainable development of the seas of East Asia.

- 3.5 Hon. M. R. Karliansyah, Director General, Environmental Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia, highlighted the country's efforts on pollution reduction. In particular, Indonesia has committed to reduce solid waste up to 70 percent by 2025 and launched a National Action Plan to reduce plastic waste through various activities with support from stakeholders. In line with this, Indonesia has conducted evaluation on 18 coastal cities as a means to check the complexity of coastal and marine environmental problems, which link to various sectors and land-based activities. The evaluation showed that total plastic wastes found in Indonesian waters were much less than suspected. In controlling waste water and nutrient management from medium and high scale industries, Indonesia has implemented environmental Performance Rating Program, resulting in a significant amount of pollution load reduction. 437 green companies also reported 8,474 activities which are dedicated to Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Life Below Water. Indonesia has also applied the value added-based technical assistance to some communities to promote environment-friendly technologies and practices, such as the treatment of tofu and live stocks wastes using bio-digester converting them into renewable energy utilized for household cooking and electricity. Director General Karliansyah emphasized that cooperation among countries in the East Asian Seas is a good opportunity to enhance capacity building and knowledge transfer in the context of sustainability of coastal and marine development in the East Asian Seas region.
- 3.6 Hon. Hiroyuki Masuda, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan, introduced their ocean policy and international cooperation for marine environment protection. While Japan's maritime industries have made a great contribution to the development of the country, Japan also recognized the importance of marine environment protection in order to achieve sustainable development. To address various issues related to oceans and in line with Japan's Basic Act on Ocean Policy in 2007, the country headed by Japan's Prime Minister, adopted the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy at the Meeting of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy headed in May 2018. The plan's fundamental policies include "Promotion of industrial use of the ocean" and "Maintenance and preservation of the marine environment" which is in line with the principles of the SDS-SEA. Japan's efforts towards

ICM are implemented by both emission control laws and environmental protection plan formulated by national and local governments. In response to decreasing nutrient salt concentration in seawater Japan introduced a new management plan for sewage water treatment systems to keep the nutrient salt concentration at an appropriate level. Efforts to restore seagrass beds and tidal flats are also being undertaken through creation of fish reefs and artificial tidal flats using old wave dissipating blocks and dredged sand. These are just some initiatives that Japan believe would be good examples for PEMSEA. Japan hopes to contribute to East Asian countries through the introduction of such initiatives and advanced technologies. With the leadership of the new PEMSEA Executive Director, Japan believes that PEMSEA would be able to contribute more to the East Asian countries. Japan expressed appreciation to the Philippine Government for the warm and generous hospitality provided throughout the EAS Congress 2018.

- 3.7 Hon. Xayaveth Vixay, Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR, shared some of the country's key achievement particularly on water resource management, such as the completion and adoption of the Five Year Action Plan on Natural Resources and Environment 2016-2020, Strategy for 2025, and Vision 2030. Lao PDR is currently in the mid-term review process for the implementation of this Action Plan to aid in its updating and further refinement. In May 2017, Lao PDR's National Assembly passed the updated Water and Water Resources Law which was thereafter signed by the President in June 2017. At the regional level, Lao PDR stands by its commitments and is currently implementing and up scaling the implementation of the Mekong-Integrated Water Resources Management Program, the Ten-year Strategic Framework of the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Program, the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan of the Lower Mekong River Basin 2016-2020, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), and the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action for Water Resources Management. Since Lao PDR became a PEMSEA Country Partner in 2008, a number of achievements have been made in line with the implementation of IWRM in Sedone River Basin. In support of the implementation of national priorities and Sedone Sustainable Development Strategy, currently, PEMSEA and MONRE are undertaking: the review and development of the National River Basin Strategy 2030 and the Water Resources Fee Guideline; development of a National IWRM Demonstration Site in Houay Piai, Saravan City, Saravan Province; development of sub-river basin management and implementation plans in 3 sub-basins in Sedone River Basin; implementation of the Sedone Sustainable Development Strategy focusing on water use and supply and livelihood management; and continuing capacity strengthening of national and local personnel to support the implementation of national priorities and the Sedone River Basin Sustainable Development Strategy. Director General Vixay expressed hope for PEMSEA to be able to continue its support in strengthening national and local capacity for the sustainable development and management of rivers in Laos, as well as to develop more projects to support the sustainable development of rivers, coasts and oceans of the East Asian Seas region.
- 3.8 Hon. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Undersecretary, Climate Change Service and Mining Service, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, highlighted a number of notable laws established by the Philippine government covering the management and protection of environment, particularly the coastal and marine sector. The recent one is the Republic Act 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, an amendment of the NIPAS Act of 1992 which declares 94 protected areas within the

classification of National Park and is consistent with global efforts to place key biodiversity areas under a regime of effective management and ensure the sustainable utilization of resources. For the fisheries sector, Republic Act 10654, known as the Amended Fisheries Code of the Philippines, was passed in February 2015, which strengthens the sanctions against illegal commercial fishers and poachers and intensifies crackdown on illegal fishing. Under Executive Order No. 533 series of 2006, the Philippines is committed to the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management or ICM as a national strategy to ensure the Sustainable Development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources and establishment of its supporting mechanisms. The Philippine Development Plan for 2017 to 2022 ensures the promotion of the ecological integrity of ridge to reef environment through the institutionalization of ICM and its prioritization as a Legislative Agenda. National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP) which as part of the integrated framework of water quality management, provides technology interventions and institutional and financial frameworks to guide LGUs, Water Districts, and local project proponents to address national issues on wastewater sanitation. She shared experience of a sixth-month closure and intensive rehabilitation of the world-renowned tropical tourist destination, the Boracay. In line with PEMSEA member countries' commitment on blue economy, Usec. Teh emphasized the importance of integrating the Blue, Green, and Circular Economy agendas to ensure that society operates in such a way that the natural resources on which it depends are restored, protected, and maintained. Finally, the Philippines enjoined all other PEMSEA partner countries for a strengthened Regional Partnership by mobilizing resources, providing technical expertise, and expanding networks, including private sector engagement, and promote growth as a community.

- 3.9 Hon. Jun-Kwon Park, Commissioner, Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, RO Korea, underscored the value placed by the government of RO Korea on oceans as one of the sources of prosperity and a conduit to reach out to other countries. RO Korea established a government agency integrating all ocean related functions such as fisheries, marine policy, marine environment, port and harbor and ocean navigation into one ministry. The government of RO Korea has also found a growth engine in ocean energy sector. Clean energy sources, such as ocean current energy, wave power energy and ocean thermal gradient energy, will play important role in fighting against climate change and supporting sustainable development. Recently, carbon absorption and storage function of marine ecosystem, namely, mudflat, halophyte and sea grass, which are called collectively as Blue Carbon, is gaining attention. RO Korea is committed to continue its research on Blue Carbon and contribute to the protection of Blue Carbon sources and vulnerable marine habitats that host Blue Carbon assets. Recently, 'the Act on Marine Spatial Planning and Management' which illustrates the current direction of ocean management of RO Korea was enacted. With the growing demands for development of marine space, the legally and scientifically sound system for efficient and effective management of ocean space is now in place. RO Korea believes that the act will be instrumental in promoting the sustainable use of marine resources and the growth of ocean economy. RO Korea has established national programs for marine litter management since 2005, and comprehensive management plans for marine litter every 5 years since 2009. The 3rd comprehensive marine litter management plan is entering into action in 2019. With RO Korea's extensive and successful experiences and technologies in marine litter management, the government of RO Korea welcomes the collaboration with PEMSEA countries to address the growing challenges on marine litter.

- 3.10 Hon. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore, emphasized that with Singapore's limited land and heavy utilization of coastal resources, the country has taken a pragmatic and careful approach to achieve economic development in tandem with environmental protection and social inclusion. Singapore also ensures that all their SDS-SEA efforts are aligned with broader sustainable development efforts. For instance, by adapting PEMSEA's ICM principles to Singapore's local context, Integrated Urban Coastal Management was developed and enabled the country to carefully manage and preserve their fragile marine environment in a holistic and integrated manner for future generations. Singapore has established its first marine park, the Sisters' Islands Marine Park and developed their Marine Conservation Action Plan (MCAP), which is grounded in science and guides efforts in conserving marine habitats and biodiversity. Taking the issue of marine pollution seriously, Singapore has implemented stringent policies to prevent marine pollution from land-based sources (i.e., controlled discharge of trade effluent, oil, chemicals, and sewage; regular water quality monitoring of inland water bodies and coastal areas; waterway clean-up measures). By 2020, mandatory reporting of plastic and packaging waste data and waste reduction plans will also be implemented, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework for packaging will be explored. In 2011, the Maritime Singapore Green Initiative (MSGI) was also launched to reduce the environmental impact of shipping and shipping-related activities on the coastal and marine environment. The Maritime Port and Authority (MPA) of Singapore has pledged to invest up to S\$100 million under the MSGI's expanded programmes. Singapore was one of the first countries in Asia to ratify all six Annexes of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) MARPOL Convention, including prohibiting the discharge of plastics into the sea. MPA also works with IMO to provide capacity building courses for countries under the MPA-IMO Third Country Training Programme (TCTP), which offers courses on the implementation of relevant IMO instruments. Singapore believes that more can be done in the region and expressed confidence that the expertise and capacities that PEMSEA has helped to build up will continue to make a positive impact.
- 3.11 Hon. Cesar Jose da Cruz, Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor Leste, indicated that in recognition of the importance of natural and marine and coastal resources and environment to the sustainable development of the country, the National Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030) was put in place with a set of specific targets, including: ensuring environmental protection and conservation including addressing climate change, conservation of forests, land and sea areas, biodiversity, renewable energy and pollution control; protection, conservation and efficient utilization of water resources; improving access to clean water and sanitation across the country; and improving sustainable fisheries management including protection and preservation of marine habitats and resources. In line with the country's implementation of the SDS-SEA (2015-2019), Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is working with PEMSEA on: (a) developing a policy and plan for integrated management of marine and coastal resources and establishing an inter-agency and multi-sectoral coordination and management mechanism for governance; (b) initiating national and local capacity development initiatives to support scaling up of SDS-SEA and ICM implementation; (c) developing local capacity to implement ICM programs; (d) mainstreaming ICM strategies and action plans into government plans and budget plans, and exploring alternative sources of financing; and (e) developing a State of the Coast reporting system. While several achievements have been made, continuous strengthening of capacity for regional and

sub regional cooperation in marine resources management is integral to Timor Leste. In particular, capacity development for fisheries staff, fishermen, and aquaculture farmers, capacity forums related to livelihood/income generation, and on gender mainstreaming.

