

## PARTNERSHIP HUBS

November 27-28

The EAS Congress International Conference will feature Partnership Hubs – forums or sessions- organized by PEMSEA Partners and collaborating organizations. The different sessions are categorized per thematic tracks and will involve sharing of experiences, best practices, innovative technologies, and strategic solutions, as well as identifying alternative opportunities for investment in sustainable development of oceans and coasts.

**TRACK 1: CLIMATE AND BLUE CARBON**

Blue carbon ecosystems play a critical role in helping to regulate the global climate, along with providing a host of other beneficial ecosystem services in coastal areas. Coastal areas in East Asia host some of the most globally significant blue carbon resources, including mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes. This track will explore both the research and strategy for pushing blue carbon forward in the East Asian region. Sessions will cover the latest research efforts in East Asia and globally, assessing the role of blue carbon in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), establishing a network of blue carbon research in East Asia and development of a Blue Carbon Strategy for the region.

**SESSION 1.1: Establishing Blue Carbon Research Network in East Asian Seas Region****CONVENERS:**

Korea Marine Environment  
Management Corporation



Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of  
East Asia



Ministry of Oceans  
and Fisheries

Ministry of Oceans and  
Fisheries, RO Korea

**SPONSOR:**

Blue Carbon is gaining currency in recent years as one of the solutions for mitigating climate change. The carbon storing potential of blue carbon should be assessed in a scientifically sound way in order to receive the recognition from the UNFCCC process. In order to achieve the goal, a network of researchers should be formed to collate concerted efforts in demonstrating the potential. The research efforts of blue carbon will significantly enhance the awareness and conservation efforts of global community on key marine ecosystems such as tidal marshes, seagrass meadows, and mangrove forests.

Blue carbon can play a significant role in the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in the UNFCCC process. Therefore, national policy and research efforts should be enhanced in advancing the blue carbon concepts in EAS region.

**Expected Output:**

- Forging a research network on Blue Carbon in EAS region

## SESSION 1.2: Turning Blue: The Role of Cities in Forwarding Blue Carbon Solutions towards Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

### CONVENERS:



ICLEI-Local Governments  
for Sustainability



Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources,  
Philippines

Cities play a crucial role in advancing local climate action that ultimately contributes to the achievement of SDGs. This session features the innovative and transformative approaches that local governments are implementing to ensure proper marine resource management, protection and rehabilitation of coasts and marine ecosystems, and integration of these initiatives to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The session aims to demonstrate the link between robust and context-based solutions and a city's improved capacity to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. The session will gather leaders and local champions of marine conservation and provide a platform for city-to-city knowledge exchange and serve as an initial step towards collaboration, replication, and scaling up blue carbon solutions.

### Expected Outputs:

- Participants will have enhanced knowledge on various innovative marine resources management initiatives mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local level, including but not limited to innovative and transformative solutions toward marine rehabilitation and protection.
- Provide suggestions and relevant measures to address relevant and cross-cutting issues that local governments and key stakeholders face in relation to marine resource management and marine rehabilitation and protection at the local level.

## **SESSION 1.3: Climate Change Mitigation? Blue Carbon is Nature's Way to do it**

### **CONVENER:**



The CTI Blue Carbon Project

The Blue Carbon Session aims to introduce and inspire participants to better understand Blue Carbon as an ecosystem service and nature's way of mitigating climate change impacts on coasts – and how to respond. Bringing together experts and practitioners, the session is a great opportunity to share information, highlight gaps in knowledge and management, build partnerships and shape the future of Blue Carbon in the East Asian Seas.

The session focuses on four seminal topics, each one introduced by key questions:

1. How do we characterize the flux of Blue Carbon in the coastal waters of East Asia?
2. How do we manage the key factors that influence the Blue Carbon stock in the region?
3. How do we link Blue Carbon with coastal ecosystem conservation?
4. Is it cost effective to invest in Blue Carbon conservation as a means to reduce climate change impacts?

### **Expected Output/s:**

- Enhancement of support to the major goals of the Blue Carbon Project by way of the broader perspectives from a wider regional audience;
- Elucidation of the needed international and regional inputs to the Philippine National Blue Carbon Roadmap which is under development;
- More focused collaboration with existing partners and enhanced opportunities for partnerships with more institutions in the region; and
- Initiation of the development of a 'science-policy-practice' based Blue Carbon Strategy for the Philippines and CTI countries.



