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Action Plan

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The 15th Focal Points Meeting

Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC)

Beijing, the People's Republic of China, 25-26 May 2017

The Meeting Report of the 15th NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

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Background

1. NOWPAP DINRAC was established to coordinate regional activities relevant to data and information exchange and to provide the reliable and up-to-date information services related to marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region.
2. DINRAC has the specific objective to coordinate regional activities, as specified in the Terms of Reference adopted at the Fourth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting. DINRAC was established recognizing that the activities under NOWPAP produce information on different topics from several sources; that there is the need for regional harmonization of data sets and information system, for development of databases and networks for linking relevant institutions in the region and for providing coherent information to serve the needs of the region, as well as the need to develop protocols for data sharing. The development of a comprehensive database and information management system for the region is also coordinated and implemented by DINRAC.
3. The 14th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) was held on 26-27 May 2016 in Beijing, China with assistance from NOWPAP Regional Coordination Unit (RCU). The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in the intersessional period after the 13th NOWPAP DINRAC FPM, and discussed and agreed the implementation plan for the 2016-2017 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM14/14).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1.1: Opening and Welcome Statements

4. The 15th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. on 25 May 2017 in Jintai Hotel in Beijing, China. Dr. Feng YAN, on behalf of the DINRAC Secretariat gave an opening statement to all participants. Mr. Kaifeng SUN, the representative from the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of China delivered a welcome remark. He highlighted that the year of 2017 is crucial for drafting NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 which will guide the next phases of DINRAC's work. He suggested that DINRAC shall discuss how to use the up-to-date technology to promote the whole process of the management of data sharing, to enhance the visualization of data, and to improve the quality and effectiveness of data. He stressed that the deepening cooperation of NOWPAP will help to implement the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, improve the marine environment and benefit people of the NOWPAP region.
5. Dr. Ning LIU, NOWPAP program officer of RCU, briefly introduced the restructuring of RCU in 2016 and delivered a welcoming remark to the meeting. He

said that NOWPAP is one of the few regional mechanisms promoting cooperation on environmental and sustainable development issues, but it is time for NOWPAP to think how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the NOWPAP mechanism.

6. The DINRAC Focal Points made brief opening statements, and two new DINRAC Focal Points were introduced:

- Mr. Norio BABA, Focal Point of Japan (replacing Mr. Yasuhiko HATTORI)
- Ms. Jeung Sook PARK, Focal Point of Republic of Korea (replacing Dr. Joon-Soo LEE)

Mr. BABA explained that Dr. Yoshihisa SHIRAYAMA, another DINRAC Focal Point of Japan, could not attend this meeting due to physical conditions.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

2.1: Election of the Officers (Chairperson and Rapporteur)

7. According to the Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting, the meeting unanimously elected Dr. Pavel SALIUK, DINRAC Focal Point of Russia, as the Chairperson, and Dr. Kun LEI, DINRAC Focal Point of China, as the Rapporteur respectively.

2.2: Organization of Work

8. It was agreed to apply the rules of procedures for the meeting in line with the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting. English would be the working language of the meeting, and decisions would be made by the consensus of all Focal Points.

2.3: Adoption of the Agenda

9. Dr. YAN made a brief introduction of the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM15/1) and the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM15/2).

10. All Focal Points agreed to proceed with the Agenda suggested.

Agenda Item 3: Report of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the Implementation of NOWPAP Activities since the 14th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

11. Dr. Ning LIU, NOWPAP Program Officer of RCU, briefed the meeting on the progress of the NOWPAP activities since the 14th DINRAC FPM including the

activities each RAC has completed and the resolutions of the 21th NOWPAP Intergovernmental meeting held on 23-25 November 2016 in Seoul (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/3).

12. Dr. Vladimir SHULKIN, Representative from POMRAC, suggested RCU to share more information on the activities implemented by RCU on microplastics.

13. Dr. SALIUK, Focal Point of Russia, asked if the WebGIS in MERRAC website was developed with DINRAC. Ms. Siyeon LEE, Representative from MERRAC, replied that the first phase was developed in consultation with DINRAC.

14. Dr. LIU reminded that there is surplus in the trust fund of NOWPAP, and the 21st IGM has suggested discussing how to spend the surplus. One RAC has suggested submitting two proposed budgets for the 2018-2019 biennium for the 22nd IGM to make decision: one is USD 140,000 which is the same as the 2016-2017 biennium, another is USD 200,000.

Agenda Item 4: Review of the Progress in the Implementation of DINRAC's Activities for 2016

4.1: Report on the Implementation of DINRAC Activities and Budget for 2016

15. Dr. YAN briefly introduced the report on the implementation of DINRAC activities and budget for 2016 (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/4).

16. Dr. SALIUK asked about the budget overflow for some activities. Dr. YAN replied that in order to make the financial resources more reasonable, the budget was reallocated. All the payments will be done before the end of June.

17. Dr. LEI pointed out that some information on DINRAC website was not updated regularly. She suggested DINRAC to cooperate with other RACs to update the website more frequently.

18. Dr. PARK pointed out that DINRAC should consider how to use the collected data/ information and who are the potential users of such data collected.

19. After discussion, the meeting adopted this report.

4.2: Progress Report on Annual Summary of Major Marine Environmental Data Available in NOWPAP Member States

20. Dr. Chun-Wei HAN from DINRAC Secretariat presented the progress on this activity since the 14th DINRAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/5).

21. Dr. Qian LI, Focal Point of China, said that this activity is very important for the NOWPAP region. China could collect marine environmental data since 2003, and would try to find and collect data prior to 2003 as much as possible. She also suggested that this activity could expand categories of data if possible.

22. Mr. BABA suggested DINRAC shall cooperate with other NOWPAP RACs to get historic data. Dr. SALIUK suggested that meta data is useful in the first step, and for data prior to 2010, it is not necessary to collect all the data, only the data of reliable quality shall be collected.

23. Dr. Takafumi YOSHIDA, Representative of CEARAC, commented that CEARAC is very interested in eutrophication and if the data could be collected regularly by DINRAC, they will be useful for CEARAC.

24. After discussion, the meeting adopted the report.

4.3: Progress Report on the Collection of Data and Information on Species Filed in the Red Lists of NOWPAP Member States (2nd Stage)

25. Mr. BABA presented the progress on the Activity since the 14th DINRAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/6) prepared by Dr. SHIRAYAMA. He suggested the third stage of this activity should be implemented to collect endangered/threatened species not on the IUCN red lists and this third stage will last about 8 years.

26. Dr. PARK commented that it is reasonable to continue the activity in terms of the 3rd stage of this activity because it is in line with Goal 14 of UN 2030 Agenda for SD as well as global concerns on biodiversity. She also suggested transboundary issue of some red list species in the region could be taken into account.

27. Dr. SALIUK mentioned that the activity has progressed significantly and meaningful datasets were already collected. He suggested continuing this work in the 2020-2021 biennium to carry out further studies of available data.

28. After discussion, the meeting adopted the report.

4.4: Progress Report on the Development of DINRAC Website

29. Dr. HAN presented the progress on the Activity since the 14th DINRAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/7).

30. Dr. PARK suggested that DINRAC shall pay attention to increase the visibility of the Website, and the design of the website could be adjusted to normal desktop or laptop screen size. Mr. BABA suggested that the website shall link to NOWPAP website and other NOWPAP RACs' website.

31. Dr. SALIUK inquired the advantage of the new system framework. Dr. HAN explained that the new framework is more advanced, more expandable, easier to administrate, and easier to make changes.

32. After discussion, the meeting adopted the report.

4.5: Progress report on Annual Update of Existing Databases

33. Dr. HAN presented the progress on the Activity since the 14th DINRAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/8).

34. Mr. BABA raised the concern that the data could not be accessed by the public, as some emails from experts are not open to the public. Dr. HAN replied that a secure section could be set up to limit the access of the general public.

35. Dr. LEI suggested that data of interests such as marine litter, microplastics could be collected. And for contaminants and nutrients, the data is collected in "Annual Summary of Major Marine Environmental Data Available in NOWPAP Member States".

36. After discussion, the meeting adopted the report.

4.6: Progress report on Compilation on Marine Environmental Standards

37. Dr. HAN presented the progress on the Activity since the 14th DINRAC FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/9)

38. Dr. SHULKIN commented that marine environmental standards do not vary much in a short period of time, and it is very helpful to analyze and indicate the differences in standards.

39. Dr. PARK commented that the activity of DINRAC contributes to improving the marine environment in the region. DINRAC shall focus on general information, not on science-based decision making process. Environmental standards could not

contribute to the understanding of the region's environmental status. Dr. LEI commented that marine environmental data alone are not enough to assess the marine environmental quality of the region, and by this activity, NOWPAP member states could learn from each other and share information.

40. After discussion, the meeting adopted the report.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion on DINRAC's Workplan and Budget for 2018-2019 Biennium

5.1: Proposal for the Development of DINRAC Website

41. Dr. HAN made a presentation on the Proposal for the Development of DINRAC Website (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/10).

42. Dr. YOSHIDA commented the marine litter platform planned by DINRAC overlaps with the Northwest Pacific regional node hosted by CEARAC and RCU in the GPML framework.

43. Dr. LI commented that the search results of DINRAC returned by search engines point to the old website, and asked if the data of marine environment, contaminants and nutrients could be displayed in WebGIS system. Dr. HAN replied that DINRAC could close the old website and the search results may work fine. And the data could be displayed in WebGIS system as long as geographical information is provided.

44. Dr. LIU suggested changing the title of this activity in order to show the difference from the previous project.

45. Dr. SALIUK suggested to add new tasks connected with increasing accessibility of the Website to the experts as well as the general public.

46. After discussion, the meeting agreed the proposal with minor revision.

5.2: Proposal for Annual Summary of Major Marine Environmental Data Available in Member States

47. Dr. HAN made a presentation on the Proposal for Annual Summary of Major Marine Environmental Data Available in Member States (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/11).

48. Dr. YOSHIDA commented that CEARAC could provide historic data availability table on the CEARAC activities. Dr. SHULKIN commented that DINRAC could

cooperate with other RACs to collect the data and quality control (QC) of the data shall be considered.

49. Dr. LI commented that historic data could provide the marine environment trends of the region, and China will provide historical availability of marine environmental data next year.

50. After discussion, the meeting agreed the proposal with minor revision.

5.3: Proposal for Human Marine Activity Objects

51. Dr. SALIUK made a presentation on the Proposal for Human Marine Activity Objects (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/12).

52. Mr. BABA commented that priority in the region shall be identified and this activity shall be aligned with NOWPAP Mid-Term Strategy 2018-2023.

53. Dr. PARK requested to change the title of the project proposal suggested by Dr. SALIUK because the current title does not explain the overall project concept.

54. After discussion, the meeting agreed the proposal in principle but it will require further minor amendments as discussed at the meeting.

5.4: Proposal for Sea Reclamation State and Management

55. Dr. HAN made a presentation on the Proposal for Sea Reclamation State and Management (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/13).

56. After discussion, the meeting agreed the proposal in principle but it will require further minor amendments as discussed at the meeting.

5.5: Workplan and budget of DINRAC in the 2018-2019 Biennium

57. As suggested by Dr. LIU, the meeting agreed to come up with three options of workplan for the 2018-2019 Biennium:

- a) Plan A: total budget USD 140,000;
- b) Plan B: total budget USD 178,000;
- c) Plan C: total budget USD 200,000 with enriched versions of "Human Marine Activity Objects" and "Reclamation State and Management".

58. At the meeting, it was agreed that 2 weeks will be given to the leading experts to revise or prepare the following proposals: 1) Proposal for Human Marine Activities

Objects; 2) Proposal for Sea Reclamation State and Management, and 3) Proposal for the Collection of Data and Information on Species Filed in the Red Lists of NOWPAP Member States (3rd stage).

59. After the revised/prepared proposals are submitted, the proposals will be circulated to DINRAC Focal Points for approval in 4 weeks. The finalized approved proposals are expected to be presented to RCU in the middle of July.

Agenda Item 6: The development of DINRAC under NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023

60. Dr. LIU made a presentation on the draft NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023. He introduced that comments from Korea and China have been received but not from Japan and Russia.

61. Matters on sustainable production and consumption, fisheries are discussed at the meeting. Dr. LI commented that DINRAC could take the lead or participate some of the themes in the current MTS 2018-2023, in the column of Strategic Outcomes at 2.2 of Table for “Assess Status of the Marine and Coastal Environment”, in the column of Strategic Outcomes at 3.4 of Table for “Prevent and reduce land- and sea-based pollution” and in the column of Strategic Outcomes at 4.2 of Table for “Conserve marine and coastal biodiversity”. Dr. SALIUK commented that historical data is very important, not only marine environmental data, but also marine litter, HNS, etc. Mr. BABA suggested that DINRAC could focus on a specific activity.

62. Dr. SHULKIN commented that concise version of MTS 2018-2023 might be more appropriate for further elaboration and discussion at the 22th NOWPAP IGM.

63. Dr. YAN made an introduction on the problems that DINRAC is facing and possible approaches for the development of DINRAC within the revision of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023.

64. Dr. LI commented that DINRAC could find applications of current data, including but not limited to: 1) relations between different categories of data; 2) use models, simulations to multiply the value of data; 3) explore new application of current data (e.g. marine environmental quality data)

65. Dr. PARK recommended DINRAC to identify short-term, mid-term and long-term strategies. She mentioned, as short term strategies, DINRAC could focus on how to act as NOWPAP’s data center and how to collect data more effectively. She also pointed out the current version of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 has some duplication between the RACs which should be resolved before the 22th NOWPAP IGM.

66. Dr. YOSHIDA suggested DINRAC could organize training courses or workshops according to DINRAC's Terms of Reference, not only in the NOWPAP region, but also with other international organizations.

