

# NOWPAP MERRAC

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response  
Regional Activity Centre



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## **Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the 12<sup>th</sup> Competent National Authorities Meeting**

Seoul, Republic of Korea

10 – 13 April 2017



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## Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the 12<sup>th</sup> Competent National Authorities Meeting

Seoul, Republic of Korea

10 – 13 April 2017

**THE TWENTIETH NOWPAP MERRAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING &  
THE TWELFTH COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES MEETING  
FOR NOWPAP REGIONAL OIL AND HNS SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN**

(Seoul, Republic of Korea, 10 - 13 April 2017)

REPORT OF THE MEETING

**Background**

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three Resolutions were adopted in September 1994 at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) by the NOWPAP members, namely People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as China, Japan, Korea and Russia). In order to implement NOWPAP activities related to development of effective measures for regional cooperation in marine pollution preparedness and response, it was recommended that a regional Forum be created under the NOWPAP framework.
2. In March 2000, the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Region Activity Centre (MERRAC) was established in Daejeon, Korea. Based on the decision of the Fourth Forum Meeting, the name of the Forum has been changed to "NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM)" and MERRAC serving as a secretariat for the meeting.
3. The Seventh NOWPAP MERRAC FPM (2004) decided to organize "Competent National Authorities (CNA) Meeting" once a year for the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Plan) which had previously been adopted at the Eighth NOWPAP IGM (2003), in conjunction with the NOWPAP MERRAC FPM, in order to discuss the issues related to the Plan. Since 2001, MERRAC has been also organizing Expert Meetings to discuss and review, at a technical level, various topics related to MERRAC activities.
4. Following the decision of the Tenth NOWPAP IGM (2005) where the Members approved the expansion of the geographical coverage of the Plan as well as new MERRAC activities including chemical spills, marine based pollution, marine litter and ballast water and alien invasive species, International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions, and liability and compensation, the Ninth NOWPAP MERRAC FPM (2006) agreed to amend relevant parts of the Plan to cover the hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) and the amended Plan came into effect at the Thirteenth NOWPAP IGM (2008).
5. The Seventeenth NOWPAP MERRAC FPM (2014) agreed to adopt the new paragraph 5.2.1 of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (RCP) to enhance the interactive communication on oil and HNS spill information among the NOWPAP Members and accordingly the adopted paragraph entered into force upon the adoption of the meeting report on 13 June 2014.

6. The Eighteenth NOWPAP MERRAC FPM (2015) agreed on the work plan and budget of the MERRAC activities for the 2016/2017. MERRAC submitted the agreement made during the 18th MERRAC FPM and the 20th NOWPAP IGM (2015) approved the workplan and budget and has been decided to allocate USD 146,000 including the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan Marine Litter (RAP MALI) project allocated USD 6,000 as MERRAC budget for the 2016/2017 biennium.

7. Upon the agreement of the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC FPM and the Eleventh CNA Meeting, the Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC FPM and the Twelfth CNA Meeting were held from 10 to 13 April 2017 in Seoul, Korea. The list of participants of the meeting is attached in **Annex I**.

#### **Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting**

8. The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. on 10 April 2017 in Seoul, Korea by the welcome messages made from Dr. Seong-Gil KANG, the Director of MERRAC. He appreciated all the participants of the meetings including NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points (FPs), representatives from NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and IMO and observers. Mentioning that this year is the 20th anniversary of NOWPAP MERRAC FPM, he expressed special thanks to the NOWPAP Members and UNEP, IMO and other relevant organizations/institutions for their contribution for NOWPAP MERRAC in implementing successfully its designated missions on marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP region during last 20 years.

9. Mr. Katsuaki NAGASAKI, the Director of International Marine Pollution Prevention of Marine Environment Protection and Disaster Prevention Division, Japan Coast Guard (JCG), introduced himself as the successor of Mr. Ryoji HAYASHI from 1 April 2017. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the MERRAC Secretariat for organizing the meetings and pointed out that this year is the 20th anniversary of the Nakhodka incident occurred in January 1997 in Japan. He also emphasized the importance of regional cooperation on marine pollution preparedness and response in this region under the NOWPAP framework.

10. Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA, the Counsellor to the Director of Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot (MRS), Russia, started by congratulating for implementing many great activities during the intersessional period including 18th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise with new Online Pollution Reporting (POLREP) system, 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise organized by China and co-organized by Korea, and several specific projects. She also stressed that this FPM is very important especially for developing new MERRAC activities under the NOWPAP Medium-Terms Strategy (MTS) for 2018-2023.

11. Mr. Chunchang ZHANG, the Deputy Director, department of Dangerous Cargo Control and Pollution Prevention, China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), China, also expressed thanks to the MERRAC secretariat for organizing the meetings and he welcomed new Focal Points from Japan

and Korea, and NOWPAP RCU staffs as well as IMO. Addressing the successful implementation of the last NOWPAP DELTA exercise in China, he mentioned that China is always willing to continue to provide supports to the MERRAC activities in cooperation with other Members.

12. Mr. Taek-Soo IM, the Director of Marine Pollution Response Planning Division, Korea Coast Guard (KCG) of Ministry of Public Safety & Security, Korea, expressed his appreciation to the MERRAC secretariat for organizing the meetings and hoped the relationship among the Members will be even more closer and tighter. He also pointed out that the meeting will make the linkage more tightly and practically by discussing the future plan under the NOWPAP frame.

13. Dr. Lev NERETIN, the NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, stated that this is the first Regional Action Center (RAC) meeting to attend since he joined NOWPAP last year, and hoped for constructive discussion during the meetings. He emphasized that NOWPAP, entering its maturity phase, should prepare next work plan to be aligned with evolving sustainable development agenda framework and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023. He kindly requested the meetings to discuss on MERRAC's future plan and activities to be implemented with this new focus.

14. Mr. Yasuhiro URANO, Junior Professional Officer, IMO, expressed thanks to the MERRAC secretariat for inviting IMO to the meeting and giving him the opportunity to share information with the NOWPAP Members. Mentioning that this year is the 50th commemoration of the Torrey Canyon Incident occurred in 1967 in the United Kingdom, he stressed that, after the incident, a lot of multi-sectoral cooperation on oil spill issues has been achieved globally which resulted in the reduction of number of major oil spills greatly. He emphasized that, in this respect, the regional cooperation on oil and HNS spill preparedness and response among NOWPAP Members is also important to effectively protect marine and coastal environments against major spill incidents in the region.

15. As the observers were also invited to make their opening remarks, Mr. Alex HUNT (ITOPF), Mr. Joselito GUEVARRA (IPIECA), Ms. Kai Jing SIM (OSRL), Mr. Inseo HWANG and Mr. Seung-Hwan LEE (KOEM) expressed their thanks for inviting them to attend the meetings and their willing to contribute continuously to the implementation of MERRAC activities.

16. Dr. Chunwei HAN (DINRAC) and Dr. Svetlana KOZHENKOVA (POMRAC) were also invited to give their opening remarks. They emphasized the importance of the collaboration between the RACs and wished for successful meetings. Dr. Takafumi YOSHIDA (CEARAC) also attended the meetings.

## **Agenda item 2. Organization of the meeting**

17. In accordance with the paragraph 5.2. of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the NOWPAP

MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM), the meeting elected the Chairperson and Rapporteur as follows:

Chairperson: Mr. Chunchang ZHANG, Deputy Director of Department of Dangerous Cargo Control and Pollution Prevention, MSA, China

Rapporteur: Mr. Shun MASUI, Special Assistant to Director, Marine Environment Protection and Disaster Prevention Division, Guard and Rescue Department, JCG, Japan

18. The meeting agreed to apply the rules of procedure in line with the provisions in the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting. The meeting also agreed that English will be the working language and all decisions are made in consensus.

19. Dr. Seong-Gil KANG (MERRAC) introduced the list of working and information documents (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/INF1), as listed in **Annex II**. The meeting was informed on logistical arrangements of the meetings.

### **Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda**

20. The provisional agenda (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/1) was introduced by the Director of MERRAC with the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/ FPM 20/2). The meeting adopted the agendas as shown in **Annex III**.

### **The Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting**

#### **Agenda item 4. Overview of the progress made during the intersessional period after the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting**

21. Dr. Ning LIU, the Programme Officer of NOWPAP RCU, Busan Office, Korea, reported on the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities and its outputs made during the intersessional period (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC /FPM 20/3). Introducing the resolutions of the Twenty-first NOWPAP IGM (November 2016), he stated that the new MTS 2018-2023 is in the process of a consultation and preparation for the adoption of the 22nd NOWPAP IGM to be held in December 2017. He also mentioned that cash advance is a little delayed due to introduction of the new UMOJA system at the UNEP HQs.

22. Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) asked NOWPAP RCU about the purpose of collecting information concerning in-kind contributions from the NOWPAP Members and requested NOWPAP RCU to provide the guidelines and reporting format to MERRAC secretariat by 15 May 2017.

23. Mr. URANO (IMO) introduced the IMO's activities on marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response, especially ballast water management and Oil and HNS pollution, based on the outcomes of the seventieth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 70) and the fourth session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 4) (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/ FPM 20/4).

24. Following his presentation, general discussions were made among the participants, including possible ways to organize ITCP training courses in the NOWPAP region, and the detailed contents about the mandatory auditing scheme of IMO member states on implementation of IMO conventions.

25. Dr. KANG (MERRAC) reported on the MERRAC activities made after the 19th MERRAC FPM (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/5) with the annual expenditure of MERRAC budget for the 2016/2017 biennium (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/6).

26. Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) expressed the gratitude to MERRAC for successfully implementing the activities and emphasized on the necessity of continuous participation of the MERRAC secretariat in international meetings such as IMO PPR.

27. Mr. Peng GUO, Section Chief, Department of Dangerous Cargo Control and Pollution Prevention, Shangdong Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), China, suggested MERRAC to provide information and outcomes of the participation in international meetings such as IMO PPR and any technical conferences to the NOWPAP Members in the future.

28. Mr. Hyoung-Jun LEEM, Assistant Director of Marine Pollution Response Planning Division, KCG of Ministry of Public Safety & Security, Korea, mentioned that all in-kind contribution from the Members, e.g. provided in organizing the NOWPAP DELTA exercises should be remarked in the report on the MERRAC activities in the future.

29. Dr. KANG (MERRAC) fully agreed with the remarks made by China and Korea.

**Agenda item 5. Review of the progress made for each task agreed at the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and identification of future work**

**5.1. Routine Tasks**

**Focal Points**

30. Ms. Joung-Yun LEE, Consultant of MERRAC, informed the changes of Focal Points of China and Korea, and NOWPAP RCU Coordinator as follows (UNEP/IMO/ NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/7):



- from Mr. Leyi DONG to Mr. Chungchang ZHANG (China)
- from Mr. Young YOU to Mr. Taek-Soo IM (Korea)
- from Dr. Alexander TKALIN to Dr. Lev NERETIN (NOWPAP RCU)

### **Information System**

31. Ms. Joung-Yun LEE (MERRAC) also informed to the meeting on updated Information System (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/8), mentioning that all NOWPAP Members have submitted the updated lists of oil spill response equipment, institutions and experts related to the marine pollution preparedness and response. The updated Information System has been uploaded on MERRAC website, accordingly.

32. Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) proposed that MERRAC consider the possibility to improve format of oil spill response equipment for facilitating its further filling up.

### **Report on Oil and HNS Spill Incidents**

33. Ms. Joung-Yun LEE (MERRAC) continued to present the updated list of oil and HNS spill incidents in the NOWPAP region (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/9), together with analysis on geographical and temporal trends of the incidents and their causes, etc. She reported that 5 oil spills and 0 HNS spill incident occurred in the NOWPAP region in 2016.

34. The meeting kindly requested the NOWPAP Members to promptly exchange information on oil and HNS spills in accordance with the NOWPAP RCP through the POLREP system for active co-operation among the Members and also asked the MERRAC secretariat to continuously maintain and update the list of oil and HNS spill accidents in the NOWPAP region as a Routine Task.

### **5.2. Specific Projects.**

35. Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, Senior Consultant of MERRAC, reported on the general progress of the specific projects (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/10), reminding that following 3 projects have been carried out during the intersessional period:

- Development of MERRAC information system based on the Web GIS
- Development of information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region
- Development of a technical report on oiled wildlife (mainly birds and marine mammals) response in the NOWPAP region

36. Following the presentations, the meeting discussed on the current progress, expected achievements and/or recommendations on future works as below:

### **Development of MERRAC information system based on the Web GIS**

37. Ms. Siyeon LEE, Consultant of MERRAC, presented on the current progress and the future plan about the specific project for development of MERRAC Information System based on the Web GIS (Annex 2 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/10). She demonstrated the initial version of new Information System to the meeting on how to use the system and what information can be provided through the system, and informed that the final version will be made by this year.

38. Dr. Valentin ZHURAVEL, Head of project management of Risk Informatics Center, Moscow, Russia, asked on the data interface and integration between the Information System and POLREP system and oil and HNS spill database. Ms. Siyeon LEE (MERRAC) replied that the statistical database is not being provided under the current version and is considering including them at the next stage when it is updated.

39. Mr. GUO (China) questioned whether the Information System will be opened to the public or not. Dr. KANG (MERRAC) replied that the system will be opened to public depending on the category of data and some of data will only be accessed to the Members under ensured security password system, which will be informed later. He added that the access control policy of the system should be subject to agreement of the Members.

40. Mr. LEEM (Korea) requested that working schedule should be informed so that KCG can use the database as a testbed at the next communication exercise (NOWPAP BRAVO) if the condition of the system is permitted.

### **Development of information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region**

41. Ms. Siyeon LEE (MERRAC) presented on the current progress on the development of Information Sharing Platform on Oil and HNS Spills in the NOWPAP Region (Annex 3 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/ MERRAC/FPM 20/10). She reported the summary of submitted national reports on major spill incidents in the NOWPAP region from China, Japan and Korea, and informed that the regional report is currently being developed. Also, she explained the time table for future work and the project will be finished by this year.

42. Dr. ZHURAVEL (Russia) stated that he will submit the Russian national report soon.

43. The meeting requested MERRAC to keep the information sharing platform alive and also asked to set draft guideline on how to collect and/or submit data from the Members in the future. The meeting agreed that within 3 months (by the end of July) the draft platform will be made and circulated to the Members. The draft platform will be finalized by the end of the November after revising along with the comments made by the Members.

**Development of a technical report on oiled wildlife (mainly birds and marine mammals) response in the NOWPAP region**

44. Dr. OH (MERRAC) introduced the current progress of the specific project (Annex 4 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/10), explaining that, during the intersessional period, the regional report will be developed based upon the national reports submitted from nominated experts of the Members.

45. The meeting reviewed the tentative contents of the regional report and requested to finalize the project by the end of 2017, as planned. The meeting decided to discuss again at the next FPM regarding on how to utilize the outputs and/or recommendations from the project in formulating into the regional guidelines and/or manuals.

**5.3. Sea-based Marine Litter Activities**

46. Ms. Yoon Young Back, Consultant of MERRAC, presented on the progress of entire NOWPAP RAP MALI activities including activities and achievement of MERRAC activities on marine litter carried out until present (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/11).

47. Following her presentation, general discussions were made among the participants. Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) proposed that NOWPAP RCU should endeavor to introduce the successful achievements of the NOWPAP RAP MALI activities to other regions on behalf of RACs. In response, Dr. NERETIN (NOWPAP RCU) stated that NOWPAP RCU is making efforts to take opportunity to share with the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) and other relevant international initiatives, including at the upcoming G7 meeting (June 2017).

48. Mr. NAGASAKI (Japan) reminded that MERRAC Focal Points are composed of national authorities dealing with oil and chemical spill issues such as coast guards and have no professional expertise on marine litter issues. In this regard, he mentioned that further NOWPAP RAP MALI implementation cannot be proceeded unless NOWPAP IGM shows stronger leadership due to the limitation of budget and expertise.

49. Dr. Young-Gyu PARK, Senior Researcher of Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology (KIOST), made a presentation on the result of the project entitled 'Floating Marine Litter Prediction Model' as a leading expert of the project (Annex 1 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/11). At the presentation, he reviewed the existing floating marine litter prediction models in the NOWPAP region and identified future works to be implemented on this matter. After the presentation, Mr. GUO (China) reminded that the geographic coverage of the project should be limited to the NOWPAP region and care should be taken of related terminologies.

50. After his presentation, general discussions were made among the participants, which included the geographic scope of the study area, application of the model to micro-plastic modeling, etc. It is informed that the draft version of the report will be circulated by June 2017 to NOWPAP Marine Litter FPs and MERRAC FPs for their review, aiming the final report will be submitted by the end of this year.

**Agenda item 6. Issues related to the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan including its Annexes**

51. Regarding this agenda item, there was no new submission from the Members about the issues and/or methods related to efficient implementation of the NOWPAP RCP including revision and/or amendments of its annex.

52. Dr. Hyun-Kue CHOI, Deputy Director of Marine Pollution Response Planning Division, KCG, Korea, made a presentation on the 'Establishment of a Procedure for Exchange of Oil Sample for Transboundary Marine Pollution Incidents', which was prepared by the Correspondence Group during the intersessional period since the last 19th FPM (Annex 1 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/13). At the presentation, he introduced the current relevant guidelines, practices and/or regulations in the NOWPAP Members, United States and Bonn Agreement on this matter. Also, he proposed the early draft texts on the process of exchange of oil sample among the NOWPAP Members, relevant example format for request of oil sample to another country and chain of custody record on sample transfer, etc.

