

Summary of the EAS Congress International Conference and Recommendations

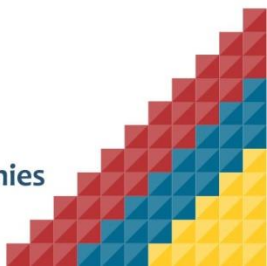
Dr. ChuaThia-Eng

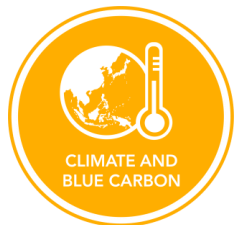
Chair Emeritus, EAS Partnership Council

Overall International Conference Chair of the EAS Congress 2018

International Conference

- Theme: “25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda”,
- Objectives: The EAS Congress 2018 aims to involve all relevant stakeholders to: Map and align, Share, Build, Track, Contribute
- Program of Activities: Ocean Talk and SEAExchange, Partnership Hubs
- Number of countries represented: 19
- Number of participants/profile of participants: Attended by more than 900 stakeholders from National and Local Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, bilateral and multi-lateral projects, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, and other stakeholders





TRACK 1

CLIMATE AND BLUE CARBON

Session 1.1

Establishing a Blue Carbon Research in EAS Region

CONVENERS:



Korea Marine Environment
Management Corporation



Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of
East Asia

SPONSOR:



Ministry of Oceans and
Fisheries, RO Korea

Session 1.2

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

CONVENERS:



ICLEI-Local Governments
for Sustainability



Department of Environment
and Natural Resources,
Philippines

Session 1.3

Climate Change Mitigation?: Blue Carbon is Nature's Way to Do It

CONVENER:



The CTI Blue Carbon Project



TRACK 2

MARINE POLLUTION AND CLEAN WATER

Session 2.1

The IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative for Southeast Asia: A Partnership Approach Delivering Global Good Practices Regionally

Session 2.2

Enhancing Ways to Reducing Impact of Marine Debris in the East Asian Seas Region

Session 2.3

Marine Plastic Pollution: A Global Issue with National and Local Solutions

Session 2.4

Catalyzing Improved Source to Sea (S2S) Governance, Management and Investment in East Asia and Southeast Asia

CONVENERS:

IPIECA

International Petroleum
Industry Environmental
Conservation Association



Oil Spill Response Limited



International Tanker Owners
Pollution Federation Limited



IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative
for Southeast Asia

CONVENERS:



Korea Marine Environment
Management Corporation

COLLABORATORS:



Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of
East Asia



First Institute of
Oceanography of China

CONVENERS:



First Institute of
Oceanography of China



United Nations Development
Programme



Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of
East Asia



International Union for
Conservation of Nature

CONVENERS:



United Nations Development
Programme



Food and Agriculture
Organization



Partnerships in Environmental
Management for the Seas of
East Asia



TRACK 3

BIODIVERSITY AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Session 3.1

Focus on Coastal Fisheries: Issues, Opportunities and Solutions

Session 3.2

MABIK: Promoting Biodiversity in the Seas of East Asia

Session 3.3

Partnerships to Scale Up Community-Based Ocean and Coastal Management

Session 3.4

Focus on Coastal Fisheries: Issues, Opportunities and Solutions

CONVENER:



ASEAN Center for
Biodiversity

SPONSOR:



European Union

CONVENER:



Marine Biodiversity
Institute of Korea

CONVENER:



Small Grants Programme

CONVENER:



RARE Philippines



TRACK 4

GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

Session 4.1

Local Actions Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Targets

CONVENER:



PEMSEA Network of
Local Governments

Session 4.2

From one to many: managing MPA networks for a collaborative and adaptive marine biodiversity conservation actions

CONVENER:



SMARTSeas

Session 4.3

Two Decades of Cooperation in the NOWPAP: Charting the Way Forward for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

CONVENER:



Northwest Pacific
Action Plan

Session 4.4

Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs): An Engine for Achieving SDG14

