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

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**Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group  
for the Investment Component**  
*Dalian, China, 9-12 September 2006*

**Progress Report on Public Awareness Activities**

The Yellow Sea Project has implemented various public awareness activities both to encourage a wide participation of stakeholders in the Project and to strengthen their understanding and capacity to initiate marine conservation efforts. These activities consist of the following: (i) Organisation of the Parliamentary Conference, (ii) Establishment of the Yellow Sea Partnership, (iii) Operation of the Small Grants Programme, (iv) Organisation and implementation of the Youth Programme, (v) Organisation of the Local Government Training, and (vi) Implementation of the Internship Programme. This paper describes the progress and results of each activity as well as its general description.

**1. Parliamentary Conference**

The Parliamentary Conference was organised in Qingdao, China, 28-30 March 2006. The objectives of this meeting were:

- To promote active participation of parliamentarians' in protecting the marine environment and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in the Yellow sea;
- To facilitate better understanding of the requirements for harmonising and reforming national legislation; and
- To identify appropriate mechanisms to ensure and/or enhance integrated management for protecting marine environment.

With 41 participants from China and Korea attended, including 14 parliamentarians, the Conference had presentations on the environmental status, the needs and requirement for the environment protection, the legislative consideration of marine environmental protection, and the economic consideration of conserving marine resources. The Conference also had panel discussions to address the active involvement of stakeholders such as NGOs, industries, and local communities in conservation activities.

As a result of the Conference, the participants deepened their understanding of the serious environmental degradation in the Yellow Sea and recognised the strong need for taking action to address the problem. The participants also acknowledged that it is necessary to further strengthen closer co-operation between the two parliaments, and that regular

meetings would help in building such relationship. Then, the meeting agreed to organise the next conference in Korea.

As the following excerpt indicates, this Conference received considerable attention from international organisations since it was the first meeting in the GEF projects where the parliamentarians addressed transboundary environmental issues.

*First and foremost, the Yellow Sea parliamentary conference was the first time a Global Environment Facility-funded project has organised such an event with participants from parliamentary bodies participating in the project. As such, it presents a model for other projects in terms of achieving stakeholder buy-in at high political levels. It also presents a good model for blending the political and technical sides of a GEF project (GEF IW: LEARN; International Waters Experience Note, 2006-001).*

## **2. Yellow Sea Partnership**

The Yellow Sea Partnership (YSP) was established with a view to:

- Facilitating co-operation and co-ordination among various organisations for environmental conservation in the Yellow Sea
- Maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of each conservation activity through close communication and co-ordination

Member organisations or Partners communicate and collaborate actively by:

- (1) Having regular meetings;
- (2) Developing common strategies and action goals; and
- (3) Planning and implementing joint activities for environmental conservation and public awareness.

The YSP is open to any interested parties, including government agencies, NGOs, private entities, and international organizations and projects. Currently, 17 organisations join the Partnership.

The YSP organised three meetings in 2006: Beijing, China in March; Ansan, Korea in June; and Seocheon, Korea in July. These meetings produced the following four major outcomes:

- (1) Yellow Sea Public Awareness and Communication Strategy;
- (2) Implementation plan for joint activities;
- (3) Joint statement on co-operation for environmental protection in the Yellow Sea; and
- (4) YSP website and e-discussion group for information dissemination and communication.

## **3. Small Grants Programme**

To invite more participation and build the capacities of stakeholders, especially local communities, the Small Grants Programme was established with the following overall goals:

- To encourage and educate local communities of the Yellow Sea's coastal area to facilitate marine conservation efforts;

- To provide the coastal communities with opportunities to observe the biodiversity and ecosystems in the Yellow Sea; and
- To build the capacity of the local communities to manage the marine and coastal environments.

The Small Grants Programme in 2006 focused particularly on the first objective: Education for the coastal communities.