53. After his presentation, detailed discussions were made among the participants, regarding technical, administrative, financial and legal aspects. The main questions and/or relevant issues are listed below:

- Legal issue: administrative concerns in relation to oil sample exchange (mainly by China): identity of oil samples as a potential evidence for relevant legal proceedings, difference of legal background between HELCOM's and NOWPAP's practices, legitimacy and probative force, the statutory agencies, existing bilateral cooperation between relevant investigation authorities and other related regulations such as customs, etc.
- Financing issue: The cost for transportation of samples
- Technical issue: How to collect sample, transfer it and analysis and thermal management, whether it can be used effectively or not as an evidence to P&I insurance
- Others

54. After the lengthy discussion, the meeting decided that there are still a lot of issues to deal with among the Members at present stage and still have some work to finish. Since the meeting has

not enough time to review and study on this project deeply, the meeting invited to discuss again at the next MERRAC FPM. Especially, the meeting shared the opinions that the procedure be established based upon the voluntary basis (non-legally binding), in the simplified form (detailed issues relating to the exchange of oil samples should be discussed bilaterally between relevant Members). It is also decided that the necessity of adding this procedure to the annex of existing NOWPAP RCP is also re-discussed at the next FPM.

55. Upon the request of Chairperson, Korea was invited to play continuously a leading role for the Correspondence Group on this issue. Korea expressed that future working direction will be shared with the Members of the Correspondence Group during the intersessional period.

**The Twelfth Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (Agenda 7-8)**

**Agenda item 7. Report and discussion on the NOWPAP trainings and/or exercises carried out during the last intersessional period and to be held in the near future**

56. Ms. Siyeon LEE (MERRAC) made a presentation on the activities related to the NOWPAP trainings and exercises during intersessional periods (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/14). She demonstrated how to use online POLREP system, which has been developed during last intersessional period.

57. The meeting invited Japan and China to introduce the implementation result of the 18th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise and 6th NOWPAP DELATA exercise, respectively.

58. Firstly, Mr. Shun MASUI, Assistant to the Director of Marine Environment Protection and Disaster Prevention Division, JCG, Japan, reported the outcomes of the 18th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise, which was conducted on 13 November 2016 (Annex 1 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/14).

59. Expressing thanks to Japan for successful implementation of the exercise, the meeting participants exchanged their opinions regarding the effectiveness of use of online system during the NOWPAP BRAVO exercise (which communication tools are more appropriate among fax, e-mail and telephone), the duration of exercise, frequency of exercises, and effectiveness of blind implementation of exercise (not to inform the exact date and time prior to exercise), etc. China suggested that clear suggestive method e.g. telephone or fax are used for notification of the beginning if the BRAVO exercise is implemented in a blind manner.

60. The meeting agreed to implement the NOWPAP BRAVO exercise once per year, and the

leading country fully decided on how to implement the exercise including the duration and communication tools for the exercise, also whether blind exercise be carried or not.

61. In addition to the formal BRAVO exercise, it is also decided that a simple communication test using the developed online POLREP System be carried out under the leading role of MERRAC quarterly to test the function of the system.

62. Next, Mr. GUO (China) was invited to present the outcomes of the 6th NOWPAP DELTA Exercise (Annex 2 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/14) and shared the video with all the participants in the meeting, which contains the detailed information of the 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise. The meeting reviewed together the results and lessons learnt from the 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise.

63. Mr. LEEM (Korea) congratulated China for the successful conduction of the 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise and mentioned that it was the great opportunity to dispatch KCG vessel to China. Dr. ZHURAVEL (Russia) requested for the video of the 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise. Dr. KANG (MERRAC) also expressed thanks to China and mentioned this kind of exercise should be conducted in the regular basis to facilitate the cooperation.

64. The meeting was invited to discuss and decide the future plan on the NOWPAP exercises to be held in 2018. It was decided that, as per the rotational basis, Japan will conduct the 7th NOWPAP DELTA exercise and the meeting kindly asked Japan to submit the future plan to next FPM. Mr. NAGASAKI (Japan) kindly suggested to the meeting that the detailed work plan will be informed through the email communication as soon as the exact date and place are confirmed (tentatively proposed held in 2018).

#### **Agenda item 8. Exchange of latest information on marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP Members**

65. Based on the introduction of the Chairperson, Mr. GUO (China) gave a presentation on the Recent Progress in China's oil spill response capability building for 2016/2017. He also described that the revision of the marine environment protection law and the standard on pollution preparedness capabilities of terminals and ports and he informed the meeting that new warehouse for oil spill response equipment in Weihai, China is now under construction.

66. Mr. MASUI (Japan) introduced the incident of the Nakhodka (January 1997) and the progresses and lessons learned after the incident with the presentation named "20 years after the Nakhodka accident".

67. Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) made a presentation on the National Executive Bodies involved in the National oil spill preparedness and response system. She also introduced MRS and its branches with geographically described locations of divisions. A lot of trainings and exercises which were implemented during the intersessional period were also introduced to the meeting with relevant pictures. She also introduced the multi-purposed salvage vessels together with detailed information shown on the pictures.

68. Mr. LEEM (Korea) made two presentations about their experience on legal trial on compensation for the marine environment emergency response such as firefighting, drafting monitoring and blocking the spill source as preventive measures related to M/V Hong-tai incident in Korea (May 2013), and on the latest activities of the Emergency Response Working Group of North Pacific Coast Guard Forum Expert Meeting (NPCGF) which are joined by Japan, Russia, China, United States and Canada.

### **The Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting**

#### **Agenda item 9. Future MERRAC activities under the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023**

69. Dr. NERETIN (NOWPAP RCU) made a presentation on the draft version for NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/16) and indicative activities for the next biennium 2018-2019.

70. Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) made a comment that the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 should consider further integration of RAC activities within the scope of their mandates. Also, some conceptual wording needs to make a clear definition especially on the exact definition such as land-based or/and sea-based pollution, eutrophication, and etc.

71. Dr. KANG (MERRAC) also questioned about the positions of the NOWPAP Members on the draft version of the MTS developed by NOWPAP RCU, and how much resources are required to implement the designated missions under the draft MTS. Also, he stressed that the importance of oil and HNS spill issues should be emphasized in this region considering the regional situation having high risk of oil and HNS spills. He also suggested that IMO's involvement is required in developing MTS in order to reflect newly emerging marine environmental issues covered by IMO.

72. Mr. GUO (China) commented that the draft NOWPAP MTS seems covering all global issues, which might not be covered by current NOWPAP capability and might be duplicated with other existing organizations and/or activities.

73. Mr. URANO (IMO) suggested that the IMO's Strategic Plan for the six-year period from 2016

to 2021 (IMO Resolution A. 1098(29)) should also be listed in the relevant international process and frameworks (section 2, paragraph 2 of the draft MTS), and that the text and figure of section 3 should be refined to make them more logical and easier to understand.

74. Dr. NERETIN (NOWPAP RCU) replied that the comments made from the MERRAC FPs and IMO are very valuable and will be reflected in making final draft report and circulated to the MERRAC FPs through MERRAC secretariat.

75. The meeting made a conclusion to discuss more on this issue through E-mail communication during the intersessional period and agreed to submit to the MERRAC secretariat on the general proposal regarding the entire NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 by the end of May 2017. After that, MERRAC will combine and convey them to NOWPAP RCU and then RCU will develop and circulate the final draft of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 by the end of June for the review of the Member states.

76. Prior to detailed discussion on the scope of MERRAC activities to be touched under the new MTS 2018-2023, Ms. BACK (MERRAC) presented the document summarizing the histories and its results which MERRAC FPM had ever discussed, including the possibility of extension of MERRAC's scope which was brought up for more than 10 years (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/16). The MERRAC FPs were requested on their opinions regarding the possible new activities (in addition to existing oil and HNS issues) to be considered under new MTS 2018-2023 as one of MERRAC's activities.

77. Regarding the scope of MERRAC activities under new MTS for 2018-2023, Mr. LEEM (Korea), Mr. NAGASAKI (Japan) and Dr. ZHURAVEL (Russia) expressed their opinions that new themes are beyond MERRAC FP's expertise and due to MERRAC's limited capability such as human resources and budgetary issue, those new themes could not be carried out by MERRAC secretariat. They stated that MERRAC is better to focus on existing oil and HNS spill issues, rather than expanding to the irrelevant scope of MERRAC activities under the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023, like until now.

