

NOWPAP MERRAC

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



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Report of the 18th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the 10th Competent National Authorities Meeting

Busan, Republic of Korea
25-28 August 2015

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

(Busan, Republic of Korea, 25-28 August 2015)

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 Regional 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 is serving as a secretariat for the meeting.

3. The eighth NOWPAP IGM (2003) 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 MOU on the regional cooperation regarding preparedness and response to oil spills was signed in 2004 by ministers of the NOWPAP members and the Plan became operational.

4. The seventh MERRAC FPM (2004) decided to organize "Competent National Authorities (CNA) Meeting for the NOWPAP RCP" once a year, in conjunction with the MERRAC FPM, in order to discuss the issues related to the Plan. Since 2004, MERRAC has been also organizing Expert Meetings to discuss and review, at a technical level, various topics related to MERRAC activities.

5. The tenth NOWPAP IGM (2005) approved the expansion of the geographical coverage of the Plan as well as new MERRAC activities including chemical spills, marine based pollution (MARPOL and OPRC related with IMO), marine litter (with other RACs) during 2006/2007 biennium and ballast water and alien invasive species (with Globallast II), International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions, and liability and compensation at a later stage.

6. Based upon the decision of the tenth NOWPAP IGM, the ninth MERRAC FPM (2006) agreed to amend relevant parts of the Plan in order to cover the HNS (hazardous and noxious substances). The thirteenth NOWPAP IGM (2008) adopted the Resolution on the NOWPAP RCP and the Plan came into effect.

7. The eighteenth NOWPAP IGM (2013) approved the work plan and budget for MERRAC activities for the 2014/2015 biennium and decided to allocate USD 131,000 to each of the NOWPAP RACs including USD 6,000 for the MERRAC activities within the NOWPAP RAP MALI (Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter). The NOWPAP POW 2014-2015 was approved.

8. Based upon the agreement of the seventeenth NOWPAP MERRAC FPM and the ninth CNA Meeting, the eighteenth NOWPAP MERRAC FPM and the tenth CNA Meeting was planned to be held in June 2015. However, the Meetings had been postponed due to Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Korea and were held in August 2015. The list of participants of the meeting is attached in **Annex I**.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

9. The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. on 25 August 2015 in Busan, Korea by Dr. Seong-Gil KANG, Director of MERRAC. He extended a warm welcome to all participants of the meetings including the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points, representatives from RCU and special guests from global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues (IPIECA) and Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL). He started his welcoming address by a brief background of the MERRAC Secretariat and stated that MERRAC has achieved substantial results since its establishment in 2000 especially the development of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan. In closing his remarks, he emphasized that there are various important agenda items to be dealt during the meetings and requested the members' active involvement and contribution to the meetings.

10. Mr. Young YOU, Director of Division of Marine Pollution Response Planning, Marine Pollution Response Bureau, Korea Coast Guard, Ministry of Public Safety & Security of the Republic of Korea, warmly welcomed the participants of the meetings and expressed his sincere gratitude to the MERRAC Secretariat and stated that they look forward to achieving fruitful results during the meetings and also a closer relationship among the members in the future.

11. Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA, Counselor to the Director of Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot (MRS) of the Russian Federation, thanked the MERRAC Secretariat for organizing the meetings and also appreciated the NOWPAP members and MERRAC for supporting the conduction of the DELTA Exercise in November 2014, Vladivostok, Russia. She also mentioned that the meetings are important as the members are to decide the future directions.

12. Mr. Peng GUO, Engineer of Shandong Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China, expressed his appreciation to MERRAC for organizing the meetings and also congratulated for the 20th anniversary of NOWPAP and hoped that the meetings will produce fruitful results.

13. Mr. Ryoji HAYASHI, Director of International Marine Pollution Prevention of Marine Environment Protection and Disaster Prevention Division, Japan Coast Guard, expressed his sincere appreciation to the MERRAC Secretariat for organizing the meetings. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of the regional cooperation and wished to achieve successful results during the meeting period.

14. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG, NOWPAP Deputy Coordinator, stressed that the meetings were tasked to review the progress made during the intersessional period and also to decide new workplan and budget for the next biennium. He wished the meetings a success with fruitful outcomes.

15. The observers of the meetings were also invited to introduce themselves. Mr. Joselito GUEVARRA, Project manager of IPIECA, expressed his appreciation to MERRAC for the kind invitation and stated that NOWPAP MERRAC would be a good model for the development of the regional cooperative mechanism on marine pollution preparedness and response in the Southeast Asia region. Mr. Alam Syah Bin Mohamed Amin, Team supervisor of OSRL, said that it is his first time to participate in the MERRAC FPM and expressed sincere gratitude for the kind invitation. He hoped that OSRL could contribute regionally in oil spill response and have close regional cooperation with MERRAC.

16. The representatives from DINRAC (Mr. Chun Wei HAN) and POMRAC (Mr. Nikolai KOZLOVSKII) were invited to give opening remarks. They emphasized the importance of the collaboration between the NOWPAP RACs and wished for successful meetings.

Agenda item 2. Organization of the meeting

17. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting, the participants were invited to elect a Chairperson and a Rapporteur. The meeting unanimously agreed to elect the following officers:

Chairperson: Dr. Chae-Hyun LIM, Professor of Division of Engine & Coast Guard, Mokpo National Maritime University, Korea

Rapporteur: Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA, Counselor to the Director of Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot (MRS) of the Russian Federation

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 and agreed that English will be the working language.

19. The Director of MERRAC presented the list of documents (**Annex II**) and the Secretariat of MERRAC also briefly explained the logistical information and the emergency evacuation procedures.

20. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG (RCU) suggested MERRAC to consider combining the documents which address the same subject to avoid confusions of the meeting participants in the future.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

21. The Director of MERRAC introduced the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/1) and the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/2).

22. The Director of MERRAC proposed to change the discussion order of the agendas, and accordingly the Agenda item 8 moved to next to the Agenda item 12. The meeting adopted the agenda as shown in **Annex III**.

The Eighteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

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

23. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG (RCU) reported the progress of the NOWPAP activities which were carried out during the intersessional period (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/3). Firstly, he briefly explained the activities of the RACs and RCU carried since the 17th MERRAC FPM and also reported the results of the 19th NOWPAP IGM, especially the issues related to the new activities of MERRAC to be carried under the NOWPAP MTS. He reported on the activities carried out by RACs and RCU including organization of the ICC campaigns and on the restructuring of RCU.

24. As the representative of IMO was not able to participate in the meetings, the meeting was requested to refer to the document submitted by IMO for information on the IMO activities (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/4).

25. The Director of MERRAC reported on the MERRAC activities made after the 17th MERRAC FPM (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/5) including the expenditure made during the 2014-2015 biennium (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/6).

