



UNDP/GEF PROJECT ENTITLED “REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS IN THE YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM”

UNDP/GEF/YS/RSP.3/11
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English only

Third Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project *Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 20-22 November 2006*

Proposal for “Yellow Sea Regional Science Conference 1”

A. Background

1. The Regional Science Conference (RSP) was included in the “Project Implementation Plan,” and approved by the First Project Steering Committee Meeting in March 2005. All together, two RSPs are planned to be organised under the auspices of the Project. The RSP was initially planned to be organised in 2006 considering the completion of the regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), and new findings would be generated from the process of preparing TDA. However, due to the later than expected period for the preparation of the TDA, the RSP is now deferred to 2007.

B. Objectives

2. By 2007, the national data reports, regional synthesis reports, and TDA will have been completed and published. Additional outputs of the project will have also been produced, and these products contain various new information about the status and trends of the Yellow Sea ecosystem that should be shared with stakeholders.
3. **The objective of the first conference is to display the scientific and environmental knowledge of the Yellow Sea, including both natural and social sciences, and discuss how the knowledge can be used for better management of the Yellow Sea, in particular, for the preparation of Strategic Action Programme (SAP).**
4. Through presentations at the conference, the results of the project will be displayed to scientists, resource managers, conservationists, and policy makers. The conference will also consist of presentations and discussions on how the Project fits with the wider scope of marine environmental issues in the Yellow Sea region.

C. Scope of the Conference

5. The Regional Science Conference will contain presentations and discussions on what affects ecosystem productivity, and how the current knowledge may be used for better management of the Yellow Sea as the ultimate goal of the project.

6. The proposed 3-day conference will focus Day 1 and Day 2 on scientific issues. The remainder of the conference will shift its focus to management aspects, and end with a panel discussion about how to better manage the Yellow Sea.
7. The Panel Discussion session will consist of 1 to 2 presentations, followed by a brief question/answer period, and then a discussion.

D. Proposed Topics

<p>Session 1 - What Do We Know?</p> <p>Nutrient Budgets - N, P, C, Si: Why do we need to know? How to calculate the budget, and current estimated YS budget</p> <p>New species of harmful algal blooms</p> <p>Fisheries food provision (production): How to sustain production with demand Health of Yellow Sea fisheries through bio-indicators How to better use trash fish and by-catch</p> <p>Protection of vulnerable species</p>
<p>Session 2 - New & Emerging Issues</p> <p>Advanced HAB detection methods</p> <p>Jellyfish Events: perceived causes; impacts to YS; impacts to society</p>
<p>Session 3 - Positive Impacts to Ecosystem Productivity</p> <p>Nutrient removal with polyculture</p> <p>Habitat Restoration: Benefits of seaweed beds in mariculture</p>
<p>Session 4 - Negative Impacts to Ecosystem Productivity</p> <p>Pollution Hot Spots: sources, sinks, impacts Harmful Algal Blooms: effects on human health Harmful Algal Blooms: effects on other organisms</p> <p>Need for control of introduced species</p> <p>Habitat Modification: Reclaimed lands, sand mining</p> <p>Chemicals & disease from mariculture Sewage discharge from mariculture Genetic contamination of wild stocks from mariculture</p>
<p>Session 5 - From Science to Management</p> <p>Over-fishing: Increased demand for fisheries food sources Over-fishing: Fishing user rights, legislative requirements, current situation, and potential harmonisation</p> <p>Alternative livelihoods for ex-fishermen</p> <p>Critical habitats and potential management options</p> <p>MPA: Success story for increased population of endangered species</p>

Economics of Coastal Management (with MPA, user rights, and mariculture valuation as examples)

Environmental Governance (incl. legislation, regional agreement, and Public Awareness)

Session 6 - PANEL DISCUSSION

1-2 presentations on management at regional level or the SAP

Then discussion on:

Regional management of Yellow Sea Ecosystem Resource Use

E. Target Participants

8. As a science conference, the main audience will be scientists from within and outside the region. Other participants will also be invited, as the project is a science-based, policy and management-related project:

- RWG, RSTP, PSC members
- Regional scientists
- Scientists working on other LMEs
- Policy makers in the region
- NGOs and YS Partners

F. Collaboration With Other Institutes/Regional Programmes

9. The conference may be organised in collaboration with other regional programmes and sponsoring offices, such as IOC-WESTPAC, FAO, PEMSEA, UNEP, NOWPAP, COBSEA, SEA START RC.

G. Logistical Arrangements

Number of participants: 50-60

Duration: 3 days

Proposed Dates: April / May 2007

Venue: The conference should be held in an economical and “neutral” place so that participants from all countries may attend and have easy access to the venue. Suggestions are: China or Bangkok.