



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



TRACK 4: GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

SESSION 4.1

Local Actions Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Targets

CONVENER:



PEMSEA Network of
Local Governments



The East Asian Seas Congress 2018

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

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Partnership Hub Track 4: Governance and Partnerships

Session 4.1: “Local Actions Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Targets”

Convening Agency:

PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Development (PNLG)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) adopted the Ansan Declaration on 6 September 2016 in Ansan, Republic of Korea, which renewed the commitment of the members to implement the PNLG Strategic Action Plan (2016-2021) through their respective integrated coastal management (ICM) programs and related initiatives. The local governments committed, in particular, to identifying time-bound SDG targets and plans for sustainable development of coastal areas and blue economy growth; report annually on the progress towards achieving the targets and share information through various knowledge platforms.
- 1.2. This session provided the opportunity for the PNLG members and other local governments and partners to discuss the experiences and good practices in implementing plans and programs related to SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 11 (sustainable cities), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (Life below water and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). The session also discussed the mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and reporting and partnership development in facilitating the achievement of the SDG targets at the local level.

2. 25 YEARS OF LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

- 2.1. **Ms. Noraini Binti Roslan**, President, Kuala Selangor District Council, Malaysia and President, PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Development welcomed the participants to the PNLG session. She highlighted that the session has brought together practitioners from various countries in the East Asian Seas Region,

particularly local governments, to demonstrate how their efforts at the local level are contributing to achieving national, regional and global SDG targets.

- 2.2. **Dr. Chua Thia-Eng**, Chair Emeritus, East Asian Seas Partnership Council, reviewed the development of ICM concept and operational methodology starting in the 1960s up to the present and elaborated on how the ICM practice evolved into an ICM system over the past 25 years. Dr. Chua explained that the ICM system provides a holistic, integrative and coordinated process for achieving social, economic and environmental sustainability. He emphasized that the ICM system works since the governance component of the ICM framework ensures legitimacy and political acceptance while the component on strategic management programs addressing various aspects of sustainable development can facilitate targeted investments and technical knowledge building and contributing to achieving several SDG targets, notably SDG 6, 11, 13, 14 and 17. Accountability is measured through the State of the Coasts reporting while compliance to the requirements of the ICM Code implementation ensures conformity to international standards. Dr. Chua cited that throughout the ICM process, partnerships among and between a range of stakeholders are established. It also allows the application of interdisciplinary science to improve administration of governance measures. Dr. Chua cited that ICM implementation is more effective if the local government takes the driving seat. Dr. Chua's surmised that the ICM practices for the past 3 decades were already contributing to the SDG targets, which were only adopted in 2015. The role of the PNLG in SDG implementation were highlighted. Dr. Chua concluded his talk by urging the PNLG members to pursue ICM certification to continually improve the ICM system and facilitates the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of progress and impacts in line with the SDG commitment.

3. CASE STUDIES: SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE SEAS

- 3.1. The Chair invited four case study presenters to share the practical aspects of implementation of management programs at the local level that are aligned to SDG 6, 11, 13 and 14.
- 3.2. **Ms. Norfaezah Shamsuddin**, Engineer, Division of River Basin and Coastal Management of Selangor Water Management Authority shared the challenges in managing the untreated wastewater in Pulau Ketam (Crab Island), an island located off the coast of Port Klang, Selangor, Malaysia. Stilt houses perched 1 to 10 meters over the sea surface characterize the island, since it is usually submerged during high tide. There is no sewage treatment plant on the island due to area constraint and no connecting sewage pipeline from the mainland. Identified threats included degradation of water quality particularly *E. coli* contamination, spread of waterborne diseases, malnutrition among children, fisheries depletion and decreasing number of tourists. Approaches that were undertaken to address the problems included educating the inhabitants about the benefits of having a proper sanitation system,

increase awareness programs by NGOs, full implementation of Port Klang's ICM action plan focusing on water pollution, development of Sewerage Master Plan for Pulau Ketam and consultation with the State Government to provide financing for the establishment and management of the sewerage system. The awareness raising program which also covered solid waste management have encouraged active participation from among the youth and schools in the island. Over the long term, the improvements in the water quality in the island is anticipated to contribute to achieving Port Klang's vision of having a clean, healthy, attractive and viable coastal area for the present and future generation.

