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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/SPSC.1/3  
Date: 25 April 2006  
English only

**Special Meeting of the Project Steering Committee  
for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**  
*Qingdao, China, 25 April 2006*

**Report of the Meeting**



## 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

### 1.1 Welcome addresses

1.1.1 Mr. JIANG Yihang, the Project Manager, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants to Qingdao. He stated that the objective of the Special Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) was to discuss the co-operative study cruises. Mr. Jiang stated that more details about this issue would be presented for discussion during Agenda 4. He then invited Mr. SUN Shuxian, President of First Institute of Oceanography (FIO), to give the Opening Speech.

1.1.2 On behalf of FIO, Mr. Sun extended a warm welcome to all participants, and stated that he was happy to meet participants from Republic of Korea, China and Project Management Office (PMO). He believed that, as all participants have a good knowledge of FIO, he would not introduce the Institute in great detail. For many years, FIO has contributed to marine resources protection and sustainable use of marine resources, and Mr. Sun believed that the active and co-operative involvement of many institutes and agencies would promote sustainable development of the Yellow Sea. Mr. Sun reiterated FIO's strong willingness to contribute to the Project, and invited participants from Korea to visit FIO at any time to further co-operative efforts. In closing, Mr. Sun apologised for not being able to fully attend the meeting due to previous engagements, and wished everyone a good stay in Qingdao and a successful meeting.

1.1.3 Mr. Jiang invited Mr. LI Haiqing to give an opening speech on behalf of the State Oceanic Administration and as National Project Co-ordinator (NPC) for China. Mr. Li warmly welcomed the Korean participants and the PMO team. He stated that many achievements had been made through all parties working closely together, such as the establishment of the Regional Working Groups (RWGs), the success of the Parliament Conference and its role as a model for co-operative activity in the future. Mr. Li was happy to see that the spirit of partnership had become a reality. Designing a joint cruise is not a common event for Global Environment Facility Projects, and Mr. Li felt that "mutual understanding" and "co-operation" are key words for continued success. He suggested that the Meeting consider the following:

- 1) appreciate the problems at hand, and in the spirit of co-operation, seek solutions to the problems;
- 2) share a common long-term vision, recognising that co-operation should focus on solving the easy issues first and the harder ones later; and
- 3) always move ahead to realise the goals. The steps may be small, but bit by bit, the goal is achievable.

Finally, Mr. Li thanked Mr. Sun for opening the meeting, and for FIO's arrangements and support to the meeting. He wished the meeting full success, and wished everyone an enjoyable stay in Qingdao.

1.1.4 Mr. Jiang invited Mr. PARK Heung Kyeong to give his opening speech on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK). Mr. Park extended his gratitude to the PMO and Chinese host for the meeting's arrangements. He stated that the Meeting should explore the way forward to overcome the difficulties faced during project implementation. Although the four environmental Project components are related and should be addressed in a cross-component fashion in principle, but at the same time, the Meeting also needs compromise and flexibility to reach solutions, in the spirit of regional co-operation.

## **1.2 Introduction of the members**

- 1.2.1 Participants were invited to give self-introductions. On behalf of the Principal Project Representative (UNDP-Seoul Office), Mr. Jiang conveyed a message from the UNDP Resident Representative, who was unable to attend, that UNDP wished the meeting every success.
- 1.2.2 The list of participants is attached as [Annex I](#) to this report.

## **2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

### **2.1 Election of Officers**

- 2.1.1 Mr. Jiang informed the meeting of an Informal Consultation with the Project Manager, NPCs, and PSC members prior to the meeting. It was proposed at the Informal Consultation that there should be two co-chairpersons for the meeting.
- 2.1.2 Members agreed that Mr. Li and Mr. Park should serve as co-chairpersons for the meeting. The Meeting agreed with the suggestion, and Mr. Li and Mr. Park were duly elected by acclamation.
- 2.1.3 The PMO served as Rapporteur and Secretariat.

### **2.2 Documentation Available to the Meeting**

- 2.2.1 The Co-Chairperson invited the PMO to introduce this agenda item. Ms. Connie Chiang explained the two kinds of documents to be used at the meeting (Document UNDP/GEF/YS/SPSC.1/inf.1): 1) "Working Documents;" and 2) "Information Documents," noting that the Working Documents were for the Meeting to consider and approve, while the Information Documents were for participants' reference.
- 2.2.2 Ms. Chiang noted that the information document referring to the proposed research vessel's details was not included, as the information was not received before the start of the meeting, but was now available. Participants requested this information which the Secretariat duly provided.

### **2.3 Organisation of Work**

- 2.3.1 The Co-Chairperson invited the PMO to introduce this agenda item. Mr. Jiang explained and proposed the working programme for the meeting, referring to Document UNDP/GEF/YS/JC.2/inf.3.
- 2.3.2 **The Meeting agreed on the proposed programme, and was organised in plenary.** It was also agreed that working groups would be formed when necessary.
- 2.3.3 The meeting was conducted in English.

