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MEMORANDUM

DEC 03 2020

FOR/TO : **CONCERNED DENR OFFICIALS/PERSONNEL**
All DENR Undersecretaries
All DENR Assistant Secretaries
All Service Directors
All Bureau Directors
Executive Director, Manila Bay Coordinating Office
Executive Director, River Basin Control Office
Executive Director, National Solid Waste Management
Commission Secretariat
All Regional Executive Directors
All EMB Regional Directors
All MGB Regional Directors

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR FINANCE, INFORMATION
SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE CHANGE & PEMSEA NATIONAL
FOCAL POINT, PHILIPPINES**

SUBJECT : **PARTICIPATION TO THE 2021 EAST ASIAN SEAS (EAS)
CONGRESS**

This is to extend the invitation of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) to the forthcoming East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress which will be held on 01 – 04 December 2021 in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. The 2021 EAS Congress shall be hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia and co-organized by their Ministry of Environment, Province of Preah Sihanouk, together with PEMSEA.

The EAS Congress is a triennial international event that serves as a platform in advancing commitment and cooperation towards the achievement of the shared vision of a sustainable East Asian Seas, through the implementation of the Sustainable Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). It is a pioneering region-wide platform for capacity building, strategic action and cooperation for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

As one of the country partners of PEMSEA in the implementation of the SDS-SEA, the Government of the Philippines, through the DENR, hosted the EAS Congress in 2009 and 2018. The 2009 EAS Congress hosted in Manila highlighted initiatives and on-the-ground experiences in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and witnessed the signing of the Manila Declaration¹ on which basically incites the implementation of ICM for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the EAS region.

MEMO NO. 2020-664

¹Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Seas of East Asia Region (2009)

The 2018 EAS Congress hosted in Iloilo underscored the twenty five (25) years of partnership for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies (H.O.P.E) and further reaffirmed the EAS countries' commitments in the implementation of the SDS-SEA through the signing of the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration².

Armed with greater public awareness on the links between ocean health and human health, the forthcoming EAS Congress shall build on the theme and success of the 2018 EAS Congress. Carrying the theme: "*Charting a New Decade of H.O.P.E*, the EAS Congress 2021 aims to:

- Share the lessons learned, track the progress made, and scale up good practices in implementing the SDS-SEA at the regional, national, and local levels.
- Build on and recalibrate existing management interventions and foster new opportunities for regional partnerships using innovative approaches, technologies, investments, and financing towards the sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment.
- Set up a clear road map on transformative blue solutions in the next decade in accordance with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and other relevant international and regional commitments.

The Congress will basically feature various conferences, forums or sessions that will involve sharing of experiences, good practices, innovative technologies, and strategic solutions. In this regard and to ensure and maximize the participation of the Department to the Congress, and gain new ideas and perspectives on ocean, coastal and marine governance, among others, we would appreciate it if you could block off the dates on your respective office's calendars, and likewise, enjoin your personnel to participate in this Congress. Further information regarding the Congress and its sessions shall be disseminated as soon as it is made available.

For your consideration.



ATTY. ANALIZA REBUERTA-TEH, CESO I

Attachment/s:

- PEMSEA letter dated 18 November 2020

² Iloilo Ministerial Declaration: East Asian Region Moving As One to Secure Healthy Oceans, People and Economies (2018)



18 November 2020

Dear Members of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council,

Subject: East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2021

We are pleased to formally announce that the EAS Congress 2021 will be held on 1-4 December 2021 in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. This triennial event will be hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia and co-organized by their Ministry of Environment, Province of Preah Sihanouk, and PEMSEA.

The year 2021 is a defining moment as we contain current and future pandemics and as we near the completion of the implementation plan of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) 2018-2022. Armed with greater public awareness on the links between ocean health and human health, the EAS region is one and aligned with the global sentiment to rise above pressing socioeconomic, ecological, and climate change issues, and sustain the momentum of building meaningful and transformative solutions for a sustainable ocean-based economy.