- 3.3. **Mr. Lin Guozong**, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Oceans and Fisheries, Xiamen, PR China, showed how the ICM practices in Xiamen have facilitated its transformation into a sustainable city over a span of two decades. Mr. Lin revisited the stages of ICM development in Xiamen, particularly focusing on the scope and focus of the ICM program for the past 20 years. In 1994-1997, considered as the preparatory stage, the ICM program covered Yuandang Lake and Xingling Bay and the focus was demonstrating pollution prevention and management. In 1997, considered the marine functional zoning (MFZ) stage, the ICM program covered Xiamen sea area and resource utilization conflicts were addressed through the development of the functional zoning scheme. In 2002-2008, considered the integrated management of sea area stage, the ICM program covered the integrated management of Western Sea, Wuyuan Bay and Eastern Coast. In 2008, considered as the ecological restoration stage, the ICM program focused on habitat and beach restoration where Xiamen was able to cover 60km² of mangroves and restored more than 100 km² of beach area. In 2014, considered the ecosystem-oriented river basin-sea area integrated management, the ICM program covered the entire Xiamen Sea and 9 major river basins, including marine debris management. In particular, marine debris collection and treatment mechanisms have been improved and Xiamen has signed an agreement with the City of San Francisco (USA) to promote international cooperation and scientific research in marine debris management. Xiamen is now reaping the benefits of its 20-year ICM program by achieving multiple objectives of sustainable development, including having more beautiful coastline, clean water and achieving blue economy.
- 3.4 **Ms. Pham Thi Chin**, Director, Danang Agency of Seas and Islands, described the solutions implemented by Danang City, one of the key economic growth centers in Central Vietnam, in addressing damages to people's lives and properties and infrastructure brought about by severe storms and flooding, including erosion along river banks, estuaries and coastal areas. Among the solutions implemented included strengthening policies and capacities of institutions responsible for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction particularly on forecasting, and proactively preventing, mitigating the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. These include the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Steering Committee

for Climate Change Response, Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Search and Rescue and volunteer teams and community clubs for sustainable development. Other key measures undertaken included the: a) implementation of structural (e.g., upgrading of dyke system, improving the structural integrity of houses, building multi-purpose storm and flood shelters) and non-structural measures (e.g., afforestation); b) relocation of residents that are located in highly vulnerable areas (i.e., 64 households from 8 highly vulnerable communes have been relocated over the period 2011-2016); c) implementation of pollution control and oil spill response and monitoring; d) communication activities targeting managers of key departments and residential communities using various communication channels, and e) livelihood development for coastal communities. These measures have improved Danang's capacity to alleviate and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

- 3.5. **Ms. Rose Jane Sablon**, staff of Guimaras Environment and Natural Resources Office, Guimaras, Province, Philippines, delved on Guimaras experience in protecting and conserving the marine and coastal ecosystems and resources of the province through marine protected area management. Ms. Sablon detailed out the solutions considered by the province in enhancing the management effectiveness of MPAs which included the establishment of MPA Management Boards, development and adoption of MPA management plans, demarcating the boundaries of the protected area with marker buoys, strengthening law enforcement mechanisms (e.g., maintenance of patrol boats and training of personnel), establishment of MPA management facilities, implementation of MPA management plans and regular conduct of habitat and fisheries assessment and monitoring. Ms. Sablon showed how the province was able to scale up the establishment of MPAs – from 4 MPAs in the 1990s to 12 MPAs in 2018 with an estimated increase of 781 hectares of coastal and marine areas placed under protected status. Good results have been generated, including a) the establishment of Guimaras Alliance of Protected Areas and Sanctuaries as a form of public-private partnership arrangements for MPA management; b) the management effectiveness ratings of 7 MPAs have increased; c) 3 MPAs have shown an increase in coral cover and fish density inside the core zones during the assessment conducted between 2015-2018. Moreover, the Taklong Island National Marine Reserve was awarded the best managed national protected area in the Philippines during the Para El Mar Recognition Award in 2017. As a way forward, Guimaras aims to form alliances among the local government units to facilitate the networking of the MPA and include the MPAs as part of the ecotourism circuit of the province.

