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

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UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-I.3/4  
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English only

**Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group  
for the Investment Component**  
*Dalian, China, 9-12 September 2006*

**Expected Outputs from the 3<sup>rd</sup> RWG-I Meeting**

After nearly two years of implementation, the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project has almost completed its first major output, the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), and will be focusing on its second major output, the Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

At the Third Regional Working Group – Investment (RWG-I) Meeting, members and participants will:

- review the completed and on-going activities under the Investment Component from 2005 to 2006, including public awareness activities, NGO and private sector’s membership in PSC, and data and information management;
- review the draft TDA as well as the Governance Analysis and offer comments on the documents; and
- discuss and agree on future activities to prepare the SAP, including the activities for Environmental Valuation and for Financial Sustainability.

**\*\*\* The discussion and agreement on future activities will be the highlight of the meeting and should focus on activities that will contribute to the development of the SAP. \*\*\***

The expected outputs from the meeting are listed below.

**A. Stakeholder Involvement, Public Awareness and Participation**

The meeting will review the relevant activities organised since the last RWG-I meeting. Special note should be given to the fact that a wide participation of the stakeholders were involved in the project activities, including parliamentary members, local governmental officials, NGOs, local communities, youth groups, etc.

During the next phase of the project implementation, i.e. preparation of the SAP, it is crucial that wider participation of the stakeholders in the process will be useful and beneficial for the preparation, approval and implementation of the SAP.

A set of recommendations for on-going public awareness are necessary for the future implementation of relevant activities.

- Parliamentary Conference

The Parliamentary Conference held in March 2006 has been a successful practice in bringing the legislators, managers and scientists together for better understanding of the environmental problems in the Yellow Sea region and addressing these problems better in the future work. The Conference felt that the mechanism established by the conference is a very useful and effective mechanism in the region to bring the attention of parliaments to the serious problems of marine environment, and proposed to have regular meetings of the parliamentary members, with broader participation of NGOs, local governments and other countries in the region. The next Conference is proposed to be held in the Republic of Korea in 2007, based on cost sharing principle.

Participants of this meeting will be invited to consider the recommendation, and provide guidelines for future implementation of this activity.

- Yellow Sea Partnership (YSP)

The Yellow Sea Partnership was initiated by members participated in the First YSP Workshop at Beijing in March 2006. It is a basic framework for co-ordinated actions of the numerous groups involved in YSP, which presently includes UN organisations/projects, international NGOs, local NGOs, research institutes, etc.. The partnership is open and available for participation by other organisations representing scientific, academic, governmental, non-governmental, international stakeholders, the general public and private sectors as well.

The participants will be invited to give their recommendations on the activities to be implemented from 2007 onwards under YSP.

- Small Grants Programme

In order to invite more participation and build capacities of the stakeholders, especially of the NGOs and local communities, the project has established a Small Grants Programme, with the initial focus on education for the coastal communities in 2006. A total 23 proposals were submitted to the PMO. After careful, extensive review by the Review Panel, six proposals were selected and became recipients of the Small Grants Programme.

Participants will be invited to review the current implementation of the Small Grants Programme, and give recommendations on the running of such a programme and what objectives should future Small Grant projects be focused on.

- Youth Programme

The Youth Programme was initiated with the objectives to promote understanding of young generations about the marine and coastal environment in the Yellow Sea, and to encourage them to take actions to

protect the marine and coastal environment and promote appropriate use of the natural resources in the Yellow Sea. A youth pub for Korean middle school and high school students has been planned, and two 3-day tours will be organised in mid-September and mid-October respectively for these students.

The target of the Youth Programme would be the youth groups in the Yellow Sea's coastal region. Similar actions will be taken to involve the students on the other side of the Yellow Sea. Participants will be invited to give their recommendations on how to implement the Youth Programme in China next year, and further recommendations for joint youth activities, if appropriate, with participation of students from all participating countries.

- Local government training

As one of the major stakeholders, local government is playing important roles in protecting the marine environment and promoting sustainable use of the marine and coastal resources in the Yellow Sea. It is also expected that the local governments in the region would greatly contribute to the preparation and implementation of the TDA, SAP and NYSAPs.

The first local government training workshop has been planned and will take place in Jeju, R. Korea during 26-28 September, 2006, with focus on how to harmonise the environment protection with economic development in the Yellow Sea region.

The scheme for the next local governmental training is proposed to be focused on the enforcement of legislations, and with intention to organise the workshop in China.

Participants will be invited to review the activities planned and to provide guidelines on future implementation, including the next workshop.

- Internship programme

With an objective to upgrade capacities of the Project's participating countries in management and operation of regional and international marine environment-related projects, the Internship Programme for 2006 was opened for applications from (but not limited to) the coastal countries of the Yellow Sea in January, 2006. Two interns, one from each country, have been selected and started their six-month work in PMO.