With the theme *Charting a New Decade of H.O.P.E. (Healthy Oceans, People, and Economies)*, the EAS Congress 2021 aims to:

- Share the lessons learned, track the progress made, and scale up good practices in implementing the SDS-SEA at the regional, national, and local levels;
- Build on and recalibrate existing management interventions and foster new opportunities for regional partnerships using innovative approaches, technologies, investments, and financing towards the sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment;
- Set up a clear road map on transformative blue solutions in the next decade in accordance with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and other relevant international and regional commitments.

As discussed in the 25th Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) last 27 October, the format of the Congress (whether face-to-face, virtual, or hybrid) will be decided on the 26th (Expanded) EC Meeting on 30 March 2021. For more information on the Congress, please write to Ms. Karen See, the Secretariat Coordinator, at ksee@pemsea.org.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Aimee T. Gonzales
Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

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Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Seas of East Asia Region

The Third Ministerial Forum East Asian Seas Congress 2009

Manila, Philippines
26 November 2009

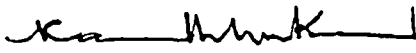
1. We, the representatives of the countries of the Seas of East Asia region, have gathered this day in Manila to discuss policies and actions for bringing into realization the shared vision of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as adopted through the Putrajaya Declaration in 2003, and to review and evaluate progress towards priority targets for SDS-SEA implementation, as adopted through the Haikou Partnership Agreement in 2006.
2. We recognize the important role of coasts and oceans in providing valuable resources and services in the development of our economies and the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals across the region. We therefore acknowledge the need for continuing efforts to realize the SDS-SEA objectives, facilitating the fulfillment of global and regional commitments, as well as responding to common threats posed by uncontrolled development of coastal areas, poverty, resource degradation and marine pollution from land- and sea-based sources.
3. We acknowledge that our region is vulnerable to various impacts of climate change, which include frequent and extreme weather events, flooding, water shortage, acidification of the oceans and seas, salt water intrusion, sea level rise and other environmental emergencies that we all face. We stress that the impacts of climate change cut across various areas and issues including water resources, food security and livelihood, pollution, hazards and disaster, as well as biological diversity.
4. We recognize that our region needs to enhance its capacity building efforts in order to adequately reduce the risks posed by climate change to sustainable development.
5. We acknowledge that Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) is a valuable tool in achieving sustainable development and climate change adaptation, as affirmed in the Manado Ocean Declaration adopted by the World Ocean Conference held in Manado, Indonesia, in May 2009, and as an effective mechanism towards the broader goals of sustainable development in various other instruments such as the Bali Plan of Action of the APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting, the Agenda 21, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