Total 23 proposals were submitted (19 proposals from China, 4 proposals from Korea). After a careful and extensive external review, the independent panel with three regional experts, and six proposals were selected as recipients. The four organisations have initiated the projects already. Other two organisations will start their projects soon after the conclusion of the contracts.

The organisations and projects funded by the Small Grants Programme are as follows.

| Organisation   | Project title   |
|--|---|
| Shihwa Lake Saver, Korea                                   | Shihwa marine environmental education course for school teachers and youth groups in the Shihwa Lake region   |
| Haimen Ocean and Fisheries Bureau, Nantong, Jiangsu, China | Liyashan oyster reef ecosystem protection, Nantong, China   |
| Citizens' Institute for Environmental Studies, Korea       | Program for exchanging information and experience about reclamation work among local communities in west coast of Korea: For a sustainable Yellow Sea |
| Dalian Maritime University                                 | Community-based conservation of coastal ecology in Dalian, China  |
| Liaoning Ocean and Fishery Department                      | Public propaganda and education for ecosystem protection around the northern Yellow Sea   |
| Global Village of Beijing                                  | Welcome to the green olympics and protect the Yellow Sea surrounding us: Costal community education and public participation                          |

#### 4. Youth Programme

The Youth Programme provides youth in the region with opportunities to deepen their understanding of environmental issues in the Yellow Sea through a variety of instructional approaches, including lectures, site visits, and hands-on experiences. It is expected that the participants will understand the present situation of environmental problems, explore possible ways to address the problems, and create an action plan to implement countermeasures. The Programme will help the youth think and find what they can do themselves to protect the environment.

Targeting middle school and high school students in Korea, two three-day projects will be organised in September and October 2006. Each project consists of three activities: lecture,

field study, and discussion and summary. The participants will visit the Yellow Sea's coastal area to observe and experience the marine and coastal environment.

Various organisations and/or individuals have co-operated to design, prepare, and implement the projects. Those collaborators include a local environmental NGO (Korean Network for Coastal Conservation), national and local government-affiliated research institutions (Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute; Gusan Ocean Institute), and local community organisations.

The similar programme is planned to be organised in China possibly in 2007.

## **5. Local Government Training**

The Yellow Project will organise a training workshop for local government officials in Korea, September 2006, focusing on the management issues with respect to the development in harmony with the environment. The objective of the workshop is to familiarize the officials with the concept and tools to make rational decisions for coastal development and environmental protection. It is expected that the workshop participants will obtain practical skills to incorporate various issues (economy, environment, and society) relevant to the coastal development into the decision-making process. The workshop focuses on the Multi-Attribute Decision Analysis (MADA; otherwise known as Multi-Criteria Analysis) as one of the approaches to integrate such various aspects.

This two-day training workshop (with one-day field trip) consists of mainly two sessions: one for theory and one for practice. For the theory part on the first day, the workshop provides the concept and process of the MADA approach. Then, for the practice part on the second day, the workshop provides the participants with an opportunity to exercise the practical application of MADA techniques, including the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP).

Approximately 20 participants will attend the workshop (10 persons from China and 10 persons from Korea). The details of major outcomes will be reported after the training.

A similar training course is planned to be organised in China, with possible theme on the marine environment legislation and enforcement.

## **6. Internship Programme**

The Yellow Project launched Internship Programme for young government officers and young scientists to become intimately familiar with the operational procedures of United Nations' international projects implementation, which will be useful for future work in the government and international agencies. The interns are to conduct various assignments at the PMO, including:

- Assist the Project Manager and Programme Officers with implementation of activities under the Project's five focal areas (Fisheries, Ecosystem, Biodiversity, Pollution, Investment);
- Assist with reviewing output reports from activities, following up milestones, drafting terms of reference for activities; and
- Assist with organisation of Regional Working Group Meetings, including drafting meeting documents, following up with attendance and logistic arrangements.

Currently, two interns, one from China and one from Korea, serve their six-month internship.