78. Upon the request from the meeting, Dr. KANG (MERRAC) mentioned that the possible new themes listed in the documents as examples for FP's discussion might be related with maritime environmental issues related to IMO conventions. He generally described how new possible themes and framework of MERRAC might be linked under the condition that the MERRAC have to do some new issues under the new MTS framework.

79. Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) stated that it seems no one of FPs can cover all the themes under the IMO conventions, and it's not realistic that matters concerning implemented IMO relevant conventions could be included in the MERRAC's agenda.

80. Mr. LEEM (Korea) expressed his opinion that there might be necessity to integrate the



opinions and find common principle in order to find the possible direction. He might support the themes, which are related to marine environmental emergency response and preventive measures. He explained an example that the marine emergency salvage operation at the initial stage of the marine incident as for the preventive measure might be highly link to emergency response. Moreover, experiences on exchanging of claim and compensation might be also possible to handle although the international and domestic framework is already established. He also pointed out as an example that the frequency of LNG powered vessels are increasing rapidly following the enforcement of the air-pollution regulation of IMO so that the responds against incidents involving LNG powered vessels should be considered as new challenges to marine pollution preparedness and response issue as well. In this regards, MERRAC FPs who are responsible for marine environmental emergency issue, are required to prepare appropriate countermeasure against newly emerging themes if those are based on the issue of the marine environmental emergency preparedness and response.

81. Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) suggested that FPs further consider and discuss other matters linked with oil and HNS issue through email during intersessional period after this meeting.

82. Mr. GUO (China) kindly asked whether LNG is covered under the definition of HNS. Mr. HUNT (ITOPF) answered that LNG is included in the definition of HNS under the HNS convention and under the OPRC-HNS protocol.

83. Through the consultation of the MERRAC, NOWPAP RUC and FPs, the meeting concluded to submit review, comment and suggestion regarding new MERRAC activities to be considered possibly under the new MTS 2018-2023 by the end of May 2017. Also, Dr. KANG (MERRAC) requested to submit their opinions divided into two parts by on entire NOWPAP MTS or on MERRAC specific issues

84. The meeting agreed to discuss continuously this issue through email communication to aiming to reflect opinions of MERRAC FPs into the draft MTS, and then to submit to the 22nd NOWPAP IGM for their final approval.

#### **Agenda item 10. Work plan and budget for the 2018/2019 biennium and other future activities**

85. Dr. KANG (MERRAC) presented the draft work plan and budget for the 2018/2019 biennium (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/18), stating three proposals had been submitted by China and Russia as new MERRAC Specific Projects for 2018/2019 biennium.

86. Meeting decided to revise the proposals submitted by the MERRAC secretariat in order to reflect the discussion and conclusions made during this FPM, agreeing to submit two options of different budget scales (option A: US\$140,000; option B: US\$180,000, respectively)

87. Mr. NAGASAKI (Japan) stated that the 2018 NOWPAP DELTA exercise and the 2019 Expert Meeting will be prepared by Japan. Mr. GUO (China) kindly asked MERRAC to report the results and/or relevant information that MERRAC has participated such as IMO PPR and other international technical conferences.

88. Upon the invitation of the chairperson, Mr. LEEM (Korea) made a presentation regarding the draft plan of 2017 Expert Meeting. It was informed that the expert meeting will be held entitled as International Marine Disaster Response Conference which will be held around December 2017 and the venue is tentatively considered as Busan, Korea. Together with the Expert Meeting, on-site exercise on HNS spill response and exhibition of advanced oil spill response equipment and system will be prepared.

89. After the presentation, Dr. KUTAEVA (Russia) expressed their interest on that the exercise is planned realistically. However, the dates proposed by Korea are maybe overlapped with the dates of NOWPAP IGM 2017. She proposed to reconsider the dates. Mr. GUO and Mr. NAGASAKI also made the comment concerning the date as November and December will be little difficult to conduct the exercise.

90. Mr. LEEM (Korea) stated that Korea already made the consultation with Busan Coast Guard and Busan CG has a lot of experience organizing the exercise during the winter time, but, considering the comments by this meeting, they might reconsider the dates after the meeting through the internal discussion.

91. Mr. HUNT (ITOPF) expressed that ITOPF is willing to attend the 2017 Expert Meeting whenever the dates are.

92. As for the proposals of new MERRAC specific project, following three proposals have been reported by the NOWPAP Members during the meeting.

**Guidelines on the assessment of oil spill response capability for the NOWPAP region (proposed by China)**

93. Mr. Xudong CONG, Deputy Director, Yantai Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), China, presented the first proposal for the new MERRAC specific project for 2018/2019 biennium (Annex 2-1 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/18). The title of the proposal is 'Guidelines on the assessment of oil spill response capability for the NOWPAP region'. China made introduction of necessity and the purpose of the activity to the meeting together with the relevant practices in China.

**The use of Unmanned Aircraft in Marine Pollution Response in the NOWPAP region (proposed by China)**

94. Mr. GUO (China) also presented the proposal for new MERRAC specific project for the

2018-2019 biennium (Annex 2-2 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/18), which is 'The use of Unmanned Aircraft in Marine Pollution Response in the NOWPAP region'. Brief introduction of the background, necessity of the project, purpose of the project was presented to the meeting and the detailed activities, which will be implemented followed by the work plan were discussed.

**Minimum response requirements for oil and HNS spills, which may arise from the offshore units at the NOWPAP region (proposed by Russia)**

95. Regarding proposal made by Russia which is 'Minimum response requirements for oil and HNS spills, which may arise from the offshore units at the NOWPAP region', Dr. ZHURAVEL (Russia) made the presentation with substantiation of the necessity and main content of harmonized recommendations on oil spill emergency preparedness and response for the offshore units in the NOWPAP region.

96. Following the presentations on the proposals for each project purpose, discussions on detailed contents, working schedule and/or relevant budget, and technical purpose had been made among the participants. After the consultations among head of delegations and MERRAC secretariat, the meeting decided to submit all those 3 proposals as the new MERRAC specific projects for 2018/2019 biennium to next NOWPAP IGM for the final approval. The draft outlines of the proposals on new specific project are attached in **Annex IV**.

97. Considering the budget availability, meeting decided to launch the tasks entitled the 'Renewal of MERRAC website and relevant information system' which was submitted by MERRAC secretariat. The purpose of this task is renewal of existing old and fragmented MERRAC website and/or homepages, enabling to implement effectively and efficiently the newly developed web-based information systems. The budget for this task was proposed to be US\$20,000, but depending on budget availability and approval of NOWPAP IGM, it will be re-arranged.

98. Regarding the NOWPAP RAP MALI, it was agreed that detailed proposals including its budget for next biennium will be prepared by consultation with NOWPAP RCU and other RACs under integrated manner during intersessional period after this meeting. MERRAC, through close consultation with NOWPAP RCU and RACs will prepare the proposal of new NOWPAP RAP MALI project before the next IGM and will submit for the final approval. With regard to future marine litter activities, Mr. GUO (China) expressed that to some extent it is not appropriate for Competent Authorities to shoulder the responsibilities to examine the reports of marine litter activities because of the limitations of duties. However, such reports are subject to approval by the MERRAC FPM and CNA meetings, which implies the responsibilities of Competent Authorities. Therefore, it is suggested that the marine litter activities of MERRAC should be conducted in other mechanism than the current one.

99. After lengthy discussions, the meeting decided the draft workplan and its budgetary plan for next biennium 2018-2019 as listed in **Annex V and VI**, respectively, and also agreed to submit them through NOWPAP RCU to next NOWPAP IGM for their final approval.

**Agenda item 11. Arrangement of intersessional work and venue and dates of the Twenty-first NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Thirteenth Competent National Authorities for NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan**

100. Dr. KANG (MERRAC) presented the routine tasks and the specific project to be implemented during the intersessional period. After the discussion, the meeting re-arranged the intersessional works as attached in **Annex VII**.

101. The meeting agreed to hold the Twenty-first NOWPAP MERRAC FPM and Thirteen CNA meeting in May or June 2018. The exact date and venue will be decided in the beginning of the year 2018 via e-mail communications.

**Agenda item 12. Other Matters**

102. Mr. GUEVARRA (IPIECA) presented on the updates for the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GISEA), the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Regional Plan, and other activities that support the objectives of the Strategic Framework for 2015-2017. He also presented an overview of IPIECA, the IPIECA-IOGP Oil Spill Response-Joint Industry Project (OSR-JIP), including the Good Practice Guides (GPGs), which can be downloaded and used for free.

103. Mr. HUNT (ITOPF) presented on the introduction of 'Update of ITOPF: recent trends in spill response and preparedness', including the ITOPF spill response role, collected oil spill data (only the spill from the tankers), global trends of major tanker spills (informed every year), the activities which will be implemented in the future.

