



Workshop for Eastern and South-eastern Asian Seas, under the auspices of the United Nations, in support of the Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

Sanya, China, 21-23 February 2012

Information for participants

Note by the Secretariat

I. Background

1. As recommended by the General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in February 2011, workshops are recognized as a key mechanism by which the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment will be accomplished and States can enhance their assessment capacity. Workshops will facilitate dialogue between the Group of Experts of the Regular Process (the “Group of Experts”) and representatives and experts from States and competent intergovernmental organizations.

2. Pursuant to the guidelines for workshops (the “Guidelines”) adopted by the General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on 28 June 2011, workshops are organized under the auspices of the United Nations, in coordination with the secretariat of the Regular Process, represented by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations (the “Division”) and with the assistance of members of the Group of Experts.

3. According to the Guidelines, the objectives of the Workshop are to:

a. Review and evaluate all assessments considered by the participants to be relevant to the sea area under consideration and, on the basis of those evaluations, compile an inventory of assessments likely to be useful for the Regular Process. The assessments to be considered should be both those related to environmental issues and those related to socio-economic issues. If necessary, arrangements should be initiated for access to those assessments by the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process;

b. Start building a network between experts and organizations taking part in each workshop, and the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process;

c. Identify the capacity-building needs of States taking part in the workshop needed to allow them to contribute more fully to, and benefit more fully from, the Regular Process, including identification of priorities, and identify steps that those States could usefully take to build the capacities of competent intergovernmental organizations (if any) through which the States collaborate;

d. Start building capacity for integrated assessment, which could include discussing and developing:

(i) common information content for assessments at various scales and common approaches towards assessment methodologies;

(ii) approaches for scaling up assessments (national, subregional, regional, global – that is, establishing how far assessments at one level can be used at other levels); and

(iii) reporting forms to assist the integration process, with the aim of securing coherence, consistency and comparability as far as possible;

e. Consider the linkages between driving factors and the state of the marine environment as reflected in assessment.

4. The Government of China has offered to host the Workshop in Sanya. It covers the Eastern and South-eastern Asian Seas.

II. Venue and date of the Workshop

5. The Workshop will take place at the Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay in Sanya, China, from 21 to 23 February 2012. The Workshop will be held in the Tingtao conference room on the ground floor starting at 9:00 a.m. Registered participants are requested to come in the hall outside the conference room on 21 February 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay
Address: No. 188, Sanya Bay Road, Haipo Resort Zone,
Sanya City, Hainan Province 572000, P.R. China
Website: <http://resortsanya.hojochina.com/>
Telephone: +86-898-3888 8888
Fax: +86-898-3886 8888

III. Chair(s) and secretarial support

6. Pursuant to the Guidelines, host Member States should designate a chair (or co-chairs) of the workshops. Hosts may consider inviting a member of the Group of Experts to be the chair, or a co-chair, of the workshops.

7. The Government of China will provide support staff to organize proceedings in consultation with the secretariat of the Regular Process.

IV. Agenda and activities of the Workshop

8. The provisional agenda of the Workshop, together with relevant documentation, will be posted on the website of the Division prior to the Workshop. Pursuant to the Guidelines, the agenda of the Workshop will include, as far as possible, the elements listed in Appendix II to the Guidelines.

9. Pursuant to the Guidelines, an important part of the Workshop will be making a start on capacity-building on how to carry out integrated assessments, so that the participants to the Workshop can better understand, and contribute to, the work of the Regular Process.

10. The activities of the Workshop will take full account of the principles for the Regular Process recommended by the General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and endorsed by the General Assembly in 2009, and the recommendations adopted by the General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in 2010 and 2011.

V. Interpretation

11. The Workshop will be conducted in English.

12. Any participant may make a statement in a language other than English. In that case, the participant must provide either interpretation services or a written text of the statement in English. The interpreted version of the statement or the written text submitted in English will be considered by the secretariat of the Workshop to represent the official text of the statement and will be used by interpreters as the basis for interpretation into English.

VI. Preliminary information and output of the Workshop

13. The official documentation of the Workshop will be issued in English.

14. Pursuant to the Guidelines, participants in the Workshop will be asked to provide, by 10 February 2012, contributions on the information listed in Appendix I to the Guidelines. Members of the Group of Experts will help this process with advice and, as appropriate, relevant documentation.

15. The output of the Workshop will take the form of a summary of the discussions prepared by the Chair or co-chairs, with the help of the members of the Group of Experts. Provision will be made for the participants to comment on a draft of the summary and for the final version to be revised by the Chair(s) and members of the Group of Experts in the light of such comments.

16. An electronic copy of the final version of the summary will be sent to the secretariat of the Regular Process, to be posted on its website as a United Nations document and/or on the Regular Process website.

VII. List of participants

17. The secretariat of the Regular Process, in coordination with the Government of China, will publish a list of participants to the Workshop.

18. Participants are requested to submit the accompanying registration form for each of their representatives to the secretariat of the Regular Process (fax: 1 212 963 5847, or a scanned copy to doalos@un.org, with a copy to Mr. Marco Boccia, boccia@un.org), and the State Oceanic Administration of China (fax: +86-10-68048051 or a scanned copy to Mr. Yafeng Yang at yf@soa.gov.cn) before 5 February 2012.

