

Capacity Development Initiatives in the East Asian Seas Region: A PEMSEA Report

Introduction

The Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) aim to build and strengthen coastal and ocean governance in the East Asian Seas region through intergovernmental, interagency, and multistakeholder partnerships with emphasis on on-the-ground management actions. In particular, the current PEMSEA project focuses on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), a region-wide strategy adopted by the PEMSEA participating countries.

PEMSEA's overarching strategy is founded on the principle of partnership. Partnerships, involving governments and key stakeholders from the public and private sectors at the local, national, and international levels, are the foundation for change. Each component activity of the project begins as a partnership, and each partner brings a positive dimension to problem solving and overcoming the barriers and constraints to achieving the objectives of the SDS-SEA.

In 15 years of implementing Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) projects in the region, PEMSEA has gained considerable experience and lessons which served as basis in the development of a common framework for sustainable coastal development. The framework which is now being incorporated into national and local government planning and development processes, includes a number of components on governance, sustainable development aspects, and State of Coasts (SOC) Reporting System as an operational tool for local governments to monitor existing conditions, responses, impacts and outcomes of ICM programmes.

Under the Governance component, a number of key aspects are highlighted including: *information and public awareness and capacity development*. Capacity development is a continuing process. It begins with education and training, it is nurtured and expanded through application, hands-on experience, information sharing, knowledge development and transfer and, basically learning from each other. Each activity of the project entails some form of capacity development, mobilizing existing intellectual capital at the community level, scientific institutions, government agencies, the private sector, and/or the international community, for the benefit of the work programme and over the longer term, for sustainable social, economic and environmental development. To ensure success and sustainability, capacity building and knowledge transfer are built into PEMSEA activities from project conceptualization to actual implementation and monitoring, as well as in scaling up efforts.

PEMSEA Capacity Development Initiatives

In facilitating the implementation of the SDS-SEA as well as the continuing efforts to promote and scale up ICM in the region, PEMSEA embarked on several capacity building programs/initiatives. These programs hope to lessen the disparities in capacity among countries of the region and enabling them to develop both technical and managerial skills to effectively manage their coastal and marine resources and environment.

Following are some of the achievements of PEMSEA on capacity development:

Special Skills Training Programs

Since 1999, PEMSEA has conducted over 80 specialized training workshops focusing on: Environmental Risk Assessment, Port Safety, Health and Environmental Management System (PSHEMS), Port Auditing, Integrated Information Management System, Development and Implementation of a Coastal Use Zoning Plan and Institutional Framework, etc.

In 2009, PEMSEA conducted Regional Trainings on Implementation and Enforcement of Land- and Sea-use Zoning, as well as a Regional Training Course on Novel Technology for Marine and Environmental Management. Six Trainings on PSHEMS were also conducted in Laem Chabang Port, Thailand and Bangkok Port.

Internship Programs

The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) based in Manila, Philippines provides opportunities for young professionals from the different PEMSEA participating countries to work in PEMSEA to help them gain experience in developing and expanding coastal management at the local and national levels. In 2009, ten internships were awarded and completed (1 Cambodia, 1 China, 1 Indonesia, 3 Lao PDR, 1 Timor Leste, 3 Vietnam). The internship programme in 2009 was designed to include exposure and direct involvement in the organization and conduct of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress to widen the interns' experience and give them hands-on training in organizing international events, as well as opportunity to interact with and learn from experts and practitioners on coastal and ocean management from different parts of the world.

ICM Graduate Program

The development of an ICM post-graduate program is being pursued to provide the next generation of leaders needed knowledge and skills to plan and manage the coasts and seas. In line with this effort, the PRF developed and conducted a survey on the Demand and Supply of Human Resources for ICM for the East Asian Seas region. The results of the survey were presented and discussed in the PEMSEA Workshop on Post-Graduate ICM Curriculum during the East Asian Seas Congress (EAS) 2009. An e-group composed of participants from different Universities was developed from the Workshop and hopes to contribute in the development of syllabus for ICM Post-Graduate core courses.

