

# Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in The Seas Of East Asia Region

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## Ministerial Forum Third East Asian Seas Congress

Manila, Philippines  
26 November 2009

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1. We, the representatives of the countries of the Seas of East Asia region, have gathered this day in Manila to discuss policies and actions for bringing into realization the shared vision of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as adopted through the Putrajaya Declaration in 2003, and to review and evaluate progress towards priority targets for SDS-SEA implementation, as adopted through the Haikou Partnership Agreement in 2006.
2. We recognize the important role of coasts and oceans in providing valuable resources and services in the development of our economies and the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals across the region. We therefore acknowledge the need for continuing efforts to realize the SDS-SEA objectives, facilitating the fulfillment of global and regional commitments, as well as responding to common threats posed by uncontrolled development of coastal areas, poverty, resource degradation and marine pollution from land- and sea-based sources.
3. We acknowledge that our region is vulnerable to various impacts of climate change, which include frequent and extreme weather events, flooding, water shortage, acidification of the oceans and seas, salt water intrusion, sea level rise and other environmental emergencies that we all face. We stress that the impacts of **climate change cut across** various areas and issues including water resources, food security and livelihood, pollution, hazards and disaster, as well as biological diversity.
4. We recognize that our region needs to enhance its capacity building efforts in order to adequately reduce the risks posed by climate change to sustainable development.
5. We acknowledge that Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) is a valuable tool in achieving sustainable development and climate change adaptation, as affirmed in the Manado Ocean Declaration adopted by the World Ocean Conference held in Manado, Indonesia, in May 2009, and as an effective mechanism towards the broader goals of sustainable development in various other instruments such as the Bali Plan of Action of the APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting, the Agenda 21, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

6. We are encouraged by the progress made by the countries of the region over the past three years in SDS-SEA implementation, particularly with regard to the formulation and implementation of national policies and action plans for sustainable coastal and ocean development, and the initiation of national and subnational ICM programmes to achieve on-the-ground improvements in managing and sustaining marine and coastal resources. We acknowledge that ICM has been developed, demonstrated and applied at various locations across the region for the past 15 years as a systematic approach to achieving sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment and resources, specifically through on-the-ground implementation by local governments. We note that the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) was instrumental in this effort.
7. We will continue to work together constructively to meet our regional targets, as set in the Haikou Partnership Agreement to implement ICM programmes in at least 20 percent of the Region's coasts and adopt national coastal and ocean policies in 70 percent of the countries by 2015. We see the urgency of addressing the pressing issues due to climate change as integral to these adopted targets.
8. We take note of the recent progress made in the transformation of PEMSEA into a self-sustained regional mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, and whose comparative advantage is the experience and knowledge gained from almost two decades of ICM practice.
9. We will strengthen and accelerate the implementation of ICM for sustainable development and climate change adaptation, where appropriate, in accordance with the following priorities:
  - a. Setting up sub-regional and national coordinating mechanisms for strengthening existing mechanisms to oversee and guide the implementation of ICM programmes;
  - b. Mainstreaming ICM into development plans and programmes at the sub-regional, national and local levels, including the conservation, rehabilitation and management of sub-regional seas and related watershed areas;
  - c. Delineating highly vulnerable coastal areas, coastal communities and resources and habitats, as well as vulnerable sectors of society, including the poor, women and the youth, and strengthening their capacity to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change;
  - d. Developing and applying land- and sea-use zoning plans and schemes;
  - e. Implementing capacity building and technical assistance programmes to strengthen leadership capacities, skills and scientific and technical capabilities, including local governments' capacity to develop and implement ICM programmes;
  - f. Applying ICM good practices as guidance in developing and implementing ICM programmes;
  - g. Employing a range of new and alternative financing mechanisms to develop, implement and sustain ICM programmes and managing available funds in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner;
  - h. Carrying out habitat restoration and management programmes, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, coastal wetlands and mangroves, and establishing marine protected areas, as appropriate, based on scientifically sound information, in order to improve the natural defenses of coastal and marine ecosystem to the impacts of climate change and to enhance carbon sequestration capacities of relevant habitats;
  - i. Formulating and implementing disaster risk management programmes including preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural and man-made disasters; and
  - j. Sharing information and knowledge on the development and application of innovative policies, legislation, technologies and practices in support of ICM programmes, as well as the social, economic and environmental benefits being derived.
10. We will report on the progress of ICM programmes every three years, including the measures taken for climate change adaptation.
11. We call on PEMSEA, as the regional mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, to undertake the development of the Implementation Plan for the SDS-SEA in 2010 for consideration by countries, to facilitate the scaling up of ICM programmes in countries across the region and to promote regional cooperation in education and training activities related to ICM and climate change adaptation, taking into account the Haikou Partnership Agreement.

12. We encourage Non-Country Partners, international organizations, donors, scientific and research organizations, the academe, local governments, communities, and individuals to play active roles in the development of the region's capacity in implementing ICM, protecting the environment and pursuing climate change adaptation measures.
13. We encourage the cooperation and support of relevant local governments and authorities in implementing ICM scaling up programmes and, where applicable, to mainstream such programmes into their local development plans.
14. We support the efforts of the global community to address the interrelationship between climate change and the coasts and oceans. We will contribute to these global efforts, through ICM implementation and the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.


Adopted in Manila, Philippines this Twenty Sixth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Nine.

**The Kingdom of Cambodia**



**H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth**  
Senior Minister  
Minister  
The Ministry of Environment

**The People's Republic of China**



**Hon. Sun Zhihui**  
Administrator  
State Oceanic Administration

**The Democratic People's Republic of Korea**



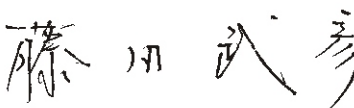
**Hon. Choe Yon**  
Vice Minister  
Ministry of foreign Trade

**Republic of Indonesia**



**Hon. Masnolhyarti Hillman**  
Deputy Minister  
The Ministry of Environment

**Japan**



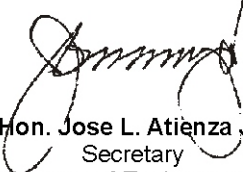
**Hon. Takehiko Fujita**  
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**Lao People's Democratic Republic**



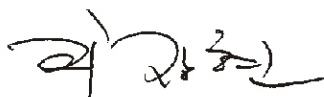
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**Hon. Choi, Jang-Hyun**  
Vice Minister  
Ministry of Land, Transport and  
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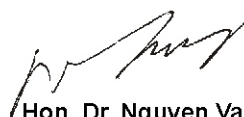
**Hon. Dr. Amy Khor**  
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Ministry of Natural Resources  
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Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia