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Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

Incheon, the Republic of Korea, 29-30 March 2000

Report of the Meeting

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Introduction

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three supporting Resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 14 September 1994).
2. The Second Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP was held in Tokyo on 20 November 1996 to approve the Programme Document, and Workplan and Budget for the biennium 1997/1998. However, it was decided that further Trust Fund arrangements and establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) were to be discussed at a later time.
3. The Third Intergovernmental Meeting, held in Vladivostok, the Russian Federation, on 9 April 1998, endorsed the revision of the Workplan and Budget for the biennium 1997/1998, and decided on the procedure for the establishment of a network of Regional Activity Centres.
4. The Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, on 6 and 7 April 1999, decided on the need to establish a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in the future, and requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare a proposal for its creation for the consideration of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting
5. In accordance with Resolution 2 of the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting, the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting was held at Inch'on, Republic of Korea, on 29 and 30 March 2000.
6. This document is the record of the discussions and deliberations of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting.
7. Representatives of the States in the Northwest Pacific region, namely Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation participated in the Meeting. Observers were also present from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Northwest Pacific Environment Cooperation Centre; Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre; Environmental Information Centre of the Pacific Institute of Geography, Far-Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Science; State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA); Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre; North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES); National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI); Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI); Toyoma Prefectural Government; and Toyoma City. The full list of participants is attached as ANNEX I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

8. On behalf of Mr. Klaus Toepfer, UNEP Executive Director, the meeting was opened by Mr. Jorge Illueca, Assistant Executive Director, Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC),

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In his opening remarks, he said that on behalf of Mr. Toepfer he welcomed all the participants and wished them every success in their deliberations.

9. He recalled that in, the new UNEP corporate profile, the work of regional seas programmes and their action plans was now the responsibility of the Division of Environmental Conventions, and he was sure that the change would mean the revitalization of those programmes and plans. In 1999 and 2000, UNEP was providing support to all 12 of the regional seas programmes in which it had been involved. Major progress had been made with the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and links between the regional seas conventions and action plans and global environmental conventions such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Coral Reef Initiative. The meeting would afford top priority to the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), and other options for accelerating the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). He wished the meeting every possible success.
10. The representative of the Government of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Hong Seoung-yong, Vice Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, made a welcoming statement, in which he said it was an honor and a pleasure for him to extend a sincere welcome to all the participants on behalf of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. He said that the importance of oceans could not be overemphasized as they constituted a fragile realm and impacted on the quality of life of everyone and on the environment. He pledged the full support of his Ministry and the Government for the efforts to contribute to the environmental conservation of the Northwest Pacific.
11. A welcoming address was given by Mr. Nam Ki-myong, Acting Mayor of Inch'on Metropolitan City. He said that it was a great honor for Inchon to be hosting the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan in the first spring of the new millennium. He described the city, and spoke of the many plans in hand to make Inchon a model environmental city, where people could live with nature in peace. He hoped that the meeting would be a successful and fruitful one for all the participants.
12. The meeting was also addressed, respectively, by representatives of Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China. The opening statements are recorded as ANNEX II to the present report.
13. The representative of Japan made a statement, in which he expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea as the host country and to the UNEP secretariat for organizing the meeting and making such thorough preparations. He said that in Japan the development of the environmental monitoring technique using remote sensing had started, as a positive step towards the activity of the Coastal Environmental Assessment and Regional

Activity Centre. Japan considered the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) as a necessity for the enhancement of NOWPAP and the further implementation of its projects. Japan was very keen to have the RCU located in Japan, and he respectfully asked for support from other countries for its bid to host it.

14. The representative of the Republic of Korea said he was honored to deliver an opening statement at the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan on behalf of the Government of Korea. He stated that the member countries of NOWPAP should consider NOWPAP's vision and develop a long-term strategy to pursue it. Among others, he mentioned the necessity of the RCU, the normalization of the RAC operation and collaboration with other regional seas programmes. With regard to the RCU, he announced that Korea would strive to host the RCU after the establishment procedure had been finalized. He emphasized that all countries in the region should participate in the management and development of the marine and coastal environment. He said that he was confident that all delegates would strive to make the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan a success.
15. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed the sincere gratitude of all to the Government of the Republic of Korea for organizing the present Intergovernmental Meeting. The Russian Federation attached great importance to the implementation of the Action Plan as a major tool for providing protection and improvement of the state of the environment in the region. His country had, among other actions, established a regional activity centre on pollution monitoring in Vladivostok and in 1999 had organized the holding of the Third Meeting of the NOWPAP Forum on marine pollution preparedness and response in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. He hoped that the present meeting would provide significant input for the implementation of NOWPAP and its further development. On behalf of the Russian Federation he wished success to all delegates and participants in their common goal, protection and improvement of the marine and coastal environment in the region.
16. The representative of the People's Republic of China extended his warm congratulations and appreciation to those convening the meeting, particularly to UNEP and to the Government of the Republic of Korea. The importance of the place that the oceans had in this planet meant that the oceans were a very important component of the global environment. On behalf of the Chinese delegation, he said he was heartened to see that further progress had been made since the previous intergovernmental Meeting, and the preparations for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) had been listed in the agenda for the meeting; In that regard, his Government was engaged in a feasibility study on the possibility of inviting the RCU to locate in china. Wherever located, however, the RCU would be expected to facilitate the progress of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.
17. All the representatives who took the floor expressed their gratitude to the Government of Korea, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for its excellent arrangements

for the meeting.

Agenda item2: Organization of the meeting

18. The meeting participants elected a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur, as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Oh Haeng-kyeom (Republic of Korea)

Vice-chairman: Mr. Alexander Solovianov (Russian Federation)

Vice-chairman: Mr. Fan Yuansheng (People's Republic of China) Rapporteur: Mr. Makito Takahashi(Japan)

19. The Chairman proposed for the meeting's consideration that the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council, as applicable to the meetings convened by the Executive Director, would apply mutatis mutandis, for this meeting. The meeting approved the proposal.

20. The Chairman proposed that the meeting carry out its work in plenary session in principle. The meeting approved the proposal. Furthermore, the proposed timetable was introduced.

21. The meeting was conducted in English. The secretariat introduced the provisional list of documents (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/Inf.1). The final list of documents is attached to the present report as ANNEX III.

Agenda item3 Adoption of the agenda

22. The Provisional Agenda(UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/1) and the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/2) were introduced by the Chairman.

23. The meeting adopted the proposed agenda. The adopted agenda is attached to the present report as ANNEX IV.

Agenda item4. Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

24. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the UNEP representative presented the report of the UNEP Executive Director, on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/3). He said that the implementation of the workplan for 1999-2000 had suffered from delays; UNEP believed that the implementation of NOWPAP would continue to progress slowly until the member States established the Regional Coordinating Unit; the other factor, however, that had contributed to the delays had been the restructuring of UNEP, which had not been completed until January 2000.

25. UNEP was proposing that the NOWPAP biennium workplan and budget be synchronized with the UNEP biennial programme of work, which would greatly facilitate coordination. In the ensuing debate, the delegates agreed to this and, with re-phasing of the 1999 commitments

that had been delayed, the NOWPAP biennium workplan and budget for the biennium 2000-2001. All delegates expressed their hope that the implementation of projects would be speeded up in that biennium.

