

APN-COASTAL RESEARCH AND NEW DIRECTIONS FOR INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

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The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), an intergovernmental network with a current membership of 21 member countries, aims to foster global change research in the Asia-Pacific region, increase developing country participation in that research, and strengthen links between the science community and policy makers. Of the many research projects funded by APN, a number of coastal research projects have been conducted in the Asia-Pacific region since 1997.

In 2003, APN initiated a synthesis of global change coastal zone management in the Asia-Pacific coastal zone, focusing on APN project related activities and their contribution to similar activities. The aim was to review the present status and major problems of the coastal environment and identify urgent research needs and identify future research directions for coastal environments that are relevant to the region.

This paper outlines progress on the coastal synthesis project, first by discussing the scope of the coastal zone covered by the synthesis. Second, an overview is provided of the previous APN-funded coastal projects in the region. Third, the paper makes comment on the range of institutional arrangements for coastal management in the region, using selected case studies in the context of global change research and integrated coastal management. Finally the paper examines the scope of the APN-related research in the context of various coastal research initiatives in the region, including those of other international global change programs, particularly LOICZ (Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone). The paper concludes by suggesting broad areas for future APN coastal research.