



## First Steering Committee Meeting of North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN)

19-20 March 2014, Incheon, Republic of Korea

### Report of the Steering Committee

1. NEASPEC organized the first meeting of Steering Committee of North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) on 19-20 March 2014 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, to facilitate planning of the Network activities by discussing programme details and organizational matters.
2. The Meeting brought together members and alternate members of the Steering Committee from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, and international marine programmes including the Northwest of Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), and Mediterranean Network of Marine Protected Areas (MedPAN), and East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).
3. The Secretariat introduced the background paper, providing background of the network and identifying some of the issues to be discussed by the Committee.
4. The Meeting invited other MPA networks and subregional marine programmes to share their experiences and relevant programmes/activities in order to draw lessons for NEAMPAN. Subsequently, the Steering Committee members presented information on the details of the national MPA policies and arrangements, including MPA status, relevant legislations, challenges and suggestions for the Network. Based on the information provided by the Steering Committee members and the experiences of other MPA networks, the Meeting discussed the similarities and differences of scope and definition of target MPAs in member States, selection criteria of target MPAs, potential priority activities, process of project proposal, review and approval, organizational matters including the Network and Steering/Advisory Committee membership, and budgetary matters.
5. The Steering Committee endorsed the Terms of Reference of the Committee (Annex) prepared by the Secretariat, and adopted the following conclusions:
  - a. **Target MPAs:** The Meeting has agreed to start with a smaller number of MPAs and target MPAs will be nominated by respective governments through Steering Committee

members. When selecting MPAs, Steering Committee members can refer to national priorities, NEAMPAN's thematic areas, key sites identified by EAAFP and MPAs of other networks. A profile of each selected MPA will be provided by Steering Committee members, containing information on: area, geographic location, biodiversity, areas of concern, institutional arrangement, managerial issues, purposes and reasons of nominating the particular MPA, etc. Steering Committee will provide profiles of selected MPAs by end of May.

**b. NEAMPAN members:** The Meeting has agreed that NEAMPAN will have memberships without differentiation. The Steering Committee will extend invitation to national members. As for international agencies and associations, the Secretariat will circulate a list of suggested members to Steering Committee for comments and approval for extending invitation.

**c. Steering Committee:** The Terms of Reference of Steering Committee has been accepted by the Steering Committee for submission to the SOM, with the correction that formal meetings of the Steering Committee will take place biennially and informal meetings may take place whenever deemed appropriate.

**d. Process of project proposal, review and approval:** The Steering Committee has agreed that proposals will be provided to the Advisory Committee for technical comments and be submitted to the Steering Committee for final decision. Steering Committee members will be required to provide views on proposed activities within the specified deadline, otherwise the absence of a response will be considered as a 'no-objection'.

**e. Advisory Committee:** The Meeting has decided that: (1) Advisory Committee will provide technical advice to the Steering Committee, e.g. for proposal approval; (2) Advisory Committee will serve a 4-year term and be renewed upon review of the Steering Committee; (3) there is no fixed number of Advisory Committee members; and (4) Advisory Committee members will consist of individual experts nominated by the Steering Committee and international agencies or programs proposed by the Secretariat and approved by the Steering Committee.

**f. Budgetary matters:** The Steering Committee will make recommendations to the SOM on the matters related to the additional allocation of the Core Fund for proposed network activities.

6. The Steering Committee members agreed to select MPAs and provide information on MPAs including some stress/ managerial issues related to each MPA, identification of stakeholders. Secretariat is requested to provide a template for submission of information.

[Annex]

## **Terms of Reference of Steering Committee**

### **1. Membership**

The Committee consists of one member and one alternate member each nominated by the respective government.

### **2. Frequency of meetings**

The Committee meetings are convened bi-annually to plan activities of the NEAMPAN.

### **3. Reporting mechanism**

The Committee reports to the Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC on its recommendations and matters that require attention / decision of the SOM.

### **4. Function of the Committee**

- Provides the policy and operational guidance for the NEAMPAN within the current programme agreed by SOM of NEASPEC
- Plans activities of the NEAMPAN
- Reviews and provides guidance on new activities proposed by the NEAMPAN members, in light of the current framework of programme and budget
- Make recommendations on new programmes and budgetary matters, if required, to SOM of NEASPEC for consideration
- Monitors and reviews ongoing activities as well as network operation
- Establish an Advisory Committee by nominating its members

### **5. Responsibility of Committee Members**

Liaise with relevant offices of the national government as well as target MPAs selected to participate in NEAMPAN activities.