



## Twenty-first Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) renews commitment of member states for strengthening regional cooperation on environmentally sustainable development

24th November 2016, Seoul, Republic of Korea: More than 40 stakeholders, including officials from the NOWPAP states - P.R. China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation met in Seoul to find solutions addressing pollution and declining ecosystem health and biodiversity of marine and coastal ecosystems in Northwest Pacific region.



Mr. Hyung-jong Lee, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea opens the 21st NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Photo credit: Ning Liu). In his opening remarks, Mr. Hyung-jong Lee, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea emphasized that “it is our common duty and responsibility to protect shared marine environment in the North Pacific. Our cooperation continues for more than 20 years. This is the first inter-governmental meeting after NOWPAP restructuring and it provides a window of opportunity for the new future of the Action Plan”. The rapid economic development of Northwest Pacific region, one of the most densely populated parts of the world, has brought enormous pressures on the environment. The 21st NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting comes also at a defining time for change in the global environmental governance. “The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identified conservation and sustainable use of oceans as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and as part of holistic and integrated development agenda for the planet. The level of ambition expressed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets necessitates transformative action at multiple scales. Regional Seas continue playing an important role in this process” said Ms. Lisa Emilia Svensson, Oceans Coordinator at the United Nations Environment Programme. The three-day meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and discussed future priorities proposed in the draft NOWPAP Midterm Strategy 2018-2023 (MTS 2018-2023). Participants at the meeting considered how to strengthen NOWPAP mandate and address challenges affecting the marine and coastal environment in a holistic and integrated manner while at the same time contributing to sustainable development in the region. Participants considered favorably continuing focusing NOWPAP activities on a number of strategic priorities for environmental protection and development in the region, including pollution reduction and control, biodiversity conservation, application of integrated coastal zone management and expressed its strong support for the revitalized partnership with regional stakeholders and enhanced outreach efforts by the restructured Regional Coordinating Unit and the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres.

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Member states agreed to undertake extensive consultations within countries and relevant stakeholders to develop further the MTS 2018-2023 and consider its closer alignment with national and regional environmental priorities and the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The next NOWPAP intergovernmental meeting that is expected to review and adopt NOWPAP priorities for action over the period from 2018 to 2023 is scheduled to be held in Toyama, Japan in December 2017.

## NOWPAP joins local associations and civil society groups for 2016 Toyama International Exchange Festival and 10th Russian Language speech contest

On 13 November 2016, NOWPAP highlighted its activities at the 2016 Toyama International Exchange Festival held at Toyama Central Station and in CiC building along with over 30 groups of local and international NGOs and communities. NOWPAP booth was located side by side with the NPEC (Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center), where posters and brochures were displayed and environmental issues discussed with the visitors. As a part of the program, 10th Russian Language Contest was organized by the Toyama Prefecture and NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, Lev Neretin, served on the contest jury.



## NOWPAP recent developments

NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, Dr. Lev Neretin, attended Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets co-organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Environment. The meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 26 - 29 September 2016.

The Dialogue brought together regional bodies to share lessons learned on regional-scale cooperation and scientific mechanisms to implement and make progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in marine and coastal areas. NOWPAP contributed to discussions addressing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and opportunities for global processes and initiatives to better support regional-level collaboration and implementation of the Strategic Plan, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the SDGs.

Following the SOI Dialogue, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator and NOWPAP Programme Officer, Dr. Liu Ning, had bilateral meetings with the NOWPAP Focal Points in the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation. The agenda included discussion of further development of NOWPAP activities and preparation for the 21st NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting. They also had a day-long meeting with the MERRAC Secretariat and were introduced to activities of its hosting institution, Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering (KRISO). The meetings ended with a visit to Korea Maritime Institute.

Dr. Lev Neretin and Dr. Liu Ning together with the MERRAC Director, Dr. Kang Seong-Gil and the Senior Researcher of CEARAC, Dr. Yoshida Takafumi, represented NOWPAP at the 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans held in Incheon, Korea from 30 September to 1 October 2016. The meeting addressed implementation of Regional Seas activities in the context of delivering on Sustainable Development Goals and Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020. Final report of the meeting and other documents are available on the United Nations Environment website:

<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/events/global-meetings/18th-global-meeting-regional-seas-conventions-and-action-plans>. NOWPAP held several bilateral meetings during this event, including with the East and Northeast Asia Office of the ESCAP on joint activities addressing development of marine protected area network in the NOWPAP region.

Senior Researchers of NOWPAP CEARAC, Dr. Genki Terauchi and Dr. Yoshida Takafumi, represented NOWPAP at the 2016 Annual Meeting of PICES that marks 25th anniversary of the organization. Dr. Terauchi addressed Science Board of PICES and discussed priorities for joint NOWPAP and PICES activities proposed by the dedicated working group on PICES-NOWPAP Framework for Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean.

# NOWPAP recent developments



## NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit office has a new home in Busan, Republic of Korea

The NOWPAP RCU Busan Office has moved in new offices generously provided by the Training Center for Aquatic Disease Control at the National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) [<http://www.nifs.go.kr/en/>]. NIFS supports facilities and equipment for the NOWPAP Busan office. Mr. Kang Joon-Suk, NIFS President and Mr. Liu Ning, Programme Officer of NOWPAP together with senior officials from the Korean government agencies attended the opening ceremony in Busan on 3 November 2016. They have unveiled the nameplate of the training center, and planted a tree commemorating the opening of a new building and NOWPAP RCU office in Busan. During the opening ceremony Mr. Liu Ning expressed NOWPAP appreciation for the support by NIFS and discussed with Mr. Kang further opportunities for cooperation between NIFS and NOWPAP. The meeting follows consultations held earlier in October 2016 between Mr. Kang and Mr. Lev Neretin, NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, about the need to strengthen ties and joint activities between the two institutions.

The address of the new NOWPAP RCU office is:  
216 Gijanghaean-ro, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, Busan 619-705, Republic of Korea



# Visits to [www.nowpap.org](http://www.nowpap.org)

From 1 October to 31 December 2016, NOWPAP website had received 352 times of which 55% were from new visitors.



## Future missions / events in the 1st quarter of 2017

- Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II consultation meeting, 23-24 January 2017, Incheon, Korea
- The 23rd Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and meetings with the UN offices and partners in Bangkok (Thailand): UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, IOC-WESTPAC, and UN ESCAP, 27-29 February 2017, Bangkok, Thailand
- 21st Meeting of Senior Officials of NEASPEC, UN ESCAP, 16-17 March 2017, Seoul, R. Korea