26. The meeting revisited the question of the three options set out for the NOWPAP budget in paragraph 28 of the Executive Director's report on Implementation of the Action Plan (document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/3). There was consensus in favor of Option 1, with some modifications. The modified Option, with a total amount of \$1,211,050, is as follows: \$661,050 for the 2000-2001 workplan; \$200,000 for co-financing for GEF PDF B project on Land-based sources of pollution; \$100,000 for a possible project to be considered at the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting; \$100,000 for Operating Reserve; and, \$150,000 for RCU professional and general service staff (2001).
27. In response to various delegates, concerns about speeding up Project implementation, particularly in regard to NOWPAP/3 (Establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme), it was agreed that the First Meeting of the Coordinating Committee, postponed late in 1999, would be held at an early date, possibly in July 2000. Similarly the NOWPAP/1 Project (Establishment of a comprehensive database and information management system) Coordinating Working Committee, at the suggestion of the representative of the People's Republic of China, would also meet at an early date, possibly in May or June 2000.
28. In connection with the two projects mentioned in the previous paragraph, a representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) made a statement on behalf of Mr. Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary of IOC in which he expressed the willingness of IOC/WESTPAC, which had played the role of implementing agency for phase one of NOWPAP/1 and NOWPAP/3, to continue its assistance into phase two of those projects, as well as supporting the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres and sharing its expertise in marine environmental monitoring. The representative specifically mentioned two projects under IOC/WESTPAC, which would provide potential fields for investigation, namely the North-East Asian Regional Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS) and the Health of the Ocean Module of GOOS (HOTO) in the West Pacific region.
29. A further offer of assistance to NOWPAP in regard to awareness-raising, monitoring science and technology and collective action was made in a presentation by Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Coordinator of the UNEP Environment Assessment Programme for Asia and the Pacific, in which was described the modeling, information technology and financial sourcing strategy used in the course of the work of that Programme.
30. With some budgetary allocations remaining to be resolved, the meeting noted the report of the UNEP Executive Director.

Agenda item 5 Status of NOWPAP Trust Fund and contribution to it by Members States

31. At the invitation of the Chairman, the UNEP representative introduced document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/4 Rev.1, Table II of which showed that cumulatively for the period 1995-1999, there was a positive balance of \$ 648,775 in the Trust Fund.
32. The representative of Japan, while stating that his country would make its contribution of \$ 125000 in 2000, queried the figure of \$ 125,000 set down for Japan for 1998, since in that year it had not contributed because of the country's financial situation, whereas the figure for 1999 was zero, in a year in which they had contributed. A representative of UNEP said that the United Nations system always showed arrears in contributions, unless the Member State had been specifically exonerated from payment.
33. The representative of the Russian Federation said that its contributions for 1997, 1998 and 1999 had Environment Fund. The UNEP representative in reply said that evidently the Russian Federation's wishes had not been sufficiently clearly articulated in writing. A note would be sent saying how countries should designate funds sent to the Trust Fund.
34. The representative of Korea stressed the need for the mobilization of outside financial resources including GEF, and UNEP should use its best efforts to do that. The UNEP representative said that UNEP would welcome the reflection of that concern in one of the resolutions of the present meeting.
35. The representative of China stated the following principles for contributions:
- (a) The common but differentiated principle;
 - (b) The level of economic development should be commensurate with the obligations to be assumed;
 - (c) The voluntary and proactive principle;
 - (d) The principle of honoring the pledged contribution;
 - (e) Mobilizing other financial resources for funding.

Agenda item 6. Review and adoption of the proposed procedure for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit for NOWPAP

36. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, the UNEP representative introduced document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/5, on the proposed procedure for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP/RCU), and said that the document was the result of a series of informal consultations with the NOWPAP member States. The establishment of an RCU was agreed by all as being urgent, so that the procedure for its establishment should be decided upon at the present meeting, and a final decision taken at the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP.
37. The representative of Japan recalled that it was reaffirming its intention to invite the RCU to Toyama, Japan, and in that regard asked for the support of delegates and wished to recall that his country had already indicated its main stand in this issue at the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP, as set out in document UNEP (WATER)/NOWPAP IG.4/Inf.3. He sought and obtained permission from the Chairman for a brief presentation on the case for

setting up the RCU in Toyama, Japan; the presentation was made by Mr. Naotake Onaga, Vice Governor of Toyama Prefecture, who said that the Environmental Cooperation Center in Toyama had been designated as a Regional Activity Centre, and the Prefecture had excellent facilities of all kinds.

38. The representative of the Republic of Korea said that his country also reaffirmed its interest in inviting the RCU to be set up in the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute in Pusan, Korea. He made a brief presentation on the facilities available in Pusan, saying that it was the largest port in Korea, a centre for fisheries, with a population of four million people; it also could be said to be at the geographical centre of the Northwest Pacific area, and was well communicated by land, sea and air. He said that his delegation had serious reservations about Step 3 of the procedure for establishing an RCU, as set out in paragraph 38 of the document under review; that step states that in the absence of consensus, voting should take place according to the rules and regulations of the UNEP Governing Council. In this regard, he presented three options: the establishment of a selection committee, the introduction of the rotating secretariat concept, and a combination of the aforementioned options with modifications. The representative of UNEP said that such voting procedure was common practice in those cases where more than one country was bidding to host a secretariat.
39. The representative of the People's Republic of China said that his country was engaged in a feasibility study in regard to the RCU, and would request a little more time than the five months envisaged in Step 2 of the procedure (paragraph 37 of document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/5), and suggested at least six months. As he discussion following this revealed, the original time period of five months was determined by the need to present documents in time for the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP ("the six weeks rule"), and the representative of Japan said that as the intended host of that meeting, his country was compelled for several reasons to plan the meeting for early December 2000 at the latest. After the discussion, the Chairman said that it seemed better to leave the originally mentioned period of five months in place.
40. Several suggestions for minor changes to the procedure for the establishment of the RCU and to the Terms of Reference contained in Annex I of the document before the meeting were referred to the ad hoc open-ended drafting committee of the meeting, which would meet the following day, to finalize the document Subject to that, the meeting approved the proposed procedure, including the proposed budget and terms of reference. The final document is attached to the present report as Annex V.

Agenda item 7. Review and adoption of the programme of work for the year 2000-2001

41. The UNEP representative, at the invitation of the Chairman, introduced the subject with reference to Section IV and Annex I of the Report of the Executive Director, as well as to the key points that arose from the earlier discussion of the issue under Agenda item 4.

42. All delegates were agreed that the uncompleted projects from 1999 should be rescheduled for the biennium 2000-2001, and that NOWPAP would benefit from synchronization of the NOWPAP biennium period with the UNEP Programme of work biennium. There was a consensus also in favor of the allocation of the \$661,050 budget figure to the programme of work for that biennium.
43. The representative of Japan said that phase two of the programme of work called upon the NOWPAP/1 Coordinating Working Group and the NOWPAP/3 Coordinating Committee and Working Groups to play their role; those Groups and Committee, however might not be able to work effectively, as their terms of reference were not decided; They should be given an interim mandate, and their terms of reference decided upon at the Sixth intergovernmental NOWPAP meeting.
44. The meeting revisited the question of the three options set out for the NOWPAP budget in paragraph 28 of the Executive Director's report on implementation of the Action Plan (document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/3). There was consensus in favor of Option 1, with some modifications. The modified Option, with a total amount of \$ 1,211,050, is as follows: \$661,050 for the 2000-2001 workplan; \$200,000 for co-financing for GEF PDF B project on land-based sources of pollution; \$100,000 for a possible project to be considered at the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting; \$100,000 for Operating Reserve; and, \$150,000 for RCU professional and general service staff (2001).
45. The representatives of Japan and Korea stated that support for the RCU could be provided from the Trust Fund. The representative of Japan also stated that this approach should be used cautiously. The UNEP representative said that once the RCU was established, the Intergovernmental Meeting would decide how it should be paid for and from what sources.
46. The meeting agreed to adopt the programme of work.

Agenda item 8. Preparation for the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting

47. The Chairman invited the delegates to discuss the timing and topics to be dealt with at that meeting.
48. The representative of Japan said that his Government was inviting the meeting to hold the Sixth Intergovernmental NOWPAP in Tokyo, Japan at the end of November or very early December 2000. The Chairman and in turn the other delegates expressed their appreciation and acceptance of Japan's offer.

Agenda item 9. Other matters

49. An ad hoc open-ended drafting group was set up and met on Thursday morning, 30 March 2000, under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, to consider the drafting of resolutions and some other minor drafting of documents; the group reported back to the Plenary later that day.

Agenda item 10. Report on the credentials

50. The Chairman reported to the meeting that the credentials of three member State representatives had been presented and reviewed prior to and during the meeting by the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur, together with the secretariat, and that those credentials had been accepted; the Russian Federation informed that it would provide credentials within two weeks.

