



**Northwest
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Action Plan**



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the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
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Report of the Meeting

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Introduction

1. The 1st Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held on 14 September 1994 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP). The 2nd IGM (20 November 1996, Tokyo, Japan) approved the geographic scope of the Action Plan as well as a tentative scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund. The 4th IGM (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, People's Republic of China) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centres (RACs). The 5th IGM (29-30 March 2000, Incheon, Republic of Korea) adopted a procedure for the establishment of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), as well as its Terms of Reference. The 8th IGM (5-7 November 2003, Sanya, People's Republic of China) approved the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Regional Cooperation on Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region and the related Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the NOWPAP region.

2. Since the inception of NOWPAP, the member states have acknowledged the importance of setting up a RCU as a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of the Action Plan. In Resolution 2 of the 6th IGM, the NOWPAP members decided to accept the offers of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to co-host RCU offices in Toyama (Japan) and Busan (Republic of Korea), respectively. Following the request of NOWPAP members, UNEP has recruited six staff members for the RCU; the RCU offices were inaugurated on the 1st and 2nd November 2004, in Toyama and Busan respectively.

3. The 10th IGM (24-26 November 2005, Toyama, Japan) decided to start the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region, to expand the geographical coverage of the NOWPAP Oil Spill Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and to initiate new directions of work for the NOWPAP RACs. The 11th IGM (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, Russian Federation) decided to carry out the evaluation of the performance of NOWPAP RACs in 2007 in order to further enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. The meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the NOWPAP RCU and the Focal Points Meetings of CEARAC, MERRAC and POMRAC, and also adopted the General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing to facilitate information exchange among the member states and related organizations. The 13th IGM (20-21 October 2008, Jeju, Republic of Korea) decided to conduct RCU performance review with a focus on assessing effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of RCU activities related to overall goal and objectives of NOWPAP, including achievements of planned outputs. The 13th IGM also approved NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS (Hazardous and Noxious Substances) Spill Contingency Plan. The 14th IGM (8-10 December 2009, Toyama, Japan) discussed the enhancement of NOWPAP RCU performance, based on the performance review, and requested NOWPAP RCU, in close consultation with all NOWPAP RACs, to develop a draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) to facilitate an effective and efficient implementation of the Action Plan. The 15th IGM (16-18 November 2010, Moscow, Russia) requested NOWPAP RCU to further revise MTS in close collaboration with RACs to reflect suggestions of member states. The meeting agreed that the Korean Government will prepare a draft paper addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP to be discussed at the 16th IGM.

4. Following the offer of the government of the People's Republic of China to host the 16th NOWPAP IGM, the meeting was held on 20-22 December 2011 in Beijing.

5. The meeting was attended by representatives of the NOWPAP member states, namely the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The representative from UNEP, Directors of each of the four NOWPAP RACs as well as representatives of the NOWPAP RCU also attended. The Resolutions adopted at the meeting are attached in Annex I. The full list of participants is attached as Annex II to this report. The list of documents is attached as Annex III.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

6. The 16th NOWPAP IGM was opened at 9:00 on Tuesday, 22 December 2011, in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, by Ms. Natalia TRETIAKOVA, the Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation, hosting state of the 15th NOWPAP IGM. She extended a warm welcome to all participants of the meeting.

7. Ms. TRETIAKOVA expressed her deep gratitude to the organizers of the meeting. She stressed the importance of NOWPAP in light of the preparations for the 2012 APEC Summit in Vladivostok and underlined various relevant national activities (e.g. NOWPAP BRAVO training exercises). With growing anthropogenic stress, the biodiversity conservation is the critical area requiring regional cooperation in line with recent decisions made by CBD. Biodiversity related issues described in the draft MTS need to be included in the work plans of NOWPAP RACs.

8. On behalf of the hosting government, Ms. Lei LI, the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China, made a welcome statement and appreciated RCU efforts for preparing the meeting. She introduced efforts of China to improve the marine environment through the development of "12th five year plan for inshore water pollution and control" and the current stage of Chinese National Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities which is relevant to the 3rd Intergovernmental Review Meeting of GPA. She mentioned 2011 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign in Lianyungang along with international workshop for marine litter control that have made concrete progress within the framework of NOWPAP. She praised NOWPAP as a matured, well organized regional platform with remarkable results achieved. She wished the participants a success in development of fruitful regional cooperation in a common mission which is the protection of marine and coastal environment.

9. Mr. Atsushi SUGINAKA, the Head of Delegation of Japan, expressed his gratitude to the government of China and RCU for organizing the meeting. He welcomed contributions of the Russian Federation to the NOWPAP Trust Fund which started from 2011. He stressed the significance of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in the NOWPAP region and congratulated on successful ICC campaign and workshop which was held in Lianyungang, China. He mentioned that this meeting needs to do its utmost to guide future direction on NOWPAP by reaching agreement on the MTS and RCU ToR, among other agenda items, and to increase effectiveness and efficiency of NOWPAP. He expressed his hope that the participants will leave Beijing after this 16th IGM with the sense of satisfaction.

10. Mr. Tong-Q LEE, the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea, expressed his gratitude to the government of China for organizing the meeting. He stressed the importance of

cooperation to address marine environment problems of the region. He welcomed contributions of Russia to the Trust Fund and mentioned that Korea is considering to increase its contributions starting from the year of 2013. He also requested RCU and MERRAC to study how to improve the current information exchange system among focal points to minimize the unnecessary fear of marine environmental accidents. He introduced the East Asian Seas Congress 2012 and the 4th NOWPAP Joint Oil Spill Exercise that will be held during Yeosu Expo in Korea. He also mentioned that NOWPAP is institutionally and functionally at a transitional stage and needs to cover broader issues including climate change and biodiversity with strong regional cooperation.

11. Ms. Jacqueline ALDER, Coordinator of UNEP Freshwater and Marine Ecosystem Branch, presented the opening statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP. She introduced UNEP recent developments and activities such as 40th anniversary of UNEP, Rio+20 conference, green economy, blue carbon, GPA IGR-3, ecosystem-based management, and REDD+. She expressed UNEP interest to the recent activities of NOWPAP, including those related to marine and coastal biodiversity and climate change. She also mentioned that the draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy is related to climate change and biodiversity conservation which are global issues and expressed her hopes that experts from the NOWPAP region will be able to compile useful information and best practices in climate change adaptation and ecosystem management.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2(a): Election of Officers

12. According to the NOWPAP practice, the Chairperson of the IGM is the representative of the host state, the Rapporteur is the representative of the member state to host the next IGM, and two Vice Chairpersons are the representatives of the remaining two member states, respectively. The Meeting agreed to elect the following officers among the representatives of the NOWPAP member states attending the meeting:

Chairman:	Mr. Wei JIANG, People's Republic of China
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Atsushi SUKINAKA, Japan
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. Natalia TRETIAKOVA, Russian Federation
Rapporteur:	Ms. Tong-Q LEE, Republic of Korea

Agenda Item 2(b): Organisation of Work

13. The Meeting agreed that the rules of procedures of the UNEP Governing Council would be applied for the Meeting with necessary adjustments (e.g., meeting will be conducted in English). Mr. Wei JIANG, Chairman of the Meeting, reminded the participants that all the Meeting decisions should be made by consensus. Mr. Alexander TKALIN, NOWPAP Coordinator, introduced the list of documents and the provisional timetable for the Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/INF/1 and UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/INF/3, respectively).

Agenda Item 2(c): Adoption of Agenda

14. After considering the list of documents and provisional agenda submitted by the Secretariat, the meeting adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 2(d): Presentation of Credentials

15. Upon the request of the Chairman, Mr. TKALIN confirmed that the delegates of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation presented their credentials to the Secretariat, which were reviewed by the Rapporteur and accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

16. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. TKALIN presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/3). He briefed on the progress of the four RACs with respect to their major outcomes achieved during 2010-2011 and mentioned that the detailed reports of the four RACs would be presented by the RAC Directors under Agenda Item 4.

17. In addition to main outcomes of the RACs, he also reported on activities being implemented and coordinated by the RCU, including building partnerships, raising public awareness, mobilizing resources, etc. He also mentioned the development of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy and RCU ToR revision, as well as the status of the implementation of resolutions adopted at the 15th Intergovernmental Meeting.

18. The meeting adopted the report of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of NOWPAP for 2010-2011 after discussing other agenda items, as reflected in Resolution 1 attached in Annex I to the report of the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Reports of the RAC Directors on the implementation of NOWPAP programme of work during 2010-2011

19. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Directors of RACs, Mr. Norihiko TANAKA for CEARAC, Mr. Hongbo SHANG for DINRAC, Mr. Seong-Gil KANG for MERRAC and Mr. Anatoly KACHUR for POMRAC, presented the reports on their activities (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/4/1-4) during the period of 2010–2011.

20. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China asked questions about effective use of budget for biodiversity conservation along with other CEARAC activities including harmful algal blooms and remote sensing. She raised concern about the CEARAC report with Yangtze River estuary being included and asked these areas to be excluded from future activities. In regards to the MERRAC activities, she mentioned that any procedures to obtain observer status at IMO should be discussed and approved by the IGM. She also mentioned various activities being implemented by POMRAC related to anthropogenic impacts on marine environment in the NOWPAP region.

21. The Head of Delegation of Korea suggested adding radioactive substances as an ecosystem indicator in response to multiple stressors which could be one of CEARAC activities in the future. Regarding the DINRAC website, he expressed gratitude on the efforts of DINRAC and requested to update the website on a regular basis to better share information with member states. He also mentioned that sharing information even outside of NOWPAP boundaries (e.g. oil spill incident recently occurred in Bohai Bay) could be meaningful to increase visibility of NOWPAP.

22. The Head of Delegation of Japan commended CEARAC activities, especially biodiversity and eutrophication in the NOWPAP region. He commended also the cooperation with partners such as the joint remote sensing training course conducted by CEARAC. As for the suggestions made by Korea on radioactive substances, he explained that it needs to go through internal discussion process in Japan. Emphasizing on the activities on biodiversity and eutrophication which has significant impacts on marine environment, he mentioned that resource mobilization should be considered seriously in order to implement such projects. He also commented on the DINRAC efforts to secure resources from external sources (e.g. APN) as well as their website and databases that DINRAC is updating on a regular basis and requested DINRAC to cooperate closely with focal points. He supported suggestions made by Korea on information exchange on accidents even if those are not within the NOWPAP region.

23. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation commended efforts of DINRAC to prepare pamphlets on MIS as well as marine litter and encouraged DINRAC to cooperate with MERRAC for distributing the pamphlets among ship owners and ship associations. She mentioned that the future activities of POMRAC may include biodiversity conservation under anthropogenic stressors (including pollutants).

24. In response to the question from China, the Director of CEARAC replied that CEARAC will continue to manage websites on remote sensing and HAB while dealing with new issues. With regard to the concerns raised by China, he explained that the areas for research were selected by Chinese focal points who attended the CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM). In response to the question raised by Korean Delegate, he suggested the IGM to discuss if it is necessary for NOWPAP to handle radioactive substances.

25. The member states, NOWPAP RCU and RACs recognize that Changjiang (Yangtze) River Estuary and adjacent area of China, which is one of the selected areas in the CEARAC report, is not within the geographic scope of NOWPAP. Only for the purpose of case studies in this report, would China agree that this area was selected to be one of the target areas.

26. Directors of DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC answered technical questions raised by member states. The meeting approved the four RACs reports (Resolution 1 in the Annex I to the report of the meeting).

Agenda Item 5: Reports by NOWPAP member states and partners on issues related to NOWPAP implementation

27. The Head of Delegation of Korea introduced several initiatives on marine environment conservation with a budget of 13 million US\$ which was allocated for marine litter activities, including buy-back programme and improving coastal ecosystems along the coastal areas. He also introduced the "4 rivers project" as one of main components of green growth policy that Korean government is pursuing in recent years. He informed that new RACs focal points have been appointed in Korea. He also shared some outcomes of the 16th North East Asia Sub-regional Programme for Environment Cooperation Senior Officials Meeting (NEASPEC SOM 16), including planned expert meeting addressing marine transboundary issues.

28. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation introduced APEC Summit 2012 and NOWPAP BRAVO and noted the importance of participation of all NOWPAP member countries in DELTA exercises. With regard to the MoU with IMO, she emphasized the importance of

NOWPAP to have an observer status at IMO and mentioned that this issue should be handled by the RCU and reported to the IGM later. She reiterated the necessity of implementation of biodiversity conservation projects.

29. The Head of Delegation of Japan introduced the Global Partnership on Waste Management which has been promoted by UNEP IETC and its working group meeting held in Vienna and emphasized the necessity of NOWPAP member states to collaborate on this issue.

30. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Yihang JIANG, a representative of UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Project, presented his statement (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/5/1) concerning the cooperation between YSLME and NOWPAP. He introduced YSLME project which has been successfully accomplished and, as a result, enhanced regional and national cooperation. He shared briefly the results of the 2nd special Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting which set future direction of the project. He mentioned a recent study on the Northeast Asia done by an expert of Stanford University which might help to understand the cooperation among countries in the region.

31. The Head of Delegation of Korea mentioned the significance of YSLME as one of LME projects and also expressed willingness of Korean government to support the 2nd phase of YSLME in cooperation with China. He delivered sincere thanks to Mr. JIANG for his efforts.

32. The NOWPAP Coordinator introduced written statements by PEMSEA, PICES and IOC/WESTPAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/5/2-4). He reminded countries to be prepared at the next IGM for reporting on national activities with regards to the implementation of NOWPAP, in particular the NOWPAP regional contingency plan on oil and HNS spills and RAP MALI.

Agenda Item 6: Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) and RAP MALI work plan and budget for 2012-2013

33. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented the report on the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI and also work plan and budget for 2012-2013 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/6/1-2). He pointed out that the marine litter focal points nominated by each member state are critical for the implementation of RAP MALI and they should play their roles as agreed initially during the NOWPAP MALITA implementation.

34. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea supported the activities related to marine litter in the NOWPAP region.

35. The representative of Japan supported 2012-2013 RAP MALI work plan and stressed the importance of this issue and informed on recent developments in Japan.

36. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China introduced a brochure called "Marine Litter and Coastal Cleanup in China" describing relevant activities as well as 2011 ICC Campaign and workshop which were held in Lianyungang, China.

37. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation mentioned best practices on marine litter from fisheries and aquaculture that MERRAC is planning to implement and advised to add shipping, especially cruise liners, which could be one of major sources of marine litter.

38. The meeting approved NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan and budget for 2012-2013 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/6/2/Rev. 1).

Agenda Item 7: Situation with the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions from member states

39. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator gave a briefing on the current status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, stressing the necessity of increasing the total amount of contributions of the member states to the Trust Fund.

40. He mentioned that to secure the sustainability of NOWPAP activities, the annual target amount US\$ 500,000 of the Trust Fund contributions as decided at the 2nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (November 1996) should be reached. He mentioned also that Russia has started to pay its annual contribution of US\$ 125,000 to the NOWPAP Trust Fund from 2011.

41. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation reported that the Russian Federation has started to contribute annually US\$ 125,000, starting from 2011. She emphasized that Russian contribution paid in 2011 should be treated as 2011 contribution rather than as payment to cover their unpaid pledges.

42. The representative of Japan welcomed the Russian contribution of US\$ 125,000 and intention of Korea to increase their contribution to US\$ 125,000 most likely from 2013. He also explained that, in spite of the current financial difficulty, the Government of Japan has continuously and faithfully contributed to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in the past years. He also pointed out the necessity that each member state pays one fourth of US\$ 500,000, namely US\$ 125,000, to the Trust Fund in order to sustain the NOWPAP implementation. In this regard, he expected China to increase its contribution to the Trust Fund.

43. The Head of Delegation of Korea promised the unpaid amounts of their contribution to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2011 to be deposited within one to two months. He also mentioned possibility of increasing the contribution to the Trust Fund to US\$ 125,000, starting from 2013.

44. A representative of Korea presented discussion document "Possible measures to address the future financial situation of NOWPAP" (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/7/2). While pointing out insufficient general Trust Fund which supports the NOWPAP activities/projects implementation, the representative of Korea suggested several measures of saving money from the earmarked contributions to support the RCU offices. He suggested ways to restructuring RCU and to reduce expenditure on administration and staff cost. The Head of Delegation of Korea mentioned that this issue should be considered on a long-term basis.

45. The Head of Delegation of Japan appreciated Korea for the document prepared which helps better understand the financial situation of NOWPAP. He mentioned that budgetary expenditure should be focused on program activities rather than on administration. Furthermore, the structure of RCU needs to be reconsidered for improved coordination of RAC activities. He also mentioned that most international organizations like NOWPAP are facing severe financial difficulties, and encouraged RCU and RACs to find external sources to secure funding in order to implement their activities.

46. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China mentioned that with increased contribution by Russia, financial situation of NOWPAP has been improved. Therefore, focus should be on how to use funds in an effective way. She asked about the historical background of the role of RCU on administrative issues when it was established.

47. The NOWPAP Coordinator explained that RCU staff are recruited and administered under UN and UNEP rules. He also mentioned that the RCU ToR were approved initially at the 5th NOWPAP IGM.

48. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation reiterated the necessity to reach the target of US\$ 500,000 of the Trust Fund which was agreed at the 2nd NOWPAP IGM. She asked China to consider paying equal share of the target amount along with other members.

49. The Head of Delegation of Korea mentioned the necessity of restructuring the RCU on a long-term basis and proposed to establish "discussion group" to address the future financial situation of NOWPAP. He mentioned that the document presented at this meeting was aimed to be used as a first step of discussion which also should be considered on a long-term basis.

50. In a follow up to the Korean suggestion of restructuring the RCU, the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China expressed the need to first reconsider the role and functions of the RCU before implementing any further steps. She also mentioned that the restructuring process needs to change the existing RCU ToR.

51. The Head of Delegation of Korea mentioned that the growing administrative cost of NOWPAP has to be explained to the Korean parliament.

52. The representative of UNEP explained that the NOWPAP RCU is considered as a good example comparing with other Regional Seas Programmes globally, and its operational expenses are comparable with other programmes. However, UNEP is ready to follow any decision that NOWPAP member states may wish to make.

53. The Head of Delegation of Japan pointed out that the current ratio of budget allocation for administration (salaries) versus allocation for activities (US\$ 1,000,000 to US\$ 390,000) is unhealthy and should be changed to a more program-oriented budget allocation ratio, including strengthening support for RACs.

54. The NOWPAP Coordinator explained the difference between the general Trust Fund which supports NOWPAP activities and projects and the earmarked contributions from Japan and Korea to support operation of two RCU offices.

55. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation mentioned that equal amounts of budget should be allocated for RACs, as their activities are addressing completely different issues.

56. After a thorough discussion, the meeting agreed that Korea will revise the document on possible measures addressing future financial situation of NOWAP for further consideration during the intersessional period and then at the 17th NOWPAP IGM (Resolution 3 in Annex I).

Agenda Item 8: Proposal to improve quality of NOWPAP technical reports

57. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented a revised proposal on how to improve the quality of NOWPAP technical reports considering three possible levels of quality assurance (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/8). It was prepared in close consultation with RACs and presented to the 15th IGM, but no decision had been made at that time.
58. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea commended the preparation of the guidance and supported the first level of quality assurance suggested.
59. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation supported the 1st level as well; the 2nd and 3rd levels were not recommended.
60. The Head of the Delegation of Japan supported the 2nd level, possibly with modification of the 1st level.
61. The representative of YSLME mentioned that the quality of technical reports will serve for better communications and enhanced public awareness of NOWPAP in the region.
62. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China supported the 1st level of quality assurance.
63. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives of DINRAC and MERRAC responded to some technical questions and shared their experience.
64. After discussion, meeting participants reached consensus on the guidance on improving the quality of NOWPAP reports (document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/8/Rev. 1).

Agenda Item 9: Discussion of the revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and related issues

65. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented the revised ToR for the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit. He also explained about discussion document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/9) which reflects comments and suggestions made by member states at the 15th NOWPAP IGM.
66. The Head of Delegation of Japan reiterated the major role of RCU in coordinating RAC efforts on specific activities (e.g. biodiversity) to avoid possible duplication.
67. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation, in relation to agenda items 7 and 9, proposed to establish "informal consulting group" to discuss the role of RCU at the next IGM. She also asked to share RCU reports to UNEP containing budgetary information with member states instead of hiring professional auditor due to relevant cost to be incurred.
68. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China agreed with the suggestion made by Russia. She stressed that the revision of RCU ToR is needed before discussing any restructuring of RCU.
69. The Head of Delegation of Korea mentioned that the issue of RCU ToR is related to NOWPAP Trust Fund. This issue should be treated comprehensively, along with financial issues. During the intersessional period, the Korean Government will revise the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/7/2 on possible measures addressing future financial situation of

NOWPAP and circulate among member states for their comments and suggestions before presenting it to the 17th NOWPAP IGM in 2012.

70. After discussion, the meeting approved revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RCU as presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/9/Rev. 1.

Agenda Item 10: Consideration of the draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 and NOWPAP work plan and budget (Programme of Work) for 2012-2013

71. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator presented the draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/10) that has been revised upon the request of member states at the 15th NOWPAP IGM in close consultation with RACs. He shortly described operational and thematic elements as well as suggested implementation mechanism.

72. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China suggested to modify MTS as follows:

- part 1 (paragraphs 1-3) should be streamlined (with three major sub-parts);
- parts 2 (paragraphs 4-15) and 4 (paragraphs 56-61) should be merged; and
- climate change-related theme might be re-considered.

73. The Head of Delegation of Japan expressed concerns regarding NOWPAP capability to implement some activities in MTS, especially on climate change and ballast water. He stressed the necessity of collaboration among RACs and with RCU in order to increase the capacity to implement the activities.

74. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation also expressed concerns of NOWPAP capability on climate change issue but suggested to keep document as it is for further discussion.

75. The representative of UNEP introduced UNEP approach and background on new initiatives such as climate change adaptation and blue carbon related activities which Regional Seas Programmes are encouraged to undertake.

76. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China mentioned possible duplication of climate change activities with the UNFCCC, as a main mechanism, and suggested instead to concentrate on marine environment issues in the NOWPAP region.

77. The Head of Delegation of Korea agreed with the suggestions made by China to elaborate the structure and concrete activities that NOWPAP RACs can initiate within their capacities. However, he suggested keeping climate change issue in the MTS as it is a living document, which could be revised later if necessary. He also suggested that activities on climate change can be implemented by focusing on carbon capture and storage (CCS) and that relevant CCS technologies could be shared among member states which will be beneficial.

78. The Head of Delegation of Japan expressed their concerns on lack of capability by MERRAC to implement climate change related activities. The representative of Japan explained about the CCS assessment project which has been implemented by the Ministry of Environment of Japan emphasizing that the scope of that project required vast amounts of financial support.

79. In response to concerns raised by Japan, the Director of MERRAC commented on possible CCS projects and their 6-years experience of working on this issue in the region. He also introduced relevant information from IMO and explained that CCS-related projects could indeed be implemented under the NOWPAP framework.

80. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation suggested adopting NOWPAP MTS as a strategic document after modifying theme of climate change toward assessment of climate change impacts on marine environment.

81. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China suggested to delete climate change theme from NOWPAP MTS and to discuss this issue further at a later stage.

82. The NOWPAP Coordinator suggested revising NOWPAP MTS in accordance with comments provided by member states and circulate it for approval by correspondence.

83. After a thorough discussion, the meeting requested member states and RACs to provide their comments and suggestions for the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/10/1) before the end of January 2012. After incorporating comments and suggestions from member states by the end of February 2012, the RCU will circulate the revised version among member states for their final review and approval by correspondence.

84. Regarding the NOWPAP work plan and budget for 2012-2013 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/10/2), the Head of Delegation of Japan, taking into consideration budget constraints, proposed to maintain the expenditure level of 2010-2011 for the next biennium. He also mentioned that at the next IGM the whole budget might be considered again, depending on availability of additional contributions from Korea starting from 2013. He also reiterated the importance to secure sustainable contributions from member states based on an equally-shared responsibility principle.

85. The Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation proposed the option with reduced allocations for RAP MALI and Public Awareness with a total amount of US\$ 796,000.

86. The Heads of Delegations of the People's Republic of China and of the Republic of Korea agreed with the option that the Russian Delegate proposed.

87. The meeting adopted NOWPAP work plan and budget as reflected in Resolution 1 attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda Item 11: Rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between RCU Toyama office and RCU Busan office

88. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the NOWPAP Coordinator reported on the decision of the 7th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, that Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator should be rotated between Toyama and Busan RCU offices every four years. Because Coordinator had been appointed on 15 December 2004 and Deputy Coordinator on 13 January 2005, the first rotation has been completed in December 2008 and the second one is due in December 2012.

89. The Head of Delegation of Japan suggested delaying the next rotation for one year and to discuss this issue at the next IGM.

90. The Head of Delegation of Korea supported Japanese suggestion by taking into consideration the budgetary constraints.

91. The meeting decided to postpone the next rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between Busan and Toyama for one year, till around December 2013. The host countries of the RCU will have an intersessional discussion on this issue prior to the 17th NOWPAP IGM in 2012.

Agenda Item 12: Preparation of the 3rd GPA Intergovernmental Meeting (IGR-3)

92. Upon request of the Chairman, the representative of UNEP introduced the 3rd Intergovernmental Review (IGR-3) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

93. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China asked about circulation of the final draft of Manila Declaration to be adopted at the IGR-3.

94. The Head of Delegation of Japan mentioned that oceans and water issues could be important outcomes of Rio+20 process and stressed also the resilience of ecosystems against natural disasters among other emerging issues.

95. All member states were encouraged to participate and engage in IGR-3.

Agenda Item 13: Preparation of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting

96. The Chairman welcomed the offer by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea for hosting the Seventeenth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting in Korea. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea explained that Korea would consult with other member states and RCU on the venue and dates at a later stage.

Agenda Item 14: Other business

97. The Chairman asked the member states, partners and RAC Directors to make any comments, statements and suggestions they might wish.

98. The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China mentioned the geographical scope of eutrophication project being implemented by CEARAC, which covers the areas beyond NOWPAP boundaries (Yangtze River estuary), and suggested inserting appropriate remarks in the CEARAC report.

99. The Head of Delegation of Korea reiterated the importance of sharing information among member states on marine environment even beyond the NOWPAP region. He requested MERRAC to find effective ways to proceed regarding oil and HNS spills.

Agenda Item 15: Adoption of the report and resolutions of the meeting

100. The representatives of member states discussed the draft meeting resolutions prepared by the RCU.

101. After discussion, the meeting resolutions were adopted as shown in Annex I. It was also agreed that the report of the meeting with its annexes would be distributed by e-mail and then finalized by correspondence.

Agenda Item 16: Closure of the Meeting

102. After customary exchange of closing remarks, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11:00 on Thursday, 22 December 2011.

Annex I

Resolutions

Resolution 1

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2012-2013 BIENNIUM

The Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves the report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP activities during the 2010-2011 biennium;
2. Approves also the reports of the four Regional Activity Centres of NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) on the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP during the 2010-2011 biennium;
3. Approves further NOWPAP Programme of Work (document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/10/2/Rev. 1) and the overall workplan and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium as presented in the following table;
4. Requests RAC directors to introduce changes and prioritize their respective activities in line with the approved budget and NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy, in consultation with their respective Focal Points Meetings on priority activities;
5. Requests NOWPAP RCU to facilitate the implementation of work by providing coordination, support and assistance to the RACs;
6. Requests also the RCU to negotiate, through UNEP Headquarters, an observer status for NOWPAP at IMO and keep member states informed on the progress.

**NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium as approved by the
16th Intergovernmental Meeting in Beijing, People's Republic of China,
20-22 December 2011**

Activity	Responsibility for implementation	Budget (US\$ 1,000) for 2012-2013
CEARAC	CEARAC	112
DINRAC	DINRAC	112
MERRAC	MERRAC	112
POMRAC	POMRAC	112
RAP MALI	RCU and RACs	40
Public Awareness	RCU and RACs	19
Coordination of RACs	RCU	16
Implementation of NOWPAP	RCU	83
RCU Operation	RCU	78
Resource Mobilization	RCU	20
Sub-total		704
13% of the sub-total as Programme Support Cost		92
TOTAL		796

Resolution 2

SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND

Recognizing the need to implement current NOWPAP projects and to initiate new activities,

Also recognizing the necessity to increase the total amount of contributions of the NOWPAP member states to the NOWPAP Trust Fund to the target amount of US\$500,000, as agreed at the 2nd Intergovernmental Meeting,

Taking note with appreciation that the contribution from the Russian Federation in the amount of \$125,000 for 2011 was received after the Russian Government issued a Resolution of 26 May 2011 for resuming its commitment to annual contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund at a scale agreed by the Intergovernmental Meeting,

Taking note also of the 15th IGM decisions on the necessity and urgency to increase the contributions from all NOWPAP member states,

The Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Encourages the member states to make utmost efforts to increase their annual contributions in 2012-2013;
2. Encourages NOWPAP RCU, RACs, the NOWPAP member states and the Executive Director of UNEP to make all possible efforts to secure funds from external sources, including civil society, private sector, local governments, international and regional organizations and financial institutions, as well as to utilize the resources available in the most efficient and effective manner;
3. Decides to endorse the following tentative scale of contributions to the Trust Fund for activities in 2012;
4. Decides to further discuss increasing contributions to the Trust Fund and possible measures addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

Member State	Annual contribution (US\$)
People's Republic of China	40,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	100,000
Russian Federation	125,000
Total	390,000

Resolution 3

NOWPAP EVOLUTION

Taking into account the requests by member states to further develop the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 for the discussion at the 16th NOWPAP IGM,

Taking note of resolution 2 of the 14th NOWPAP IGM on improving the quality of NOWPAP technical reports and also taking note of suggestions by member states to discuss further the draft proposal submitted to the 15th NOWPAP IGM,

Recalling the 15th IGM decisions to discuss further the revised Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP RCU,

Recalling the decision of the 7th Intergovernmental Meeting on the establishment of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit,

The Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Requests member states and RACs to provide their comments and suggestions for the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/10/1) before the end of January 2012. At the end of February 2012, the RCU will circulate the revised version among member states for their final review and approval by correspondence;
2. Approves revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RCU as presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/9/Rev. 1;
3. Approves also guidance on improving the quality of NOWPAP technical reports (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/8/Rev. 1);
4. Agrees that during the intersessional period the Korean Government will revise the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/7/2 on possible measures addressing future financial situation of NOWPAP and circulate among member states for their comments and suggestions before presenting it to the 17th IGM in 2012;
5. Agrees also to postpone the next rotation of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator between Busan and Toyama for one year, till around December 2013, and that host countries of the RCU will have an intersessional discussion on this issue prior to the 17th IGM in 2012.

Resolution 4**REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER**

Acknowledging the importance of marine litter issues in the NOWPAP region,

Taking into account that the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) is in line with national and regional priorities identified by the NOWPAP member states,

Taking note that most of RAP MALI activities are being implemented at the national and local level, in cooperation with local governments and authorities within the NOWPAP member states,

The Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan and budget for 2012-2013 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/6/2/Rev. 1);
2. Encourages NOWPAP member states to carry out activities to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter at a national and local level through the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI;
3. Requests NOWPAP RACs and RCU to implement the NOWPAP RAP MALI as scheduled in close collaboration with UNEP and other international organizations and programmes involved.

Annex II

List of Participants

People's Republic of China**Ms. Lei LI**

Deputy Director General

Department of Pollution Prevention and Control, Ministry of Environmental Protection

115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie, Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-6655-6274 Fax: +86-10-6655-6513 E-mail: li.yi@mep.gov.cn**Mr. Wei JIANG**

Deputy Director General

Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environmental Protection

115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie, Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-6655-6531 Fax: +86-10-6655-6532 E-mail: jiangwei@mep.gov.cn**Ms. Guozhi LIU**

Deputy Director

Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environmental Protection

115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie, Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-6655-6514 Fax: +86-10-6655-6513 E-mail: liu.guozhi@mep.gov.cn**Mr. Yi LI**

Deputy Director

Department of Pollution Prevention and Control, Ministry of Environmental Protection

115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie, Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-6655-6274 Fax: +86-10-6655-6513 E-mail: li.yi@mep.gov.cn**Mr. Baoxi SHANG**

Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2 Chaoyangmen South Street, Beijing 100701, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-6596-3279 Fax: +86-10-6596-3257 E-mail: shang_baoxi@mfa.gov.cn**Ms. Lijing WANG**

Associate Professor

China Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Environmental Protection

8 Dayangfang, Anwai Street, Chaoyang Dist., Beijing 100012, People's Republic of China

Tel/Fax: +86-10-8491-5302 E-mail: wanglj@craes.org.cn**Ms. Cuiming XU**

Consultant

China Maritime Safety Administration

11 Jianguomen Nei Avenue, Beijing, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-6529-2877 Fax: +86-10-6529-2875 E-mail: xucuiming@hotmail.com