## TRACK 2: MARINE POLLUTION AND CLEAN WATER

Marine pollution is a persistent and growing challenge in oceans around the world, from seasonal dead zones to localized issues of marine debris to massive gyres of plastic. Ocean plastic waste, in particular, has rapidly gained global attention as of late as a serious issue of concern, and East Asia as a major contributor to the amount of plastic waste going into the ocean. This track will delve into the spectrum of issue areas surrounding clean oceans and water, from strategies to address the impacts of marine debris and plastics, to oil spill management good practices to ensuring clean water through integrated source-to-sea management.

### SESSION 2.1: Partnership Approaches towards Delivering Global Good Practices Regionally

#### CONVENERS:



International Petroleum  
Industry Environmental  
Conservation Association



Oil Spill Response Limited



International Tanker Owners  
Pollution Federation Limited



GLOBAL INITIATIVE  
FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative  
for Southeast Asia

An introduction to the role of IPIECA in convening industry and stakeholders to work together on issues across the environmental spectrum, including oil spill preparedness and response, biodiversity and ecosystem services and water management. Focussing more specifically on oil spills, we consider the impact of the Macondo incident (Gulf of Mexico, 2010) and industry's efforts to learn the lessons through a series of Joint Industry Projects which will be overviewed. Just as importantly we focus attention on efforts to disseminate the lessons learned to the wider response community through a series of communication and engagement programmes. We look at how these global programmes are being applied in a regional context in South East Asia and discuss opportunities to expand the reach and effectiveness of these programs.

### SESSION 2.2: Enhancing Ways to Reducing Impact of Marine Debris in the East Asian Seas Region

#### CONVENER:



Korea Marine Environment  
Management Corporation

#### COLLABORATORS:



Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of  
East Asia



First Institute of  
Oceanography of China

Marine Debris or Marine Litter is one of the top priorities in the current global agenda. The issue has been included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under Goal 14 Life under Water, UNGA as well as UNEA agenda and many other global initiatives. Marine Litter is believed to cause damages to marine life to the extent that some species may go extinction in few decades. Marine litter issue is particularly significant in the East Asian Seas region since the economy of the region is growing fast as the global growth hub. In this, ASEAN countries determined to address this global issue in concerted efforts. As the result, the 1st ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region was organized on 22-23 November 2017 in Phuket, Thailand and various action plans have formulated in the countries of the region.

As oceans are interconnected, marine debris issue should be addressed in a concerted effort around the globe. RO Korea is a leading country in addressing marine litter issue and wish

to contribute the combat in mitigating the impact of marine debris. Through this workshop, countries strategies on marine debris will be presented and possible establishment of a network of marine litter research and monitoring in the region will be discussed. Enhancing public awareness and education relating to marine litter around the EAS region will be also discussed.

**Expected Output/s:**

- o Forging a network of Marine Debris Management in EAS region

**SESSION 2.3: Marine Plastic Pollution: A Global Issue with National and Local Solutions**

**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

The Ocean Conservancy reports that five of the eight largest contributors of plastic waste to the oceans are countries in the East Asian region. In light of this concern, varied efforts and innovations are emerging that can help address the problem at various levels. In particular, with the local coastal communities contributing to and experiencing the immediate adverse impacts of plastic waste, this session will look into potential options/approaches, new initiatives and innovative solutions that can help enhance local actions in combatting the rising problem of plastic pollution.

**Expected Output/s:**

- o Views from a range of stakeholders on the marine plastic issue and potential solutions
- o Examples of innovative local practices and circular economy approaches to reduce plastic pollution
- o Insights on knowledge and capacity building gaps/needs at the local level and how these can be met
- o Recommendations on developing/strengthening enabling conditions to promote the development, implementation and scaling up of sustainable plastic waste management practices at the local level and reducing marine plastic pollution

## SESSION 2.4: Catalyzing Improved Source-to-Sea (S2S) Governance, Management and Investment in East Asia and Southeast Asia

### CONVENERS:



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

United Nations Development  
Programme



Food and Agriculture  
Organization



Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of  
East Asia

Ecosystems along a continuum from source-to-sea are being degraded as an unintended consequence of economic activities that might happen far upstream or downstream in the source-to-sea system (Granit. J. et al, 2017). This is happening primarily for two reasons: 1) lack of awareness and understanding of the land-to-sea ecosystem linkages and flows of water, sediment, pollutants, biota and ecosystem services; and 2) lack of capacity and know-how to avoid or mitigate the interconnected threats and negative impacts coming from multiple sectors and multiple resource users. The impacts of climate change currently add further stresses in river basins and coastal and sea areas in most regions of the world. It is clearly evident that the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) include a number of targets (e.g., SDG 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) that are directly dependent upon the ability of governments and their partners to overcome these barriers.

