

**EMECS12
Pattaya Declaration**

Cooperative Stewardship for Integrated Management Toward Resilient Coastal Seas

The rendition by Thai students of “What a Wonderful World” (Louis Armstrong) at the EMECS12 Conference Opening Ceremony serves a strong metaphor of how people with shared knowledge and goals can achieve harmony. Engagement between stakeholders* have shown that pollution can be reduced and environments can begin the long process of recovery and restoration. But continued threats, such as a warming climate, rising seas, ocean acidification, micro-plastics, eutrophication, and harmful algal blooms will make restoration even more challenging. Further harmonization between all stakeholders to enhance resiliency while restoring enclosed coastal seas will require additional collaboration across all sectors at unprecedented levels.

Coastal seas are highly productive ecosystems that provide essential services and sustenance to society, therefore, it is critical that stakeholders work together to enhance resiliency to minimize the continued and potential impacts of these hazards and restore coastal ecosystems. Predictive tools that are estimating the rate of change under various scenarios (such as the IPCC scientific reports) continue to get stronger and can directly inform management communities from local to global scales.

THEREFORE, WE DECLARE, along the shores of the Gulf of Thailand that the international community of scientists must work even more closely with all stakeholders to apply innovative predictive tools to enhance coastal resiliency to minimize hazards that impact productivity, human health, and infrastructure ***WHILE*** continuing to actively restore these ecosystems and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This requires the harmonization of scientific, social, and educational networks focused on collaboration between stakeholders from local to global scales. We have made great progress but we must become more resilient in the face of rapid change that the world is currently experiencing.

FURTHERMORE, to show its leadership, EMECS shall voluntarily register its commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goal on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources (SDG 14).

*Stakeholders refers to: scientists, policy makers, civil society groups, youth, underserved minorities, private sector, governmental leaders, etc.