Annex II

Report of 2016 North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) Workshop

15-16 June 2016, Suncheon, Republic of Korea

1. The NEASPEC Secretariat, in collaboration with Suncheon City, organized the first North-East Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) Workshop on 15-16 June in Suncheon, Republic of Korea. The Workshop brought together officials nominated as NEAMPAN Steering Committee members, managers of NEAMPAN sites, as well as experts from International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations.

2. The Workshop was composed of three sessions: (1) sharing experiences of MPA management; (2) sharing experiences in partnership and networking among MPAs; and (3) common concerns and interests of the NEAMPAN members and conclusion.

Session 1. Sharing experiences of MPA management

3. The first session aimed to focus on (a) assessment of ecosystem services and sustainable management of resources; (b) sustainable management of human activities including tourism; and (c) stakeholder participation. Participants were invited to share their experiences from the above aspects as below:

4. China has two categories of MPA: Marine Nature Reserves (MNR) and Marine Special Protected Areas (MSPA). While MNR is aimed at conservation, MSPA has scope of sustainable use of marine resources. As of 2015, there are 93 national MPAs in China, with total areas of more than 100,000 km^2. Endangered species in MPAs includes amphioxus, spotted seals, dolphins, sea turtles and other rare and endangered marine species. Six NEAMPAN sites (Beilun Estuary National MNR, Shankou Mangrove National MNR, Sanya Coral Reef National MNR, MNR of Dazhou Island Marine Ecosystems, Nanji Islands National MNR, and Changyi National Marine Ecology SPA) were selected with a set of criteria, i.e., being national protected area, having independent management office, ability to communicate in English, and having biodiversity, rare and engendered species, in addition to the willingness to participate in the NEAMPAN.

5. MPAs in Japan are broadly categorized, that, those MPAs aimed for conservation of biodiversity supporting sound structures and functions of marine ecosystem and those for

sustainable use of ecosystem services in consideration of utilized form. Ten laws and acts are associated with management of Marine Protected Areas, which is broadly categorized into three areas: protection of natural scenery; protection of natural environment or habitat of wildlife; and protection and cultivation of aquatic animals and plants. One NEAMPAN site, Shiretoko National Park, was chosen as it features a world natural heritage site which is managed by many stakeholders for multiple use while which also shows importance of interaction between land and sea. It also showcases co-management modality in area with active fishing activities.

6. In Republic of Korea, Ministries of Ocean and Fisheries (MOF)/Environment (ME) and Cultural Heritage Protection Administration (CHPA) are the main management authorities of MPAs. Of 71 broadly defined MPAs, 11 are designated Marine Protected Areas (253 km^2) under conservation and management of marine ecosystem act and 13 are Wetland Protected Areas (231 km^2). MOF set management priority of each MPA and implemented conservation policies with local government based on the priorities identified. Regarding the two NEAMPAN sites, Suncheon Bay Wetland Protected Area is one of the most successful examples of MPA designation policy in Korea. Muan Wetland Protected Area is the first coastal wetland protection area of ROK. Both MPAs are designated Ramsar sites.

7. The Russian Federation has more than 13,000 protected areas of various categories, occupying more than 2 million km^2 – or 11% of the country. Basis of the system of specially protected natural areas in 2010 consists of 102 state natural reserves, 42 national parks and 70 national natural refuges of federal value which occupy 2.7 percent of the total area of the Russian Federation. There are 31 Federal level coastal and marine protected areas, of which 12 areas have international status of Biosphere Reserve, Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and/or World Heritage site.

8. During the first session, challenges and experiences in MPA management highlighted by the participants included the followings[1]:

[Key protected species] Key species are used as a symbol of conservation in the respective areas in for raising awareness, making it as part of attraction for eco-tourism, monitoring of species (e.g., keimafuri in Shiretorko).	China	* tamarisk in Changyi National Marine Ecology Special Protected Area * coral reef in Sanya Coral Reef National Nature Reserve * swiftlet in National Nature Reserve of Dazhou Island Marine Ecosystems * Dugong, black-faced spoonbill, and mangrove forest in Shankou Mangrove Nature Reserve
	Japan	* keimafuri (spectacled guillemot), seabirds in Shiretoko National Park

[1] Please note that the table is prepared based on presentations by meeting participants, and is not comprehensive list.

