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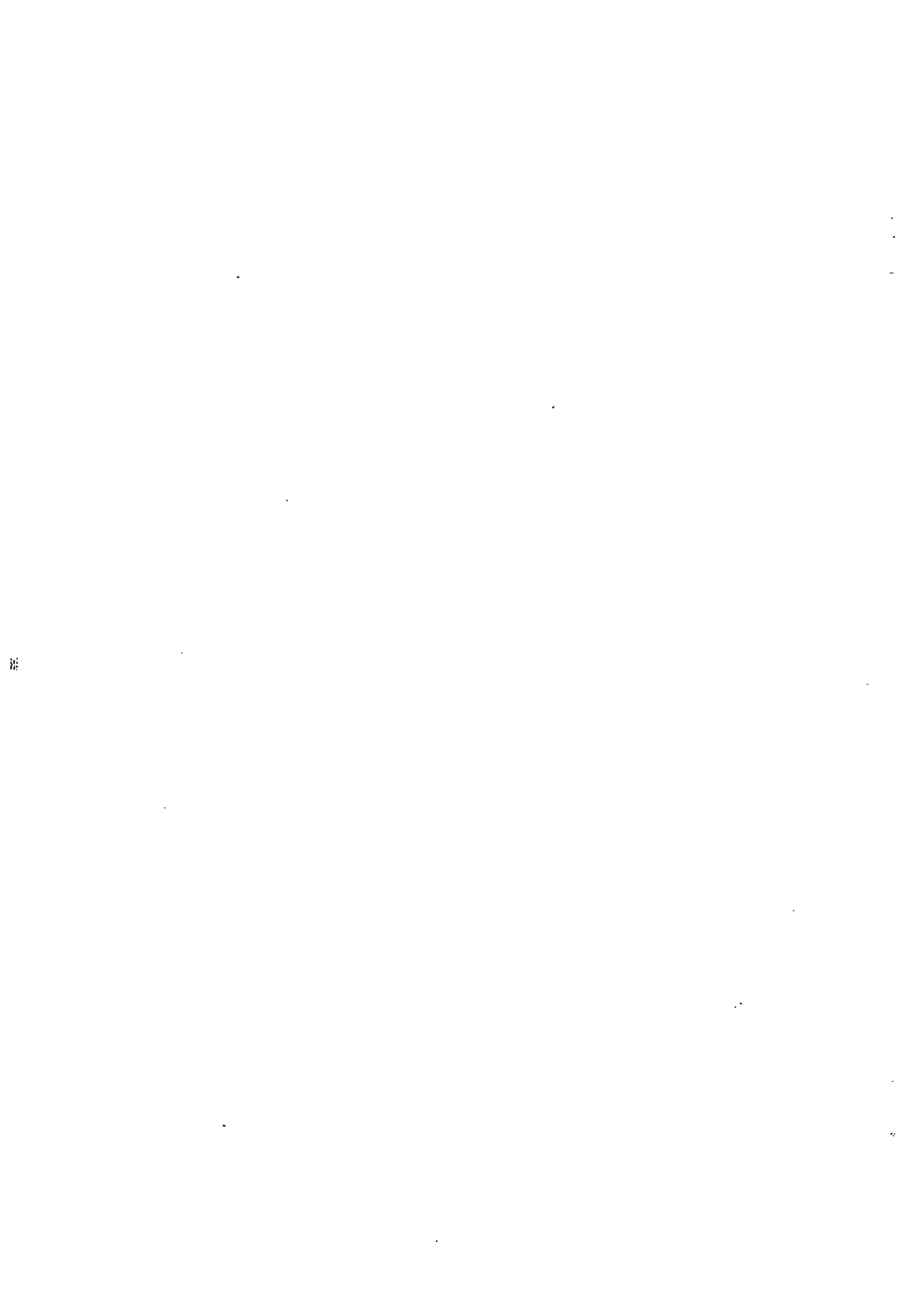
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Eighth meeting of the Co-ordinating
Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
on the East Asian Seas action plan

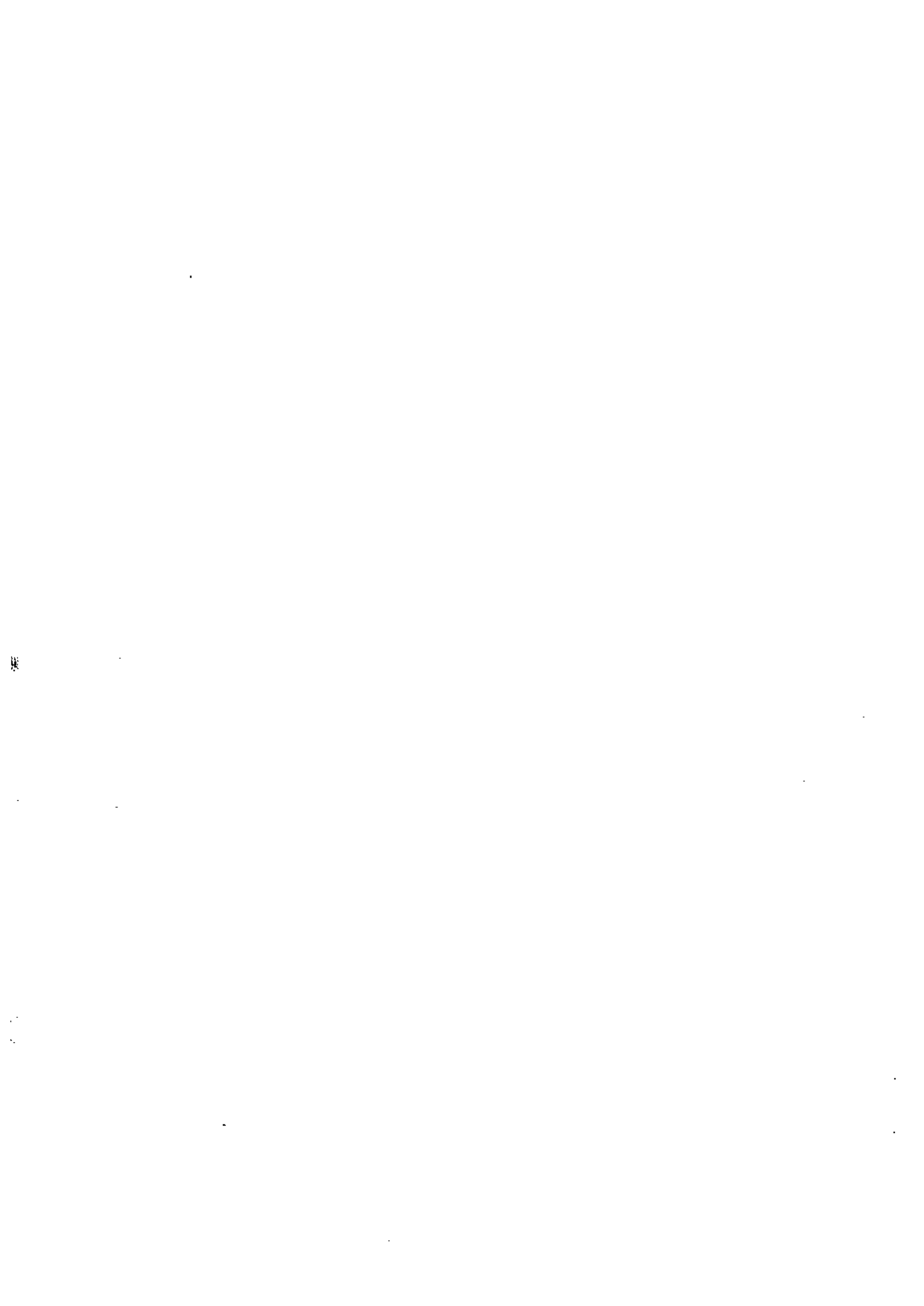
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 14-16 June 1989

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
CO-ORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA



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INTRODUCTION

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas action plan, held in Bangkok, 9-11 December 1981, established the Co-ordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), to serve as the overall authority to determine the contents of the action plan, to review its progress and approve its programme of implementation through periodic meetings of governments.
2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in accordance with this decision, convened the eighth meeting of COBSEA in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 14-16 June 1989.
3. Representatives from Brunei Darussalam (in observer capacity), Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand attended the meeting.
4. The United Nations, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNU, ESCAP, UNCHS, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, IMO, UNIDO, IAEA, IOC, CCOP, ASEAMS, EWC, IUCN, ASCOPE, SEAFDEC, IIED, NECOR and Greenpeace 1/ were invited to send their observers to the meeting.
5. The meeting was held at the Arts and Handicraft Centre, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 14-16 June 1989.
6. This document is the report of the meeting. The complete list of participants and observers is presented in annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

7. Mr. Reza Amini, Programme Officer of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Center (OCA/PAC) of UNEP, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, opened the meeting. He welcomed the participants and, on behalf of the secretariat, briefly reviewed the relevant events preceding the meeting since the last meeting of COBSEA (Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 17-19 July 1988). He specifically referred to the fifteenth meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP and the fact that the Oceans Programme was adopted as one of the six major areas of concentrated activities of UNEP. He invited the participants of the meeting to examine and revise, where appropriate, the documents prepared for the meeting. Finally, Mr. Amini informed the participants that, if requested by COBSEA, UNEP would be ready to continue providing the management of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund, the secretariat functions for the action plan and the technical coordination of the East Asian Seas projects endorsed by the COBSEA.

1/ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations University (UNU); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS); International Labour Organization (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Health Organization (WHO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); International Maritime Organization (IMO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP); Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS); East West Centre (EWC); International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN); ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE); South-East Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC); International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED); and Norwegian Engineering Committee on Oceanic Resources (NECOR).

8. Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Deputy Regional Representative, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), on behalf of the Director of UNEP/ROAP, also addressed the participants and briefly reported on ROAP's involvement and assistance, since the seventh meeting of COBSEA, towards the implementation of the action plan. He, too, reiterated ROAP's readiness to assist the countries of the region in the implementation of the East Asian Seas action plan.

Agenda item 2. Organization of the meeting

9. The secretariat reminded the meeting and proposed that, in the absence of any objections, as agreed by the first meeting of COBSEA (UNEP/IG.37/10), the rules of procedure of UNEP Governing Council, as applicable to the meetings convened by the Executive Director, will be applied mutatis mutandis for this meeting. The meeting accepted the proposal.

10. In accordance with the agreement reached in the first meeting of COBSEA (UNEP/IG.37/10, paragraph 8), in order to be consistent with the procedures used by the ASEAN Expert Group on the Environment (AEGE), that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of COBSEA would be designated on the same rotating basis, the following were elected by acclamation:

Chairman:		(Brunei Darussalam) 1/
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Goh Kiam Seng	(Malaysia)
Rapporteur and Interim Co-ordinator:	Mr. Amado Tolentino	(Philippines)

11. The secretariat proposed, and the meeting agreed, to carry out its work in plenary sessions with support of ad hoc working groups which may be established during the meeting.

12. The meeting was conducted in English.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

13. The provisional agenda (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/INF.1) was introduced by the secretariat with reference to the provisional list of documents (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/INF.1). The meeting considered the proposed agenda and adopted it without any modification. The adopted agenda, as well as the final list of documents are presented as annex II and annex III to this report.

Agenda item 4. Report of the interim Co-ordinator

14. Mr. Amado Tolentino, the Interim Co-ordinator, presented his report (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/3). With reference to the long-term strategy adopted at the sixth meeting of COBSEA and other relevant decisions of the seventh meeting of COBSEA, the general progress in the implementation of the East Asian Seas action plan was reviewed. He also referred to the third meeting of

1/ The Chairmanship of the AEGE meeting was to be held by a representative from Brunei Darussalam. However, Brunei Darussalam not being part of the COBSEA, the representative of Brunei declined the Chairmanship of this meeting and it was decided that the Vice-Chairman would conduct the meeting.

experts on the East Asian Seas action plan (Quezon City, 7-10 February 1989) and drew the attention of the meeting to the immediate, short-term and long-term environmental problems of the East Asian Seas region as re-evaluated by the experts from the region. The Interim Co-ordinator of the COBSEA referred to his visit to UNEP headquarters in December 1988 and the useful consultations he had with the Executive Director, Director of Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre and other officers of UNEP, and expressed regret at the cancellation of the proposed ministerial level meeting for the East Asian Seas action plan. Finally, while stating that recent co-operation with regional and international organizations has aided COBSEA and the actual implementation of the East Asian Seas action plan, he emphasized further linkages with these organizations, naming ASEAN, ASEAMS and ASCOPE in particular.

Agenda item 5. Report of the Executive Director

15. The representative of the Executive Director presented the Executive Director's report to the eighth meeting of COBSEA (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4, reviewing the progress of the implementation of the action plan since the seventh meeting of the COBSEA. With reference to the workplan and budget adopted by the seventh meeting of COBSEA (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.1/4, Annex II) the meeting was informed of (a) the status of the ongoing projects as submitted by the project co-ordinators in their latest half-yearly project progress reports, (b) the status of the development of project proposals for the oil pollution control "umbrella" project (EAS-23) and development of databases for the region (EAS-20), and (c) the additional activities initiated by UNEP and other international organizations which at no costs to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund provided further support and contribution towards the development of the East Asian Seas action plan. In the latter context the meeting was informed of UNEP's support for the activities of the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS), the Task Team in charge of the preparation of the regional report on the ecological and socio-economic implications of the expected climatic changes and the third meeting of experts on the East Asian Seas action plan.

16. The representative of the Executive Director with reference to the more detailed insight made available by the endeavours of ASEAMS, third meeting of experts and the findings of the Task Teams on climatic changes and the regional state of the marine environment, summarized the marine and coastal environmental problems of the region and the possible mitigation measures as conceived by the experts from the region. The Executive Director's views and recommendations on the future course of the action plan were outlined with specific proposals on (a) future level of contributions to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund, (b) restructuring of the meetings related to the East Asian Seas action plan, (c) setting up of a nucleus of a Regional Co-ordinating Unit (RCU) for the action plan and (d) other related recommendations aimed at alleviating the present problems encountered in the implementation of the action plan. After a brief introduction to the financial report for 1988-1989 and the workplan and budget for the biennium 1989-1990, it was pointed out that due to their special significance these two subjects together with the Executive Director's recommendations would be introduced in further detail under agenda items 7 and 8.

17. While reviewing the progress of the ongoing and recently completed projects the secretariat also introduced and referred to the document on the progress reports on 1988-1989 programme activities (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/5). It was pointed out that similar documents at the sixth and seventh meetings of COBSEA had brought to the attention of the meetings the major administrative and financial problems arising from delays in the submission of half-yearly project progress reports and the quarterly financial statements by the project Co-ordinators. These in the past months have resulted in some improvements in report submissions. However, it was stressed that despite the improvement the problem was not completely resolved and it was hoped that the situation would improve further.

Agenda item 6. Review of 1988-1989 programme activities

(a) Ongoing East Asian Seas projects

18. Under this section of the agenda item the progress in the implementation of the ongoing and recently completed East Asian Seas projects were presented to the meeting by the project co-ordinators or their representatives.

19. FP/ES/5102-82-17 (EAS-14): Study of maritime meteorological phenomena and oceanographic features of the East Asian Seas region:

The representative of the Co-ordinator of the EAS-14 project informed the meeting that, according to decision of the seventh COBSEA meeting, the project was completed and the terminal report submitted to UNEP.

20. FP/ES/5102-82-19 (EAS-16): Assessment of concentration levels and trends of non-oil pollutants and their effects on the marine environment in the East Asian Seas region:

A five day assessment meeting was held in Manila in August 1988 where technical experts on the levels of non-oil pollutants in Manila Bay, Cilacap waters, Malaysian waters, Jakarta Bay and the Gulf of Thailand were reviewed. With the assistance of UNEP, IOC and ILMR a consultant has been identified for the trace metal analysis training which is scheduled for 19 July - 12 August 1989. The process for the selection of a second consultant to start training on the effects of non-oil pollutants on selected marine organisms is also underway. During April-May 1989 a literature survey on the "effects of non-oil pollutants on the marine environment in the East Asian Seas region" was completed.

21. FP/ES/5102-87-03 (EAS-19): Development of management plans for endangered coastal and marine living resources in East Asia - Training phase:

The project encountered major delays due to the (a) late finalization of the training packages, (b) amalgamation of the Galten College with University of Queensland and (c) the illness of one of the project consultants. It is estimated that the training packages will be completed by the end of July 1989 and, hence, the first meeting of the senior marine park managers from the East Asian Seas countries is now rescheduled for August 1989.

22. FP/ES/5102-87-09 (EAS-21): Assessment of land-based urban, industrial and agricultural sources of pollution, their environmental impact and development of recommendations for possible control measures:

The two-week training course held from 3-13 May 1988 in Singapore provided the participants with a methodology to carry out an assessment programme in the respective countries and to put up a national report. The national reports were received in December 1988 - January 1989 and a draft regional report was compiled by the project consultant, Dr. E.A.R. Ouano. Both national reports and the draft regional report were discussed in a three day seminar in Singapore from 25-27 January 1989. At the seminar, Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific, UNEP, presented a paper on "overview of land-based pollution sources and their environmental impact in the Asia and Pacific region". A total of twenty four participants took part. The amended draft regional report was sent to participating countries for comments in April 1989. The regional report is now being finalized for distribution. Questionnaires to seek feedback on the training course and seminar have been sent and return of all Questionnaires is awaited in order to compile and analyze the feedback. The whole project is now scheduled for completion in August 1989.

23. The Chairman invited the meeting to review and comment on the status of the implementation of the projects, taking into consideration the project co-ordinator's report (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4, paragraphs 7-12) and the secretariat's progress reports on the 1988-1989 programme activities (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/5).

24. The meeting, after seeking additional clarification from the secretariat and the project co-ordinators, expressed concern on the general slow or lack of progress of the majority of COBSEA approved projects. Furthermore, the meeting noted that after the seventh meeting of COBSEA (Yogyakarta, 17-19 July 1988), it took UNEP several months to prepare and submit the necessary project revisions. This slow pace had caused delays in the implementation of the projects. The meeting requested UNEP to improve its project revision process particularly in the case of projects that do not require major additions or alterations to their budgets.

(b) Evaluation of the EAS-12, EAS-13, EAS-15 and EAS-17 projects

25. The secretariat introduced the evaluation of the EAS-12, EAS-13, EAS-15 and EAS-17 projects prepared by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Monitoring, Assessment and Research Centre (MARC), King's College of University of London (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/6). In doing so, the meeting was reminded that the evaluation report was earlier dispatched (23 February 1989) to the national focal points of the East Asian Seas action plan for comments and also presented for the review and comments of the third meeting of experts on the East Asian Seas action plan (Quezon City, 7-10 February 1989).

26. The meeting discussed the conclusions and recommendations of both the evaluation reports and those of the third meeting of experts and adopted the following set of recommendations, after introducing appropriate amendments and modifications, with a view towards their application to the ongoing and future COBSEA approved projects:

- (i) More care should be taken in the project formulation stages in order to avoid problems with over-ambitious workplans and timetables as well as paying due consideration to the scientific aspects of the project. A consultant from the region should be hired for the formulation of the project proposals after discussions with the implementing organization(s). If possible, UNEP should consider meeting the payment of the consultant's expenses;
- (ii) The present format of the standard half-yearly reports of UNEP does not render itself to scientific reporting. Therefore, a mandatory scientific report should also be included in the reporting procedure of the projects in addition to UNEP's reporting requirements;
- (iii) Progress and scientific reports should also be copied to all other national focal points by the project co-ordinators for comments and information. This would serve to promote a clearer understanding among the participating agencies;
- (iv) Any scientific papers which are directly related to or come as spin-offs of the projects should accompany the half-yearly or scientific reports;
- (v) The future ASEAMS symposia and the experts meetings should be as far as possible organized back to back. The symposia would provide one of the forum for the presentation of the scientific results of the projects, particularly by the co-ordinator of each project;
- (vi) For each project, particularly for those implemented by the national focal points, a scientific/technical co-ordinator should be clearly stated in the project document. Correspondence/communication on technical issues should be made directly with the co-ordinator with copies to the implementing organizations and/or the national focal points;

- (vii) Direct implementation of the projects by competent national institutions should be encouraged;
- (viii) Each project revision should not only concentrate on the budget and the workplan and timetable but consideration should also be given for refining or changing the objectives and activities with a view towards the strengthening of the technical and scientific aspects of a project;
- (ix) The future evaluation of the completed East Asian Seas projects should preferably be done by scientists from the region, including members of ASEAMS;
- (x) Progress reporting, as well as the analysis and evaluation of these reports, should be on a regular basis and as envisaged in the project documents; and
- (xi) Due consideration should be given to the work done within and outside the East Asian Seas region on topics of similar nature.

(c) Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS)

27. The Chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS) presented his report on the activities of the association since the last COBSEA meeting (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/7). He indicated that at present there are 127 registered members of the association with some more in the process of applying. The association has been issuing its newsletter "Laut" on a quarterly basis. The latest issue (March 1989) was distributed at the meeting. Another editorial task that ASEAMS has accomplished was the preparation of the proceedings of the Bali workshop on oil pollution which has been published as No. 96 of the UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies and provided as an information document to this meeting. The most significant events have been the meetings organized by ASEAMS. The first General Assembly and Symposium were held in February with some 46 persons attending. The constitution of ASEAMS was adopted and its officers elected. At the Symposium 19 papers were presented. This Symposium was also the start of the Third Meeting of Experts on the East Asian Seas action plan, which was co-hosted by ASEAMS. The proceedings of the Symposium are presently being edited by the association and will be published in the UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies.

28. The Chairman invited the meeting to take note of the progress and activities of ASEAMS and recommend ways and means of further improving the effective co-operation between ASEAMS and the national focal points of the action plan particularly in the area of communicating the scientific results of the project activities.

29. The meeting noted the report of the Chairman and sought clarification on the overlap between the membership of ASEAMS and the participants of the experts meeting. It was stated that most of the experts at the third meeting are now members of the association and that it was the aspiration of ASEAMS to eventually include most, if not all, marine scientists and marine environmentalists in Southeast Asia in its membership.

(d) Implications of expected climatic changes in the East Asian Seas region

30. The ASEAMS Chairman also presented the report on the work of the Task Team on the implications of climatic change in the East Asian Seas region, in the absence of the Co-ordinator. He reported that the Task Team had held its first meeting on 25-26 May at the National University of Singapore. Eleven members presented their individual chapters which were discussed in plenary. These covered topics such as coastal zone utilization and management,

coastal and marine ecosystems, marine productivity and coastal geomorphology. The members are now revising and updating their respective chapters which are to be completed by August. The draft integrated report will be finalized at the last meeting of the Task Team to be held in November 1989.

31. The meeting was invited by the Chairman to take note of the report and make suggestions which may facilitate the successful completion of the Task Team's work.

32. The observation was made at the meeting that the socio-economic implications of sea-level rise should receive adequate attention in the Task Team report. It was also pointed out that the activities of other groups studying climatic change effects in the region should be taken into consideration by the team in the preparation of its report.

Agenda item 7. Financial report for the period 1988-1989

33. The secretariat with reference to the relevant sections of the Executive Director's report (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4, paragraphs 33-42) reviewed the financial arrangements in relation to the support of the action plan during the 1988-1989 period. This included detailed examination of the status of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund, the financial contribution from UNEP's Environment Fund and other sources of support to the implementation of the action plan, including the in kind contributions to the COBSEA approved projects by the Governments of the region. The attention of the meeting was drawn to the fact that the total of 1988 and 1989 contributions in support of the action plan (as of 30 April 1989) was US\$596,464 from UNEP's Environment Fund and US\$78,125 from the East Asian Seas Trust Fund.

34. In reviewing the financial problems of the East Asian Seas action plan, the meeting was reminded that the critical issue of the level of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund was repeatedly brought to the attention of the COBSEA meetings. However, the last three meetings of COBSEA have postponed any decisions on increasing the level of the contributions to the Trust Fund to their next meeting (UNEP/IG. 65/12, paragraph 50, UNEP/IG. 77/6, paragraph 55 and UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.1/7, paragraph 45). The meeting was requested to examine this issue and reach a decision on the Executive Director's proposed level of funding for the East Asian Seas Trust Fund for the period 1990-1994.

35. The Chairman invited the meeting to comment on the Executive Director's proposals on the question of alleviating the action plan's difficulties.

36. The meeting took note of the financial report of the 1988-1989 period after seeking additional clarification from the secretariat. On the question of increasing the level of the Trust Fund, the meeting decided to keep the level at its present state. However, the meeting felt that there was a need for a thorough reappraisal and revision of the East Asian Seas action plan in view of recent developments which would help the Governments of the region to re-assess and revise the action plan in an overall context and determine if there is a need for increasing their levels of contribution to the East Asian Seas action plan. In view of this, the meeting decided to request the Executive Director to initiate a high level consultant mission to the countries of the region in order to review and revise the East Asian Seas action plan and make recommendations on the best ways of achieving its implementation. The meeting further requested the Executive Director to appoint consultant(s) for this purpose from the East Asian Seas countries. The consultant's report is planned to be presented to the ninth COBSEA meeting (March 1990), the thirteenth ASEAN Expert Group on the Environment (AEGE) meeting (March 1990) and the fourth ministerial meeting on the environment (May 1990) for review and discussion. The Interim Co-ordinator of COBSEA was requested to co-ordinate the drafting of a detailed terms of reference

for the proposed consultant(s) and submit it to UNEP as soon as possible. The meeting also requested that the planned fourth meeting of experts on the East Asian Seas action plan scheduled for August 1990 be brought forward to March 1990 so that it could examine the report of the consultants for their review and input prior to its presentation to the above mentioned meetings.

Agenda item 8. Workplan and budget for biennium 1989-1990

37. The Chairman of the Association of the Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS) presented the report of the third meeting of experts on the East Asian Seas action plan (UNEP(OCA)/EAS WG.3/8). Special reference was made to the meeting's recommendations in view of the re-assessment of the immediate, short-term and long-term environmental problems of the region as well as the ways and means of strengthening the co-operation among the environmental scientists and the scientific institutions of the region leading to their enhanced capability in becoming involved in and contributing to the action plan.

38. The Chairman invited the representatives of the Governments participating in the East Asian Seas action plan and observers from international, intergovernmental and regional organizations to present proposals for activities which may be included in the workplan and budget of the 1989-1990 period.

39. Representatives of the Governments of Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand referred to the new project proposals submitted to the meeting (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/9) and made brief presentations on each of the proposals.

40. The representative of WMO informed the meeting that his organization was ready to co-operate in COBSEA endorsed projects. He expressed WMO's interest in co-operating in the following activities, if adopted by COBSEA, for implementation:

- i. consultancy mission to examine the possibility of setting up a regional network of observation stations to facilitate the study of marine meteorological phenomena and oceanographic features of the East Asian Seas (as proposed at the third meeting of experts on the East Asian Seas action plan);
- ii. a possible new project on the study of airborne pollution in the region; and
- iii. an evaluation of the recently completed EAS-14 project.

41. The representative of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP) referred to the proposed ASCOPE/CCOP/NECOR funding for the oil pollution control (umbrella) project and expressed interest in future areas of co-operation with COBSEA. He particularly referred to the activities involving the possible sea level changes, geomorphology and coastal erosion which could also strengthen CCOP's marine science component of present activities.

42. The representative of the East West Centre informed the meeting that the East West Centre is a non-profit educational institution located in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. It supports students to study for graduate degrees at the University of Hawaii and research interns and fellows to participate in its conferences and interdisciplinary, multinational research on problems of mutual concern and consequence. The Centre was pleased to have been invited to the meeting and to learn of COBSEA's progress and plans. The Centre's Environment and Policy Institute has had a long standing interest in marine environmental issues in Southeast Asia, having held several meetings

and produced many publications on the subject. Although the present focus of the Institute's marine work is on East Asia, the Institute will continue to monitor marine environmental problems and plans in the region and in this regard to undertake studies, convene and co-sponsor meetings, and support students as appropriate.

43. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) relayed to the meeting the greetings of the organization. He stated that if requested by individual national centres FAO could consider technical support to fishery oriented projects such as EAS-19. However, he reported that FAO is not in a position to provide financial support at the present time. The meeting took note of the statement.

44. The secretariat introduced the Executive Director's recommendations and proposals for activities which could provide stable and efficient institutional arrangements and the proposals which could be included in the 1989-1990 biennium workplan and budget. It was pointed out that the proposed activities were based on: (i) the long-term strategy adopted for the action plan at the sixth meeting of COBSEA (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.1/4, paragraph 64), (ii) the immediate, short-term and long-term environmental problems of the region as re-assessed and amended at the third meeting of the East Asian Seas experts (UNEP(OCA)/EAS WG.3/8, paragraph 27), (iii) the recommendations of the third meeting of experts (UNEP(OCA)/EAS WG.3/8), (iv) the project proposals submitted by the national focal points (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/9) and (v) the present status of the action plan.

45. The Chairman invited the meeting to consider the proposed activities and adopt a workplan and budget for the 1989-1990 period.

46. The meeting after considering the proposals for a more stable and efficient institutional arrangement (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4, paragraph 62) adopted them with the following modifications and amendments:

(i) On the question of convening biennial ministerial meetings as the highest policy making body of the action plan, the meeting did not see the necessity for routinely scheduling a ministerial level meeting for the action plan. Should COBSEA require ministerial guidance on particular issues, this could be included in the agenda of the ministerial level meeting through the AEGE which takes place once every three years. However, should an urgent need arise, a meeting of the environment ministers of the ASEAN region could be recommended by the AEGE;

(ii) To convene short (2-3 days) annual meetings of COBSEA in order to review the progress of the action plan, evaluate the results achieved, adopt future workplans and decide budgets;

(iii) Convening of biennial meetings of regional experts in association with ASEAMS to review the environmental problems of the East Asian Seas region and the technical and scientific aspects of the ongoing and planned activities;

(iv) On the question of the establishment of a Regional Co-ordinating Unit (RCU) for the action plan, the meeting recommended that the existing manpower resources of UNEP/ROAP to take over the co-ordination of the action plan;

(v) Establishment, as needed, for each major project or activity, of a co-operative network of national institutions, with one of the network members co-ordinating as the regional activity centre the work of the network; and

(vi) Renewing and increasing the ties with international organizations in order to benefit from their experience relevant to the action plan.

47. The meeting on the basis of the Executive Director's proposals for the 1989- 1990 workplan and budget, the project proposals submitted by the representatives of the Governments and the estimation of the resources available, adopted a workplan and budget as shown in Table 1 of this report.

48. The meeting endorsed activity (f) and recommended that the Executive Director consider re-allocating resources from the Environment Fund earmarked for the East Asian Seas action plan to support this project as well as other projects that would be proposed.

49. The meeting also requested the Executive Director to empower his representative to the COBSEA meetings to be able to redeploy Environment Fund resources within the approved budget levels and the proposed workplan and budget prepared for the action plan.

50. During the discussions preceding the adoption of the workplan and the budget, the secretariat made the following specific remarks in connection with the new project proposals shown as activities (f) and (h):

(i) Quality assurance for non-oil pollution monitoring (activity (f)): this project proposal, important as it is, on its own does not contribute significantly to the long-term strategy of the action plan adopted at the sixth meeting of COBSEA. In fact, as proposed, the project would be a repetition of a major component of the ongoing EAS-16 project. Therefore, the secretariat is of the opinion that this activity should be treated as in integral part of a long-term monitoring programme. If the activity is carried out within such a framework, thus contributing to UNEP's Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) and the "Mussel Watch" programme, there would be a possibility of considerable UNEP funding as well as additional funds possibly forthcoming from IOC; and

(ii) Monitoring programme and application of oil spill model for the EAS region: this project proposal, according to the decision of the seventh COBSEA meeting (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.1/7, paragraph 57), should only be undertaken within the framework of the oil pollution control (umbrella) project. Otherwise, there is a strong possibility of fragmentation of activities related to oil pollution, a previous state of affairs which was rectified by the decision to concentrate all the activities in relation to the oil pollution in the region under one umbrella project. Furthermore, the project proposal as it stands has a national slant without a strong regional context, a major problem identified in the 1987 evaluation of the East Asian Seas action plan (UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 86) which the new projects adopted by COBSEA in the last two years had avoided.

Agenda item 9. Other business

51. The Chairman invited the meeting to raise any other issues relevant to the future development of the action plan.

52. The Chairman of ASEAMS, with reference to the terms of reference of the proposed consultant to review the East Asian Seas action plan, suggested that one item that should be included was the question of relating the activities of COBSEA with those of other ASEAN bodies such as the ASEAN Working Group on Marine Science. As an example, he mentioned that the ASEAN/Canada Co-operation Programme in Marine Science included a project on Pollution Monitoring and Baseline Studies. This project should be taken into consideration when the COBSEA proposal for long-term monitoring of non-oil pollutants is developed so that there will be a complementation of activities.

53. The Chairman of ASEAMS also called to the attention of the meeting to the forthcoming Intercongress of the Pacific Science Association to be held at Viña del Mar, Chile, on 7-10 August 1989 at which there will be a symposium on regional co-operation on the protection of the marine environment sponsored by UNEP. In view of the limited time, he requested the focal points of the East Asian Seas action plan to submit their nominations for participants within a week so that they could be forwarded to the organizers. The UNEP representative indicated that UNEP is prepared to sponsor three participants and subject to availability of funds will consider additional support.

54. The secretariat informed the meeting that the intergovernmental meeting on the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) action plan (Noumea, New Caledonia, 27 June - 1 July 1988) requested UNEP to bring to the attention of COBSEA the problems of marine turtle management with a view towards the development of inter-regional co-operation between SPREP and COBSEA on the subject of "co-ordination and integration of regional marine turtle management initiatives with a focus on the promotion of field conservation activities, the development of supporting legislation and public education programmes and the development of regional arrangements for marine turtle management".

55. The meeting agreed to bring this issue to the attention of the forthcoming AEGE meeting and after reaching a decision within the context of other relevant AEGE activities address it at the ninth COBSEA meeting.

Agenda item 10. Adoption of the report

56. The Rapporteur presented the draft report and its annexes to the meeting and they were adopted, with slight amendments, as they appear in this document.

Agenda item 11. Closure of the meeting

57. The meeting was closed by the representative of the Executive Director and by the Chairman. In their closing remarks, both officials expressed their thanks to the Government of Brunei Darussalam for the hospitality and the efficient and constructive way they hosted the meeting.

TABLE 1

Workplan and budget for 1989-1990 biennium

(The level of support which may be forthcoming from the Environment Fund of UNEP according to this workplan and budget is subject to the availability of resources in the Environment Fund and to the agreement of COBSEA to allocate adequate matching funds through the EAS Trust Fund. Budget is indicated in thousands of US \$. Resources already committed through signed project documents (see table 2 of UNEP (OCA)/EAS IG.2/4) are not indicated in this annex. TF = Trust; EF = Environment Fund (UNEP). Counterpart contributions of co-operating agencies and supporting organizations are indicated in the "Note", whenever applicable).

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	Budget		Note		
			1989 TF EF	1990 TF EF			
(a) EAS-16: Assessment of concentration levels and trends of non-oil pollutants and their effects on the marine environment of the East Asian Seas region.	Continuing until December 1989	Environmental Management Bureau, Government of the Philippines, in co-operation with national institutions of the region	-	-	-	-	Project to be terminated by December 1989 with rephasing of the budget approved at the sixth meeting of COBSEA
(b) EAS-19: Development of management plans for endangered coastal and marine living resources in East Asia: Training phase.	Continuing until May 1990	Department of Fisheries, Government of Malaysia, in co-operation with national institutions of the region	-	-	-	-	Project extended until May 1990 with rephasing of the budget approved at the seventh meeting of COBSEA and followed up by activity (g).
(c) EAS-20: Establishment and management of marine data base and information system.	Planned for implementation in 1989-1990	Office of State Minister for Population and Environment, Government of Indonesia, with co-operation of national institutions of the region and relevant international organizations	20	10	30	-	Project document to be finalized with budget approved at the sixth and revised at the seventh meetings of COBSEA.

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	Budget				Note
			1989 TF	1990 EF	1989 TF	1990 EF	
(d) EAS-21: Assessment of land-based urban, industrial and agricultural sources of pollution, their environmental impact and development of recommendations for possible control measures.	Continuing until August 1989	Ministry of Environment, Government of Singapore, in co-operation with WHO, UNIDO, FAO and national institutions of the region	-	-	-	-	Project to be completed according to envisaged workplan timetable and budget, as approved at the sixth meeting of COBSEA.
(e) EAS-23: Oil pollution control in the East Asian Seas region: "umbrella" project, consisting of the following components: (1) Oceanographic features of the EAS region (Phase I - development of oil spill trajectory models); (2) Survey and monitoring of oil pollution in the EAS region (Phase I - tar ball monitoring); and (3) oil spill contingency planning	Planned for implementation in 1989-1990	Component (1): National Environment Board, Government of Thailand; components, (2 and 3), Office of the State Minister for Population and the Environment, Government of Indonesia, in co-operation with IOC, IMO, ASCOPE/NECOR and national institutions of the region	50	20	120	20	Project document to be finalized. ASCOPE/NECOR/CCOP had indicated counterpart contribution of US \$63,000 in component (1) and the possibility of further contribution to other components. IMO and IOC have indicated counterpart contributions of US \$30,000 and US \$40,000 in components 2 and 3. UNEP's financial support to the project from the Environment Fund is contingent on an agreement on co-ordination of the project by one of the national institutions or by IOC/IMO.
(f) Quality assurance for non-oil pollution monitoring	Proposed for implementation in 1990-1993	Environmental Management Bureau, Government of the Philippines, in co-operation with national institutions of the region IOC and other relevant international organizations	-	-	60	-	Project outline proposed at the third meeting of experts (Annex V of UNEP(OCA)/EAS WG.3/8) and project document submitted to COBSEA VIII. The total project cost is US \$150,000. This project is expected to become a component of a larger integrated monitoring programme activity.

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	Budget				Note
			1989 TF	1989 EF	1990 TF	1990 EF	
(g) Development of management plans for endangered coastal and marine living resources in East Asia (Phase II)	Project to start in 1990 after completion of EAS-19	Department Fisheries, Government of Malaysia, in co-operation with national institutions in the region	-	-	30	10	Project document to be developed on the basis of the proposal submitted to COBSEA VIII. In view of shortage of TF resources the project is to be initiated late in 1990. Project proposal is to be refined by the implementing organization with clear indication of its activities and budget before submission to UNEP. Total project cost is US \$175,000.
(h) Monitoring Programme and application of oil spill model for EAS region	Proposed for implementation in 1990	National Environment Board, Government of Thailand in co-operation with ASCOPE/NECOR, IOC, IMO and national institutions of the region	-	-	10	-	Project document to be developed on the basis of the project outline submitted at COBSEA VIII. In view of shortage of TF resources the project is to be initiated late in 1990 with initial allocation of US \$10,000. The total project cost is US \$80,000.
(i) Formulation of coastal management plans for the East Asian Seas region (Phase I - Malaysia)	Undecided	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in co-operation with the Department of Environment, Government of Malaysia	-	-	-	-	For status of proposal see paragraph 14 of UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	Budget				Note
			1989		1990		
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(j) Support to the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS)	Continuing until December 1990	UNEP	-	15	-	10	For background see paragraphs 15-17, 20 and 27-31 of UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4
(k) Support to the Task Team on the potential impact of climatic changes	Continuing until December 1989	UNEP	-	10	-	-	For background see paragraphs 18 and 58 of UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4
(l) Meeting of legal and technical experts to examine the feasibility of a suitable legal framework for the action plan	Planned for December 1989	UNEP, in co-operation with IMO, ASCOPE and other relevant international organizations	-	15	-	-	IMO and ASCOPE have indicated interest in providing financial support in convening this meeting
(m) Fourth meeting of experts on the EAS action plan: (1) to review and evaluate the scientific results of projects carried out in the framework of the action plan (2) to review and evaluate the project proposals which may contribute to the objectives of the action plan; (3) to advise COBSEA and UNEP on environmental problems which may be addressed through the action plan	Planned for March 1990	UNEP in consultation with EAS focal points and the Chairman of the association	-	-	-	20	For background see paragraphs 27-31 of UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4
(n) Ninth meeting of COBSEA to review the implementation of the action plan and to decide on the workplan and budget for biennium 1990-1991	Planned for April 1990	UNEP in consultation with the Interim Co-ordinator of COBSEA	-	-	-	-	Costs to UNEP covered through activity (o)

Activity	Timetable	Responsibility	Budget				Note
			1989		1990		
			TF	EF	TF	EF	
(o) General support to the implementation and co-ordination of the action plan including support to COBSEA meetings	Continuing	UNEP, under the guidance of COBSEA and in consultation with the Interim Co-ordinator	-	-	-	60	
TOTAL			70	70	250	120	*

* The total resources required from the EF of UNEP in the adopted workplan and budget (table 1) is US \$190,000. This amount is US \$100,000 less than the earmarked sum proposed in the Executive Director's report (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/4).

Annex I

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