



**UNDP/GEF PROJECT ENTITLED “REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS IN THE
YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM”**

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**Second Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel
for the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**
Kunming, China, 15-17 December 2005

**Proposal on the Regional Seminar
for Parliamentary Roles in Protection of Marine Environment
and Sustainable Uses of Marine Resources in the Yellow Sea**

Draft Proposal for

THE REGIONAL SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY ROLES IN PROTECTION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE RESOURCES IN THE YELLOW SEA

1. OBJECTIVES

The marine environment in the Yellow Sea areas has been impacted by very strong anthropogenic pressures, such as development in the coastal countries, including rapid population increase, industrialisation, expansion of human habitats, and increased demand for sea food from increased population.

There have been a lot efforts put forth by the Governments of the coastal countries of the Yellow Sea to protect the marine environment and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. It is widely recognised by the Governments that to reduce the environmental stresses will be a long term tasks of theirs, and will require wider participation of all stakeholders to ensure that their efforts are meaningful and successful.

The Parliament, the National Assembly in Korea, and the National People's Committee in China, are playing important roles in deciding national regulations, national infrastructure and national budget. If their roles are well-recognised and used wisely, the mechanism of involving Parliament members will definitely assist in the protection of marine environment and sustainable use of marine resources. The parliamentary roles are very important in particular, for the preparation and approval of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the National Yellow Sea Action Plans (NYSAPs). Parliamentary participation and involvement can also enhance national co-ordination and regional co-operation.

The objectives of the regional seminar are:

- (i) to enhance stakeholders' participation in the activities of protecting the marine environment and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, in particular the participation of parliaments in the participating countries;
- (ii) based on the knowledge and information provided in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the YSLME project, to facilitate better understanding of requirements for harmonising national legislation and reform;
- (iii) to identify appropriate mechanisms to ensure and/or enhance integrated management for protection of marine environment, and enhance national co-ordination of all stakeholders, including governmental agencies; and
- (iv) to assist in mobilising necessary financial support for the integrated management of the marine and coastal resources.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The participants of the seminar will include: (i) members of parliament (the National Assembly in Korea, and the National People's Committee in China), who are interested in, and responsible for the protection of marine environment and sustainable use of coastal resources; (ii) scholars in the field of parliamentary roles and participation in environment protection; and (iii) resource persons necessary for the Seminar.

3. SEMINAR TOPICS

Environmental stresses in the Yellow Sea:

- Legal influences
- Socio-economic influences
- Effects of institutional infrastructure
- Impacts of budget allocation on management infrastructure

Integrated regional management required for co-operation in the Yellow Sea

- Implications of the global and regional conventions in Yellow Sea marine environment management
- Integrated managements required for the Yellow Sea
- Mechanism for regional co-operation
- Mechanism for national co-ordination

Parliamentary roles in environment management of the Yellow Sea

- Implementing regional agreements
- Harmonising and implementing national laws and regulations
- Institutional arrangements
- Financial considerations

Public awareness and public participation

- Regional strategy on public awareness and participation
- NGO and local communities' roles in marine and coastal environment management
- Communication and dialogue among scientific community, the public, and policy makers

4. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF THE REGIONAL SEMINAR

The three-day seminar will consist of keynote speeches, invited reports, panel discussion and preparation of a statement.

	Opening of the Regional Seminar
	Welcome speech by the Host Government
	Opening speeches by the representatives of Parliament Members from the Project's participating countries
Plenary Presentation 1	<i>Environmental stresses in the Yellow Sea</i>
	Keynote speech 1. <i>Legal and institutional requirements for integrated management of marine and coastal environment</i>
	Keynote speech 2. <i>Status and trend of marine living resources in the Yellow Sea, and required management issues</i>
	Panel discussion on environment stresses in the Yellow Sea and their budgetary, legal and social implications

Plenary Presentation 2	<i>Integrated regional management required for co-operation in the Yellow Sea</i>
	<i>Legal implications of the global and regional conventions for protection of the Yellow Sea</i>
	<i>Management requirements – regional co-operation and national co-ordination</i>
Plenary Presentation 3	<i>Parliamentary roles in environment management of the Yellow Sea</i>
	<i>Harmonisation and/or reform of regional and national legislation in protection of marine environment and sustainable use of marine resources – Legal perspectives</i>
	<i>Institutional and financial consideration in the management of marine and coastal resources – management perspectives</i>
Plenary Presentation 4	<i>Public awareness and public participation</i>
	<i>Regional strategy in public awareness and public participation</i>
	<i>NGOs and local communities' involvement in conservation and public participation activities</i>
Working Session	<i>Preparation and adoption of the Conference Statement</i>

5. ORGANISATION OF THE SEMINAR

Dates and Venue

The dates of the Seminar are proposed for 25-27 January 2006.

Venue will be decided later.

Identify participants and speakers

In consultation with the National Project Co-ordinators, and members of parliaments in the participating countries, the PMO will invite the speakers and participants of the meeting.

Arrangement of the Seminar

PMO will make necessary arrangements for the Seminar in consultation with the local host.

Financial arrangement

Required budget will be covered by the project budget and co-sponsors.