26. Mr. Hyoung-Jun LEEM, representative of Korea, kindly requested MERRAC to share the results of the participation of the international meetings or academic seminars and/or workshops. He also commented that the HNS spill incidents should include fire and explosion in addition to the spills.

27. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG (RCU) kindly requested MERRAC to give an explanation on the budget expenditure plan of the remaining balance of the 2014-2015 biennium. In response, the Director of MERRAC stated that the remaining budget is planned to be spent for conduction of the MERRAC specific projects as well as organization of the MERRAC FPM and the 2015 Expert Meeting.

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

28. The meeting reviewed on the progress of the routine tasks and specific projects made after the 17th MERRAC FPM and identified the future activities to be carried under each task and project.

5.1. Routine Tasks

Focal Points

29. Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM, Consultant of MERRAC, presented the document on the Focal Points (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/7). As per decisions of the 17th MERRAC FPM and the 9th CNA Meeting, MERRAC continued updating the list of the Focal Points and she informed that all NOWPAP members submitted their updated lists of the Focal Points. She informed that the Focal Points of Japan and Korea have been replaced as follows:

- from Mr. Hiroyuki MORI to Mr. Tomoyuki ISHIZUKA (Japan)
- from Mr. Hyeong-Man KIM to Mr. Young YOU (Korea)

30. Mr. Peng GUO (China) informed that China also updated the Focal Point as following:

- from Mr. Weidong LU to Mr. Leyi DONG (China)

Information System

31. Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM (MERRAC) presented the updated Information System (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/8). The meeting agreed to continue to update the information as a routine task of MERRAC.

Reports on Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents

32. Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM (MERRAC) presented the updated list of oil and HNS pollution incidents (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/9). Especially, she reported that a total of 2 oil spill incidents have been reported to MERRAC and the NOWPAP members during the intersessional period using the existing POLREP format. The meeting 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.

33. Mr. Hyoung-Jun LEEM (Korea) presented on the incident of M/V Hyundai Bridge which occurred in Busan, Korea at the end of last year and the response method, technique and international assistance were reviewed as lessons learned through the case. He also emphasized that POLREP is a useful system which allows to promptly exchange information on the incidents among the NOWPAP members and kindly requested the NOWPAP members to continuously share information through the POLREP system.

5.2. Specific Projects

34. Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM (MERRAC) reported on the general progress of the specific projects (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/10) including publication of the Pamphlet on HNS Database and Spill Response in the NOWPAP Region.

35. The leading experts of each project reported the results of the following specific projects that were carried out during the intersessional period:

- Update DB of oil and HNS spill response equipment and experts
- Online pollution reporting system
- Risk assessment of oil spill incident: Likelihood analysis

36. Following the presentations, the meeting discussed the achievements and/or recommendations emanated from these projects and identified future works. The main conclusions of the discussions for each specific project are summarized as follows:

Update DB of oil and HNS spill response equipment and experts

37. Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM (MERRAC) presented the results of the review on the guidance for International Offers of Assistance in response to a marine oil pollution incident (IOA) of IMO and suggested to revise the current information system of MERRAC to make a more detailed format especially for the types and categories of the response equipment by using the IOA format (Annex 3 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/10).

38. For smooth implementation of the project, the meeting agreed to organize an expert group to review the draft revised format of the response equipment which will be prepared by MERRAC during the intersessional period and to finalize the standardized draft format. The meeting also agreed to develop samples with the standardized draft format and submit them to the next MERRAC FPM to finally discuss the possibility of applying the new format to the existing DB of response equipment of MERRAC.

39. Mr. Hyoung-Jun LEEM (Korea) informed that a POLREP format to be used in conjunction with IOA is being developed by North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) and he explained the NPCGF communication exercise with the 6 members of NPCGF with relevant international bodies such as ITOPF, OSRL, IOSCO will be held and he will share the results of the exercise at the next MERRAC FPM.

Online pollution reporting system

40. Ms. Yoon Young BACK, Consultant of MERRAC, presented the structure and content of the draft online pollution reporting system which includes preparation, delivery, delivery status notification and POLREP archive module (Annex 4 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/10). She emphasized that with a SMS delivery module and status notification module, the members will be notified of the status of POLREP transmittance in real time.

41. The meeting agreed to finalize the draft system by the end of 2015 and requested MERRAC to circulate the final draft version during the intersessional period to review the detailed format of POLREP. By emphasizing the security issues, the meeting kindly requested the MERRAC Secretariat to ensure the security issues for safe use of the system. The meeting agreed to discuss again at the next MERRAC FPM about the management of the system including the nomination of the responsible persons in each of the NOWPAP members.

Risk assessment of oil spill incident: Likelihood analysis

42. Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, Senior Consultant of MERRAC, presented the draft results of the researches carried out during the intersessional period on behalf of Dr. Choong-Ki KIM of Korea Environment Institute, the leading expert of the project (Annex 5 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/10).

43. He emphasized that the maritime traffic information is crucial for a successful risk assessment and reported that several available data were found including the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) scheme of WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and the Marine Traffic.

44. In particular, he pointed out that the Vessel traffic information provided by VOS are freely available but very limited, on the other hand, the Automatic Identification System (AIS) information including near real time and history of the vessel traffics provided by the Marine Traffic is expensive but provides enough information to conduct the risk assessment in the NOWPAP region.

45. By taking into account that the AIS information is important, he also presented the case of European Maritime Safety Agency's (EMSA) maritime traffic management system through which the vessel traffic information are shared among the EU countries and suggested the NOWPAP members to share their national AIS information for conduction of the risk assessment. After a lengthy discussion, the NOWPAP members decided to assess the hot spot areas using commercially available maritime traffic information considering the budget and historical oil spill incidents in the NOWPAP region because sharing the national AIS information is currently difficult due to administrative and technical constraints. The meeting decided to complete the project by the end of 2015 and prepare a report and submit to the next MERRAC FPM.

New MERRAC Specific Projects for the 2016/2017 biennium

46. As for the new MERRAC specific projects for the 2016/2017 biennium, 2 draft proposals were suggested by MERRAC and 1 draft proposal by Russia (Annex 6 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/10). The project proposals are as follows:

- Improvement of information system and lists of marine pollution incidents based on the Web GIS
- A case study of oil & HNS spill incidents in the NOWPAP region
- Minimum response requirements for oil spills potential at the offshore units in the NOWPAP region

<Improvement of information system and lists of marine pollution incidents based on the Web GIS>

47. Regarding the proposal on the development of information system and list of marine pollution incidents with a map based Web GIS, the meeting pointed out that DINRAC is currently managing the database and web GIS. The meeting suggested MERRAC to cooperate with DINRAC to implement the project. In response, Mr. Chun-Wei HAN, representative of DINRAC, stated that it is not technically difficult to implement the project and agreed to provide technical supports to make the module and the information visualized on the web. The meeting decided the necessity, purpose, contents and expected output of the project should be discussed before submitting it to the 20th IGM.