- 3.12 Hon. Vu Si Tuan, Deputy Administrator, Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam, underscored that as a coastal nation, ICM is considered as a priority to achieve balanced economic development, social equity, and environmental protection. Under the Da Nang Compact signed in 2015, Vietnam together with other member countries committed to achieving the strategic objectives of SDS-SEA 2015. In line with this, Vietnam made significant efforts to put in place necessary mechanisms, such as: (a) scaling up the implementation of ICM in 14 coastal provinces of Viet Nam covering close to 70 per cent of the Vietnamese coastline; (b) development of the National State of the Oceans and Coasts Report (NSOC); (c) developed and delivered the legal documents, such as the Law on Natural Resources and Environment of Seas and Islands; (d) developed the Strategy and Plan to carry out the exploitation, and utilization of the natural resources sustainably and environmental protection of the seas and islands until 2020 and vision to 2040; (e) developed the strategy and plan to implement ICM in Viet Nam until 2020 and vision to 2030 and other legal documents; and (f) completed and reviewed the 10-year experience of the country in carrying out the Strategy of Vietnam's seas and islands. However, a number of challenges remain, including: lack of spatial planning on natural resources exploitation; lack of spatial planning at the national and local levels; lack of data base and information; and limited financial resources to carry out the comprehensive programme from the central to local authorities. To address these concerns, Vietnam recognizes the need set in place management and coordination mechanism at the national and local levels, continued information and experience sharing, as well as documentation of lessons learned and learning from experiences and best practices from countries from within and outside the East Asian Seas region.

#### **4. INTRODUCTION OF ILOILO DECLARATION**

- 4.1 Ms. Aimee T. Gonzales, Executive Director, PEMSEA, informed common understanding and beliefs shared by PEMSEA Country Partners which is reflected at the declaration as followings:
- Re-affirm shared commitments for the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)
  - Value and significance contribution of coastal and marine ecosystems and services
  - Transform PEMSEA to a self-sustaining regional organization
  - PEMSEA's pioneering work to develop best practices in the design and implementation of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)
  - Support the region in the effective implementation of the SDS-SEA aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international/regional commitments
  - Encourage the region to move towards a Blue Economy and Sustainable Development of its coasts and ocean.
- 4.2 Ms. Gonzales outlined the Iloilo Declaration with the following commitments:
- Achieve remaining targets under the Da Nang Compact by 2021
  - Regular update of State of the Oceans and Coasts Report (SOC)

- Provide voluntary country contributions to PEMSEA operations beyond 2019
- Support transition to blue economy investments at the national and local level
- Reduce or prevent marine pollution of all kinds
- Implement policies and programs on the sustainable management of coastal tourism destinations
- Implement adaptation and mitigation strategies to respond to Climate Change.

## **5. SIGNING OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

- 5.1 The Chair invited the Ministers to sign the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration to formalize their commitment. The eleven Ministers and heads of delegations present at the Forum proceeded to affix their signature. The declaration with the signature is hereto attached as Annex 3.

## **6. CLOSING CEREMONY**

- 6.1 The Chair gave his thanks to the Ministers, the observers, the national agencies and PRF Secretariat on a successful Ministerial Forum. The Sixth Ministerial Forum was adjourned on 29 November 2018 at 3:45PM.

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**ANNEX 1**

**SIXTH MINISTERIAL FORUM PROGRAM**

## **THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL FORUM**

The Courtyard by Marriott  
29 November 2018

### **Programme**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 13:00 – 13:10 | Opening of Ministerial Forum Proper   |
| 13:10 – 13:20 | Presentation of the Regional and National State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC)<br>Reports on Blue Economy |
| 13:20 – 14:20 | Ministerial Statements  |
| 14:20 – 14:50 | Signing of the Ministerial Declaration  |
| 14:50 – 15:00 | Closing of the Ministerial Forum (Group Photo)  |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Press Conference (DENR Secretary and PEMSEA)  |
| 17:30 – 19:00 | Dinner Banquet (Hosted by Iloilo City)  |

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**ANNEX 2**  
**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### COUNTRY PARTNERS

#### CAMBODIA

**Hon. Vann Monyneath**

Deputy Secretary General  
National Council for Sustainable Development  
Ministry of Environment

**Mr. Long Rithirak**

Deputy Director General  
General Directorate of Environmental  
Protection  
Ministry of Environment

#### CHINA

**Mr. Zhang Zhi**

Director General  
International Cooperation  
Ministry of Natural Resources

**Mr. Wang Antao**

Director  
International Cooperation  
Ministry of Natural Resources

#### DPR KOREA

**Hon. Ri Myong San**

Vice Minister  
Ministry of External Economic Relations

**Mr. Kwang-Jin Jong**

Director  
General Bureau for Cooperation with  
International Organizations (GBCIO)

#### INDONESIA

**Hon. M.R. Karliansyah**

Director General  
Environmental Pollution and Degradation  
Control  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

**Mr. Dida Migfar Ridha**

Director  
Marine and Coastal Pollution and Degradation  
Control  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

**Ms. Aditya Yuniarti**

Head of Section for Quality Standard  
Marine and Coastal Pollution and Degradation  
Control  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

#### JAPAN

**Hon. Hiroyuki Masuda**

Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and  
Tourism (MLIT)

**Mr. Yasufumi Onishi**

Director for International Ocean Affairs  
Ocean Policy Division  
Policy Bureau  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and  
Tourism (MLIT)

**Mr. Masami Suya**

Coordinator for International Ocean Affairs  
Ocean Policy Division  
Policy Bureau  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and  
Tourism (MLIT)

**Mr. Reynato E. Gualto**

Interpreter  
SpiceWorx Consultancy Inc.

**LAO PDR****Hon. Xayaveth Vixay**

Director General  
Department of Personnel  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

**Mr. Simmalavong Phonexay**

Department of Water Resources  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

**Ms. Sengphasouk Xayavong**

Deputy Director of General Affairs Division  
Department of Water Resources  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

**PHILIPPINES****Hon. Rodolfo Garcia**

Undersecretary and Chief of Staff  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

**Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh**

Undersecretary for Climate Change Service and Mining Concerns  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

**RO KOREA****Hon. Jun-Kwon Park**

Commissioner  
Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

**Ms. Su-Yeon Kim**

Deputy Director,  
Marine Environment Policy Division  
Marine Policy Office  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

**Mr. Yong-Jae Im**

Assistant Director  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

**Ms. Eun Ji Lee**

Interpreter

**SINGAPORE****Hon. Amy Khor**

Senior Minister of State  
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

**Mr. Hazri Hassan**

Director  
International Policy Division  
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

**Ms. Wan Yin See**

Senior Executive  
International Policy Division  
International Agreements  
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

**TIMOR LESTE****Hon. Cesar Jose da Cruz**

Secretary General  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

**Mr. Acacio Guterres**

Director General for Fisheries,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

**Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto**

Operational Focal Point of PEMSEA  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

**VIETNAM****Hon. Vu Si Tuan**

Deputy General Director  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

**Mr. Nguyen Le Tuan**

Director  
Research Institute of Seas and Islands'  
Management

**Ms. Nguyen Thanh Thao**

Department of Science, Technology and  
International Cooperation  
Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands

**Mr. Hoang Huy Trung,**

National Border Committee  
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ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

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Global Programme of Action for the Protection  
of the Marine Environment from Land Based  
Activities (GPA)  
Ecosystems Division  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Kenya

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Head  
UNESCO/IOC Regional Office for the Western  
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Programme Specialist of UNESCO Bangkok  
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**Mr. Andy Nicoll**

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IPIECA  
United Kingdom

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Korea Institute of Ocean Science and  
Technology  
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Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea  
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Ocean Research and Development Department  
Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa  
Peace Foundation  
Japan

**Mr. Ignatius Harta**

Business Development Manager  
Oil Spill Response Limited  
Singapore

**Prof. Icarus Allen**

Director of Science and Deputy Chief Executive  
Plymouth Marine Laboratory  
United Kingdom

**Ms. Yi Liu**

National Coordinator  
Small Grants Programme China  
UNDP/SGP

**Dr. Jose Ereso Padilla**

Regional Technical Adviser,  
Waters and Oceans  
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub  
Thailand

**Ms. Louise Whitting**

Senior Water Management Expert  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United  
Nations

**Dr. Vincent Hilomen**

Project Manager  
SMARTSeas

**Dr. Liz Izquierdo**

Project Manager  
Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem  
Services (CCRES)

**Ms. Anabelle Plantilla**

Project Manager  
The Biodiversity Finance Initiative  
Philippines

**Dr. Leah Karrer**

Senior Environmental Specialist  
Global Environment Facility

**Dr. Ricardo Babaran**

Chancellor  
University of the Philippines Visayas

**Ms. Ro-Ann Bacal**

Regional Director  
National Economic and Development Authority  
Office Region VI

**Mr. Patrick Debels**

Regional Project Coordinator  
CLME+ Project (UNDP/GEF)