Agenda item 11. Adoption of the report of the meeting

51. The Rapporteur presented the draft report and the draft resolutions to the meeting.

52. The meeting approved the report and adopted the resolutions (ANNEX VI).

Agenda item 12. Closure of the meeting

53. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3.00 p.m. on 30 march 2000. He thanked all the representatives for their active participation.

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Annex II Opening Statements

Welcome address at the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

By Dr. Seoung-Yong Hong Vice Minister Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries

Good morning, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to extend my sincere welcome to all of you for joining the Fifth NOWPAP Intergovernmental meeting.

On behalf of MOMAF (Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries), I wish to thank the Mayor of the Incheon Metropolitan City and his staffs for successfully arranging this wonderful meeting in this beautiful seaport.

Also, I would like to express my special thanks to the delegates of each member country and UNEP representatives for their great efforts to protect, manage and develop the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific Ocean.

As we already recognize well, we cannot overemphasize the importance of oceans, which are our last hope and frontier of human beings in this new era of millennium.

Also, the oceans affect incredibly on the quality of our lifestyles and our ever-swelling demand for food, clothing, recreation and habitation environments because two thirds of the world's population live within 50 miles of the coastlines.

Nowhere is our wantonness more apparent than in that most fragile and essential realm the semi-enclosed sea such as NOWPAP area.

As you know, Korea is a peninsula surrounded by three seas and has the tradition and long history of marine-related activities. Therefore, our government has well cherished the importance of oceans as other countries.

Taking into account this geo-economical situation, the Korean government established the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) in August of 1996, so that the consistent and integrated ocean policies can be carried out more effectively toward the 21st Century.

One of the major action projects our government just planned is the Ocean Korea 21 (OK21) plan in order to make a balance between the ecological conservation and economical development of ocean resources.

In fact, the oceans cannot be preserved and protected by one single country's effort because the oceans are connected through dynamic currents from country to country.

I believe the above reasons brought us all today gathering in this important 5th NOWPAP meeting. Thus, the efforts and cooperation between NOWPAP member countries will be an international benchmark for the management and conservation of our ocean environments.

It is certain that the cooperative projects of the ocean environment conservation to be discussed at this meeting will be a good opportunity for enhancing the sustainable development and reminding the coastal countries of the responsibilities in the Northwest Pacific.

Here, the four important countries, China, Japan, and Russian Federation as well as Korea, should take responsibilities and cooperation with each other for the spirits and actions of ocean environment conservation of Northwest Pacific.

For this reason, I am pleased to spell out that our government will strongly support and participate in the activities of NOWPAP for the marine and coastal environment conservation of Northwest Pacific.

Finally, I hope that all agenda, which will be fully discussed and finalized by this Fifth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, can continuously be developed specifically into the action plans of each NOWPAP member countries and can contribute to the environmental conservation of the Northwest Pacific.

I hope your stay in Inch'on will prove to be both memorable and rewarding.

Thank you very much

**Welcoming address at the opening of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting
On the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
By Nam, Ki-Myong Acting Mayor of Inch'on**

Good mooring, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel it to be a great honor for Inch'on to be hosting the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) in Inch'on in this first spring of the new millennium. I sincerely welcome all of you who have come to this historic meeting with two and a half million Inch'oians.

Inch'on is one of the major international ports in Korea. One hundred and fifty two beautiful islands dot the surrounding sea and there is wildlife tideland whose size accounts for almost one third the total tideland area of Korea. The Inch'on tideland is one of the five largest tidelands in the world and is naturally an area preserved for all living things to come to and enjoy.

With such geographical conditions as these, Inch'on is pursuing a policy of preservation and improvement of our environmental resources to beautify Inch'on, as a clean and decent city in which to live.

In keeping with my environmentally sensitive policies, I would here like to introduce some of my major policies for the preservation and improvement of the environment of Inch'on.

First, for sometime now I've been concerned with quality of the seawater in the Inch'on area. Today, about 60 percent of waste and contaminated water comes into the Inch'on area from the surrounding sea. This contaminated water is seriously damaging the Inch'on marine environment, marine resources seriously decreasing, as a result. This damage must be stopped. In response to this problem, five local governments and the Korean Government, including Inch'on, are doing their best to formulate a policy to prevent sea water contamination. We are currently discussing coordinated projects and a joint budget.

Second, I have a plan for the preservation of our tideland area. I want to keep our tideland healthy so that environmentally sensitive sea birds may go on living a healthy life and enjoy their lives together with a variety of other living things. In due consideration, I am going to have "A Tideland preservation Charter for Inch'onians" declared so that Inch'onians can appreciate the importance of their environment. In accordance with this plan, an ecological park—a theme park—is under construction on the tideland as a place for studying nature, as well as, a place for tourists to come and see the beauty and richness of our tideland.

Third, I have an idea on how to realize the goals of "The Inch'on Agenda 21 Policy". My idea is based on "The agenda 21" of the 1992 UN Environmental Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since 1998, this agenda's mission requires environmental work to be carried out at the local level. I intend to do my part and I believe that fruitful results from this project will soon be apparent.

Fourth, I have a plan to expand the facilities for the proper treatment of wastewater. The current capacity for wastewater treatment currently stands at 76 percent, but by the year 2004, our capacity will be 100 percent.

In addition, I have many plans to preserve and improve the environment of Inch'on. To list only a few, they are, the "Battle against Dust of the Volume-rate Garbage Disposal System", the "Reduction of Food Waste and its Recycling", and the "Contamination Report System". I think having these measures in place is the only way to improve the quality of life in Inch'on. And aren't these good ways of preserving the only earth we have?

I would like to say something about my city. Last year, we celebrated the opening of our subway system. That was a sure sign of Inch'on becoming an environmentally healthy city. And, by the year 2001, the Inch'on International Airport will be open. In addition to the airport, the Songdo High-tech industrial Town, Yongyu-Muwi Tourism Complex, and the 2002 World cup Stadium are all under construction.

Inch'on is a gateway to Northeast Asia, it will soon become an international city where well-educated people, on the cutting-edge of tomorrow, will prepare for a bright future in the new millennium; on the sea, as well as, on the land.

I am determined to make Inch'on a model environmental city where people can enjoy their lives in a beautiful and natural environment because everything will be developed in harmony with preservation.

It is said that the Twenty First Century will be a century of environment, that any development for economic benefits cannot be considered as development. This saying leads me to consider that the most important thing for us to keep in mind is the great efforts we should be making to make this world a place where people can live with nature in peace.

I sincerely hope that the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan will be a successful and fruitful one for all participants. And I also sincerely hope that your stay here in Inch'on will be a happy and impressive one. A visit that will be remembered as long as you live.

Thank you, very much.

**Statement at the Opening of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting
on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
By Mr. Hayao Hora Deputy Director General
Transport Policy Bureau, Ministry of Transport**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here today to say a few words on behalf of the Government of Japan at the opening of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of Northwest Pacific Action Plan.

First of all, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Korea as the host country and to the UNEP Secretariat for organizing this meeting and making such thorough preparations.

Six years have now passed since the Northwest Pacific Action Plan was adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting held in Korea in 1994. During this period, the participating countries have made immense efforts, and progress has been made in each field of activity.

For marine environment protection in the Northwest Pacific region, the smooth implementation of NOWPAP activities, in general, is essential. However, it must be recognized that we cannot say that there is a sufficient institutional base to implement such activities effectively and stably, so a further step-up in improvement is required. To this end, it is important to immediately organize four Regional Activity Centres for full implementation, whose establishment was decided on at the last Intergovernmental Meeting in Beijing. Moreover, the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), which will serve as a secretariat for coordinating the activities of the RACs must be promptly set up as the mainspring for the implementation of all NOWPAP activities.

In Japan, the development of the marine environmental monitoring technique applying the remote sensing has started, as a positive step toward the activity of the Coastal Environmental Assessment and Planning Regional Activity Centre (CEA/RAC).

