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**Eleventh Meeting of the Coordinating
Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
on the East Asian Seas Action Plan**

Bangkok, Thailand, 28 - 29 October 1994

**REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas Action Plan which was held in Bangkok during 9-11 December 1981, *inter alia*, established the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) in order to serve as the overall authority to determine the contents of the Action Plan, to review the progress of the Action Plan and to approve its programme of implementation through periodic meetings of the participating governments. The Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the East Asian Seas Action Plan (Bangkok, 27 October 1994) while adopting a revised Action Plan, with necessary modifications to accommodate newly joining countries, also reiterated COBSEA's decision-making authority.
2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in accordance with this decision, convened the Eleventh Meeting of Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia in Bangkok, Thailand, 28-29 October 1994.
3. Representative of all countries participating in the East Asian Seas Action Plan (Australia, People's Republic of China, Kingdom of Cambodia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Socialist Republic of Vietnam) attended the meeting.
4. The United Nations, UNDP, UNCHS, UNESCO, UNIDO, ESCAP, FAO, IAEA, IMO, IOC, WHO, WMO, CCOP, EWC, IUCN, ASCOPE, ICLARM, GBRMPA, ADB, ASEAN Secretariat, the World Bank, CIDA, CEC, USAID, ACOPS and SARCS^{1/} were invited to send observers to the meeting. Annex I (see paragraph 6 below) lists all the participants of the meeting, including the observers. In addition at the meeting, also member States of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan: NOWPAP (People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea) and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme: SPREP (Australia) were present.
5. The meeting was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand, on 28-29 October 1994.
6. This document is the report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas

^{1/} Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS); ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN); Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); Commission of European Communities (CEC); Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP); East West Centre (EWC); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM); International Maritime Organization (IMO); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN); Southeast Asia Regional Committee for Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (SARCS); United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); World Health Organization (WHO); and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

of East Asia (COBSEA). The complete list of the participants and the observers is presented in Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

7. Mr. Peter Schröder, on behalf of the Secretariat, welcomed all the participants and requested Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UNEP to open the meeting.

8. Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of UNEP, in her opening remarks welcomed all the participants, especially the participants of the governments which for the first time were attending in their capacity as COBSEA members. The Executive Director, stressing the vital value of the coastal and marine environment of the East Asian Seas region reflected on the importance and significance of COBSEA's decisions in connection with the revision of the Action Plan and the invitation it extended to the other countries of the region to join it. Ms. Dowdeswell, referred to the other farsighted decisions of the COBSEA which resulted in the implementation of projects and activities, before they were clearly focused on by the global community as major coastal and marine environmental issues. She also singled out the region's Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS) which UNEP helped to establish as a key partner in the implementation of the Action Plan. While wishing the expanded East Asian Seas region more success, Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell assured the meeting that UNEP will continue to support the Action Plan and the countries of the region in implementing it. The text of the Executive Director's speech is attached as Annex V of this document.

9. Mr. Peter C. Schröder, on behalf of the Secretariat, also expressed his pleasure on the expanded members of the East Asian Seas Action Plan and underlined UNEP's Ocean and Coastal Areas programme Activity Centre's (OCA/PAC) policies and support for the Regional Seas Programme. In conclusion he reiterated OCA/PAC's continuing support to the East Asian Seas Action Plan which, with the participation of additional countries, he foresaw becoming one of the most dynamic of UNEP's Regional Seas Programmes.

10. Mr. Reza Amini, the Acting Coordinator of the RCU/EAS, on behalf of the EAS/RCU welcomed all the participants. He stressed that the level of Governments' delegations and representatives was a measure of the degree of importance that all the countries of the region were placing on their Action Plan. He mentioned this was equally reflected on UNEP's part by the fact that Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell had decided to open both this meeting as well as the 27 October 1994 Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the East Asian Seas Action Plan.

Agenda item 2. Organization of the meeting

11. The Secretariat reminded the meeting that, in the absence of any objections, as agreed by the first meeting of COBSEA (UNEP/IG.37/10), the rules of procedure of UNEP Governing Council, as applicable to the meetings convened by the Executive Director, would be applied *mutatis mutandis* for this meeting. The meeting accepted the proposal.

12. The meeting was requested to elect its Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur. On the basis of the informal consultation carried out, after a brief deliberation the following were elected as:

Chairman:	Mr. Abu Bakar Jaafar	(Malaysia)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Xia Kunbao	(People's Republic of China)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Dong Sun Park	(Republic of Korea)

13. The Chairman and the Secretariat proposed that they carry out its work in plenary sessions with support of *ad hoc* working groups to be established, if and when needed, during the meeting. The proposal was approved by the meeting.

14. The meeting was conducted in English.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

15. The Provisional Agenda [UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/1], the Provisional Annotated Agenda [UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/2] and the Provisional List of Documents [UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.1/Add.1] were introduced by the Secretariat. The meeting considered the proposed agenda and adopted it without any change. The Adopted agenda, as well as the final list of documents, are presented respectively as Annex II and Annex III to this report.

Agenda item 4. Report of the Executive Director

16. The Secretariat presented the relevant parts of the Executive Director's Report to the Eleventh Meeting of COBSEA [UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/3], reviewing the developments concerning the Action Plan and the progress of its implementation since the tenth Meeting of COBSEA (Bangkok, 9-10 July 1993). Specific references were made to the decisions of the ninth and tenth COBSEA meetings as well as the recommendation of the fifth meeting of experts on East Asian Seas Action Plan. The meeting was reminded that details of the Executive Director's report will be presented under various relevant agenda items.

17. The meeting was briefed in detail on the steps taken by the Secretariat in response to the COBSEA decision concerning the preparation of the draft revised Action Plan and the Long-term Strategy, and the manner the drafts were reviewed by the National Focal Points as well as the government nominated participants of the fifth meeting of the experts on the East Asian Seas Action Plan. The meeting was also informed that out of eight regional countries approached, five had responded positively to the invitation of the COBSEA to join the action plan while one was considering the issue by sending observers to the meeting of plenipotentiaries.