Japan**Mr. Atsushi SUGINAKA**

Director

Global Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, JapanTel: +81-3-5501-8245 Fax: +81-3-5501-8244 E-mail: atsushi.suginaka@mofa.go.jp**Mr. Shinji ABE**

Director for International Ocean Affairs

Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8918, JapanTel: +81-3-5253-8266 Fax: +81-3-5253-1549 E-mail: ocean-p@mlit.go.jp**Mr. Takashi MORI**

Director

Office of Marine Environment, Water Environment Division, Environmental Management Bureau,
Ministry of the Environment

Godochosha No. 5, 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975 Japan

Tel: +81-3-5521-9025 Fax: +81-3-3593-1438 E-mail: TAKASHI2_MORI@env.go.jp**Mr. Yuya YUKISHIMA**

Official

Office of Marine Environment, Water Environment Division, Environmental Management Bureau,
Ministry of the Environment

Godochosha No. 5, 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975 Japan

Tel: +81-3-5521-9025 Fax: +81-3-3593-1438 E-mail: YUYA_YUKISHIMA@env.go.jp**Mr. Yuta OKAZAKI**

First Secretary, Embassy of Japan

7 Ritan Road, Jianguomenwai, Beijing, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-6532-2992 Fax: +86-10-6532-2009 E-mail: yuta.okazaki@mofa.go.jp**Republic of Korea****Mr. Tong-Q LEE**

Director

Climate Change and Environment Team, International Economic Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

37 Sejongro, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-2-2100-7794 Fax: +82-2-2100-7991 E-mail: Tqlee96@mofat.go.kr**Ms. Jung Sook YANG**

Third Secretary

Climate Change and Environment Team, International Economic Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

37 Sejongno Jongro-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-2-2100-7746 Fax: +82-2-2100-7991 E-mail: Jyang11@mofat.go.kr

Mr. Munki PARK

Deputy Director

Marine Environment Policy Division, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs
2F, K-water, 188 Joongang-ro, Gwacheon-City, Gyeonggi-Do, Republic of Korea 427-100

Tel: +82-2-504-6745

Fax: +82-2-503-2070

E-mail: Pmq12@korea.kr**Mr. Sungjae KIM**

Assistant Director

Marine Environment Policy Division, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs
2F, K-water, 188 Joongang-ro, Gwacheon-City, Gyeonggi-Do, Republic of Korea 427-100

Tel: +82-2-504-6745

Fax: +82-2-503-2070

E-mail: lioksi@korea.kr**Mr. Chang-Gyuen KIM**

Deputy Director

Marine Pollution Response Planning Division, Korea Coast Guard
3-8, Songdo-Dong, Yeonsu-Gu, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-32-835-2191

Fax: +82-32-835-2991

E-mail: kim7161@korea.kr**Mr. Hyoungjun LEEM**

Assistant Director

Marine Pollution Response Planning Division, Korea Coast Guard
3-8, Songdo-Dong, Yeonsu-Gu, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82 32 835 2293

Fax: +82 32 835 2991

E-mail: ljun55@Korea.kr**Ms. Kyungjin KIM**

Senior Specialist

Center for International Cooperative Programs, Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute
1270 Sa 2 dong Ansan Si, Gyeonggi-Do, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-31-400-7758

Fax: +82-31-406-6925

E-mail: kjkim@kordi.re.kr**Ms. Ji Hye SUH**

3rd Secretary

Climate Change and Environment Team, International Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

37 Sejongro, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-2-2100-7789

Fax: +82-2-2100-7991

E-mail: jhsuh08@mofat.go.kr**Russian Federation****Ms. Natalia TRETIAKOVA**Head of Division of the Department for International Cooperation,
Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation
4/6, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya str., Moscow, 123995, Russian Federation

Tel: +7-499-254-7947

Fax: +7-499-254-8283

E-mail: nataliat@mnr.gov.ru**Mr. Alexander SVIRIDOV**

Second Secretary, Department of International Organizations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

32/34 Smolenskaya-Sennaya sq., Moscow, Russian Federation

Tel: +7-499-244-4211

Fax: +7-499-244-2401

E-mail: dmoecology@mid.ru

Ms. Natalia KUTAEVA

State Marine Pollution Control, Salvage & Rescue Administration of the Russian Federation
(SMPCSA)

Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation
3/6, Petrovka str., Moscow, 125993, Russian Federation

Tel: +7-495-626-1806 Fax: +7-495-626-1809 E-mail: kutaevang@sm pcsa.ru

Ms. Anna ALEKSEEVA

Head of Division of the Department for Budget Policy to the State Administration

Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation
9 Ilynka str., Moscow, Russian Federation

Tel: +7-495-987-9789 Fax: +7-495-913-4473 E-mail: p0804_aa@minfin.ru

Ms. Svetlana SOBOLEVA

Specialist of the Department for State Policy and Regulation in the field of Water Management
Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation

4/6, B. Gruzinskaya str., Moscow, 123995, Russian Federation

Tel: +7-499-254-5211 Fax: +7-499-254-4933 E-mail: soboleva@mnr.gov.ru

Partners**Mr. Yihang JIANG**

Project Manager
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large marine Ecosystem Project
Ansan P.O. Box 29, Seoul 425-600 Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-31-400-7825 Fax: +82-31-400-7826 E-mail: yihang@yslme.org

UNEP**Ms. Jacqueline ALDER**

Coordinator
Freshwater and Marine Ecosystem Branch (UNEP/FMEB)
NOF Block 2-2 SW
P.O. Box 30552 - 00100
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254-20-762-4033 E-mail: Jacqueline.alder@unep.org