ICM Learning Centers

Another new initiative of PEMSEA is the setting up of ICM Learning Centers involving national universities and research institutions. The ICM Learning Centers have set up core teams of trainers in ICM, and are providing technical assistance to local government units for ICM implementation. As of today, 5 ICM Learning Centers have been established in the Philippines (De La Salle University in Batangas, and Xavier

University), Cambodia (Royal University of Phnom Penh), Vietnam (University of Danang), and Indonesia (Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies-Bogor Agricultural University).

In-country training schedules are being developed in collaboration with responsible national agencies to effectively mobilize and utilize the resources of the ICM Learning Centers.

Model ICM Training Manual

PEMSEA has prepared an ICM model course for Level 1 (Understanding the Basics of ICM) and pilot-tested the course through the conduct of a regional training-of-trainers (TOT) workshop in October 2008. The TOT workshop included representatives from the Learning Centers in the Philippines as well as potential university partners from Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand. The course is designed to strengthen the necessary understanding and skills in ICM development and implementation among the trainers. In 2009, an ICM TOT was also conducted in the Batangas, Philippines for the De La Salle ICM Learning Center. A National ICM Level 1 Training was also conducted in Danang, Vietnam involving 20 coastal provinces in October 2009.

Regional Task Force/National Task Force

The trainings conducted by PEMSEA are also geared to the establishment of a technical support network for countries, comprised of a Regional Task Force (RTF) and country-based National Task Forces (NTF). In mobilizing RTF and NTF members, PEMSEA developed initial listing of RTF/NTF members covering 8 countries. Those that have been mobilized in Cambodia, Philippines, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam provided support for the conduct of: a) ICM Training; b) State of the Coasts (SOC) report preparation; c) Oil spill contingency planning at the local government level; d) development of sensitivity maps for oil spill response; and e) formulation of national oil spill dispersant guidelines in the Gulf of Thailand.

Regional Center of Excellence

Partnerships are also being forged by internationally and regionally recognized areas of excellence. The Center for Marine Environmental Research and Innovative Technology (MERIT), Hong Kong, was the first to be designated as a PEMSEA Regional Center of Excellence (RCoE) in July 2008. MERIT is an internationally recognized institution in the field of marine pollution. As a PEMSEA RCoE, MERIT is providing training and technical support for the development and implementation of integrated river basin and coastal area management projects focused on marine pollution in the Manila Bay, Jakarta Bay and Bohai Sea.

Since 2008, MERIT has regularly provided trainings and workshops to PEMSEA countries, such as the Workshop on Eutrophication, Harmful Algal Blooms and Environmental Impact Assessment conducted in Xiamen, China, and the Regional Training Course on Novel Technology for Marine Environmental Management Training conducted in Manila, Philippines.

Workshops/Seminars

In 2009, PEMSEA organized and conducted a number of workshops/seminars in collaboration with different partners from the local, national and international level. Some of these workshops include:

- National inception workshops on SDS-SEA implementation (China; Indonesia and Timor Leste)
- ICM scaling up inception and orientation workshops (Bali, Indonesia; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Chonburi, Thailand; Manila Bay, Philippines; Capiz Province, Philippines;)
- Baywide planning workshop on ICM in Macajalar Bay, Philippines
- State of Coasts (SOC) orientation and validation workshops (Bataan, Philippines; Macajalar Bay, Philippines; Sihanoukville, Cambodia;
- Inception Workshop for the Development of a Local Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Chonburi, Thailand
- PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) Forum (Bataan, Philippines)
- 31 workshops and side meetings organized at the EAS Congress 2009

Communication/Publications

PEMSEA also utilizes various media to expand its knowledge sharing initiatives. The PEMSEA Resource Facility regularly updates its website (www.pemsea.org) and developed websites for its key projects such as the Small Grants Programme (SGP)-PEMSEA website which highlights key projects and developments at the community levels (<http://pemsea.org/sqp>) as well as a website for the EAS Congress (www.pemsea.org/eascongress) which contains key information, highlights and summary reports and papers from the EAS Congress workshops and seminars. Two issues of the Tropical Coasts magazine is also issued on an annual basis, while e-updates are featured and disseminated at least 7 times a year. PEMSEA also participates in key international and regional events related to coastal and ocean governance (i.e., Global Environment Facility International Water (GEF IW) Conference ; World Ocean Week in Xiamen, China, Global Oceans Forum, etc.)