<A case study of oil & HNS spill incidents in the NOWPAP region>

48. A case study of oil and HNS spill incidents in the NOWPAP region is to collect and share information on incidents including summary of incident, initial response and lessons learned among the NOWPAP members. As per request, MERRAC explained that through the project each NOWPAP

member will provide 1 or 2 oil and/or HNS spill cases by the nominated national experts. As an output of the project, a total of 4 or 6 case studies will be compiled in a White Book format every year and it will be used to exchange detailed information among the NOWPAP members and also to accumulate the relevant incident information in the NOWPAP region. The meeting decided the necessity, purpose, contents and expected output of the project should be discussed before submitting it to the 20th IGM.

<Minimum response requirements for oil spills potential at the offshore units in the NOWPAP region>

49. The proposal on minimum response requirements for the potential oil spills at the offshore units in the NOWPAP region which was presented by Russia is to guarantee an adequate level of oil spill response preparedness and response in the region at the offshore units.

50. The meeting noted that there are several offshore platforms in the NOWPAP region and, by taking the case of Deep Water Horizon incident (offshore drilling rig explosion and spill) of USA into account, it was pointed out that the project could be a good initiative to prepare an adequate level of oil spill response preparedness and response at the offshore units in the region.

51. Mr. Joselito GUEVARRA (IPIECA) stated that IPIECA has a report on oil spill risk assessment and response planning for offshore installations and it can be served as a reference report.

52. The meeting decided to reconsider it more under the Agenda item 13, which will decide the exact workplan and budget for the next biennium.

Agenda item 6. Sea-based marine litter activities

53. Ms. Yoon Young BACK (MERRAC) reported on the MERRAC activities carried out during the intersessional period under the RAP MALI implementation (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/11). She informed that the report on Best Practices in dealing with Marine Litter in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Shipping Sectors in the NOWPAP Region has been published in a hard copy. Concerning the activities carried out during the intersessional period on the project on 'Understanding of Floating Marine Litter Distribution and Impacts in the NOWPAP Region', she introduced a summary of the national reports submitted by the nominated national experts of each NOWPAP member.

54. As for the MERRAC RAP MALI activities for the 2016/2017 biennium, she suggested a draft proposal on the establishment of floating marine litter prediction model development plan in the NOWPAP region, as a follow-up activity of the project of the 2014-2015 biennium and a preliminary project to assess the characteristics of the behavior of floating marine litter based on the researches carried in the NOWPAP region.

55. Mr. Hyoung Jun LEEM (Korea) expressed thanks to MERRAC for implementing the RAP MALI activities with limited budget. He also asked MERRAC to explain the linkage between the project and the satellite images which was suggested by MERRAC and in response, Dr. Jeong Hwan OH (MERRAC) explained that the purpose of the project is to identify the status of floating marine litter in the NOWPAP region and to collect several research results including numerical models or other tools such as satellite images for red tides and buoys etc.

56. Ms. Yukari FUJIOKA, representative of Japan, stressed that it is important to ensure adequate human resources and budget on implementation of the MERRAC RAP MALI activities therefore kindly requested RCU to continue to provide strong leadership and coordination among the RACs.

57. The meeting agreed to submit the draft report on understanding of floating marine litter distribution and impacts in the NOWPAP region before the 20th NOWPAP IGM for review and finalize the project by the end of 2015. The meeting also agreed to submit the draft proposal for a new project to be carried in the 2016-2017 biennium to the 20th NOWPAP IGM for approval.

Agenda item 7. Discussion on revision and/or amendment of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan, including its Annexes

58. Ms. Yoon Young BACK (MERRAC) briefed the history of the development of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/12). She informed the progress made during the intersessional period regarding the revision of the paragraph 5.2.1 which was adopted and entered into force from 13 June 2014 based upon the decision of the 17th NOWPAP MERRAC FPM.

59. She also reported that the record of changes of the Plan had been updated and MERRAC notified the NOWPAP members by a formal letter and sent a hard copy of the revised to the Focal Points.

60. Mr. Hyoung-Jun LEEM (Korea) submitted a proposal on the establishment of procedure on exchange of oil sample for trans-boundary marine pollutant. He briefly explained the background information and emphasized that sampling is an important process for accurate analysis of trans-boundary marine pollutant.

61. Although some obstacles were recognized by the NOWPAP members such as complicated national regulations or related legal matters, the meeting requested the MERRAC secretariat to collect the relevant national information of the NOWPAP members and international guidelines during the intersessional period and report the results to the next MERRAC FPM to decide the future directions.

Agenda item 8. Discussion on the MERRAC activities for 2016-2017 under the NOWPAP MTS (2012-2017) and potential collaborative activities with other RACs and international organizations

62. The Director of MERRAC briefed the background of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2012-2017 and the summary of the decisions of the 19th NOWPAP IGM (December 2014) regarding the new activities of MERRAC (ballast water and the IMO-related climate change issues) to be carried under the NOWPAP MTS. He stated that the discussion results of the 17th MERRAC FPM on this matter were reported to the 19th NOWPAP IGM (that the MERRAC Focal Points wish to keep the current structure of the MERRAC operation to focus on oil and HNS issues only due to limited resources and budget, and that the new activities are beyond the mandates of the current MERRAC Focal Points, etc) and the 19th NOWPAP IGM requested MERRAC to prepare a concrete proposal for the 20th NOWPAP IGM (October 2015) looking into the issue, including possible modification of the Terms of Reference for MERRAC and its Focal Points Meeting.

63. He continued to report that a concrete proposal has already been prepared by the MERRAC Secretariat accordingly including potential activities and required budget for implementation of the new activities (ballast water and IMO related climate change issues) under the NOWPAP MTS, as presented in Annex 1 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/13. The proposal includes the possible subjects/activities, required budget scale for the new activities, implementation mechanisms such as organization of new FPs and/or Expert Group, and the necessity of organizing workshops and regional meetings to review current situation and identify future regional action plan to achieve the given objectives under the MTS.

64. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG (RCU) also briefed on the background of the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017. He stated that the MTS was prepared and approved by the NOWPAP IGM in consultation of each other (including RACs) to be used as guidelines for preparation of the NOWPAP POW. Also, he pointed out that the other three RACs are currently implementing new projects under the MTS. He also emphasized that there is an agenda to review the MTS 2012-2017 at the 20th NOWPAP IGM and whatever it is decided at the 18th MERRAC FPM will be reported to the IGM.