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Policy and Planning Service

**For. Llarina S. Mojica**

Division Chief  
Policy and Planning Service-Policy Studies  
Division

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Policy and Planning Service-Policy Studies  
Division

**Mr. Paul Erwen Parreño**

Economist II  
Policy and Planning Service-Policy Studies  
Division

**Ms. Mary Lou Retos**

Development Management Officer II  
Policy and Planning Service-Policy Studies  
Division

**Ms. Cherry Winsom Holgado**

Development Management Officer II  
Policy and Planning Service-Policy Studies  
Division

**Ms. Anna Michelle Lim**

Economist II  
Policy and Planning Service-Policy Studies  
Division

**Mr. Ernest Federiso**

Chief  
Administrative Division  
DENR Region VI

**Ms. Rhoda Enicola**

DENR Region VI

**Ms. Scarlet Estiaga**

DENR Region VI

**PEMSEA SECRETARIAT**

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PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross**

Former PEMSEA Executive Director and  
Senior Project Manager  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Dr. Jae-Young Lee**

Deputy Head  
Planning and Partnerships  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Ms. Kathrine Rose Gallardo-Aguiling**

Secretariat Coordinator  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Ms. Maria Corazon M. Ebarvia**

Blue Economy Consultant  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Ms. Diwata Cayaban**

Programme Assistant  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Ms. Elsie Merina**

Programme Assistant  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Ms. Vida Isabel Vasquez**

Secretariat Assistant  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Ms. Johanna Diwa**

Capacity Development Manager  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**Ms. Julia Marie Guerrero**

Congress Sub-Coordinator  
PEMSEA Resource Facility

**ANNEX 3**  
**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

## **STATEMENT of CAMBODIA**

**By Hon. Vann Monyneath**

Deputy Secretary General  
National Council for Sustainable Development  
Ministry of Environment

*Excellency, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.*

On behalf of the Government of Cambodia, we would like to affirm our continuing commitment to the realization of the post-2015 targets and moving towards meeting our country's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, and working as one with the countries in the East Asian Seas (EAS) region for the sustainable development of our shared oceans and coasts.

Recognizing the potential benefits from the coastal and marine resources, while acknowledging the threats and challenges to them, Cambodia has been focusing on sustainably developing its coastal and marine areas as one of the highly prioritized policies in the national economic development agenda. Cambodia has continued to set up and improve key institutional, legal and policy frameworks to carry out actions to meet our objectives for sustainable development.

Cambodia has recently embarked on the review of policies, legislation, institutional mechanisms, programs and projects relevant to sustainable coastal and marine development to allow us to fully understand what needs to be improved and/or strengthened to advance our goals and in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

In 2018, the MoE facilitated the completion of the first National State of Oceans and Coasts Report of Cambodia, which comprehensively analyzes the country's situation related to ocean economy, the status of the marine and coastal environment, the pressures and threats to the ocean economy and ocean health, blue economy development, and a review of enabling policies and overall ocean and coastal governance.

In addition, since 2016, three coastal provinces in Cambodia have implemented integrated coastal management based on the experience of Preah Sihanouk Province with the assistance from PEMSEA and other international partners. The integrated coastal management programs focus on both governance and management matters related to habitat protection, pollution control, fisheries management, water use and supply, and livelihood development.

More importantly, in an effort also to strengthen the protection of coastal resources, Cambodia has recently established the first large scale Marine National Park in the country located in Preah Sihanouk Province. This establishment confers special protection values to the Marine National Park, which consists of islands, coral reefs, and other coastal and marine areas. More areas are under assessment and prepared to be established as Marine National Parks.

Recently, to enhance Cambodia's effort to prevent marine pollution from coastal zones, the Ministry of Environment has delegated the functions of waste management to sub-national level to control municipal solid and water waste, and with the national budget. Finally, Cambodia is in the progress of drafting the Environmental Code, which is a comprehensive legal framework with the goal toward environmental protection and sustainable development.

In recent years, Cambodia has worked with China in studying and preparing for marine spatial planning (MSP) which would help Cambodia address challenges in marine protection and conservation.

We believe that MSP can be a roadmap that helps Cambodia reduce conflicts in using marine resources, increase funding for assessment and mapping of our marine ecosystem, and improve our science-based decision making processes.

The research cooperation will contribute to Cambodia's legal and policy development, economic growth, and ecological protection, and community's livelihood improvement, so that Cambodia will achieve marine and coastal area's sustainable development.

Cambodia will initiate the preparation of the MSP strategies, covering consensus capacity development, institutional arrangement, and data knowledge strengthening. We already prepared our Priority Development Plan for China-Cambodia Marine Affairs Cooperation (2014-2020). A number of coastal and marine conservation programmes are underway, in partnership with development partners and the private sector.

*Excellency, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.*

The limits of Cambodia toward technical, informational and technological capacity have remained our major challenges in pollution control and nature conservation in coastal and marine areas.

With this regard, Cambodia has been consistent to act in good faith at the international stage and has been willing to collaborate with all development partners, private sectors, and other stakeholders. We see great opportunities to establish partnerships to build personnel and informational capacity as well as to encourage technology transfer to scale-up our protection and conservation efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank all partners for organizing this event. Our ocean is a global public good. It is not an issue that we can solve by acting in a piece meal way, at national level. This is why today conference is so important. We need to make clear commitments at global level, and put in place strong mechanisms to monitor progress and address challenges of marine environment protection, biodiversity conservation and maritime activities as well as the risks of climate change on an annual basis.

This should be done in a spirit of cooperation, with technologies made available and resources allocated to support action in developing countries, where coastal communities are particularly vulnerable to the changes affecting the ocean, and where additional resources to enforce maritime regulations are often needed.

Cambodia welcomes all partners, to work together and share our best practices so that we can achieve our common goals. Our collective will and efforts will bring about the substantive outcomes towards attaining coastal and ocean sustainable development and we will be more responsive to the emerging needs and concerns of the region as well as the world while staying committed to its vision of establishing a sustainable sea and ocean.

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## STATEMENT of CHINA

By Hon. Zhang Zhi

Director General for International Cooperation  
Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China

*Join Hands to Development Blue Economy to Share  
the Regional Prosperity and Stability*

*Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon!*

It's my great pleasure to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> East Asian Seas Ministerial Forum in the beautiful city of Iloilo! I am honored to have the opportunity to share our thought and vision for the future development of the East Asian Seas. On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the People's Republic of China, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to PEMSEA, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Republic of Philippine for their great efforts to convene such a successful Congress and warm hospitality extended to me and Chinese delegation.

Over the last 25 years, PEMSEA has made tremendous contributions to the sustainable development and prosperity of the East Asian Seas Region. In 2015, we signed the "Da Nang Compact" for the implementation of revised Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia.

To fulfill our commitments to the Compact, a series of measures has been taken by the Government of China in field of legislation, such as the revising of the *Law of Marine Environment Protection of the People's Republic of China* and the releasing of the *Regulation on Management Measures of Sea Reclamation Control*, and the *Marine Eco-redline System* that have established covering 30% of offshore areas and 35% of the coastline.

China has also launched the initiative on institution in area of ocean and coastal integrated management. For example, the Principal government officials would take the position as "River Governor" or "Bay Governor" with the responsibilities of managing and protecting the rivers, lakes and bays under the corresponding administrative jurisdiction. Moreover, China has further intensified its efforts on the ecological conservation and restoration by implementing a series of national programs such as "Blue Bay", "Mangrove in the South and Tamarix in the North", and "Eco-Island".

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The East Asian is one of the most dynamic regions with great development potential. The adjacent seas empower countries in the region to pursue high-quality and sustainable social-economic development. We highly appreciate the good cooperation that underpinned the joint development of the region. The Chinese government attaches great importance in this regard and incorporates and mainstreams the development of SDS-SEA into its social and economic development program.

China stands ready to enhance the collaboration with the countries in the region to better understand, utilize, and conserve our oceans, as well as to confront the challenges of ocean and coastal sustainable development, with the aim to contributing to the realization of regional sustainable development goal.

*Thank you!*

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## **STATEMENT of DPR KOREA**

**By Hon. Ri Myong San**

Vice Minister  
Minister of External Economic Relations

*Mr. Chairman, Esteemed delegates,*

On behalf of my delegation, I would like first of all to extend my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Philippines and the PEMSEA, UNDP for being kind enough to invite a delegation from the DPRK to the EAS Congress 2018 and the Sixth Ministerial Forum and for making much effort for success in the congress.

The DPRK, which is bordered by the seas in East Asia, pays deep attention to the integrated coastal and marine management. President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il gave valuable instructions to make sure that land, natural resources and environment actively contribute to the economic development and the betterment of people's living. Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea instructed to take thorough-going measures to prevent sea and river pollution, and is now working hard to bring into a reality the behests of the great leaders.

The building of an economic power is a key front to which the DPRK government now channels all-out efforts. At the historic third plenary meeting of the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, Chairman Kim Jong Un advanced new strategic line on concentrating all efforts on the socialist economic construction.

True to the new strategic line, the DPRK government is directing the overall work of the country to the socialist economic construction.

In the DPRK, a maritime country surrounded by the sea on three sides, the management of coasts and territorial waters is closely related with the building of an economic power. The Integrated Coastal Management, which systematizes the methods for the sustainable development of environment and natural resources on the coasts and in the seas helps the DPRK conduct the active management of the coasts in an integrated way.

The country set national demonstration site in some parts of Nampho City to which ICM was introduced and accumulated lots of successes, experiences and capabilities in the field for the past 18 years. A particular mention should be made of the PEMSEA cooperation offered during the two phases in the period which resulted in the successful implementation of drinking water supply and sanitation project in Nampho City, leading to improved drinking water supply for 150, 000 citizens in the port city and to the heightened monitoring and analytic capabilities for coastal and sea environmental pollution at the West Sea Maritime Institute.

