

## **NOWPAP / PICES / WESTPAC Joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis**

In collaboration with the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), the Special Monitoring & Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC), one of the four Regional Activity Centres (RACs) of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), will conduct an intensive training course at V.I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute in Vladivostok, Russia from October 8 – 12, 2011 on the analysis of remote sensing data, with a focus on the Northwest Pacific Ocean. The course will consist of lectures by experts and hands-on tutorial sessions on analysis of satellite data. This training course aims at providing opportunities for students, young researchers and coastal managers to obtain useful skills and knowledge to utilize remote sensing data to monitor and assess the coastal and marine environment.

Financial support will be available for limited number of participants and deadline for submission of application is 30 June 2011. More details are available at this link:

[http://cearac.nowpap.org/monitoring/3rdRST/1st\\_Announcement.html](http://cearac.nowpap.org/monitoring/3rdRST/1st_Announcement.html)

This is the third time that NOWPAP jointly organizes such training course with partners in the region since 2007.

## **5th International Marine Debris Conference**

Representatives of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit and Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre joined more than 400 participants from all over the world at the 5th International Marine Debris Conference held on 20-25 March 2011 in Hawaii. Co-organized by US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and UNEP, the meeting produced two important documents: [the Honolulu Commitment](#) and Honolulu Strategy for the prevention, reduction and management of marine debris.

NOWPAP, along with several other Regional Seas programs (OSPAR, COBSEA, Caribbean and SPREP), has contributed to the success of the event through actively participating in the development of the Honolulu Strategy during and prior to the meeting as well as introducing NOWPAP efforts in the fight against marine litter in the region. It is expected that the Honolulu Commitment and Strategy will be reflected in the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the future. NGO partners of NOWPAP, such as JEAN in Japan and OSEAN in the Republic Korea, also presented their respective activities in organizing and promoting the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaigns in the region, contributing to the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

The conference provided a good opportunity for NOWPAP for further networking with other major players, including UNEP, Ocean Conservancy and NOAA.