65. The Director of MERRAC requested RCU for clarification on several points to be considered for smooth discussions on the matter. First, considering that the current MTS covers all subjects and themes related to global marine environmental issues and it might not be practically possible to implement them in this region, clarification is needed whether the existing MTS is obligatory to implement the suggested activities by RACs or flexible which might be modified depending on the situation based upon the decisions of the IGM. Second, pointing out that a lot of budget and relevant resources are required to implement the new activities suggested in the MTS (as described in the existing MTS document) and the mobilization of external funds was not successful for the MTS implementation, what are the alternative ways of RCU to implement the new projects and activities in respect of mobilization of financial and other

resources. Third, mentioning that the implementation methodology or detailed action plan such as the role sharing of RACs and /or RCU to implement were not specified in the MTS, it is requested to identify what are the exact roles or responsibility in implementing the suggested activities, especially under the biodiversity and climate change themes in the MTS.

66. Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG (RCU) gave clarification on the raised questions. First, the MTS was prepared by RCU and RACs at the request of the NOWPAP member states and the approved MTS is obligatory for NOWPAP implementation. Second, as for the budget constraints, there are alternative ways to implement new activities which had been explored in the past years, and mobilization of external funds has been successful such as DINRAC with invasive species and RCU for the climate change project. Third, the MTS is implemented through Programme of Work (POW) and RACs as the players, implement the approved activities. He also stressed that RACs are encouraged to implement projects that they think they can do and if MERRAC decides to launch new projects, they can find ways to implement such projects (i.e. by forming a new working group within the allocated budget).

67. Mr. Chang-Woo HA, representative of Korea, commented that if the MTS is entering its final stage of implementation and the IGM requested RCU to review the status of implementation of the MTS, it is not an appropriate time to discuss these new activities. He also expressed Korean government's opinion that MERRAC should focus on oil and HNS issues only and emphasized that Korea's opinion has never changed since 2012.

68. Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA (Russia) stated that unlike other three RACs, MERRAC has very practical and concrete tasks which are related to the IMO activities therefore the MERRAC activities should only be related to the IMO activities especially those related to marine pollution preparedness and response issues. She stated that the new activities (i.e. climate change) are very premature to be implemented, taking into account that the issues are still under discussion for agreement at global level.

69. Mr. Ryoji HAYASHI (Japan) also stated that Japan is in the same position as Korea. He commented that Japan wants MERRAC to stick with the oil and HNS related matters and emphasized that they never changed their position since 2005. In addition, he stated it seems there is no direct linkage between the new activities (ballast water and climate change issues) and oil/HNS activities which are the main tasks of MERRAC.

70. Mr. Peng GUO (China) also stated that since ballast water and climate change issues are already handled by IMO, MERRAC should focus on oil and HNS issues only, as MERRAC has done until present.

71. After sharing the opinions that all MERRAC Focal Points want MERRAC to focus on oil and HNS only, the meeting agreed that there is no need to submit the proposal prepared by MERRAC for implementation of the new MERRAC activities (on ballast water and climate change issues) under the MTS which includes potential activities and the required budget.

72. In response, Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG (RCU) stated that if the MERRAC Focal Points decide not to implement activities related to ballast water and climate change, and if the Focal Points wish MERRAC to specialize in oil and HNS related activities, the results of the discussions made at the 18th MERRAC FPM should be reported accordingly at the upcoming NOWPAP IGM which is the decision making body for the entire NOWPAP activities.

73. As per request of the meeting on how to deliver the results of the discussions done by this meeting to the IGM, the NOWPAP Deputy Director explained on the two possible ways to report the results of the discussions which are: first, to submit a separate working document regarding the matter 6 weeks prior to the coming IGM, second, to insert the results in the IGM document on status of implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017 and MERRAC reports to the 20th IGM.

74. The meeting agreed that MERRAC will submit report on MERRAC activities in 2015, including the results of the discussions of the 18th MERRAC FPM to the 20th IGM on this matter. By ending the discussions, the MERRAC Focal Points were kindly requested to discuss the matter with their national NOWPAP Focal Points in advance prior to the 20th IGM, to clearly deliver the opinions of the MERRAC Focal Points to the IGM.

The Tenth Competent National Authorities Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (Agenda items 9 – 11)

Agenda item 9. Report and discussion on the NOWPAP training and exercises carried out during the last intersessional period and to be held in the near future

75. Ms. Jung Hyun LIM (MERRAC) reported on the progress of the activities related to NOWPAP Training and Exercises (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/14).

76. Mr. Kenichiro MARUYAMA, representative of Japan, reported the results of the 14th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise which was conducted on 26 November 2014 (Annex 1 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/14). It was pointed out that the exercise was conducted very smoothly without any troubles and most of the e-mails were transmitted punctually. He also commented that exercise tested the effectiveness of the communication system among the NOWPAP members.

77. Mr. Hyoung-jun LEEM (Korea) presented on the results of the 15th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise organized by Korea on 18 May 2015, which simulated the response measures of combined incidents on oil and HNS (Annex 2 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/14). He reported that the exercise was successfully conducted within the allocated time frame and stated that the NOWPAP members were requested to assist response resources and successfully provided the requested

information including the expected cost and estimated time to arrive. As a result of the exercise, the meeting shared the necessity and importance of the national preparedness as well as international cooperation with the appropriate level of HNS incidents response ability such as specialized response vessels, experts, equipment and training.

78. He also suggested that the MERRAC secretariat should take the active role of adviser and coordinator in providing information on response resources in the NOWPAP region.

79. Mr. Sergey MONINETS, representative of Russia, reported the results of the 5th NOWPAP DELTA-Joint Oil Spill Response Exercise organized by Russia and Japan on 21 October 2014 (Annex 3 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/14). He concluded that the exercise mobilized a total of 7 vessels, 5 boats and 2 helicopters and it was successfully conducted. He also stated that the exercise provided an opportunity to enhance the oil spill response capability and consolidated active collaboration among the NOWPAP members. It was a meaningful experience to conduct a joint exercise with a neighboring country.

80. Mr. Peng GUO (China) reported the draft plan of the 6th NOWPAP DELTA Exercise which is planned to be conducted in September 2016 in the coastal sea areas of Shandong Province, China (Annex 4 UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/14). He requested the NOWPAP members to actively contribute and co-operate in the exercise. The delegation of Korea informed the meeting that Korea will fully support and cooperate with China for successful implementation of the exercise and also kindly requested China, to hold a preparation meeting with Korea in 2015, if possible.

81. Accordingly, the meeting asked China to further discuss on the administrative matters for conduction of the exercise with the relevant country including the MERRAC Secretariat and to share the exact date and scenario of the exercise with all NOWPAP members.