A related overarching concern is that water use among East Asian and Southeast Asian countries is growing rapidly, while water quality and quantity challenges persist in such a way that the situation in some areas has threatened to derail economic growth. Increased population has intensified freshwater usage, both surface and ground water. Water demand is increasing drastically due to rapid urbanization, industrialization and agriculture/food production intensification and expansion, and many areas in the region are projected to be water stressed by 2025 (Lee 2013).

These two issues are inseparably linked and require urgent attention.

This session on *Catalyzing Improved Source-to-Sea Governance, Management and Investment in the East Asia and Southeast Asia* will attempt to answer the following questions:

1. What are the main objectives and challenges of regional organizations and national and local governments in managing river basins, coastal regions, and/or sub-regional sea areas/LMEs in an integrated or holistic manner?
2. How are current (and planned) ICM, IWRM, IRBM and other strategies and actions helping to resolve these challenges? What achievements and lessons can be learned from other regions of the world?
3. What is still absent or lacking that is critical to up-scaling? How would this/these aspect(s) provide national and local governments, communities, business sector/investors, donors and the region as a whole with the capacity to leapfrog to sustainable development and management of river basins and coastal areas?



### **TRACK 3: BIODIVERSITY AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

East Asia boasts some of the highest concentrations of coastal and marine biodiversity in the world. Yet these valuable resources are under growing pressure from a multitude of sources, including coastal development, pollution and poor management practices. This track will dive into some of the latest efforts and lessons learned from leading organizations working to improve coastal management and conserve biodiversity, including collaborative management and policy development for marine protection, translating regional frameworks into local actions, lessons learned from partnership programs, alignment with the SDGs and efforts to improve small-scale fisheries management.

#### **SESSION 3.1: Healthy Coasts and Healthy ASEAN: Saving the ASEAN Seas through Effective Collaboration**

**CONVENER:**



ASEAN Center for  
Biodiversity

**SPONSOR:**



European Union

The ASEAN hosts a third of the world's coastal and marine habitats and has 54 percent more marine area compared to its total land area. But its fast-growing economies and populations are putting pressures on these resources. Hence, a healthy coastal and marine ecosystem is of utmost importance to ASEAN for food and livelihood security. While ASEAN has been responding to mitigate these threats, it is slow particularly in fulfilling the region's global commitments to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Therefore, ACB, with the ASEAN and relevant partners are working together for a more aggressive, targeted and highly complementary action to towards a healthy ASEAN coasts.

The session intends to share the various responses of the ASEAN Member States and collaborative actions at the regional level given the status

**Expected output/s:**

1. Indicative ASEAN-initiated project anchored on the proposed Letter of Cooperation (LOC)
2. Capacity and/or policy development support for the common and priority issues on CME in the ASEAN region

## SESSION 3.2: MABIK: Promoting Biodiversity in the Seas of East Asia

### CONVENER:



Marine Biodiversity  
Institute of Korea

Aligning with UN SDGs and the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), MABIK would like to introduce itself to EAS partners by describing facilities, research projects and outreach programs. Since 2015, MABIK has conducted researches on marine biodiversity including sea turtles, sea snakes, and *Sesarmops intermedius*. MABIK has run and expanded outreach programs as well as research projects for better ocean literacy. MABIK wishes to meet new partners and to establish effective networks for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

### Expected Output/s:

- o To initiate collaborative research projects, outreach programs and joint workshops. This would provide a good opportunity to establish joint research laboratories in mutual institutions based on the collaborative agreement.

## SESSION 3.3: Partnerships to Scale-up Community-based Ocean and Coastal Management

### CONVENER:



Small Grants Programme

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate program funded by the GEF and implemented by UNDP to support local action to address global environmental challenges. SGP provides financial and technical support to communities and civil society organizations to protect the environment while addressing poverty reduction and community empowerment. Local successes, if not being scaled up, have limited impacts and cannot reverse the environmental degradation trend in oceans and seas. Recognizing partnerships are essential to scaling up, SGP has worked with GEF full-sized international waters projects to practice integrated ocean and coastal management through implementing regional action programs at local level and integrating local actions to regional frameworks.

SGP has collaborated with UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, PEMSEA and UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project to promote the incorporation of local demonstration activities in collaboration with SGP country programs under the regional projects. SGP has also supported international waters projects to environmental challenges in East Asian Seas. The panelists will consider: 1) how projects generate greater results and impact beyond expectations? 2) How to create an enabling environment for scaling up? 3) What experiences and lessons learnt?

### Expected output/s:

- o Experiences and lessons learnt community based international waters management;
- o Factors, mechanisms or processes to scale up community-based actions;
- o Suggestions for partnership development and implementation.

## SESSION 3.4: Transforming Coastal Communities, Securing Futures

CONVENER:



RARE Philippines

This session will focus on coastal fisheries, which are often undervalued and under-resourced, yet critical to food security, the livelihood of millions and national economies, as well as integral to marine biodiversity. Speakers will discuss issues such as the lack of data, securing preference for small-scale fishers, governance and financing at provincial or regional scales, and will tackle the opportunities presented by community-focused management approaches and partnerships taken to scale.



#### **TRACK 4: GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Improved management of coastal and ocean resources for healthier ecosystems and communities relies on strong governance and effective partnerships. Partners from around the East Asian region have taken substantial steps forward in improving the governance of coasts and oceans, but there is much more work to be done. This track will explore the important role of regional partnerships and coordination in strengthening good governance, advances in assessment and institutional development and experiences and good practices from local government implementation of programs supporting the SDGs.

#### **SESSION 4.1: Local Actions Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Targets**

##### **CONVENER:**



PEMSEA Network of  
Local Governments

The PEMSEA Network of Local Governments adopted the Ansan Declaration on 6 September 2016 in Ansan, Republic of Korea, which renewed the commitment of the members to implementing the PNLG Strategic Action Plan (2016-2021) through their respective ICM programs and related initiatives. Specifically, the local governments committed to identify 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 platform.

This session will provide 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 will also discuss the mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and reporting and partnership development in facilitating the achievement of the SDG targets.

##### **Expected Outputs:**

Demonstration of local governments contribution to achieving national, regional and global SDG targets through:

- a. Implementation of ICM and related initiatives
- b. Development and operationalization of reporting platforms
- c. Strengthening technical, financial and institutional capacities, including partnerships

## **SESSION 4.2: From one to many: managing MPA networks for a collaborative and adaptive marine biodiversity conservation actions**

### **CONVENER:**



The primary response of the government and non-government organizations to protect important habitats and biodiversity in coastal and marine environment has been the establishment of marine protected areas and fish sanctuaries. At present, there are 33 MPAs established through the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and 1,800 under the Fisheries Code and Local Government code. Expanding spatial coverage of MPAs and forming networks has been undertaken to enhance ecological and socio-economic benefits from conservation. Forming MPA networks demand concerted efforts and enhanced strategies through coordinated management, enforcement and information sharing

### **Expected output/s:**

- o Use of competence standards guidebook and pilot-testing of the M&E framework for MPAN to measure effectiveness of MPA/Ns in addressing threats, improving conditions of reef and fish communities, and monitoring gains and benefits to people
- o Enhance coordination between relevant national government agencies towards crafting a joint administrative order to facilitate establishment and institutionalization of MPA/Ns initiatives

## **SESSION 4.3: Two Decades of Cooperation in the NOWPAP: Charting the Way Forward for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals**

### **CONVENER:**



The session will highlight major achievements and lessons learned during the two decades of NOWPAP's cooperation and partnership building, including advances in assessments, institutional development, and how the mechanism contributed to "good" regional ocean governance and whether NOWPAP is prepared to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Recognizing the growing interconnectedness of environmental challenges, NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 focuses on stepping up issue-based collaboration with major regional partners from the East Asia region in support of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 14. As the main convener, NOWPAP expects the session to discuss cooperation and partnership opportunities.

### **Expected Output/s:**

- o Policy brief on the role of evolving regional ocean governance in East Asia to realize Sustainable Agenda 2030.

## SESSION 4.4: Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs): An Engine for Achieving SDG14

### CONVENER:



IW:LEARN

The Yellow Sea, South China Sea, East China Sea, Sulu-Celebes, Indonesian Seas and Gulf of Thailand are six Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) of great ecological and economic importance to the region. The LME Approach has provided a rallying point for countries to cooperate in dealing with problems relating to the utilization of transboundary marine resources. This session will demonstrate how GEF LME:LEARN is supporting the LMEs in creating partnerships through its Regional Networks, how the GEF LME Approach currently contributes to achieving the SDG 14 targets, and how country-endorsed SAPs under implementation can contribute to achieving the targets.

### Expected output/s:

- o Actionable recommendations on advancing SDG14 targets through work done by LMEs in the region
- o New partnerships created to support the LMEs in achieving SDG 14 targets

## SESSION 4.5: Legal and Institutional Mechanisms to Manage the Marine Environment in the Seas of Southeast Asia: Status and Way Forward

### CONVENER:

**CIL**

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW  
National University of Singapore

Centre for International  
Law, National University  
of Singapore

Southeast Asia has one the weakest regional seas programmes for the protection of the marine environment. One of the reasons mentioned is the lack of a binding agreement for the protection of the marine environment in the region and the so-called ASEAN way preferred by the littoral States.