### 3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

- 3.1 The Co-Chairperson introduced the Provisional Agenda (Document UNDP/GEF/YS/SPSC.1/1) and the Provisional Annotated Agenda (Document UNDP/GEF/YS/SPSC.1/2), and invited participants to provide comments on these documents.
- 3.2 **The Meeting agreed and approved the Agenda** without change, which is attached as [Annex II](#) to this report.

### 4. CONSIDERATION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE STUDY CRUISES

#### 4.1 Report of Current Status Since the Last PSC Meeting

- 4.1.1 Mr. Jiang reported on the developments for the approval of the co-operative study cruises since the last Regional Science and Technical Panel (RSTP) and PSC Meetings held in December 2005, referring to Document UNDP/GEF/YS/SPSC.1/4.
- 4.1.2 Mr. Jiang highlighted some of the relevant results from the above-mentioned meetings, in particular, the postponement of the winter cruise, the agreed observation stations for the spring cruise, and the agreement that a spring cruise should be organised in May 2006. He reported that the NPC of China has contributed considerable efforts to get approval from his government.
- 4.1.3 Mr. Jiang also mentioned the brief meeting of NPCs held during the Parliament Conference in Qingdao, China, March 2006, where the NPC of Republic of Korea ensured that approval from ROK would not take very long once the approval by China was obtained. The NPC's Meeting agreed that: 1) the NPC of China would continue to seek approval for the spring cruise, and keep the PMO and NPC of Korea informed of developments; 2) if approval from China for the original cruise plans cannot be sought, then the spring cruise would be implemented with the approved components, while the NPC of China would continue to seek approval for the remaining component; and 3) a special PSC Meeting should be organised, followed by a technical meeting for planning the co-operative study cruises.
- 4.1.4 Mr. Jiang reported that the latest information regarding approval from the Government of China will not be in time for the spring cruise to cover all components. Based on the Project's objectives, implementation schedule, and function of the cruise data in relation to the Project's objectives, two options were presented: 1) consider implementing a spring cruise for the approved components; or 2) postponing the spring cruise and waiting for the full approval from the Government of China.
- 4.1.5 In closing his report, Mr. Jiang expressed his appreciation to all parties and individuals for their co-operative spirit and actions expressed during the informal consultations leading up to this meeting.
- 4.1.6 Before beginning the discussions, Mr. Jiang suggested that, in order to achieve the most effective results, all participants should be forthright in their opinions and engage in the discussions in a frank manner. **All participants agreed with the suggestion.**
- 4.1.7 Mr. SHIN Won-Tae asked for clarification on the approval status. Mr. Jiang replied that according to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, any scientific co-

operative cruise requires applying for approval from the coastal countries at least 6 months before the start of the cruise.

## 4.2 Arrangements for the Spring Cruise

- 4.2.1 To initiate the discussions, the Co-Chairperson invited Mr. ZHU Mingyuan to present China's proposed preliminary plan for the spring cruise. Mr. Zhu gave a brief overview of the proposed cruise, including parameters to be sampled and observed, observation stations, CPR measurements, and shallow sediment core samplings, proposed number and types of scientists to be on board, choices for available research vessels, and proposed dates for all cruises (May and November 2006, August 2006 and January 2007, or November 2006 and April 2007). The facilities of the available vessels were also shown.
- 4.2.2 Mr. HUH Hyung-Tack pointed out that the proposal did not mention surveys using specific scientific equipment, which would assist the Ecosystem Component to better understand the marine ecosystem in the Yellow Sea.
- 4.2.3 Following the presentation and clarifications, extensive discussions were held, focusing on the issues that would make the spring cruise more scientifically and environmentally sound.
- 4.2.4 Regarding data and sample sharing of the cruises, it was clarified that the data and samples to be shared by the participating countries, that are shown in the cruise plan, will be included in the application. With the approval of the co-operative cruises, the data and samples listed in the application will be shared accordingly. **The Meeting understood the procedure and agreed to follow it.**
- 4.2.5 The meeting expressed its appreciation to the efforts made by the NPC of China on this important matter, and noted the procedure of the approval of data and samples sharing.
- 4.2.6 The Meeting discussed the issue of plankton sampling, and agreed that the Ecosystem Component's zooplankton survey should cover all possible types of plankton.
- 4.2.7 The Meeting discussed extensively on the specific equipment to be used in the cruise, and the observation stations of the spring cruise.
- 4.2.8 **With a strong spirit of co-operation and compromise from the participating countries, the Meeting agreed to add five observation stations to the southernmost transect, following the agreement from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the RSTP and the PSC (Kunming, China, December 2005).**
- 4.2.9 **The Meeting further agreed that the easternmost observation station located in the northernmost transect will be removed. The agreed map of the observation transects and stations are shown in [Annex III](#).**
- 4.2.10 **The Meeting agreed to use the revised map to seek approval from their respective governments. The Meeting also agreed to aim for starting the spring cruise as soon as possible, with late May as the target date. If this would not be possible, then the spring cruise would aim to start in June.**

- 4.2.11 The Co-Chairpersons thanked the Korean and Chinese delegates for coming to the agreements for the cruise which truly personified the spirit of co-operation, and good sense of compromise.

