



**Northwest
Pacific
Action Plan**



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UNEP/NOWPAP-
APML Joint NGOs
Forum

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NOWPAP-APML Joint NGOs Forum

Busan, Republic of Korea

6 June 2018

**Summary of the NOWPAP-Asia Pacific Forum on Marine Litter (APML) Joint NGOs
Forum**

I. Background

1. NOWPAP has initiated a project called Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) since November 2005. The NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) has been implemented since March 2008 right after the approval by the four member states, as a major outcome of MALITA. Since 2008, NOWPAP marine litter workshop and NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign has been organized annually as a part of the RAP MALI activities. In this year, OSEAN, as a co-organizer, conducted ICC on Haeundae Beach, Busan, Republic of Korea with 170 participants from 6 countries including 90 children and 20 local NGOs, local authorities, and media on June 6. NOWPAP-APML Joint NGOs Forum where 10 NGOs from 5 countries participated was the first effort to enlarge the collaboration of NOWPAP beyond the geographic areas.

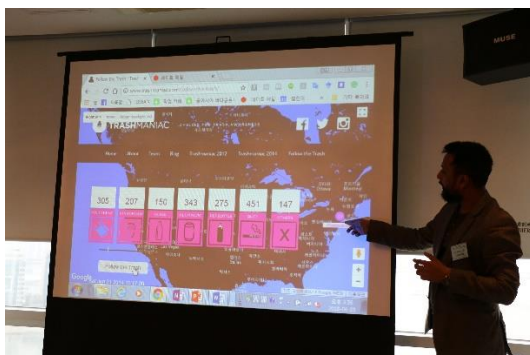
II. Summary of NOWPAP-APML Joint NGO Forum

2. The NOWPAP-APML Joint NGO Forum was held on 6 June 2018 in Homers Hotel, Busan, Korea. Two officers from NOWPAP RCU, 10 people from APML (Republic of Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, and Vietnam), and 1 observer from the Russia Federation attended the meeting. The meeting was opened by Dr. LIU Ning, Programme Officer of NOWPAP RCU and Dr. Sunwook Hong, President of OSEAN. The meeting agenda is attached as annex.
3. Ms. Nguyen Thu Trang, Director of GreenHub, Vietnam, introduced local activities for marine litter issue. The ICC data in Vietnam shows that Styrofoam fragments are the most abundant. Those are originated mainly from oyster aquaculture ground. The Ha long Bay Peoples Committee banned the use of polystyrene and called for the implementation of environment-friendly alternatives yet to be developed.
4. Mr. Muntasir Mamun, Director of Kewkradong Bangladesh, shared the technical approach to make citizens engage in reporting garbage in the street. He himself developed the smartphone app which includes very simple categories and needs only a few of clicks for registration of littered garbage. The online map visualizes numbers and GIS information collected by individuals. It could deliver visual message to the public and provide motivation to participate in tackling marine litter problem.
5. Dr. Lee, Chief scientist of Korea Marine Litter Institute, OSEAN, Republic of Korea introduced rapid assessment of beach debris by visual scoring which has been conducted with citizen science in Korea. Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries and Korea Marine Environment support this project to understand standing stock of beach debris and to identify management priority. Trained citizens survey, using smartphone app and all data are promptly posted to the Marine Litter Information System.
6. Ms. Chieko Azuma, Director of international relationships, JEAN, Japan, gave a presentation about the very recent activities among their 30-year experiences. JEAN has organized a series of workshop for sharing marine litter and microplastic issues for NGOs. Various NGO groups which have involved in river environment keepers, waste reduction, and so on developed concrete ideas together based upon communication and discussion.

7. Discussion summary: During the discussion session, the participants identified resources and opportunities we have and summarized the suggestion for collaboration with NOWPAP and international efforts beyond NOWPAP region.
8. **Resources:** Asia Pacific Civil Forum on Marine Litter (its monthly webinar and biannual newsletter publication, and other research project with CSIRO, Australia), NOWPAP, monitoring of beach debris (4 protocols with citizen science: Korea Marine Debris Monitoring Program, NOAA, UNEP/IOC, and AMETEC), and visual scoring method targeting beach debris (JEAN, OSEAN, and China)
9. **Opportunities:** GPML (Marine Litter Network), Jambeck et al. (2015) revealing major plastic waste input including China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam, lack information of aquaculture as a growing source of derelict fishing gears, lack response to disaster such as typhoon and extreme weather, funding (Toyota foundation, JICA, KOICA, Patagonia, Youngone Corp.), G7/G20 marine litter action plans and SDGs 14-1, CSIRO's global project, APEC Capacity Building workshop, and MOOC

10. Suggestions

- 1) GGGI could be a good platform to collect information on derelict fishing gears. Additionally, aquaculture-originated gears have never been highlighted although Styrofoam buoys from oyster-aquaculture of Korea, Japan, China, and Vietnam have caused serious problems. Lack information on other gears might miss important targets for tackling marine litter issue.
- 2) Visualization of debris status with app (initiated by Bangladeshi) will be an easy start for public awareness.
- 3) Standardized monitoring methodology for identifying types and sources of beach debris and temporal trend in comparable ways are achievable because OSEAN has tried to harmonize it in Asian region before and many member NGOs have experienced rapid assessment protocol for estimating standing stock and cleanup by local authorities.
- 4) The importance of capacity building can't be overstated. MOOC can provide multi-language version of the training course.
- 5) On-line meeting among APML members (and NOWPAP RCU if possible) is necessary to share the latest information and progress in 2018.



(Left) Mr. Muntasir Mamun, Bangladeshi shows the web site 'TRASHMANIAC' he initiated.

(Right) Presentation of Ms. Thu Trang, Vietnam (Courtesy of KOEM)

Annex:

Agenda of NOWPAP-APML Joint NGOs Forum

14:00~14:20	Opening remarks (Dr. Liu Ning, NOWPAP RCU)
14:20~16:00	<p>Session 1: Marine Litter and Citizen Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation: 1. Local actions of Vietnam to address of marine litter (public awareness, monitoring, data citizen science) (by Ms. Nguyen Thu Trang, GreenHub, Vietnam) ● Presentation 2. Tracing a path to knowledge? Smart approach for citizen involvement (by Mr. SM Muntasir Mamun, Kewkradong Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi) ● Presentation 3: OSEAN: Marine litter monitoring and rapid assessment by citizens (by Dr. Jongmyoung Lee, OSEAN, Republic of Korea) ● Presentation 4: Tackling marine plastic litters through collaboration among the civil society organizations (by Ms. Chieko Azuma, JEAN, Japan)
16:00~16:20	Coffee break
16:20~17:30	<p>Session 2: Activation of NGOs' engagement in Asian region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roundtable discussion: sharing the potential resources and opportunities and discussing ideas for cooperation with NOWPAP and other UNE regional sea programs
17:30~18:00	Summary of the forum