18. The meeting took note of this part of the report of the Executive Director and expressed its satisfaction to the Secretariat's prompt response and the resultant achievements. In connection with the participation of new countries in the Action Plan, the meeting also requested the EAS/RCU to reiterate their invitation for the Government of Brunei Darussalam to consider the possibility of becoming a full member of the East Asian Seas action plan.

Agenda item 5. Review of 1993-1994 programme activities

(a) On-going East Asian Seas projects

19. The Secretariat, with reference to the document UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.4, reviewed the status of the on-going East Asian Seas projects. In some cases additional information was provided by the national coordinators or the relevant National Focal Points implementing respective projects.

20. **EAS-20: Coastal and Marine Management Information System (COMEMIS):** under a Technical Assistance Agreement signed between UNEP and Asian Development Bank (ADB) the project is being developed within the framework of a three component ADB project. The COMEMIS (component B) is to be implemented by Environmental Assessment Sub-Programme for Asia and the Pacific (EAP-AP). Recalling the tenth COBSEA meeting's decision that GRID-Bangkok implement the technical coordination of the project in consultation with and cooperation of EAS/RCU (paragraph 48, UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/7), the meeting was informed that the EAP-AP now incorporated the Global Resources Information Database (GRID-Bangkok). The meeting was further informed that an inception meeting between representatives of ADB, EAS/RCU, UNEP/ROAP, EAP-AP, UNEP/ROAP, and ESCAP is scheduled for 31 October 1994. All the National Focal Points of the region were informed of the imminent implementation of the project with the EAS/RCU's letter of 10 October 1994. The COMEMIS is to have three countries as primary foci with other countries of the region taking part in various training meetings and workshops. The funding of the project will be provided from the resources at the disposal of ADB.

21. **EAS-23: Component 1 - the Oceanographic Features of the East Asian Seas region-Development of Oil Spill Trajectory Models:** the meeting was informed that the project was approved by UNEP and funds made available to the implementing National Focal Point (Office of Environmental Policy and Planning: OEPP, Thailand). The project's implementation was underway with a slight change in the timetable of its activities.

22. **EAS-23: Component 2 - Survey and Monitoring Oil Pollution in the East Asian Seas region:** the first draft of the project proposal was developed by the Indonesian National Focal Point (Ministry of State for Environment) under a Letter of Agreement with UNEP. The EAS/RCU has obtained comments from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and was presently incorporating those comments as well as further technical inputs in the second draft before submitting it for the clearance of the Indonesian National Focal Point. As decided by the tenth COBSEA meeting, the proposal is to be submitted to the donor community. The EAS/RCU has already established preliminary contact with some donors who will be provided with the final project proposal.

23. **EAS-24: Quality Assurance for Non-Oil Pollution Monitoring:** the project proposal is to be developed by the Philippine's National Focal Point (Environmental Management Bureau) under a Letter of Agreement signed with UNEP in 1993. The Secretariat, had followed up the development of the proposal with a meeting with the National Focal Point of the Philippines and correspondence. The first draft of the proposal was only received by the EAS/RCU on 25 October. As decided by the tenth COBSEA meeting, the proposal once finalized, is to be presented to the donor community for funding consideration.

24. **EAS-26: Conservation and Sustainable Development for the East Asian Seas and EAS-28: Coastal Resources Management Plan Project for the East Asian Seas Region:** under respective Letters of Agreement, these two project proposals were developed and submitted to the EAS/RCU by the Malaysian National Focal Point (Department of Environment). In preparing the two draft proposals, due to the close relationship established in the implementation of the closely related EAS-19 and EAS-25 projects, substantial assistance was received from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). However, due to the large budgets involved, initial approaches of the EAS/RCU with one particular donor country was not successful. Based on the decision of the tenth COBSEA, the proposals, after slight amendments, will be submitted for the consideration of other donors.
25. **EAS-27: Programme of Action to Control Land-based Sources of Pollution in the East Asian Seas Region:** the meeting was informed that the project is on schedule and nearly completed. The report of the project's second meeting together with the draft of the "programme of action" was circulated on 14 October 1994 for comments and the clearance of the National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas. The "programme of action" includes a section with costed preliminary project proposals.
26. **EAS-28: Coastal Resources Management Plan Project for the East Asian Seas Region:** see paragraph 24 above.
27. **EAS-29: Enhancement of the Public Awareness and Participation on Environmental Issues Related to Coastal Marine Areas in the East Asian Seas Region: Phase I:** this project was developed with the financial input of UNEP's Information and Public Affairs (IPA) as UNEP's contribution to the development of the Action Plan. The project's implementation last month started with the cooperation of the National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas. IPA and UNEP/ROAP will assist EAS/RCU and national institutions in the project's implementation. The meeting was informed that due to the fact that the project was developed earlier this year due to funding constraints it was not possible to include budgetary provisions in anticipation of other countries that might join the action plan. However, the EAS/RCU was looking into the possibility of securing additional resources to include the new countries.
28. **EAS-30: Workshop on the Biological Effects of Pollutants:** the meeting was informed that the project was successfully completed on schedule by the Phuket Marine Biological Centre. The proceedings of the workshop have been published and distributed by the EAS/RCU under the EAS/RCU Technical Report Series No. 3. On the basis of recommendations of this project, the EAS/RCU with financial assistance from the UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) and the cooperation of IOC has initiated a follow-up project (see paragraph 31 below).
29. **EAS-31 Study of the Evaluation of the Percentage Contribution of Coastal Activities to the GNP:** due to financial constraints, the project's implementation has been delayed to April 1995.
30. **EAS-32: Feasibility Study on a Comprehensive Preparedness and Response Plan to oil and Chemical Spills, Integrating National, Sub-regional and Regional Plans:** the project's implementation was started in early 1994 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). IMO has verbally informed the EAS/RCU that the report of the project is ready. The representative of IMO informed the meeting that the project's activities with additional funding made available from the resources of the GEF-project will be extended to People's Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

31. **EAS-33: Training Workshops on Biological Effects of Pollutants: East Asian Seas Region:** this project funded from the resources of the UNEP/ROAP is the follow-up project of the EAS-30 project. It is hoped that during the 1996-1997 biennium further funds be made available for a series of similar workshops. The project was approved in October 1994 and EAS/RCU is coordinating to start its implementation in November 1994 with two workshops planned in 1995.