	Republic of Korea	* Far eastern curlew, octopus, sand crab in Muan Wetland Protected Area * Hooded crane and red-clawed crabs in Suncheon Bay
	Russian Federation	* Chinese egrets and black-faced spoonbill in Far Eastern Marine Biosphere Reserve (FEMBR)
[Funding] Challenge of insufficient funding was highlighted by several MPAs.	China	* Changyi, Sanya and Dazhou (Changyi National Marine Ecology SPA receives funding for management from (1) central marine fee, (2) marine ecological restoration project and (3) local government's investment)
	Japan	* Shiretoko: Stakeholders collaborate to sell handmade handbooks to raise funds for protection and research of seabirds
	Russian Federation	* FEMBR
[Tourism management] Many MPAs engaged in ecological tourism.	China	* Dazhou: issues on Illegal tourists * Nanji: Moderate development of tourism generated income for local communities while fishery and aquaculture is controlled to contain the human activities in the area. As a result, aquaculture and tourism income have grown with moderate increase in average income of local residents, while population in fishery has significantly declined and the risk of poaching reduced. * Shankou: ecotourism operation (e.g., boat tour) and food retailing help develop alternative livelihood for local mangrove residents.
	Republic of Korea	* Suncheon: Management of car parking system and alternative transport are introduced to discourage visitors' private vehicles.
[Fishing/poaching]	China	* Dazhou: Overfishing around the protected area
	Russian Federation	* Sikhote-Alin: Poaching as a major challenge in protected areas where population density is low and unemployment rate is high * FEMBR: rangers are responsible for catching poachers but have limited funds, while poachers have modern high-speed boats, diving equipment, communication and navigation devices. Thus catching poachers (boats) are difficult.
[Threats to marine life/ecosystem]	China	* Dazhou: Swiftlet as they are considered as rare medicine * Nanji: Environmental challenges are caused by pollution, red tide, and typhoon. In view of sustainable management of resources, ecological restoration project is undertaken for restoration of seaweed beds, and prevention of wastewater discharge. * Beilun: Need for protection and restoration of

		mangrove wetland ecosystem, seagrass beds, coastal area, etc. * Sanya: growing concern on effect of climate change on the ocean
[Public participation]	China	* Nanji: public participation through education of marine biodiversity protection * Beilun and Shankou: public awareness and close communication with neighbouring communities * Shankou: Engaging public in the management of the reserve is more effective in some cases when it is incorporated into traditional system of the local communities. For instance, forming network of clan chiefs of local villages has been effective modality of public participation. Also for awareness raising, publicity activities are combined with traditional festival, such as tree planting, essay writing, etc.
	Republic of Korea	* Suncheon: the network of civil-society, administration (authority for Suncheon Bay conservation) and specialists (academics) involves in management of Suncheon Bay. Also citizens led conservation and mobilization of political support, such as against dumping of wastes and dredging project in 1990s.
[Environmental education and scientific research]	China	* Beilun: supports in environmental education and scientific research activities
	Russian Federation	* FEMBR and Sihkote-Alin: support in environmental education and scientific research activities * FEMBR: many birds are marked with rings to identify their origin. * Sihkote-Alin: Long-term scientific investigation conducted in the reserve includes such topics as climate change; vegetation transformations; plant and animal phenology; dynamics of rare species populations; freshwater fauna and bio indication; and marine ecosystems.
[Social/Ecological network]	China	* Nanji: proposed a blueprint of Zhejiang-Fujian Coastal Islands MPAs Network, based on the species distribution
	Japan	* Shiretoko and Sikhote-Alin: sharing information with similar national parks (Those two sites visited each other to exchange information including ecological system and tourism, given that they are both world natural heritage.)
	Russian Federation	

9. To benefit from the workshop venue, the Workshop also highlighted MPA management experience of Suncheon Bay Wetland Protected Area. Suncheon bay transformed from

abandoned land to Korea's important conservation site. It showcases the experience of citizen's movement against dredging, followed by political buy-in of local government, which in turn turned the area to protected area and managed to win national government support and financial assistance for conservation. During the field visit to Suncheon Bay, participants observed abandoned salt pans in which Suncheon Bay Conservation Department is trying to restore while potential for commercial development of the area is a major challenge.