4. PANEL DISCUSSION

- 4.1. The Chair invited four panelists to provide their insights on the case studies from the perspective of the sector that they represented. The Chair also requested the panelists to focus on the following:

On implementation: The four case studies have shown the practical aspects of implementation of management programs at the local level that are aligned with the 4 SDGs. While good practices have been generated, where in some cases have shown social, environmental and economic impacts, what other/additional options and mechanisms do the panelists see as necessary to address the identified challenges (e.g., institutional, capacity, financing and investments, etc.) and enhance local government's confidence in program implementation.

On monitoring and reporting: There are existing mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating and reporting of progress in ICM implementation, such as the indicator-based State of the Coasts reporting that complements the required data and indicators for SDG reporting at the local level. How do we maximize the utilization of existing reporting platforms, facilitate interfacing with similar or related platforms and promote integrated reporting and harmonization of indicators, where appropriate?

On partnership building: The SDGs aim that "nobody must be left behind" and thus, implementation requires a multi-level, multi-stakeholder, multi-agency and interdisciplinary approach, and a common and coherent framework for monitoring and reporting of achievements and impacts of implementation. How do we better engage the national government, private sector, the academe, international organizations, civil society, development partners, etc. in the implementation and reporting process and catalyze new actions. How do we harness existing local government networks (e.g., PNLG, ICLEI, etc.) and inter-local government alliances to enhance experience exchange and consolidate the contribution to the SDGs for greater visibility and impact?

- 4.2. **Dr. Josefino Bascug**, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator and Head of the Local Economic and Investments Promotion Center of the Province of Misamis Oriental, Philippines, suggested that approaches to be considered in addressing water quality degradation, spread of disease, fisheries depletion and decreasing number of tourists must be in line with the strategic vision of Port Klang Coastal Strategy. Immediate actions must focus on improving connection from the mainland in terms of infrastructure and communication. For Xiamen, the land and sea developments are impressive. However, it is anticipated that the reclamation activities had minimal impacts on the surrounding ecosystems including the areas where filling materials were sourced out. For Danang, with the adaptation measures that are in place, the resiliency of the communities is ensured. For Guimaras, the Build, Build, Build Program

of the current administration where a bridge linking Iloilo-Guimaras-Bacolod will be built will have impacts on the MPAs. It is imperative that the environmental impacts of the infrastructure project be brought up during the consultation process.

- 4.3. **Ms. Louise Whiting**, Senior Water Management Specialist, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, commended the local government's move to align their plans and programs with the SDGs. Ms. Whiting provided several recommendations that the PNLG may consider to maintain its relevance in relation to global sustainable development. These include: a) improving data collection, sharing and access to support informed decision making; b) documenting good stories on the ground in terms of mainstreaming targets related to increasing productivity (SDG 2), for instance, and efficient water use (SDG 6); c) work in coalition and strengthen vertical and horizontal integrated integration; d) communicating the priorities and needs of local governments to the national government to ensure that projects supported by the UN would reflect the realities on the ground and highlight the role of local governments in implementation; e) implementing pilot projects to improve project design and demonstrate transformational changes; and f) decentralization, emphasizing the responsibility of local governments in on-the-ground implementation.
- 4.4. **Dr. Luky Adrianto**, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Coastal and Marine Resources Management, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia, cited that the four case studies addressed different challenges but utilized similar ICM framework and approach. In all cases, the presence of local champions and the leaderships of the local chief executives have contributed to effective implementation. Dr. Adrianto emphasized the role of the academe in establishing baselines and creating an indicator system for the long-term monitoring and reporting of ecological, social impacts and economic impacts of ICM implementation. Linking the PNLG and PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers can provide a platform for inclusive and ecosystem-based planning that would further strengthen ICM implementation in the region.
5. **Mr. Victorino_Aquitana**, Regional Director of ICLEI Southeast Asia, provided the following insights on the implementation experiences shared by the four case studies: a) awareness raising campaigns must be sustainable; b) utilize appropriate technology to maintain clean water and address sanitation problems; c) integrate science into management to facilitate evidenced-based planning, and d) address livelihood concerns of fisherfolks in establishing MPAs. In terms of monitoring and evaluation, a number of reporting platforms are available. In the Philippines, the National Integrated Climate Change Database and Information Management System has been established that serves as the integrated climate information portal of the Climate Change Commission. Globally, the Carbonn Climate Registry, where CDP (formerly called the

Carbon Disclosure Project) and ICLEI have partnered to develop one unified process for subnational climate action reporting is another platform that local governments can consider. In terms of partnership building, the four case studies have utilized several partnership arrangements, which are necessary to facilitate vertical and horizontal integration.

5. OPEN FORUM

5.1. Below are the major points generated from the open forum:

- **Dr. Nguyen Minh Son**, former Deputy Director of Institute of Environmental Technology, Vietnam, sought clarification on the implementation of zoning scheme in Xiamen, particularly the permitting system and monitoring mechanism, including the stakeholder consultation process.
- The ensuing discussion clarified the supporting institutional arrangements, legislation and stakeholder consultation process in the development and implementation of the marine functional zoning scheme in Xiamen. According to **Mr. Lin Guozong**, development of the MFZ underwent sequential upgrading over the past 2 decades with the latest version being coherent with the provincial MFZ scheme. Furthermore, the development of the MFZ engaged a Marine Experts Group that provided scientific and technical support and ensured that science is integrated into the MFZ. The working group paid attention to stakeholder participation at the preparatory stages and consultation meetings were conducted throughout the development of the MFZ. For example, relevant provincial government departments were consulted for the third version of the MFZ. The authority to approve the MFZ was transferred from Xiamen City Government to the Provincial Government according to the Law of Sea Areas Use Management of the People's Republic of China. The Xiamen Oceans Fisheries Bureau serves as the authority to guide, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the MFZ scheme.
- **Dr. Chua Thia Eng** affirmed the importance of legislative support in the development and implementation of zoning schemes. The Xiamen City Government enacted the Regulation for the Management of Seas Area Use in Xiamen in 1997 requiring the city government to develop the MFZ. This development in Xiamen provided the impetus for the Central Government to develop the MFZ system and passed the Marine Environment Protection Law in 1999 and enacted the Law on the Sea Areas Use Management in 2001 that established the legal requirements for MFZ. He cited that in other countries like

Malaysia, zoning schemes can also be developed and implemented in view of the existence of supporting legislation. Dr. Chua further mentioned that the MFZ development in Xiamen has benefited from the ICM program since the program established the necessary working platform for coordination and integration, which is necessary for MFZ development.

- **Dr. Chua Thia Eng** encouraged the local governments to document and share the good practices that they have generated from on-the-ground implementation of ICM. As has been shown for over two decades, the ICM framework and process is working in different social and political systems. The strengthening of the local governance systems and the implementation of management programs that resulted to improvements in environmental indicators have elicited broader support from the stakeholders. The ICM practices in the four ICM sites continue to evolve into a system, although in varying levels of implementation, ensuring that the processes are mainstreamed, integrated and coordinated.
- **Dr. Chua Thia Eng** concluded by prodding the local governments to move away from just mere talk and focus more on actions. He praised the PNLG for becoming regionally and globally significant through its demonstration of how sustainable development is operationalized at the local level. As the PNLG committed to implement the ICM Code, Dr. Chua cited that all members and other interested local governments must aim for ICM certification.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions generated from the PNLG session included the following:

- 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.
- 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.

- The relevant knowledge and lessons learned generated from ICM implementation that started with two pilot sites in 1993 in Batangas Province, Philippines and Xiamen, China in 1993 and replicated in 46 PNLG members across 10 countries have laid the foundation for the evolution of the ICM system.

6.2 The PNLG session recommended:

- After 25 years of ICM practice in the East Asian Region, local governments must pursue ICM certification to encourage continual improvement of the ICM system and facilitate the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the level of performance and impacts in line with their respective SDG commitments and in support of scaling up ICM. PNLG members and other interested local governments with ICM-related programs are therefore requested to pursue ICM certification, with support from PEMSEA and other partners who are familiar with the ICM Code.

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ANNEX 1 SESSION PROGRAM

Introduction and Session Background

Hon. Noraini Binti Roslan

President, Kuala Selangor District Council, Malaysia
President, PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Development

Keynote Message: 25 years of local implementation and partnerships

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng

Chair Emeritus, East Asian Seas Partnership Council

Case studies: Solutions for Sustainable Seas

- **SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation**

Clean Water: Challenges in Managing the Untreated Wastewater in Pulau Ketam

Ms. Norfaezah Binti Shamsuddin
Engineer, Selangor Water Management Authority
Malaysia

- **SDG 11: Sustainable cities**

Integrating the Development of Land and Sea: New Practices for Sustainable Marine Development in Xiamen

Mr. Lin Guozhong
Deputy Director General, Bureau of Oceans and Fisheries
Xiamen, PR China