### **4.3 Arrangements for the Second Cruise**

- 4.3.1 The Meeting reviewed the agreement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the PSC that the "Second Cruise" (or winter cruise) should be organised in December 2006 or January 2007.
- 4.3.2 The delegates from Korea requested the NPC of China to continue his efforts to try again, and seek approval for all components for the winter cruise, as there is still ample time before the winter cruise would start. **The delegate from China agreed to do so.**
- 4.3.3 **Following discussion on this matter, the Meeting agreed to aim at holding the winter cruise in January 2007 in order to avoid the Lunar New Year in February.**
- 4.3.4 Mr. Huh reminded the Meeting that Korean Government approval of the cruise needs to include information on crew members and on board personnel. The Meeting duly noted this requirement, and the relevant issues will be discussed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Meeting for the co-operative cruise.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 5.1 The Co-Chairperson invited the participants to propose any other business to be considered at the meeting.
- 5.2 Mr. Park asked for the revision or removal of a sentence in Document UNDP/GEF/YS/SPSC.1/4 which was related to the cruise approval process by the two countries. **Members agreed to remove this sentence from the document as it may be misinterpreted by readers.**
- 5.3 Mr. Jiang mentioned that the final reports from the data and information collection activity was overdue, which will lead to delay in regional data synthesis, the preparation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, and all future activities. Mr. Jiang emphasised that the snowball effect of the delays will seriously affect the overall implementation of project activities according to the schedule agreed by the PSC, and asked the focal points and NPCs to assist in following up where necessary.
- 5.4 **The Meeting urged all countries, particularly the contractors, to expedite the conclusion of the activity and the submission of the final products.**

## **6. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT**

- 6.1 The Co-Chairperson invited the participants to review the draft meeting report prepared by the Secretariat. The draft report was discussed, amended and adopted by the Meeting.

## **7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

- 7.1 Mr. Li stated that important progress had been made through the meeting, such as agreement on cruise dates and stations. An obstacle had been overcome to pave the way for smoother future project implementation. The tremendous progress was achieved through mutual understanding, with the spirit of co-operation and compromise prevailing to achieve the results. Mr. Li emphasised that the principle and flexibility approach should be maintained to forge ahead with Project implementation. Mr. Li thanked the Co-Chairperson for his personal efforts and for leading the Korean Delegation. Korean participants were thanked for their hard work. Mr. Jiang was thanked for his contributions to facilitate the compromises to be made, and the PMO and FIO were thanked for meeting organisation.
- 7.2 Mr. Park fully supported Mr. Li's appraisal of the meeting, and extended his gratitude to the local host for organising the meeting. Mr. Park expressed his thanks to Mr. Jiang and the PMO staff for their excellent work to facilitate reaching the agreements. The exercised spirit of co-operation faced by the joint cruise issue led Mr. Park to believe that the continuation of this attitude will help the Project's future implementation.
- 7.3 Mr. Jiang stated that through this special meeting, he was able to increase his confidence for the future success of the project. With the overcoming of each obstacle, Project members have shown their ability to compromise and establish flexible frameworks for future implementation. Given the outcomes of this meeting, Mr. Jiang was certain that the Project would be able to achieve its larger objective.
- 7.4 Mr. Shin thanked the Chairpersons for leading the meeting to a success. He hoped that the co-operative spirit would continue for a successful cruise in the near future. Mr. Shin emphasised that all Project participants should continue to maintain the mutual trust that has been built thus far.
- 7.5 In closing, Mr. Li stated that the outcomes of this meeting had made him confident that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Cruise Meeting would be successful.
- 7.6 The Chairperson declared the closure of the meeting at 19:15 hours on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006.



## Annex I

### List of Participants

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## **Annex II**

### **Agenda**

#### **1 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

- 1.1 Welcome addresses
- 1.2 Introduction of the members

#### **2 ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

- 2.1 Election of Officers
- 2.2 Documentation Available to the Meeting
- 2.3 Organisation of Work

#### **3 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

#### **4 CONSIDERATION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE STUDY CRUISES**

- 4.1 Report of current status since the last PSC Meeting
- 4.2 Arrangements for the Spring Cruise
- 4.3 Arrangements for the Second Cruise

#### **5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **6 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT**

#### **7 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**



### Annex III

### Revised Spring Cruise Sampling Stations