Agenda Item 7: Arrangement of the 16th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

67. It was agreed that the 16th NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting would be held in mid-May 2018 in China. The particular date and venue for the Meeting would be decided through consultation among DINRAC Focal Points by the Secretariat afterwards.

Agenda Item 8: Other Matters

68. Mr. BABA made a short presentation on Deep-sea Debris Database developed by GODAC, JAMESTEC. The meeting suggested that a link to this website could be made in the DINRAC website.

69. Dr. SALIUK made a short introduction on integration with other regional databases (e.g. NEAR-GOOS). Dr. PARK suggested a possible way to increase DINRAC's visibility, such as cooperation with JODC, KODC, and RODC, which are operated by respective NOWPAP Member States. Dr. LI added that CNEMC could cooperate further with the regional data organizations in the future.

70. Dr. SALIUK suggested that in the future such work could be proposed and discussed as DINRAC activities.

Agenda Item 9: Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

71. The draft report of the 15th NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting (UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 15/14), with its annexes, was prepared by the DINRAC Secretariat and the Rapporteur for consideration and adoption at the meeting. After amendment, the report was adopted by the meeting as the record of its deliberations.

Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting

72. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson declared the 15th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was closed at 13:15 on 26th May 2017.

Annex I

DINRAC Workplan and Budget for 2018-2019 Biennium

Activities		Timing	Outputs / Performance Indicators	Quarterly Milestone	Budget (USD) 146,000		Budget (USD) 184,000		Budget (USD) 206,000	
					2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
					Routine work of DINRAC Secretariat	Cooperation, Communication of DINRAC Activities	Continuous throughout the biennium	Regular contacts with other relevant organizations and programmes	Throughout	5,000
Organization of FPMs	May 2018, May 2019	FPM reports	Invitations sent out (8 weeks before FPM), working documents prepared and uploaded on website (6 weeks before FPMs), visa documents sent (4 weeks before FPM) Draft FPM reports circulated (1 week after FPM) and then finalized (3 weeks after FPM)	25,000		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Development of DINRAC Website in the 2018-2019 Biennium	Continuous throughout the biennium	- Upgraded website platform - DINRAC website with user-friendly interface and easy-to-access database	3Q 2018: Total new design, and migration from the old DINRAC website 2Q: 2019: development of WebGIS thematic map is partly	17,500		17,000	25,500	17,000	25,500	20,000

Activities	Timing	Outputs / Performance Indicators	Quarterly Milestone	Budget (USD) 146,000		Budget (USD) 184,000		Budget (USD) 206,000	
				2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
		- User friendly interface for WebGIS with 4 thematic maps	completed 4Q 2019: development of invasive species is completed in WebGIS system						
	Continuous throughout the biennium	Updated marine litter data	Throughout	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Developing and Maintaining Databases	Nov 2018, Nov 2019	- Collection of thematic marine environmental data - Compiled data - Data updated to the DINRAC website	2Q 2018: MoUs signed 2Q 2019: data collected for 2017 3Q 2018: data collected for 2017 updated to DINRAC the website	8,000	8,000	16,000	8,000	13,000	13,000
	June 2018 June 2019	- Determine the list of the objects and classification parameters, Identify the types of impact, the digitization parameters of impact, and Create the collecting forms	2Q 2018: MoUs were signed and collect form 2Q 2019: collect data 3Q 2019: compile and upload the data to DINRAC website	6,500	8,000	12,500	13,000	12,500	14,000

Activities	Timing	Outputs / Performance Indicators	Quarterly Milestone	Budget (USD) 146,000		Budget (USD) 184,000		Budget (USD) 206,000	
				2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect the data - Compilation of the collected data - Place the data in the Web 							
Sea Reclamation State and Management	Nov 2018 Nov 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The collection forms - The typical cases of reclamation - The data of current situation and trend of reclamation since 2000 - The management including law, policy, and planning of reclamation. - Compilation of the collected data - Compilation of the collected management methods 	<p>2Q 2018: MoUs signed with experts, and collect forms ready</p> <p>1Q 2019: Collected data</p> <p>2Q 2019: Complied data</p> <p>3Q 2019: update to the DINRAC website</p>	6,000	9,000	14,000	12,000	14,000	13,000

Activities	Timing	Outputs / Performance Indicators	Quarterly Milestone	Budget (USD) 146,000		Budget (USD) 184,000		Budget (USD) 206,000	
				2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Collection of Data and Information on Species Filed in the Red Lists of NOWPAP Member States (3 rd Stage)	Nov 2018, Nov 2019	Collected information on endangered species Compiled data were uploaded to the DINRAC website	2Q 2018: MoUs were signed 1Q 2019: Data were collected 3Q 2019: Data were compiled 4Q 2019: upload to the DINRAC website					10,000	5,000
Total:				71,000	75,000	101,000	83,000	108,000	98,000