- **SDG 13: Climate action**

Building Climate Resilience Strategy: A safe community facing storm surge and flood disasters in Da Nang City

Ms. Pham Thi Chin
Director, Da Nang Agency for Seas and Islands
Da Nang City, Viet Nam

- **SDG 14: Life below water**

Partnership Building in Enhancing Coastal Habitat Resiliency: Models in Marine Protected Area Management in Guimaras, Philippines

Ms. Rose Jane Sablon

Aquaculturist II, Guimaras Environment and Natural Resources Office

Guimaras Province, Philippines

Panel discussion

- **Perspective from a Local Government**

Dr. Josefino Bascug, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator and Local Economics and Investments Promotions Officer, Province of Misamis Oriental, Philippines

- **Perspective from the Academe/PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers**

Dr. Luky Adrianto, Dean of Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia

- **Perspective from a Local Government Network**

Mr. Victorino Aquitania, Regional Director, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Southeast Asia Secretariat

- **Perspective from an International Organization**

Ms. Louise Whiting, Senior Water Management Expert, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

Open Forum

Synthesis and wrap up

ANNEX 2
CHAIR, RESOURCE PERSONS AND PANELISTS

	<p>Dr. Chua Thia-Eng was the Regional Programme Director of PEMSEA from 1993 until 2007. He was elected and served as Chair of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council from 2007 to 2012. Recognizing Dr. Chua’s distinguished contributions to the EAS region and to the establishment and development of PEMSEA, Dr. Chua has been granted the PEMSEA Chair Emeritus position. He served in several academic institutions, including University of Singapore, Science University of Malaysia and University of the Philippines. He also served in various international and UN organizations, managing regional projects under the GEF, UNDP, IMO, FAO/NACA, USAID and ICLARM. Dr. Chua earned his doctorate degree in zoology at the University of Singapore.</p>
	<p>Mrs. Noraini Binti Roslan is currently the President of Subang Jaya Municipal Council. She holds a Masters of Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina, U.S.A. She has 29 years of experience in processing development proposals for planning permissions, land development and building. She has also participated in the formulation of planning guidelines, housing policy, squatters’ resettlement blueprint, and illegal factories legalizing strategy, among others.</p>
	<p>Ms. Norfaezah Shamsuddin is an Engineer in the River Basin and Coastal Area Management Division of the Selangor Waters Management Authority, Malaysia. She has 10 years of experience in coastal management and has been fully involved in the preparation of ICM Plan for Northern Selangor and Sepang.</p>
	<p>Mr. Lin Guozhong is the Deputy Director General and member of Party Leadership Group of Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Oceans and Fisheries, PR. China.</p>

	<p>Ms. Pham Thi Chin is the Director of Danang Agency for Seas and Islands of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Danang City, Vietnam. Chin is one of the pioneers of ICM implementation in Vietnam, particularly in Danang City when it was selected as the National ICM Demonstration Site in 2000 with support from GEF, UNDP and PEMSEA.</p>
	<p>Ms. Rose Jane Sablon is a staff of the ICM Project Management Office of Guimaras Environment and Natural Resources Office of Guimaras Province, Philippines. For the past 9 years, Jane has been engaged in the conduct of habitats surveys and monitoring, particularly in the establishment and management of marine protected areas, including the regular conduct of the province-wide coastal water quality monitoring in Guimaras Province.</p>
	<p>Dr. Josefino Bascug is a registered environmental planner. He is concurrently serving as the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator and Head of the Local Economic and Investments Promotion Center of the Province of Misamis Oriental, Philippines</p>
	<p>Dr. Luky Adrianto is an Associate Professor in Fisheries and Ocean Social-Ecological System Analysis at the Graduate School of Coastal and Marine Resources Management, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia. He is currently the Dean of Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences at the university (FFMS-IPB) for the period of 2015-2020.</p>
	<p>Mr. Victorino Aquitania serves as the Regional Director of ICLEI Southeast Asia. He brings more than three decades of professional experience working with local governments in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand on various urban development issues focusing on environmental sustainability.</p>



Ms. Louise Whiting leads the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Land and Water Program from the Regional Office in Bangkok. Previous to joining FAO, Louise worked on water and climate policy in Africa and Latin America, and she has also worked in Australian politics as an advisor to the Minister for Water.