The DPRK has bolstered up the consultation system for the implementation of SDS-SEA and buckled down to expanding the integrated coastal management in Nampho area along the West Sea of Korea to Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang area situated along the East Sea of Korea. On June 11, 2014, the DPRK government adopted decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly No. 48 "On Setting up Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang International Tourist Zone" and has been implementing the national strategy for developing maritime science and technology, the national strategy for development of fisheries and the tour-oriented plan for developing economic development zone, after making the environmental protection

in waters off Wonsan a top priority. Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone construction is a massive project now underway for the sustainable economic development in the coastal area and for the enjoyment of the highest civilization by our people.

This August and October Chairman Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone at twice as he stressed that it was one of his greatest desire to build cultural and recreational resorts for the people on coastal points with spectacular views and beautiful scenery. By next year, the tourist area construction project will be completed excelling in world civilization to turn the area long known as one of wonder scenic spots in Korea into an area full of people's happiness and delights.

This conference, I believe, is an opportunity to have a look at a series of capacity-building work in various fields for the protection and sustainable development of natural resources and environment in the seas and on the coasts. The past experiences prove that PEMSEA's capacity-building has contributed to great improvements of the integrated coastal management by nation countries. I, in this context, would like to express my hope that PEMSEA and its partners would continue to pay unending attention to the capacity-building for the sustainable development of the East Asia Sea.

*Esteemed Chairman, Respected ladies and gentlemen,*

Nation countries in the region are responsible for the management of the natural resources and environment in the East Asia Sea, and the natural resources in the region have to be used for the promotion of wellbeing of us. Our cooperation is an important factor for promoting the sustainable development of the East Asia Sea and it should be part of the processes for independent nation countries to implement and exercise their obligations and duties to which they are committed.

The DPRK will as ever strive to scale up ICM for the implementation of the SDS-SEA and for the sustainable development of the region with its continued respect given for the Putrajaya Declaration, a commitment to the coordinated actions within the region.

I believe that this conference would offer an important occasion for the implementation of the UN sustainable development goal, key principles and goals of Global Ocean Agenda in particular, through ICM.

Thank you.

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## STATEMENT OF INDONESIA

**By Hon. M.R. Karliansyah**

Director General  
Environmental Pollution and Degradation Control  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

*Excellencies Ministers of Environment, Distinguished Chair of PEMSEA, Distinguished Executive Director of PEMSEA, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen*

On behalf of the Government of Indonesia, we would like to congratulate PEMSEA for organizing this East Asian Seas Congress from November 27-30, 2018 here in Iloilo City, the Philippines, hosted by the Government of the Philippines through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) carrying the theme “25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda.

This forum is very important to determine the direction of the sustainability of marine environment in the East Asia region. As part of the East Asia Seas Indonesia shares the responsibility for the sustainability of the Seas of East Asia, and therefore Indonesia is committed to support regional cooperation programs and activities across countries in the East Asian Seas, especially those carried out by Pemsea through their programs and activities.

In line with that commitment, as you are aware Indonesia on October 31 - November 1, 2018 hosted the 4th Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Program of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. The Meeting successfully agreed on four important agendas: (1) Review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the period of 2012–2017; (2) Future of the Global Programme of Action for the period of 2018–2022; (3) Programme of Work of the Global Programme of Action coordination office for the period 2018–2022; and (4) Bali Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

As a maritime country, Indonesia has enjoyed significant contribution of the sea to our national income such as from marine resources, sea transportation, tourism activities, and people’s livelihood. From the ecological side, marine ecosystems have enormous values from the ecosystem services they provided, and therefore protection of coastal and marine environment is very important.

To improve the sustainability of our marine environment, Indonesia has made various efforts of protecting and managing the marine environment. Related to the reduction of impacts from land-based activities, Indonesia has made commitment to reduce solid waste up to 70 percent by 2025. We have urged commitments from 156 large companies to reduce plastic waste and carried out coastal cleanup in 19 sites. as well as rehabilitation of coral reef in 23 locations. These were organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and other initiatives taken by the other ministries, agencies, local governments and communities. Indonesia has also launched a National Action Plan to reduce plastic waste through various activities to be carried out by all stakeholders. Taking into consideration the complexity of coastal and marine environmental problems, which have linkages with many sectors and land-based activities, we have undertaken evaluation on 18 coastal cities and the result shows that total plastic wastes found in our waters is much less than suspected.

In controlling waste water and nutrient management from medium and high scale industries, Indonesia has implemented environmental Performance Rating Program, resulting in a significant amount of pollution load reduction. It should also be noted that 437 green companies have reported 8.474 activities which are dedicated to the sustainable development goal 14, that is Life Below Water. Those activities have contributed a total amount of US\$ 2.58 billions.

In addition, in handling waste water from small scale enterprises, Indonesia has applied the value added-based technical assistance. For example, tofu and live stocks waste are treated using bio-digester for renewable energy utilized for household cooking and electricity. We support the replication of appropriate on-the-ground solutions that demonstrate best practices for sustainable nutrient management and pollution reduction. Indonesia also supports efforts to utilize waste water resources through the approach of remove, reuse, reduce and recycle. In this regard, Indonesia requests the coordination office to help member states by providing access and modalities to innovative solutions and technologies.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen*

Facing such coastal and sea problems, we see that cooperation among countries in the East Asian Seas is a good opportunity for capacity building and knowledge transfer in the context of sustainability of coastal and marine development on the East Asian Seas region.

We view that Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia can continue to be implemented and updated to achieve a healthy Ocean, People and and Economies as the theme of the conference this year.

*Thank you for your kind attention.*

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## **STATEMENT of JAPAN**

**By Hon. Hiroyuki Masuda**

Deputy-Minister for Technical Affairs  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

*Delegate of Republic of the Philippines, Executive Director of PEMSEA, Distinguished Delegates and Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my great honor to have the opportunity to attend the Sixth Ministerial Forum of the EAS Congress and speak to you. Given this valuable opportunity, I would like to introduce our ocean policy and international cooperation for marine environment protection.

Japan is one of the world's leading maritime countries with a large exclusive economic zone. Maritime industries have made a great contribution to the development of our country. On the other hand, marine environment protection remains an important issue to be achieved. Sustainable development and use of the ocean has been a major issue for Japan, as well as other member countries.

In order to cope with various problems related to the ocean, Japan enacted the Basic Act on Ocean Policy in 2007. One of the basic philosophies of this Act is "Harmonization of the Development and Use of the Oceans with the Conservation of Marine Environment". In May this year, under this Act, the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy was adopted at the Meeting of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy headed by Shinzo Abe, Japan's Prime Minister. "Promotion of industrial use of the ocean" and "Maintenance and preservation of the marine environment" are defined as fundamental policy of this Plan. This means that our ocean policy is in line with the principle and the direction of SDS-SEA.

Japan's efforts towards ICM are implemented by both emission control laws and environmental protection plan formulated by national and local governments. Japan was plagued by water pollution and red tide occurrence for a long time. As a result of long-standing regulations on wastewater, the quality of water has greatly improved. On the other hand, the nutrient salt concentration in seawater is becoming too low. Thus, we have developed a new management plan for sewage water treatment systems to keep the nutrient salt concentration at an appropriate level. The disappearance of seagrass beds and tidal flats has also become a new issue to be solved because of their important roles for fishes and shellfish laying and breeding. National and local governments are working together to create fish reefs and artificial tidal flats by utilizing old wave dissipating blocks and dredged sand. We are convinced that these efforts would be good examples for PEMSEA. Japan would like to contribute to East Asian countries through the introduction of initiatives and advanced technologies.

I would also like to explain the contribution of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation. For example, the Nippon Foundation has contributed to the World Maritime University and the International Maritime Law Institute with capacity building of developing countries. Graduates of WMU and IMLI are playing important roles of their governments. I would also like to mention Japan's own contribution to PEMSEA. Mr. Makoto Harunari, the technical session chair of PEMSEA, has led various capacity building activities in PEMSEA since July 2013.

Japan considers that PEMSEA could further contribute to the East Asian countries through the strong leadership of Ms. Aimee Gonzales, the new Executive Director of PEMSEA.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Philippine Government for the warm and generous hospitality provided. I would also like to thank all the participants and the PEMSEA secretariat for their great effort and excellent support in making this congress a success.

*Thank you for your kind attention.*

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## STATEMENT OF LAO PDR

**By Hon. Xayaveth Vixay**

Director General  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

*Excellency Hon. Roy A. Cimatu, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines. Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Lao PDR, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and appreciation to the Government and people of the PHILIPPINES and the *Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia* (PEMSEA) for the convening of this important event, The Sixth Ministerial Forum during the East Asian Seas Congress 2018, as well as for the warm welcome and kind hospitality extended to our delegation since our arrival in this beautiful City of Iloilo.

