



UNEP ROAP Director visit to NOWPAP RCU, Busan Office



Dr. Young-Woo Park, Director of UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), visited NOWPAP RCU Busan office on 9 June 2009. Dr. Park was attending the 3rd International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment (held in Busan, Korea, 7-10 June), where he made an opening statement and chaired one of the sessions.

During his short visit to Busan office, Dr. Park shared his ideas related to NOWPAP implementation (e.g. applying information technologies and geographic information systems (GIS) for internet training) as well as information on research being done in Korea on using algae for carbon sequestration and for biomass production.

Dr. Park also stressed importance of coordination with government agencies to get relevant information that might help implementing NOWPAP activities. NOWPAP RCU staff members briefed Dr. Park on recent projects implemented by NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers and Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU).

Conference participants congratulated UNEP on its work related to mercury (including GC 25 decisions). Partnership between WHO and UNEP on environment and health linkage was also highly appreciated.



MERRAC FPM12 & CNA4

Daejeon, Korea

At its 12th Focal Points Meeting (FPM) and the 4th Competent National Authorities (CNA) Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan held in Daejeon on 1-3 June 2009, NOWPAP Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC) developed the workplan and budget for the 2010-2011 biennium. In conjunction with the FPM and CNA Meeting, an International Workshop on the Response to Marine Pollution in the NOWPAP Region was also held on 5 June in Incheon, where representatives from the NOWPAP member states shared information and best practices on oil spill preparedness and response.

NOWPAP preparedness against oil spills

As the region is at the high risk of oil spill incidents demonstrated by the real disaster of Hebei Spirit in December 2007, NOWPAP members pay great attention to regional cooperation on the issue and tried to be better prepared. In 2008, Second NOWPAP Oil Spill Exercise was held in Qingdao, China. In 2009, two NOWPAP BRAVO exercises were successfully conducted to check the communication efficiency among member states in response to oil spills under the NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan (RCP).

In addition, MERRAC has recently shared its successful RCP experience with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in order to help them to get their oil spill contingency plan adopted.

8th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting

Beijing, China

NOWPAP Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) has recently completed its 8th Focal Points Meeting in Beijing. During the three-day meeting on 19-21 May 2009, DINRAC Focal Points approved the work plan and budget for 2010-2011 that is to be submitted to NOWPAP 14th IGM at the end of this year for adoption. DINRAC has formed a working group to develop an activity on alien species, will visualize the current DINRAC website using the web-based GIS and will maintain its internet communication system among member states.

In addition to DINRAC Focal Points and national experts, Directors of each NOWPAP RAC and representatives of NOWPAP RCU also attended the meeting where they had sideline interviews with a consultant for NOWPAP RCU performance review.

NOWPAP at 'World Ocean Conference'

Manado, Indonesia

The NOWPAP representatives attended the World Ocean Conference in Manado, Indonesia on 11-15 May 2009. The Conference was aimed at creating a forum for the world community to discuss current marine and ocean issues which are related to climate change.

The Manado Declaration was adopted at the conference by the participating governments and the outcomes from the conference will be brought to the climate change negotiation process at the UN Climate Change Conference in December 2009 in Copenhagen. The Coral Triangle Summit was also held at the same time.

In addition, there were parallel International Science, Technology and Policy Symposium, Exhibition and UNEP workshops which the NOWPAP representatives also attended and distributed NOWPAP publications and promotional items.



NOWPAP at 'Global Gathering 2009'

Busan, Korea

NOWPAP participated in the Global Gathering 2009 in Busan, Korea on 23 May 2009.



An exhibition booth of NOWPAP was set up at the event which was designed by Busan municipal government as a cultural exchange event to promote international cooperation.

This is the second time that NOWPAP has participated in this annual event since 2008.

UNEP National Committee for the Republic of Korea

Being the two UNEP-related bodies in Korea, NOWPAP RCU and UNEP National Committee for ROK have had some occasions of mutual assistance, starting from exchanging information, cross-linking websites and sharing publications. As a next step, NOWPAP Scientific Affairs Officer is going to give a lecture on the way climate change affects regional biodiversity to a Committee-sponsored event, the UNEP TUNZA International Children and Youth Conference on the Environment (UNEP TICYC).

This year TICYC, to be held in Deajeon, Korea on 17-23 August, is focused on climate change and is expected to bring together about 1,000 participants from over 100 countries and the Executive Director of UNEP.

New programme officers at the NOWPAP RCU

Recruited by UNEP as NOWPAP Administrative Officer and Scientific Affairs Officer, Mr. Masakatsu OHYAMA and Mr. Sangjin LEE reported in May 2009 to NOWPAP RCU offices in Toyama (Japan) and Busan (Republic of Korea) respectively.

...continued from the previous page

Mr. Ohyama, a Japanese national, had been working at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for more than 10 years, being in charge of financial and programme management before joining NOWPAP. He also worked at an investment bank for four years, dealing with corporate finance and investments. His rich experience with the UN system and financial affairs will benefit NOWPAP administration and finance management.

Dr. Lee, a Korean national, had been a branch director and research centre manager in the Korea Coast Guard, responsible for oil spill preparedness and marine pollution related project management since 2004. He was also involved in university research projects on toxic waste management. His academic achievements and project management skills will contribute to successful implementation of NOWPAP activities. With the arrival of the two new staff members, NOWPAP RCU will continue to provide its assistance to the member states and Regional Activity Centers.

Missions planned for the 3rd quarter

- TUNZA Int'l Children/Youth Conference on Environment, Deajeon, Korea, 17-23 August
- NOWPAP Brainstorming Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation, 17 September 2009, Toyama, Japan
- 7th NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting, 11-12 September, Kanazawa, Japan, back-to-back with the Workshop on Monitoring of Organic Contaminants
- 7th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting, 14-15 September, Toyama, Japan, back-to-back with the First International Workshop on Marine Biodiversity
- Shanghai International Maritime Forum 2009, 15-17 September, Shanghai, China
- Time for 'Marine Litter Summit' and 'NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup campaign' are to be determined

Public awareness / Promotional activities

As a part of NOWPAP promotion among local communities in Japan,

RCU Toyama office participated in the following activities during this quarter:

- Street clean up with Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC) on 27 May, Toyama, Japan.
- Toyama Eco Life Act, on 21 June, Toyama, Japan

