



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

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Report of National Project Co-ordinator – Korea

PROGRESS REPORT
- 1 January ~ 31 October 2006 -

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Progress Report covers progress made, by the National Project Coordinating Unit of Korea for YSLME, during the period between January and October 2006.

Activities for the first half of the Year 2006 have mainly been focused on the materializing the Cooperative Study Cruise (Spring Cruise planned for May-June 2006), the China-Korea Parliamentary Seminar on YSLME (27~30 March, Qingdao, China), coordination for data/information collection activities for Fisheries, Ecosystem, Pollution and Biodiversity Groups, reinforcement of the National Working Groups, etc.

National Working Group Chairs meetings (February, April, May, August, October), Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC) Meeting (February, August), Special Project Steering Committee Meeting (April) and Technical Meetings (April, July) have been held during the period.

It is regrettable that the cooperative study cruises could not be able to conduct as scheduled in spite of the fact that earnest efforts have been devoted toward the cruises by both governments, PMO and NPCs.

2. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

A. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

JANUARY

- NEAR-GOOS Coordinating Committee Meeting, 16-18 January 2006, 2006, Busan, Korea: Participated by NPC as an observer for cooperation with other organizations/projects.
- YSLME Workshop: 19 January, KORDI.
- Consultation Meeting on Cooperation with DPRK: 20 January, Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries (MOMAF): Attended by Project manager, officials from several Ministries, Experts from KMI, KORDI, NPC, etc.

FEBRUARY

- Seminar on South-North Korean Cooperation: 15 February, Korea Maritime Institute (KMI).
- National Working Group Chairs Meeting (1st/2006): 20 February, Seoul.
- Preparatory Meeting for the China-Korea Parliamentary Seminar on YSLME: 21 February, National Assembly of Korea.
- The 3rd Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC) Meeting: 28 February 2006. Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MOFAT), Seoul.

MARCH

- Preparatory Meeting for the China-Korea Parliamentary Seminar on YSLME: 7 March, National Assembly of Korea (Congressman Dr. Jong Gil Je).
- China-Korea Parliamentary Seminar on YSLME: The Regional Conference on Parliamentary Roles in Protection of Marine Environment and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources in the Yellow Sea. 27-30 March, Qingdao, China.

APRIL

- National Working Group Chairs Meeting (2nd/2006): 5 April, Seoul.
- Preparatory Meeting for the Special Project Steering Committee (PSC):

- 19 April, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Korea.
- Special PSC/Technical Meeting: 25-27 April, Qingdao, China.

MAY

- National Working Group Chairs Meeting (3rd/2006): 4 May, Seoul.
- Meeting on the Spring Cooperative Study Cruise: 11 May, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade. Attended by UNDP/Korea, PMO, MOFAT, MOMAF, NPC.
- Experts Meeting on Spring Cruise: 16 May, Busan. Attended by 12 Korean marine scientists representing universities and ocean institutions.

JUNE

- NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litters: 8 June, Incheon, Korea.
- YSLME Workshop for NGOs: 15-16 June, KORDI.
- The 39th Executive Council of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/EC): 19-28 June, UNESCO, Paris. Cooperation with other organizations and programs (WESTPAC, PICES, PEMSEA, NEAR-GOOS, etc).

JULY

- The 3rd Technical Meeting for the Cruise: 11-12 July, Ansan, Korea.
Finalized the cruise schedule: changed the spring cruise to summer cruise (1-30 September); fixed 24 sample sharing stations.

AUGUST

- National Working Group Chairs Meeting (4th/2006): 9 August, Seoul.
- The 4th Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee Meeting: 29 August, MOFAT, Seoul.

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd RWG-Pollution Meeting: 4-7 September, Dandong, China.
- 3rd RWG-Investment Meeting: 9-12 September, Dalian, China.
- 3rd RWG-Ecology Meeting: 18-21 September, Jeju, Korea.

OCTOBER

- National Working Group Chairs Meeting (5th/2006): 9 October, Seoul.
- PICES XV Annual Meeting: 16-22 October, Yokohama, Japan.
- 3rd RWG-Biodiversity Meeting: 20-23 October, Weihai, China.
- 3rd RWG-Fisheries Meeting: 25-28 October, Weihai, China.

B. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

i) Coordination for the Cooperative Study Cruise:

The Cooperative Study Cruise has been a major issue in the implementation of YSLME Project. Over the cruise schedule, survey components, number and location of sampling stations, and sample and data sharing, there have been existed some discords between the participating parties. Through a number of formal and informal meetings and discussions, details of the Cruise programs have been coordinated and finalized.

a) Coordination for Cruise Schedule:

Winter Cruise has been postponed from February 2006 to January 2007; Spring Cruise from May-June 2006 to Summer Cruise, September 1-30, 2006.

- **Summer Cruise:**

- Survey Components: Sampling and survey to be conducted in the fields of ecosystem and pollution; surveys for fisheries and biodiversity will not be performed during the September cruise.

- Sampling Stations: Among 71 sampling stations fixed at the 2nd RSTP and 2nd PSC Meetings (15-20 December, Kunming, China), two stations (N3, A6) have been deleted, while three stations (A1, A2, A3) been added totaling to 72 stations.

-Sharing of Samples : Samples from 24 out of 72 stations will be shared by both China and Korea for inter-calibration and inter-comparison.

-Sample Analysis: All the samples for the following 5 variables will be transferred to Korea for further analysis: HPLC, primary productivity, benthos, pico-plankton and micro-zooplankton.

-Scientists on Board: 21 scientists (14 Ecosystem, 7 pollution) will be on board during the cruise.

-Research Vessel: R/V Hai Jian 17 (1,111 GTs), North Sea Branch of SOA, China.

b) Coordinating Meetings for the Cruise:

Thirteen meetings have been held to coordinate the cruise schedule;

-Technical Meetings: Two technical meetings have been held to coordinate the Spring (Summer) Cruise:

- 2nd Technical Meeting, 26-27 April 2006, Qingdao, China.
- 3rd Technical Meeting, 11-12 July 2006, Aansan, Korea.

-A preparatory meeting for the special PSC, 19 April, MOFAT.

-Special Project Steering Committee Meeting, 25 April 2006, Qingdao.

-Five National Working Group Chairs Meetings (NWG-Chairs); 20 February, 5 April, 4 May, 9 August, and 9 October.

-IMCC meetings; two meetings in 28 February and 29 August.

-Spring Cruise Coordinating Meeting (on sample sharing): 11 May 2006 at MOFAT; attended by representatives of MOFAT, MOMAF, PMO, UNDP-Korea, NPC.

-Experts meeting on sample sharing: 16 May 2006, Pukyung National University, Busan. Reached consensus on 24 sample sharing stations out of 72 stations by 12 experts from various institutes and universities.

ii) Coordination in Data/Information Collection:

Coordination in the Data and information collection activities have been made for the four components of fisheries, ecosystem, pollution and biodiversity.

Final reports of fisheries, ecosystem and pollution components have been submitted, but

considerably delayed; biodiversity report was submitted to PMO in mid-September (1st draft) and mid-October (2nd draft), yet the report appeared to be unsatisfactory requiring further improvement.

iii) National Meeting Arrangements:

National Working Group (NWG) Chairs meetings and Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC) meetings have been held to review and discuss the progress of the project and the cooperative study cruises; Several informal meetings were also arranged to discuss pending issues mainly the cooperative cruises;

- a) Five National Working Group Chairs meetings.
- b) The 3rd and 4th Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee meetings.
- c) Two preparatory meetings for the Parliamentary seminar.
- d) A preparatory meeting for the Special PSC meeting
- e) A consultative meeting to discuss sample sharing.
- f) An experts meeting to discuss sample sharing stations.

iv) Reinforcement of the National Working Groups:

Members of the National Working Groups have been re-evaluated and partly reinforced. Number of experts in the five components of the NWGs has been increased from 40 to 53 by adding 13 new members including 9 replacement.

v) China-Korea Parliamentary Seminar on YSLME:

By recognizing the importance of the parliamentary roles in the implementation of YSLME project, efforts were made to coordinate and cooperate with the relevant ministries and institutions in the preparation of the seminar.

The seminar has been held at the Huiquan Dynasty Hotel in Qingdao, China, 28-30 March 2006. There have been 50 participants including 14 Congress members from both countries and 31 scientists/professors and government officials.

The Seminar recognized the Yellow Sea as “a sea of friendship, peace, cooperation and prosperity”, and agreed to hold the seminar annually as an “informal meeting”, alternately in both countries.

vi) Institutional Arrangements for the 3rd RWG meetings:

For the 3rd Regional Working Group meetings scheduled to be held during September - October, coordinations were made to review the activities done since the 2nd RWGs and evaluate the agenda items of the meeting by each component, and to nominate proper delegates to the 3rd RWGs.

- Delegates Nominated:

Fisheries: Dr. Inja Yeon (NFRDI), Dr. Do- Hoon Kim (NFRDI), Dr. In-Kwon Jang (NFRDI), Dr. Myoung Ho Sohn (NFRDI), Dr. Jang-Uk Lee (Pukyung National University)

Pollution: Dr. Jae-Ryong Oh (KORDI), Dr. Hee Gu Choi (NFRDI), Dr. Hak-Gyoon Kim (Pukyung National University), Dr. Kyung Hoon Shin (Hanyang University)

Ecosystem: Dr. Sinjae Yoo (KORDI), Dr. Daeseok Kang (Pukyung National University), Dr. Jaesang Hong (Inha University), Dr. Seung Heo (NFRDI)

Biodiversity: Dr. Yoon Lee (NFRDI), Dr. Chang Hee Lee (KEI), Dr. Tae-Won Lee (Chungnam National University), Dr. Han-Gil Choi (Gunsan National University)

Investment: Dr. Dong-Oh Cho (KMI), Dr. Seok Jae Kwon (KORDI), Dr. Suh-Yong Chung (Myungji University), Dr. Hoi-Soo Jung (KORDI).

vii) Cooperation with Other Organizations/Programs:

Participated by NPC to the 1) NEAR-GOOS Coordinating Committee meeting, 16-18 January 2006, NFRDI, Busan; 2) NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litters, 8 June 2006, Incheon; 3) YSLME Workshop for NGOs, 15-16 June 2006, KORDI; 4) 39th Executive Council meeting of IOC, 19-28 June 2006, Paris, France; 5) PICES XV Annual Meeting, 16-22 October 2006, Yokohama, Japan.

3. New Developments, Difficulties and Problems:

a) Delay in the Cooperative Study Cruise:

Two joint cruises planned for January (winter cruise) and May-June 2006 (spring cruise) have been postponed till January 2007 and September 2006, respectively. Finally, the summer cruise could not be able to launch as scheduled due to differences in the national policies on ocean survey between two participating countries.

b) Sharing of Data and Samples:

As China and Korea have different views on the sharing of samples collected from the joint cruises, it took months-long negotiations and intense coordination to have agreed on a basic principle on the sample sharing. Although it was agreed through the technical meetings that samples from 24 survey stations out of 72 stations are to be shared by two countries, it still remain to be further discussed for final decisions for the next cruise, as several of agreed stations would have to be relocated or removed.

c) Reduction of Survey Components:

It was decided that the spring cruise will be conducted for two components, ecosystem and pollution, and surveys for fisheries and biodiversity will not be performed. It is hoped that fisheries survey be included in the next cruise as China agreed to try to seek government approval for all components for the winter cruise of January 2007.

d) Insufficient Data for TDA Preparation:

There appeared to be insufficient data and information for Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) mainly due to delayed completion and shortcoming of data/information collection and lack of data from the cooperative study cruises.

e) Difficulties in Nominating Delegates to the RWG meetings:

Difficulties still exist in nominating the delegates to the RWG meetings as many members of the national working groups were not available for the RWG meetings. To maintain continuity and expertise in the RWGs, it would be necessary to find a measure to improve the matter at institutional and national levels.

4. Remarks/ Lessons Learned:

- a) It is highly necessary that implementing agencies (countries) of the project should have signed on the memorandum of agreement for the cruise plan well ahead of the operation to avoid the delay of the cruise schedule.
- b) It is felt that the cruise without fisheries component may considerably impair the goals of the YSLME project. Therefore, both sides should make hard efforts to include fisheries component in the next cruises.
- c) To encourage and promote the better involvement by the regional/national experts in the Regional Working Group meetings, it appears to be necessary to provide some incentives for the participants of RWG meetings. The incentives be sought from the government as well as PMO by endowing an official compensation and/or providing 'per diem' to the experts which could be expedited through the next Project Steering Committee meeting.