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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/PSC.3/5  
Date: 8 November 2006  
English only

**Third Meeting of the Project Steering Committee  
for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**  
*Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 23-24 November 2006*

**Progress Report on Involvement of DPR Korea in the Project**

**1 Background Information**

During the PDF-B phase, there were extensive efforts to involve the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the project design and planning, and finally participate in the project. On 26 March 1999, a final confirmation was received by UNDP indicated that DPRK will not participate in the project. A copy of the communication is attached Annex I to this document.

The Project was endorsed and implemented with participation of PR. China, and R. Korea.

**2 Decisions of the PSC at Its First and Second Meeting**

At the First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (Seoul, R. Korea, 7-8 March 2005), the meeting instructed the PMO to take necessary actions to contact DPRK, and a proposal should be prepared by the PMO on the strategy to involve DPRK.

At the Second Meeting, the PSC further agreed that

*The Meeting expressed its appreciation to SHMA, DPRK for inviting Mr. Yihang JIANG, the Project Manager of the YSLME and Mr. Wenxi ZHU, Representative of SOA, China to SHMA to explain the Project and to explore the possibility of DPRK’s participation, and for sending a delegation to attend the meeting as observers. The PSC instructed the PMO to continue working with the relevant national authorities of DPRK to facilitate its full participation in the YSLME Project.*

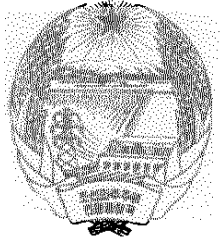
**3 Implementation of the Decision**

Following the decisions of the PSC, following actions were taken:

- (i) the Project Manager visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), 12-16 July 2005, together with a representative (Mr. Wenxi Zhu) from one of the project's participating countries. The details of the visit were reported to the PSC at its Second Meeting;
- (ii) Taking the opportunity of the 2nd Technical Meeting for the Co-operative Cruises organised in Qingdao, and a DPR Korean delegation visiting the First Institute of Oceanography, a meeting to discuss potential participation of the country in the project was organised in Qingdao, 27 April 2006. The meeting was attended by Mr. JANG Hyon and Mr. LI Jong Chol, from the State Hydrometeorological Administration, DPR Korea, Mr. Wenxi Zhu and Mr. Wen Quan from State Oceanic Administration, China and the Project Manager. The experts from DPR Korea expressed again their interest to participate in the project. The issue of communication between DPR Korea and PMO was discussed, and a possible "virtual office" may be set up for assisting communication.
- (iii) For the follow-up from the previous meeting, the Project Manager proposed another meeting during the 3rd meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Pollution component. The meeting was attended by Mr. Nam Chol, Director, International Co-operation Department, State Hydrometeorologic Administration (SHMA), his colleague and the Project Manager. During the meeting, Mr. Nam expressed two concerns: (i) communication between DPR Korea and the PMO; and (ii) meeting venues. The Project Manager clarified the situation. As a follow-up action, an e-mail was sent to Mr. Ko Il Hun, Administrator, State Hydrometeorological Administration (SHMA), Pyongyang, DPR of Korea to explain the clarifications in writing.

#### **4 Current Status**

Formal Endorsement Letter was received at the PMO on 2 November 2006, which is attached as Annex II to this document.



조선민주주의인민공화국  
환경민족조정위원회

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
National Coordinating Committee for Environment

P.O.B: 44. Pyongyang  
Phone: 850-2-3827222  
Telex: 5350KP/5351KP  
Fax: 850-2-3814660

26 March, Juche(88) 1999

Mr. Lemaire

I acknowledge receipt of the letter of Mr. Dennis Fenton, Manager of the Environment and Energy Cluster addressed to you dated 24 February 1999 on the Korean West Sea / Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project.

As you have been already informed, we expressed our position not to participate in the above - mentioned Project through my letter to you dated 12 June 1997 and the letter of Chairman, NCCE to Mr. Nay H Tun, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director for Asia & the Pacific dated 3 December 1997 in view of the present situation in the Korean peninsula.

Our position on that issue remains unchanged.

I, expressing thanks to you for your continuous cooperation with us, wish you successes in your responsible work.

Yours sincerely, *ms*

UNDP PYONGYANG *ms* Hung Sik  
Secretary General

FILE	<i>ms</i>	<i>ms</i>
	29 MAR 1999	
GR	✓	<i>29/3</i>
CCR	✓	<i>29/3-99</i>
WHA		
AP/PA		
<i>UN</i>		✓

Mr. Christian Lemaire  
Resident Representative  
and UN Coordinator  
Pyongyang

010-68024627



조선민주주의인민공화국 환경민족조정위원회

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
National Coordinating Committee for Environment

P O Box 44 Pyongyang, Tel. 850-2-18111(381 8370), Fax 850-2-381 4960

October 30, Juche 95 (2006)

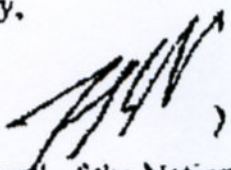
Dear Mr. Yihang Jiang,

**Subject: Participation of DPR Korea in the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Government of Democratic People's Republic of Korea has decided to join the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project and for the successful implementation of the project, the State Hydro-Meteorological Administration would act as the national focal agency of the Project under the coordination of the National Coordinating Committee for Environment.

Best Regards.

Yours sincerely,

  
RI Hung Sik  
Secretary-General of the National of NCCE  
GEF Focal Point

Mr. Yihang Jiang  
Project Manager  
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project Office