



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

UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-P.5/5
Date: 3 September 2008
English only

**Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group
for the Pollution Component**
Xiamen, China, 8 - 10 October 2008

Completed and On-going Pollution Component Activities

1. Pollution Component-relevant activities completed during the past year are described below.

Agenda 5.1

Winter and Summer Co-operative Cruises - Pollution Component

2. After 2+ years of negotiation, overcoming immense challenges, and receiving huge amounts of input from the countries and scientists, the two co-operative cruises finally were successfully carried out in January 2008 for the winter cruise, and in July 2008 for the summer cruise.
3. The winter cruise launching ceremony in Jan. 2008 was attended by many representatives at Vice-minister level, from both countries, and UNDP-Beijing Office, and the event was widely publicised on China's Central TV station and written up in the Chinese and Korean newspapers.
4. Despite the rough weather conditions in winter, the scientists and research vessel crew worked very hard around the clock to complete their tasks. The data from the winter cruise was reported to the countries in June 2008. Although there were some discrepancies and differences in inter-comparison sample results, scientists worked hard to solve these differences. Some scientific findings have shown interesting results.
5. During the summer cruise, scientists again worked very hard and the samples are being analysed now.
6. It was agreed that the 2 Chief Scientists will be contracted by the project to prepare a regional synthesis report for the winter and summer cruises.
7. The participants of the cruise that are present at the 5th RWG-P Meeting will report their group's results from the two cruises, focusing on the summer cruise's results.

Agenda 5.2

Monitoring and Assessment Workshop, Shenyang, China

8. The Dalian Society of Oceanography, SOA, was contracted to organise this workshop from 2nd to 4th June in Shenyang, China.
9. Participants from China, Republic of Korea, and Europe came together to present their work related to marine monitoring and assessment. Many interesting topics were presented, with a plenary discussion held at the end of the workshop.
10. The Consultant who was in charge of organising the workshop will briefly report on the workshop and its outcomes.

Agenda 5.3

Capacity Building for Analysis of Nutrients, Trace Metals, and Organics

11. Following the suggestions from the Inter-calibration Summary Workshop and 4th RWG-P Meeting last year, one activity held this year was capacity building on analysis of nutrients, trace metals and organics. Young scientists from the region submitted applications forms, with one group of successful applicants visiting Queensland FSS, Australia to further study analysis and QA/QC of nutrients in seawater. Another 2 groups visited IAEA-MEL, Monaco to study similar topics on trace metal and organics analyses.
12. The Secretariat will report on this activity. Members and participants of the activity present at the meeting, will have the opportunity to report their impressions and outcomes from the activity.

Agenda 5.4

Contribution to the preparation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) - Demonstration Activities

13. At the 4th RWG-P Meeting, members suggested 5 SAP demonstration activities to be implemented: 1) atmospheric deposition monitoring and assessment; 2) calculation of nutrient loads in hotspots; 3) monitoring and assessment of sea-based sources of nutrients; 4) management demonstration for recreational waters; and 5) regular monitoring and public awareness on marine litter and other awareness programmes.
14. Proposals were received for #1 to #4 with no proposals received for #5.
15. Additionally, during the 4th RSTP Meeting, members of the RSTP suggested to have a pollution-biodiversity cross-component demonstration activity to show the effectiveness of how regular monitoring and assessment of the ecosystem and exchange of information across different responsible agencies can help improve marine habitats through controlling marine pollution in the Yellow Sea.
16. Contractors for the activities were selected in July, and activities have recently been initiated. The contract leaders of these activities will report on the progress of demonstration activity implementation, while the Secretariat will report on the progress of the cross-component activity.