Moreover, in regard to RCU, we will discuss the proposed procedure for the establishment of a RCU as an agenda item of this meeting, toward setting it up at the next Intergovernmental Meeting. I think that it is important for the further implementation of NOWPAP projects that we constructively advance the discussion of this agenda item keeping fully in mind the necessity of the early establishment of the RCU and of building up the system for the enhancement of NOWPAP without delay, based on the results of this meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan has experience and knowledge concerning marine environment protection, including the implementation of marine environment monitoring; marine pollution prevention activities in international organizations, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO); marine pollution response; and reduction of the pollutant load from land-based activities. Since the Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points held in January of last year, Japan has explained that it was carrying out basic studies towards making a bid for the RCU and announced its offer to establish the RCU. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that Japan is very keen indeed to have the RCU located in Japan.

In this connection, the Vice-Governor of Toyama Prefecture, where Japan hopes to locate the RCU, is attending this meeting as an observer.

I therefore respectfully ask other countries for their support for Japan's bid to host the RCU.

As we all know, more than seventy percent of the planet on which we live is covered by oceans and seas. Japan, as a nation surrounded by water, attaches great importance to the protection of the marine environment because it is recognized that Japan's prosperity derives, to a large extent, from a rich marine environment. Thus, Japan contributes to various international activities on its own initiative in cooperation with other countries. The protection of the marine environment of the Northwest Pacific, therefore, is tantamount to the protection of the global environment as a whole. As a maritime nation in Northeast Asia, Japan is fully determined to contribute to NOWPAP activities in a constructive way and to continue to promote the protection of the marine environment in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my hope that this meeting, the first NOWPAP meeting of the new millennium, will be a fruitful one and that we will surely be able to further enhance the cooperation arrangements in this region.

Thank you.

**Statement at the Opening of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific
Action Plan (NOWPAP)
by the Representative of the Republic of Korea
Mr. Chairman**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very honored to deliver an opening statement at the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) on behalf of the Republic of Korea.

NOWPAP was adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting held in Seoul in 1994 to protect, manage and develop the marine and coastal environment of the NOWPAP region. Since then, NOWPAP activities have progressed considerably. A wide range of projects from marine environmental monitoring and data collection to oil pollution prevention has been initiated and now they are entering the second phase of implementation. Noticeably, four Regional Activity Centers (RACs), which can support and strengthen project implementation, are being established in line with the resolution of the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting in Beijing last year. Moreover, the NOWPAP Trust Fund secures around 300.000 US \$ annually through member countries' voluntary contributions.

Each NOWPAP member country has hosted an Intergovernmental Meeting on a rotational basis and accumulated much expertise in NOWPAP activities. Now it is time for us to seriously consider NOWPAP's vision and develop a long-term strategy to pursue it. The Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting, which is taking place in the first year of the new millennium, is the right place for this purpose. In this regard, I would like to touch upon some points for NOWPAP to seriously consider.

Above all, the issue of establishing a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) should be addressed with utmost urgency. I consider it very opportune for this meeting discusses the establishment procedure for the NOWPAP RCU on the basis of the resolution of the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting last year. It is very important for each member country to have ownership in NOWPAP by establishing the RCU, which will serve as a driving force for the implementation of NOWPAP. Taking this opportunity, I would like informing you that Korea will strive to host the NOWPAP RCU after the establishment procedure is finalized.

Secondly, we should strive to put the Regional Activity Centers (RACs) on track, which, I think, have not carried out any specific activities until now. I believe the RACs are the backbone institutions of NOWPAP and the member countries should provide every necessary assistance to put the RACs into operation. Moreover, member countries should also try to build up a systematic and organized network between the RACs, including the RCU.

Thirdly, NOWPAP is one of the regional sea programmes initiated by the UNEP and is in the initial stages of development. Experiences and expertise from other regional sea programmes such as the Caribbean and Mediterranean Programmes can be utilized for NOWPAP. It may be helpful for NOWPAP to take into account information and personnel exchanges when it establishes the

RCU.

Fourthly, NOWPAP is not a legally binding instrument and discussions on developing it in this regard have not yet taken place among member countries. Considering that nine out thirteen UNEP regional sea programmes have concluded regional agreements that provide a solid legal basis, I think it is desirable in the long run, that NOWPAP also evolve into a legally binding instrument reflecting the specific characteristics of the NOWPAP region. This issue should be gradually addressed on the basis of common understanding among member countries.

Fifthly, NOWPAP is relying on member countries, voluntary contributions for the implementation of its projects. However, we should consider compulsory contributions and set a one-year plus contribution scale, so that NOWPAP can be equipped with stable financing arrangements. Considering that a certain degree of assistance to the RCU is inevitable when it is established, the present contribution scheme for the NOWPAP Trust Fund should be reviewed in great depth. In addition, NOWPAP should pay more attention to utilizing outside financial resources, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF). I believe GEF is the most likely financing source we can consider at this moment, since it targets international waters and biodiversity as primary assistance areas.

Last but not least, I would like to emphasize that all countries in the NOWPAP region should participate in the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment. In this regard, it is desirable for member countries and the UNEP to make further efforts to encourage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to join NOWPAP. The D.P.R.K. attended the Expert Group Meeting many times but not the Intergovernmental Meeting. When the D.P.R.K. demonstrates its will to become a NOWPAP member, it may be desirable for us to consider providing special considerations for the D.P.R.K., in particular regarding its contribution to the Trust Fund.

Mr. Chairman

Confident that all delegates will strive to make the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP a success, would like to conclude my statement.

Thank you for your attention.

**Statement at the Opening of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting
on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)**

**by Mr. Alexander A. Solovianov National Coordinator of NOWPAP, Deputy Chairman,
State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection.**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Russian Federation, I am glad to welcome you on the occasion of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP. We express sincere gratitude to the Government of the

Republic of Korea for organizing that Intergovernmental Meeting.

Almost six years passed since the moment when NOWPAP, basic document in the field of protection of the marine and coastal environment of the region was adopted by the member countries here, in the Republic of Korea at the First Intergovernmental Meeting.

Serious progress has been achieved by the countries since that time, in several important fields of activity and the development of international environmental cooperation in the region. A very important role in the success of NOWPAP implementation and reaching its objectives belongs to UNEP, that in course of serious institutional restructuring and in condition of limited financial resources managed to provide for the development of the given component of its activity and constantly makes efforts to support its implementation.

We are also grateful for the efforts of other international organizations and partners, first of all to the international Maritime Organization and IOC/UNESCO for their input in implementation of NOWPAP.

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to implementation of the given Action Plan as a major tool for providing protection and improvement of the state of the environment in the region. Among the most important measures and actions at the given stage of NOWPAP implementation we consider the development and strengthening of the network of thematic activity centres in the countries of the region, establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit as an organizing basis for NOWPAP, strengthening of financial basis of project implementation.

Recognizing its international obligations within the framework of NOWPAP, the Russian Federation of established thematic activity centre on pollution monitoring in Vladivostok. We also make efforts for implementing other major NOWPAP components, such as regional cooperation in marine pollution preparedness and response, establishment of a comprehensive database and information management system on the state of marine and coastal environment, review of national legislation, environmental objectives, strategy and policies.

In June 1999 the Russian Federation organized holding the Third meeting of NOWPAP Forum on marine pollution preparedness and response in Yuzhno-Sakhlinsk, where Draft Regional Contingency Plan has been considered.

I hope that the given Intergovernmental Meeting will provide for significant input into implementation of NOWPAP and its further development. On behalf of the Russian Federation let me wish success to all the delegates and participants of the Intergovernmental Meeting in the further development of fruitful cooperation and reaching our common goal- protection and improvement of the state of marine and coastal environment in the region.

Thank you.

Statement at the Opening of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting

**on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
by Mr. Fan Yuansheng Head of the Chinese Delegation**

Distinguished Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The 5th Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP opens today in this beautiful coastal city Inch'on. On behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to extend our warm congratulations to those convening the meeting and at the same time, we would like to express our appreciation to UNEP for its effective organization work and the hosting country the Republic of Korea, for its warm hospitality.