104. The delegation of China pointed out that serious mistakes were made in the presentation of ITOPF. The delegation of China demanded immediate correction, and stated the serious and steady position of China that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. The delegation of China also demanded that ITOPF review related information which ITOPF delivered on international occasions and on its website, and make corrections.

105. Mr. HUNT (ITOPF) responded to the concerns raised on behalf of China by Mr. GUO, which related specifically to references to 'Taiwan' in relation to a recent incident attended by ITOPF 'TS

TAIPEI' in 2016 and within outputs from an ITOPF database on the number of spills attended in different countries. He also stated that the focus of his presentation was on technical issues associated with spill response and preparedness for the NOWPAP region, rather than political matters. He acknowledged that geopolitical issues are pertinent to international agreements on spill response and preparedness, such as NOWPAP, but he also made the point that the case in question was referred to purely as an example of an incident attended by ITOPF over the past 12 months, and not in relation to the NOWPAP region and its risk profile, given that the location lies outside of the geographic scope of NOWPAP. ITOPF referred to the location of the incident as 'Taiwan', simply because that is where the incident occurred geographically, and no reference of any kind was made to its political independence during the presentation. With regard to the list of countries within the database output, ITOPF acknowledged the concerns raised by China and agreed to remove the relevant slide from the PowerPoint document for the purpose of making the presentation available to MERRAC delegates.

#### **Agenda item 13. Adoption of the report of the Meeting**

106. The 20th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the 12th Competent National Authorities Meeting adopted the report of the meeting with its annexes following its presentation by the Rapporteur.

#### **Agenda item 14. Closure of the Meeting**

107. The meeting was closed at 13:30 on Thursday, 13 April 2017 by the Chairperson.

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Annex VII. The List of Tasks for 2017

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**Annex I**

**List of Participants**



**Annex I. List of Participants to the Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the Twelfth Competent National Authorities Meeting**

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<Participants of the 20th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the 12th Competent National Authorities Meeting>



<Technical Tour to Changdeokgung in Seoul, Republic of Korea>

## **Annex II**

### **List of Documents**



**Annex II. List of documents for the Twentieth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Twelfth Competent National Authorities Meeting****Working Documents**

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/3	Report of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the Progress in the Implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/4	Report on Activities of IMO Carried After the Nineteenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/5	Report on MERRAC Activities Carried After the Nineteenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/6	Report on the Annual Expenditure of MERRAC in 2016
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/7	Report on the Focal Points
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/8	Report on the Information System
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/9	Report on Oil and HNS Spill Incidents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/10	Progress Report on the Implementation of the MERRAC Specific Projects
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/11	Report of MERRAC Activities on RAP MALI
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/12	Discussion on Efficient Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan Including Revision and/or Amendment of the NOWPAP RCP and its Annexes

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/13	Report on the establishment of a procedure for Exchange of Oil Sample for Transboundary Marine Pollution Incidents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/14	Report on the NOWPAP Training and Exercise
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/15	Latest Progress Report on the Oil and HNS Pollution Preparedness and Response in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/16	Presentation on the overview of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/17	Discussion on the strategy and direction of MERRAC activities under the new MTS 2018-2023, including MERRAC PoW for 2018-2019
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/18	Report on the Workplan and Budget of MERRAC Activities for the 2018-2019 biennium
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/19	Draft Arrangements of the Existing Tasks and Identification of Additional Tasks for Intersessional Works (to be updated)

### **Reference Documents**

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/INF1	List of Documents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/INF2	Timetable
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/INF3	List of Participants
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 20/INF4	Logistic information
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 19/19	Report of the 19th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the 11th Competent National Authorities Meeting (Jeju, 31 May-3 June 2016)



**Annex III**

**Agenda**



### **Annex III. Agenda of the Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Twelfth Competent National Authorities Meeting**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organization of the meeting
  - 2.1. Election of the officers
  - 2.2. Organization of work
3. Adoption of the agenda

#### The Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

4. Overview of the progress made during the intersessional period after the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
  - 4.1. Report of a representative of NOWPAP RCU on the implementation of Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) activities
  - 4.2. Report of a representative of IMO on the latest activities related to marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response
  - 4.3. Report of the Director of MERRAC on the activities and the budget expenditures made during the intersessional period after the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
5. Review of the progress made for each task agreed at the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and identification of future work
  - 5.1. Routine Tasks
    - Focal Points
    - Information system (equipment, institutions, experts, and performance standards)
    - Report on oil and HNS pollution incidents

5.2. Specific Projects

*(The leading expert of each project will be invited to report the results)*

- Development of MERRAC information system based on the Web GIS
- Development of information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region
- Oiled wildlife response

5.3. Sea-based Marine Litter activities

6. The NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan

6.1. Efficient implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan including revision and/or amendment of the NOWPAP RCP and its Annexes *(any revision of the text of the NOWPAP RCP should be submitted in written form with explanation 6 weeks prior to the meeting, if existed)*

6.2. Establishment of a procedure for exchange of oil sample for transboundary marine pollution incidents in the NOWPAP region *(presentation by the leading country, Korea)*

The Twelfth Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan

7. The NOWPAP training and exercises

7.1. Report of the 18th NOWPAP BRAVO Exercise (Japan)

7.2. Report of the 6th NOWPAP DELTA Exercise (July 2016, Weihei China)

7.3. Future plan on NOWPAP trainings and exercises

- 19th BRAVO Exercise (Korea)
- 20th BRAVO Exercise (to be decided)

8. Exchange of latest information on marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP members *(presentation by the representatives of CNAs)*

- National Contingency Plans & relevant national laws/regulations/policies
- Case Studies of Recent National oil/HNS Spills
- National/Sub-regional Training and Exercises
- Others

The Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

9. Discussion on the future MERRAC activities under the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023
    - 9.1. Presentation on the overview of the new NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 by the NOWPAP RCU
    - 9.2. Discussion on the strategy and directions of MERRAC activities under the new NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 including MERRAC PoW for 2018-2019
  10. Discussion on the proposed workplan and budget for the 2018/2019 biennium and other future activities
    - 10.1. Draft plan on the organization of the 2017 MERRAC Expert Meeting to be held in Korea (*presentation by the leading country, Korea*)
    - 10.2. Proposals on new MERRAC specific projects to be implemented during the 2018-2019 biennium (*to be suggested by members/MERRAC*)
    - 10.3. Proposals on new NOWPAP RAP MALI project to be implemented during the 2018-2019 biennium (*to be suggested by members/MERRAC*)
  11. Arrangement of intersessional work and venues and dates of the 21st NOWPAP MERRAC FPM and the 13th CNA Meeting
  12. Other Matters including discussions on potential collaborative activities with other RACs, organizations and NGOs (*presentations from the observers can be made under this agenda*)
  13. Adoption of the report of the Meeting
  14. Closure of the Meeting
-



**Annex IV**

**Proposals for MERRAC specific projects in 2018-2019**





## **Annex IV. Proposals for MERRAC Specific Projects in 2018-2019**

### **a) Development of guidelines on the assessment of oil spill response capability in the NOWPAP region**

#### **A. PROPOSAL OUTLINE**

- 1. Project Title:** Development of guidelines on the assessment of oil spill response capability in the NOWPAP region
- 2. Leading country or RAC:** China
- 3. Participating NOWPAP members:** Japan, Korea and Russia
- 4. Supporting body of the Project:** NOWPAP MERRAC
- 5. Project period:** 2 years (2018-2019)
- 6. Total budget:** US\$ 15,000

#### **B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

##### **1. Background**

MERRAC has been mandated to carry out and fulfill one of the NOWPAP Priorities (NOWPAP/4), i.e. Development of Effective Measures for Regional Cooperation in Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response. In order to facilitate designated mandates of MERRAC, Specific Projects with regard to marine pollution response have been constantly organized by NOWPAP members and MERRAC, e.g. Sensitivity Mapping, Minimum Level of Preparedness, Risk assessment of oil spill incident-Likelihood analysis, etc. The outputs of projects have enhanced the regional awareness of situation and provided useful tools for capability building in the NOWPAP region. In particular, the specific project "Minimum Level of Preparedness" provided recommendations from a qualitative prospective.

In recent years, NOWPAP members have made significant progress in the capability building for oil spill response. Response facilities are established in key areas and resources are prepared in major ports, terminals, etc. Along with the development of substantial resources, NOWPAP members have attached more importance to the scientific planning and management of response capability. In this regard, capability assessment and risk assessment are fundamental tools as they provide clear information of the situation for decision making. At present, NOWPAP members have already conducted specific project on risk assessment, while research on capability assessment remains to be conducted.