Agenda item 10. Report of representative of CNAs on issues related to the latest progress in their respective countries

82. Upon the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Kenichiro MARUYAMA (Japan) introduced the National Strike Team (NST) of JCG established for specially trained team in response to oil and HNS spill incidents. The NST based in Yokohama is comprised of 4 Teams and the Team's main operations are "incident response operation" aiming to dispatch the NST based on a request from the JCG local office in case of oil and HNS spill incidents, maritime fire incidents, and international cooperation and "ordinary time operation". He also introduced the recent case on the oil spill incident occurred off Miura peninsula on March 2014 and briefly explained what the NST did.

83. Mr. Hyoungjun LEEM (Korea) gave two presentations; one is on the Establishment of New Response System in Korea including an overview on the purpose of establishment, organization, and framework of disaster relief by the Ministry of Public Safety and Security of Korea. And he also introduced the activities on the Emergency Response Working Group of North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) initiated at the 16th NPCGF Expert Meeting held in Korea (2015) which were initiated for the members to work cooperatively in developing and implementing efficient and effective ways of preventing and responding to disasters. He also mentioned the necessity of support and cooperation among the NOWPAP members in response to disasters and enhancement of capabilities to prevent and response to marine pollution. And the delegation of Korea suggested the MERRAC Secretariat to participate in the next NPCGF meeting in September 2015 and make a presentation on the NOWPAP MERRAC cooperation system and NOWPAP RCP for information sharing.

84. Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA (Russia) reported the latest activities related to oil and HNS issues in Russia. She noted that the new Federal Contingency Plan on Oil Spill Prevention and Response at Sea has been revised and now it is under the approval by relevant state authorities accordingly to the national procedures. Also she briefly presented case studies of recent national oil and HNS spills and the results of Arctic 2014 exercise. In addition, she introduced a movie clip on the world's first Oblique Icebreaker, Baltika (made by Arctech) which is a multi-purpose emergency rescue vessel and built in advanced oil recovery system.

85. Mr. Peng GUO (China) reported on the results of the ship oil spill response exercise in Tianjin Port in 2014, which was consisted of firefighting, oil spill containment and cleanup, emergency stoppering of ship hull, and aerial monitoring etc. He also introduced the International Oil Spill Response Technical Seminar and Global Initiative (GI) China Program IMO OPRC Level 3 Training Course in 2014.

86. Mr. Yoon Young BACK (MERRAC) presented on the health and safety of the response workers in oil spill Incidents including possible hazards to oil spill responders, hazardous chemicals, personal protective equipment (PPE), and safety of the residents. She emphasized that the health and safety of the response workers are as much important as the efficiency of the response activities and also recommended that such issue should be considered seriously and the relevant framework should be prepared in advance. She also stated that sharing of information, experiences and related national management frameworks among the NOWPAP members will help to enhance knowledge on safety and health of the response workers and to draw lessons learned from each other.

Agenda item 11. Discussion on efficient implementation of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan

87. Ms. Yoon Young BACK (MERRAC) reported the activities carried during the intersessional period regarding efficient implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency

Plan (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/16). She reported that based on the suggestion of the 17th MERRAC FPM, MERRAC collected information on the major ports of the NOWPAP members from IMO GISIS which mainly includes location, port reception facilities and port details, and requested the members to discuss on the possibility of sharing more information on ports and port facilities and the scope of the information to be shared among the NOWPAP members.

88. Mr. Chang-Woo HA (Korea) stated that KCG can provide information on ship type, entry/ departure of the vessels and its frequency. He also emphasized that it is important to define the use of the collected data before collecting information. Also, Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA (Russia) stated that the collection of port information should be made on the ports within the NOWPAP geographical scope.

89. After discussions, the meeting decided not to collect further information before it is determined the detailed usage of the collected information.

The Eighteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

Agenda item 12. Discussion on the organization of the NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting (to be held in Russia, 2015)

90. Ms. Yoon Young BACK (MERRAC) briefed on the activities carried out during the intersessional period on the organization of the 2015 MERRAC Expert Meeting (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/17).

91. Upon the invitation of the Chairperson, Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA (Russia) presented the detailed draft plan for the organization of the 2015 MERRAC Expert Meeting to be hosted by Russia (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/17 Annex 1). It was informed that the meeting will be held on 20-22 October 2015 in Vladivostok, Russia with a topic on oiled wildlife response activities in the NOWPAP region. She stated that two funded participants from each NOWPAP member and experts from oil industry and NGOs such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF Russia) and HELCOM will be invited to share expert knowledge and experiences in the field of oiled wildlife response. By ending her presentation, she kindly requested the NOWPAP members to send the list of participants by no later than 10 September 2015 for prompt visa application procedure.

92. Mr. Ryoji HAYASHI (Japan) stated that taking care of oiled wildlife is not the mandatory of JCG but such meeting will be a good opportunity to acquire knowledge and to share expert knowledge, and JCG will bring one expert from the Ministry of Environment of Japan.

93. Mr. Hyoung Jun LEEM (Korea) also stated that KCG does also not handle the oiled wildlife issues directly but will mobilize experts from the Ministry of Environment and/or Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea, to participate in the meeting.

94. Responding to a comment that the entire budget needed for organizing the expert meeting in Vladivostok is not too big, the meeting agreed on the possibility of inviting additional experts from the members or international organization, after having reviewed the overall budget of the 2015 Expert Meeting.

Agenda item 13. Discussion on the proposed workplan and budget for the MERRAC activities for the 2016/2017 biennium

95. The Director of MERRAC proposed the draft workplan and budget of MERRAC for the 2016/2017 biennium (UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/18). He explained about the two budget options (option 1 with a total budget scale of USD 140,000 and option 2 with USD 260,000, including USD 6,000 in each budget scale for the implementation of the RAP MALI activities) and stated that the options have been calculated depending on the new activities to be implemented during the 2016-2017 biennium. He informed that the total budget scale for the option 1 (USD 140,000) has been given by RCU.

96. Following the results of the discussions on the new MERRAC activities to be implemented under the NOWPAP MTS, the meeting agreed not to report the option 2 which includes the budget for implementation of the new activities (ballast water and IMO related climate change). Accordingly, the meeting decided to submit the option 1 to the 20th IGM for approval.

97. Mr. Kenichiro MARUYAMA (Japan) stressed that as Japan is unable to increase the NOWPAP Trust Fund to support the NOWPAP activities, the budget of RACs could not be increased compared to the previous one. In response, Mr. Xiaodong Zhong (NOWPAP Deputy Coordinator) explained that the budget suggested for each RAC would not result in increasing the Trust Fund from the NOWPAP member states.

98. The meeting was informed that the potential projects and new operational arrangements listed in the submitted document to the IGM might be considered when making detailed workplan and budget at the next MERRAC FPM based upon the approval of the NOWPAP IGM. The MERRAC secretariat informed that the POW for 2016-2017 will be prepared during the intersessional period based upon the biennium workplan for 2016-2017 made by this meeting and then submitted to RCU accordingly.

