

results are used to explore the role humans play in the coastal zone, their vulnerability to changing environments, and the options to protect coasts for future generations. The main goal of LOICZ is to provide the knowledge, understanding and prediction needed to allow coastal communities to assess, anticipate and respond to the interaction of global change and local pressures which determine coastal change.

Lessons and experiences of PEMSEA as a regional partnership mechanism in integrated coastal management program development and implementation

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The objective of this paper is to: 1) introduce the Regional Partnership Mechanism of PEMSEA, its key components, functions, roles and significance in achieving the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia; and 2) review the lessons and experiences of PEMSEA in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) program development and implementation, especially on how science can be effectively incorporated into the common framework for sustainable development of coastal areas thru ICM implementation.

PEMSEA is a regional programme that spans across the 7 million km² sea area that makes up the Seas of East Asia. From a project-based arrangement, PEMSEA entered into a new phase and transformed into a Regional Partnership Mechanism with a mandate to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). Currently the PEMSEA partnership consists of 11 State Partners, 16 Non-State Partners and other collaborators. The Partnership of PEMSEA is not the convention mechanism, but a regional partnership. The presentation will expand on the benefits and challenges of a partnership approach and why countries have agreed to such an arrangement.

Some useful experiences and lessons regarding the role of science in management and decision-making processes for coastal and ocean governance have been learned in the region (from Chua Thia-Eng, 2006. □The Dynamics of Integrated Coastal Management.□ PEMSEA.). The presentation will review some of these points, based on PEMSEA's experience in ICM program development and implementation, including, for example:

1. ICM promotes and facilitates the gathering of reliable scientific information, which has specific applications at various stages of the ICM cycle for policy and management decisions.

It is imperative that scientific advice be integrated as an essential part of the ICM program. The best way to obtain the needed scientific support and information is to involve research institution and universities in the activities of the ICM program. It also pays to develop scientific capability in local institutions, so as to sustain the provision of scientific technical information.

2. The long process of baseline research is not conducive to effective management of marine and coastal areas

In many ICM or coastal resource management programs in the past, the data-gathering stages tended to last for years. Although such an approach is helpful in formulating detailed plans of action, the downside is that the long process of information gathering and analysis often consumes a large portion of the project timeframe, and of the human and financial resources. As a consequence, the scientific reports and management plans become the final products of the project, and new projects are needed for their implementation. The reason for this situation often lies in the project design. The best approach is to include both coastal managers and scientific experts in the project design team, so that scientific concerns related to management issues are adequately considered.

Regional collaboration on coastal environmental monitoring and assessment in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

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The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) was adopted in 1994 as a part of the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme). The People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation are currently members of NOWPAP. Each member hosts one of the four Regional Activity Centres (RACs), which were responsible for individual NOWPAP activities in coordination with the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU). As one of the RACs, CEARAC (Special Monitoring & Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre) which was established in 2002 is located in Toyama, Japan is responsible