As well known, just like the place that the oceans take in this planet, the environment of oceans is a very important component of the Global environment. The marine environment protection is the common responsibility of all the countries, particularly those bordering the oceans.

The regional action plan initiated by UNEP is of great significance and as the member countries of NOWPAP, with the convening of the last meetings in recognizing the vital bearing of protecting the marine environment and ecological resource on promoting the economic development and social stability in this region, we have expressed the common wish, particularly in carrying out the priority projects, bearing the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and in the spirit of proactive and practical approaches to assuming the responsibility and obligations. We feel heartened to see that since the last intergovernmental meeting, NOWPAP has witnessed further progress and the preparation of establishment of RCU has been listed on the agenda of this meeting. Right now, we are engaged in the feasibility study of inviting RCU in China. However, we believe no matter where the location is, the RCU is expected to facilitate the progress process of NOWPAP. We are convinced that with the concerned efforts of all the delegates, we could overcome all the difficulties and reach out to ultimate goal while in the same boat.

To conclude, we wish every success of this meeting.

Thank you.

**Annex III
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Working Documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/3	Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/4	Status of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

	(NOWPAP)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/4/Rev.1	Status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and Contributions by the Member States
UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/5	Proposed Procedure for the Establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP/RCU)

Information Documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants

Reference Documents

UNEP/NOWPAP IG.4/7	Report of the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP (Beijing, 6-7 April 1999)
UNEP/NOWPAP WG.14/10	Report of the Meeting. Northwest Pacific Action Plan Forum on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response, Third Meeting, Yuzhno-sakhalinsk, Russian Federation, 13-15 July 1999
UNEP(DEC)/RS.2/10	Report of the Second Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (The Hague, 5-8 July 1999)
	Operational manual on UNEP GEF interventions
	UNEP in GEF: Annual Report

Annex IV

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organization of the meeting
 - 2.1 Election of the officers
 - 2.2 Organization of work
 - 2.3 Programme and timetable
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
5. Status of NOWPAP Trust Fund and Contribution to it by the Member states
6. Review and adoption of the proposed procedure for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit for NOWPAP
 - 6.1 Presentation by Japan
 - 6.2 Presentation by the Republic of Korea
7. Review and adoption of the programme of work for the year 2000-2001
8. Preparation for the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting
9. Other matters
10. Report on the credentials
11. Adoption of the report of the meeting

12. Closure of the meeting

Annex V

Propose Procedure for The Establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit For the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP/ RCU)

Introduction

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three Resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, 14 September 1994), which was attended by Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation.

2. Chapter 4 of the Action Plan deals with the "Institutional and Financial Arrangements". Under 4.2 Coordination and Implementation, paragraphs 28-29 describes roles of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and interim measures before a RCU is established, as follows:

"28. NOWPAP States with the assistance of UNEP will work towards the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) to ensure the integrated and well-managed execution from within the Region of projects under the Action Plan."

"29. Until such time as an RCU is established and functioning effectively, the member Governments designate UNEP as the organization responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the Action Plan, and invite the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare, in cooperation with the competent international, regional and national organizations, a detailed programme document describing the operational details of projects to be developed on the basis of priorities identified by the member Governments."

3. The First Intergovernmental Meeting, in its Resolution 2, decided " consider at the second intergovernmental Meeting the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit" (UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP/IG.1/5).

4. The Fifth Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points, held in Bangkok during 29 November-1 December 1995, however, agreed that in view of the initial stage of the NOWPAP and limited funds available, the establishment of the NOWPAP/RCU be deferred to a time when more funds become available in the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

5. This agreement was further the endorsed by the Preparably Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points for the Second Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, 18-19 November 1996, Tokyo. This Preparatory Meeting, in recognition of the need to consider the desirable modality of a future RCU, requested UNEP to investigate a modality of establishment of an RCU, by compiling and analyzing information on other RCU's. Items of interest include location, mandate, participation countries, budget, ratio of contribution, personnel management, costs, etc.

6. The representatives of the People's Republic of China, at the Fifth Meeting of Experts and

National Focal Points and at the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points proposed a joint secretariat for NOWPAP and the East Asian Regional Seas Action Plan in case no interest is shown by the NOWPAP member States. The representatives of the Republic of Korea, however, at the Preparatory Meeting, underscored the importance that the host country of a future RCU should be one of the NOWPAP States.

7. The Second Intergovernmental Meeting on NOWPAP was held in Tokyo on 20 November 1996. Resolution 2 at this Meeting requested the Executive Director of UNEP to compile information and experiences from other Regional Seas Programmes on the modality for possible establishment and operation of a Regional Coordinating Unit, if the NOWPAP member States should be on its establishment at a future date.

8. In response to the request in Resolution 2 of the Second Intergovernmental Meeting, UNEP presented a document describing: information on other Regional Coordinating Units under the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes administered by UNEP; information on other UNEP and non-UNEP regional seas programmes; possible options for establishment of an RCU for NOWPAP; and procedure for establishment of a NOWPAP/RCU (UNEP (WATER)/NOWPAP IG.3/5).

9. At the Preparation Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points (Vladivostok, 7-8 April 1998), the member States agreed that, under the current situation of the NOWPAP Trust Fund, it was not feasible to establish an RCU, and that the UNEP Executive Director was requested to continue to function as the NOWPAP interim secretariat.

10. The Third Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, 9 April 1998), through Resolution 2, decided to continue to consider the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit, and requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continuously function as interim secretariat for implementation of the Action Plan until such a time as an RCU for NOWPAP is established.

11. At the same Intergovernmental Meeting, the Republic of Korea indicated the interest in inviting an RCU to the Republic of Korea.

12. At the Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points, 19-21 January 1999, Bangkok, Thailand, the member States agreed that discussion on procedures for establishment of the RCU should be initiated after the discussion on the Regional Activity Centres are concluded. At the same meeting, Japan indicated the interest in inviting to host an RCU in Toyama, Japan.

13. The Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (April 1999, Beijing) decided on the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit in the future, and further agreed on the steps for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit, as follows (Resolution 2):

(i) UNEP is requested to prepare a draft procedure, including criteria for selection of a location and a format for Preparation of a proposal for inviting to host the RCU, to be distributed to the member states for comments; and

(ii) UNEP is requested to finalize the document by the end of 1999, incorporating the comments of

the member States, which should be submitted to the Fifth intergovernmental Meeting for its approval.

14. At the same Intergovernmental Meeting, Japan reaffirmed the intention to invite the RCU to Toyama, Japan.

15. The present document provides:

- (i) The proposed terms of reference for the NOWPAP/RCU and staffing requirements;
- (ii) The estimated budget for the establishment and operation of the RCU;
- (iii) The proposed format of the invitation to host the RCU and criteria for the selection of its location.
- (IV) The proposed procedure for establishing the NOWPAP/RCU; and
- (V) The recommended action by the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting

Proposed Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP/RC

16. In this proposal it is understood that the United Nations Environment Programme will provide the RCU for NOWPAP and that consequently the NOWPAP/RCU will be subject to the rules and regulations of the United Nations. A decision will be required by the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan requesting the Executive Director of UNEP to provide and service the NOWPAP/RCU. The proposed Terms of Reference for the operation of the NOWPAP/RCU are attached as ANNEX I. They are based on the Terms of Reference of other RCUs under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. These draft Terms of Reference were submitted to the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP(WATER)/NOWPAP IG.4/6), but were not discussed on that occasion.

17. The Proposed minimum requirements for the establishment and operation of the RCU were presented at the Third Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP WATER)/NOWPAP IG.3/5).

18. The Regional Activity Centres, which are being established, will work closely with the RCU, and communication between the RCU and National Focal Points should be maintained. The Activity Centres include:

- The Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DIN/RAC), Beijing, P. R. China;
- The Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POM/RAC), Vladivostok, Russian Federation;
- The Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MER/RAC), Taejon, Republic of Korea; and
- The Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEA/RAC), Toyama, Japan.