In 2009 alone, PEMSEA was able to produce the following publications/information materials:

Publications

- State of Coasts report for Batangas, Philippines
- 5 model courses on ICM
- Tropical Coasts Vol. 15, No. 2 “Coastal Resources: Productivity and Impacts on Food Security”
- Tropical Coasts Vol. 16, No.1 “The Marine Economy in Times of Change”
- 5th Executive Committee Meeting Proceedings
- Proceedings of Twinning Workshop on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
- 6 Case studies (Batangas, Philippines; Xiamen; China (2 issues); Bali, Indonesia; Sihanoukville, Cambodia; and Puerto Galera, Philippines)
- Policy brief on Achieving Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate: How can ICM help?
- Ocean & Coastal Management (OCM) Journal special issue on EAS Congress 2006 selected papers

Website/ E-updates

- Small Grants Programme (SGP)-PEMSEA website
- EAS Congress 2009 website
- 7 E-updates released
- Brochures released (PEMSEA brochure on ICM scaling up; EAS Congress 2009 brochures)

Exhibition & Videos

- PEMSEA exhibit at the World Ocean Conference

- PEMSEA exhibit at the GEF IW Conference
- PEMSEA and EAS Congress promotional exhibition in Philippine universities
- EAS Congress 2009 Exhibition
- EAS Congress 2009 videos (PEMSEA achievements; Partnership video; Congress opening video)

The East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009

The EAS Congress is considered as the flagship of PEMSEA's knowledge sharing efforts. This triennial event started in 2003 and involved the participation and contribution of country and non-country partners and other collaborators/stakeholders. The unique set-up of the Congress has made it known as an intellectual marketplace for knowledge and experience sharing, a forum for dialogues, and a mechanism to monitor the progress and map future directions for the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

The EAS Congress 2009 in Manila, Philippines, which served as the Third Congress, has generated 1,480 participants and 100 exhibitors- almost triple the number of participants during the first EAS Congress in 2003. The 21 workshops, 10 side events/meetings, exhibition and field trip were supported by 51 co-conveners and supporting organizations and 12 sponsors.

The EAS Congress 2009 focused on local implementation and good practices in coastal and ocean governance and included a number of workshops focusing on the need for the local communities and the region to adapt to climate change. In particular, the Natural and Man-made Hazard Prevention and Management Theme conducted two workshops on climate change: *Workshop on Meeting Challenges of Climate Change at the Local Level through ICM* which was co-convened by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Manila; and the *Workshop on Impacts of Climate Change at the Coastal and Ocean Areas of the East Asian Seas Region* co-convened with the World Maritime University (WMU), the Ministry of Land, Transportation and Maritime Affairs (MLTM), RO Korea, and the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA).

The outcomes of the Congress were also presented at the Global Oceans Forum, Climate Change Conference, in Copenhagen, in December 2009.

Third Ministerial Forum

One of the key events during the EAS Congress 2009 is the Third Ministerial Forum. The Forum provides policy directions and commitments for improving and strengthening the implementation of the SDS-SEA.

The Third Ministerial Forum in particular highlighted the need for the region to look into the serious impacts of climate change and the region's sustainable development. The culmination of the Forum is the signing of the *Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Seas of the East Asia Region*. The Declaration confirmed the commitment of the 11 PEMSEA Country Partners to scale up ICM programs for sustainable development and climate change adaptation, targeting 20% coverage of the region's coastline by 2015. The Manila Declaration and an associated Policy Brief were also presented and disseminated during the Global Oceans Forum, Climate Change Conference, in Copenhagen.

Future Direction

With the signing of the Agreement Recognizing PEMSEA's Legal Personality by 8 member countries, PEMSEA hopes to further strengthen and promote its niche on the promotion and implementation of ICM. PEMSEA believes that as local capacity develops, the implementation and further scaling up of ICM practice in the region will also continue.

Building on PEMSEA's experience and achievements, and in line with the commitments of the countries set forth in the *Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Seas of the East Asia Region*, PEMSEA will embark on new initiatives to boost national and local capacities taking into consideration the need to enhance the region's social, economic and ecosystem resiliency to climate change through adaptation programs.