The both interns have prepared their workplan. From performance of the intern from Korea (after 5 months), clear improvement in understanding UN operation system and project implementation can be easily observed.

Participants will be invited to consider how best to use the intern after working in the PMO.

## **B. NGO and private sector's membership in PSC**

During the preparation of the project, it was widely understood by the governments of the participating countries and the project partners that involvement of NGOs and private sectors are critically important for the success of the project. It was agreed in

the Project Document that the representatives of NGOs and private sectors should be involved in the PSC.

A provisional guideline on NGO and private sector's membership in PSC was worked out after the last PSC meeting. Participants will be invited to review the draft document and provide recommendations to the PSC on this issue.

#### **C. Data and Information Management**

A meta-database and GIS database were established in the China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Centre located in Qingdao. The 2<sup>nd</sup> RWG-I meeting agreed that members of RWG-I will review the data requirements identified by the RWGs, and if necessary, additional data requirement for governance analysis and environmental valuation, and these additional requirements should be sent to PMO so as to be included into the GIS database.

The participants will be invited to review the implementation of this project, in particular the current GIS and Meta databases, and provide recommendations on

- (i) how to improve the current databases ;
- (ii) what are the requirements for providing services to users through internet;
- (iii) how to establish mirror sites in R. Korea and PMO;
- (iv) technical considerations on maintenance; and
- (v) how the current databases could be linked with other data system in the region.

#### **D. Governance Analysis**

The objectives of Governance Analysis are to understand the underling root causes of ecosystem problems, and to identify possible options for intervention. To achieve these objectives, the following three analytical works are conducted: Stakeholder Analysis, Institutional Analysis, and Legal/policy Analysis.

The final reports of Governance Analysis have been prepared by the relevant institutions in the participating countries. The meeting will invite participants to consider the results of the analysis, and provide guidelines on how results and recommendation can be included in the preparation of SAP. It should be noted that the SAP need to be approved by the governments of the participating countries.

#### **E. Draft of TDA**

A Preliminary Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis was prepared as part of the Project Preparation exercise under the PDF-B for the YSLME Project, which served the purpose for GEF to better understand the environmental problems in the Yellow Sea. With the full GEF project being implemented, the full TDA will be prepared under the auspices of YSLME project. Based on the activities to collect existing data and information on marine environment and preparation of regional syntheses, a consultant has been hired to prepare the TDA from August to December 2006, and a draft TDA is ready for the meeting to review.

Members will be invited to review the draft TDA, with special reference to the sections relevant to the governance analysis, and offer there inputs for the revised version of the TDA.

**F. Environmental Valuation**

A draft guideline for valuing environmental services in the Yellow Sea was prepared and submitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSTP meeting. The meeting agreed to focus on tourism and mariculture as initial case studies. The valuation study for mariculture should be completed by August 2006, and the other targets including commercial fisheries will be identified and addressed at a later stage when necessary.

The participants will give recommendations on 1) how the findings of the implemented Environmental Valuation case study (mariculture) could be used for the development of a regional valuation guideline; 2) what topics and/or requirements should be discussed in the regional valuation guideline; 3) how the Environmental Valuation, in particular the cost and benefit analysis could be applied in the SAP; and 4) other targets to be identified and addressed.

**G. National Co-ordination and Implementation**

It is one of the objectives of the project to enhance national co-ordination in protecting the Yellow Sea. Effective co-ordination will not only ensure smooth implementation of the project, ensure successful preparation and approval of the regional Strategic Action Programme, but also contribute to the sustainability of the project's benefits to the region. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting, it was recommended that a multi-ministry IMCC, and appropriate linkages and co-operation with all relevant national projects in the Yellow Sea should be established.

Based on the current situations in the participating countries, participants will be invited to give recommendations on how to improve the national co-ordination functions, and discuss and agree on the plan of training workshop on report writing to strengthen national institutions.

**H. Financial Sustainability**

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> RWG-I meetings have explored a number of possibilities to secure financial sustainability. A preliminary consideration on financial sustainability was prepared by the PMO.

The participants will be invited to consider the documents prepared by PMO, and provide recommendations to prepare the strategy. The meeting will also discuss and agree upon the plan of training workshop on fund raising to strengthen financial sustainability.

**I. Other Activities to be Implemented from 2007 Onwards**

Other proposed activities to be presented to the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel for review, and to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for approval.

**J. Work plan**

Agreed work plan with the activities and schedule of implementation for 2007 to 2009

**K. 4th RWG-I Meeting**

Agreed date and venue of 4<sup>th</sup> RWG-I Meeting