



**UNDP/GEF PROJECT ENTITLED “REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS IN THE
YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM”**

UNDP/GEF/YS/RSP.2/7a-e
Date: 9 December 2005
English only

**Second Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Panel
For the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project**
Kunming, China, 15-17 December 2005

Regional Working Group Chairpersons' Reports

Report on the Implementation of Project Activities from RWG-P

Wen Quan

Chairperson of RWG-P, YSLME Project
SOA Key Lab of Coastal Environment and Ecosystem Research
National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center
Dalian, P. R. China

1. Summary for 1st RWG-P Meeting

1.1 Purposes of the 1st Meeting

The Regional Working Groups of YSLME Project are the focal points to develop their respective components of the regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) during the first two years of Project implementation. Thus the first RWG-P Meeting is hoped to agree on common methodologies to collect and present information on pollution component for TDA inputs and agree on necessary actions to obtain the information.

1.2 General Outcomes

1.2.1 Draft TOR for RWG-P

The Meeting has discussed the TOR for the RWG-P and focused on the major responsibilities of RWG-P. All members agreed with the final proposal, as follows:

- Location of WG Chair: People's Republic of China
- Tasks of RWG-P
 - Coordinate the development of a regional system of effective marine contaminant reduction and mitigation. Facilitate the establishment of regional quality assurance system.
 - Establish and support a well functioning network of monitoring centres throughout the region. Compile reliable data to catalyze reduction and prevention of contamination.
 - Identify "Hot Spots." Prepare regional procedures for remediation and prevention, for adoption and implementation.
 - Develop regional guidelines for monitoring and assessment of the marine environment in the Yellow Sea.
 - Provide guidance in developing regional strategies for pollution control and management.
 - Provide scientific guidance for the development of the pollution chapter of the TDA.
 - Provide scientific guidance in the development and implementation of the SAP and NYSAP.

- Prepare workplan of pollution component with detailed costed actions for consideration and approval of PSC.

1.2.2 Data and Information Requirements

The members of RWG-P discussed Data and Information Requirements for the Pollution Component and Causal Chain Analysis for Yellow Sea Pollution-Related Problems, and contributed their expertise in proposing pollution-related problems of the Yellow Sea, and spent a sizeable amount of effort to produce the comprehensive list of required data, information and the formats.

The members also discussed the causal chain and governance analysis and the parameters for intercalibration exercises, and finalized those information.

1.2.3 List of Costed Actions

During the Meeting, the members reviewed the list of activities and actions required for preparation of the pollution component of the TDA and made slight changes in the list. The agreed activities and actions to be taken for the first two years of project implementation are listed in the Meeting report.

1.2.4 Issues and Recommendations

The issues to be addressed are:

- Cross-component issues, especially with RWG-E and RWG-F
- General consensus on trans-boundary environmental issues in YSLME
- Assessment criteria

The recommendations to RSTP are:

- Cooperation with other international and/or regional projects
- Cooperation with other international organizations
- Cross-component issues, with regard to ecosystem indicators

2. Summary for 2nd RWG-P Meeting

2.1 Purposes of 2nd Meeting

The Second Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Pollution Component was held in Busan, Korea, 7-9 November 2005.

The Meeting reviewed the implementation progress-to-date of data and information collection, and decided on how to present the data in a standardised format for the TDA. The Meeting also provided technical guidance on the remaining activities to be implemented in 2005 and 2006, and advised on how the results from these activities should contribute to the

preparation of a regional synthesis on the pollution status in the Yellow Sea, and further contribute to the preparation of the TDA and Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

2.2 Expected Outputs

The expected outputs for this meeting are listed as follows:

- A. Review Data and Information Collected
- B. Review Regional Pollution Monitoring Guidelines
- C. Co-operative Study Cruises
- D. Inter-calibration Exercises
- E. Regional Synthesis of Data and Information
- F. Workplan for Assessing Existing Conventions and legislations in prevention of marine pollution from all sources
- G. Inter-calibration of Fate and Analysis of Pollutants
- H. Capacity Building
- I. Recommendations for TDA/SAP
- J. Workplan
- K. 3rd RWG-P Meeting

2.3 Summary for the meeting

2.3.1 Data and information collection activities

The meeting discussed the progress reports of data and information activities. In order to collect more data and information for the preparation of TDA, and considering the limitations of fully opened marine environmental data in this process, the meeting discussed extensively on the possible means to present current scientific understanding of marine pollution status and trends. Members agreed that while the teams would continue with the current data and information collection activity, they should also consider how they will provide marine environment status and trends in certain formats to illustrate the data products.

2.3.2 Review Regional Pollution Monitoring Guidelines

The progress report for this activity was presented to the meeting, explaining the existing monitoring programmes in the region, suggesting parameters and places that should be monitored, and additional work that needs to be done. A draft outline of the regional pollution monitoring guidelines was proposed. The suggestions for finalization of the Guidelines were provided within the meeting.

2.3.3 Co-operative Study Cruises

The meeting discussed the preparation for the winter cruise, which included the staff on board, the preparation of agents and in-situ equipment, the analytical methods and

standards, the samplers and storage bottles, the numbers of samples, the pre-treatment facilities and operation on board, the quality control on board and land-based labs, and the recording templates. A suggestion was proposed that an experimental marine litter survey would be carried out since the Fisheries Component will be providing samples through their bottom trawls.

2.3.4 Inter-calibration Exercises

A preliminary list of parameters to be inter-calibrated had been decided shortly after the 1st RWG-P Meeting, and some discussions were held with potential standard reference material (SRM) suppliers. As certain developments had occurred between then and now, the meeting reviewed the list of parameters and provided guidance on how the activity should be implemented. Members re-visited the list and re-prioritised the parameters, based on the known available sources of SRMs, and the times in which the activity could be carried out.

2.3.5 Activities to be Implemented

A. Regional Data and Information Synthesis

The meeting reviewed the draft job description and qualifications for the consultant to carry out this activity, and suggested persons that are qualified to carry out this task.

B. Assessing Pollution Convention Implementation

With the assistance and recommendation by Korean members of the RWG-Investment, the PMO had already identified a consultant to carry out this work. The consultant had already submitted a proposal and budget to the PMO which was very well written and in line with the requested task. The meeting reviewed the job description and added one more item to the tasks.

C. Inter-calibration of Fate and Analysis of Pollutants

The meeting felt that this activity should focus on the understanding of the fate and transportation of pollutants, and further understand pollutants discharged to the marine and coastal environment. It was deemed more appropriate to change the title to, "Review Existing Data and Information and Comparison of Procedures to Analyse Fate and Transport of Pollutants."

D. Capacity Building

The meeting discussed necessary activities needed for upgrading capacity in the participating countries regarding marine pollution research and monitoring. Two levels of capacity building were proposed. Activities under Level 1 will target the current members and partners of the project, while Level 2 activities will be held in conjunction with other on-going activities, and include a wider range of participants.

E. 3rd RWG-P Meeting proposal

The meeting agreed to have the Third RWG-P Meeting in Dan Dong, China, from 28-31 August 2006.

3. Technical Consideration for Causal Chain Analysis

It was mentioned in the meeting that the original data collection table did not include collecting data on legal, institutional or stakeholder analyses, which are required for the governance analysis. The meeting considered that these additional information should be included in the national reviews in order to carry out the causal chain and governance analyses. Therefore, the meeting recommended that:

- institutional analysis should focus on the decision making process and weaknesses in institutional structures;
- stakeholder analysis should contain information on affected populations; and
- legal and policy analysis should focus on the current legal status and identify reasons for lack of implementation or enforcement of regulations.

The meeting agreed that:

- Socio-economic data and information necessary for the causal chain and governance analysis should be collected by each participating country; and
- Each national report should include a refined causal chain and governance analysis which will be supported by the data and information collected.

4. Future workplan

The meeting revised the 2005-2006 workplan and proposed the future workplan, focusing on the following activities.

4.1 Data & Information Collection

The actions are to discuss the data presentation formats and to provide graphical outputs, data & info tables with national reviews.

4.2 Regional Data and Information Synthesis

A consultant will be hired to carry out the main responsibility of preparing a regional synthesis report containing an assessment of the national pollution information collected from China and Korea.

4.3 Assessing Pollution Convention Implementation

A consultant will be hired to carry out the main responsibility of preparing a report containing indicators and their use in assessing the region's implementation of international conventions related to pollution.

4.4 Guidelines for regional monitoring

The action is to incorporate comments from meeting into final report.

4.5 Co-operative Study Cruise in Winter

The actions are to prepare the sampling and pretreatment facilities, the analytical methods and log template, and all things related to the cruise and before-and –after cruise, including land-based analyses of the samples with QA/QC procedures.

4.6 Inter-calibration exercises

The actions are proposed as follows:

- To contract to neutral institute(s) or person(s) to oversee the operation of the activity;
- To provide the IAEA Monaco Laboratory with a list of sediment and biota intercalibration parameters to obtain a price list for the SRMs;
- To contact a lab in Australia to gauge their interest in organising the sea water nutrient part of the activity; and
- To run the intercalibration exercises.

4.7 Fate & Transport of Pollutants

It is proposed to change the topic into “The Review Existing Data and Information and Comparison of Procedures to Analyse Fate and Transport of Pollutants.” The actions are:

- To review data and information provided from national data and information collection activity reports;
- To organise an expert technical workshop to discuss and compare existing procedures and data relevant to fate and transport of pollutants; and
- To present the workshop's outcomes for TDA.

4.8 Capacity Building

Two levels of capacity building activities and additional activities are suggested to be implemented. The activities at level 1 include:

- A follow-up workshop after the first round of inter-calibration exercises;
- A Visiting Scientist or technical exchange programme to be co-funded by the PMO and the host laboratory/institute; and
- A training course on methods to assess marine environment quality.

The activities at level 2 could be held in conjunction with the APEC Marine Environmental Training and Education Center (AMETEC) training courses that will be organised next year.

4.9 Pollution Component of TDA

The actions are:

- Additional socio-economic data should be collected.
- Each national report should include a refined causal chain and governance analysis with the additional collected data and information.
- Socio-economic data should be sought out from existing reports.
- Revised governance analysis guidelines should be provided to all members

4.10 3rd RWG-P Meeting

The 3rd RWG-P Meeting will be held in Dandong, China, 28 to 31 August 2006.

Report of 2nd RWG-I Meeting to 2nd RSTP

1. General description of the meeting

The Second Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Investment Component was held in Jeju Island, R. Korea during Nov. 14-17, 2005. There are 9 participants including 6 working group members (3 from China and 3 from Korea) and 3 PMO staffs.

2. Agenda of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting was prepared by PMO. The meeting adopted the agenda without any changes. The meeting addressed various issues, including Public Awareness, Governance Analysis, Socio-economic Analysis, National Co-ordination, Financial Sustainability, and Data and Information Management.

3. Major outcomes of the meeting

3.1 Stakeholder Involvement, Public Awareness and Participation

The members discussed the relevant issues and *the meeting agreed that*:

- The partnership should be expanded to include more organizations such as the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and NGOs working at regional levels dealing with marine litter;
- The purposes of the Strategy should be divided into categories; and
- The target group of "Scientific Community" should be modified to "Scientific/Academic Communities" for better understanding by the public.
- To have the Partnership Workshop after the Strategy is finalized and approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The meeting discussed and agreed on the following recommendations:

- Submit the Strategy to the RSTP and PSC for consideration and approval;
- Organize the Partnership Workshop to facilitate better co-operation and co-ordination of the activities listed in the Strategy;
- Extend invitation to other potential partners to participate in the partnership;
- Implement promotion activities covering, as much as possible, all the targeted audiences and stakeholders; and
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation.

3.2 Governance Analysis

The work of Governance Analysis consists of the Stakeholder Analysis, Institutional Analysis, and Legal and Policy Analysis. The members explored possible arrangements for this work and **reached an agreement** to propose the framework such that a single contract will be made in China, which includes the above three analytical works (i.e., Stakeholder Analysis, Institutional Analysis, and Legal and Policy Analysis); whereas, two contracts will be made in R. Korea: one for Stakeholder and Legal/Policy Analysis, the other for Institutional Analysis.

The meeting agreed to eliminate the task of examining the differences among concerned countries in their legal and policy frameworks because the agreed contracting arrangements do not allow the consultants to proceed with this task. Additional arrangements may be necessary to examine regional implications of the governance analysis.

The meeting reviewed the qualifications for the consultants and **suggested that** prospective candidates should have the expertise and experience in relevant legislation and institutional framework, as well as in environmental and resources management.

The meeting agreed that the duration of the research is four months, preferably starting from early January 2006. **The meeting discussed and agreed** on the execution plan of Governance Analysis.

3.3 Socio-economic Analysis

Mr. Endo introduced the draft Guideline for Environmental Valuation, focusing on the concept of the economic analysis of marine ecosystems and on the possible methodologies for valuing the benefits and costs of conservation efforts. He also introduced a specific theoretical background and method to measure the economics of commercial fisheries. Mr. Hak-Bong Chang stated the importance of defining the targets of the analysis. Noting that valuing ecosystem services, especially non-market services, required a lot of efforts, Mr. Chang suggested conducting the Environmental Valuation in two stages:

- First, building up a conceptual framework for various targets, which includes identifying the targets and methods;
- Second, valuing the benefits and costs of a few selected targets as case studies.

The meeting agreed on an analytical framework/procedure for Environmental Valuation, which consists of the following five steps: (i) Identify Targets/Problems, (ii) Define Procedure/Process, (iii) Select/Develop Methods, (iv) Conduct Case Studies, and (Establish/Finalise the Process). In this framework, a series of steps will be taken iteratively,

such as defining the procedures and processes, identifying relevant methods and conducting case studies.

The members discussed about the environmental problems of the Yellow Sea to identify the initial targets, and the practical procedures to carry out environmental valuation. The meeting examined these selection criteria and decided to select tourism and mariculture as the initial targets. **The meeting also agreed** that other targets including commercial fisheries will be identified and addressed, if necessary, at a later stage.

The meeting agreed that the initial effort on the environmental valuation should focus on tourism and mariculture as the first phase. The main objective of this phase is to prepare and establish a regional procedure/process to carry out the environmental valuation, which could be applied to other targeted issues.

The meeting discussed and agreed on the steps and schedule to implement the first phase of the environmental valuation studies. The Phase I of this work will be carried out from January 2006 through August 2006. The final report will be submitted to and discussed at the 3rd RWG-I meeting. The work schedule of Phase II of this work will be discussed in the 3rd RWG-I meeting.

As the importance of environmental valuation in the overall framework of the project implementation and there was no budget allocation in the current budget approved by the 1st PSC for environmental valuation, the meeting suggested that PMO should consider this aspect in the budget revision and to re-allocate necessary funds for this purpose. The proposed budget revision will be submitted to the next meetings of RSTP and PSC for consideration and approval. Upon approval, the PMO will formulate a Statement of Work (SOW) containing the work to be carried out and will circulate to the interested experts. With the proposal on the activities and estimated budget, the PMO will hire consultants to proceed with necessary work. In case, the budget allocated for this purpose is not enough, the PMO has to consider reducing the scope of work.

3.4 National Co-ordination and Implementation

Both participating countries reported on the activities and progress of national co-ordination and implementation.

The Project Manager indicated the importance of the coordinating roles of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC), and informed the meeting that no meeting was convened in either of the participating countries. He emphasized that the following activities and/or actions are critical for the success of the project:

- Inviting more institutions to participate in the activities of the national working groups, including local governments, local communities, and NGOs, which will not only obtain broad support and expertise for better implementation of the

Project, but also produce quality results of the stakeholder analysis;

- Securing a relatively stable participation of the members to the respective meetings of the regional working groups, to maintain the integrity and continuity of the project implementation; and
- Enhancing national co-ordination of relevant ministries in the implementation of the project activities, which is one of the overall objectives of the project.

The meeting noted the statements made by the Project Manager, **and agreed to** discuss these issues further with the National Project Coordinators (NPCs).

3.5 Financial Sustainability

The members noted the importance of securing financial sustainability for continuous implementation of management activities to be prepared and agreed in the Strategic Action Program for the Yellow Sea. To achieve this purpose, there is a need to prepare a strategic paper on financial sustainability. Invited by the meeting, Project Manager Mr. Jiang prepared a draft outline of the sustainable financial strategy. **The meeting reviewed** the draft outline and provided suggestions and comments on the outline. **The meeting agreed** that a draft strategy on financial sustainability should be prepared by the PMO, and presented to the next RWG-I meeting for consideration.

3.6 Data and Information Management

With request from the director of China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Center (CKJORC), Mr. Aiping Feng presented the progress report of establishing the GIS and meta databases with the emphasis on its objectives, components, and implementation structure. He also explained specific technical considerations for the development, demonstrating the functions of the databases.

The meeting expressed its appreciation to the First Institute of Oceanography for its generous offer of necessary software for the GIS database, in particular the ArcIMS and ArcEngine, and some hardware required for the database.

The Project Manager provided information on the agreement made by the 1st RSTP, regarding the establishment of GIS and meta databases, including:

- The meta database and GIS database will be hosted in the China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Center;
- The PMO will take a leading role in the development of the databases with input from database development experts;

- The members of the regional working groups should be involved in the development of the database;
- The host will be responsible for the daily maintenance of the databases. China and Korea will have equal responsibility for the joint facility and management of the data in future.

The Project Manager provided further information on this issue:

- The data on biodiversity in the Yellow Sea produced by WWF's Yellow Sea Eco-region Planning Programme project will be provided to the Project;
- Sundosoft, a Korean company, volunteered to assist the Project to develop the databases.

With regard to the socio-economic data to be included in the GIS database, the Project Manager informed the meeting that other RWGs already identified requirements for socioeconomic data to be used in the TDA. He suggested that the members of RWG-I review the data requirements identified by the RWGs, and add, if necessary, additional data requirement for the governance analysis and environmental valuation, as discussed and agreed during this meeting. These additional requirements should be sent to PMO as soon as possible, in order to include them into the GIS database. **The meeting accepted** the suggestion **and agreed** to review the development at the next RWG-I meeting.

3.7 Preparation of the Investment Component in the Draft TDA

The Project Manager informed the meeting that the other regional working groups would agree to prepare regional syntheses on the respective components, to provide information on the status and trends of the marine environment of the Yellow Sea. For the RWG-I, the outcomes of the integrated governance analysis would be very useful information for the TDA. He invited the meeting to consider how to incorporate the results of governance analysis into that of the causal chain analysis, which was conducted by other RWGs. **The meeting emphasised** that the governance analysis and environmental valuation are important elements for the TDA and SAP, and agreed to make a recommendation to the RSTP and PSC to allocate necessary financial resources to conduct these tasks.

3.8 WORKPLAN FOR 2005 TO 2006

The meeting discussed the draft workplan prepared by the PMO, and agreed to add the agreed working schedules for the governance analysis and environmental valuation into the proposed workplan. The Workplan was modified according to the agreement.

3.9 DATE AND PLACE FOR 3RD RWG-INVESTMENT

The meeting agreed to have the next RWG-I meeting 4-7 September 2006 in China. The detailed venue will be decided after the discussion between the Chairperson of RWG-I and the PMO.

RWG-Ecosystem Report to RSTP on the Second Regional Working Group Meeting

1) General description of the meeting

Venue and Attendance

The Second Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Ecosystem Component (RWG-E) was held at Yunhai Hotel, ZhouZhang, China, during Nov 29-Dec 2, 2005. A total of 18 people attended the meeting. Among them were three Chinese delegates, three Korean delegates, one chairperson of the RWG-E, eight observers, and three members from the PMO staff. The names of the participants can be found in the Appendix 1 of Second Meeting Report of Ecosystem Regional Working Group (hereafter, RWGER2).

Agenda

Adopted agenda during the meeting is attached in the appendix 2 of RWGER2. Among the agenda items, three main focal areas for the Meeting were identified: 1) Review and discussion on on-going Data and Information Collection activities; 2) Finalization of the cruise plan; and 3) Decision on the work plan for 2005-2006.

2) Major outcomes of the meeting

Review and discussion on on-going Data and Information Collection activities

The accumulation of data collection from both China and Korea as reported during the meeting was rather limited probably because the contracts were delayed. To assess the trend and the current status of the YS ecosystem, data should cover at least decades of time span. Therefore the participants were asked to reconsider the existence of data to the best of their knowledge and a table was constructed based on this. Also a list of minimal set of status indices was made (Annex IV of RWGER2). To make sure data collection can be done in a timely manner, the timeline of the Data and Information Collection was revised. The agreements made regarding Data and Information Collection are as follow:

- All sampling points with the associated data should be provided in the final report, as this would assist the completion of regional synthesis.
- The national reports should show, as much as possible, data of the variables as agreed during the 1st RWG-E Meeting. The reports should also include "status indices."
- By the end of February 2006, members should exchange their metadata, e.g. sampling gear used, or limitations of datasets. Only then, will the members decide

on the most robust/practical indices to use, will finalise the table of indices, and present the final product according to the indices.

- The Chairperson agreed to prepare a draft table of metadata that will be used by the data collection teams to finalise the presentation of data.
- The data collection teams should complete the final draft of their report by 15 February 2006, in order to allow time to compare the data and finalise the presentation.

Finalization of Co-operative Study Cruises

Members reviewed and finalised the list of personnel, equipment needed, and work to be done during the cruise. Members also included in the table, the tentative work to be done during the spring cruise (benthos, sediment core sampling). The table is attached as Annex V of RWGER2.

Given the amount of work needed to be done during the cruise by the Ecosystem Group, members concluded that they could not reduce their number of on-board members.

Activities to be implemented during 2005 to 2006

The TOR for Consultant for Ecosystem Component's Regional Data and Information Synthesis was reviewed and decided (Annex VI of RWGER2). It was also agreed by the members that the work of the Consultant will include "Identifying and Ranking Stresses on the Ecosystem".

The discussion on Regional Synthesis for Assessing Carrying Capacity resulted in the conclusion that this activity is more relevant to the SAP Phase because the determination of carrying capacity will be used in the management actions to be included in the SAP. Members agreed to draft the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this activity, and the Chairperson will forward the final TOR to the PMO.

Regarding Regional Guidelines for Monitoring Changes in the Ecosystem, members agreed on job description of the consultant who will carry out the job and agreed to provide names of candidates.

Regarding CPR surveys, FIO agreed that future activities using the CPR should be relevant to the Project's and long-term monitoring objectives, and the data generated from the equipment should be shared with the project partners.

Regarding remote sensing workshop, two kinds of workshops could be held: 1) a technical workshop to compare and recommend the best ocean colour algorithm suitable for the Yellow Sea; or 2) a training workshop on using remote sensing. As there will be many other related events from now until 2007, members felt that the remote sensing workshop could be held in conjunction with one of the pre-planned activities. Exact timing and program will be determined in the future.

Regarding training for carrying capacity assessment, members agreed that the funds for this activity should be reallocated for activities to fill gaps in carrying capacity estimation.

Members reviewed the preliminary causal chain analysis prepared during the 1st RWG-E Meeting, and noted for which impacts and causes data will be available, or from which Project Component the data might be available (Annex VII of RWGER2).

Members reviewed the work plan for 2005 to 2006. The meeting agreed to compile a table showing the agreements, actions and deadlines for the activities. The table of actions, responsible persons and deadlines was discussed and agreed, and is shown in Table in section 7 of RWGER2.

3) Issues to be discussed at the RSTP meeting

Co-operation with RWG-F

Carrying capacity of an ecosystem can be defined and assessed in different ways. One method considered as a joint-effort by RWG-F and RWG-E is based on energy transfer through food webs from primary production all the way up to carnivorous fish. Carrying capacity assessment in RWG-E work plan is defined as productivity potential, particularly of lower trophic levels, and the lower trophic level production will be input to assessment of carrying capacity in fisheries resources. As the carrying capacity assessment in RWG-E is scheduled to happen in Aug 2006-Jul 2007 period, coordination between RWG-E and RWG-F for related activities is desirable.

4) Recommendations to the RSTP

Inter-calibration and inter-comparison between the two countries are crucial for successful data gathering and analysis. It will provide a basis on which scientific synthesis of historical data as well as new observation can be made. Intercalibration/intercomparison requires comparison of results in many ways. Different sampling gears, preservation methods, analytic instruments, analytic procedures, and identification procedure all can produce different results. And if these differences are not properly handled, appropriate interpretation and synthesis of data are not warranted. To deal with such a large variability in data quality, systematic comparison experiments are necessary. To this end, samples made by different

treatments should be brought back to labs in China and Korea and analyzed as usual before they can be compared. Therefore it is recommended that as many samples as circumstances allow should be made and compared.

Chairperson's Report of:

1. RWG – Fisheries and
2. RWG – Biodiversity

will be provided during the meeting.