32. **EAS-34: Development of Training Materials for Integrated Coastal Zone Management:** the project is funded from the resources of the UNEP/ROAP as a contribution to the Action Plan. The project was approved in October 1994 and will be implemented in November. It is designed to provide a companion training manual to the one prepared for the "marine parks managers" (see 33 below).

33. **Development of Management Plans for Endangered Coastal and Marine Living Resources in East Asia - Training Phase:** following the request of the ninth COBSEA, the EAS/RCU obtained extra funds from OCA/PAC in order to proceed with the development of this training manual (one of the output of EAS-19 project). The final draft is being reviewed and the manual will be printed in December 1994 in the EAS/RCU's Technical Report Series with printing costs being covered by the UNEP/ROAP.

34. **Southeast Asia Seminar on the Management of Coastal Towns and Cities (Localizing Agenda 21):** UNEP provided partial support to this activity. The declaration/recommendation is distributed as document UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.3.

35. The Secretariat also informed the meeting of final arrangements with various UNEP Programme Activity Centres and Units in developing the following projects for implementation in 1994 and 1995. The meeting was informed that since the development of these projects, the EAS/RCU had received confirmation of the participation of other countries in the action plan, and allocation of sufficient funds for the inclusion of these countries in the activities of the project were being considered:

- **EAS-35: Integrated Management of Watersheds in Relation to the Management and Conservation of Coastal and Marine (Nearshore) Areas of the East Asian Seas Region: Phase I - Assessment of the Effects of Sediments, Nutrients and Pollutant Discharges on Coastal Wetlands, Seagrasses and Coral Reefs:** the project is being developed in conjunction and cooperation with UNEP's Freshwater Programme;
- **EAS-36: Valuation of Environmental and Natural Resources with Particular Reference to Coastal and Marine Ecosystems:** the project is being developed in conjunction and cooperation with UNEP's Environment and Economics Unit (UNEP/EEU) as a complementary study to the EAS-31; and
- **EAS-37: East Asian Regional Symposium/Workshop on Small Cetaceans:** the project is being developed in conjunction and cooperation with UNEP's Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals.

36. The meeting was also informed that the EAS/RCU participated in the First Interagency Meeting on the GEF-funded IMO/UNDP project for the East Asian Seas (Manila, 7 June 1994). At that meeting the EAS/RCU submitted detailed proposals, based on areas identified in the GEF project document, that could be considered for funding by the GEF-project and form the necessary

cooperation between this project and the East Asian Seas Action Plan. This proposal was also followed up with direct contact and negotiations with the relevant officers at the International Maritime Organization (UNEP's Focal Point at IMO) and the Programme Manager for the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas. At present the EAS/RCU and the Programme Manager are discussing specific areas of cooperation and mutual support.

37. The Chairman invited the meeting to (a) review and evaluate the results of the projects and activities described in paragraphs [20-35] above and the relevant sections of the Executive Director's Report as well as the UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.4 and (b) make any recommendation or comments which it considered to be relevant.

38. The Establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU): the Secretariat went on to inform the meeting that based on the request of the Ninth COBSEA meeting the Executive Director of UNEP arranged for the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit for the East Asian Seas Action Plan (EAS/RCU). The EAS/RCU was established on 1 May 1993 at the United Nations Building in Bangkok. Presently the EAS/RCU is staffed by two Professional staff: Coordinator and a Junior Professional Officer, and three locally recruited General Service staff: Administrative Assistant, Senior Secretary and Secretary. With the exception of the Junior Professional Officer (funded until February 1995 by the Government of Netherlands) all the other staff salaries are covered from the resources of UNEP's Environment Fund. In addition with the start of the implementation of the EAS-29 project a Project Assistant has joined the staff of the EAS/RCU on a temporary basis.

39. The meeting was also informed that a third professional is being considered for recruitment by UNEP from a short list of candidates from the East Asian Seas region. The candidate is expected to join the EAS/RCU in January 1995.

40. The Chairman requested the meeting to take note of these developments and provide any comments or guidance that might assist the EAS/RCU in discharging its duties.

41. The meeting expressed its general satisfaction on the implementation of these projects and activities and specifically congratulated the EAS/RCU in providing so much support and mobilizing resources in the limited time since it became operational. In addition the meeting made the following specific comments:

- with regards to project proposals on EAS-23 (Component 2), EAS-24, EAS-26 and EAS-28 in particular, and any other project proposals that might be approved by the COBSEA for submission to the donor community, the meeting urged all the relevant National Focal Points to provide maximum support to EAS/RCU's approaches;
- in connection with all the new projects and those initiated in the past three months, wherever the budget allows, the EAS/RCU and/or relevant National Focal Points will make every endeavour to include the participation of all the new countries that have joined the Action Plan. In this connection, if the projects' budgets were not sufficient, the possibility of (a) counterpart funding by the new countries and (b) funding from other sources, including the donor community, should also be examined; and

- with regards to the EAS-31 and EAS-36, the representative of Australia informed the meeting that his Government had conducted a number of economic studies in the context of a national inquiry and intergovernmental discussions concerning the management of coastal zones. As a consequence Australia would be interested to contribute to the development of these projects by providing information on the methodology and outcomes of its experience;
- with regards to EAS-35 the meeting felt that potential and possible linkages of this project with the International Coral Reef Initiative being developed by the Government of the United States, Australia and Japan should be taken into account. It was also noted that UNEP will be playing a key role in developing regional situation reports and action priorities for coral reef containing regions; and
- with reference to paragraph 31 of the Executive Director's report (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/3) and in connection with the activities that could be supported and/or augmented by the GEF-funded IMO/UNDP project in East Asia, the meeting welcomed the comments of the IMO representative on exploring potential areas of cooperation in connection with EAS-29 and EAS-23 projects.