19. To ascertain the minimum number of personnel for a proper operation of the RCU, the past, on-going and future programmes and activities need to be considered. Furthermore, the level of assistance provided by UNEP and UNON and how closely and effectively the Regional Activity Centres and National Focal Points work with the RCU will also affect the size of and the financial resource burden for the RCU.

20. Assuming that the Regional Activity Centres become fully operational and necessary support is provided by UNEP and UNON, at least a Coordinator/Programme Officer (P-5) and an Administrative Assistant/Secretary (G-6/7) will be required to ensure proper implementation of the RCU activities and functions. A second Programme Officer at the P-3/4 level would be highly desirable in order to accelerate the implementation of NOWPAP.

21. With future development of the programme and activities, additional regular staff members may be required. Experience demonstrates that successful regional seas coordination units have between four and eight professional offices, including the Coordinator. In addition to the regular staff, certain tasks (preparation of specific technical documents, surveys, studies, analysis, special assignments, etc.) would require recruitment of short-term consultants or experts.

Costs of NOWPAP/RCU establishment and operation

22. The possible options for meeting the full cost of the RCU are the following:

- NOWPAP member States agree on a contribution scale to the NOWPAP Trust Fund on a semi-permanent basis; and

A member State will offer to host the NOWPAP/RCU, possibly taking advantage of an existing institution, and providing most of the operational costs of the RCU. This means that the host Government/Institution will financially contribute substantial amounts of funds to cover the staff salary, rent of the premises, communication costs, expendable and non-expendable equipment, and travel on official business. NOWPAP Trust Fund resources could be designated by the member countries to reinforce the capacity and activities of the RCU.

23. Considering the situation that rapid increase of the contributions to the Trust Fund cannot be anticipated, the RCU would require considerable financial support of the host government / institution.

24. Apart from the staff costs, the requirements for establishment and operation of an RCU include:

- (i) The costs involved in the setting up of the RCU, including the transfer of documents and files existing in Nairobi to the location of the NOWPAP/RCU.
- (ii) The annual operation costs such as staff salary, telecommunication (telephone, fax, and e-mail); operation and maintenance of reproduction facilities, data processing equipment, etc.; and operation and maintenance of standard office equipment (typewriter, computers, telephones, facsimiles, etc.)

25. The economic costs of the location of the RCU (Prices, salary scales, travel expenses, etc.) vary, and the following estimates are based on the UN post adjustment multiplier applicable to Bangkok (11% as of 1 February 2000). For estimate of costs in other locations, please use the following UN post adjustment multiplier (Japan: 111.5%; People's Republic of China: 39.1%; Republic of Korea:

57.4%; and Russian Federation: 44.0%). For example, the cost estimate for Beijing could be roughly calculated by the cost estimate in Bangkok multiplied by 139.1/111.

26. The approximate annual cost of operation of an RCU (start-up phase) is estimated below based on the current operations of other RCUs and based on costs in Bangkok. Please note that the personnel cost is dependent on the UN grade of the posts to be classified by the United Nations in accordance with the UN rules and regulations. It is also subject to whether or not the staff members have dependents. It is assumed that travel cost vary drastically from one country to another. Meeting costs are not calculated, because they are to be provided specifically by the decision of an Intergovernmental Meeting (however, a small amount of funds will be recommended to be available for urgent meetings). ANNEX II provides a breakdown of the estimated annual operational costs of the RCU according to NOWPAP member country.

Approximate Annual Cost of a Regional Seas Convention and Action Plan RCU (Start-up Phase) Based on Costs in Bangkok	
Components	Estimate (US \$)
1. Personnel:	
Coordinator/ Programme Officer (P-5)	142,000
Programme Officer (P-3)	100,000
Administrative Assistant (G-6/7)	43,000
2. Contractual Staff:	
Consultant (s) 4 p/m	28,000
Temporary Assistant 2 p/m	4,000
3. Travel on official business	20,000
4. Rental of Premises	30,000
5. Meeting	
6. Equipment:	5,000
Maintenance and operation	
7. Reporting Costs	5,000
8. Miscellaneous:	
Communication	8,000
Freight	1,000
Sundry	1,000
TOTAL ANNUAL COST	387,000

27. In addition to the annual operational cost, specific costs for setting up of an office will be incurred. This cost is estimated as follows:

STAFF	SPACE (m²)	EQUIPMENT	COST ESTIMATE (US &)
1. Coordinator	16	Desk	600
		Swivel armchair	300
		Coffee table	150
		Bookshelf	250

		Two visitor chairs	400
2. Administrative Assistant	25	Two Desks Two Typist chairs Three Bookshelves Metal cupboard Two office chairs	800 300 1,200 400 450
3. Consultant (s)	12	Desk Swivel Chair Book shelf Two Office chairs	300 200 250 300
4. Meeting Room/Library	25	Eight Bookshelves Three tables Eight Chairs	2,000 400 1,200
5. Non-expendable equipment		Four Computers and printers Fax machine Four telephones Typewriter Copier	20,000 5,000 1,000 2,000 5,000
6. Expendable equipment (One year supply)		Stationery, copy paper, envelopes, etc.	3,000
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE			45,500

28. The estimated costs of moving the secretariat function from Nairobi to a newly established RCU location is estimated at:

- a) US \$ 3,000 for reproduction of the NOWPAP files; and
- b) US \$ 5,000 for freight and associated costs for transfer of files and documents. Such cost should be covered jointly by the UNEP Environment Fund and Trust Fund.

Format for invitation to host the NOWPAP/RCU and criteria for selection of its location

29. Interested member states will submit an official letter to UNEP to host the RCU for consideration by the NOWPAP member states. The elements in the letter should reflect the criteria for selection of its location. The key elements of the criteria that should be contained in the letter are the following:

- A statement on the willingness and reasons for hosting the NOWPAP/RCU.
- The location of the RCU-its convenience for the international operation (including transport connection with other NOWPAP countries, existence of other international institutions/organizations, availability of appropriate hotels for participants of meetings, etc.) and RCU staff's living (existence of various facilities for the staff and family such

as international schools, and appropriate housing)

- Facilities to be provided—office space (number of rooms), communication facilities, equipment (computers, photocopiers), conference/ meeting facilities, etc. as well as descriptions of the building/institution where the RCU office is to be accommodated.
 - Services to be provided—maintenance of premises and equipment that will be ensured by the host government or institution and any other additional service to be provided.
 - Staffing—indication of the costs of staff that the government will cover (please note that according to the new rules of the United Nations, gratis staff (e.g. secondment of staff) cannot be accepted by the United Nations).
 - Financial contribution—the amount of financial contribution towards the operation of the RCU, for example, for travel of staff, stationery, communication, etc.
 - Contributions the country has made to date towards NOWPAP in terms of funds contributed towards the Trust Fund, and any other contributions (including in-kind contribution, if any) such as hosting of NOWPAP meetings.
30. The content of the offer should be more important than the absolute US \$ figure of the offer. For example, comparison between two offers on office space should be made in terms of the actual space provided rather than the absolute monetary values for renting of office space. Another example is that comparison of offers on staff travel should be based on the number of missions possible (between the proposed host city/town and other major NOWPAP cities) rather than on the absolute monetary value of staff travel.
31. A transparent procedure for the selection of the location of the RCU must be ensured. The selection will be made by the member States and UNEP will assist to ensure that the process is fair and transparent. UNEP can prepare a comparison table for the offers, showing the items contained in each of the offers made by the member States. UNEP does not intend to provide any rating for the items among the offers (an example of such comparison table is provided in ANNEX III).
32. This comparison table will be submitted to the member States in time for the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting. Even if only one offer to host the RCU is provided, this comparison table will be prepared to comment on the technical and financial feasibility of establishing the RCU in the proposed location.

The Procedure for establishing the RCU

33. UNEP believes that establishment of an RCU will require political and financial commitments of the member States to implement the Action Plan. Particularly, the member states should agree on a long-term scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund, and on a sustainable

financial scheme to cover the operational costs of the RCU. With regard to a stronger political commitment, the member States should consider adopting a legally-binding instrument, subject to the results of NOWPAP/2. These issues should be addressed before the establishment of the RCU.