99. After lengthy discussions among the MERRAC FPs regarding the workplan and budget for the next biennium especially on the specific projects, the meeting participants agreed to submit the list of the specific projects as following:

- Development of MERRAC Information System based on the Web GIS
- Development of information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region
- Others (to be decided upon IGM and/or FPM)

100. Especially the meeting decided to discuss again about the detailed work scopes, contents and budget allocation, and other methodology to implement the specific projects at next MERRAC FPM in 2016 after the decisions of the NOWPAP IGM.

101. While fully respecting the decisions by the MERRAC Focal Points, the NOWPAP Deputy Coordinator reminded the meeting that submitting the project proposals to the 20th IGM for approval with no titles and without indicating specific budget is not appropriate.

102. Regarding the proposal made by Russia on Minimum Response Requirements for Oil Spills at the Offshore Units in the NOWPAP Region under the Agenda 5 (Annex 6 of UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/10), delegation of Japan and Korea fully agreed with the suggestion.

103. Delegation of China expressed their concern that since the administration of offshore units is not the duty of China's maritime authority; related domestic departments should be consulted to decide whether China could implement the specific project. As the meeting required decision, which left no time for such consultation, the specific project as discussed could not be agreed on by the Chinese delegation. China will take other appropriate measures to effectively implement the NOWPAP RCP.

104. As response to the comment made by China, delegation of Russia stated that the proposed project proposal is fully subject to the scope of the RCP, in which pollution incident means as accident to a ship or an offshore oil installation, and is aiming to facilitate effective implementation, taking into account the expansion of the geographic scope of the RCP. The proposal in question, which was submitted well in advance for consideration during the meeting, is especially important bearing in mind that none of the MERRAC specific projects has been implemented concerning the offshore units for past years.

105. The meeting had a long discussion but could not reach consensus on the matter to launch this proposed project. The meeting requested the members to consider possibility of any other specific projects during the intersessional period after the meeting and then submit it to the next MERRAC FPM for further discussion. Based upon the results to be made during the next MERRAC FPM, it is suggested to contact RCU or IGM to know the possibility of launching the new specific projects for 2016-2017 biennium.

106. The meeting decided to submit the proposed workplan and budget of the biennium 2016-2017 to the IGM, as listed in **Annex IV** and **V**.

Agenda item 14. Arrangement of intersessional work and venues and dates of the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Eleventh Competent National Authorities for NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan

107. The Director of MERRAC presented the routine tasks and the specific projects to be implemented during the intersessional period. After discussions, the meeting rearranged the intersessional work as attached in **Annex VI**.

108. MERRAC informed the NOWPAP members that the 19th MERRAC FPM will be held in May or June 2016, and stated that the exact venue and dates of the meeting will be decided based upon the progress of the work during the intersessional period.

Agenda item 15. Other matters

109. Mr. Joselito GUEVARRA (IPIECA) gave a presentation on the International Partnerships of IPIECA to Improve Oil Spill preparedness, Prevention and Response. By briefly explaining the activities and successful partnerships of IPIECA, he introduced IMO-IPIECA Initiative (GI) which might be of particular interest of the NOWPAP members. Especially the GI SEA (Global Initiative for Southeast Asia), which aims to improve the regional capability in Southeast Asia by assisting in the development of national capacities in oil spill preparedness and response through industry and government cooperation. He also presented on the current activities and technical documents produced by the IPIECA-IOGP (International Association of Oil and Gas Producers) Oil Spill Response Joint Industry Project (OSR-JIP) that can be used as references.

Agenda item 16. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

110. The meeting adopted the report of the meeting with its annexes following its presentation by the Rapporteur.

Agenda item 17. Closure of the Meeting

111. After customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 18:32 on Friday, 28 August 2015.

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Annex IV Draft Workplan for the 2016-2017 biennium

Annex V Proposed Budget for MERRAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium

Annex VI The List of the Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions and Expected Outputs for the Intersessional Period

Annex VII List of files in the CD-ROM

Annex I

List of Participants

Annex I. List of Participants to the Eighteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the Tenth Competent National Authorities Meeting

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& the 10th Competent National Authorities Meeting>

Annex II

List of Documents

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

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/3	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 18/4	Report on Activities of IMO Made After the Seventeenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/5	Report on MERRAC Activities Made After the Seventeenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/6	Report on the Annual Expenditure of MERRAC Budget for the 2014/2015 Biennium
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/7	Report on the Focal Points
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/8	Report on the Information System
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/9	Report on Oil and HNS Spill Incidents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/10	Progress Report on the Implementation of the MERRAC Specific Projects
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/11	Report of MERRAC Activities on RAP MALI
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/12	Revision and/or Amendment of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/13	Discussion on the New MERRAC Activities to be carried out under the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/14	Report on the NOWPAP Training and Exercise
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/15	Latest Progress Report on the Oil and HNS Pollution Preparedness and Response in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/16	Discussion on Efficient Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/17	Progress Report on the Organization of MERRAC Expert Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/18	Draft Workplan and Budget of MERRAC Activities for the 2016/2017 Biennium
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/19	Draft Arrangements of the Existing Tasks and Identification of Additional Tasks for Intersessional Works (to be updated)

Reference Documents

UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/INF1	List of Documents
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/INF2	(Draft) Time Schedule
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/INF3	List of Participants
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 18/INF4	Logistic information
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 17/21	Report of the 17th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the 9th Competent National Authorities Meeting (Daejeon, 11-13 June 2014)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 19/12/Rev. 1	Report of the 19th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Moscow, Russia, 20-22 October 2014)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 19/12/Add. 1	Resolutions of the 19th NOWPAP IGM

Annex III

Agenda

Annex III. List of documents for the Eighteenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Tenth 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 Eighteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

4. Overview of the progress made during the intersessional period after the Seventeenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
 - 4.1. Report of a representative of NOWPAP RCU on the implementation of Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
 - 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 Seventeenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting
5. Review of the progress made for each task agreed at the Seventeenth 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

(A representative of leading country or the leading expert for each project will be invited to report the results)

- Update DB of oil and HNS spill response equipment and experts
 - Online pollution reporting system
 - Risk assessment of oil spill incident: Likelihood analysis
 - Others: New potential specific projects for 2016/2017
6. Report of MERRAC activities on the implementation of NOWPAP RAP MALI and discussion on the future work
7. Revision and/or amendment of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Contingency Plan, including its Annexes *(if existed)*
8. Discussion on the MERRAC activities for 2016-2017 under the NOWPAP MTS (2012-2017) and potential collaborative activities with other RACs and international organizations
- Discussion on the MERRAC PoW for 2016-2017
 - Review of possibility of the implementation of new activities such ballast water management, and climate change impacts and mitigation