42. The meeting commended the Executive Director of UNEP for all the assistance provided in support of the East Asian Seas action plan and expressed its appreciation to the Coordinator and staff of the EAS/RCU. The meeting also expressed their satisfaction on the improvement in the flow of the information as well as technical inputs between the Secretariat and the National Focal Points.

43. Because of the doubling in the number of the participating countries in the action plan, resulting in the extra workload of the EAS/RCU, the meeting requested the Executive Director to assist by arranging to provide two additional professional posts. The meeting also recommended that the participating governments should examine the possibility of seconding Professional staff to the EAS/RCU in order to assist their activities. The EAS/RCU was also requested to contact donor countries to look into the possibility of secondment of professional staff to the EAS/RCU.

(b) Report of the Chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS)

44. The Chairman of the Association of the Southeast Asian Marine Scientist (ASEAMS) with reference to document UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/4 presented the report of the activities of the Association since the last COBSEA meeting. He specifically referred to ASEAMS support in organizing and convening of the Fifth Meeting of Experts on the East Asian Seas Action Plan (Singapore, 25-26 July 1994). The meeting, represented by government nominated experts and others selected from the ASEAMS members, *inter alia*, reviewed and prepared the final draft of the revised Action Plan and the Long-term Strategy of the COBSEA. Furthermore, he outlined a UNEP/ROAP funded mission to the Kingdom of Cambodia in order to assist that country in their preparation for joining the East Asian Seas Action Plan and identifying their most immediate coastal and marine environmental problems. He also reported on the membership of the ASEAMS which now stands at 213.

45. The Chairman invited the meeting to take note of the progress of the activities of ASEAMS and make any recommendations concerning the enhancement of the input of the ASEAMS into the technical aspects of the East Asian Seas Action Plan.

46. The meeting thanked the Chairman of the ASEAMS and requested him to ensure ASEAMS continued advice and assistance on the technical aspects of the COBSEA-approved projects and activities. The Chairman of the ASEAMS was also requested to step up drives in inviting scientists and managers of the new countries to join the ASEAMS. The meeting, also recalling the Executive Director's opening remarks, thanked UNEP for its continued support since the establishment of the ASEAMS.

Agenda item 6. Financial report for the period 1993-1994

47. The Secretariat, referring to the relevant decision of the tenth COBSEA meeting as well as the applicable sections of the Executive Director's report, presented an up-to-date status report of the financial arrangements in support of the Action Plan. This included:

- the status of the pledges to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund and monies received against the pledges;
- the financial contribution from UNEP's Environment Fund; and
- the fact that since the adoption of the Action Plan in 1981, for the first time, over US\$ 1.4 million has been negotiated and mobilized from other sources for the implementation of the COBSEA-approved activities.

48. The Chairman invited the meeting to take note of the financial report for the 1993-1994 period as outlined in paragraphs 10-25 of the Executive Director's report.

49. The meeting expressed its satisfaction with the financial arrangements reported and particularly commended the EAS/RCU for managing to attract substantial additional resources for the COBSEA-approved projects and activities. Recalling the Executive Director's remarks concerning the promotion of programme and activity linkages between different units of UNEP in support of governments' needs, the meeting congratulated the Executive Director on this policy. The meeting felt that the successes of the EAS/RCU in securing additional financial as well as intellectual resources from other units of UNEP in response to the COBSEA-approved activities, was ample justification for this new approach. In this connection the meeting specifically thanked UNEP's OCA/PAC, Freshwater Programme, Environment and Economics, Information and Public Affairs and the Regional Office for Asian and the Pacific. In connection with the UNEP/ROAP's support to the COBSEA-approved activities the meeting expressed its thanks to the Director and Regional Representative of UNEP/ROAP. The meeting also requested and urged the Director and Regional Representative to continue UNEP/ROAP's support to the East Asian Seas action plan.

50. The meeting also reiterated its earlier resolution that the National Focal Points should work closely with the EAS/RCU on specific project proposals and provide support to EAS/RCU's initiatives for raising outside funds.

Agenda item 7. Workplan and Budget for the biennium 1994-1995

51. The Secretariat presented the Executive Director's recommendations and proposals for the 1993-1994 workplan and budget as outlined in Annex III of the document UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/3. In doing so specific reference was made to the decisions of the tenth meeting of the COBSEA, the

recommendations of the fifth meeting of experts, the priorities of the Action Plan, the Long-term Strategy of the COBSEA as well as Executive Director's recommendations on the future development of the Action Plan.

52. The Chairman invited the meeting to review the proposals for the 1994-1995 biennium and decide on its workplan and budget.

53. The meeting on the basis of these recommendations and the available Environment Fund and East Asian Seas Trust Fund resources, adopted the 1994-1995 workplan and budget with slight modification as shown in Annex IV of this report.

54. In connection with the development and financing of the major project proposals based on COBSEA-approved project concepts and with the EAS-20 project proposal development as a model (paragraph 37 of [UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/3]), the meeting adopted the Executive Director's recommendations as outlined in paragraph 40 of the Executive Director's report [UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/3]. The meeting also noted the linkages between this project and the ASEAN-Australian Economic Programme project on the development of coastal management data system.

55. With regards to activity (b), the meeting stressed the need for UNEP's EAP-AP to cooperate and work closely with the EAS/RCU and the National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas Action Plan in order to ensure the success of the project, based on the actual requirements of the countries of the region.

56. In connection with Component 2 of activity (c) as well as activities (d), (e) and (g), the meeting stressed their earlier resolve of requesting the participating countries to assist and support the EAS/RCU in its negotiations with the donor community.

57. With respect to activity (f) the meeting expressed their thanks to the implementing National Focal Point for the successful manner they had implemented the activities of the project. The meeting also generally endorsed the draft "programme of action on land-based sources of pollution".

58. On activities (h) and (k), the meeting recalled the initiation of discussions between the Programme Manager (GEF/IMO/UNDP project) and the Coordinator of the EAS/RCU on potential areas of cooperation and recommended these discussions be extended in due course to activity (f) as well.

59. In connection with activity (q), the meeting requested the Secretariat to mobilize resources for immediate preparation of the project document for presentation for GEF funding consideration. The meeting stressed the high priority it placed on marine biodiversity issues and requested that in order to achieve maximum coordination in the proposal, the EAS/RCU should be identified as the overall implementing organization coordinating the project, with relevant national institutions implementing the project's activities.

60. The meeting also agreed that new projects could be initiated for the inclusion into the workplan. In this connection, some project concepts were proposed at the meeting. The project proposals for these concepts were to be submitted by and through the respective National Focal Points to the EAS/RCU after the meeting (also see paragraph 61 below).

61. While adopting the 1994-1995 workplan and budget the meeting addressed the question of proposals for new activities. In order to assist COBSEA in its deliberations for consideration and approval of new projects and activities, it was decided that future proposals for new activities, developed within the framework of the priorities identified in the action plan and long-term strategy of the COBSEA, should be submitted by and through the National Focal Points to the EAS/RCU well in advance of the COBSEA meetings. The EAS/RCU was then requested to refine the proposals and circulate them for information and comments of the other National Focal Points and, whenever possible, present them to the meetings of experts on the East Asian Seas action plan prior to presenting them to the COBSEA meetings.

Agenda item 8. Extension of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund

62. The meeting decided to request the Executive Director to make arrangements for the extension of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund through December 1996 on the basis of the level of pledges agreed to in the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the East Asian Seas Action Plan (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.5/6). The meeting also requested UNEP, through the RCU/EAS, to continue to provide the Secretariat functions for the Action Plan which included the overall technical coordination and supervision on the implementation of its projects and the continuation of the management of the Trust Fund.

Agenda item 9. Other business

63. The Chairman invited the meeting to raise any other issues relevant to the future development of the Action Plan.

64. On the next and subsequent venues of the COBSEA meeting the meeting noted that with the expanded membership of the COBSEA the future meetings may not be held back-to-back with the ASOEN meetings. The possibility of rotating the meetings alphabetically in participating countries was raised. In the absence of any firm offer, it was decided that the next meeting(s) of the COBSEA will be held wherever the EAS/RCU is located. But this did not preclude any participating country to inform the EAS/RCU of their willingness to hold the next COBSEA meeting(s), provided sufficient advance notice was given.

65. On the frequency of the COBSEA meetings, it was decided not to change the earlier decisions and hold the meetings annually. It was also decided, whenever possible, the meetings be held during the latter half of the month of October.

66. With regards to the location of the EAS/RCU the meeting was reminded that in view of the absence of a firm offer by any of the participating States to host the EAS/RCU, it remains located on an interim basis in the UN Building in Bangkok. The meeting was informed that EAS/RCU was paying rent and other costs while located in UN Building. The meeting decided that if any participating country was interested to host the EAS/RCU, this decision should be conveyed to EAS/RCU and UNEP for the initiation of detailed discussions and drawing up of the necessary host country agreement which, *inter alia*, provides the required immunities and privileges to the internationally recruited staff of the EAS/RCU per UN rules.

67. The representative of the Government of Thailand requested the meeting to look into the a scale of contributions of the countries to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund so that if possible some contributions be brought in line with the national economic situation. Most representatives

indicated preference for voluntary funding arrangement. The meeting decided to request the EAS/RCU to prepare an working paper with various options for contributions to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund that might be considered by the COBSEA. The working paper was requested for presentation and consideration of the twelfth meeting of the COBSEA.

68. The meeting commended the EAS/RCU for the excellent and comprehensive working papers prepared and presented. The meeting noted that for this meeting due to the fact that the EAS/RCU was awaiting the response of the invited countries to join the action plan, the EAS/RCU could not finalize and dispatch some of the working documents in advance of the meeting as before. The previous practice of making the working documents available well in advance of the COBSEA meetings assisted the participating countries in their preparations, enabling them detailed national and internal discussions.

69. The Chairman invited the representatives of the international and other organizations to make statements, reporting on activities that could contribute to the objectives of the East Asian Seas action plan.

70. The representative of International Maritime Organization (IMO) with reference to document UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.5, outlined the activities of the GEF-funded project. He also briefed the meeting on the potential areas of cooperation that existed and those which were being pursued in discussions between IMO and the EAS/RCU.

71. The representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) stated that UNEP and IOC have developed co-operation on activities at the global scale. He referred to GIPME including GEMSI and GEPP, and the recently developed GOOS. The extension of these cooperative effort to the regional activities of the East Asia Sea action plan would be most beneficial. The representative of IOC/UNESCO also informed the meeting of the potential of cooperation between the WESTPAC and EAS/RCU.

72. The representative of SARCS informed the meeting that SARCS is the Southeast Asia Regional Committee for START (Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training) which was developed by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) in association with the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Programme (HDP). START provides a framework of regional networks for training and research on global environmental change and its human causes and effects. Members of SARCS are: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. SARCS meets twice annually to review past activities as well as prepare and plan for follow-up activities. SARCS presently has four primary objectives: (a) to improve estimates of greenhouse gas flux, especially in relation to changes in land use and land cover; (b) to integrate natural-social science assessments of changes in the coastal zones; (c) To develop regional databases for use in global warming studies; (d) to establish a regional network for global change research and lay the foundation for the creation of a Regional Research Centre (RRC) at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. The representative of SARCS stated that the potential for cooperation with a number of activities of the action plan, in particular the setting up of marine databases and networks should be explored further.

73. The representative of Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas (ACOPS) referring to the intergovernmental process on the development of a Global Programme of Action on the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and human activities,

He informed the meeting that ACOPS was planning for a conference to be convened in Rio de Janeiro from 18-20 June 1995. One of the ten panels of the Rio Conference will address the issues related to East Asian Seas, to be introduced by the Regional Coordinator for EAS. The panel is planned to be comprised of ministers from the region as well as donor countries and representatives of the ADB. The statement and the draft agenda concerning this meeting were circulated as document UNEP(OCA)/EAS.IG.6/INF.6.

74. With reference to the Southeast Asian Seminar on the Management of Coastal Towns and Cities (paragraph 34), the meeting noted the Pattaya Declaration (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.3). With regards to one of the National Focal Points' proposal on partial financial support to the proposed follow-up Penang seminar/workshop, as well as other relevant activities outlined in the Pattaya Declaration, the meeting decided to ask the EAS/RCU to explore the possibility of securing funds from other units of UNEP (UNEP's International Environment Technology Centre, UNEP/ROAP, etc.) and/or donor community.

75. The Director of OCA/PAC informed the meeting on the status of the GEF International Waters situation in the light of OCA/PAC's three-window GEF approach, i.e. International Waters in relation to, as appropriate, the Climate Change and the Biodiversity windows.

Agenda item 10. Adoption of the report

76. The Rapporteur presented the draft report and its annexes to the meeting and they were adopted, with slight amendments, as they appear in this document.

Agenda item 11. Closure of the meeting

77. The meeting was closed by the representative of the Executive Director and by the Chairman.

78. In his closing remarks, the Chairman, on behalf of the representatives of all the participating countries, once again congratulated the EAS/RCU for the degree of their work and achievements in the short time that it has been established, and UNEP on the continuous and increasing support that it has provided to the East Asian Seas action plan. In order for the EAS/RCU to continue its activities and not lose any momentum, the Chairman reiterated the earlier request of the meeting to the Executive Director to provide more staff for the EAS/RCU.

79. In his closing remarks the representative of the Executive Director wished all the countries success in their revised action plan. He also expressed UNEP's sincere thanks to the Royal Thai Government for its hospitality and to the Chairman for the efficient and constructive way the meeting was managed.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organization of the meeting
 - Designation of officers
 - Organization of work
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Report of the Executive Director
5. Review of 1993-1994 programme activities
 - On-going East Asian Seas projects
 - Report of the Chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists
6. Financial report for the period 1993-1994
7. Workplan and budget for the biennium 1994-1995
8. Extension of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund
9. Other Business
10. Adoption of the report
11. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents

UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/3	Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan in 1993-1994
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/4	Report of the Chairman of the Association of the Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS)
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/5	Report of the eleventh meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia

Information documents

UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.3	Declaration on the Management of South East Asian Coastal Cities and Towns
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.4	Progress Report on 1993-1994 Programme Activities
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.5	Statement by the Programme Manager GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas
UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.6/INF.6	Preparation for the Washington Diplomatic Conference on Degradation of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources

UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.5/6

Report of the meeting of Plenipotentiaries on
the East Asian Seas Action Plan

UNEP(OCA)/EAS WG5/5

Report of the fifth meeting of experts on the
East Asian Seas Action Plan

Reference documents

LAUT 1994

Newsletter of the Association of Southeast
Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS)

UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/7

Report of the Tenth meeting of the
Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia

UNEP 1994

Proceedings of the UNEP workshop on
biological effects of pollutants

ANNEX IV

WORKPLAN AND BUDGET IN THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

The level of support which may be forthcoming from the Environment Fund of UNEP according to this proposal is subject to the availability of resources in the Environment Fund and to the agreement of the COBSEA to allocate adequate matching funds through the EAS Trust Fund. Budget is indicated in thousands of US \$. Resources already committed through signed project documents are not indicated in this annex. TF = Trust Fund; EF = Environment Fund (UNEP). Counterpart contributions of cooperating agencies and supporting organizations are indicated in the "Note", whenever applicable.

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	1994 Budget		1995 Budget		Note
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(a) General support for the implementation and coordination of the Action Plan including the running costs of the EAS/RCU, support to COBSEA meetings, and the East Asian Seas programme.	Continuing	UNEP under the guidance of COBSEA.	168.5	368	200	250	
(b) EAS-20: Establishment and management of a marine database and Information exchange system in the East Asian Seas region *.	1994-1995	GRID-Bangkok, UNEP/ROAP, EAS/RCU, ADB and National Focal Points of the Action Plan.	-	-	-	-	The ADB is funding the activity for US\$ 850 as Component B of a broader project. The project will be implemented by GRID-Bangkok in close cooperation with EAS/RCU and the EAS National Focal Points.

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	1994 Budget		1995 Budget		Note
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(c) EAS-23: Oil pollution control in the East Asian Seas region: "umbrella" project:	1994-1995	The National Focal Point of Thailand. Ministry of State for Environment (Indonesia), EAS/RCU and the National Focal Points of the action plan. The EAS/RCU to coordinate the inclusion of IMO and IOC's inputs.	-	-	-	-	Implementation of Component (1) of the EAS-23 started July 1994 and is expected to be completed in February 1995. Under a Letter of Agreement Indonesian MSE is developing Component (2) of the project which on completion will be submitted for donor's consideration for funding.
(d) EAS-24: Quality assurance for non-oil pollution monitoring **.	1994-?	Environmental Management Bureau (the Philippines), EAS/RCU and National Focal Point of the action plan. EAS/RCU to coordinate the inclusion of IAEA's input to the project	-	-	-	-	The project proposal, being prepared under a Letter of Agreement with UNEP, on completion and submission to the EAS/RCU will be circulated to donors for funding consideration.