This session aims to investigate and discuss the extent to which regional institutions can foster a common understanding of applicable international law and facilitate its implementation. Presentations will focus on:

- Principles and rules of international marine law applicable to the seas of Southeast Asia
- Regional institutions and the protection of the marine environment in Southeast Asia
- Application of international marine law to the seas of Southeast Asia: The example of sensitive marine areas.

### Expected output/s:

- o Recommendations on advancing SDG14 targets, especially target 14(c) towards progress of indicator 14(c)(1) in Southeast Asia.



## **TRACK 5: RESEARCH AND TOOLS**

Sustainable development of coasts and oceans relies on using the best available tools and latest scientific research for prioritizing, setting targets and making decisions. Fortunately, the research and tools supporting the conservation and management of coastal marine resources is advancing at a rapid pace. In this track, learn about the latest science and technology from satellite observation for marine management to new tools for managing coastal and coral reef ecosystems. Sessions will also address the political and economic drivers of land reclamation in coastal areas and the role of universities and research centers in supporting ocean-focused SDGs.

### **SESSION 5.1: Speed dating with Technical Tools for Strengthening Coastal Management**

#### **CONVENER:**



Capturing Coral Reef and  
Related Ecosystem Services

The Capturing Coral Reef & Related Ecosystem Services (CCRES) project developed a suite of models, tools and knowledge products to demonstrate the linkages between the ecological value of healthy coastal ecosystems and the economic value and market potential of ecosystem services that they provide. These tools are intended to support local planning and management decisions that promote maintenance of healthy ecosystems and economic benefits from their sustainable use.

The session aims to introduce the CCRES tools and how these can be used to build system-wide solutions for strengthening integrated coastal management and governance across the East Asia-Pacific region. Attendees will have hands-on experience with the tools in small, breakout groups, facilitated by experienced tools users. Through this fun, interactive, “speed-dating” approach, the session aims to promote the uptake and application of the tools to strengthen local coastal management programs.

#### **Expected Output/s:**

- o The launch of the CCRES tools on PEMSEA’s Seas of East Asia (SEA) Knowledge Bank, a partnership in knowledge management for strengthening coastal resources management.

## SESSION 5.2: Satellite Observation Data-based Systems for Improved Coastal and Marine Management: Moving from Research to Services

### CONVENERS:



Plymouth Marine Laboratory



Oil Spill Response Limited



First Institute of Oceanography of China

### COLLABORATOR:

Earth observations (EO) from space can provide unique and cost-effective information to greatly aid sustainable marine management. Next steps focus on integrating data into services, allowing actionable intelligence to end-users, i.e., fisheries and aquaculture, marine planning, water quality monitoring, maritime security, oil spill preparedness and response, and environmental protection.

Speakers will share regional and international experiences, latest developments in technical solutions and infrastructure for data delivery to end-users. “Services of tomorrow”, networks and industry requirements will be highlighted while considering potential regional challenges through discussion of existing EO marine services. The session will conclude with an interactive debate and recommendations on EO for future SDS-SEA actions.

### Expected Outputs:

- o Recommendations for the application and integration of EO data to support SDS-SEA actions and/or sustainable marine management in the East Asian Seas (EAS) region
- o Potential partnerships identified for the application/integration of EO data for sustainable marine management in the EAS region

## SESSION 5.3: A Critical Review of 25 Years of Land Reclamation in East Asia

### CONVENERS:



Florida International University



Xiamen University



Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology



East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership



UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Phase II Project

In this Partnership Hub session, we critically reflect on the issues of land reclamation in East Asia. Land reclamation had been widely implemented in many East Asian countries over the past decades. While provisioning new land that increases the countries’ development potentials, land reclamation brings irreversibly detrimental impacts to the livelihoods of local fishing communities, the marine ecosystem, and globally migrating shorebird populations. Technological advances have enabled faster, larger-scale reclamation that transforms the marine environment to an unprecedented degree. Meanwhile, we have witnessed that land reclamation projects are driven by the logic of construction and politics, rather than an actual need for land. Reclaimed land sit idle concerns us, asking whether the ocean has become an easy place for ‘grabbing’ and how we should effectively manage reclamation practices.

This session invites speakers whose presentations cover various aspects of land reclamation from political economy and legal and institutional developments to sociocultural and ecological impacts. We aim to cover the entire East Asian seas as possible, trace the trajectories of major reclamation projects in the region, and attend to the latest trends in reclamation. This session targets policy makers, practitioners, academics, and general public as our main audience. The presentations will be followed by panel discussion. By the end of the session, we will share with our audience a comprehensive summary of East Asia’s land reclamation experience over the past 25 years and some of the ways forward.