Capability assessment, in particular, covers the available resources of a specific area or organization, and evaluates the major components of oil spill response capability with qualitative and quantitative

method, including oil spill monitoring, control, cleanup, and storage, etc. The result of the assessment will indicate the effectiveness of preparedness and capability building. In this regard, a new specific project on the assessment of oil spill response capability is considered necessary for the NOWPAP region.

## **2. Purpose of the Project**

The project aims to provide a calculative method on the assessment of oil spill response capabilities for the NOWPAP region and related guidelines/recommendations on the use of the method. Such a method could assist the competent national authorities of NOWPAP members in assessing the oil spill response capability of a specific area, port, or response organization. The method may also serve as a tool for the development of capability building plans or programs. Accordingly, the project will contribute to the capability building on the preparedness and response to oil spill incidents in the NOWPAP region.

## **3. Brief description of the Project**

- 1) Current situation with regard to the assessment of oil spill response capability in the NOWPAP region;
- 2) Theoretical study on the principle and key indicators for the assessment of oil spill response capability;
- 3) Establishment of calculative method for the assessment of oil spill response capability;
- 4) Guidelines on the assessment of oil spill response capability for the NOWPAP region.

**b) Development of regional overview on the use of unmanned aircraft during marine pollution response in the NOWPAP region**

**A. PROPOSAL OUTLINE**

- 1. Project Title:** Development of regional overview on the use of unmanned aircraft during marine pollution response in the NOWPAP region
- 2. Leading country or RAC:** China
- 3. Participating NOWPAP members:** Japan, Korea and Russia
- 4. Supporting body of the Project:** NOWPAP MERRAC
- 5. Project period:** 2 years (2018-2019)
- 6. Total budget:** US\$ 10,000

**B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**1. Background**

In 2003, the eighth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) adopted the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Plan) as technical and operational guidelines for regional cooperation in cases of oil spill emergencies in the NOWPAP region. The tenth NOWPAP IGM (2005) approved the expansion of the geographical coverage of the Plan. The thirteenth NOWPAP IGM (2008) adopted the Resolution on the NOWPAP Oil and HNS Spill Regional Contingency Plan, so that the Plan was amended to covers both oil and HNS spills.

MERRAC has been mandated to carry out and fulfill one of the NOWPAP Priorities (NOWPAP/4), i.e. Development of Effective Measures for Regional Cooperation in Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response. In order to facilitate designated mandates of MERRAC, Specific Projects with regard to marine pollution response have been constantly organized by NOWPAP members and MERRAC, e.g. Sensitivity Mapping, Oil Dispersant, Shoreline Clean-up, HNS Database, Online Pollution Reporting System, etc., the outputs of which have enhanced application of the up-to-date response technologies in the NOWPAP region.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the development of unmanned aircraft. Due to their good mobility, versatility and cost-efficiency, unmanned aircrafts have good performance in a variety of aspects. With regard to marine pollution response, unmanned aircraft is capable of conducting site monitoring, surveillance, deploying devices, etc. Projects on expanding the use of unmanned aircraft are being conducted by industry and research institutes around the world. In China, unmanned aircrafts have been widely used in oil spill response exercises and in the response to real pollution incident. On 14 July 2016, several unmanned aircrafts participated in the 6th NOWPAP Delta

Exercise as organized by China and co-organized by Korea, and fulfilled their mission of oil spill surveillance and site monitoring.

Taking into consideration of the advantage of unmanned aircraft, it is believed that NOWPAP members have attached importance to its potential application in marine pollution response, which makes it possible for regional efforts to enhance technical cooperation in this aspect. Therefore, it is proposed that NOWPAP members conduct specific project to research on the use of unmanned aircraft in marine pollution response in the NOWPAP region.

## **2. Purpose of the Project**

The NOWPAP region is especially vulnerable to marine pollution incidents due to its high shipping density along with industrial development and economic growth. Accordingly, the NOWPAP members are exposed to high risk of oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) pollution incidents. For efficient preparedness and response to oil and HNS spill incidents that may occur, it is necessary to share information on the latest news, response activities on oil and HNS spills, legal and policy issues, etc. among the NOWPAP members.

The purpose of the project is to establish an information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region based upon internet network (MERRAC website). It might be useful to share the latest information and experiences on oil and HNS issues among the members and also accumulate the relevant information in the NOWPAP region.

## **3. Brief description of the Project**

- 1) Related regulations and planning relating to the use of unmanned aircraft;
- 2) Scope of application, related response strategy and supporting arrangements;
- 3) Requirements on the functions and capabilities of unmanned aircraft;
- 4) Related R&D and/or typical unmanned aircrafts equipped by NOWPAP members;
- 5) Cases/experience in the use of unmanned aircraft in marine pollution response;
- 6) Recommendations on the use of unmanned aircraft in marine pollution response.

**c) Assessment of oil spill emergency preparedness and response for the offshore platform in the NOWPAP region**

**A. PROPOSAL OUTLINE**

- 1. Project Title:** Assessment of oil spill emergency preparedness and response for the offshore platform in the NOWPAP region
- 2. Leading country or RAC:** Russia
- 3. Participating NOWPAP members:** China, Japan, Korea
- 4. Supporting body of the Project:** NOWPAP MERRAC
- 5. Project period:** 2 years (2018-2019)
- 6. Total budget:** US\$ 15,000

**B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**1. Background**

MERRAC, the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre, is one of four Regional Activity Centres of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) which was adopted in 1994 as a Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by the People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation. MERRAC is responsible for regional co-operation on marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP region.

As one of major outcomes of MERRAC activities, the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (RCP) had been adopted by all NOWPAP members and officially come into effect in 2008. The purpose of the Plan is to provide an operational mechanism for mutual assistance through which the members can co-operate during major marine oil and HNS pollution incidents in the NOWPAP region.

The Tenth NOWPAP IGM (Toyama, Japan, 24-26 November 2005) approved the expansion of the geographical coverage of the Plan, namely the expanded RCP geographical coverage from 33 to 55 degree North latitude and from 121 to 145 degree East longitude. The main reason for such decision was included the Sakhalin project being started shipping crude oil under the framework of the NOWPAP RCP.

Based upon the decision of the Tenth NOWPAP IGM, the Ninth MERRAC FPM (2006) agreed to amend relevant parts of the RCP as appropriated. The Thirteenth NOWPAP IGM (2008) adopted the Resolution of the NOWPAP RCP and the RCP came into effect.

Upon the decision from the 8th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting (May, 2005) the new project “Minimum Level of Preparedness to respond to oil spills at the NOWPAP Sea Area” was carried out. The main objective was to set forth key elements in essential preparedness and overall response capability to reduce consequences for any future oil spills in the NOWPA region. As the project was mostly focused to the oil terminal the one of conclusion was that significant likelihood of oil spills at the oil terminals in all NOWPAP member states does not exist. Most probable sizes of oil spill at oil terminal are below 10 tons.

Taking into account that the oil industry activities in the NOWPAP region, especially with the offshore units engagement<sup>1</sup>, is expected to grow in the near future, and that the national regulations and offshore oil industry have recognized the need to reevaluate scale of potential accidents and sufficiency of former oil spill preparedness following to 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident, it would be timely and rather useful to elaborate the recommendation on minimum requirements for oil spills response born the above units. This matter is not covered by any international agreements, except common provisions of the OPRC Convention regarding OSR plans.

There are relevant national regulations and agreements in other regions, such as Baltic Sea (HELCOM), Northern Sea (OSPARCOM), US navigable waters (Clean Water Act), etc. All of them as well as best available practices should be taken into account and adapted in the NOWPAP region.

## **2. Purpose of the Project**

The recommendation concerning the minimum response requirements for oil and HNS spills from the offshore units in the NOWPAP region. Such recommendation could contribute and guarantee the adequate level of oil spill response preparedness and response in the region. The recommendation will be a base to harmonize approaches to the determination of the minimum level of oil spill response resources and equipment to be enabled in the corresponding OSR Plans for the active offshore drilling and production units in the NOWPAP region.

As a desired consequence, such recommendations will make it possible for oil companies to make decisions on the level of oil spill response plans based on their own rules and policy.

The plan is to perform analysis of the national regulation on oil spill emergency preparedness and response for the offshore units in the NOWPAP region. The relevant agreements and the best available practice in other regions will be considered. The risk assessment of oil spill from offshore units will be conducted. It should be taken into account that operation of any offshore oil and gas unit

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<sup>1</sup> Accordingly to OPRC Convention “offshore units” are defined as any fixed or floating offshore installation or structure engaged in gas or oil exploration or production activities, pipelines and other oil handling facilities.

causes relevant transport activities, including those dealing with oil transport, either by tankers or by subsea pipelines, fuel and HNS delivery, waste handling, etc.

The Recommendations on the minimum response requirements for oil spills from the offshore units in the NOWPAP region will be developed.