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	1994 Budget		1995 Budget		Note
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(e) EAS-26: Conservation and Sustainable Development for the East Asian Seas **.	1994-?	Ministry of Science Technology and Environment (Malaysia) with the cooperation of EAS/RCU, GBRMPA and the National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas.	-	-	-	-	Project proposal, being developed under a Letter of Agreement with UNEP, on completion and submission to EAS/RCU will be presented for donors' funding considerations.
(f) EAS-27: Assessment of land-based sources of pollution.	1993-1994	Ministry of the Environment (Singapore), EAS/RCU and National Focal Points of the action plan.	-	-	-	-	The project will be completed in time in 1994.
(g) EAS-28: Coastal Resources Management Plan Project for East Asian Seas Region **.	1994-?	Ministry of Science Technology and Environment (Malaysia) with the cooperation of EAS/RCU, GBRMPA and the National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas.	-	-	-	-	The project proposal, being prepared under a Letter of Agreement with UNEP, on completion and submission to the EAS/RCU will be circulated to donors for funding consideration.

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	1994 Budget		1995 Budget		Note
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(h) EAS-29: Enhancement of the public awareness and participation on environmental issues related to coastal and marine areas in the East Asian Seas region: Phase I ***.	1994-1995	EAS/RCU, National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan, UNEP/ROAP and UNEP's Information and Public Affairs	-	59.1	-	38.9	The project will be implemented within the framework of Letters of Agreement with "youth organizations" in the participating countries.
(i) EAS-30: Phuket workshop on the biological effects of pollutants.	1993	Office of Environment Policy and Planning (Thailand), Phuket Marine Biological Centre, National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan and Plymouth Marine Biological Centre.	-	-	-	-	The project is completed and will be closed upon submission of the Terminal Report and Statement of Expenditures.
(j) EAS-31: Study of evaluation of the percentage contribution of coastal activities to the GNP.	1995	EAS/RCU, National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan and ESCAP.	-	-	-	25	The project's implementation postponed from 1994 to 1995. Workshop is planned to be held in April 1995
(k) EAS-32: Feasibility study on a comprehensive preparedness and response plan to oil and chemical spills, integrating national, sub-regional and regional plans.	Completed on Schedule	IMO, National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan and EAS/RCU.	-	-	-	-	The project is completed and will be closed.

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	1994 Budget		1995 Budget		Note
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(l) EAS-33: Training workshops on the biological effects of pollutants: East Asian Seas region *****	1994-1995	EAS/RCU, National University of Singapore, GBRMPA, UNEP/ROAP and the National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan.	-	50	-	30	US\$ 80 of the project's budget is from UNEP/ROAP. The remaining US\$ 15 will be utilized from the savings of the tenth COBSEA TF allocations for the 1993-1994 biennium (activity (a) above).
(m) EAS-34: Development of Training Materials for Integrated Coastal Zone Management *****	1994-1995	EAS/RCU, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (Malaysia), GBRMPA, IOC and National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan.	-	50	-	30	US\$ 80 of the project's budget is from UNEP/ROAP. The remaining US\$ 15 will be utilized from the savings of the tenth COBSEA TF allocations for the 1993-1994 biennium (activity (a) above).
(n) EAS-35: Integrated management of watersheds in relation to the management and conservation of coastal and marine (nearshore) areas of the East Asian Seas region: Phase I - assessment of the effects of sediments, nutrients and pollutant discharges on wetlands and coral reefs *****	1994-1995	EAS/RCU, UNEP's Freshwater Unit, national institutions and National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan.	-	100	-	273	The project is funded by UNEP's Freshwater Unit as a joint activity with EAS/RCU, contributing to the development of the action plan.

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	1994 Budget		1995 Budget		Note
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(o) EAS-36: The Valuation of environmental and natural resources with particular reference to coastal and marine ecosystem of the East Asian Seas countries *****.	1994-1995	EAS/RCU, UNEP Environment and Economics Unit (EEU), National Institutions and National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan.	-	25	-	50	The project is funded by UNEP's Environment and Economics Unit as a joint activity with EAS/RCU, contributing to the development of the East Asian Seas action plan.
(p) EAS-37: East Asian Seas regional symposium/workshop on small cetaceans.	1995	EAS/RCU, Marine Mammals Action Plan (MMAPI).	-	-	-	40	The project is funded by MMAPI (OCA/PAC being the Secretariat) as a joint activity with EAS/RCU, contributing to the development of the East Asian Seas action plan.
(q) Project proposal on marine biodiversity in the East Asian Seas action plan.	1994	EAS/RCU, GBRMPA, National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan, national institutions, in consultation with IUCN, WWF, CITES Secretariat, and other relevant international organizations.	-	-	-	-	The necessary funds (US\$ 20) for the development of the project will be utilized from the savings of the tenth COBSEA TF allocations for the 1993-1994 biennium activity (a) above).

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	1994 Budget		1995 Budget		Note
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(r) Second Symposium and Third General Assembly of the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS).	1995	ASEAMS, OCA/PAC and EAS/RCU.	-	-	-	30	Second Symposium and Third General Assembly of ASEAMS will be convened in conjunction with ASEAN Science and Technology Week in order to maximize the number of participants. Election of Office bearers will be on the top on the agenda.
(s) Twelfth meeting of COBSEA to review the Implementation of the Action Plan and to decide on the workplan and budget for the biennium 1996-1997.	1995	EAS/RCU and UNEP in consultation with the National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas action plan.	-	-	-	-	Costs to UNEP covered through activity (a).
A. Total Proposed New Commitments			188.5	652.1	200	766.9	
B. Programme Support Cost			21.9	-	26	-	
C. Total Proposed New Expenditures and Commitments			190.4	652.1	226	766.9	

- * Project funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ** Project proposals that require funding from donor community.
- *** Project's EF funding component from the budget allocations of UNEP's Information and Public Affairs Unit (IPA).
- **** Projects' EF funding component from the budget allocations of UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP).
- ***** Project funded from the budget allocations of UNEP's Freshwater Unit (FU).
- ***** Project funded from the budget allocations of UNEP's Environment and Economics Unit (EEU).