34. Another issue to be addressed before the establishment of the RCU is the review of the progress made in the establishment of the network of Regional Activity Centres. This would provide the opportunity to examine and determine the functional relationship between the RACs and the RCU.

35. The following procedure will be considered by the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting:

36. **STEP1:** The NOWPAP member States will have reviewed this document before the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting at which the document will be discussed. The document will then be adopted as a basis for the agreed procedure for the establishment of the RCU. At the same time, the member states should also consider the issue of political and financial commitments to implement NOWPAP, as mentioned in paragraph 33 above.

37. **STEP2:** Within Five months of conclusion of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting, each member State will be given an opportunity to submit to UNEP a letter of offer to host the RCU in its country. The letter should include the elements as contained in paragraph 29 above.

38. **STEP3:** The Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting (scheduled for November/December 2000 in Japan) will review the offers from the member State (S) in order to judge the financial and technical feasibility of the establishment and operation of the RCU at the proposed location. The same intergovernmental Meeting is requested to decide on the location, based on the comparison of the offers. When no consensus is obtained, the Intergovernmental Meeting may decide on the location based voting according to the rules and regulation of the UNEP Governing Council.

39. **STEP 4:** The NOWPAP member State(s), which is (are) also member(s) of the UNEP Governing Council, will submit, on behalf of the NOWPAP member States, a draft decision to the twenty-first session of the Governing Council in 2001 for the establishment of an RCU within the UNEP regular Programme for the 2002/2003 biennium. Once the Governing Council decision is taken, UNEP will enter into negotiation with the host State for a host government agreement.

40. **STEP 5:** The Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting in Russia (scheduled in 2001) will review the progress made in the establishment of the RCU.

Recommended Action by the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting

41. The Intergovernmental Meeting is invited to:

(i) Discuss and adopt the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP/RCU based on Annex I of this document.

- (ii) Discuss and agree on the elements to be included in the letter to invite the RCU and the criteria for selecting the location of the RCU
- (iii) Discuss and agree on the procedure for the establishment of the RCU, based on the present document.
- (iv) Request the Executive Director of UNEP to administer the NOWPAP/RCU on a permanent basis.

ANNEX I

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NOWPAP/RCU

1. General Coordination

- (a) To regularly consult with the States in the region, through the designated National Focal Points of the Action Plan, or on their advice, directly with relevant institutions, on issues relevant to the Action Plan or other issues deemed to fall within the responsibility of the RCU.
- (b) To provide an overall technical coordination of the day to day activities related to the implementation of NOWPAP-
- (c) To coordinate the activities for the implementation of NOWPAP with similar plans carried out in the framework of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme;
- (d) To ensure the necessary coordination with other international, regional and national organizations considered competent by the member states in the region and to enter into such administrative and financial arrangements with the organizations as may be required for the effective discharge of the secretariat functions;
- (e) To organize and prepare documentation for the meeting and conference of the States participating in the Action Plan and for their experts, particularly, for the Intergovernmental Meetings on NOWPAP, and Meetings of Experts and National Focal Points on NOWPAP;
- (f) To organize and prepare all the necessary documentation for all the other meetings relevant to the development of NOWPAP that may be decided and requested by the Intergovernmental Meeting;
- (g) To finalize and transmit the reports of all the meetings organized, to the member States in the region and other relevant national, regional and international institutions;
- (h) To transmit, as appropriate, to the member States notifications, reports and other information relevant to the implementation of NOWPAP;
- (i) To consider enquiries by, and information from, the States and to consult with them on questions relating to the Action Plan. To this end, the RCU should act as a centre for the collection and dissemination of information concerning the Action Plan, also using the network of the Regional Activity Centres;

- (j) To represent the Secretariat of NOWPAP at relevant regional and international meetings; and
- (k) To perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the States participating in the Action Plan for the Northwest Pacific Region.

II. Specific programme management tasks

- (a) To develop projects within approved budget and programme priorities in the form of the project documents;
- (b) To consult and negotiate with designated national authorities, United Nations agencies, organizations and consultants in the development of projects;
- (c) To coordinate and monitor the projects in their implementation;
- (d) To coordinate the reporting on the project activities based on the project management requirements or the need to know by the states;
- (e) To prepare reports as well as other appropriate project outputs such as manuals, guidelines, and reports of meetings/workshops, etc. for publication as NOWPAP/RCU and/or joint UNEP and NOWPAP/RCU publications; and
- (f) To prepare, as and when necessary, revisions of the projects in accordance with the UNEP requirements.

III. Resource mobilization

- (a) To prepare and regularly review a strategy for mobilizing additional resources and support for the programmes of NOWPAP.
- (b) To prepare project proposals for the consideration of multilateral and bilateral donors, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other funding organizations as well as private sector foundations; and
- (c) To cultivate the necessary contacts with potential donors.

IV. Financial management

- (a) Bearing in mind that United Nations rules and regulations will be applicable to the RCU, to supervise the financial management of project supported by the Environment Funds and the NOWPAP Trust Fund managed by UNEP, in close cooperation with and under the general supervision of the Budget and Funds management service of the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON);
- (b) To solicit contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund, and to disseminate to the member States in

the region half yearly statements on the status of the Funds-

- (c) To prepare quarterly projections of cash requirements;
- (d) To supervise preparation and timely submission of detailed financial reports and statements in connection with the projects approved by the intergovernmental Meetings and according to UNEP requirements,
- (e) To recruit consultants and experts according to the procedure applicable to UNEP, including evaluation of their reports, payment of fees, etc.
- (f) To purchase equipment for the operation of the RCU and, as appropriate, the implementation of specific projects;
- (g) To Process rental or procurement requests.

V. Administration:

- (a) To supervise and Coordinate all the staffing and personnel needs, bearing in mind United Nations rules and regulations;
- (b) To administer the RCU premises;
- (c) To Prepare and Process travel requests, visa applications and travel claims; issuance of travel authorization and payment of DSA for consultants and expert meetings;
- (d) To register meetings at the RCU headquarters: to book conference hall, hotel and transportation, to recruit local temporary staff, and to recruit, as and when necessary, interpreters and translators either through UNEP headquarters in Nairobi or locally;
- (e) To organize meetings outside the RCU headquarters, preparation of required agreement between United Nations and the host Governments including estimated costs to be borne by the Governments.

Annex II

**ESTIMATED COST OF ESTABLISHING A NOWPAP RCU
IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:**

	JAPAN (Toyama)	R.KOREA (Seoul)	CHINA (Beijing)	RUSSIA (Moscow)
Personnel Costs	238,761	203,481	176,800	176,878
Coordinator (P-5) Programme Officer	181,011	161,034	138,570	166,173
(P-3)	130,579	83,641	22,701	33,928

Administrative Assistant (G-7)	102,128	59,912	15,317	22,240
Secretary (G-5)	652,479	508,068	353,388	399,219
Overhead costs	84,822	66,049	45,940	51,898
Total staff costs	737,301	574,117	399,328	451,117
Rental of premises based on requirement for 94 sq. meters	83,000	118,400	69,900	78,900
Operating costs	57,000	42,400	37,500	37,500
Equipment	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
· Computers plus printers (5)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
· Fax machine	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
· Photocopier	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Furniture	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Transfer of RCU files and other materials from Nairobi	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Telephone facilities	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Overhead costs	196,000	216,800	163,400	172,400
Sub-total	25,500	28,200	21,200	21,200
	221,500	245,000	184,600	193,600
Total cost	958,801	819,117	583,928	644,717

Salaries for the Professional staff are calculated at dependency rate and on the assumption of 2 dependants for the staff member and based on the first year of recruitment and therefore include assignment grant, travel upon recruitment and education grant

The total cost does not include other operational costs of implementing the programme of work such as travel on official business, stationery, cost of meetings, communication etc which would normally be borne by the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

ANNEX III Example of a comparison table

Item	Offer by State A	Offer by State B	Comments
Analysis of location (transportation convenience of the location to the major cities in the NOWPAP)			e.g. The proposed city in State A has more convenient nights with the proposed city in State B.
Existence of facilities for Staff welfare (existence of international schools, housing situation, etc.)			e.g. The proposed city in state A does not have an international school.
Proposed equipment to be provided			e.g., The proposed location in state A has larger office space but the proposed location in State B has a better conference facility.