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

9. Report and discussion on the NOWPAP training and exercises carried out during the last intersessional period and to be held in the near future
- 9.1. Report of the 14th NOWPAP BRAVO Exercise, 2014, Japan
- 9.2. Report of the 15th NOWPAP BRAVO Exercise, 2015, Korea
- 9.3. Report of the 5th NOWPAP DELTA Exercise, held in Russia, 2014
- 9.4. Future plan on NOWPAP trainings and exercises
10. Report of the representatives of CNAs on issues related to latest progress in their respective countries
- National Contingency Plans (Latest revisions of the NCP, Implementation of the RCP by connecting the NCP with the RCP, etc.)
 - Case Studies of Recent National Oil/HNS Spills

- National/Sub-regional Training and Exercises
- Oiled wildlife, and health & safety issues in oil spill incidents
- Others

11. Discussion on efficient implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (*if existed*)

The Eighteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting

12. Discussion on the organization of the NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting (to be held in Russia, 2015)
 - Report on the draft plan for the organization of the Expert Meeting to be hosted by Russia
 13. Discussion on the proposed workplan and budget for the MERRAC activities for the 2016/2017 biennium
 14. Arrangement of intersessional work and venues and dates of the Nineteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and the Eleventh Competent National Authorities for NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan
 15. Other Matters
 16. Adoption of the report of the Meeting
 17. Closure of the Meeting
-

Annex IV

Draft Workplan for the 2016-2017 biennium

Annex IV. Draft Workplan for MERRAC Activities for the 2016/2017 Biennium

Date	Activities	Responsible Organizations
1 st half of 2016	17th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise	Leading country (Russia), NOWPAP members, MERRAC
May or June 2016	19th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and 11th Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
2 nd half of 2016	18th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise	Leading country (Japan), NOWPAP members, MERRAC
2016	6th NOWPAP DELTA (Joint Oil Spill Exercise) regarding the marine pollution preparedness and response (date and venue to be determined)	Lead country, NOWPAP members, MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO
2016 or 2017	An expert meeting on oil and HNS spill issue (date and venue to be determined)	Host Country (Korea), MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO, NOWPAP members
1 st half of 2017	19th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise	Leading country (Korea), NOWPAP members, MERRAC
May or June 2017	20th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and 12th Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC, NOWPAP RCU, UNEP, IMO
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
2 nd half of 2017	20st NOWPAP BRAVO exercise	Leading country (China), NOWPAP members, MERRAC
-	Intersessional work	Leading country, MERRAC
Jan 2016 - Dec 2017	Implementation of specific projects on scientific and technical issues related to oil and HNS, including marine litter activities	Leading country, MERRAC, UNEP, IMO

Annex V

Proposed Budget for MERRAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium

Annex V. Proposed Budget for MERRAC Activities for the 2016/2017 Biennium

Activities	Budget (US\$)		
	2016	2017	Total
1. Focal Points Meeting & CNA Meeting - 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 exercises	26,000	26,000	52,000
2. Expert Meeting (to be hosted by Korea) - Technical issues on oil and HNS spill	-	24,000	24,000
3. Specific projects - Development of MERRAC Information System based on the Web GIS - Development of information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region - Others (to be decided upon IGM and/or FPM)	40,000		40,000
4. Coordination with IMO/UNEP and Regional Seas - NOWPAP IGM - IMO PPR Meeting - Other Regional Activities Centers - Regional Cooperation	9,000	9,000	18,000
5. Publications and other miscellaneous costs - Technical Reports - Newsletter - Maintaining Homepage	3,000	3,000	6,000
6. NOWPAP Exercise - NOWPAP BRAVO Exercises (4 times) - NOWPAP DELTA Exercise (organized by China)	(In-kind)		(In-kind)
Sub-total	58,000	82,000	140,000
7. MERRAC activities on RAP MALI - Establishment of floating marine litter prediction model development plan in the NOWPAP region	6,000		6,000
Sub-total	6,000		6,000
Total	61,000	85,000	146,000

Annex VI

**The List of the Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions and
Expected Outputs for the Intersessional Period**

Annex VI. The List of the Tasks, Lead Country/Agency, Required Actions and Expected Outputs for the Intersessional Period

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"> - Maintain or update the RCP - Maintain and/or update the appropriate annexes - Organize the Competent National Authorities for the RCP - Carry out regional activities as required by the RCP - Maintain and update the questionnaire for the procedures of the RCP for its efficient application and review the assistance procedure and system under the RCP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional cooperation system regarding marine pollution preparedness and response - Increased regional capacity on marine pollution preparedness and response - Efficient implementation of the RCP for practical use and assistance procedure and system - Updated Annex to the RCP (Annex 1)
2. Focal Points Meeting and Competent National Authorities Meeting	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate and organize annual FPM and CNA meetings - Carry out the follow-up activities resulting from the two meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of relevant information on oil and HNS spill preparedness and response in the region - Discussion on the implementation of the RCP
3. Expert Meeting	Russia and MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize Expert Meeting - Collect information on international and national practices concerning oiled wildlife issues related to oil spill incidents in the NOWPAP region - Identify the follow-up activities from the results and recommendations of the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better understanding on the existing practices on relevant subjects - Identification of future tasks to be discussed at FPM
4. Report on oil and HNS Pollution Incidents	MERRAC and NOWPAP Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share oil and HNS spill incidents when they occur - Overview oil and HNS spill cases occurred in the region with support from FPs and other relevant organizations - Collect lists of oil and HNS spill incidents over 10 tons in the NOWPAP member states - Maintain and update the list on MERRAC website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prompt information sharing and cooperation - Updated database on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region on 15th May every year

5. Information System	MERRAC and NOWPAP Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update information of oil and HNS spill response equipment, institutions and experts - Maintain and update the information on MERRAC website - Report it to next FPM (as reference material to the Information System) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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) - Uploaded Information System
6. Training and Exercise	MERRAC and NOWPAP members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out two NOWPAP BRAVO exercises (communication exercise) during the intersessional period under the leading role of China and Russia on a rotation basis - Prepare 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise to be organized by China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduction of two NOWPAP BRAVO exercises - Improvement of communication system - Improved response capacity for oil and HNS spills
7. Communications	MERRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and facilitate routine communication links between relevant authorities in the NOWPAP region - MERRAC shares its activities and information with relevant organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of efficient communication system relevant to oil and HNS spill preparedness and response in NOWPAP area - Enhanced information sharing among the member states
8. Other Routine Tasks as described by the TOR of MERRAC or decided upon by the FPM and/or IGM	MERRAC and NOWPAP members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect the information concerning the Guideline and/or Procedure on exchange of oil sample among the NOWPAP members and other organization for consideration at the next FPM - Report the NOWPAP RCP frame to the NPCGF Summit in Sept. 2015 and share the results of the communication exercise of the NPCGF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better understanding on the national and regional guidelines and/or procedures on relevant subjects - Identification of future direction to be discussed at next FPM