CONVENER:



IWLearn

Session 4.5

Legal and Institutional Mechanisms to Manage the Marine Environment in the Seas of Southeast Asia: Status and Way Forward

CONVENER:



Centre for International
Law, National University
of Singapore



TRACK 5

RESEARCH AND TOOLS

Session 5.1

Speed Dating with Technical Tools for Strengthening Coastal Management

Session 5.2

Satellite Observation Data-Based Systems for Improved Coastal and Marine Management: Moving from Research to Services

Session 5.3

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

Session 5.4

Higher Education Forum on Implementation of UN SDG 14 and Other Related Ocean and Coastal Goals

CONVENER:



CONVENERS:



COLLABORATOR:



CONVENERS:



CONVENER:





TRACK 6

OCEAN INDUSTRY AND FINANCE

Session 6.1

Empowering Women, Balancing Gender, Adapting for Climate Change and Strengthening Marine Environmental Protection in the Port and Maritime Sector

Session 6.2

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

Session 6.3

Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: How Important is Biodiversity Financing?

Session 6.4

Ocean Energy: The Future of Blue Economy

Session 6.5

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

CONVENERS:



CONVENER:



CONVENER:



CONVENERS:



COLLABORATOR:



CONVENER:





TRACK 7

BLUE ECONOMY FORUM

Session 7.1

Capitalizing Upon Blue Economy Potentials for SDG14

Session 7.2

Interdisciplinary Research to Underpin Sustainable Planning and Management for Blue Economy

Session 7.3

SOC Reports and Blue Economy Innovations, Emerging Industries and Governance

CONVENER:



CONVENER:



CONVENERS:



Partnership Hub Track 1: Climate and Blue Carbon

Recommended Actions

1. Research efforts should be coordinated through network of research institutes within EAS region in order to expedite and maximize the resources for such efforts. PEMSEA is requested to consider coordinating the establishment of such a network focusing on, for example:
 - a) improved tracking of blue carbon gains and losses, quantification and reporting of GHG emissions and removals;
 - b) measuring and weighing the significance of coastal blue carbon ecosystems across policy areas, planning and development documents, at regional, national and local levels;
 - c) providing scientific basis and input to climate change vulnerability assessments, adaptation and resilience plans and promoting the role of coastal blue carbon ecosystems as a vehicle for sustainable environmental infrastructure; and
 - d) building on/strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation of PEMSEA countries to enhance joint planning and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation through the NDC framework.

Partnership Hub Track 2: Marine Pollution and Clean Water

Recommended Actions

1. National and local governments of the region, international/regional organizations, financial institutions, donors, investors, the private sector and universities/research institutions need to work collaboratively and in a mutually supportive manner over the next 3 years to demonstrate progress in:
 - a) overcoming marine litter and plastics mismanagement, including: i) development and implementation of targeted research; ii) demonstration projects that provide learning experiences and best practices in innovative technologies, financing and public-private partnership mechanisms; and iii) enhanced capacity development, monitoring and information sharing;
 - b) Developing and demonstrating a 'regional approach' to S2S governance and management, building on existing experiences, sharing knowledge and best practices on effective institutional mechanisms, policies/strategies, legislation, financing, and investments from new projects, and helping to increase S2S effectiveness and reach.

Partnership Hub Track 3: Biodiversity and Coastal Management

Recommended Actions

1. PEMSEA, EU and other potential partners are invited to collaborate with ACB to achieve Target 11, in partnership with ASEAN Member States.
2. PEMSEA and other regional organizations are invited to collaborate with RARE in a multi-stakeholder roundtable discussion to further tackle solutions that work in addressing major issues (e.g., sustainable financing; marine tenure; behavior change; collaboration; and partnerships).