NOWPAP RACs**Mr. Norihiko TANAKA**

Director of CEARAC
Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre
c/o Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC)

5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Toyama 930-0856, Japan
Tel: +81-76-445-1571 Fax: 81-76-445-1581 E-mail: tanaka@npec.or.jp

Mr. Hongbo SHANG

Director of DINRAC

Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center

1 Yuhuinanlu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100029, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-8466-5309

Fax: +86-10-8463-0849

E-mail: shang.hongbo@prcee.org**Mr. Seong-Gil KANG**

Director of MERRAC

Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness & Response Regional Activity Centre

P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon 305-600 Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-42-866-3620

Fax: +82-42-866-3630

E-mail: kangsg@moeri.re.kr**Mr. Jeong-Hwan OH**

Senior Consultant of MERRAC

Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness & Response Regional Activity Centre

P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon 305-600 Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-42-866-3621

Fax: +82-42-866-3630

E-mail: jhoh@moeri.re.kr**Mr. Anatoly KACHUR**

Director of POMRAC

Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

Pacific Institute of Geography, Far-Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences

7 Radio Street, Vladivostok 690041, Russian Federation

Tel: +7-423-231-3071

Fax: +7-423-231-2159

E-mail: kachur@tig.dvo.ru**NOWPAP RCU****Mr. Alexander TKALIN**

Coordinator

NOWPAP RCU (Busan Office)

152-1 Haean-ro, Gijang-up, Gijang-gun, Busan 619-705, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-51-720-3001

Fax: +82-51-720-3009

E-mail:

alexander.tkalin@nowpap.org**Mr. Xiaodong ZHONG**

Deputy Coordinator

NOWPAP RCU (Toyama Office)

5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Toyama City 930-0856 Japan

Tel: +81-76-444-1611

Fax: +81-76-444-2780

E-mail:

xiaodong.zhong@nowpap.org**Mr. Sangjin LEE**

Scientific Affairs Officer

NOWPAP RCU (Busan Office)

408-1 Sirang-ri, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, Busan 619-902, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-51-720-3002

Fax: +82-51-720-3009

E-mail: sangjin.lee@nowpap.org

Mr. Masakatsu OHYAMA

Administrative Officer

NOWPAP RCU (Toyama Office)

5-5 Ushijimashin-machi, Toyama City 930-0856 Japan

Tel: +81-76-444-1611

Fax: +81-76-444-2780

E-mail: masakatsu.ohyama@nowpap.org**Observers****Ms. Kun LEI**

Professor

Chinese Focal Point of DINRAC, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

Tel: +86-10-8491-5305

Fax: +86-10-8491-5305

E-mail: leikun@craes.org.cn**Mr. Hao CHEN**

Chinese Focal Point to Marine Litter

Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

Tel: +86-10-8491-3914

Fax: +86-10-8491-3914

E-mail: chenhao@craes.org.cn**Ms. Qian LI**

Engineer

China National Environmental Monitoring Center

Tel: +86-10-8494-3146

Fax: +86-10-8494-9045

E-mail: liqian@cnemc.cn**Ms. Mingcui WANG**

Professor

China National Environmental Monitoring Center

Tel: +86-10-8494-3130

Fax: +86-10-8494-3131

E-mail: wangmc@cnemc.cn**Ms. Guihua DONG**

Senior Engineer

China National Environmental Monitoring Center

Tel: +86-10-8494-3207

Fax: +86-10-8494-3205

E-mail: donggh@cnemc.cn**Mr. Ruibin WANG**

Professor

China National Environmental Monitoring Center

Tel: +86-10-8494-9058

Fax: +86-10-8465-0865

E-mail: wangrb@cnemc.cn**Mr. Junlong LI**

Engineer

China National Monitoring Center

Tel: +86-10-8494-3128

Fax: +86-10-8494-3131

E-mail: lijl@cnemc.cn**Mr. Chunchang ZHANG**

Deputy Director

Yantai Oil Response Technical Center, China Maritime Safety Administration

Tel: +86-535-668-3685

Fax: +86-535-668-7302

E-mail: zcczn@hotmail.com

Mr. Shengquan LI

Deputy Director

Department of Dangerous Goods Management and Pollution Prevention

Shandong Maritime Safety Administration

Tel: +86-532-8667-1128 Fax: +86-5352-8667-1125 E-mail: lsqzwl@163.com

Ms. Lingyun GAO

Division of International Organizations and Conventions, Department of International
Cooperation

Ministry of Environmental Protection

115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie, Beijing 100035, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86-10-6655-6519 Fax: +86-10-6655-6513 E-mail: gao.lingyun@mep.gov.cn

Annex III

List of documents

Working documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/3	Report of the UNEP Executive Director on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan for 2010 – 2011
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/4/1	CEARAC Report of Activities, 2010 – 2011
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/4/2	DINRAC Report of Activities, 2010 – 2011
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/4/3	MERRAC Report of Activities, 2010 – 2011
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/4/4	POMRAC Report of Activities, 2010 – 2011
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/5/1	Statement of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/5/2	Statement of the UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/5/3	Statement of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/6	NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy, 2012-2017
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/7	Proposal to Improving the Quality of NOWPAP Technical Reports
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/8	Revised Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RCU
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/9	Status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions from the member states
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/10	Revised NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/11	Revised NOWPAP Public Awareness Building Strategy

Information documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/INF/1	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/INF/2	Provisional List of Participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/INF/3	Provisional Timetable
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/INF/4	MOUs between UNEP and RAC-hosting institutions, 2000-2002

- UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 16/INF/5 Template of agreement between UNEP and RAC-hosting countries of the Mediterranean Action Plan, 2010
- UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 15/11 Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan: report of the meeting