6. We are encouraged by the progress made by the countries of the region over the past three years in SDS-SEA implementation, particularly with regard to the formulation and implementation of national policies and action plans for sustainable coastal and ocean development, and the initiation of national and subnational ICM programmes to achieve on-the-ground improvements in managing and sustaining marine and coastal resources. We acknowledge that ICM has been developed, demonstrated and applied at various locations across the region for the past 15 years as a systematic approach to achieving sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment and resources, specifically through on-the-ground implementation by local governments. We note that the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) was instrumental in this effort.
7. We will continue to work together constructively to meet our regional targets, as set in the Haikou Partnership Agreement to implement ICM programmes in at least 20 percent of the Region's coasts and adopt national coastal and ocean policies in 70 percent of the countries by 2015. We see the urgency of addressing the pressing issues due to climate change as integral to these adopted targets.
8. We take note of the recent progress made in the transformation of PEMSEA into a self-sustained regional mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, and whose comparative advantage is the experience and knowledge gained from almost two decades of ICM practice.
9. We will strengthen and accelerate the implementation of ICM for sustainable development and climate change adaptation, where appropriate, in accordance with the following priorities:
 - a. Setting up sub-regional and national coordinating mechanisms for strengthening existing mechanisms to oversee and guide the implementation of ICM programmes;
 - b. Mainstreaming ICM into development plans and programmes at the sub-regional, national and local levels, including the conservation, rehabilitation and management of sub-regional seas and related watershed areas;
 - c. Delineating highly vulnerable coastal areas, coastal communities and resources and habitats, as well as vulnerable sectors of society, including the poor, women and the youth, and strengthening their capacity to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change;
 - d. Developing and applying land- and sea-use zoning plans and schemes;
 - e. Implementing capacity building and technical assistance programmes to strengthen leadership capacities, skills and scientific and technical capabilities, including local governments' capacity to develop and implement ICM programmes;
 - f. Applying ICM good practices as guidance in developing and implementing ICM programmes;
 - g. Employing a range of new and alternative financing mechanisms to develop, implement and sustain ICM programmes and managing available funds in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner;
 - h. Carrying out habitat restoration and management programmes, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, coastal wetlands and mangroves, and establishing marine protected areas, as appropriate, based on scientifically sound information, in order to improve the natural defenses of coastal and marine ecosystem to the impacts of climate change and to enhance carbon sequestration capacities of relevant habitats;
 - i. Formulating and implementing disaster risk management programmes including preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural and man-made disasters; and
 - j. Sharing information and knowledge on the development and application of innovative policies, legislation, technologies and practices in support of ICM programmes, as well as the social, economic and environmental benefits being derived.
10. We will report on the progress of ICM programmes every three years, including the measures taken for climate change adaptation.
11. We call on PEMSEA, as the regional mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, to undertake the development of the Implementation Plan for the SDS-SEA in 2010 for consideration by countries, to facilitate the scaling up of ICM programmes in countries across the region and to promote regional cooperation in education and training activities related to ICM and climate change adaptation, taking into account the Haikou Partnership Agreement.

12. We encourage Non-Country Partners, international organizations, donors, scientific and research organizations, the academe, local governments, communities, and individuals to play active roles in the development of the region's capacity in implementing ICM, protecting the environment and pursuing climate change adaptation measures.
13. We encourage the cooperation and support of relevant local governments and authorities in implementing ICM scaling up programmes and, where applicable, to mainstream such programmes into their local development plans.
14. We support the efforts of the global community to address the interrelationship between climate change and the coasts and oceans. We will contribute to these global efforts, through ICM implementation and the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia.

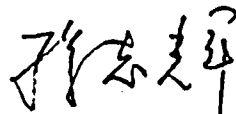
Adopted in Manila, Philippines this Twenty Sixth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Nine.

The Kingdom of Cambodia



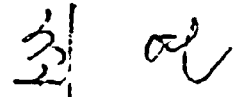
H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth
Senior Minister
Minister
The Ministry of Environment

The People's Republic of China



Hon. Sun Zhilun
Administrator
State Oceanic Administration

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea



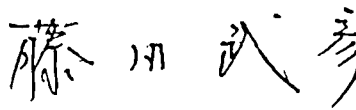
Hon. Choe Yon
Vice Minister
Ministry of Foreign Trade

Republic of Indonesia



Hon. Masnellyarti Hillman
Deputy Minister
The Ministry of Environment

Japan



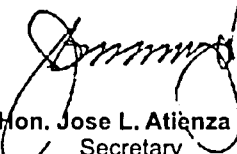
Hon. Takehiko Fujita
Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism

Lao People's Democratic Republic



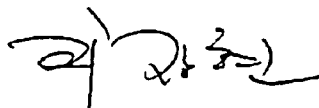
Hon. Sisavath Vithaxay
Deputy Head
Water Resource and Environmental
Administration and Vice Chair of
Lao National Mekong Committee

Republic of the Philippines



Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr.
Secretary
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Republic of Korea



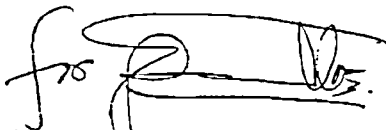
Hon. Choi, Jang-Hyun
Vice Minister
Ministry of Land, Transport and
Maritime Affairs