**Expected Outputs:**

- o Lessons learned from the experiences of PEMSEA's member countries and recommendations for minimizing reclamation efforts in the EAS region
- o Partnership Hub proceedings

**SESSION 5.4: Higher Education Forum on Implementation of UN SDG 14 and other related Ocean and Coastal Goals****CONVENER:**

PEMSEA Network of  
Learning Centers

Higher education institutions play a vital role towards the sustainable development of the coasts and seas through its core activities in education, research, governance and external leadership (SDSN, 2017:10). Building on-the-ground capacity in implementing and scaling up integrated coastal management (ICM) programmes involve maintaining a critical mass of ICM leaders and practitioners in the East Asian region who can contribute to effective and efficient implementation of SDG 14 and other related ocean and coastal goals. In line with this, PEMSEA's capacity development strategies include mobilizing universities and research institutes in increasing technical support available on the ground, providing scientific inputs from experts' advice in focus issues in various phases of ICM cycle and building capacity and skills to replicate and scale up the ICM practice in the region.

This forum provides a platform for university leaders to share, discuss and commit to strengthening collaboration among ICM Learning Centers through joint initiatives under the wider umbrella of the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), with an outcome that leads to education, research and outreach through various innovative activities. In the plenary session, selected ICM Learning Centers will present their initiatives in helping achieve the ocean-related SDGs in a holistic way, through their core activities (teaching, research and extension services). The panel discussion that follows will explore other innovative ways through cooperation, collaboration and the knowledge exchange among various higher education institutions in the region. The PNLC, as a network of ICM Learning Centers working towards the sustainable development of our ocean and coasts, has a key role to play to support these efforts through working with leading higher education institutions from various countries in Asia. At the end of the Forum, action plans for the network will be considered which will be fed in the PNLC Annual Planning Workshop, that follows afterwards. The event will end with ceremonial induction of the newly designated ICM Learning Centers as members of the PNLC.

**Expected Output/s:**

- o Action plans on proposed initiatives for joint projects on postgraduate curriculum, training and research
- o New ICM LCs inducted into PNLC
- o Forum Proceedings



## TRACK 6: OCEAN INDUSTRY AND FINANCE

Strong collaboration between government and the private sector is critical for achieving the SDGs and ensuring the long-term health of coastal ecosystems and economies. Along with partnerships, investment from the private sector will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that the many good plans for the region are translated into action. Sessions will cover ocean energy, the business perspective on engaging in coastal management and public-private partnerships for the oceans, a new ocean investment facility for the Seas of East Asia, an emerging private sector collaboration for sustainable seafood in the region and the important role of women in the ports and maritime sectors.

### SESSION 6.1: Empowering Women, Balancing Gender: Fundamental Aspects to Climate Change and Strengthening Marine Environmental Protection in the Port and Maritime Sector

#### CONVENERS:



International Maritime  
Organization



Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of  
East Asia

“The challenge of climate change and marine environmental protection is unlikely to be gender-neutral, as it increases the risk to the most vulnerable and less empowered social groups. In the formulation of global and national approaches, as well as in the strategic responses to specific sectors, gender awareness, substantive analysis and inclusive engagement will be necessary” (Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change).

This partnership hub will look at the programmes and initiatives on the integration of women and gender equality in the port and maritime sector by organizations in this sector (e.g. IMO, ILO) to encourage countries to enable women to train alongside men to acquire the high-level of competence that the port and maritime industry demands to better cope with the demands of the jobs and also the effects of climate change. This will also look into the implemented programs, developments and important gaps and implications for effective women and gender equality and the climate risk assessment; mitigation and adaptation planning and marine environmental protection in ports and maritime sector across the East Asia Region. The program will also look at the value of these initiatives implemented in the maritime and port sector in the aim of steering discussions on the strategies and the next steps in order to encourage national agencies to adopt policies related to women, gender equality and climate change and marine environmental protection.

#### Expected Output/s:

- o Action to encourage national agencies and maritime institutes and port sector for enabling women to train alongside men to acquire the high-level of competence that the maritime and port industry demands.
- o Action plan for strengthening national and regional capacities for gender-specific fellowships and access to high-level technical training.
- o Action Plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation and marine environmental protection in the ports and maritime industry.
- o Summary Paper on discussed topics and initiatives to encourage maritime and port and other sectors to adopt programs related to women, gender equality and climate change adaptation and marine environmental protection.

## SESSION 6.2: Filling the Pipeline: A Sustainable Ocean Investment Ecosystem for the Seas of East Asia

### CONVENER:



Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of  
East Asia

The need for significantly increased investment to achieve the targets under the UN Sustainable Development goals is well understood. UNDP cites a USD2.5 trillion gap in investments required to meet the SDGs, and it's not likely that all of this financing will come from government and donor support. By catalyzing private sector investment, there is an opportunity to redirect billions of dollars of capital away from unsustainable investment towards sustainable, blue economy investments in the region.

To address this need and opportunity, a number of new funds have emerged to focus on investing in sustainable development of oceans, in areas including fisheries, marine pollution and coastal tourism. However, funds face challenges in sourcing investment projects that can support the Sustainable Development Goals while offering viable investment models. At the same time, donor support has a role to play in developing new models and approaches that can lower risks and catalyze the flow of private capital.

This session will introduce the emerging investment ecosystem for the Seas of East Asia, including a new Ocean Investment Facility for sourcing and developing investments that address critical ocean challenges, such as ocean plastics, wastewater, sustainable aquaculture, marine conservation, and more. Building on the regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) coordinated by PEMSEA, which brings together donors, technical partners and private investment funds, this new investment ecosystem can catalyze both public and private financing, building a pipeline of investment opportunities supporting SDG 14 and unlocking the ocean investment potential in the Seas of East Asia.

### **Expected Outputs:**

- o Sharing of regional investment cases and building an understanding of the interests of funds in blue economy investment opportunities
- o Awareness of the Ocean Investment Facility and its benefits for project proponents, project developers and investors
- o Linkages with funds that can lead to partnership for future investments in the region
- o Linkages with technical experts and project stakeholders that can support development of potential pipeline projects
- o Strengthened donor support for ocean investment in the region

## **SESSION 6.3: Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: How Important is Biodiversity Financing?**

**CONVENER:**



Biofin

Challenges confronting the oceans and coastal ecosystems are compounding in time. Modest gains in addressing anthropogenic threats through protection measures and informed policies are negated by the vagaries of climate and emerging and worrisome patterns of utilization such as reclamation and land development. By reflecting the value of ecosystems into monetary units, stakeholders are propelled to make better decisions on resource allocation between competing uses, improving incentives and generating expenditures. While the context focuses on coral reef management, it is critical to see how it contributes to the broader coastal management perspective.

Why talk about financing? Significant funding is required to address threats posed by illegal fishing, reclamation, pollution, harvesting of corals and associated species, unbridled land development, etc. Third, due to the severe rate of destruction, coral restoration procedures will cost more, in fact, more than what it would cost to prevent the destruction. Relevant discussions on financing are not focused solely on raising revenues or ensuring more funding. Cost avoidance and delivering better are also finance solutions benefitting coral reef management. Likewise, realignment of expenditures from harmful actions to positive actions are also highlighted as finance solutions.

### **Expected Output/s:**

- o This mini symposium will result to a listing of finance solutions which can support regional level initiatives based on information provided through discussion of BIOFIN methodology and the finance catalogue.

## SESSION 6.4: Ocean Energy – The Future of Blue Economy

### CONVENERS:



Korea Institute of Ocean  
Science and Technology



Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of  
East Asia

### COLLABORATOR:



First Institute of  
Oceanography of China

Ocean is the biggest carbon sink of the earth system which sequester more than 2 billion metric ton per year or one third of anthropogenic carbon generation. Ocean possesses not only the sequestering power but also power to produce renewable energies which contribute to the eradication of fossil fuel consumption. Owing to its enormous potent energy through tide, wave, heat and others, the oceans provide numerous opportunities for energy sources which fuel necessary economic development in the era of climate change afflicted global community.

The status of ocean energy development is in its nascent stage. Research efforts have been devoted to various fields with certain degree of successes. However, there are lots of works need to be done for the ocean energy to be mainstreamed into the power sector. Barriers such as non-supportive government policies and resistant to clean and renewable energy sources by the Business As Usual (BAU) energy sectors make ocean energy development sluggish.

In this workshop, the success stories of the ocean energy development will be presented as well as government policies and promotion in support of the ocean energy development around the globe. The roles and contributions of ocean energy in the Blue Economy is also delved into.

### Expected Output:

- o Policy brief on Ocean Energy in the EAS region in support of the Blue Economy development.

## **SESSION 6.5: From Potential to Reality: Business Leadership for a Blue Economy in the Seas of East Asia**

**CONVENER:**



Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of  
East Asia

Strong collaboration between government and business will be critical for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 14 Life below water. Along with safeguarding the health of coastal ecosystems and communities, achieving the SDGs may open pathways for new opportunities for companies.