VIII. Requests for Financial Support

19. Participants from States in the Eastern and South-eastern Asian Seas region in need for financial support to attend the Workshop may inquire with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as to the availability of funding. Such inquiries should be addressed to Messrs. Elik Adler and Alberto Pacheco of UNEP via email as follows: Elik.Adler@unep.org and Alberto.pacheco@unep.org or by fax at (+254) 20 762 4618. Please include a copy to Mr. Yafeng Yang at yf@soa.gov.cn or by fax at (+86) 10 6804 8051.

IX. Visa requirements

20. A visa for entry in China may be required. Participants concerned are advised to seek information on requirements applicable in their case from Chinese diplomatic or consular missions in their home countries. Information on the procedures required for the issuance of visas can be obtained at the websites of relevant Chinese diplomatic or consular mission.

21. Where a visa is required, applicants are strongly advised to apply as early as possible.

22. The Chinese authorities will do their utmost to facilitate access procedures for all participants.

X. Arrival in Sanya and local transportation

23. The travel time between Sanya Phoenix International Airport and the Workshop premises is approximately 10 to 15 minutes in non-peak-hour traffic by car.

24. Public buses operate from Sanya Phoenix International Airport, ensuring transport to the different areas of the city of Sanya. Bus Route 8 can reach the Workshop premises and other recommended hotel and it costs approximately RMB ¥2-4 per person.

25. Taxi services with affordable rates are also available for access to the city from Sanya Phoenix International Airport. A taxi fare from the airport to Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay and Yuhai International Resort Sanya costs approximately RMB ¥50.

XI. Climate and clothing

26. The weather in February in Sanya, China is normally mild with occasional showers. The average temperature is between 20°C and 25°C with the lowest 17°C and the highest 31°C. It is cooler in the early morning and night and sweaters are recommended.

XII. Voltage

27. China operates on 220 volts, 50 hertz. Travelers with computers, shavers, tape recorders and other appliances should carry a plug adapter kit.

XIII. Currency

28. The monetary unit in China is the Chinese Yuan (¥). The Foreign Exchange rate listed below is only for reference. Please check the latest rate with People's Bank of China.

Reference Foreign Exchange Rate (13 January 2012) ¥100

Currency	Buying	Selling
British pound	935.65	973.98
HK dollar	80.48	81.38
US dollar	624.52	632.10
Euro	782.81	814.87
Japanese Yen	7.93	8.26

29. Credit cards are accepted in major hotels and shopping malls.

XIV. Hotel accommodation

30. Sanya is a famous resort city and February is the busy season, so hotel rates are quite high. The Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay is recommended. For more information about the hotel, please refer to its website: <http://resortsanya.hojochina.com/>. The Resort has reserved a limited number of rooms with special rates for the Workshop.

31. Another recommended hotel is Yuhai International Resort Sanya, which is 15 to 20 minutes walking from the Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay.

Yuhai International Resort Sanya
Address: No. 163, Sanya Bay Road,
Sanya City, Hainan Province 572000, P.R. China
Website: <http://www.jadesea.cn> (only Chinese version)
Telephone: +86- 898-8891 8888 Facsimile: +86- 898-8891 8666

32. Participants who want to reserve rooms at Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay, please fill out the Reservation Form1(Annex 1) and those who want to reserve rooms at Yuhai International Resort Sanya, please fill out the Reservation Form 2 (Annex 2). Participants are requested to email or fax (email is preferred) the reservation form to the Local Secretariat before 5 February 2012 for ensuring the reservation and special rates.

Local Secretariat for Logistic Arrangements:

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Local Secretariat for Agenda Arrangements:

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XV. First aid and health services

33. The Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay Medical Service is available to participants requiring medical assistance. Its telephone extension is 5120. Please contact Local Secretariat first, should you need any help.

34. The closest local hospital is 5 km from the Workshop premises. All costs incurred in the hospital or for other medical care will be the responsibility of each individual participant.

No. 425 Hospital of PLA
Address: No. 86, Sanya Bay Road, Sanya City,
Hainan Province 572000, P.R. China
Phone for Emergency Treatment: +86-898-8829 3102

XVI. Facilities and services at Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay

35. Hotel overview: Located at the soft white marina beach of Sanya Bay, the Resort Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay, which is China's largest beachfront 5-star hotel, enjoys the most spectacular seascape and beautiful sandy beach along with tropical Greeneries and palm trees. It is only 15 minutes to the Sanya Phoenix Airport as well as to the downtown center. Sanya International Golf Club and many famous scenic and cultural attractions, such as the End of the Earth and Nanshan Cultural Tourism Zone, are just nearby.

36. Restaurants: The Resort also provides themed venues offering selected food and beverages. The Chinese restaurant, Kwok Heung Kok, with Chinese classic style decoration, has a stunning ocean view and seating for 600. The six private dining rooms, each tastefully appointed with Chinese traditional blessing names - Fook, Luk, Sau, Hei, Sui and Cheung - provide quiet and privacy for the guests dining inside. The Korean Palace offers sophisticated and delicate Korean cuisines. The Four Seasons Café offers contemporary European delicacies complemented by Southeast Asian specialties. And the Caribbean Sunset Barbecue, with its American ambience, is simply a gourmet experience.

XVII. Workshop officials

37. Following is a list of officials of the Workshop:

Overall Coordination

Mr. Zhanhai Zhang
Director General of International Cooperation Department
State Oceanic Administration
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General Coordination for Administrative and Logistic Arrangements

Ms. Wuhong Shi
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Mr. Chanlin Huo
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United Nations

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Group of Experts

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38. Information on the Workshop can be accessed through the Internet at the following websites:
http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm, and
<http://regular.process.mem.gov.cn/eng/index.html>.