Proposed personnel to be staffed			e.g., The offer by State B has better quality staff and more staff time proposed than the offer by State A.
Other benefits			e.g., The offer by State A includes support from nearby Universities, while the offer by State B includes Provision of staff house.
Previous contribution			e.g., The State A did not contribute to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in the year X, but the State A hosted more NOWPAP meetings than State A (excluding informal meetings)

Annex VI Resolutions

RESOLUTION 1 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION IN THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM

The Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting.

Based on the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment for the Northwest Pacific Region (Northwest Pacific Action Plan, NOWPAP) adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting, as well as Resolution 1 of the First Intergovernmental Meeting,

Based also on Resolution 2 of the Second intergovernmental Meeting and Resolution 1 of the Third and the Fourth Intergovernmental Meetings,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of the six priority projects in the workplan for the 1999/2000 biennium,

Recognizing the willingness of International and regional organizations to assist in implementation of priority projects,

Taking into consideration the experiences in the implementation of the workplan for the 1999-2000 biennium

1. **Approves** the workplan and Budget for the rescheduled 2000/2001 Biennium and emphasizes

the importance of carrying out the workplan as scheduled.

2. **Requests** the member States of NOWPAP to give an interim mandate to the NOWPAP/1 Coordinating Working Group and NOWPAP/3 Coordinating Committee and Working groups, and to decide their terms of Reference at the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting.

3. **Decides** to further study and review the proposals for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and Integrated Coastal Area Planning and Management, recognizing the importance of those issues; and request UNEP, in cooperation with GEF, to present relevant proposals at the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting for consideration.

4. **Further encourages** the member states of NOWPAP, which host workshops and meetings to provide possible technical and financial assistance for their organizations.

Resolution 2 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NOWPAP

The Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting.

Based on the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (Northwest Pacific Action Plan, NOWPAP), adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting, as well as Resolution 2 of the First Intergovernmental Meeting,

Based also on Resolution 2 of the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting,

Noting the arrangements made by the Executive Director of UNEP for secretariat support for implementation of the Action Plan,

Noting also the information provided for establishment of Regional Activity Center (RAC) network and a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU),

Recognizing the willingness of international and regional organizations to assist in implementation of priority projects,

1. **Requests** the Executive Director of UNEP to conclude necessary arrangements with the designated Regional Activity Centres and further requests him to put the RACs, backbone organs of the network, on track and try to make systematic organized networks of RACs as early as possible.

2. **Decides also** to establish a Regional Coordinating Unit in the near future and requests the Executive-Director of UNEP to initiate steps for creating the necessary professional and general service staff posts.

3. **Requests** the Executive Director of UNEP to continuously function as interim secretariat for implementation of the Action Plan until such a time as an RCU for NOWPAP is established.

4. **Urges** the member States of NOWPAP to continue to provide any possible support for UNEP to fulfill its function as the interim secretariat

5. **Decides** that the following steps should be taken:

STEP1: Within five months of conclusion of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting, each member state will be given an opportunity to submit to UNEP a letter of offer to host the RCU in its country. The letter should include the elements as contained in paragraph 29 of document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/5. Additional information will be submitted in time for the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting.

STEP2: The Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting (scheduled for November/December 2000 in Japan) will review the offers from the member State(s) in order to judge the financial and technical feasibility of the establishment and operation of the RCU at the proposed location. The same Intergovernmental Meeting is requested to decide on the location, based on the comparison of the offers as well as in accordance with the rules and regulation of the UNEP Governing Council.

STEP3: The NOWPAP member State(s), which is(are) also member(s) of the UNEP Governing Council, will submit, on behalf of the NOWPAP member States, a draft decision to the twenty-first session of the Governing Council in 2001 for the establishment of an RCU within the UNEP regular Programme for the 2002/2003 biennium. Once the Governing Council decision is taken, UNEP will enter into negotiation with the host state for a host government agreement.

STEP4: The Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting in Russia (scheduled in 2001) will review the progress made in the establishment of the RCU.

6. **Bearing** in mind that NOWPAP is based on close cooperation and common understanding among participating countries, encourages the member States to make every effort to reach consensus, including the development of possible options.

7. **Approves** the Terms of Reference of the RCU contained in Annex I to document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.5/5.

8. **Requests** the Executive Director of UNEP to convene the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting November or December in 2000 in Japan.

Resolution 3

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NOWPAP

The Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting,

Based on the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and

Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (Northwest Pacific Action Plan. NOWPAP), adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting, as well as Resolution 3 of the First Intergovernmental Meeting,

Based also on Resolution 3 of the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting,

Recognizing the desire of the member States of NOWPAP for a prompt, efficient and cost-effective implementation of priority projects in support of the Action Plan,

Recognizing also the need of the member states to reduce the undistributed percentage in the contribution scale,

Encouraging the member States to make their efforts to cooperate with the environmental-related international bodies, local governments, private sectors and citizens to reduce the financial burden of the member States and in support of the objectives of NOWPAP,

1.Reaffirms that the sum of US\$500,000 should be the total targeted contribution per year to NOWPAP activities, and that the member States are requested to make contributions to the Trust Fund as sincerely as possible.

2.Confirms that a scale of contribution to the NOWPAP Trust Fund from the member States is comprised of a Basic contribution and an additional contribution. The Basic contribution reflects the sense of common participation and shared responsibility of all the participating States.

3. Decides to endorse the following tentative scale of contributions to the Trust Fund for activities in 2000:

COUNTRY	BASIC (percent)	ADDITIONAL (percent)	TOTAL (US\$)
Japan	5	20	125,000
People's Republic of China	5	3	40,000
Republic of Korea	5	15	100,000
Russian Federation	5	5	50,000
Total	20	43	315,000

4.Urges the member States to review the current scale of contribution before the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting, and to make efforts to increase their contributions.

5.Urges also the member States and the Executive Director of UNEP to make all possible efforts to secure funds from sources external to the Trust Fund, including private sectors, local governments, international and regional organizations and financial institutions.

6. **Approves** the following NOWPAP Trust Fund budget for the 2000-2001 Biennium:

Summary of the Proposed Budget for NOWPAP 2000-2001				
Project	Re-phasing of the 1999 commitments	2000 budget	2001 budget	Amount
NOWPAP/1	TF36,000	TF 28,000	TF 86,000	TF 150,000
NOWPAP/2	TF5,000			TF 5,000
NOWPAP/3	TF 45,000	TF 30,000 EF 9,000	TF 120,000 EF,13,000	TF195,000 EF 22,000
NOWPAP/4		TF 80,000	TF 40,000	TF 120,000
NOWPAP/5 or coordination of Regional Activity Centre		TF 40,000	TF 70,000	TF 110,000
NOWPAP/6				
Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points			TF 5,000	TF 5,000
Sub-Total	TF 86,000	TF 178,000 EF 9,000	TF 321,000 EF 13,000	TF 585,000
13% of the sub-total as Programme support Cost	TF 11,180	TF 23,140	TF 41,730	TF 76,050
Total	TF 97,180 EF 0	TF 201,140 EF 9,000	TF 326,730 EF 13,000	TF 661,050 EF 22,000
	97,180	210,140	375,730	683,050

TF= Trust Fund

EF= Environment Fund

7. **Requests** the Governing Council of UNEP at its 21st session to extend the duration of the NOWPAP Trust Fund through 2003.

8. **Approves** the NOWPAP budget for 2000-2001 biennium as follows:

US \$	661,050	2000-2001 Workplan contained in Annex I
	200,000	Co-financing for GEF PDF B project on LBS
	100,000	A Possible GEF PDF-B Project to be considered at the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting

	100,000	Operating Reserve
	150,000	RCU professional and general service staff (2001)
Total	1,211,050	