In the past, Lao PDR have made some key achievements which I would like to share such as the completion and adoption of the Five Year Action Plan on Natural Resources and Environment 2016-2020, Strategy for 2025, and Vision 2030. In these three timeframes, water resource management and its implementation is the main focus. We are currently in the mid-term review process for the implementation of this Action Plan to aid us in its updating and further refinement. Moreover, after a series of consultations with concerned line agencies both at the central and district level and a comprehensive process, I am proud to share that we recently passed the updated Water and Water Resources Law, which was officially adopted by the National Assembly in May 2017 and signed by the President in June 2017. In the regional context, Lao PDR is implementing and up scaling the implementation of the Mekong-Integrated Water Resources Management Program, the Ten-year Strategic Framework of the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Program, the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan of the Lower Mekong River Basin 2016-2020, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), and the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action for Water Resources Management.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Laos and PEMSEA's good partnership started in 2008. 11 years since and stronger cooperation between Lao Government and PEMSEA is behind the on-going implementation IWRM in Sedone River Basin (Champasack, Saravanh and Sekong Province), which is one of the ten priority river basins in Laos. We are delighted with this partnership and we look forward for even stronger partnership in the years ahead. Some of the major achievements in implementing the SDS-SEA particularly in addressing the water issues in Sedone River Basin, include:

1. Adoption and continuing implementation of the Sedone Sustainable Development Strategy;
2. On-going implementation of the work plan 2018-2019 for the SDS-SEA Scaling Up Project in support of the implementation of the Sedone Sustainable Development Strategy;
3. Updated Water and Water Resources Law, which was passed and approved by the Lao National Assembly and the President in May and June 2017, respectively;
4. Developing and updating of 8 regulations under the Water and Water Resources Law;
5. Four staff trained on Water Quality Analysis and Monitoring in a regional water quality training organized by Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries (MOF), RO Korea in 2017 and 2018;
6. Capacity strengthening of 4 staffs through the Regional Traineeship Program at the PEMSEA office here in the Philippines (2017 & 2018).

Currently, PEMSEA and MONRE are implementing the SDS SEA Project in support of the implementation of national priorities and the Sedone Sustainable Development Strategy, including:

- Review and development of the National River Basin Strategy, 2030 and the Water Resources Fee Guideline;
- Development of a National IWRM Demonstration Site in Houay Pail, Saravan City, Saravan Province;
- Development of sub-river basin management and implementation plans in 3 sub-basins in Sedone River Basin;
- Implementation of the Sedone Sustainable Development Strategy focusing on water use and supply and livelihood management;
- Continuing capacity strengthening of national and local personnel to support the implementation of national priorities and the Sedone River Basin Sustainable Development Strategy;

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Together with the above achievements, we also have lessons learned and remaining challenges. To name a few of our lessons learned: the need for regular review and updating of policies to ensure that they are adaptive to current developments; the need for setting up the enabling mechanisms both at the local and national level for IWRM/IRBM implementation, including policies, laws, strategies and strengthening of institutional capacity; and most importantly, the implementation of on-the-ground activities that will allow our communities to see and understand the benefits of implementing IWRM projects. This, in the end will encourage their participation to IWRM-related activities.

Last but not the least, we hope that PEMSEA will be with us, and will continue its support in strengthening national and local capacity for the sustainable development and management of our rivers in Laos. We hope that PEMSEA will be able to develop more projects and source funds to continue its support to countries in the region for sustainable development and management of our rivers, oceans and coasts.

On behalf of the Government of Lao PDR and the MONRE, I would like to congratulate PEMSEA and for all its big achievements in the past 25 years and in the coming years to come. Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

*Thank you!*  
*Khop Chai!*

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## STATEMENT OF PHILIPPINES

**By Hon. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh**

Undersecretary, Climate Change Service and Mining Concerns,  
Department of Environment and Natural Resource

*25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies:  
Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda*

*Honorable Ministers and Country Representatives to the Ministerial Forum, Ladies and Gentlemen:  
Greetings and our warmest welcome to all of you.*

The Philippines is privileged to host the Sixth Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas Congress 2018, which includes the International Conference, the Meeting of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments and the Fifth East Asian Seas Youth Forum. These international events serve as inspiration for the various stakeholders represented here to strengthen the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the country, particularly Goal 14, by contributing to the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia or the SDS-SEA.

The waters of the Republic of the Philippines cover a total area of two million two hundred thousand (2,200,000) square kilometers including the exclusive economic zone, are endowed with biologically diverse and economically important coastal and marine resources such as coral reefs, mangroves, estuarine areas, beaches, and productive fisheries. With a coastline that stretches more than thirty six thousand (36,000) kilometers, our seas and the resources therein have served as the lifeblood of Filipino communities, providing ecosystem services for present and future generations to come. More so, a prominent scientific study done by the Carpenters et al in 2005, declared our country as the center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity. Despite these distinctions, our coastal and marine ecosystems and resources constantly face multiple natural and anthropogenic threats.

The Government has been addressing these threats and issues for the past several decades. Notable laws covering the management and protection of the environment, particularly the coastal and marine sector, were passed, the most recent being the Republic Act 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, an amendment of the NIPAS Act of 1992. This law declares 94 protected areas within the classification of National Park and is consistent with global efforts to place key biodiversity areas under a regime of effective management and ensure the sustainable utilization of resources. For the fisheries sector, Republic Act 10654, known as the Amended Fisheries Code of the Philippines, was passed in February 2015. This law strengthens the sanctions against illegal commercial fishers and poachers and intensifies the crackdown on illegal fishing. Other relevant existing laws to promote protection of coastal and marine resources include the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, the Climate Change Act of 2009, the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008, and the Clean Water Act of 2004.

Under Executive Order No. 533 series of 2006, the Philippines is committed to the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management or ICM as a national strategy to ensure the Sustainable Development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources and establishment of its supporting

mechanisms. The Philippine Development Plan for 2017 to 2022 ensures the promotion of the ecological integrity of our ridge to reef environment through the institutionalization of ICM and its prioritization as a Legislative Agenda.

These frameworks cover the major sustainable development aspects specified in the SDS-SEA such as Integrated Coastal Management, Spatial Planning, Environmental Assessment, Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services, Economic, Financial and Fiscal Instruments, Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management, Marine Protected Areas, and Natural Resource Access Rights.

To achieve the goal of sustainable development, through the partnership and collaboration with PEMSEA, ICM sites were established for the management of coastal and marine habitats. Each site and pollution hotspot has identified the critical threats to their natural habitats as a priority concern. Local actions were formulated and being implemented to address these threats and to protect, restore and manage natural habitats. Through such actions, ICM sites contribute to conserve biodiversity and sustain the goods and services generated by their respective coastal ecosystems.

PEMSEA has developed Strategic Action Plans for pollution reduction. Most local governments have given priority to address nutrient reduction and other waste management problems to reduce the negative impacts of eutrophication, marine litter, urban garbage and hospital wastes, which affect the health and economic well-being of urban centers. Together with this initiative, is the implementation of the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP). The NSSMP, as part of the integrated framework of water quality management, provides technology interventions and institutional and financial frameworks to guide LGUs, Water Districts, and local project proponents to address national issues on wastewater sanitation.

In order to fully realize the objectives and mainstream the ICM to the national and local government efforts, the Philippines has embarked on a 12-year program, the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program or CMEMP. This program builds on the previous and existing initiatives to holistically and effectively manage the country's coastal and marine resources, thereby increasing their ability to provide ecological goods and services to improve the quality of life of the coastal population. Particularly, ensuring food security, climate change resiliency and disaster risk reduction.

In 2017, a total of 20 Marine Protected Area Networks has been initiated bringing an additional 1.15 million hectares to an existing 2.7 million hectares under a form of management regime. In addition, about 200 biodiversity friendly enterprises have already been supported by the Program primarily to ease pressure on marine and coastal resources. As an archipelagic country with over 900 coastal municipalities, about 300 municipalities have already been assisted with coastal and marine resources management strategies. Advocacy campaigns among the 33 National Marine Protected Areas have been initiated to ensure engagement and partnership with all stakeholders in the area.

Recognizing the importance of a science-based management approach, CMEMP supported ocean acidification baseline studies in select national MPAs, coastal stability assessment, mapping, impact monitoring, resiliency studies and updating of coral reef baseline data in the West Philippine Sea and the Philippine Rise, in partnership with academic institutions. Parallel to this, policy integration and gap analysis are likewise being done to evaluate the values of the socio-economic strategies and their

implications to charting a roadmap towards a Blue Economy and finding synergies to mainstream adaptive management measures in building resiliency to meet the climate change challenge.

The Philippines is also proud to share to the whole Region, the establishment of its first offshore marine protected area – the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve – through the Presidential Proclamation issued in May this year. The MPA is found to harbor a significantly large contiguous mesophotic reef area that is in pristine condition, and was identified as one of the Ecologically and Biologically Marine Significant Areas (EBSA) in the Seas of East Asia by the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2016. Currently, multi-stakeholder consultations are already being done for the development of the area's Management Plan and the creation of its management body.

Consistent with the sustainable development efforts and utmost regard to environmental protection and conservation, the Government declared a six-month closure of the world-renowned tropical tourist destination, the Boracay Island. This is to pave the way to its intensive rehabilitation from severe environmental damages on water quality caused by tourist influx and poor sewerage system, among others.

The multi-agency and multi-stakeholder rehabilitation work focused on law enforcement, pollution control and prevention, ecosystems recovery and rehabilitation, infrastructure and facilities development, responsible social services, and sustainable economic activities. Boracay was reopened to public last 26 October, but the rehabilitation work will continue to strengthen the rehabilitation sustainability plan with the local government unit and other stakeholders in the area.

The Philippines also emphasizes the importance of collaboration between the environment and fishery sectors and the promotion of innovative and sustainable practices to ensure national food security. Among the initiatives of the government to advance these are the Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan, which establishes a framework for optimal development and long-term sustainability of Philippine fisheries for the period of 2006-2025, and the Philippine National Aquasilviculture Program (PNAP), which focuses on mangrove resource rehabilitation and livelihood provision to help address climate change, food security and poverty among municipal/artisanal coastal fisherfolks.

Realizing that sustainable development efforts in ocean management required collaborative actions as well, the Philippines remains committed to various multi-lateral, regional and global cooperation and coordination platforms, some examples being our active involvement in the Regional Program on Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment.

During the Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals held in the country last year, the Philippines proposed the resolution on “Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species”, which was approved. We are thus proud and excited to host the first ever Global Coastal Forum in 2019, which will aim to provide a support mechanism for coastal wetlands restoration and strengthen their management worldwide.