2. Specific projects and/or activities coordinated by MERRAC during the intersessional period

Tasks	Lead Country / Agency	Actions	Expected Outputs
<p>1. Manual on Conduction of Oil Spill Response Operational Exercise (Concluded)</p>	<p>Russia and China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publish in PDF as a MERRAC technical report within 1 or 2 months after editorial correction to facilitate the practical use of joint exercise - Use the manual for NOWPAP DELTA exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published MERRAC Technical Report on Manual of preparing and conduction oil spill response operational exercise - Harmonized and unified process of preparation and conduction of the NOWPAP DELTA Exercise - Improved management of oil spill response forces and equipment of the participating member states - Facilitated development and planning of joint exercises
<p>2. Update of DB on oil and HNS spill response of equipment and experts</p>	<p>MERRAC and NOWPAP Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modify the DB of response equipment - Organize an Expert Group composed of experts nominated by MERRAC FP - Standardize the DB equipment inventories - Prepare some samples of oil spill equipment inventories by using a standardized, common set of terms - Report the final draft to the next FPM for consideration on the use of the modified DB (Budget allocated for 2014/2015: US\$ 8K) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated DB of oil spill response equipment - Facilitated request and assistance of the equipment
<p>3. Online Pollution Reporting System</p>	<p>MERRAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop the online pollution reporting system which is composed of online POLREP preparation module, POLREP delivery module, Delivery status notification module, and POLREP archive module. - Finalize the draft system by the end of 2015 - Share the final draft version during the intersessional period for review and comments of the MERRAC FP - Demonstrate the final version at the next FPM (Budget allocated for 2014/2015: US\$ 10K) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed online pollution reporting system - Facilitated information sharing on pollution incident in the NOWPAP region - Supported tool to be used during both real incidents and oil spill response exercises such as NOWPAP DELTA, BRAVO, and Table-top exercises

<p>4. Risk Assessment of oil spill incident: Likelihood analysis</p>	<p>MERRAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect or update information on historic spill records, vessel traffic, and sources of oil pollution (e.g. Oil terminals, commercial ports, etc.) - Conduct statistical analysis using the collected information with reference of other specific projects conducted by MERRAC - Produce probability map of oil spill incidents - By end of 2015, finalize the risk assessment and the draft report including suggestions and recommendations for future direction and new agenda to be discussed at the next FPM (Budget allocated for 2014/2015: US\$ 7K) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of hot spots of oil spill incidents and the risks - Mapping of spill probability to help to determine the response strategy and to implement risk-based planning
<p>5. RAP MALI</p>	<p>MERRAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize the draft regional report on "Understanding of Floating Marine Litter Distribution and Impacts in the NOWPAP Region" by 20th NOWPAP IGM after having reviewed by the experts, MERRAC FPs, RAP MALI FPs and NOWPAP RCU - Publish the regional report by the end of 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing of information on floating marine litter distribution - Published Regional Report
<p>6. Development of a plan for MERRAC activities Under the NOWPAP MTS (2014-2017)</p>	<p>MERRAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report the results of the discussion made at the 18th FPM to the 20th NOWPAP IGM - Make the MERRAC PoW for the 2016-2017 biennium under the NOWPAP MTS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing MERRAC activities to be covered under the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017
<p>7. Other Specific projects as described by the TOR of MERRAC or decided upon by the FPM and/or IGM</p>	<p>MERRAC</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>

Annex VII

List of the files in the CD-ROM

Annex VII. List of files in the CD-ROM

Report of the Eighteenth NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the Eighth Competent National Authorities Meeting (Busan, Republic of Korea, 25-28 August, 2015)

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

- Report on the progress of the NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period (Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG, RCU)
- Report on the MERRAC activities after the 17th MERRAC FPM (Dr. Seong-Gil KANG, MERRAC)

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

- Report on the Focal Points (Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM, MERRAC)
- Report on the Information System (Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM, MERRAC)
- Report on the list of Oil and HNS pollution incidents (Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM, MERRAC)
- The incident of M/V Hyundai Bridge (Mr. Hyoungjun LEEM, Korea)
- Report on the general progress of the specific projects (Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM, MERRAC)
- Update DB of oil and HNS spill response equipment and experts (Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM, MERRAC)
- Online pollution reporting system (Ms. Yoon Young BACK, MERRAC)
- Risk assessment of oil spill incident: likelihood analysis (Dr. Jeong-Hwan OH, MERRAC)
- Proposals for the new MERRAC specific projects for the 2016/2017 biennium (MERRAC)

Agenda 6. Sea-based marine litter activities

- Report on the RAP MALI activities and discussion for future work (Ms. Yoon Young BACK, MERRAC)

Agenda 7. Discussion on revision and/or amendment of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan, including its Annexes

- Proposal on the establishment of procedure on exchange of oil sample (Mr. Hyoungjun LEEM, Korea)

Agenda 9. Report and discussion on the NOWPAP trainings and exercises carried out during the last intersessional period and to be held in the near future

- Report on the NOWPAP Trainings and Exercises (Ms. Jung-Hyun LIM, MERRAC)
- Report on the 15th NOWPAP BRAVO exercise (Mr. Hyoungjun LEEM, Korea)
- Report on the 5th NOWPAP DELTA-Joint Oil Spill Response Exercise (Mr. Sergey MONINETS, Russia)

Agenda 10. Report of representative of CNAs on issues related to the latest progress in their respective countries

- Introduction of the National Strike Team of JCG (Mr. Kenichiro MARUYAMA, Japan)
- Establishment of New Response System in Korea (Mr. Hyoungjun LEEM, Korea)
- Introduction of the activities on the Emergency Response Working Group of North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (Mr. Hyoungjun LEEM, Korea)
- Report on the latest activities related to oil and HNS issues in Russia (Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA, Russia)
- Report on the results of the ship oil spill response exercise in Tianjin port in 2014 (Mr. Peng GUO, China)
- Health and safety of the response workers in oil spill incidents (Ms. Yoon Young BACK, MERRAC)

Agenda 11. Discussion on the efficient implementation of NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan

- Activities carried during the intersessional period regarding efficient implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (Ms. Yoon Young BACK, MERRAC)

Agenda 12. Discussion on the organization of the NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting (to be held in Russia, 2015)

- Activities carried out during the intersessional period on the organization of the 2015 MERRAC Expert Meeting (Ms. Yoon Young BACK, MERRAC)
- Detailed draft plan for the organization of the 2015 MERRAC Expert Meeting in Russia (Dr. Natalia KUTAEVA, Russia)

Agenda 15. Other matters

- International Partnerships of IPIECA to improve oil spill preparedness, prevention and response (Mr. Joselito GUEVARRA, IPIECA)

