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EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

Workshop on Implementation of the Global
Programme of Action for the Protection of
the Marine Environment from Land-based
Activities in the East Asian Seas Region

Cairns, Australia, 30 April - 3 May 1997

**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES
IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION**

PREFACE

This document is the report of the third of a series of similarly - planned regional workshops that UNEP organized between 1996 - 1997 in the framework of the Regional Seas Programme to facilitate implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities at the national and regional level. The workshop was organized and convened in Cairns, Australia, during 30 April - 3 May 1997, by the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Regional Coordinating Unit for the East Asian Seas Action Plan (EAS/RCU) and UNEP's (Water Branch) Coordination Office for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and the host Government of Australia.

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REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

Background

1. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities [working paper UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7] was adopted by an Intergovernmental Conference held in Washington, DC, USA, 23 October-3 November 1995. The goal of the Global Programme of Action is to prevent degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, by facilitating the realization of the duty of States to preserve and protect the marine environment. It is designed to assist States to take actions individually or jointly within their respective policies, priorities and resources, which will lead to the prevention, reduction and control and/or elimination of the degradation of the marine environment, as well as to its recovery from the impacts of land-based activities. Implementation of the Global Programme of Action will contribute to maintaining and, where appropriate, restoring the productive capacity and biodiversity of the marine environment, ensuring the protection of human health, as well as promoting the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic living resources.

2. The Washington Conference designated the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action and requested that, as the coordinator and catalyst of environmental activities within the United Nations system and beyond, it should through its programmes and secretariat role: (a) promote and facilitate implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level; (b) promote and facilitate implementation at the regional, including subregional, level through, in particular a revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme; and (c) play a catalytic role in the implementation at the international level with other organizations and institutions.

3. To facilitate implementation of the Global Programme of Action, UNEP as Secretariat of the Programme of Action is organizing in cooperation with relevant regional organizations, a series of regional technical workshops of Government-designated experts, as well as representatives of relevant international organizations, funding agencies and, whenever possible, the private sector and experts of non-governmental organizations, as a means of strengthening national capabilities for protection of the aquatic environment from land-based activities, and to promote regional and subregional cooperation. More specifically, the workshops are being convened to:

- (a) Review the general objectives (paragraphs 18-35) of the Global Programme of Action and implications of the Programme;
- (b) Identify possible elements of regional framework strategies, with special reference to recommended approaches by source categories (chapters II-III of the Global Programme of Action);
- (c) Consider the requirements for development and implementation of national action programmes, including the assistance required and available for this purpose through the organizations supporting the Global Programme of Action; and
- (d) Design and agree on general outlines for preparation of Regional Programme of Actions to address land-based activities.

4. For the workshop participants, special attention will be drawn to the need for:

- (a) An integrated approach for the development of national action programmes, which should encompass not only concern for the marine and coastal environment, but also the protection of associated river basins;
- (b) Placing national action programmes in the framework of existing or evolving national

environmental and development programmes, strategies and policies;

- (c) Flexibility in the design of action programmes, to ensure their ready adaptation to the information on the effectiveness of particular activities carried out under the programmes;
- (d) Subregional, regional and global cooperation in implementation of national action programmes, including cooperation with regional economic groups, relevant regional and international organizations, development banks, and relevant existing regional bodies, authorities and programmes (e.g., river basins authorities and commissions, programmes operated under regional seas conventions and action plans); and
- (e) Development of options for representation of non-governmental organizations and private sector from the region to contribute to the development and implementation of national and regional action programmes.

5. The present workshop is the third of a series of similarly-planned regional workshops that UNEP, as Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action, will convene between 1996-1997 in the framework of the Regional Seas Programme, to facilitate implementation of the Programme of Action at the national and regional level.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

6. The workshop was opened by Mr. Habib N. El-Habr, Interim Coordinator of the East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU) on behalf of UNEP's Executive Director at 09:20 h on Wednesday, 30 April. Mr. Omar Vidal, Acting Coordinator, Global Programme of Action Interim Coordination Office (UNEP, Water Branch), made introductory remarks on the prior work of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, its Clearing-house and the establishment of the permanent Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in The Hague, The Netherlands. Dr. Ian McPhail, Head of the Portfolio Marine Group of Environment Australia, and Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, greeted the attendees and introduced Senator Robert Hill, the Minister for the Environment for Australia, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Australia. The Minister said that "for this workshop to be considered a success, it must make some tangible progress towards a concrete regional plan". The Minister noted that implementation of the plan by the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) nations was voluntary and that an effective regional plan must have the strong support of all COBSEA nations. He also said that he believed the plan needs to include the following elements:

- pollution prevention rather than mitigation
- agreement that national policies minimise any impacts on adjacent nations, and commitment to coordinate domestic policy with neighbouring countries of the region
- a commitment to co-operation between the different tiers of government that exist within the nations of the region
- co-operation and consultation with private enterprise involved in pollution reduction
- a substantial involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations concerned about marine protection

7. Senator Robert Hill took the opportunity to meet informally with delegates during morning tea.
8. Mr. Geoff Kelly of the Queensland Department of Environment welcomed the delegates to Queensland and outlined the global environmental significance of the North Queensland Region, including the responsibilities for protecting those ecosystems of global significance such as the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Areas.
9. A list of participants of the workshop appears at Annex I, copies of relevant speeches appear at Annex II.

Agenda item 2. Organization of the meeting

(a) election of officers

10. The meeting elected Dr. Ian McPhail (Australia) as the Chairman, Mr. Zhang Shigang (People's Republic of China) as Vice-Chairman and Ms. Ella Deocadiz (Philippines) as the Rapporteur.
11. A drafting committee for the report of the meeting was elected by government delegates at 10:30 am on Thursday 1 May. The drafting committee consisted of Ms. Ella Deocadiz (Philippines) as Rapporteur, Mr. Zhang Shigang (People's Republic of China), and Mr. Bin Chee Kwan (Singapore) as committee members, with Mr. Simon Woodley (Chief Facilitator) acting as advisor, and drafting support provided by the Workshop Secretariat.

(b) organization of work

12. The Chairman introduced Mr. Simon Woodley, Chief Facilitator, who outlined the Secretariat's proposed structure and order of business for the Workshop. The meeting operated on the basis of workshop sessions, consisting of break-out groups, reporting back to plenary.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

13. The meeting adopted the Agenda proposed by the Secretariat. The adopted Agenda is attached as Annex III.

Agenda item 4.(a) The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and UNEP's Plan to promote and facilitate its implementation: a status report

14. The meeting was informed by Mr. Omar Vidal of matters relevant to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action following its adoption by the Washington Intergovernmental Conference, particularly with regard to UNEP's Plan for its implementation.
15. The Washington Conference requested UNEP to prepare a proposal outlining a practical plan for implementing the Global Programme of Action. This Plan was prepared by UNEP, in cooperation with experts of several United Nations agencies, and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The first draft of this Plan was reviewed at three consultations held in New York during 1996: with agencies (30 January), Governments (1-2 February) and non-governmental organizations (6 February). On the basis of comments and suggestions received from these consultations, the draft was revised and presented to the Inter-sessional *ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 26 February-1 March 1996) for its considerations and comments.
16. The Plan was then revised and presented to the fourth session of the Commission on

Sustainable Development (New York, 18 April-3 May 1996) for consideration within the context of its review of Chapter 17 (Oceans and Seas) of Agenda 21, as a basis for the preparation of a draft resolution by Governments on institutional arrangements for implementation of the Global Programme of Action, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-first session on 16 December 1996 (Resolution 51/189).

17. The final implementation Plan was presented to the nineteenth session of UNEP Governing Council (Nairobi, 27 January-7 February 1997) (working document UNEP/GC.19/INF.4) it also reflects the provisions set forth in the above-noted United Nations resolution (particularly following the provisions for developing the clearing-house source category), as well as the outcome of an informal intergovernmental consultation (Geneva, 30 September-1 October 1996), a consultation with secretariats of regional seas programmes (Geneva, 13-14 May 1996) [information document UNEP(WATER)/LBA/IS.1/4] and a joint intersecretariat/ interagency consultation (Geneva, 15-16 May 1996) [information document UNEP(WATER)/LBA/IS-IA.1/6]. The outcome of a technical meeting on the Global Programme of Action clearing-house, convened by UNEP (Geneva, 26-27 September 1996) [working document UNEP(WATER)/LBA/C-H.1], has also been incorporated in the Plan.

18. The nineteenth session of UNEP Governing Council adopted a resolution on implementation of the Global Programme of Action (information document UNEP/GC.19/CW/CRP.15) which, *inter alia*, (i) endorses the proposed role for UNEP as Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action; (ii) accords priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the programme of work of UNEP; (iii) request UNEP's Executive Director to expand the activities of the Global Programme of Action to all regional seas programmes and to establish links with other regional plans and programmes or conventions for the protection of the marine and freshwater environment; and (iv) request UNEP's Executive Director to continue strengthening the integrated management of UNEP activities related to the freshwater and marine environment for implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

19. Mr. Vidal then briefly introduced the implementation Plan, with emphasis in its regional component and the role that regional bodies can most appropriately assume.

Agenda item 4.(b) Overview on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas Action Plan

20. Mr. El-Habr, briefed the meeting on previous relevant work conducted under the framework of the East Asian Seas Action Plan.

21. Under the framework for the East Asian Seas Action Plan, some projects were initiated to address land-based activities. These projects had produced information and results which could be used as background information for the establishment of a regional strategy to implement the Global Programme of Action. However, updating and refining the previously-conducted assessment and analysis will be needed to bring them in line with the requirements of the Global Programme of Action. Plans and designs for the establishment of the regional strategy and national plans to implement the Global Programme of Action will take into consideration the previous work conducted under the EAS framework, and other national and regional activities.

22. Following are some of the projects initiated and implemented previously:

23. **EAS/8 - Overview of Land-based Pollution Sources in Southeast Asia;**

A preliminary assessment of land-based sources of pollution was carried out in the early 1980s under the project EAS/8 by the original five member States of EAS, in association with the World Health Organization (WHO). Assessments were made on air and water-borne pollutant loads from selected land-based sectors (mainly industry and domestic sources).

24. **EAS/21 - Assessment of Land-based Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Sources of Pollution, their Environmental Impact and Development of Recommendations for Possible Control Measures;**

Under the project EAS 21, a regional assessment report based on the national reports was adopted at a regional seminar. In addition, a training manual on assessment of the quality and type of land-based pollutant discharges into the marine and coastal environments was prepared, and a training course was conducted using the prepared manual.

25. **EAS/27 - Regional Programme of Action on Land-based Activities Affecting Coastal and Marine Areas in the East Asian Seas**

Under the project EAS/27, a regional programme of action on land-based activities affecting coastal and marine areas in the EAS was prepared and submitted to the Washington Conference in October - November 1995 as background document.

26. **EAS/34 - Development of Training Materials for Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

A training manual was prepared for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) under project EAS 34. Although this manual was designed for training purposes, it provides basic and important principles of integrated coastal zone management.

27. **EAS/35 - Integrated Management of Watersheds in Relation to Management and Conservation of Nearshore Coastal and Marine Areas in the East Asian Seas Region: Phase 1 - Assessment of River Discharge of Sediment, Nutrient and Pollutants on Wetland, Seagrass Areas and Coral Reefs**

Under project EAS-35, a draft regional overview of status of coral reefs, seagrass beds, coastal wetlands and watersheds in the East Asian Seas region, based on the national inventories and case studies, was prepared. There were efforts also made to link river pollutant discharge (land-based activities in watersheds) with degradation of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and coastal wetlands. Although not all the national inventories (reports) cover most of the major watersheds in each of the participating countries, the information provided in the national inventories and case studies (and the draft overview) could be an important input to preparation of a regional overview of land-based activities. In particular,

the national inventories of the five States which joined the EAS in 1994 would be a good information source.

28. EAS/39 - Training Workshop on the Ecological Consequences of Land-based Oil Discharges to Coastal Waters

The national reports presented at the workshop on ecological consequences of land-based oil discharges to coastal waters provided an overview of land-based oil pollution, as well as other land-based pollutants. This workshop also involved information on the land-based activities in the five States which joined the EAS in 1994.

Agenda item 4.(c) Presentation of National Overview Reports

29. The Chairman called on COBSEA delegates to present their country's National Overview Reports. The order of presentation was Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Australia. Copies of the presentations can be found at Annex IV.

Agenda item 5. Review of draft Overview on Land-based Sources and Activities affecting the Marine, Coastal and Associated Freshwater Environments in the East Asian Seas Region.

30. The Consultant selected by UNEP (EAS/RCU and the Global Programme of Action Interim Coordination Office), Mr. Alexander A. Jothy of Canamal Evs Corporation Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia, presented a first draft outline of the report entitled 'Overview on the Land-based Sources of Pollution in the South China Sea Region' [UNEP (WATER)/GPA/EAS/RW.3/3], which was prepared on the basis of previous work conducted under the East Asian Seas Action Plan. This is a preliminary draft outline of the overview and was submitted to the meeting for review and refinement. On the basis of the outcomes of discussions at the meeting, this draft will be revised, as appropriate, to contribute to the formulation of a Regional Programme of Action to address land-based activities in the East Asian Seas. It was noted that the document is still incomplete, and delegates were invited to review it and provide relevant information for their countries, to be incorporated into the first draft overview, which will be distributed to COBSEA delegates for review and comments.

Agenda item 6. Global Programme of Action clearing-house structure and function

31. Mr. Omar Vidal introduced the working document UNEP(WATER)/GPA/EAS/RW.3/4, which proposes the possible development of an East Asian Seas component of the Global Programme of Action clearing-house. The document preliminary identifies the following critical tasks which need to be accomplished in the region as part of the initial implementation of the regional components of the clearing-house mechanism:

- (a) Prioritize the relevance of the nine source categories with respect to the region;
- (b) Assign responsibility for each prioritized source category to a lead institution in the region;
- (c) Identification of Internet information resources pertaining to the source categories (as defined by paragraph 43 of the Global Programme of Action);
- (d) Identification of non-Internet information resources pertaining to the nine source categories;
- (e) Compilation of lists of Frequently Asked Questions for the most relevant source categories;
- (f) World Wide Web site on the Global Programme of Action, including clearing-house information covering the most relevant source categories;
- (g) List Server (electronic conference) on regional aspects of the Global Programme of Action and its clearing-house;

- (h) Coordination of regional awareness raising campaigns on the Global Programme of Action; and
- (i) Coordination of regional query-response service, possibly in cooperation with INFOTERRA national focal points and the United Nations Development Programme network of permanent representatives.

32. The meeting was invited to discuss the clearing-house document and to consider the role of the clearing-house structure in the East Asian Seas Regional Action Plan. Discussions addressed the scale of the clearing-house's operations and its utility in contributing to programmes of the Regional Action Plan. Discussions highlighted the necessity for the clearing-house mechanism to provide a metadata resource for the region.

33. The Global Programme of Action (paragraphs 45-46) called for the development of a clearing-house mechanism, as a referral system through which decision makers at the national and regional level can be provided with access to current sources of information, practical experience and scientific and technical expertise relevant to developing and implementing strategies to deal with the impacts of land-based activities. As recognized in the Global Programme of Action, the WWW on the Internet offers a basic access mechanism, through electronic means, to the data directory. However, because the Internet is not universally available, it is important also to use and build upon existing information-delivery systems, including the UNDP's network of resident representatives, INFOTERRA, and linked regional systems including secretariats of regional seas and other regional conventions.

34. The above-mentioned UN General Assembly resolution (51/189) on institutional arrangements for implementation of the Global Programme of Action calls upon States to take action in the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and programmes, in order to ensure these organizations and programmes take the lead in coordinating the development of the clearing-house mechanism with respect to the source categories agreed in the Global Programme of Action.

35. As a first step to establishing an inter-organizational group composed of relevant international organizations to coordinate the basic design and structure of the data directory of the clearing-house, as well as its linkages to information delivery mechanisms (as called for in paragraph 46 of the Global Programme of Action), UNEP convened an *ad hoc* meeting with representatives of agencies (Geneva, 15-16 May 1996) [information document UNEP(WATER)/LBA/IS-IA. 1/6]. In response to the recommendations of this *ad hoc* meeting, UNEP subsequently convened a technical meeting to prepare the initial specifications for the clearing-house, drawing on established systems. The results and discussions of this technical meeting are reflected in the report of the meeting (Geneva, 26-27 September 1996) [working document UNEP(WATER)/LBA/C-H.1].

36. UNEP Governing Council resolution UNEP/GC.19/CW/CRP.15 on implementation of the Global Programme of Action invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, in collaboration with the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources, to perform the functions of a steering group on technical cooperation and assistance for the Global Programme of Action, including activities related to the clearing-house, with representation from regional and international organizations which have primary roles and responsibilities for its implementation.

Agenda item 7. Institutional arrangements, activities, financial considerations and timetable for implementation of a Regional Strategic Programme for the Protection of the Marine, Coastal and Associated Freshwater Environment from Land-based Activities in the East Asian Seas.

37. Mr. Vidal gave a brief presentation on the role of UNEP in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action as follows:

UNEP's functions in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action

38. Based on the agreed provisions in the Global Programme of Action, as well as on discussions carried out during the above-mentioned consultations, the distinction is made here between UNEP's secretariat role and UNEP's role as one of the United Nations bodies contributing to implementation of the Programme of Action.

39. As indicated in paragraph 74 of the Global Programme of Action, UNEP, as Secretariat of the Programme of Action, will:

- (a) promote and facilitate its implementation at the national level;
- (b) promote and facilitate implementation at the regional, including subregional, level through, in particular, a revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme; and
- (c) play a catalytic role in the implementation at the international level with other organizations and institutions.

40. At the global level, UNEP's functions as Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action, are detailed in paragraphs 15-17 of working document UNEP/GC.19/INF.4. At the regional level, UNEP's Secretariat functions will mainly include: (a) ensuring liaison between the regional seas organizations outside the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and UNEP's activities in this field; and (b) promoting cooperation between regional institutions concerned with the marine environment, other regional institutions such as regional development banks, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. At the national level, the contribution of UNEP to implementation of the Global Programme of Action will be mainly through supporting the clearing-house mechanism.

41. The overall role of UNEP as a United Nations agency will be to: (a) coordinate the relevant activities within UNEP's work programme; and (b) revitalize UNEP Regional Seas Programme, in particular by facilitating appropriate activities within its regional programmes.

Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the East Asian Seas from the Effects of Land-based Activities

42. The meeting broke into three working sessions as decided by the participants. Two days were spent in working group sessions and plenary. The outcome was a Draft Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the East Asian Seas from the Effects of Land-based Activities. A copy of the Draft Regional Programme of Action is located in Annex V.

Institutional arrangements for implementation of a Regional Programme of Action in the East Asian Seas

43. The participants were briefed on the institutional arrangements for implementation of a Regional Programme of Action in the East Asian Seas.

44. The regional seas programmes and organizations within UNEP Regional Seas Programmes will be encouraged to provide an integrated framework for national action programmes. The advantages and benefits from this approach will be two - fold: (a) as existing regional seas programmes and other regional programmes already encompass the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities as a main goal, they provide a "ready-made" programmatic, institutional and legal framework and organizational infrastructure for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. The use of these programmes and their infrastructures as regional elements of the Global Programme of Action will obviate the need to develop a parallel mechanism for implementation, thereby avoiding duplication of efforts and wasted resources; and (b) by incorporating the existing regional seas programme activities into the wider framework of a globally coordinated programme, each programme will benefit from mutually supportive activities and will be strengthened through the assistance envisaged to be available through the Global Programme of Action.

Financial considerations

45. Based on the provisions for international cooperation in the Global Programme of Action (chapter IV) and on paragraphs 47-48 (Assistance to Countries in Need of Assistance) and 89-95 (Mobilization of Financial Resources) of UNEP Plan for implementing the Programme, the clearing-house mechanism will facilitate the provision of help to countries in need of assistance for developing and implementing national and regional action programmes. The assistance will cover a variety of issues, including:

- (a) Preparation of national and regional action programmes, including short- or long-term programmes, projects, measures, policies, strategies, institutional and legal mechanisms to alleviate the identified problems related to land-based activities, including assessment of problems related to land-based activities, including identification and development of economic instruments, especially those related to the private sector;
- (b) Strengthening or establishing national institutions needed to deal effectively with administrative, technical and legal aspects of the Global Programme of Action;
- (c) Promotion of new information technologies that facilitate knowledge transfer within, and between, countries, particularly from developed countries to countries in need of assistance;
- (d) Exploring the use of innovative financing mechanisms to assist the implementation of national and regional action programmes;
- (e) Support to training programmes related to the Global Programme of Action (e.g., fellowships, short- and long-term courses, seminars and workshops);
- (f) Identification of experts, organizations, institutions and centres of excellence for research, management, ideas and concepts, contingency planning, monitoring, and assessment, including environmentally-sound technology assessment;
- (g) Short-term advisory services; and
- (h) Identification of opportunities for projects contributing to implementation of the Global Programme of Action that could be supported by the private sector, including industry and banks.

46. The role of UNEP and partner agencies in facilitating the mobilization of additional resources will

be to continue to assist the potential recipients in:

- (a) Identifying needs for assistance that require new and additional financial resources;
- (b) Formulating requests for assistance suitable for consideration by potential donors;
- (c) Identifying potential donors able to respond to such requests;
- (d) Establishing, at the request of the potential recipient countries, initial contacts and mediating, as appropriate, between recipients and potential donors (countries will be encouraged to approach the donors directly).

47. The Global programme of Action Coordination Office also will play a facilitating role, through the partner agencies, in assisting countries to identify their needs for assistance and to formulate requests for assistance of interested donors.

48. An important role of the clearing-house mechanism will be to promote and facilitate direct contacts between potential recipients and potential donors. Identification of potential donors will be either by presentation of request for assistance to prospective individual donors, or to meetings of potential donors. UNEP will play a facilitating role in individual cases, and an information role mostly on a regional basis.

49. Taken the Global Programme of Action as a basis, particularly chapter V (Recommended Approaches by Source Categories), the meeting was invited to identify and recommend, as far as possible, specific activities and actions requiring financing at the regional level. Such activities and actions, which necessary will be of short, medium and long-term will be an integral part of the Regional Programme of Action.

50. The meeting discussed in detail the specific activities and actions (see Annex V) and asked the EAS/RCU and the Global Programme of Action Secretariat to endeavour to find ways in which to attract funding.

Future activities

51. The following points were recommended as follow-up activities by the participants:

- The regional overview on the sources and activities affecting the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment in the East Asian Seas should be completed by the consultant on the basis of information provided during the meeting together with inputs to be sent by the experts as soon as possible.
- The Regional Programme of Action should be considered as an evolving draft and member countries were asked to further refine it through the Regional Coordinating Unit, for presentation to the next COBSEA meeting. (It was noted that this document would be required six weeks prior to the meeting).
- COBSEA Governments be asked to consider the Regional Programme of Action at the next COBSEA Meeting to be held before the end of 1997 in order to endorse it.
- EAS/RCU be asked to coordinate regional implementation of the Regional Programme of Action including the GPA Clearing House and mobilization of financial resources where appropriate.

Agenda item 8. Other matters

52. The Australian delegate, Ms. Annie Ilett, raised the issue of COBSEA Governments contributions to the Trust Fund. It was agreed that COBSEA Government delegates would seek a decision regarding 1997 contributions from their Government after the workshop and advise the EAS/RCU accordingly.

53. Member Governments were encouraged to continue and develop bilateral and sub-regional work to address issues of the Global Programme of Action.

54. Member Governments were encouraged to continue implementation of the Global Programme of Action and the Regional Programme of Action at the national level.

55. Private sector organizations were encouraged to organize opportunities for exchange of ideas of innovative technologies and site specific options which address land-based sources of marine pollution.

Agenda item 9. Adoption of the workshop report

(a) report of the workshop

56. The participants considered, amended and approved the draft report of the workshop as contained in this document.

(b) Regional Programme of Action

57. The participants considered, amended and adopted the draft Regional Programme of Action as contained in Annex V. It was noted that the Regional Programme of Action should be considered as an evolving document and delegates could propose changes by providing comments to the EAS/RCU by correspondence. Any proposed changes will be communicated to all member countries. The meeting also agreed that the Regional Programme of Action will be modified, as necessary, so that it can be considered at the next COBSEA meeting, proposed for late 1997.

Agenda item 10. Closure of the meeting

58. The Chairman, Dr. Ian McPhail, concluded the meeting by congratulating participants on a successful and productive workshop. He then thanked the following people:

Australian Government and Senator Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment, Queensland, Government, Mr. Omar Vidal, UNEP, Mr. Habib N. El-Habr, Interim Coordinator, EAS/RCU, Sponsors:- The CSIRO Environmental Projects Office and Division of Marine Research, The CRC Reef Research Centre, Great Adventures, The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Mr. Zhang Shigang, Vice Chairman of Workshop and member of the Drafting Committee, Ms. Ella Deocadiz, Workshop Rapporteur and member of the Drafting Committee, Mr. Bin Chee Kwan, member of the Drafting Committee, COBSEA Government Representatives, Delegates from other government organizations, the private sector, industry and non-government organizations, Chief facilitator, Mr. Simon Woodley, Group facilitators, Mr. Shigang, Dr. Ian Poiner, Mr. Richard Kenchington, Group Rapporteurs, Workshop Secretariat, Moira Turner, James Hall and Tim Cansfield-Smith, Ms. Annie Ilett, The management and staff of the Ramada Great Barrier Reef Resort.

59. On behalf of Workshop participants, Mr. Bin Chee Kwan, Delegate representing Singapore, and Mr. Habib N. El-Habr, thanked Dr. Ian McPhail and the Australian Government for hosting the workshop.

60. Mr. Zhang Shigang, Leader of the Delegation from the People's Republic of China, thanked Australia for a most successful workshop.

61. The meeting closed at 17:00.