Through our partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), twenty (20) out of 115 projects have been supported under the International Waters focal area, with an approximate overall funding of US\$139,000,000. These projects support the implementation of the *SDS-SEA*, which incorporates and complements relevant international conventions, existing regional and international action programs, agreements and instruments, as well as applicable principles and implementation approaches for achieving sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia, *the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea*, which provides assistance in taking actions to the prevention, reduction, control and elimination of the causes of degradation of the marine and freshwater environment, and *the development of the Regional Strategic Action Plan for the Sulu-Sulawesi Ecoregion*, which enables the integrated, collaborative and participatory management of fisheries and their habitats at the local, national and tri-national levels.

As we celebrate our gains and achievements in our 25 years of partnership in the East Asian Seas Region through PEMSEA, it is also an opportune time to look back, reflect and assess. Although significant advancements in ICM have been made through our National and Regional Programs, it remains a challenging process. We must keep in mind the struggles encountered along the way, and make necessary adjustments for a more efficient and effective undertaking. Some significant questions about “integration” remain: *What initiatives do we need to continue, enhance or strengthen? What existing programs can we scale up? What innovations can we still pursue?*

We still need to develop practical approaches for mainstreaming ICM into our existing regulatory, planning, and pollution control strategies, and to our natural resources conservation frameworks, namely for the management of our fisheries and biodiversity. We must find ways to effectively incorporate key climate change adaptation measures in local coastal areas management plans. It is not enough that we have planted seeds in the LGUs, rather, we must continuously support and provide guidance on ways to move forward and have sustainable coastal and marine resources conservation initiatives at the grassroots level. We also need to develop and acquire reliable and affordable scientific and legal tools so we can undertake local risk and hazard assessment processes.

As we answer these basic challenges on ICM implementation, we embark towards the direction of promoting and establishing Blue Economy. The first step is to agree, at least at the Regional level, on a scientific definition of what a sustainable Blue Economy is. Then we proceed to formulate our Road Map where we can identify our regional operational and measurable goals and targets.

The Road Map should be able to guide us in making decisions on the necessary trade-offs, such as issues on reclamation and population management that we will encounter as we implement national and regional priority actions to spur economic growth. The integration of the Blue, Green, and Circular Economy agendas is integral to ensuring that society operates in such a way that the natural resources on which it depends are restored, protected, and maintained.

Lastly, this Road Map should identify concrete steps to address the IPCC report stating the need to maintain carbon emission-driven global warming below 1.5 degrees Centigrade. Now is the right time to push forward the agenda of coastal and marine ecosystems conservation, given how extensive their services are to the people, in every key legislation available on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Safeguarding the health of our coastal and marine resources while enhancing the approaches needed to sustainably support livelihoods, food security and jobs well into the future is critical. In all these challenges, we see opportunities in Regional Partnership and Cooperation. The more we see the

relevance of working together through various Regional Mechanisms, such as PEMSEA, the more effective and imperative our collaborations become.

Hence, we enjoin fellow Country Partners to a more strengthened partnership as member-states representing the national governments in close collaboration with the local governments. Our partnership has provided a platform for voices to be heard at the global setting. It is only through these linkages and interconnectivities that we can save the communities in our Region and around the globe in the midst of challenges we face on biodiversity conservation and our vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Let us maintain the synergies that have been established under the ICM framework through capacity building, promulgation of responsive policies and legislations, inclusion in country's Development Agenda and Plans, data and information sharing, and observing best practices in addressing the said challenges. Let us strengthen our support to our Regional Partnership by mobilizing resources, providing technical expertise, and expanding our networks, including private sector engagement. Let us open our doors to possible new partners in order for us to grow as a community. We must learn from the initiatives of other regions and continue relying on scientific data to support our decision-making process.

It is inspiring and heartwarming that the cooperation we now have in the East Asian Seas Region can be capitalized in propelling this one spirit and goal for our existence and for the generations to come.

Thank you to all our Partner countries for our partnerships.

We would like also to acknowledge the hard and excellent work of PRF in putting together the outputs of the Conference as guide for actions in the future years.

Congratulations to all participants for a productive and successful Congress.

*Again, thank you very much and Mabuhay!*

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## STATEMENT of RO KOREA

**By Hon. Junkwon Park**

Commissioner  
Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

*Excellency Secretary Roy Cimatu, Fellow Ministers, Professor Antonio La Vina, the chair of the PEMSEA Council, Ms. Aimee Gonzales, the Executive Director of PEMSEA Resource Facility, And ladies and gentlemen,*

Good Afternoon. I am Jun-Kwon Park, the commissioner of the Korean Maritime Safety Tribunal and head of the Korean delegation to the EAS Congress 2018.

The government of RO Korea congratulates the successful hosting of the EAS Congress 2018. This triennial event is a significant milestone of the achievements of PEMSEA member countries and a venue to set forth ocean agendas in support of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

The government of RO Korea extends its utmost appreciation to the government of the Republic of the Philippines for hosting this important triennial Congress and the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Forum. The Philippines has constantly shown its leadership in the ocean agendas and promoted collaboration among ocean nations in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

We also deeply appreciate PEMSEA Resource Facility for the successful organization of this important event in good collaboration with the host country. The East Asian region has been the global center for the world's economic growth for the last ten years. And the needs to protect our ocean and its ecosystem are growing stronger than ever before. While the member countries have accomplished the extensive economic growth in the past decades, PEMSEA has played a pivotal role in developing and implementing the ocean agendas and pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals in the East Asian region.

The government of RO Korea considers the ocean as one of the sources of our prosperity and a conduit to reach out to other countries. Hence, RO Korea established a government agency integrating all ocean related functions such as fisheries, marine policy, marine environment, port and harbor and ocean navigation into one ministry. Founded in 1996, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries is intensively involved in the ocean agendas around the world and strives to realize the vision of "Korea, Global Ocean Power".

Among many significant laws handled by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, recently enacted 'the Act on Marine Spatial Planning and Management' illustrates the current direction of ocean management of RO Korea. With the growing demands for development of marine space, the legally and scientifically sound system for efficient and effective management of ocean space is now in place. We believe that the act will be instrumental in promoting the sustainable use of marine resources and the growth of ocean economy.

The government of RO Korea has also found a growth engine in ocean energy sector. Clean energy sources, such as ocean current energy, wave power energy and ocean thermal gradient energy, will play their role in fighting against climate change and supporting the sustainable development. Recently, carbon absorption and storage function of marine ecosystem, namely, mudflat, halophyte and sea grass, which are called collectively as Blue Carbon, is gaining attention. RO Korea will continue its research on Blue

Carbon and contribute to the protection of Blue Carbon sources and vulnerable marine habitats that host Blue Carbon assets.

The global community is now realizing the severity of the marine litter problem and discusses the solutions actively. We are hearing the media informing the adverse impacts of marine litter to marine ecosystem and its marine species almost every day. Marine litter is a ubiquitous problem as the oceans are interconnected and marine litter is occurring all over the world. This is why we need to work and act altogether.

RO Korea has a long history of action against marine litter. We have established national programs for marine litter management since 2005 and established comprehensive management plans for marine litter every 5 years since 2009. The 3rd comprehensive marine litter management plan is entering into action in 2019. The plan covers programs and projects for prevention and reduction of sources, clean up and advocate activities, research and development for post-harvest litter treatment, monitoring and surveillance as well as public participatory outreach programs.

Based on our extensive and successful experiences and technologies in marine litter management, the government of RO Korea welcomes the collaboration with PEMSEA countries in combat against marine litter.

In our endeavor to sustainable coastal and ocean development, the government is closely collaborating with local governments and establishing a strong partnership with relevant institutes. The five PEMSEA's non-country partners, namely, KOEM, KIOST, MABIK, KMI and KEI, are working arms of the government in developing and implementing marine policies. The government of RO Korea and its 5 non-country partners will collaboratively support the implementation of SDS-SEA.

As a leading maritime nation, RO Korea is committed to continuing its work on the implementation of SDS-SEA. As a member of PEMSEA, the government will support PEMSEA Resource Facility in pursuing the sustainability through a secondment of a government officer and an annual contribution.

The government of RO Korea again expresses its deepest appreciation to the government of the Republic of the Philippines for the wonderful hospitality and hosting of the EAS Congress 2018 and the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Forum.

*Thank you very much.*

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## STATEMENT of SINGAPOORE

**By Hon. Amy Khor**

Senior Minister of State  
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

*Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is an honour to participate in the Sixth Ministerial Forum. On behalf of Singapore, I would like to express my appreciation for the warm and gracious hospitality provided by the Government of the Philippines through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. I would also like to thank PEMSEA for your effort in organising the EAS Congress 2018.

Let me first outline Singapore's approach to sustainable development and coastal and ocean management. As a small island developing state with no natural resources, Singapore has always sought to achieve economic development in tandem with environmental protection and social inclusion. Given our limited land, we have taken a pragmatic approach in balancing our needs. Singapore's coastal areas are heavily utilised for industry, particularly port operations, ship building and petrochemical industries, as well as housing and recreational areas for our population. And yet, because of our careful approach to development, Singapore's coastal and marine environment has continued to support a surprisingly diverse range of habitats and biodiversity. Singapore's inter-tidal and sub-tidal reef areas, at just over 12 square kilometres in size, are home to over 250 hard coral species, 12 seagrass species, 100 marine fish species, and countless others.

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) in 2003 and the update in 2015, the SDS-SEA has been aligned closely to the Sustainable Development Goals under the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Singapore has also ensured that our SDS-SEA efforts are in line with broader sustainable development efforts. As part of the Da Nang Compact, Singapore has also completed our State of Coasts and Oceans Report 2018 on our progress in implementing SDS-SEA.

In 2009, Singapore adapted PEMSEA's Integrated Coastal Management principles to our local context by incorporating an urban perspective in the framework. Singapore's Integrated Urban Coastal Management has enabled us to carefully manage and preserve our fragile marine environment in a holistic and integrated manner for future generations. We have established Singapore's first marine park, the Sisters' Islands Marine Park which spans 40 hectares and houses a wide range of marine habitats, including coral reefs, sandy shores and seagrass areas. The Marine Park showcases our unique biodiversity within the sub-tidal reefs, inter-tidal areas and coastal forests, and educates visitors about our marine natural heritage. We have also developed the Marine Conservation Action Plan (MCAP), which is grounded in science and guides our efforts in conserving Singapore's marine habitats and biodiversity. Physical safeguarding, community stewardship, habitat enhancement and species recovery are the four main thrusts under the MCAP.

Singapore takes the issue of marine pollution very seriously as it is a key challenge facing the seas in our region. We have stringent policies to prevent marine pollution from land-based sources. For example, all discharge of trade effluent, oil, chemicals, and sewage are tightly controlled so that they do not cause

pollution to our watercourses. We also enforce strict anti-littering laws, and have an integrated waste management system to minimise waste at source and collect all waste for proper disposal so that waste will not be washed into the ocean. Waterway clean-up measures prevent land-based litter, including plastic waste, from reaching the sea. In addition to preventing pollution, Singapore conducts regular water quality monitoring of inland water bodies and coastal areas to ensure that they meet international water quality standards.

Going forward, we will implement mandatory reporting of plastic and packaging waste data and waste reduction plans by 2020, and are exploring the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework for packaging, which will address the upstream components of land-based sources of marine pollution. These would include single-use plastics. However, Government efforts are not enough. Fostering shared ownership in keeping the environment clean and minimizing waste is key. We partner the People, Private and Public sectors on initiatives that reduce waste generation and promote recycling. Environmental groups help raise awareness and encourage the public to keep our city and watercourses clean.

Singapore is also committed to developing a maritime transport industry that is responsible and sustainable. To promote clean and green shipping in Singapore, the Maritime Singapore Green Initiative (MSGI) was launched in 2011 to reduce the environmental impact of shipping and shipping-related activities on the coastal and marine environment. The Maritime Port and Authority of Singapore (MPA) has pledged to invest up to S\$100 million under the MSGI's expanded programmes, namely, the Green Ship Programme; the Green Port Programme; the Green Technology Programme; the Green Awareness Programme and the Green Energy Programme. Ship owners are also encouraged to adopt environmentally-friendly practices and reduce the environmental impact of their operations through these programmes.

Singapore was one of the first countries in Asia to ratify all six Annexes of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) MARPOL Convention, the main international convention to prevent pollution by ships, including prohibiting the discharge of plastics into the sea. MPA also works with the IMO to provide capacity building courses for countries under the MPA-IMO Third Country Training Programme (TCTP), which offers courses on the implementation of relevant IMO instruments, including those that protect the marine environment through the prevention of pollution from ships.

The Seas of East Asia are an important resource. We recognize that PEMSEA has been working closely with its partners to contribute to the sustainable development and management of the region's marine and coastal resources. More can be done. We are confident that the expertise and capacities that PEMSEA has helped to build up will continue to make a positive impact.

Singapore strongly supports the Ministerial Declaration that will re-affirm our commitment to sustainable coastal and marine development in our region. It is our hope that the Seas of East Asia will continue to be a precious resource. I am confident that, collectively, we can achieve sustainable coastal and marine development for the benefit, not just of our current, but also our future generations.

*Thank you for your kind attention.*

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## Statement of TIMOR-LESTE

By Hon. Cesar Jose da Cruz

Secretary-General  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

*Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,*

First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and The Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, I would like to convey my sincere and grateful thanks to the organizers of the sixth Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas (EAS Congress) 2018 of PEMSEA and the host country, the Republic of the Philippines for creating favorable conditions for Timorese delegation to attend this congress with the theme “25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: *Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda.*”

It is a great honor for me to deliver a statement on behalf of His Excellency Joaquim José Gusmão dos Reis Martins (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries), who actually would like to attend this sixth ministerial forum by himself, but unfortunately, due to other urgent commitments, he could not be present here today with all of us.

Timor-Leste has a coastline of around 783 km and approximately 72,000 km square of Exclusive Economic Zone waters that are rich in marine biodiversity, and out of a total of 12 municipalities and 1 Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno, 11 municipalities have coastal areas.

Recognizing the importance of natural and marine and coastal resources and environment to the sustainable development of the country, the National Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030) has set specific targets for:

- 1) ensuring environmental protection and conservation including addressing climate change, conservation of forests, land and sea areas, biodiversity, renewable energy and pollution control;
- 2) protection, conservation and efficient utilization of water resources;
- 3) improving access to clean water and sanitation across the country; and
- 4) improving sustainable fisheries management including protection and preservation of marine habitats and resources.

*Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,*

In relation to the national priorities and targets, Timor-Leste has the specific program with PEMSEA, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, as a leading sector for the inter-ministerial forum, has been coordinating the implementation of a work programme for scaling up the implementation of the SDS-SEA in Timor-Leste (2015-2019) that will focus on:

- 1) developing a policy and plan for integrated management of marine and coastal resources and establishing an inter-agency and multi-sectoral coordination and management mechanism for coastal and ocean governance;
- 2) initiating national and local capacity development initiatives to support scaling up of SDS-SEA and ICM implementation, including engaging national universities as partners in training and capacity building;

- 3) developing local capacity to implement ICM programs addressing priority issues and concerns in the municipalities of Manatuto, Liquiça and Dili;
- 4) mainstreaming ICM strategies and action plans into government plans and budget plans, and exploring alternative sources of financing including developing partnerships with private sector, donors and other financing institutions; and
- 5) developing a State of the Coast reporting system for the purpose of informing local and national government officials and other concerned stakeholders about changes and trends that are occurring in the coastal environment and the implications on coastal and marine resources and their uses.

*Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,*

In line with Timor-Leste context, the contribution of the fisheries sector to national production and income generation is still relatively low. Other constraints in the development of domestic offshore fishery and aquaculture industries will be dependent upon an export opportunity market. By this prospective improvement, our government has been ongoing progress for negotiating our maritime boundaries, especially with our neighbor countries such as Indonesia and Australia on how to co-manage the IUU (*Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated*) fishing practices in Timor Sea.

And other strategies that have been ongoing progress are proactively in the memberships of RPOA of IUU Fishing, ACP/SPC, ATSEA Project, CTI-CFF, PEMSEA, CPLP and other relevant bilateral/multilateral cooperations.

With regard to specific activities in relation with marine environment threats including unsustainable fisheries for Timor-Leste, our government still needs strengthening of capacity for regional and sub regional cooperation in marine resources management in terms of capacity needs assessment on fisheries staff, fishermen and aquaculture farmers and other related income generation and gender mainstreaming.

These all considerations will be a part of future effect of the PEMSEA's added values for Timor-Leste to take the opportunities and challenges for blue economy development. Timor-Leste also has the consistent commitment to participate actively in regional and international meetings on ocean related issues.

For example, with the specific presence of our minister, 7 voluntary commitments were delivered in the UN Ocean Conference in New York-USA (June 2017) such as:

- 1) implement the national pollution awareness on Zero Plastic Policy,
- 2) approve and implement our Ocean Policy,
- 3) combat IUU Fishing while protecting the key biodiversity areas,
- 4) review our fishing licensing and fees,
- 5) mapping our highly vulnerable coastline to guide sustainable development and protect the fragile areas from climate change,
- 6) develop a suite of nature-based tourism guidelines to protect the marine life, and
- 7) ratify CITES (*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*).

Besides that, Timor-Leste also participated in the ministerial meeting of the Ocean Meeting in Lisbon-Portugal (September 2018) for delivering the declaration on blue circular economy, green shipping and port tech cluster, and also recently participated a joint declaration for the first ministerial meeting of the Archipelagic and Island State (AIS) Forum in Manado-Indonesia (November 2018).

*Distinguished delegates,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

In this best opportunity I would like to emphasize that the Government of Timor-Leste has the commitment to adopt an updated SDS-SEA Implementation Plan with new targets and schedule that is aligned and more responsive to the emerging needs of the region, and consistent with its vision of establishing a sustainable East Asian Seas.

Besides that our government is also recognizing the value of balancing social, environmental and economic aspects to achieve sustainable development in the region.

Finally, to conclude my statement, I would like to re-emphasize that the Government of Timor-Leste has strong commitment to support the implementation of the SDS-SEA in the region. We believe that with our all efforts and hard work, we will be continuing to preserve the habitat and marine ecosystems for the availability of fish and other services from the sea for present and future generations, especially for Timor-Leste and the PEMSEA member countries.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the precious support of international friends, especially PEMSEA, the Government of the Philippines, UNDP, and PEMSEA non-country partners in implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. I wish this Sixth Ministerial Forum to have a fruitful outcome and I wish you all a healthy and happy life!

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## **STATEMENT of VIET NAM**

**By Hon. Vu Si Tuan**

Deputy Administrator  
Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

*Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my honor to represent the Government of Viet Nam as the Head of the Delegation to attend the 2018 East Asian Seas Congress and the Sixth Ministerial Forum organized at the beautiful City of Iloilo, Philippines on 27-30 November, 2018.

Viet Nam is a coastal nation and we pay much attention to ensuring the sustainable development of the seas in accordance with the government's orientation for socio-economic development. Integrated coastal management is our first priority in Viet Nam to achieve sustainable development by balancing economic development, social equity and environmental protection.

In Da Nang City, located in the central region of Viet Nam, the National and City Governments have successfully collaborated with PEMSEA 3 years ago to organize the 2015 East Asian Seas Congress. During the Fifth Ministerial Forum, the PEMSEA country partners have approved and adopted the Da Nang Compact and committed to achieving the strategic objectives of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia 2015.

