



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

UNDP/GEF/YS/RWG-E.5/5
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English only

**Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group
for the Ecosystem Component**

Tae'an, Republic of Korea, 23 - 25 September 2008

Completed and On-going Ecosystem Component Activities

1. Ecosystem Component-relevant activities completed during the past year are described below.

Agenda 5.1

Winter and Summer Co-operative Cruises - Ecosystem Component

2. After 2+ years of negotiation, overcoming immense challenges, and receiving huge amounts of input from the countries and scientists, the two co-operative cruises finally were successfully carried out in January 2008 for the winter cruise, and in July 2008 for the summer cruise.
3. The winter cruise launching ceremony in Jan. 2008 was attended by many representatives from both countries, and UNDP-Beijing Office, and the event was widely publicised on China's Central TV station and written up in the Chinese and Korean newspapers.
4. Despite the rough weather conditions in winter, the scientists and research vessel crew worked very hard around the clock to complete their tasks. The data from the winter cruise was reported to the countries in June 2008. Although there were some discrepancies and differences in inter-comparison sample results, scientists worked hard to solve these differences.
5. During the summer cruise, scientists again worked very hard and the samples are being analysed now.
6. It was agreed that the 2 Chief Scientists will be contracted by the project to prepare a regional synthesis report for the winter and summer cruises.
7. The participants of the cruise that are present at the 5th RWG-E meeting will report the biological results from the two cruises, focusing on the summer cruise results.

Agenda 5.2

Ocean Colour 2008

8. This is a continuation of the “2007 Yellow Sea Ocean Colour Algorithm Development Activity” that was contracted to Dr. Hiroshi Kawamura of Tohoku University, Japan, as the overall co-ordinator to bring together scientists from Japan, Republic of Korea, and China to share relevant data to develop and/or refine an algorithm for Yellow Sea turbid waters.
9. Again Dr. Kawamura was contracted to continue the activity to refine the equations produced from the first phase of the activity, and also to include atmospheric correction of the algorithms. The first gathering of the ocean colour task team this year was held on 22nd May 2008 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, as a side session of WESTPAC’s 7th Scientific Symposium.
10. The OC task team reviewed the refined in-water algorithms for estimating chl-a, TSM, and CDOM ag440. The team also agreed to implement 2008’s activity as follows:
 - Carry out error analyses of outlier points
 - Additional match-up generation for the turbid water
 - Examine the influence of geographically biased distribution of match-ups
 - Develop satisfaction criteria for the final algorithms
 - Design a new approach for improving the in-water algorithms (i.e., using ratios, case separation, etc.)
 - Begin writing a peer-reviewed article
 - Invite atmospheric correction scientists to contribute to the final outputs.
11. The RWG-E Chairperson who is also a core member of the activity, will report further on the progress-to-date.

Agenda 5.3

Primary Productivity Estimation

12. Following the purchase of the fast repetition rate fluorimeter (FRRF), the project issued a contract for an activity to estimate primary productivity, with the RWG-E Chairperson taking the lead. The Chairperson will report on the progress and challenges of implementing this activity.

Agenda 5.4

Contribution to the preparation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) - Demonstration Activities

13. At the 4th RWG-E Meeting, members selected 3 SAP demonstration activities to be implemented: 1) monitoring jellyfish blooms; 2) assessing impacts of climate change on Yellow Sea ecosystem; and 3) assessing impacts of N:P:Si change. Contractors for the activities were selected in July, and have recently been initiated. The contract leaders of these activities will report on the progress of demonstration activity implementation.