### **3. Brief description of the Project**

1) Recommendations should embrace, but not to be restricted, the following issues:

- implementation of united management and coordination in case of oil spill occurrence and/or high risk of spill;
- best practice related to worst case discharge determination;
- level of relevant OSR planning;
- oil spill surveillance and monitoring;
- attendance on site and/or mobilization of oil spill response task forces provided the proximity of offshore units to shore, protected areas, waterways, etc.;
- recommendations, with reasonable extent of details, on OSR vessels and equipment provisions, including recovered oil and waste treatment;
- availability of environmental sensitivity maps and prioritization of protective measures;
- ability for instant implementation of measures, which require a special permission and/or high level State involvement, such as alternative technologies application (treatment by dispersants, in-situ burning) and/or international assistance;
- identification and accounting of OSR gaps, due to night time, harsh weather, etc..

Recommendations shall not bind or restrict NOWPAP region countries and oil companies in enabling any reasonably substantiated additional and or alternative OSR preparatory measures. The deliverables of the Project may include as a part of Recommendations or a separate document:

- Proposals for implementation Check List for the OSR Plan development for offshore units and/or for the Assessment of adequacy of contingency of offshore operations;
- Proposals for amendment of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (RCP) consequent to the Project findings.





**Annex V**

**Draft Workplan for MERRAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium**



**Annex V. Draft Workplan for MERRAC Activities for the 2018/2019 Biennium**

Date	Activities	Responsible Organizations
May 2017 ~ April 2018	19th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise	Leading country (Korea), NOWPAP members, MERRAC
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
May or June 2018	21st NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and 13th Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC, NOWPAP members, NOWPAP RCU, IMO
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
~ April 2019	20th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise	Leading country (Russia), NOWPAP members, MERRAC
May or June 2019	22nd NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and 14th Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC, NOWPAP members, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
2019	7th NOWPAP DELTA (Joint Oil Spill) Exercise	Leading country (Japan), NOWPAP members, MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, IMO
2019	Expert meeting on oil and HNS spill issue (Topic, dates & venue to be determined)	Host Country (Japan), MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, IMO, NOWPAP members
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
Jan 2018 - Dec 2019	Implementation of specific projects on scientific and technical issues related to oil and HNS, including marine litter activities	Leading country, MERRAC, UNEP, IMO
Jan 2018 - Dec 2019	New activities under the new NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 <b>(depending on the decision of the next IGM)</b> e.g., such as organization of brainstorming workshop and/or development of regional report to review existing regional status and develop future action plan (to be decided by next FPM)	MERRAC, NOWPAP members, NOWPAP RCU, IMO



**Annex VI**

**Proposed Budget for MERRAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium**



**Annex VI. Proposed Budget for MERRAC Activities for the 2018/2019 Biennium****(a) Option A: Budget of US\$ 140,000**

Activities	Budget (US\$)		
	2018	2019	Total
<b>1. Focal Points Meeting &amp; CNA Meeting</b> - Coordinate MERRAC activities - Maintain and update RCP, including relevant Annexes - Report on oil and HNS pollution incident - Update the information system - Planning the training and exercise - In case of major spill accidents, exchange the POLREP, activate the RCP and conduct Joint Oil Spill Response (JOSR)	26,000	26,000	52,000
<b>2. Expert Meeting (to be hosted by Japan)</b> - Technical issues on oil & HNS spill	-	24,000	24,000
<b>3. Specific projects</b> - Development of <b>guidelines</b> on the assessment of oil spill response capability in the NOWPAP region - Development of <b>regional overview</b> on the use of unmanned aircraft during marine pollution response in the NOWPAP region - Assessment of oil spill emergency preparedness and response for the offshore platform in the NOWPAP region	15,000		40,000
	10,000		
	15,000		
<b>4. Coordination with IMO/UNEP and Regional Seas</b> - NOWPAP IGM - IMO PPR Meeting - Other Regional Activities Centers - Regional cooperation	9,000	9,000	18,000
<b>5. Publications and other miscellaneous costs</b> - Technical Reports - Newsletter - Maintaining Homepage	3,000	3,000	6,000
<b>6. NOWPAP Exercises</b> - NOWPAP BRAVO Exercises (1 time/year) 2017-2018: Korea 2018-2019: China (exact dates to be decided by leading country) - NOWPAP DELTA Exercise (organized by Japan in 2019)	(In-kind)		(In-kind)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>
<b>7. MERRAC activities on RAP MALI *1)</b> (to be decided)	(to be determined)		-
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>(to be determined)</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>

\*1) The project and budget of the MERRAC activities on RAP MALI will be determined by the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM

**(b) Option B: Budget of US\$ 180,000**

Activities	Budget (US\$)		
	2018	2019	Total
<b>1. Focal Points Meeting &amp; CNA Meeting</b> - Coordinate MERRAC activities - Maintain and update RCP, including relevant Annexes - Report on oil and HNS pollution incident - Update the information system - Planning the training and exercise - In case of major spill accidents, exchange the POLREP, activate the RCP and conduct Joint Oil Spill Response (JOSR)	26,000	26,000	52,000
<b>2. Expert Meeting (to be hosted by Japan)</b> - Technical issues on oil & HNS spill	-	24,000	24,000
<b>3. Specific projects</b> - Development of <b>guidelines</b> on the assessment of oil spill response capability in the NOWPAP region - Development of <b>regional overview</b> on the use of unmanned aircraft during marine pollution response in the NOWPAP region - Assessment of oil spill emergency preparedness and response for the offshore platform in the NOWPAP region	15,000		40,000
	10,000		
	15,000		
<b>4. Renewal of MERRAC Website/Homepage and Relevant Information System</b>	20,000		20,000
<b>5. New activities for 2018-2019 under the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 (to be decided by the next IGM)</b> - e.g., Organization of brainstorming workshop and/or development of regional report to review existing regional status and develop future action plan for the new activities	20,000		20,000
<b>6. Coordination with IMO/UNEP and Regional Seas</b> - NOWPAP IGM - IMO PPR Meeting - Other Regional Activities Centers - Regional cooperation	9,000	9,000	18,000
<b>7. Publications and other miscellaneous costs</b> - Technical Reports - Newsletter	3,000	3,000	6,000
<b>8. NOWPAP Exercises</b> - NOWPAP BRAVO Exercises (1 time/year) 2017-2018: Korea 2018-2019: China (exact dates to be decided by leading country) - NOWPAP DELTA Exercise (organized by Japan in 2019)	(In-kind)		(In-kind)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>102,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>
<b>9. MERRAC activities on RAP MALI *1)</b> (to be decided)	(to be determined)		-
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>(to be determined)</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>102,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>

\*1) The project and budget of the MERRAC activities on RAP MALI will be determined by the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM



**Annex VII**

**The List of Tasks for 2017**



**Annex VII. The List of the Tasks, and its Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions and Expected Outputs for the 2017**

**1. Routine Tasks carried out by MERRAC**

Tasks	Lead Country / Agency	Actions	Expected Outputs
1. Regional Contingency Plan	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain or update the RCP including its Annexes</li> <li>- Maintain the networks among the relevant Competent National Authorities for the RCP in the NOWPAP region</li> <li>- Carry out regional activities as required by the RCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional cooperation system regarding marine pollution preparedness and response</li> <li>- Increased regional capacity on marine pollution preparedness and response</li> <li>- Efficient implementation of the RCP for practical use and assistance procedure and system</li> <li>- Updated Annex to the RCP</li> </ul>
2. Focal Points Meeting and Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinate and organize annual FPM and CNA meetings</li> <li>- Develop the provisional agenda for the meetings, including the relevant meeting documents</li> <li>- Review the progresses made during the inter-sessional period, and identify the follow-up activities</li> <li>- Carry out the follow-up activities resulting from the two meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exchange of relevant information on oil &amp; HNS spill preparedness and response in the region</li> <li>- Increased regional capacities on marine pollution preparedness and response</li> <li>- Discussion on the implementation of the RCP and relevant regional co-operative activities</li> </ul>
3. Expert Meeting	Korea & MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare the expert meeting to be held in December 2017 (tentative dates) in Korea, including the workshop, exhibition and exercise programme</li> <li>- Prepare invitation of speakers, relevant logistics, etc.</li> <li>- Circulate the detailed plan on organization of the expert meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information sharing on lessons learned from major oil spill incidents (Hebei spirit, etc.)</li> <li>- Strengthened national/regional oil spill capacity (exercise, technology, R&amp;D, etc.)</li> <li>- Publication of proceedings</li> </ul>