Viet Nam made significant effort for putting in place the necessary mechanisms to contribute to achieving the SDS-SEA strategic objectives. With support from various International organizations, especially PEMSEA, including the internal efforts of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Island, Viet Nam is carrying out the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia through:

- 1) Scaling up the implementation of ICM in 14 coastal provinces of Viet Nam covering close to 70 per cent of the Vietnamese coastline;
- 2) Development of the National State of the Oceans and Coasts Report (NSOC);
- 3) Developed and delivered the legal documents, such as the Law on Natural Resources and Environment of Seas and Islands.
- 4) Developed the Strategy and Plan to carry out the exploitation, and utilization of the natural resources sustainably and environmental protection of the seas and islands until 2020 and vision to 2040
- 5) Developed the strategy and plan to implement ICM in Viet Nam until 2020 and vision to 2030 and other legal documents.
- 6) More importantly, we have completed and reviewed the 10-year experience of the country in carrying out the Strategy of Vietnam's seas and islands. The resolution for the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Viet Nam's Marine Ocean to 2030 and Vision to 2045 has been approved. This is an important mechanism to support the integrated management of the coastal areas in Vietnam.

However, there are a number of challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia and other strategic objectives after 2015 in Viet Nam. These include:

- 1) Lack of spatial planning on natural resources exploitation;
- 2) Lack of spatial planning at the national and local levels;
- 3) Lack of data base and information
- 4) Limited financial resources to carry out the comprehensive programme from the central to local authorities.

In order to facilitate the successful implementation of the SDS-SEA and ICM, we know very well that it is necessary for us to complete the legal system, establish the management and coordination mechanism at the national and local levels, facilitate information and experience sharing, document the lessons learned and also learn from the experiences from countries in the region and other geographic regions of the world. This is important in helping us set the priorities for sustainable development for blue economy in Viet Nam.

I would like to conclude my speech here by expressing our commitment to continue and further strengthening the implementation of the SDS-SEA in Viet Nam.

On behalf of Viet Nam delegation, I would also like to express my gratitude and congratulations to the Government of the Philippines and PEMSEA and other partners for the successful organization of the 2018 East Asian Seas Congress. I wish the Ministers and all of you good health and success.

Thank you and good day.

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**ANNEX 4**  
**ILOILO DECLARATION**



# ILOILO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

## East Asian Region Moving As One to Secure Healthy Oceans, People and Economies

The 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Forum  
East Asian Seas Congress 2018  
November 29, 2018

**WE**, the Representatives of eleven countries bordering on the Seas of East Asia have gathered in Iloilo City, Philippines, on the 29th day of November 2018 to re-affirm our shared commitments for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia to reach our shared vision for healthy oceans, people and economies of the region. On this auspicious occasion, as we together celebrate PEMSEA's twenty-five years, we reflect our satisfaction on the achievements that we have collectively realized and consider our joint future direction.

**WE RE-AFFIRM** our shared commitments made in Putrajaya, Malaysia (2003) to work together towards the sustainable development of the region's coasts and oceans with a common platform under the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

**WE REMAIN** steadfast in our commitments under the Manila Declaration (2009) on strengthening the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for sustainable development and climate change adaptation; the Changwon Declaration (2012) on moving toward an ocean-based blue economy; and the Da Nang Compact (2015) on aligning our strategies in the SDS-SEA with global goals and targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** the significant value and critical contribution of coastal and marine ecosystems goods and services to securing food and jobs; helping to eradicate poverty and building resilient coastal communities and blue economies in the East Asian region. Juxtaposed against these opportunities is the vulnerability of the region to climate change and other environmental threats such as marine-related disasters, destruction and loss of habitats and natural coastlines, biodiversity loss and degradation, overfishing and lack of food security, pollution from land and sea-based sources, and impairment of water quality, water supply and water security.

**WE NOTE** the bold strides that we have collectively taken to transform PEMSEA from a mere program into a self-sustaining regional organization to work towards achieving our shared vision.

**WE FURTHER NOTE** with pride and appreciation, PEMSEA's pioneering work in the region to develop best practices in the design and implementation of the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) approach. PEMSEA is also at the forefront of developing knowledge and capacity to build climate smart policies and enable ocean-based blue economies.



**WE BELIEVE** that PEMSEA remains relevant and is well-positioned to continue performing its role as the regional platform to encourage the development of common policies, building capacity and orchestrating essential collaborative and scaled up actions alongside smart financing to deliver economic and social dividends as well as protect biodiversity and address shrinking coastlines.

**WE BELIEVE FURTHER** that because of its competence, pool of experts, and related body of information generated through its years of work on the ground, PEMSEA has established itself as the coastal and marine knowledge center that can support the region in the effective implementation of the SDS-SEA aligned with the UN SDGs and other international and regional commitments.

**WE ARE CONFIDENT** that PEMSEA will continue to facilitate regional cooperation to respond to the challenges within the context of the rapidly changing social, political, economic and environmental landscapes and encourage the region to move towards a Blue Economy and Sustainable Development of its coasts and oceans.

#### OUR COMMITMENTS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

1. We will continue to work to achieve the remaining targets set under the Danang Compact by 2021, namely,
  - a. 25% ICM coverage of the region's coastlines, and
  - b. the adoption and implementation of ICM national laws and policies in all countries in the region.
2. We will regularly update the State of the Oceans and Coasts reports to highlight the contributions of coasts and oceans to economies. We further commit to establish environmental, social and economic indicators, where appropriate, to measure the development impact of initiatives on the state of the coasts, communities and economies.
3. We recognize the importance of the PEMSEA Resource Facility as the coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. We commit to support its operations through voluntary country contributions beyond 2019.
4. We support PEMSEA's efforts in identifying and developing blue economy investments at the national and local level. We welcome opportunities to work with our partners, both government and non- government, to develop, finance and implement blue economy projects in ICM sites as well as activities set forth in the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022.
5. We acknowledge the current strong momentum to tackle marine debris globally. We commit to significantly reducing or preventing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based and sea-based activities, including marine litter and nutrient pollution.
6. We commit to implementing policies and programs for the sustainable management of coastal tourism destinations. If properly planned and managed, coastal tourism will benefit the environment, the people and the economy. Sustainable tourism planning not only considers social, environmental and economic impacts within the tourist area or facility itself, but also the impacts on the host coastal community, including livelihoods, water and food security, solid waste disposal, water pollution and social and environmental factors.





7. We realize the critical importance of regional collaboration in dealing with coastal and marine hazards such as storm surges and tsunamis. We commit to working together to adopt innovative strategies to raise awareness and build regional capacity to monitor, forecast and provide timely early warnings to support safety of life and property at sea, coastal management and minimization of impact of such hazards.
8. We recognize that we are all parties to the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC and aware of the urgency and seriousness of the threat of climate change to the sustainable development of our countries and region; We commit to implement adaptation and mitigation strategies to respond to climate change.

### PARTNERSHIPS

**WE ARE AWARE** that achieving our goals will require the support of all stakeholders across sectors; We will continue our efforts to improve cooperation and engagement between PEMSEA and other countries, relevant international development organizations, local organizations, the private sector, financial institution and investors, nongovernment organizations, academic and research institutions, communities and grassroots, women and youth organizations.

**WE AGREE** to step up the cooperation with regional organizations to achieve the targets under the SDS-SEA; We recognize the opportunities for increased knowledge, efficiency gains and effectiveness when collectively addressing implementation challenges.

**WE ARE DETERMINED** to continue working together as PEMSEA country partners to deliver our common objectives in line with the SDS-SEA and our regional and global commitments. We are convinced that through our collective actions, PEMSEA will lead to more effective solutions with positive impacts on coastal communities and ecosystems as evidenced in the next regional State of Oceans and Coasts report in 2022.

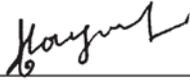
### CONCLUSION

The biggest threat that we face in the region is ourselves, in the way we live our lives and the way we manage our resources. We therefore strongly urge everyone to shift towards a mindset of responsible stewardship, and pledge to take bold steps to protect, manage and restore our coasts and oceans for our present and future generations. PEMSEA Country Partners are ready to engage citizens in East Asia and peoples in other regions to work together to secure our shared vision of healthy oceans, people and economy.



Adopted in Iloilo City, Philippines, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

The Kingdom of Cambodia



**Hon. Vann Monyneath**  
Deputy Secretary General  
National Council for  
Sustainable Development  
Ministry of Environment

The People's Republic of China



**Hon. Zhang Zhi**  
Director General  
International Cooperation  
Ministry of Natural Resources

The Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea



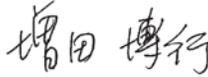
**Hon. Ri Myong San**  
Vice Minister  
Ministry of External Economic  
Relations

Republic of Indonesia



**Hon. M.R. Karliansyah**  
Director General  
Environmental Pollution and  
Degradation Control  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Japan



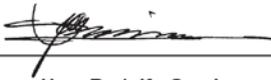
**Hon. Hiroyuki Masuda**  
Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,  
Transport and Tourism

Lao People's Democratic  
Republic



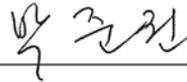
**Hon. Xayaveth Vixay**  
Director General  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
and Environment

Republic of the Philippines



**Hon. Rodolfo Garcia**  
Undersecretary  
Department of Environment and  
Natural Resources

Republic of Korea



**Hon. Jun-Kwon Park**  
Commissioner  
Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal  
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Republic of Singapore



**Hon. Amy Khor**  
Senior Minister of State  
Ministry of the Environment and  
Water Resources

The Democratic Republic of  
Timor-Leste



**Hon. Cesar Jose da Cruz**  
Secretary-General  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Socialist Republic of  
Viet Nam



**Hon. Vu Si Tuan**  
Deputy Administrator  
Viaet Nam Administration of Seas  
and Islands  
Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Environment