Partnership Hub Track 4: Governance and Partnerships

Recommended Actions

1. PNLG members and other interested local governments with ICM-related programs are requested to pursue ICM certification, with support from PEMSEA and other partners who are familiar with the ICM Code.
2. Regional organizations and countries implementing LME SAPs and regional/sub-regional action plans (e.g., South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Indonesian Seas, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, Yellow Sea) need to:
 - a) strengthen their engagement with the private sector
 - b) capture the lessons learned in achieving the SDG 14 targets for scaling up efforts and replication
 - c) work closely together, especially those that share a country within their boundaries.
3. PEMSEA is requested to collaborate with other regional organizations to avoid overlap between existing bodies, to collaborate on the development and implementation of actions plans and other initiatives that would be complementary and cost-effective.

Partnership Hub Track 5: Research and Tools

Recommended Actions

1. PEMSEA is requested to partner with local governments and other institutions to promote and apply new and innovative tools for planning, implementation and management of ICM programs.
2. Government agencies at all levels are invited to consider Earth Observation use in developing and implementing environmental management plans.
3. PEMSEA is requested to facilitate mentoring and twinning activities for better policy making and decision making through closer collaboration between local governments and the academe through PNLG and PNLC networks.

Track 6: Ocean Industry and Finance

Recommended Actions

1. PEMSEA, IMO and WIMA Asia are requested to collaborate on the mechanics of forming a maritime and port sector network in the region, as well as making women and gender balance a part of future workshops and EAS Congresses.
- 2 a) PEMSEA is encouraged to continue working with local, national, regional and global partners to fulfill these opportunities to develop financing approaches and build a pipeline of investible projects.
- 2 b) PEMSEA and other development partners in the EAS region are requested to explore the establishment of a joint Regional Sustainable Business Alliance for Oceans, focused around a specific topic relevant to companies across multiple sectors (e.g., ocean plastic pollution).
3. National governments are requested to expedite the development of ocean energy sources in order to combat climate change and promote blue economy growth through strong policy and legal foundation as well as efficient coordinating mechanisms.

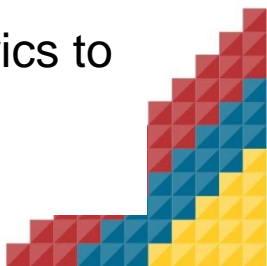
Partnership Hubs Track 7: Blue Economy

Recommended Actions

1. PEMSEA and other regional organizations are requested to:
 - a) prepare a policy brief on critical factors promoting stakeholder involvement and science based approach in blue economy, underscoring knowledge exchange on good practices and lessons;
 - b) promote integrated planning for improving ocean health and socio-economic benefits in their regional action plans, including the development, implementation and financing of national ocean policies.
2. Countries are requested to consider:
 - a) updating their national SOC reports every 3 to 5 years
 - b) utilizing ocean accounts as input to ocean health conservation programs and financing strategies
 - c) addressing data gaps in ocean accounts
 - d) formulating national blue economy policies.

Overall Conclusions

1. The Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (2003, 2015) provides the overarching framework, action programs and approaches for national and local governments of the region to address the UN SDGs, and particularly SDG 14 (Life Below Water) SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships)
2. ICM System that has been developed, demonstrated and validated by PEMSEA in the region over the past 25 years provides national and local governments and their respective stakeholders with the means to deliver the SDGs, through a systematic process that is adaptive to the sustainable development and blue economy growth priorities, objectives capacities, and conditions at the national and local levels.
3. The ICM system is inclusive and participatory. It facilitates the engagement of different levels of government, economic and social sectors, communities, women, youth, academe, scientists, business and private sectors. It improves governance, thereby enhancing the environment for development, partnership and investment.
4. The SOC reporting system has been validated as a useful planning and assessment tool for blue economy growth, providing decision-makers, planners, and managers with the indicators and metrics to assess, compare, adapt and refine management programs in line with changing conditions and priorities.



Overall recommendations

Go forward with confidence!

- Strong political will
- Provide leadership and play a stronger role in coastal and ocean development and management in the region and sharing experience to other regions facing similar challenges