<p>4. Report on oil and HNS Pollution Incidents</p>	<p>MERRAC and NOWPAP Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share oil and HNS spill incidents among the members when they occur</li> <li>- Overview oil and HNS spill cases occurred in the region with support from FPs and other relevant organizations</li> <li>- Collect lists of oil and HNS spill incidents over 10 tons in the NOWPAP member states</li> <li>- Maintain and update the relevant list on MERRAC website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing prompt relevant information among the members</li> <li>- Updated database on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region on regular basis</li> </ul>
<p>5. Information System</p>	<p>MERRAC and NOWPAP Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update information of oil and HNS spill response equipment, institutions and experts</li> <li>- Maintain and update the information on MERRAC website and web-GIS system</li> <li>- Report to next FPM (as reference material to the Information System)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated Information System (in particular the list of available equipment which can be possibly assisted to each member when major spills occur within the framework of the RCP)</li> <li>- User friendly information system</li> <li>- Uploaded Information System</li> </ul>
<p>6. Training and Exercise</p>	<p>MERRAC and NOWPAP members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carry out one blind NOWPAP BRAVO (communication) exercise during the intersessional period under the leading role of Korea.</li> <li>- Implement the exercise together using Online Pollution Reporting System</li> <li>- Test Online Pollution Reporting System during intersessional period (by MERRAC, twice a year)</li> <li>- Report the results to the next FPM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduction of one blind NOWPAP BRAVO exercise</li> <li>- Improved and practiced communication system among the members (especially using the Online Pollution Reporting System)</li> <li>- Improved regional response capacity for oil and HNS spills</li> </ul>
<p>7. Communications</p>	<p>MERRAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain and facilitate routine communication links between relevant authorities in the NOWPAP region</li> <li>- MERRAC shares its activities and information with Members and relevant organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of efficient communication system relevant to oil and HNS spill preparedness and response in NOWPAP area</li> <li>- Enhanced information sharing among the member states and relevant bodies</li> </ul>

8. Other Routine Tasks as described by the TOR of MERRAC or decided upon by the FPM and/or IGM	MERRAC and NOWPAP members		
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2. Specific projects and/or activities coordinated by MERRAC during the intersessional period

Tasks	Lead Country / Agency	Actions	Expected Outputs
<p>1. Development of MERRAC Information System based on the Web GIS</p>	<p>MERRAC and NOWPAP Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a database system to display systematically on MERRAC website, on a Web-GIS format, by the end of 2017</li> <li>- Rearrange the existing relevant information system into the developed DB system</li> <li>- Report the final draft version to next FPM, and revise it as per requests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated Information System on oil spill response equipment</li> <li>- Efficient information sharing among the members</li> </ul>
<p>2. Development of information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region</p>	<p>MERRAC and NOWPAP Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop relevant internet-based platform under MERRAC website</li> <li>- Collect latest information, news and relevant activities on oil and HNS spills in the region, and share and upload them on website on a regular basis</li> <li>- Develop the final draft review papers on major marine pollution incidents and/or relevant issues in the region (by nominated experts from FPs)</li> <li>- Report the final results to the next MERRAC FPM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of oil and HNS spill information sharing platform in the region</li> <li>- Increased public awareness on oil/HNS spill issues in the region</li> <li>- Prompt and efficient information sharing on a regular basis among the NOWPAP members</li> <li>- Review papers on marine pollution incidents in the NOWPAP region</li> </ul>
<p>3. Development of a technical report on oiled wildlife (mainly marine mammals and birds) response in the NOWPAP region</p>	<p>MERRAC and NOWPAP Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collect and review existing data on oiled wildlife response including its impact cases, relevant response techniques, and/or relevant national laws/policies/regulations, etc. in the NOWPAP region</li> <li>- Analyze challenges and/or weakness to be improved in the region regarding oiled wildlife response in the region, together with recommendations to be taken in the region at the national and regional levels.</li> <li>- Develop the draft technical report and circulate for review, and revise accordingly</li> <li>- Submit the final draft technical report to the next FPMs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive understanding on current situation on oiled wildlife response in the region, and identification of the future activities to be taken in the NOWPAP region at the national and/or regional levels</li> <li>- Increased public awareness on oiled wildlife response</li> <li>- Technical report on oil wildlife response in the NOWPAP region</li> </ul>

<p>4. RAP MALI</p>	<p>MERRAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalize the project on Review and Analysis of Existing Floating ML prediction Model in the NOWPAP region, in cooperation with relevant ML FPs and the nominated expert</li> <li>- Prepare and circulate the final draft report during intersessional period and finalize the report by the end of 2017.</li> <li>- Report the result at the next FPM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive understanding on ML prediction model in the region</li> <li>- Regional report on Review and Analysis of Existing Floating ML prediction Model in the NOWPAP region</li> </ul>
<p>5. Correspondence Group on Oil Sample Exchange</p>	<p>Korea/Japan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicate and consider the possible way forward for development of a regional oil sampling exchange procedures in the NOWPAP region among members</li> <li>- Report the results to next FPM for further discussion on future directions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreed future workplan on development of oil sampling exchange procedure</li> </ul>
<p>6. Other Specific projects as described by the TOR of MERRAC or decided upon by the FPM and/or IGM</p>	<p>MERRAC</p>		





**Annex VIII**

**List of the files in the CD-ROM**



**Annex VIII. List of files in the CD-ROM**

Report of the Twentieth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the Twelfth Competent National Authorities Meeting (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 10 - 13 April 2017)

**Agenda 4. Overview of the progress made during the intersessional period after the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting**

- Progress of NOWPAP (Dr. Ning LIU, NOWPAP RCU)
- Activities of the IMO on marine pollution preventions, preparedness and response (Mr. Yasuhiro URANO, IMO)
- MERRAC activities and expenditure (Dr. Seong-Gil KANG, MERRAC)

**Agenda 5. Review of the progress made for each task agreed at the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, and identification of future work**

- Report on MERRAC routine Tasks (Ms. Joung-Yun LEE, MERRAC)
- Progress report on the implementation of the MERRAC specific projects (Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, MERRAC)
- Development of MERRAC information system based on the Web GIS (Ms. Siyeon LEE, MERRAC)
- Development of information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region (Ms. Siyeon LEE, MERRAC)
- Draft report on development of a technical report on oiled wildlife response in the NOWPAP region (Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, MERRAC)
- Marine litter activities of MERRAC (Ms. Yoon Young BACK, MERRAC)
- Floating marine litter prediction models (Dr. Young-Gyu PARK, KIOST)

**Agenda item 6. Issues related to the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan including its Annexes**

- Legal and administrative concerns in relation to oil sample exchange (Mr. Peng GUO, China)
- Oil sampling exchange correspondence group (Dr. Hyun-Kue CHOI, Korea)-

**Agenda item 7. Report and discussion on the NOWPAP training and exercises carried out during the last intersessional period and to be held in the near future**

- Report on the NOWPAP training and exercise (Ms. Siyeon LEE, MERRAC)
- Report on the 18th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise (Mr. Shun MASUI, Japan)
- The 2016 NOWPAP China-Korea joint oil spill response exercise: The 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise (Mr. Peng GUO, China)

**Agenda item 8. Exchange of latest information on marine pollution preparedness and response in the NOWPAP members**

- Recent progress in China's oil spill response capability building (Mr. Peng GUO, China)
- 20 years after the Nahodka incident (Mr. Shun MASUI, Japan)
- Report of emergency response working group in Korea (Mr. Hyoung-Jun LEEM, Korea)
- Case study on M/V Hongtai incident and aspect of legal issue (Mr. Hyoung-Jun LEEM, Korea)
- Recent progress in Russia (Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA, Russia)

**Agenda item 9. Future MERRAC activities under the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023**

- Draft NOWPAP Mid-term strategy 2018-2023 (Dr. Lev NERETIN, NOWPAP RCU)
- Discussion on strategy and directions of MERRAC activities under the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 (Ms. Yoon Young BACK, MERRAC)

**Agenda item 10. Work plan and budget for the 2018/2019 biennium and other future activities**

- Work plan and budget proposals of MERRAC activities for the 2018/2019 (Dr. Seong-Gil KANG, MERRAC)
- Proposal for new MERRAC specific project: Guidelines on the assessment of oil spill response capability for the NOWPAP region (Mr. Xudong CONG, China)
- Proposal for new MERRAC specific project: The use of unmanned aircraft in marine pollution response in the NOWPAP region (Mr. Peng GUO, China)
- Proposal for new MERRAC specific project: Minimum response requirements for oil and HNS spills, which may arise from the offshore units at the NOWPAP region (Dr. Valentin ZHURAVEL, Russia)
- Proposals for MERRAC activities for 2018/2018 (Dr. Seong-Gil KANG, MERRAC)

**Agenda item 12. Other matters**

- IPIECA GISEA updates on the ASEAN regional plan (Mr. Joselito GUEVARRA, IPIECA)
- ITOPF updates: Recent trends in spill response and preparedness (Mr. Alex HUNT, ITOPF)