The potential of effective public-private partnership for coastal and ocean management has been discussed for some time, but the reality of forging concrete, value-added partnerships has in many cases remained elusive. Companies can struggle to move beyond mere compliance or approaches that are disconnected from their core business, while public institutions may wonder how to best engage with the private sector in ways that achieve sustainable development goals while adding value that incentivizes companies to partner.

Development partners like PEMSEA, World Ocean Council, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and IUCN can play a bridging role, supporting the achievement of sustainable development objectives while helping companies to address their challenges related to coasts and oceans.

This session will examine the role of business and its needs and expectations for collaborative coastal and ocean management, along with the role of development partners in helping companies to identify and develop practical opportunities supporting the SDGs and blue economy development. Building on insights from a new Sustainable Business Roadmap for the region, participants will explore prospects for establishing a regional alliance and opportunities for public-private partnership for blue economy development.

### **Expected Outputs:**

- o Insights on company needs and how development partners can provide a strong case for private sector engagement for blue economy development in the region
- o Learning more about development partners in the region and how they can support business in better coastal and ocean management
- o Exploring potential for an alliance between development partners and companies in the region
- o Identification of opportunities for joint activities between development partners and companies
- o Strengthened donor support for blue economy development with the private sector in the region



## **BLUE ECONOMY TRACK**

Blue economy advocates innovative governance, alternative economic growth strategies and additional investments that are in line with the SDGs. PEMSEA partners are currently developing 10 State of Oceans and Coasts reports and four subregional/large marine ecosystems (LME) reports focusing on the ocean economy, ecosystem services, ocean health, and blue economy initiatives. The SOCs highlight the critical role of coastal and marine ecosystems in economic development and resilience across the region, and implications for policy, planning, management and investment. Blue economy solutions exist, and alternative technologies, models and financing mechanisms are available to make our coasts and oceans safe and sustainable.

The 1st Blue Economy Forum, held in Thailand in November 2017, focused on the initial results of the national and subregional/LME State of Oceans and Coasts reports. This, the second 2nd Blue Economy Forum, will direct attention towards solution options, ongoing interdisciplinary research, initiatives and innovations to improve ocean health, incomes and livelihood, the role of government as an enablers and beneficiary and the investment and business opportunities.

## **SESSION 7.1: Capitalizing Upon Blue Economy Potentials for SDG14**

### **CONVENER:**



Ocean Policy Research  
Institute of the Sasakawa  
Peace Foundation

Examining case studies and analyzing critical factors for promoting blue economy and safeguarding environmental sustainability and socio-economic equity, empowering communities and stakeholders in the context of achieving SDG 14.

### **Expected output/s:**

- o Chair's report on discussion highlights, knowledge exchange on good practices and lessons learned, networking and partnership, policy brief on critical factors promoting stakeholder involvement.

## **SESSION 7.2: Interdisciplinary Research to Underpin Sustainable Planning and Management for Blue Economy**

### **CONVENER:**



Plymouth Marine Laboratory

This session will focus on the interdisciplinary research, which increases understanding of the economic, social, and ecological systems that should be brought together and used to support marine planning, management, and future sustainable development and blue economy.

### **Expected Output/s:**

- o A greater understanding of the interdisciplinary research and support sustainable development of blue economy sectors and marine management, regulation, and policy associated with this development.
- o Applications of approaches and tools in the blue economy sectors in the EAS region identified

## **SESSION 7.3: SOC Reports and Blue Economy Innovations, Emerging Industries and Governance**

### **CONVENERS:**



Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources,  
Philippines



Partnerships in Environmental  
Management for the Seas of  
East Asia

### **Expected Outputs:**

This session will highlight the innovative and emerging industries in the EAS region, and show their benefits, and contribution to national economies and to achieving the SDGs. New technologies, research and development programs, supporting policies, incentives and other enabling factors to scale up the development of these industries will be discussed by the speakers. The role of oceans and ecosystem services, which underpin these industries, and the need to protect and conserve these resources to sustain blue economy will be emphasized. , and draw attention to the outlook for blue economy in the region.

- o Contribution of ocean economy, and blue economy initiatives, such as innovative and emerging industries, to national economies, employment generation, livelihoods, innovations, and food, water and energy security
- o Solution options on ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries, water security, pollution reduction, and climate resiliency, and potential for replication and scaling up to support blue economy development
- o Enabling conditions for blue economy, and recognition of role of governments as enablers and beneficiaries
- o Next steps towards developing ocean accounts and waste accounts, and updating of the SOC Reports
- o Identification of host, theme and tentative schedule for the next Blue Economy Forum