Republic of Singapore



Hon. Dr. Amy Khor
Senior Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of the Environment and
Water Resources

The Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste



Hon. Mr. Mariano Assanami Sabino Lopes
Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam



Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Cu
Administrator
Vietnam Administration of Seas and Inlands
Ministry of Natural Resources
and Environment

PEMSEA Resource Facility

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ILOILO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

East Asian Region Moving As One to Secure Healthy Oceans, People and Economies

The 6th Ministerial Forum
East Asian Seas Congress 2018
November 29, 2018

WE, the Representatives of eleven countries bordering on the Seas of East Asia have gathered in Iloilo City, Philippines, on the 29th day of November 2018 to re-affirm our shared commitments for the sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia to reach our shared vision for healthy oceans, people and economies of the region. On this auspicious occasion, as we together celebrate PEMSEA's twenty-five years, we reflect our satisfaction on the achievements that we have collectively realized and consider our joint future direction.

WE RE-AFFIRM our shared commitments made in Putrajaya, Malaysia (2003) to work together towards the sustainable development of the region's coasts and oceans with a common platform under the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

WE REMAIN steadfast in our commitments under the Manila Declaration (2009) on strengthening the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for sustainable development and climate change adaptation; the Changwon Declaration (2012) on moving toward an ocean-based blue economy; and the Da Nang Compact (2015) on aligning our strategies in the SDS-SEA with global goals and targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

WE ACKNOWLEDGE the significant value and critical contribution of coastal and marine ecosystems goods and services to securing food and jobs; helping to eradicate poverty and building resilient coastal communities and blue economies in the East Asian region. Juxtaposed against these opportunities is the vulnerability of the region to climate change and other environmental threats such as marine-related disasters, destruction and loss of habitats and natural coastlines, biodiversity loss and degradation, overfishing and lack of food security, pollution from land and sea-based sources, and impairment of water quality, water supply and water security.

WE NOTE the bold strides that we have collectively taken to transform PEMSEA from a mere program into a self-sustaining regional organization to work towards achieving our shared vision.

WE FURTHER NOTE with pride and appreciation, PEMSEA's pioneering work in the region to develop best practices in the design and implementation of the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) approach. PEMSEA is also at the forefront of developing knowledge and capacity to build climate smart policies and enable ocean-based blue economies.

WE BELIEVE that PEMSEA remains relevant and is well-positioned to continue performing its role as the regional platform to encourage the development of common policies, building capacity and orchestrating essential collaborative and scaled up actions alongside smart financing to deliver economic and social dividends as well as protect biodiversity and address shrinking coastlines.

WE BELIEVE FURTHER that because of its competence, pool of experts, and related body of information generated through its years of work on the ground, PEMSEA has established itself as the coastal and marine knowledge center that can support the region in the effective implementation of the SDS-SEA aligned with the UN SDGs and other international and regional commitments.

WE ARE CONFIDENT that PEMSEA will continue to facilitate regional cooperation to respond to the challenges within the context of the rapidly changing social, political, economic and environmental landscapes and encourage the region to move towards a Blue Economy and Sustainable Development of its coasts and oceans.