ANNEX V

**SPEECH BY MS. ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
AT THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Eleventh Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia.

As I mentioned during yesterday's Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the East Asian Seas Action Plan, by all accounts the East Asian Seas Action Plan has been a grand success. And I regard it as a testimony to the vision of those who framed it and all those who are associated with it. But clearly much more would need to be done if we are to sustain the success we have so far achieved in implementing the Plan.

The importance of this meeting can not be over-emphasized. In this meeting, you have before you a revised action plan and a long-term strategy for the COBSEA which was adopted in yesterday's successful meeting. The revised action plan will form the overall framework of your plans. In this context you will be discussing the on-going East Asian Seas Project, the Report of the Chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS), the financial report for the period 1993-1994, workplan and budget for the biennium 1994-1995, and the extension of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund among other important matters.

You will also be reviewing the action taken on the past decisions of this coordinating body. You will be discussing the long-term strategy of your action plan as also the relevant global, regional, sub-regional and national developments that might affect or influence the East Asian Seas Action Plan.

I have no doubt that these are all important aspects of our plans to further strengthen this programme. We hope to receive from you constructive suggestions on further improving the implementation of this programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you discuss the various aspects of coastal management, I cannot help drawing parallels with another Conference I attended recently - *the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo*.

Somehow the links between population, environment and development we discussed in Cairo are so apparent in the subject that you will be deliberating on in the next two days. Clearly, the essential challenge that you face today is in harmonizing the imperatives of all these three.

It is important to remember that nearly two-thirds of the people on this planet inhabit the coastal areas. This adds to 3.5 billion people.

Twenty years from now this population is projected to grow to 7 billion people. And this is a conservative figure. Increasing migration from inland will surely add to this figure.

Let us also not forget that population densities in coastal areas in the developing world are already very high. In many provinces in South and South East Asia, the Pacific, Central America and the Caribbean, they already exceed 1000 and 2000 individuals per sq. km.

This clearly adds up for all of us a challenge monumental in its complexity.

I have some questions to pose before this distinguished audience. What will this doubling of population mean to the coastal areas in terms of resource depletion, increased pollution, need for building enhanced infrastructure facilities, for housing and shelter? What will happen if the consequences of climate change and the attendant sea level rise were to manifest themselves? How would we deal with the mass of environmental refugees?

How can we face these great challenges? I have faith in the ingenuity of humankind. We can face the challenges together, if we were to work towards them diligently and intelligently. The success of your programme is an inspiring example.

But first of all we require a paradigm change. We have to get rid of our concept of an endless ocean. We all tend to feel at times that once a polluted river empties into the open sea, once we establish the urban sewage systems far enough, all waste will somehow simply disappear into the endless ocean. The ocean is a receptacle which daily receives polluted waste from lakes and rivers all over the world, and directly or indirectly the sewers and fallout from all the world's countless cities and farmlands and all the industry. The oceans are not only interlocked but also landlocked and continuously share the rapidly accumulating pollution among them.

When we consider the increased activities in the coastal zones that impinge on the environment - extraction of hydrocarbons, mining of coral reefs, clearing of mangroves, coastal tourism, marine transportation and unsustainable exploitation of fisheries, we realise the need for not only accurate scientific knowledge but also the involvement of local communities and other user groups.

Unfortunately, the current approach to coastal management has been sectorized and communication between scientists of various disciplines is limited. But some progress has been achieved in initiating and strengthening dialogue between various disciplines. Clearly, we have come a long way when coastal management was synonymous with fisheries alone. It is imperative that we concentrate on management strategies that take into account linkages between different resources. I am sure this meeting will deliberate on this issue.

Here, we have to remember that 70% of the pollution in the coastal zones can be traced to the land based sources. Thus, the sustainable management of coastal zones would not only involve management of the drainage basins but also proper use of pesticides and cleaner technologies.

The need for management at the national level is imperative if we are to manage coastal zones in a sustainable fashion. But many more questions will need to be answered.

What do the national governments need in terms of expertise?

Can we develop an essentially multi-disciplinary subject such as coastal zone management into a discipline?

Can we create a pool of specialists to assist in addressing this problem? This will clearly involve a number of diverse activities-framing of the programmes, application of new management techniques, cross-sectoral cooperation and conflict resolution.

I am sure this meeting will also deliberate on these questions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNEP is proud to be associated with this programme. And we plan to further strengthen its implementation in concert with our partners. We have already established a Regional Coordinating Unit for this Programme. Two officers from UNEP have been seconded to it. I hope to see the emergence of a more effective relationship from the establishment of this unit.

I would also like to mention a project being implemented by the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Singapore on Controlling Land-based Sources of Pollution in the East Asian Seas region. Through this project we are preparing a case study which will form an input for the Meeting on the Land-based Sources of Pollution which is scheduled to be held in Washington in 1995. Your region was the first to pay attention to land-based sources of pollution as a high priority and COBSEA decided to implement two projects in the early 1980s. This is indicative of COBSEA's prudent decisions and cost-effective use of its resources. Now the issue of land-based sources of pollution is in the lime-light and your region is already drawing up a programme of action to address the problem.

A mention here will not be out of place of UNEP's close association with the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists. We supported its establishment and will continue to provide support to it. This Association has played a significant part in acting as an independent advisory body on coastal and marine issues both to UNEP as also the governments of the region. The ever-expanding network of this association and its close liaison with the national governments is a unique feature which needs to be replicated by other Regional Seas Programmes around the world.

I would like to close my remarks today with the assurances of our continued support for the excellent work that are you are doing. I trust you will have very fruitful and constructive discussions during the next two days. We in UNEP look forward to your recommendations.