10. In the first session, two approaches of MPA management were introduced, to provide conceptual background of options for MPA management, i.e., Ecosystem-Based Management Systems (EBMS) for MPAs and co-management of MPA drawing example from Shiretoko National Park. EBMS is an option of management tools of MPAs, to provide standard operational procedures that aim to incorporate ecological concerns and societal needs in the planning process. It follows a vision-driven process whereas a societal vision needs to be developed prior to the use of the framework. It helps to apply adaptive management in the path from the initial assessment to the achievement of the vision. Co-management of MPAs is a modality of adaptive management, applied to manage areas which are rich in fishery resources and are important fishing ground and tourist destination. It is elaborated in the multiple use integrated marine management plan, which emphasizes co-existence of conservation of marine environment and marine ecosystem and stable fisheries.

Session 2. Sharing experiences in partnership and networking among MPAs

11. The workshop also exchanged experiences of interaction with other MPAs in various activities at national or international levels, and discussed how they benefited from those activities. Participants from international organizations and NGOs were also invited to provide information on workshops/trainings provided on MPA management.

Training and networking activities[2]	
National level	* ROK: (1) MPA capacity building programme in collaboration with NOAA for government officers, NGOs, MPA stakeholders and experts in Korea (conducted in Korean); (2) ROK-Wadden Sea cooperation for exchange of experiences in management, monitoring of waterbirds, eco-tourism, etc.; (3) annual MPA summit on MPA management ; and (4) Tidal flat visitor center network * Japan: Joint learning programme of shorebirds and its habitat for local government officials
International organizations and NGOs	* WWF-Hong Kong: wetland management training programme for government officials and those engaged in protected areas, in collaboration with Chinese government departments, UN organizations, etc. (conducted

[2] Please note that the table is prepared based on presentations by meeting participants, and is not comprehensive list.

	mostly in Chinese) * EAAFP: (1) workshop of flyway site managers for sharing experiences and training in monitoring etc.; and (2) signing of MOA among EAAFP countries (e.g., China and New Zealand)

12. Besides the benefits of establishing MPAs, there are considerable benefits in network of MPA of various types such as social/human network, ecological network, management-based network, etc. Lessons learnt from past experiences in forming MPA network include need to identify areas of connectivity, appropriate partners, common goals and objectives, management strategies that could be applicable among other MPAs, etc.

13. In contrast to the trainings/workshops for MPA managers at national level, those activities conducted at international level or conducted with overseas partners face language issue, while interacting with other countries are beneficial.

Session 3. Common concerns and interests of the NEAMPAN members and conclusion

14. After having a small breakout session for a brainstorming on the interest of participants in future activities of NEAMPAN, each country group was asked to provide their views on (i) what they would like to know about other MPAs (ii) what experiences / information they would like to share, (iii) suggestion / interest of future activities of NEAMPAN (e.g., workshops, training, study visits, etc.). The table below summarizes the discussion. The discussion fed into the Steering Committee meeting which was held back-to-back with the workshop.

Interested to know	Interested to share	Wish list
[TOURISM] * China: Eco-tourism * Russia: Tourism infrastructure and the way it is organized	* Japan: Sustainable tourism * ROK: Success story of eco-tour guide programme	
[MANAGEMENT] * China: Co-management with neighbor community * Japan: Promotion of integrated coastal management (Sea-land interaction) * Russia: Territory patrolling	* China: Eco-aquaculture in MPA * Japan: (1) Integrated management from the perspective of ecosystem approach; (2) Solving the conflicts among stakeholders using scientific information	

[RESEARCH] * Japan: How to evaluate and increase the value of ecosystem services of MPA * ROK: Scientific monitoring programme * Russia: Nature characteristic and rare species	* ROK: (1) Marine spatial planning within urban planning; (2) Increasing biodiversity * Russia: (1) Ecological monitoring and scientific researches; (2) Climate change	* Russia: Joint research on movement of the south species to the north
[EDUCATION/TRAINING PROGRAMME] * ROK: (1) Support local income, stakeholder training know-how; (2) Marketing strategy * Russia: Details of application for international funding	* China: (1) Student education; (2) Public awareness (China) * ROK: Citizen monitoring programme	* China: (1) Training/ study visit; (2) Participation in regional training programme (China) * ROK: Site visit and education programme for stakeholder group * Japan: (1) Co-organizing the summer school with PICES on coastal management; (2) Co-organizing the training programme with EAAFP * Russia: Study visit
[WORKSHOP]		* Japan: Workshop for developing integrated management plan under participatory system