OUR COMMITMENTS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

1. We will continue to work to achieve the remaining targets set under the Danang Compact by 2021, namely,
 - a. 25% ICM coverage of the region's coastlines, and
 - b. the adoption and implementation of ICM national laws and policies in all countries in the region.
2. We will regularly update the State of the Oceans and Coasts reports to highlight the contributions of coasts and oceans to economies. We further commit to establish environmental, social and economic indicators, where appropriate, to measure the development impact of initiatives on the state of the coasts, communities and economies.
3. We recognize the importance of the PEMSEA Resource Facility as the coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. We commit to support its operations through voluntary country contributions beyond 2019.
4. We support PEMSEA's efforts in identifying and developing blue economy investments at the national and local level. We welcome opportunities to work with our partners, both government and non-government, to develop, finance and implement blue economy projects in ICM sites as well as activities set forth in the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022.
5. We acknowledge the current strong momentum to tackle marine debris globally. We commit to significantly reducing or preventing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based and sea-based activities, including marine litter and nutrient pollution.
6. We commit to implementing policies and programs for the sustainable management of coastal tourism destinations. If properly planned and managed, coastal tourism will benefit the environment, the people and the economy. Sustainable tourism planning not only considers social, environmental and economic impacts within the tourist area or facility itself, but also the impacts on the host coastal community, including livelihoods, water and food security, solid waste disposal, water pollution and social and environmental factors.

-
7. We realize the critical importance of regional collaboration in dealing with coastal and marine hazards such as storm surges and tsunamis. We commit to working together to adopt innovative strategies to raise awareness and build regional capacity to monitor, forecast and provide timely early warnings to support safety of life and property at sea, coastal management and minimization of impact of such hazards.
 8. We recognize that we are all parties to the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC and aware of the urgency and seriousness of the threat of climate change to the sustainable development of our countries and region; We commit to implement adaptation and mitigation strategies to respond to climate change.

PARTNERSHIPS

WE ARE AWARE that achieving our goals will require the support of all stakeholders across sectors; We will continue our efforts to improve cooperation and engagement between PEMSEA and other countries, relevant international development organizations, local organizations, the private sector, financial institution and investors, nongovernment organizations, academic and research institutions, communities and grassroots, women and youth organizations.

WE AGREE to step up the cooperation with regional organizations to achieve the targets under the SDS-SEA; We recognize the opportunities for increased knowledge, efficiency gains and effectiveness when collectively addressing implementation challenges.

WE ARE DETERMINED to continue working together as PEMSEA country partners to deliver our common objectives in line with the SDS-SEA and our regional and global commitments. We are convinced that through our collective actions, PEMSEA will lead to more effective solutions with positive impacts on coastal communities and ecosystems as evidenced in the next regional State of Oceans and Coasts report in 2022.

CONCLUSION

The biggest threat that we face in the region is ourselves, in the way we live our lives and the way we manage our resources. We therefore strongly urge everyone to shift towards a mindset of responsible stewardship, and pledge to take bold steps to protect, manage and restore our coasts and oceans for our present and future generations. PEMSEA Country Partners are ready to engage citizens in East Asia and peoples in other regions to work together to secure our shared vision of healthy oceans, people and economy.

Adopted in Iloilo City, Philippines, this 29th day of November, 2018.

The Kingdom of Cambodia



Hon. Vann Molyneath
Deputy Secretary General
National Council for
Sustainable Development
Ministry of Environment

The People's Republic of China




Hon. Zhang Zhi
Director General
International Cooperation
Ministry of Natural Resources

The Democratic People's
Republic of Korea



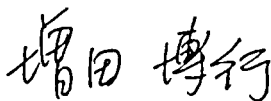
Hon. RI Myong San
Vice Minister
Ministry of External Economic
Relations

Republic of Indonesia



Hon. M.R. Karliansyah
Director General
Environmental Pollution and
Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Japan



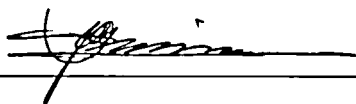
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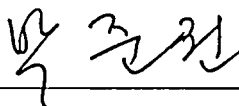
Hon. Xayaveth Vixay
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Republic of the Philippines



Hon. Rodolfo Garcia
Undersecretary
Department of Environment and
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Republic of Korea



Hon. Jun-Kwon Park
Commissioner
Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Republic of Singapore




Hon. Amy Khor
Senior Minister of State
Ministry of the Environment and
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The Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste



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Secretary-General
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam



Hon. Vu Si Tuan
Deputy Administrator
Viaet Nam Administration of Seas
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Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment