



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers

Islamabad, Pakistan

4 - 5 December 2013

**REPORT OF THE FIFTH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING
OF MINISTERS OF SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME**




South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

South Asian Seas Programme

No. 10, Anderson Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka

CERTIFICATE

The Report of the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme held on 4 – 5 December 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan is herewith submitted to the members of the Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers and the Consultative Committee, in fulfilment of the financial and administrative procedures of SACEP and SASP.



S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake
-Director General
30th January 2014

**REPORT OF THE FIFTH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF THE
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME**

<i>Para No.</i>	CONTENTS	<i>Page No.</i>
1	Introduction	1
2	Attendance	1
3	Inauguration	1
4	Election of Office Bearers	2
5	Agenda	2
6	Statements by Heads of the Delegations	2
7	Statements by the Observers	2
8	Presentation of the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points / Senior Government Officials by the Rapporteur	2
9	Endorsement of Recommendations agreed upon at the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points / Senior Government Officials	2
9.1	Institutional Matters	3
9.2	Programme Matters	3
9.3	Financial Matters	6
10	Approval of the Annual Audited Reports of Accounts for the financial years ending 31 st December, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010	7
11	Any other business	7
12	Adoption of the Report	7
13	Concluding Session	7

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM)

4 - 5 December 2013

Islamabad, Pakistan

LIST OF ANNEXES

ANNEX NO	TITLE	PAGE NO
I	List of Participants	9
II	Welcome address by Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake, Director General, SACEP	13
III	Statement by Mr. Raja Hasan Abbas, Additional Secretary In-charge, Climate Change Division, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan at the Inauguration of the 13GC-SACEP held back to back with the IMM5-SASP	15
IV	Statement by Hon' Mr. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy, Government of Sri Lanka	19
V	Speech by the Chief Guest Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister of Science and Technology, Islamic Republic of Pakistan	23
VI	Vote of Thanks by Mr. Karma Tshering, Head of Delegation, Royal Government of Bhutan	27
VII	Agenda and Annotated Agenda	29
VIII	Country Statement by H. E. Mr. Suhrob Hossain, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan, Head of Delegation, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	33
IX	Country Statement by Mr. Anand S. Khatri, Head of Delegation, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences	35
X	Country Statement by Hon' Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Environment and Energy, Head of Delegation, Republic of Maldives	39
XI	Statement by Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative, United Nations Environment Programme for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)	43
XII	Approved Work Programme for Year 2014 – 2015	47

LIST OF ANNEXES

ANNEX NO	TITLE	PAGE NO
XIII	Approved Budget for 2014 - 2015 subject to the concurrence of the relevant national authorities of each member country for the increase of the Country Contributions of SASP	49
XIV	Approved Secretariat Budget for 2014 - 2015 with the Agreed Country Contributions	51
XV	Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points /Senior Government Officials for the 5 th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme	53
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 1	List of Participants	59
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 2	Welcome address by Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake, Director General, SACEP	65
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 3	Opening Remarks by Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe, Chargé d'affaires, High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan, Out-going Chairman of Governing Council of SACEP	67
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 4	Inaugural Address by Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas, Additional Secretary In-charge, Climate Change Division, Pakistan	69
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 5	Agenda	71
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 6	Senior Programme Officer (Regional)	99
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 7	Presentation of the Director General and Progress Report	109
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 8	Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & MoU for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the SAS Region	143

LIST OF ANNEXES

ANNEX NO	TITLE	PAGE NO
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 9	Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization	145
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 10	A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA	149
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 11	Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region	151
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 12	Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas	153
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 13	Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia	155
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 14	Review of Country Contributions	157
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 15	External Funding	159
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 16	Proposal for increase of Country Contributions of SASP	163
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 17	Proposed Budget for 2014 -2015 subject to the concurrence of the relevant national authorities of each member country to increase the Country Contributions of SASP	167

LIST OF ANNEXES

ANNEX NO	TITLE	PAGE NO
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 18	Proposed Budget for 2014 -2015 with the present agreed annual contributions	169
IMM 5.NFP-SGO / Annex 19	Audited Accounts of SACEP	173

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)
FIFTH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS (IMM.5)
5TH DECEMBER 2013
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme (IMM.5-SASP) was held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 5th December 2013 back to back with the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (13GC-SACEP).

2. ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries viz: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan attended the meeting as an observer state.

It was also attended by representatives from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as observers. List of Participants is at **Annex I**.

3. INAUGURATION

A joint inauguration was held for the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers, South Asian Seas Programme (IMM.5-SASP) and the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (13GC-SACEP) as both the meetings were held back to back.

The welcome Address was delivered by Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake, Director General, SACEP. (**Annex II**)

This was followed by the Statement of Mr. Raja Hasan Abbas, Additional Secretary In-charge, Climate Change Division, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan. (**Annex III**)

The out-going Chairman of GC-SACEP, Hon' Mr. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy, Government of Sri Lanka then addressed the august gathering. (**Annex IV**)

On behalf of the out-going Chairman of IMM.5-SASP, the Head of Delegation, Mr. Anand S. Khati, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences, then addressed the gathering. (**Annex V**)

The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session of the 13GC-SACEP and IMM.5-SASP, Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, then delivered his inaugural address. (**Annex VI**)



The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Karma Tshering, Head of Delegation, Royal Government of Bhutan. **(Annex VII)**

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In accordance with the provisions of Articles of Association of SACEP, Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, Islamic Republic of Pakistan was elected as Chairman of the IMM.5-SASP. Hon' Mr. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy, Government of Sri Lanka was elected as Vice Chairman of the Meeting. Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas, Additional Secretary In-charge, Climate Change Division, Government of Pakistan, was elected as Rapporteur.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

The IMM.5-SASP discussed and adopted the Agenda of the Meeting. A copy of the Adopted Agenda is at **Annex VIII**.

6. COUNTRY STATEMENTS / BRIEF OPENING REMARKS BY THE MEMBER STATES

The Heads of Delegations from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka made collective statements as the IMM.5-SASP was held back to back with the 13GC-SACEP. **(Annex IX to XIII)**

7. STATEMENTS BY THE OBSERVERS

Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and the Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP) presented his statement. **(Annex XIV)**

8. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS / SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. M. Irfan Tariq, Director General (Environment & Climate Change), Division of Climate Change, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan in his capacity as the Rapporteur, presented the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points / Senior Government Officials held on 4 December 2013 along with the recommendations of the meeting to the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers for its endorsement. **(Annex XV)**

9. DISCUSSIONS AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS / SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Based on the Presentation of the Progress Report made by the Director General under the following categories;

1. Institutional Matters
 2. Programme Matters
 3. Financial Matters
- (Annex XVI)**

and the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials, of the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers adopted the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials. The decisions of the IMM.5-SASP under various clauses are as below :

9.1 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

The Meeting recommended the designation of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be continued as approved at IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999.

Recommended to follow the guidelines for the recruitment for the Post of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) stipulated in Decision 7b (d), Annex 11 of IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999 to be the criteria, except the 'Method of Recruitment'.

Method of Recruitment of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be replaced by;

'The principle of nomination on rotation to be followed starting from the alphabetical order beginning from Bangladesh for a period of three years by replacing Decision 7b (d) - Annex 11, 'Method of Recruitment' of IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999'.

Future nominations of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be started at the end of two years of the term of tenure, so that the national selection process is completed well before the completion of the stipulated / fixed three year term of the office holder.

9.2 PROGRAMME MATTERS

9.2.1 Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region

The Meeting requested Governments of India and Sri Lanka to expedite the signing of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan and associated MoU.

The meeting recommended SACEP/SASP to carryout capacity building programmes for the region under the subject area.

9.2.2 Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization

The Meeting recommended the establishment of a Regional Task Force to facilitate the process.

The national governments were requested to coordinate with SACEP/SASP Secretariat to carry out necessary baseline studies to work out a possible way forward.

9.2.3 A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA)

The meeting endorsed SACEP/SASP activity on Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region.

SACEP/SASP to send the Draft Report and the format to provide relevant data and information to the National Focal Points.

The National Focal Points were requested to forward data and information on the given format to finalize the Review Report.

Government of India announced that the UN Workshop on Assessment of the state of the Marine Environment to be held from 27-29 January 2014 in Chennai, India and requested the member countries to participate and SACEP/SASP to follow up.

9.2.4 Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region

National Focal Points were requested to forward relevant data and information to prepare the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region.

Government of India announced that training could be offered at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad for the member countries.

9.2.5 Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance

The Meeting was of the view that the subject area is too broad in the present context and therefore to be sub divided into specific areas.

If the activity is to be taken forward SACEP/SASP to prepare a white paper and circulate among the member countries for concurrence.

9.2.6 International Coastal Clean-up Day

The meeting recommended the activity to be continued.

Further it was recommended that SACEP/SASP to develop a Project Concept Note on Recycling of Ships and to be circulated among the member countries.

9.2.7 Global Coral Reef Partnership

The meeting requested SACEP/SASP to circulate the project document of Global Coral Reef Partnership.

The South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) is expected to be reactivated under this partnership.

9.2.8 Activities with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME)

The meeting noted the activities carried out in collaboration with BOBLME.

9.2.9 Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010

The meeting noted the contribution given by SACEP/SASP for compilation of the Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010.

9.2.10 Regional Training and Capacity Building workshop in Coral Reef Monitoring Identifying Indicators for Regional Adaptation and Resilience

The meeting noted the activity carried out by SACEP/SASP in collaboration with SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre.

9.2.11 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India

The meeting noted the activity completed by SACEP/SASP.

9.2.12 Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, 3 - 6 May 2010, Malé, Maldives

The meeting noted the activity carried out by SACEP/SASP in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

9.2.13 On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas

The meeting requested the member countries of SASP to contribute voluntarily, towards implementing such training programmes for the common benefit of the South Asian Seas Region.

9.2.14 Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia

The meeting requested the national governments to facilitate the national process of implementation of the Blue Flag Certification Programme and requested SACEP/SASP to search for financial support for implementation of the Regional Project.

9.2.15 UNEP/EU Funded Projects on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA) of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia

The Meeting noted the activity carried out by SACEP/SASP.

**9.2.16 WORK PROGRAMME (2014-2015)
Annex XVII**

The Meeting decided to continue the on-going activities of SASP and approved the Work Programme proposed for 2014 – 2015.

9.3 FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.3.1 Country Contributions

SACEP/SASP Secretariat thanked the member countries for clearing the arrears of the Country Contribution of the South Asian Seas Programme to a commendable rate. Further it was informed by the Secretariat that it is important to clear the balance arrears of the SASP country contributions for smooth and effective functioning of the secretariat.

9.3.2 External Funding

The Meeting appreciated the efforts of SACEP/SASP in generating external funds. It recommended that SACEP/SASP should continue to play its role in securing external financing.

9.3.3 Secretariat Budget (2014-2015)

Under the South Asian Seas Programme a 10% increase in the Annual Country Contribution from January year 2014 is requested as the present agreed country contribution of SACEP was recommended at the Second Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of SASP held on 1st July 2002.

The member countries agreed to the proposal subject to the concurrence of the relevant national authorities of each member country. **(Annex XVIII)**

The 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Minister of SASP, as recommended by the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points / Senior Government Officials approved the SASP Budget for the Years 2014 – 2015 with the present agreed annual contributions until such concurrence is obtained. **(Annex XIX)**

10. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL AUDITED REPORTS OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2007, 2008, 2009 AND 2010

The meeting approved the Audited Reports of Accounts for the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The IMM.5-SASP endorsed the request made by Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan of their willingness to participate at the South Asia Seas Meetings, being a land locked country.

12. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers considered the Report on 5th day, of December 2013 and adopted.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked the Hon' Ministers and delegates for their valuable support and co-operation, the SACEP/SASP Secretariat for their excellent work and the Division of Climate Change, Cabinet

Secretariat, Government of Pakistan for all the hard work in making the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers a success.

He then declared the meeting close.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)
5TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

5th December 2013

Islamabad, Pakistan

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BANGLADESH

H. E. Mr. Suhrab Hossain
High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Pakistan

High Commission for the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

House No. 1, Street No. 5

F-6/3, Islamabad

Pakistan

Tel: +92 51 227 9267

Fax: +92 51 227 9266

Mr. Md. Nural Islam
Counsellor (Pol.)

High Commission for the People's Republic of
Bangladesh

House No. 1, Street No. 5

F-6/3, Islamabad

Pakistan

Tel: +92 51 227 9267

Fax: +92 51 227 9266

e-mail: nri002@yahoo.com

INDIA

Mr. Anand S. Khati
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Ministry of Earth Sciences

Government of India

Prithvi Bhavan, Lodhi Road

New Delhi - 110 003

India

Tel: +91 11 2462 9511

e-mail: a_khati@hotmail.com

JS@moes.gov.in

Dr. K. Somasundar
Scientist-F

Ministry of Earth Sciences

Government of India

Prithvi Bhavan, Lodhi Road

New Delhi - 110 003

India

Tel: +91 11 2466 9513

Mobile: +91 98 6842 5857

Fax: +91 11 2462 9779

e-mail: soma-dod@nic.in

MALDIVES

H. E. Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim
Minister of Environment and Energy

Ministry of Environment and Energy

Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun

Maafannu

Male', 20392

Republic of Maldives

Tel: +960 301 8400 (Direct)

Tel: +960 301 8300 (PABX)

Mobile: +960 779 2441

Fax: +960 301 8301

e-mail: thoriq.ibrahim@environment.gov.mv

Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed
Environment Analyst

Ministry of Environment and Energy

Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun

Maafannu

Male', 20392

Republic of Maldives

Tel: +960 301 8365

Mobile: +960 794 3822

Fax: +960 301 8301

e-mail: midhath.rasheed@environment.gov.mv

PAKISTAN

Hon. Mr. Zahid Hamid
Federal Minister
Ministry of Science and Technology
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 920 8026
Mobile: +92 300 847 7181
Fax: +92 51 920 4541
e-mail: ZahidHamidKhan@gmail.com

Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas
Additional Secretary In-charge
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9245578
Fax: +92-51-9245533
e-mail:

Mr. Rao Dilshad A. Babar
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Climate Change
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5548
Mobile: +92 300 554 7722
Fax: +92 51 924 5549
e-mail: dilshadbabar@hotmail.com

Mr. Muhammad Khalid Siddiq
Joint Secretary
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5531
Mobile: +92 321 956 1157
Fax: +92 51 924 5532
e-mail: makss2000@yahoo.com

PAKISTAN

Mr. Iftikhar-Ul-Hassan Shah Gilani
Joint Secretary (IC)
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex, G - 5/2
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5523
Mobile: +92 334 442 2250
Fax: +92 51 924 5524
e-mail: iftiqrhmi@yahoo.com

Mr. M. Irfan Tariq
Director General (Env & CC)
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex, G - 5/2
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 9245545/ 9245528
Mobile: +92 300 4202554
e-mail: mirfantariq@gmail.com

Mr. Syed Mahmood Nasir
Inspector General Forests
Forestry Wing, Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex, G - 5/2
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5589
Mobile: +92 307 574 3450
Fax: +92 51 924 5590
e-mail: mnasirn@yahoo.com

Mr. Zia Ul Islam
Director (PEPC)
Climate Change Division
Government of Pakistan
Local Government Building
Sector G - 5/1
Islamabad - 44000
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5624
Mobile: +92 333 510 7422
Fax: +92 51 924 5533
e-mail: rmamazia@hotmail.com

PAKISTAN

Mr. Imran Khan
Assistant Director (DBM)
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9245534
Mobile: +92-333-5209637
e-mail: imran.ad.81@gmail.com

SRI LANKA

Hon. Mr. Susil Premajayantha
Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy
Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy
'Sampathpaya'
82, Rajamalwatta Road
Battaramulla
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 286 6617
Fax: +94 11 287 7288 / 287 7282
e-mail: susilpremajayantha@hotmail.com

Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe
Counsellor / Chargé d'affaires
High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan
House No. 2-C
Street No 55, P. O. Box 1497
F-6/4
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 282 8754
Mobile: +92 331 588 8133
Fax: +92 51 282 8751
e-mail: wijayanthi@hotmail.com

OBSERVER STATE

AFGHANISTAN

H. R. H. Prince Mostapha Zaher
Director General
National Environmental Protection Agency
Member of the Council of Ministers
Adviser to the President on Environment
Second Parwan Square
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 752 017 633
Mobile: +93 799 400 600
e-mail: dg.nepa@nepa.gov.af (Official)

Eng. Ezatullah Sediqi
Chief of Staff
National Environmental Protection Agency
Second Parwan Square
Kabul
Afghanistan
Mobile: +93 752 043 173
Mobile: +93 799 622 517
e-mail: eng.ezatsediqi@gmail.com
Sediqi.nepa@gmail.com

dg.nepa@hotmail.com (Operational)
mostapha_zaher@hotmail.com (Personal)

UN, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & OBSERVERS

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNEP-ROAP)

Dr. Young-Woo Park
Regional Director and
Representative for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Environment Programme
for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)
United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 288 1870 / 2 281 6101
Tel: +66 2 524 5365 / 2 516 2124
Fax: +66 2 280 3829 / 2 516-2125
e-mail: young-woo.park@unep.org

Dr. Subrata Sinha
Environmental Affairs Officer
United Nations Environment Programme
for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)
United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 288 2259
Fax: +66 2 280 3829
e-mail: subrata.sinha@unep.org

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

10 Anderson Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka. Tel +94 11 2589 787 Fax +94 11 2589 369

Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake
Director General
Tel: +94 11 258 9376
Mobile: +94 77 736 3133
e-mail: dg_sacep@eol.lk

Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera
Administrative Officer
Tel: +94 11 250 4708
Mobile: +94 77 311 4362
e-mail: sacep@eol.lk

Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera
Senior Programme Officer
Tel: +94 11 250 0546
Mobile: +94 71 643 6307
e-mail: rd_sacep@eol.lk

Ms. Nishanthi M. P. Perera
Programme Officer
Tel: +94 11 536 2851
e-mail: po_sacep@eol.lk

Welcome Address by

Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake
Director General, SACEP
at the Inaugural Session of the

13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
&
5th Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of
South Asian Seas Programme

Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the opening of the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.

Allow me once again to express my sincere thanks to the Government and the people of Pakistan for hosting this Governing Council Meeting in the lovely and hospitable city of Islamabad.

SACEP, as we all know, is the first regional inter-government body established in the field of environment in 1982. It was the vision of the environment ministers of the eight countries of South Asia for mutual co-operation in the field of Environment. As the Director General, I am proud to say that many other organisations established recently followed SACEP as a model. I am sure you can also be proud as owners of this esteemed organization.

During the last 31 years, since its establishment, SACEP has paid attention to the regional needs and found its niche to appropriately address the environmental issues which are regionally important. Environment is a field where there is constant change and is always in a state of flux. We, at SACEP are constantly observing the dynamic changes in the environment and our programme activities for the coming years are not cast in stone but are subject to constant review and change to suit the needs of the member countries.

In the light of the above, the ambitious Work Programme we have drawn up is based on commitments that we have received from our member countries, UNEP, UN affiliated organizations and other bilateral and multi-lateral agencies.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

In this 21st century, the whole world is facing a number of environmental challenges which are very common to our region as well. The frequency and the intensity of natural phenomena like typhoons, flash floods, droughts, etc. have been increased as never before. On the other hand, our natural resource base is under tremendous pressure due to, over utilization for meeting the ever increasing demand of food and other essential needs of the increasing population.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

The collective and co-operative approach would simplify the efforts to address these burning issues and therefore, effective regional co-operation is vital. That is the spirit shown by our predecessors when forming SACEP. We have shown it in the past and I am sure that we can do it in present and future as well.

Thank you

Statement by

Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas
Additional Secretary In-charge to the Government of Pakistan
Climate Change Division
at the Inaugural Session of the

13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
&
5th Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of
South Asian Seas Programme

Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

Honorable Minister from Maldives, Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim,
Minister from Sri Lanka, Mr. Susil Premajayantha,
H. R. H. Prince Mostapha Zaher from Afghanistan,
Parliamentarians, Respectable Heads of Delegations,
Secretaries, UN Representatives,
Dr. Young-Woo Park, the Regional Director UNEP,
Senior Officials representing the South Asian countries, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen

1. 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme has indeed been a landmark event in the history of the field of Environment in South Asia.
2. The meeting accorded us all a unique opportunity to hold productive discussions related to environmental issues with political leadership of the South Asian countries, senior government officials, UN organization and civil society. Respective country's situations with regard to environment and status of implementation of GC 12 decisions were discussed along with the way forward to address the challenge faced by all of us.
3. The last three days witnessed the ministers and high level officials meetings, networking and intensive discussions over environmental challenges including National Biodiversity Strategy, Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia, Environmental Data and Information Management System, Control and Prevention of Air Pollution, Enhancing Environmentally Sustainable Transport, Impacts of Mercury and other heavy metals on Health Sector, Waste Management, Conservation of Wetlands, Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy, Ocean Governance and most importantly the commitments made by the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.
4. Environmental degradation has already become a socio-economic problem and that addressing it would pay economic dividends, strengthening the growth potential and productivity of environmental assets and lowering the incidence of disease. We must be vociferous about the cause of healthy and clean environment and ensure that the governments provide due priority to the cause, not only in policies and strategies, but also in concentrated practical efforts.
5. The Government of Pakistan remains fully committed to the decisions made by Governing Council at this forum and assures to revitalize and intensify our efforts, both as government and sector partners, to meet these commitments and achieve the set goals. We believe that the decisions taken by the Governing Council need to be transformed in the tangible practical actions by all the participating countries as they are of utmost importance and will play a vital role for the sound environmental management of the region.
6. The Government of Pakistan would like to thank the SACEP Secretariat for their phenomenal support in order to make this event successful. I hope that visiting Pakistan to attend 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of South

Asia Co-operative Environment Programme & the 5th Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of South Asian Seas Programme was an enriching experience for all of you both professionally as well as personally.

7. Thank you all for your meaningful participation and I wish you a pleasant journey back home.
8. Thank you.

Statement by

Hon' Mr. Susil Premajayantha
Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy
Government of Sri Lanka and
Out-going Chairman of GC-SACEP
at the Inaugural Session of the

13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
&
5th Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of
South Asian Seas Programme

Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

Your Excellencies,
Hon'ble Ministers from Member Countries,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ayubhowan, Good Morning.

As the outgoing Chair of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (i.e., SACEP), Sri Lanka is grateful to the Government and People of Pakistan for hosting the 13th Governing Council meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan. We are greatly honoured and privileged by the presence of His Excellency, Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister of Science and Technology, Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the opening of the Governing Council of SACEP. This commitment and interest will auger well for the environment and ecology of our region and also for the future of SACEP. Thank you, Sir for your valuable time.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

SACEP being an intergovernmental organization, has almost 30 years of history in respect of regional co-operation toward environmental issues. It has a commendable record of achievements. From the date of SACEP being established in 1981 in Colombo, we, the members of SACEP have been able to carry out many programmes for the protection and management of the environment of the South Asian region. However, during the past decade, SACEP has been going through a turbulent period and therefore as the Governing Council, we have had to take strategic decisions for the betterment of SACEP.

In November 2010, during the Governing Council held in Colombo, Sri Lanka took over the Chairmanship of SACEP and I can proudly say that we have been able to streamline the activities of SACEP and its programme of work and I feel it is now a matter of carrying forward the initiatives taken. As the outgoing chair, I would like to highlight a few landmarks or milestones we have achieved.

1. Appointment of a Director General on rotation basis.

As a decision of the 12th Governing Council of SACEP, we were able to appoint the new Director General on a rotation basis and Sri Lanka was able to appoint one of its nominees (present DG Mr Jayatilake) to the post in April 2012. It is noted that one of the key recommendations of the SACEP Review in 2003 was the appointment of the Director General on merit basis. However, implementation of this decision created problems within the system and there was a period of three years (2009-2011), where no Director General was there to head the Secretariat and thereby, the implementation of the work programmes were hampered.

2. South Asia Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan and Disaster Response.

This Regional Plan was prepared in 2000. However, the MOU to implement the Action Plan was agreed and signed by only three South Asian Seas Countries, namely Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan. I am happy to announce here that the Government of Sri Lanka has also agreed to sign the MOU as per a Cabinet decision taken in last November. I hope that the Government of India will also

follow us and sign the MOU so that SACEP will be able to implement the actions identified within the next few years.

3 SACEP Host Facility, New Secretariat building for SACEP and Official Residence of the Director General.

In 2012, The Government of Sri Lanka increased its SACEP Host Facility contribution from Sri Lanka from Rs 5.0 million to Rs 8.0 million. This is given by the host Government to cover local staff salaries, rentals, and other related costs.

It is also noted that the present SACEP Secretariat and the DG's residence are located in rented buildings. In view of the above and after representations made, the Government of Sri Lanka has decided to provide a suitable land to construct the SACEP Secretariat and the DG's residence. The Government has also allocated an initial sum of Sri Lankan Rs 50.0 million for this purpose. Once the locations are finalized, we will be able to begin construction. I request the support of all the SACEP member countries to contribute to this process.

4 SACEP Annual Work Programme

I am happy to state here that the annual work programme of SACEP has completed even with the limited capacity and resources at its disposal. I am also happy to state that SACEP has initiated new programmes on Clearing House Mechanism on biodiversity, National Action Plans updating, Environmental Data and Information Management, Marine Biodiversity Strategy Development and Nutrient and Pollution loading in our marine and coastal eco systems etc.

It is also noted that Sri Lanka is hosting the 8th EST Forum-Asia and Better Air Quality 2014 in November 2014 in Colombo. These two events highlight the urban air quality issues in Asia and sustainable transport issues related to our region. I therefore request SACEP to support the Government of Sri Lanka in organizing these two major events.

As the outgoing chair of the SACEP Governing Council, I would like to congratulate the incoming chairman of SACEP and finally, I thank all the member countries, their national focal points, who have assisted during my tenure of office as Chairman, SACEP GC and the Director General, as also, the Secretariat for preparing all the necessary documents required to make the meeting a success.

At this stage, we must accept that the tasks before us are quite challenging and we need to make concerted efforts on a regional basis for a harmonious and coherent environmental management for the region. I wish to re-iterate Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthen SACEP as a good example of South-South Cooperation.

Once again, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Government and the People of Pakistan for providing us excellent facilities for our stay in your beautiful country.

Thank you.

Speech by the Chief Guest

Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid
Federal Minister of Science and Technology
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
at the Inaugural Session of the
13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
&
5th Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of
South Asian Seas Programme
Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

Honorable Minister from Maldives, Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim,
Honorable Minister from Sri Lanka, Mr. Susil Premajayantha,
H. R. H. Prince Mostapha Zaher from Afghanistan,
Parliamentarians, Respectable Heads of Delegations,
Secretaries, UN Representatives,
Dr. Young Woo Park, the Regional Director UNEP,
Senior Officials representing the South Asian countries,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen

1. I, on behalf of Government of Pakistan thank you all for your participation in this 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme & the 5th Inter Ministerial Meeting of South Asia Seas Programme.

2. South Asia is home to one of the oldest civilizations of the world. The region includes the countries with 'Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka'. It has a 1.6 billion strong population growing at the rate of 1.8% per annum but has only 4.8 per cent of the world's total land area. South Asia's topography includes an amazing variety of mountains, plateaus, dry regions, intervening structural basins and beaches.

3. As citizens of our respective nations and as collective citizens of South Asia, we are the guardians of these resources. Over 1 billion people depend upon the Himalayas as a source of freshwater through the mighty rivers of Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra. We are witnessing an unimaginable rise in climate-induced catastrophes. Over the years, climatic disasters have affected the millions of people in our region.

4. Close to half of South Asian population lives below the poverty line and is reliant on the natural environment for subsistence. For this reason, services generated from our shared resources are of much more importance.

5. Strengthened regional efforts need to focus on a range of response options and instruments to address these challenges. The regional partners need to emphasize the realization for increasing responsibilities and greater cooperative efforts by all stakeholders. Increased awareness of ecosystem services should be adopted as important mechanisms to mainstream environment into social and economic development processes in the region.

6. Pakistan is actively developing capabilities to deal with environmental challenges and effects of climate change such as floods and earthquakes. The Government of Pakistan has taken number of sound policy measures such as the National Environment Policy, National Climate Change Policy, and the Draft National Sustainable Development Strategy. The Government of Pakistan realizes its responsibility towards making strong efforts to achieve the Environment related Millennium Development Goals in order to provide healthy living conditions to the inhabitants of this region.

7. I sincerely hope that last three days proved to be a strong step ahead in the direction of achieving the goals of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and South Asian Seas Programme. It was indeed our pleasure to host this event.

8. I would specially like to thank the continuous support from SACEP Secretariat and United Nations Environment Programme in achieving the goals of sustainable and environmental friendly development in South Asia. The recently developed Environment and Climate Change Outlook report with assistance of UNEP is an example of the joint efforts for the cause. I appreciate the efforts of Dr. Young Woo Park, the Regional Director of the UNEP and wish him all the best for his future endeavors as he is leaving this position in near future.

9. Once again, thank you all for your participation. I hope you had a pleasant stay in Pakistan and I wish you all safe journey back home.

Vote of Thanks Delivered by

**Mr. Karma Tshering
Head of Delegation
Royal Government of Bhutan
at the Inaugural Session of the**

**13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
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5th December 2013

His Excellency, Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister of Science and Technology, Chief Guest for this opening segment,

His Excellency, Mr. Susil Premajayantha, Current Chair of the Governing Council of SACEP,

Hon'ble Ministers, Heads of delegations, Senior Government Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour and privilege to offer the vote of thanks at this Opening Session of the 13th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP.

Bhutan would like to express our sincere thanks to the people and government of Pakistan for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.

Now, Your Excellency, on behalf of SACEP member countries, let me express our appreciation for the wonderful arrangements and the warm hospitality extended to all of us. Thank you very much.

Your Excellency, we have had very active and fruitful deliberations during the last two days. While we did debate on some issues, we resolved the same in a professional manners. Therefore, I am happy to report that the outcome of the two days meeting of SACEP Focal Point/Senior Government Officials was very successful.

Let me thank the Director General of SACEP and his team for the excellent documentations prepared for this meeting. We would also like to thank UNEP, especially, Dr. Young Woo Park and Dr. Subrata Sinha for facilitating support to SACEP.

Finally, once again, let me thank Your Excellency and your team for these wonderful arrangements and hospitality. I would also like to thank and appreciate all the staff of Government of Pakistan for their support with facilitating our logistics.

We hope and wish for successful deliberations at the 13th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP and endorsement of the Report of the Senior Government Officials.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

5TH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)

Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Country Statements
5. ¹Statements by United Nations Agencies, International / Regional Organisations and Aid Consortia
6. Presentation of Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials by the Rapporteur
7. Discussions & Endorsement of Recommendations Agreed Upon at the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials
 - a) Institutional
 - b) Projects & Programmes
 - c) Financial
8. Approval of the Annual Audited Report of Accounts for years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010
9. Any Other Business
10. Adoption of the Meeting Report
11. Closure of Meeting

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

5TH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)

Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

It is expected that a High Ranking Dignitary from the Government of Pakistan will inaugurate the Meeting.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

As agreed at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the South Asian Seas Programme in March 1995 and as laid down in the South Asian Seas Action Plan, the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP will be applied mutatis mutandis for the conduct of the Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM) of SAS. Accordingly, a new Chairman will be elected in a manner consistent with the Articles of Association of SACEP. One or more Vice Chairman, a Rapporteur and other officials may also be appointed by the IMM. The Director General of SACEP shall function as the Secretary of the IMM during its sessions..

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

The Meeting will consider the Provisional Agenda for adoption. Any matter regarding the Organisation of Work and the Sessions may also be considered.

4. COUNTRY STATEMENTS

The Heads of Country Delegations will present their country statements.

5. ¹STATEMENTS BY UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL / REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND AID CONSORTIA

Under this Agenda Item, the representatives of United Nations Agencies, International / Regional Organisations and Aid Consortia may wish to make Statements on matters relating to the activities of their respective Organisations which may be of interest to the Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers regarding the Programme activities of interest to South Asian Seas Region, inputs to the activities and programmes of South Asian Seas Programme in terms of collaboration and programme support, and such matters which they may wish to bring to the notice of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers

¹Foot note : *To be decided by the incoming chair whether to hear at the opening ceremony or at Closing Session*

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS BY THE RAPPORTEUR

The Rapporteur would present to the meeting the report of the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials.

7. DISCUSSIONS AND ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS.

The Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials in its deliberations came up with the set of recommendations under the following broad areas.

- a) Institutional
- b) Projects & Programmes
- c) Financial

The meeting will be requested for endorsement of the recommendations from the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials.

8. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEARS 2007, 2008, 2009 AND 2010

Under this agenda item, based on the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials, the meeting is requested to approve the Annual Audited Report of Accounts for the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Under this Agenda Item, The Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.

10. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT

The Rapporteur will present the Draft Meeting Report of the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers for its consideration and adoption.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Any representative participating in the Meeting may wish to make concluding statements regarding the deliberations at the Meeting and its achievements. The Chairman will finally declare the Meeting closed.

Country Statement by

**His Excellency Mr. Suhrab Hossain
Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan
Head of Delegation
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
at the**

**13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
&
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South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan,
Honourable Minister for Sri Lanka,
Honourable Minister for Maldives,
Excellencies, distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamo Alaikum and Good morning

On behalf of the government of Bangladesh, I would like to thank SACEP Secretariat for undertaking programmes which are environmentally and ecologically important for sustainable development in the South Asia Region.

In this regard Bangladesh faces many challenges in its attempt to attain the middle income economy status by 2021 through sustainable development. The challenge to sustainability originates from both domestic source in the form of environmental degradation generated by natural and manmade processes and international source in the form of climate change. A key challenge of sustainable development in Bangladesh is population which is at the center of sustainable development.

While population growth degrades the environment, sustainable development seeks to ensure higher quality of life for population of the present generation as well as future generations. Other challenges with regard to environment for sustainable development include unplanned urbanization, inefficient water resources management, natural disaster and climate change.

We believe all South Asian countries face more or less similar environmental challenges for their sustainable development. These challenges have put us together to face unitedly. I wish SACEP will be successful in its endeavor.

One of the most important challenges for the South Asian environment and ecological system is protection of its common water bodies. No single country can conserve the marine ecology of the common water body. It needs concerted effort of the countries concerned. At this crucial juncture, the role of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) is every important. Bangladesh adheres to its commitment for the conservation of marine ecology and ready to play a role to meet the challenges. Necessary legal frame works are in place. Bangladesh has enacted a number of laws including marine pollution ordinance, the environment conservation act.

I hope SACEP will undertake programmes prioritizing the evolving challenges which come along with natural disaster.

I wish SACEP all the best and again congratulate the new chairman a successful tenure.

Country Statement by

Mr. Anand S. Khati
Head of Delegation
Joint Secretary to the Government of India
Ministry of Earth Sciences
at the

13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
&
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Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

Honourable Chairman, SACEP and Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan,
Honourable Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy, Sri Lanka,
Honourable Minister of Environment and Energy, Maldives and
Excellencies

India would like to compliment SACEP for making various efforts towards implementation of South Asian Seas Programme. India has been implementing a number of national programmes specifically relating to the activities of South Asian Seas Programme. These include Coastal Monitoring and Prediction System, Oil-spill Modeling System, Coral Reef Bleaching Alert System, Coastal Marine Ecosystem and Modeling, Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring, Indian Ocean Biogeographic Information System, Tsunami Warning System, Coastal Ocean Observing System, Potential Fishing Zone advisories, Ocean State Forecast, Assessment of Living resources.

On behalf of Indian delegation, I would like to briefly present on some of the activities :

1. **Coastal Pollution Monitoring:** The aims and objective of the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS) program is to monitor the health of coastal seas is highly essential to assess the quality of coastal waters and to find suitability for fisheries and other human related uses. The program is under implementation over 20 years. The data on 25 environmental parameters including physical, chemical, biological and microbiological characteristics of water and sediment at selected locations are being collected with the help of seven R&D institutions in the 0 – 5 km sector of the coastline of the country, covering the maritime states and UTs. The objective is to understand the changes in pollution level (ii) to develop possible prediction of pollutions levels in these selected locations to assess the state of marine environment. The data on parameters such as dissolved oxygen (DO), nutrients, pH, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), plankton, benthos and pathogenic bacteria, etc., are being monitored covering different seasons at 20 locations. These data is provided to the state pollution control boards to take necessary action.
2. **Oil Spill Modeling:** The Oil spill trajectory modeling and sensitivity mapping is aimed to understand the local habitat specific issues related to oil spill risks and to identify potential sources /areas are at risk and priority identification of most sensitive coastal resources. The local hydrodynamic models were set up for Chennai, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Kanyakumari, Kochin, Kavaratti, Goa, Mumbai, Dahanu, Hazira, etc to generate oil spill trajectory scenarios. After successful validation of hydrodynamic models, the same was coupled with the MIKE 21/3 oil spill model to compute oil spill trajectories for different environmental conditions including oil characteristics, bathymetry, oceanographic and meteorological parameters, etc. GIS-based information system with two scenarios for three seasons set in GNOME were used for risk assessment of coastal resources. The oil transport weathering and oil thickness computation provide a way to analyze the environmental risks to the marine as well as coastal ecosystem due to spill. The oil slick movement and areal coverage (km²) of the slick were

calculated in GIS to analyze possible impact in each scenario. Oil Spill Sensitivity and Risk Assessment maps of the study areas, have been prepared. The information is provided to Indian Coast Guard to make a contingency plan.

3. **Ocean Observation:** India has a comprehensive ocean observation network for acquisition of real-time data from the seas around India. The observations systems include moored buoys (16), argo floats 165, drafters, tide gauges, HF radars, Current meter arrays, Automatic weather stations, ships, XBT. All the data have been organized and archived at INCOIS Hyderabad. A number of data and data products are being developed and made available to all the user community. This has been recognized by UNESCO, IOC as the regional Data centre for Argo. Besides, a large number of satellite data are also being acquired by this centres in real-time viz., MODIS, OCM, Altimeter/TOPEX, TMI, Quicksat etc., Under RAMA programme pCO₂ sensors is jointly fitted in Buoy deployed in the Bay of Bengal in association with BOBLME. This work is just completed on board India Research vessel Sagar nidhi. India and BOBLME is working together on safe guarding of moored buoy systems deployed for tsunami and coastal hazard warning to bring awareness among fishermen.
4. **Coral Reef Bleach Alert System:** A satellite based Coral Bleaching Alert System is in place. The advisories are generated based on the NOAA-AVHRR night time sea surface temperature data. The advisories comprising the products Hotspot, Degree of heating weeks and time series plots are generated bi-weekly are being disseminated through web. Global Coral Reef Partnership and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Activities with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME).
5. **Indian Ocean Biogeographic Information System (IndoBIS):** IndOBIS has been established by the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) at Kochi. IndOBIS allow users to explore data on location of marine animals and plants. It will also supply data tables, maps and predict distribution using environmental information. Currently it has over 75,000 records of marine species.
6. **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)** is equipped with world-class computational, communication and technical support facilities and is considered as one of the most modern tsunami warning centres as on date. The instrumentation of the ITEWC is built in a way to detect tsunamis originating from both identified tsunamigenic sources in the Indian Ocean and to become world class in respect of the quality of the warning service with minimal false alarm scenario generation possibility. Through critical monitoring and performance evaluation of the services provided by the ITEWC over the Indian Ocean, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigations Systems (ICG/IOTWS) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Economic Social and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO) has accepted the offer of India to convert/upgrade ITEWC to a status of Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RTSP). Starting from July 2008, India has been providing IOC benchmarked Level-1 tsunami regional service. Subsequently, from May 2011, India started rendering Level-2 tsunami regional service on operational to the entire Indian Ocean rim countries. As a part of “Establishment of National Early Warning System for Tsunamis and Storm

Surges”, the Ministry had taken up development “Coastal Vulnerability Modeling and Inundation Mapping”. Under this endeavor, a wide range of coastal vulnerability maps on different spatial scales ranging 1:100,000 to 1:5,000, are being generated for the entire coast of India by various agencies primarily for use in the forewarning of various ocean hazards viz., Tsunami, Cyclones and Storm Surges.

7. **Ocean Information and Advisory Services to Coastal Community:** The operational Ocean State Forecasting (OSF) service being provided by India includes wave, surface currents, SST etc., and the Potential Fishing Zone, advisories. The expected height of the tides at 178 locations along the coastline of Indian Ocean rim and at 136 locations along the coastline of India covering all major/minor ports. The dissemination of the generated ocean state forecasting system products (in graphical and digital form at each of the locations with details of high/low tide timing) is carried out through all available mechanisms viz. world wide web, emails, short message service (SMS), electronic display boards and radio etc., so as to reach to a maximum number of user groups – fishermen cooperatives, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Security Police, non – governmental organizations working with coastal population and ports/ harbor authorities.
8. **Biogeochemical Process of the Indian Ocean:** Towards addressing issues relating to understanding the carbon and nitrogen biogeochemical process and associated trace elements in the seas around India, with a view to increase understanding climate change and marine biogeochemistry, two programs viz., SIBER and GEOTRACES have been launched. The SIBER is a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional program dealing open ocean biogeochemical studies and estuarine/coastal waters. One of the main objectives of the SIBER programme was to establish the open ocean time series stations in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. GEOTRACES (India) is a network of research projects being executed by a number of research and academic institutions. The objective is to map the distribution of trace elements and isotopes in the Indian Ocean and to identify the factors influencing these distributions.
9. **Capacity Building:** As per India’s commitment to the UNESCO, the International Training Centre of Operational Oceanography was established and made operational for promotion of capacity building and training activities for the countries of the Indian Ocean Region. India is hosting the UN workshop on Assessment of Assessment of Marine Environment in Jan 25-27, 2014.

India is willing to collaborate and extend support in all the above program.



Country Statement by

Hon' Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim
Minister of Environment and Energy
Head of Delegation
Republic of Maldives
at the

13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
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Chairperson of the Governing Council H. E Mr Zahid Hamid, Minister for Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan

Distinguished Ministers

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Asalamalaikum and a very good morning

Let me first take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the excellent arrangements and hospitality rendered in this beautiful city. I also thank the SACEP Secretariat for organising this important meeting.

Mr Chair

SACEP holds a unique position in the regional co-operation mechanisms in South Asia. It was the first truly regional organisation established in the South Asia region, and in this manner has acted as the catalyst for all other regional co-operation mechanisms. Agenda 21 adopted at the Rio Summit, subsequently reified by the Rio+20 outcome document, recognises the significant role of regional environmental organisations and gave the impetus to developing and strengthening such mechanisms. We have, however, not harnessed the full potential of a platform such as this. There is much work that can be achieved through SACEP and our meeting here should attempt to identify strategies for SACEP to realise these.

Mr Chair

The environmental challenges in our region are many and diverse. They range from air pollution, to water resources management, to biodiversity loss and climate change impacts, amongst many others. However, in all these environmental challenges there is one commonality – these challenges are complex in nature and often transcend national boundaries. It is then only through the strengthening of the regional mechanisms that we can hope to effectively address such challenges.

SACEP can play a key role in this regard. The principles embedded in the SACEP provide a solid basis and framework for the enhancement of collaboration in addressing environmental challenges in the region. To date, however, we have been limited by the lack of a coherent and robust institutional framework and the linking of this with adequate resources. In this regard, I urge all member states to expedite the fulfilment of their financial commitments to SACEP. It is also imperative that SACEP explore strategies to mobilise additional funding from other bilateral and multilateral funding agencies. This should be complemented by increased synergy and co-operation between the other regional mechanisms, such as SAARC, in order to reduce redundancies between the activities across the organisations.

Mr Chair

In 2010, we as a region adopted the SAARC Convention on the Co-operation on Environment. I am happy to note that the Convention came into effect on the 23rd of October this year. The Convention provides the guiding principles for environmental co-operation in the region. The comprehensive nature of the Convention creates much space for developing strategic partnerships amongst our countries in the field of environment. SACEP as the premier regional environmental

organisation, is very well poised to play a significant role in the implementation of the Convention and further enhance the principles embedded therein.

Mr Chair

The sustainable management of our oceans is an intrinsically global and critical issue. Our oceans and seas and the biodiversity it supports do not recognise national borders or territorial waters. Developing a regional approach and linking this with co-ordinated global action is then fundamental to the success of our efforts to protect our oceans and seas.

It is important to note that a significant proportion of our populations live in the coastal zones, and depend on the coastal environment for livelihood and food. This region also boast some of the most biologically diverse and rich marine eco-systems in the world. However, these have come under increasing stress and pressure in the recent years, largely owing to human activity.

The South Asian Seas Programme has created a much needed platform for enhanced regional joint and co-ordinated action. There is, however, a critical need to scale up the work of SASP. This will require the commitment of all member countries. There are indeed much challenges that we face as a region in ensuring the sustainable management of our seas. From institutional limitations, regulatory gaps, inadequate communication channels and limited technical capacity, our region faces a difficult task in effectively addressing the issue. However, this is an issue that we cannot disregard.

Mr Chair

Despite these challenges and bleak prospects, we in the Maldives have consistently worked to ensure that the tenets of sustainable development are imbued within our development agenda. We have set ourselves ambitious goals – establish Maldives as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve by the year 2017 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2020. These goals have wider implications, from the use and management of natural resources, to our fuel usage, amongst others, which will work to drive the country towards the path of sustainable development. Policies towards such effect have also been designed and implemented in other countries in this region. There are lessons we can learn from each other and much experience that can be shared. It is my sincere hope that SACEP will continue its role as a node for knowledge and experience sharing within the region. The sharing of experiences, transfer of technology and know-how should be strengthened. In this regard, it is important to identify and establish various channels of communication to enhance South-South co-operation, with SACEP taking the lead in identifying how co-operation with other regional bodies, both within and outside the South Asia region, can be strengthened.

Mr Chair

As a region, South Asia has come a long way in terms of collaborating to address transnational environmental issues. However, we must do more to take into account the role of women, of the role of decentralised community decision making regarding conservation and resource management and of taking into account the agentival capacity of youth and other major groups. It is indeed time to renew our commitment and political will and ensure that these translate into co-ordinated action.

Mr Chair

I do not intend to take much time. As such, before I conclude, let me once again thank the Government of Pakistan and SACEP for organising this meeting. I look forward to fruitful discussions.

I thank you.

Statement Delivered by

Dr. Young-Woo Park
Regional Director and Representative
United Nations Environment Programme for
Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)
at the

13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
&
5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of
South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

Islamabad, Pakistan

5th December 2013

Chairperson of the Governing Council
Distinguished Ministers
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

- I am delighted to be able to participate in the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Islamabad, Pakistan. I would like to thank the Government of Pakistan and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) for the kind invitation.
- World leaders at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development which embraces economic progress, social development, and environmental protection for the benefit of all.
- The first universal session of the Governing Council (27th GC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2013, represents an historic milestone, furthering the implementation of provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The future we want”. The 27th GC of UNEP reaffirmed the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the United Nations system.
- The 27th GC of UNEP recommends to the General Assembly that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, an intergovernmental body established pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Charter, be renamed as the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The 27th GC decided that the UNEA of UNEP will promote a strong science-policy interface by reviewing the state of the environment, by building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks.
- The final report of the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) was submitted to the UN Secretary-General in May 2013. The report recognizes that the post-2015 development agenda should be universal, applying to North and South Alike, and be infused with a spirit of partnership based on equity, cooperation and mutual accountability. The report recommends SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) development goals in the post-2015 framework. The targets should be set for 2030.
- The Secretary General’s report to the 68th session of the General Assembly titled ‘A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015’ emphasizes: “that a new post-2015 era demands a new vision and a responsive framework. Sustainable development – enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice and environmental

stewardship – must become our global guiding principle and operational standard.”

- UNEP has recently launched a Discussion Paper entitled “Embedding environment in sustainable development goals (SDGs)” that recommends an integrated approach to SDGs, where a limited number of fully integrated goals are established at a higher strategic level, balancing the social, economic and environmental dimensions, with each supported by specific targets and indicators that can be either multi-dimensional or reflecting a single dimension.
- The international community cannot afford to backtrack on its agreements to protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change, restore freshwater ecosystems, and otherwise promote environmental sustainability. The existing global environmental goals and targets that have been already agreed to since 1990 can be taken as a “ground floor” for the SDGs. The global environmental goals and the MDGs can be used as a reference point to make sure that the new objectives are stronger and meet the expected level of ambition as set by countries in Rio+20.
- SACEP is one of the foremost intergovernmental agencies committed to promoting environment and sustainable development in the region. UNEP has been supporting the Secretariat since its inception and have implemented many programme in collaboration with SACEP. UNEP has worked closely with SACEP Secretariat to deliver services to countries in South Asia, namely preparation of state of the environment reports, Male’ Declaration on trans-boundary air pollution, environment education, MEAs, etc. We are currently working with SACEP Secretariat on the Post 2015 Development Agenda for South Asia. It intends to provide valuable inputs to the global process.
- I strongly believe that the SACEP-UNEP cooperation is crucial in enhancing environmental sustainability in South Asia. I am hopeful that the 13th GC of SACEP will approve a programme of work with financial resources. UNEP remains committed to support the South Asian countries in achieving the sustainable development objectives through partnership. At the end, I would like to thank once again to Excellency Chair and the Secretariat for the invitation and looking forward to the successful deliberation.

WORK PROGRAMME OF SASP
YEAR 2014 - 2015

		US \$
5.2.1	Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region	
	Funds are allocated to organize a workshops	75,000.00
	The MoU is for a period of three years and balance fund allocation will be based on the recommendations of the Workshop	Funds to be allocated
5.2.2	Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization	
	Funds are allocated to organize a workshops	35,000.00
	The MoU is for a period of three years and balance fund allocation will be based on the recommendations of the Workshop	Funds to be allocated
5.2.3	A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA	46,278.00
5.2.4	Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region	125,000.00
5.2.5	Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance	Negotiation are with BOBLME - Yet to be finalized
5.2.6	International Coastal Clean Up Day	Indian Coast Guard

WORK PROGRAMME OF SASP
YEAR 2014 - 2015



	US \$
5.2.7 Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia A Draft Regional Project Proposal was prepared by SACEP with the inputs received from countries and has been forwarded to UNEP and other funding agencies for implementation.	Yet to be finalized
5.2.8 South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) Financial support has been request from UNEP and ICRI	Yet to be finalized



SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)
SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2014 & 2015

	ANTICIPATED INCOME WITH 10% INCREASE - 2014 & 2015 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2014 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2015 US \$	ACTUAL RECEIPTS - 2012 US \$	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - 2012 US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME					
1.1 BANGLADESH	14,668.00				
INDIA	35,405.00			32,185.00	
MALDIVES	6,572.00			5,975.00	
PAKISTAN	29,843.00			26,796.47	
SRI LANKA	14,668.00				
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	101,156.00			64,956.47	
1.2 Interest earned	6,000.00			4,349.23	
TOTAL INCOME	107,156.00			69,305.70	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE					
2.1 Senior Programme Officer (Regional)		28,500.00	36,000.00		-
2.2 Local Staff		17,500.00	17,500.00		11,718.17
2.3 Meetings & International Travel		15,000.00	15,000.00		14,276.08
2.4 Administrative Cost		10,000.00	10,000.00		10,191.77
2.5 Rental & Maintenance		13,500.00	13,500.00		12,259.88
2.6 Furniture, Equipment & Consumables		8,000.00	8,000.00		
2.7 Documents		8,000.00	8,000.00		1,239.57
2.8 Contingencies		5,000.00	5,000.00		986.99
		105,500.00	113,000.00		50,672.46
3 Project Formulation		10,000.00	10,000.00		9,016.70
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		115,500.00	123,000.00		59,689.16
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(8,344.00)	(15,844.00)		9,616.54
2.1 * Year 2014 Budgeted for 9 Months Salary & Expenses for Recruitment					



SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)
SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2014 & 2015

	ANTICIPATED INCOME AS AGREED - 2014 & 2015 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2014 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2015 US \$	ACTUAL RECEIPTS - 2012 US \$	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - 2012 US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME					
1.1 BANGLADESH	13,335.00				
INDIA	32,185.00			32,185.00	
MALDIVES	5,975.00			5,975.00	
PAKISTAN	27,130.00			26,796.47	
SRI LANKA	13,335.00				
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	91,960.00			64,956.47	
1.2 Interest earned	6,000.00			4,349.23	
TOTAL INCOME	97,960.00			69,305.70	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE					
2.1 Senior Programme Officer (Regional)		28,500.00	36,000.00		-
2.2 Local Staff		17,500.00	17,500.00		11,718.17
2.3 Meetings & International Travel		15,000.00	15,000.00		14,276.08
2.4 Administrative Cost		10,000.00	10,000.00		10,191.77
2.5 Rental & Maintenance		13,500.00	13,500.00		12,259.88
2.6 Furniture, Equipment & Consumables		8,000.00	8,000.00		
2.7 Documents		8,000.00	8,000.00		1,239.57
2.8 Contingencies		5,000.00	5,000.00		986.99
3		105,500.00	113,000.00		50,672.46
Project Formulation		10,000.00	10,000.00		9,016.70
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		115,500.00	123,000.00		59,689.16
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(17,540.00)	(25,040.00)		9,616.54
2.1 * Year 2014 Budgeted for 9 Months Salary & Expenses for Recruitment					



SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME

**PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS/
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
FOR FIFTH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS
4TH DECEMBER 2013
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (5IMM) of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) was held on 4th December 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.
2. It was convened in order to discuss all substantive issues concerning the Institutional, Programme and Financial Matters of South Asian Seas Programme. It was also agreed that the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials on the various agenda items would form the basis of discussion of the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers.

ATTENDANCE

3. The Meeting was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries: India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Government of Afghanistan attended the meeting as an observer.

It was also attended by a representative from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

List of Participants is at Annex 1.

OPENING OF MEETING

5. Shri Anand Singh Khati, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, the out-going Chairman of the IMM inaugurated the Meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

6. In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP, the following Office Bearers were elected for the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (5IMM) of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP).

Chairman	-	Mr. Raja Hasan Abbas, Pakistan
Vice Chairman	-	Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe, Sri Lanka
Rapporteur	-	Mr. M. Irfan Tariq, Pakistan

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

7. The Draft Agenda prepared by the Secretariat for the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme was adopted. **Annex II.**

AGENDA ITEM 4: INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

The Meeting recommended the designation of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be continued as approved at IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999.

It is recommended to follow the guidelines for the recruitment for the Post of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) stipulated in Decision 7b (d), Annex 11 of IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999 to be the criteria, except the 'Method of Recruitment'.

Method of Recruitment of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be replaced by;

'The principle of nomination on rotation to be followed starting from the alphabetical order beginning from Bangladesh for a period of three years by replacing Decision 7b (d) - Annex 11, 'Method of Recruitment' of IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999' (**Annex III**)

Future nominations of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be started at the end of two years of the term of tenure, so that the national selection process is completed well before the completion of the stipulated / fixed three year term of the office holder.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PROGRAMME MATTER

8. Under this Agenda Item, the SACEP/SASP Secretariat presented an overall report on the programme activities of the Secretariat since 4th IMM. The presentation is given at **Annex IV.**

The meeting noted the progress made by SASP under various programmes.

5.1.1. Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region

The Meeting requested Governments of India and Sri Lanka to expedite the signing of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan and associated MoU.

The meeting recommended SACEP/SASP to carry out capacity building programmes for the region under the subject area.

5.1.2. Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization

The Meeting recommended the establishment of a Regional Task Force to facilitate the process.

The national governments were requested to coordinate with SACEP/SASP Secretariat to carry out necessary baseline studies to work out a possible way forward.

5.1.3. A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA)

The meeting endorsed SACEP/SASP activity on Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region.

SACEP/SASP to send the Draft Report and the format to provide relevant data and information to the National Focal Points.

The National Focal Points were requested to forward data and information on the given format to finalize the Review Report

Government of India announced that the UN Workshop on Assessment of Assessment of the Marine Environment to be held from 27-29 January 2014 in Chennai and requested the member countries to participate and SACEP/SASP to follow up.

5.1.4. Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region

National Focal Points were requested to forward relevant data and information to prepare the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region.

Government of India announced that training could be offered at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad for the member countries.

5.1.5. Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance

The Meeting was of the view that the subject area is too broad in the present context and therefore to be sub divided into specific areas. If the activity to be taken forward SACEP/SASP to prepare a white paper and circulate among the member courtiers for concurrence.

5.1.6. International Coastal Clean-up Day

The meeting recommended the activity to be continued.

Further it was recommended that SACEP/SASP to develop a Project Concept Note on Recycling of Ships and to be circulated among the member countries.

5.1.7. Global Coral Reef Partnership

The meeting requested SACEP/SASP to circulate the project document of Global Coral Reef Partnership.

The South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) is expected to be reactivated under this partnership.

5.1.8. Activities with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME)

The meeting noted the activities carried out in collaboration with BOBLME.

5.1.9. Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010

The meeting noted the contribution given by SACEP/SASP for compilation of the Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010.

5.1.10. Regional Training and Capacity Building workshop in Coral Reef Monitoring Identifying Indication for Regional Adaptation and Resilience

The meeting noted the activity carried out by SACEP/SASP in collaboration with SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre.

5.1.11. 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India

The meeting noted the activity completed by SACEP/SASP.

5.1.12. Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, 3 - 6 May 2010, Malé, Maldives

The meeting noted the activity carried out by SACEP/SASP in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization. (IMO)

5.1.13. On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas

The meeting requested the member countries of SASP to contribute voluntarily, towards implementing such training programmes for the common benefit of the South Asian Seas Region.

5.1.14. Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia

The meeting requested the national governments to facilitate the national process of implementation of the Blue Flag Certification Programme and requested SACEP/SASP to search for financial support for implementation of the Regional Project.

5.1.15. UNEP/EU Funded Projects on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA) of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia

The Meeting noted the activity carried out by SACEP/SASP.

AGENDA ITEM 5.2:

WORK PROGRAMME (2014-2015)

The Meeting decided to continue the on-going activities of SASP and approved the Work Programme proposed for 2014 – 2015.

AGENDA ITEM 6: FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1: REVIEW OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER STATES FOR SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

SACEP/SASP Secretariat thanked the member countries for clearing the arrears of the Country Contribution of the South Asian Seas Programme to a commendable rate. Further it was informed by the Secretariat that it is important to clear the balance arrears of the SASP country contributions for smooth and effective functioning of the secretariat.

6.2: EXTERNAL FUNDING

Annexed

6.3: DRAFT BUDGET (2014 -2015)

Under the South Asian Seas Programme a 10% increase in the Annual Country Contribution from January year 2014 is requested as the present agreed country contribution of SACEP was recommended at the Second Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of SASP held on 1st July 2002.

The member countries agreed to the proposal subject to the concurrence of the relevant national authorities of each member country.

Until such concurrence is obtained, the Draft budget for year 2014-2015, proposed with the present agreed annual contributions of SASP to be recommended to the 5IMM for approval.

6.4. PRESENTATION OF AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2007, 2008, 2009 AND 2010

The Meeting recommended to the 5IMM-SASP, the Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 for approval while noting the drop of interest earned from the invested funds.

AGENDA ITEM 7:

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 5TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS

The Draft Agenda to be taken into consideration for adoption at the 5th IMM-SASP.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan informed the meeting of their willingness to participate at the South Asia Seas Meetings, being a land locked country.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Meeting adopted the above recommendations for submission to the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers for its endorsement.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked the members for active participation and closed the meeting.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
Preparatory Meeting of
National Focal Points/ Senior Government Officials for
5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers

December 4, 2013
Islamabad, Pakistan

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BANGLADESH

Mr. Md. Nural Islam
Counsellor (Pol.)
High Commission for the People's Republic of
Bangladesh
House No. 1, Street No. 5, F-6/3, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 227 9267
Fax: +92 51 227 9266
e-mail: nri002@yahoo.com

INDIA

Mr. S. Inbasekar
First Secretary (Political)
High Commission of India
G-5, Diplomatic Enclave
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 282 8387
Mobile: +92 300 850 8249
e-mail: pol2.islamabad@mea.gov.in

Mr. Anand S. Khati
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India
Ministry of Earth Sciences
Government of India
Prithvi Bhavan
Lodhi Road
New Delhi -110 003
India
Tel: +91 11 2462 9511
e-mail: a_khati@hotmail.com
JS@moes.gov.in

Dr. K. Somasundar
Scientist-F
Ministry of Earth Sciences
Government of India
Prithvi Bhavan
Lodhi Road
New Delhi -110 003
India
Tel: +91 11 2466 9513
Mobile: +91 98 6842 5857
Fax: +91 11 2462 9779
e-mail: soma-dod@nic.in

MALDIVES

Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed
Environment Analyst
Ministry of Environment and Energy
Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun
Maafannu
Male', 20392
Republic of Maldives
Tel: +960 301 8365
Mobile: +960 794 3822
Fax: +960 301 8301
e-mail: midhath.rasheed@environment.gov.mv

PAKISTAN

Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas
Additional Secretary In-charge
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex, G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9245578
Fax: +92-51-9245533
e-mail:

Mr. Muhammad Khalid Siddiq
Joint Secretary
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex, G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5531
Mobile: +92 321 956 1157
Fax: +92 51 924 5532
e-mail: makss2000@yahoo.com

Mr. Iftikhar-Ul-Hassan Shah Gilani
Joint Secretary (IC)
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5523
Mobile: +92 334 442 2250
Fax: +92 51 924 5524
e-mail: iftiqrhmi@yahoo.com

Mr. M. Irfan Tariq
Director General (Env & CC)
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 9245545/ 9245528
Mobile: +92 300 4202554
e-mail: mirfantariq@gmail.com

Mr. Asif Shuja Khan
Director General (Pakistan EPA)
Climate Change Division
311 - Margalla Road
F 11/3, Islamabad Zip 44000
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 926 7621
Mobile: +92 333 878 7876
Fax: +92 51 926 7625
e-mail: dg@environment.gov.pk

Mr. Syed Mahmood Nasir
Inspector General Forests
Forestry Wing, Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex, G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5589
Mobile: +92 307 574 3450
Fax: +92 51 924 5590
e-mail: mnasirn@yahoo.com

PAKISTAN

Mr. Naeem Ashraf Raja
Director Biodiversity Programme
Ministry of Climate Change
Government of Pakistan
ENERCON Building, G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5601
Mobile: +92 333 520 1089
Fax: +92 51 924 5590
e-mail: naeemashrafraja@yahoo.com

Mr. Zia Ul Islam
Director (PEPC)
Climate Change Division
Government of Pakistan
Local Government Building
Sector G - 5/1, Islamabad - 44000
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5624
Mobile: +92 333 510 7422
Fax: +92 51 924 5533
e-mail: rmamazia@hotmail.com

Mr. Zaigham Abbas
Deputy Director (Chemical)
Climate Change Division
(Cabinet Secretariat)
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5536
Fax: +92 51 924 5524
e-mail: mzaigham75@yahoo.com

Mr. Imran Khan
Assistant Director (DBM)
Climate Change Division
Cabinet Secretariat
Government of Pakistan
LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9245534
Mobile: +92-333-5209637
e-mail: imran.ad.81@gmail.com

PAKISTAN

Mr. Muhammad Fawad Hayat
Programme Coordinator
Global Environment Facility
Ministry of Climate Change
GEF Cell, 3rd Floor, LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5626
Mobile: +92 345 894 4449
Fax: +92 51 924 5627
e-mail: fawadhayat@gmail.com

Capt. Muzaffar Mahmood (Pakistan Navy)
Deputy Chief (Maritime Affairs Wing)
Ministry of Defence, Government of Pakistan
Pak Sectt - II
Rawalpindi
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 927 1436
Mobile: +92 300 244 8991
Fax: +92 51 927 1119
e-mail: hafeemahmood@hotmail.com

Mr. Muhammad Razi
Section Officer
Ministry of Climate Change
Government of Pakistan
Room # 501, LG & RD Complex
G - 5/2, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 924 5550
Mobile: +92 333 792 2769
e-mail: mrzipk@gmail.com

SRI LANKA

Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe
Counsellor / Chargé d'affaires
High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan
House No. 2-C, Street No 55
P. O. Box 1497, F-6/4
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 282 8754
Mobile: +92 331 588 8133
Fax: +92 51 282 8751
e-mail: wijayanthi@hotmail.com

OBSERVER STATE

AFGHANISTAN

H. R. H. Prince Mostapha Zaher
Director General
National Environmental Protection Agency
Member of the Council of Ministers
Adviser to the President on Environment
Second Parwan Square
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 752 017 633
Mobile: +93 799 400 600
e-mail: dg.nepa@nepa.gov.af (Official)

Eng. Ezatullah Sediqi
Chief of Staff
National Environmental Protection Agency
Second Parwan Square
Kabul
Afghanistan
Mobile: +93 752 043 173
Mobile: +93 799 622 517
e-mail: eng.ezatsediqi@gmail.com
Sediqi.nepa@gmail.com

dg.nepa@hotmail.com (Operational)
mostapha_zaher@hotmail.com (Personal)

UN, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & OBSERVERS

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNEP-ROAP)

Dr. Subrata Sinha
Environmental Affairs Officer
United Nations Environment Programme
for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)
United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 288 2259
Fax: +66 2 280 3829
e-mail: subrata.sinha@unep.org

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

10 Anderson Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

Tel +94 11 2589 787 Fax +94 11 2589 369

Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake
Director General
Tel: +94 11 258 9376
Mobile: +94 77 736 3133
e-mail: dg_sacep@eol.lk

Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera
Administrative Officer
Tel: +94 11 250 4708
Mobile: +94 77 311 4362
e-mail: sacep@eol.lk

Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera
Senior Programme Officer
Tel: +94 11 250 0546
Mobile: +94 71 643 6307
e-mail: rd_sacep@eol.lk

Ms. Nishanthi M. P. Perera
Programme Officer
Tel: +94 11 536 2851
e-mail: po_sacep@eol.lk

**Inaugural Session of
Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for**

**13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

and

**5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of
South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan
3rd December 2013**

**Welcome Address by
Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake
Director General of SACEP**

Distinguished Delegates from All the Member Countries of SACEP
Honoured Delegates from UN and other International Agencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Director General of SACEP it is a great privilege and honour to welcome you on behalf of SACEP for the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP and the 5th Inter-governmental Meetings of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme.

At the very outset, let me thank Government and people of Pakistan for hosting this Governing Council Meeting in the lovely and hospitable city of Islamabad. This is the second time that government of Pakistan is hosting SACEP Governing Council. In September 1994, the 6th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP was held in the same city where we are now being gathered after 19 years to witness the 13th Governing Council.

Distinguished delegates,

Since 1994 to date this city has gone through a lot of transformation. You will witness the changes in terms of development taken place during the past years. These developments didn't come through an easy way. To achieve this, the government and people of Pakistan would have gone through many obstacles and made sacrifices as well. Similarly, during the last 31 years since its inception in 1982, SACEP has also gone through a transformation. You may witness the vast difference of SACEP when it was in 80s and 90s and in present days. During last 31 years SACEP has gone through many draw backs and the strong commitment and the co-operative spirit shown by its members made it easy for the Secretariat to overcome the obstacles.

The major task held upon the last Governing Council was the appointment of the Director General. Now it has been fulfilled and we are heading in the right direction in terms of implementing of the work programme.

Distinguished delegates,

As the Director General, I need your fullest support and guidance to take SACEP as from present days to a step forward during my next one and half years of time in office. Regional co-operation is vital when it comes to tackle environmental issues in trans-boundary nature. Two weeks before, we have witnessed the collective commitment at global level when world leaders came to an agreement at the CoP19 of the UNFCCC. I am confident that the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP will also be a successful one.

I thank each and every one of you for being present here in spite of your busy schedules and other pressing commitments.

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3rd December 2013**

**Opening Remarks by
Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe
Chargé d'affaires, High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan**

Good Morning.

As the outgoing Chair of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme ,i.e., SACEP), we are grateful to the Government and People of Pakistan for hosting the 13th Governing Council Meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Excellency's, Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

SACEP being an inter-governmental organization has almost 30 years of history in respect of regional co-operation toward the environmental issues. It has a commendable record of achievements. From the date of SACEP being established in 1981 in Colombo, we, the members of SACEP have been able to carry out many programmes for the protection and management of the environment of the South Asian region. However, during the past decade SACEP has been going through a turbulent periods and hence, as the Governing Council we had to take strategic decisions for the betterment of SACEP.

In November 2010, during the 12th Meeting of the Governing Council held in Colombo, Sri Lanka took over the chairmanship of SACEP and we can proudly say that we have been able to streamline the activities of SACEP and its programme of work and I think it is a matter of carrying forward the initiatives taken. I will list out some of the highlights, a few landmarks or milestones we have achieved.

1. Appointment of a Director General on rotation basis.

As a decision of the 12th Governing Council of SACEP, we were able to appoint the new Director General on rotation basis and Sri Lanka was able to appoint one of its nominees to the post of Director General in April 2012. It is noted that one of the key recommendations of the SACEP Review in 2003 was the appointment of the Director General on merit basis. However, implementation of this decision created

problems within the system and there was a period of 3 years (2009-2011) where no DG was there to head the Secretariat and thereby implementation of the work programme was hampered to a certain extent.

2. South Asia Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan and Disaster Response.

This Regional Plan was prepared in 2000, however the MOU to implement the Action Plan was agreed and signed by only three South Asian Seas Countries namely Bangladesh, Pakistan and Maldives. I am happy to announce here that Government of Sri Lanka has also agreed to sign the MOU as per the Cabinet decision in November this year. I hope that the Government of India also will follow us and sign the MOU so that SACEP will be able to implement the actions identified within the next few years.

3. SACEP Host Facility, New Secretariat building for SACEP and Official Residence of the Director General

In 2012, The Government of Sri Lanka increased its SACEP host facility contribution from Sri Lanka Rs 5.0 million to Rs 8.0 million. This is given by the host Government to cover local staff salaries, rental and other related costs.

It is also noted that the present SACEP Secretariat and the Director General's residence are located in rented buildings. In view of the above and after representation made, Government has decided to provide a suitable land to construct SACEP Secretariat and the Director General's Residence. Government has also allocated an initial sum of Sri Lankan Rs 50.0 million for this purpose. Once the locations are finalized we will be able to start construction. I request the support of all the SACEP member countries to contribute to this process.

4. SACEP Annual Work Programme

I am happy to state here that annual work programme of SACEP has completed even with the limited capacity and resources. I am also happy to state that SACEP has initiated new programmes on Clearing House Mechanism on biodiversity, National Action Plan updating, Environmental Data and Information Management, Marine Biodiversity Strategy Development and Nutrient and Pollution loading in our marine and coastal eco systems etc.

At this stage, we must accept that the tasks before us are quite challenging and we need to make concerted efforts on a regional basis for a harmonious and coherent environmental management. I wish to re-iterate Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthen SACEP as a good example of South-South Cooperation.

Once again on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I would like extend our sincere thanks to Government and the People of Pakistan for providing excellent hosting facilities for our stay in your beautiful country, Pakistan.

Thank you.

**Inaugural Session of
Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for**

**13th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
And
5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers
South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan
3rd December 2013**

**Inaugural Address by
Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas, Additional Secretary In-charge
Climate Change Division
Government of Pakistan**

Honourable Heads of Delegations,
UN Representatives, Senior Officials representing the South Asian Countries,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen

1. I welcome you all on behalf of Government of Pakistan in this opening ceremony of the preparatory meeting of the officials for the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme & the 5th Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of South Asia Seas Programme.
2. Established in 1982, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization. The forum seeks to promote and support the conservation and management of the natural and human environment in the South Asia region with view to achieve sustainable development.
3. The Almighty has blessed South Asia with the highest mountain peaks, the most fertile plains and a unique ecosystem unparalleled in the world. We also share the Himalayas, the Indus and the Monsoon. This endowment is a gift, but it comes with great responsibility. As citizens of our respective nations and as collective citizens of South Asia, we are the guardians of these resources.
4. Since the establishment of SACEP, the member states have continuously worked towards implementation of the SACEP Strategy and Programme which covers the key areas such as capacity building and awareness raising, systematic information exchange, technology transfer, environmental management training, institutional development, regional cooperation in the management of mountain ecosystems, watersheds, and coastal resources, wildlife and habitat conservation. We recognize the importance of SACEP and expect it to be more strengthened and robust platform for projection of

synergized efforts for environmental management and knowledge sharing in the region.

5. The upcoming three days will be important for streamlining the regional efforts to achieve the objective of sustainable and environmental friendly development in the region through SACEP platform. It will also be significant for the development of an action plan along with outlining the strategy for a regionally coordinated programme called South Asia Seas Programme which is aimed at the protection of the common bodies of water based on the region's environmental challenges as well as its socioeconomic and political situation. The South Asian Seas Programme is a co-operative partnership, formally adopted in 1995 for the protection and management of the shared marine waters and associated coastal ecosystems of five maritime SACEP countries – Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
6. Climate Changes, industrialization, population pressures and a tremendous increase in vehicular traffic have posed serious threats to the environment in the region. In the present century, there is an imperative need to look at our past to set our sustainable priorities for the future. It is high time for us to enhance our efforts for protection of the environment. We need to set realistic goals and then strive to achieve them in a sustainable and cogent manner. There is a need to integrate sustainable development and environmental conservation into our national economic policies. Pakistan has covered a number of milestones already, from preparation of the National Environment Policy in 2005 to the formulation of National Climate Change Policy in 2012. The Government of Pakistan acknowledges the significance of environmental conservation as an important ingredient of economic development and is keen to work towards the cause by joining hand with the regional partners.
7. I hope that the next three days of the conference prove to be a milestone in the history of the region for providing guidelines to achieve the target of sustainable development and a healthy environment for the generations to come.
8. I would like to thank you all for participating in this event and wish you very productive and useful three days ahead.
9. Have a pleasant stay in Islamabad.

Thank you.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS / SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR THE 5TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

**Islamabad, Pakistan
4th December 2013**

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	
1	Opening of the Meeting Tea Break
2	Election of Office Bearers
3	Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4	Institutional Matters
5	Programme Matters
5.1	Programme Activities from 2009 – 2013
5.1.1	Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region
5.1.2	Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization
5.1.3	A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA
5.1.4	Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region
5.1.5	Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance
5.1.6	International Coastal Clean-up Day
5.1.7	Global Coral Reef Partnership and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
5.1.8	Activities with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME)
5.1.9	Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010

AGENDA ITEM	
5.1.10	Regional Training and Capacity Building workshop in Coral Reef Monitoring Identifying Indication for Regional Adaptation and Resilience
5.1.11	30 th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India
5.1.12	Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, 3 - 6 May 2010, Malé Maldives
5.1.13	On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas
5.1.14	Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia
5.1.15	UNEP EU Funded Projects On MCPAs of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia
5.2	Work Programme (2013-2015)
6	Financial Matters
6.1	Review of Country Contributions from Member States for South Asian Seas Programme
6.2	External Funding - Budgetary resources required to support the Work Programme
6.3	DRAFT Budget (2014 -2015)
6.4	Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010
7	Consideration of the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 5 th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers
8	Any Other Business
9	Adoption of Report
10	Closure of Meeting

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS FOR 5TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

Islamabad, Pakistan

4th December 2013

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	
1	Opening of the Meeting Tea Break
2	Election of Office Bearers
3	Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4	Institutional Matters
5	Programme Matters
5.1	Programme Activities from 2009 – 2013
5.1.1	Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region
5.1.2	Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization
5.1.3	A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA
5.1.4	Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region
5.1.5	Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance
5.1.6	International Coastal Clean-up Day
5.1.7	Global Coral Reef Partnership and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
5.1.8	Activities with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME)
5.1.9	Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010

AGENDA ITEM

- 5.1.10 Regional Training and Capacity Building workshop in Coral Reef Monitoring Identifying Indication for Regional Adaptation and Resilience
- 5.1.11 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India
- 5.1.12 Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, 3 - 6 May 2010, Malé Maldives
- 5.1.13 On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas
- 5.1.14 Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia
- 5.1.15 UNEP EU Funded Projects On MCPAs of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia
- 5.2 Work Programme (2013-2015)
- 6 Financial Matters
 - 6.1 Review of Country Contributions from Member States for South Asian Seas Programme
 - 6.2 External Funding - Budgetary resources required to support the Work Programme
 - 6.3 DRAFT Budget (2014 -2015)
 - 6.4 Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010
- 7 Consideration of the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Adoption of Report
- 10 Closure of Meeting

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS / SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR 5TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

**Islamabad, Pakistan
4th December 2013**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	
1 OPENING OF THE MEETING	
It is expected that a Senior High Ranking Official from the Government of Pakistan will inaugurate the Meeting.	
TEA BREAK	
2 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS	
As agreed at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the South Asian Seas Programme in March 1995 and as laid down in the South Asian Seas Action Plan, the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP will be applied mutatis mutandis for the conduct of the Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of SAS. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers, a Chairman will be elected. One or more Vice Chairman, a Rapporteur and other officials may also be appointed by the Meeting. The Director General of SACEP shall function as the Secretary of the Meeting during its sessions.	
3 ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK	
The Meeting will consider the Provisional Agenda for adoption. Any matter regarding the Organisation of Work and the Sessions may also be considered.	
4 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS	
Under this Agenda Item, the SAS Secretariat will present an overall report on the institutional matters of the Secretariat since the Fourth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers.	

5	PROGRAMME MATTERS
5.1	Programme Activities from 2009 – 2013
5.1.1	<p>Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - IMO / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 75,000.00)</i> <i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC) facilitates international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to a major oil pollution incident and encourages States to develop and maintain an adequate capability to deal with oil pollution emergencies.</p> <p>In this regard a Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were developed in association with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. The final adaptation of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU has been pending since the year 2000. Three member countries viz. Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan have already signed the MoU.</p> <p>Follow up actions :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SACEP signed a MoU with IMO in August 2013 2. First Regional Meeting of the relevant national authorities dealing with oil spill preparedness and response will be held in first quarter of 2014. 3. Respective National Governments to expedite the signing of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan and associated MoU <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda Item 5.1.1 - Inf. Paper on Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region
5.1.2	<p>Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - IMO / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 35,000.00)</i> <i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>At the IMO/South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management (BWM) Strategy Development Meeting held in Mumbai, India in May 2012, it was decided that SACEP/SASP, to be the Institutional Framework to support and formulate the regional BWM Strategy and establish a Regional Task Force to ensure the execution of the action plan.</p> <p>As the BWM Convention is about to enter into force, the main objective of this activity is to conduct a follow-up meeting to review the draft regional strategy and incorporate the latest developments with a view to ascertain the progress made on the recommendations agreed, and to discuss the way forward to finalize the Regional Strategic Plan for the full implementation of the BWM Convention in South Asia.</p> <p>Follow up actions :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SACEP signed a MoU with IMO in August 2013 2. To establish a Regional Task Force to facilitate the process 3. First meeting of the Regional Task Force and workshop are to be held in first quarter of 2014. 4. Respective National Governments to coordinate with SACEP Secretariat to carry out necessary baseline studies to workout a possible way forward <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda Item 5.1.2 - Inf. Paper on developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization 2. Annex 1 of Inf. Paper
5.1.3	<p>A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA</p> <p>(Collaborators - UNEP-GPA / FAO/ BoBLME / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 46,278/- + SACEP Contribution; Funds received US \$ 13,884/-)</p> <p>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</p> <p>SACEP/SASP participated in a Regional meeting in June 2012, to share experiences in addressing Land-based sources of Marine Pollution, in relation to development of a Regional Strategic Action Plan for the countries along the Bay of Bengal. At this meeting SACEP/SASP was requested to develop and submit a project proposal to the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) on mitigating of the nutrient loading to the marine environment.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>Recommendations & Follow up actions :</p> <p>1. In this regard SACEP/SASP developed a project concept titled “Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region” with the inputs from UNEP-GPNM (Global Partnership on Nutrient Management).</p> <p>2. SACEP secured funding from FAO to prepare a desktop review report on the present status of nutrient loading and to conduct a three day workshop to validate the findings. The overall outcome would be initiation of a process in developing regional/national level political dialogue to address currently unsustainable nutrient management practices to reduce environmental impacts.</p> <p>3. National Focal Points to forward relevant data and information to finalize the review report.</p> <p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Agenda Item 5.1.3 - Inf. Paper on Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA</p>
5.1.4	<p>Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / MFF / SACEP; Total funds allocated US \$ 125,000/-; Funds received 9,000/-)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>SACEP signed a SSFA with UNEP in 2013 to formulate a Marine Biodiversity Strategy for South Asia as a part of the ongoing process of preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to implement the Aichi targets for the 2011-2020 period.</p> <p>The main purpose of the Marine Biodiversity Strategy is to provide overall policy directives for promoting collaborative activities at regional level as well as national initiatives for the sustainable utilization and the protection of the rich marine and coastal biodiversity of the South Asian Region.</p> <p>The process will assist and provide additional information for the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action plans (NBSAPs), while also guiding the update of the South Asian Seas Action Plan, as mandated by IMM 4.</p> <p>National Focal Points to forward relevant data and information to prepare the Regional Strategy.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Agenda Item 5.1.4 - Inf. Paper on Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region</p>
5.1.5	<p>Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance</p> <p>In 2009 SACEP published a report titled “Guideline document on the status of conventions and protocols in the field of Marine Environment by the South Asian Seas Countries”. Presently this report is being updated and further SACEP/SAS is looking at the possibility of organizing a Regional Workshop on Ocean Governance issues.</p> <p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.5 - Guideline document on the Status of Conventions and Protocols in the Field of Marine Environment by SAS Countries’</p>
5.1.6	<p>International Coastal Clean-up Day</p> <p>SACEP has been organizing many activities to commemorate the Coastal Cleanup Day since 2006. Since then, SACEP and Indian Coast Guard jointly organized the event in Chennai, India which is continued to date.</p> <p>In year 2010 SACEP in collaboration with US Embassy in Colombo and Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka organized the beach clean-up programme in a selected beach stretch in Negombo, Sri Lanka and an awareness programme was organized for the participating school children on the importance of maintaining a clean beach. More than 500 school children and people from hotel industry contributed towards this activity.</p>
5.1.7	<p>Global Coral Reef Partnership</p> <p>The urgency in addressing the downward trajectory of the world's coral reefs is reflected in paragraph 176 of ‘The Future We Want’ as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 10: “By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning”. Commitment to the partnership was made in the Regional Seas Strategic directions 2013-2017.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>Partnership development was also presented to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) at its General Meeting in July 2012. International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), which concluded in 2012 was the partnership established as ICRI's primary mechanism for implementation through the Regional Seas. It was developed in close consultation with the ICRI Secretariat and ICRI members.</p> <p>Progress on partnership development was presented at the global meeting of the Regional Seas in September 2013. The main objective of this Partnership is to provide a delivery support framework for achieving internationally adopted targets relevant to coral reefs at the regional and national level, in particular Aichi Target 10 as well as other targets relevant to coral reefs. To this end the partnership will promote activities consistent with the ICRI Call to Action and Framework For Action, through the Regional Seas.</p> <p>International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)</p> <p>SACEP/SASP is the ICRI Focal Point for the South Asian Seas Region.</p> <p>SACEP/SASP was an active member of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the UNEP EU funded Projects on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia was concluded in March 2009.</p> <p>SACEP/SASP is exploring possible funding support from ICRI to keep the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) active which was launched under the above project.</p>
5.1.8	<p>Activities with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME)</p> <p>BOBLME project is funded principally by the GEF, Norway, the Swedish International Development Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), participating Governments and the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA).</p> <p>The main focus of the project is on gaining a better understanding of major marine resources and identifying the critical issues and the underlying causes contributing to a decline in the health of the Bay of Bengal ecosystem. BOBLME project is managed by a Steering Committee which is made up of two government representatives of fisheries and environment ministries from each participating country.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>SACEP/SAS is a collaborating partner of BOBLME since year 2012.</p> <p>Agenda Item No 5.1.3 is implemented in collaboration with BOBLME and exploring the possibilities of implementing activities such as ecosystem conservation and Marine Protected Areas (MPA) establishment.</p>
5.1.9	<p>Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP-WCMC / SACEP; Total funds allocated US \$ 10,000/-; Received 10,000/-)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>In line with the International Year of Biodiversity, UNEP decided to prepare a Marine Biodiversity Outlook Report which covered the 18 Regional Seas Areas. The objective of this project was to enhance the understanding of key regional and global issues for marine biodiversity conservation through the issuance of outlook reports on the coastal areas covered by the Regional Seas Programmes.</p> <p>UNEP entrusted SACEP to prepare the Outlook Report for the South Asian Seas Region and the Report was launched at the CBD CoP 10, Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.</p> <p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.9 - UNEP Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series'</p>
5.1.10	<p>Regional Training and Capacity Building workshop in Coral Reef Monitoring Identifying Indication for Regional Adaptation and Resilience</p> <p>A five day capacity building workshop was organized as a collaborative venture between SAARC-Coastal Zone Management Centre, SACEP, Coast Conservation Department, Sri Lanka, and UNEP in May 2012.</p> <p>The main objective of the workshop was to impart training to the participants, share experiences, knowledge and develop an understanding about coral reef ecosystems and its status or health as an important monitoring indicator of the coastal environment for climate change.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
5.1.11	<p>30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India</p> <p>The 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation was convened by the International Sea Turtle Society in April 2010 in Goa, India. SACEP was a co-partner in organizing the Symposium in collaboration with the International Sea Turtle Society and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.</p> <p>SACEP/SASP organized a South Asia Mini Symposium, where representatives of member states, NGO and Academia sectors came together to discuss the present situation and how to come up with a united regional response to sea turtle conservation in the sub region. In this regard the role that can be played by SACEP/SASP as an intergovernmental partner was also discussed.</p>
5.1.12	<p>Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, 3 - 6 May 2010, Malé, Maldives</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - IMO / Government of Maldives / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 35,000.00 approx - Funds Physically not received Remitted Direct to Workshop Host - Maldives)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>Within the framework of the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme of IMO, a Regional Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Operational Level Workshop was organized in May 2010, with a view to enhancing the awareness, capacity and capabilities of participating countries of Southeast and South Asia, to facilitate the ratification, implementation and enforcement of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) - HNS Protocol.</p> <p>The Workshop was organized by Ministry of Housing, Transport & Environment, Government of Maldives, IMO and SACEP/SASP.</p> <p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.12 - OPRC HNS Workshop Maldives'</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
5.1.13	<p>On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, UNEP, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea and UNEP-GRID Arendal / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 25,000/-; Total spent US \$ 105,000/- (approx); including in kind contribution of Government of India - approx US \$ 80,000/-)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, UNEP, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea and UNEP-GRID Arendal. 10 mid-level managers from the five SAS countries participated in this training programme which was held in September 2009 in India.</p> <p>A Training Manual was launched at the Workshop which provides detailed information with research articles and this manual is a reference reading material in the field of Ocean Management</p> <p><i>It is suggested to the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers to consider to contribute voluntarily, towards implementing such programmes in future and requested the donor agencies to financially support the Programme.</i></p> <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda Item 5.1.13 - Inf. Paper on Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas 2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.13 - Report - Marine Resources Sampling and Data Collection and Interpretation for SAS' 3. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.13 - Manual - Marine Resources Sampling and Data Collection and Interpretation for SAS'
5.1.14	<p>Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark / SACEP / SAS-NFPs; Total funds allocated US \$ 10,000/-; Spent US \$ 10,000/-)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>Under this activity, SACEP/SASP in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark and UNEP took the message of "A Clean beach – A Tourist Haven" for promoting sustainable tourism in the region.</p>

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contd.....	<p>In 2010 National Workshops were conducted in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in collaboration with the NFPs to have discussions with stakeholders in member countries to propagate the idea of beach certification. These workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes.</p> <p>Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on the Beach Certification Programme</p> <p><i>5th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers may request the national governments to facilitate their national process of implementation.</i></p> <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda Item 5.1.14 - Inf. Paper on Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia 2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.14 - Blue Flag Report - South Asia'
5.1.15	<p>UNEP EU Funded Projects on MCPAs of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP-GPA / EU/ICRAN/SACEP/SAS-NFPs; Total funds received US \$ 24,734/- for the reporting period; Spent US \$ 24,734/- - Project continued from 2007)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>The Project was initiated in 2005, this project was successfully completed in December 2008 and reports were submitted in March 2009.</p> <p>The Regional Communication Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia and the Regional Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia was published as an outcome of the project.</p> <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.15 - Regional Communication Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia' 2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.15 - Regional Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia'
<p>5.2 WORK PROGRAMME (2013-2015)</p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will consider the approved work programme for 2011-2012 and make suggestions for its continuance through 2013-2015</p>	

AGENDA ITEM

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider the review of the Country Contributions, External Funding, the Draft Secretariat Budget for 2014-2015. It will also consider the Audit Reports of Accounts for the year 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 for endorsement.

7 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 5TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS

Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will decide on the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers, which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for formal agreement.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Under this Agenda Item, The Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points /Senior Government Officials for the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.

9 ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Rapporteur will present the Draft Report of the Meeting for its consideration and adoption.

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Any representative participating in the Meeting may wish to make concluding statements regarding the deliberations at the Meeting and its achievements. The Chairman will finally declare the Meeting closed.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS FOR 5TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

**Islamabad, Pakistan
4th December 2013**

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	
1 OPENING OF THE MEETING	
It is expected that a Senior High Ranking Official from the Government of Pakistan will inaugurate the Meeting.	
TEA BREAK	
2 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS	
As agreed at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the South Asian Seas Programme in March 1995 and as laid down in the South Asian Seas Action Plan, the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP will be applied mutatis mutandis for the conduct of the Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of SAS. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers, a Chairman will be elected. One or more Vice Chairman, a Rapporteur and other officials may also be appointed by the Meeting. The Director General of SACEP shall function as the Secretary of the Meeting during its sessions.	
3 ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK	
The Meeting will consider the Provisional Agenda for adoption. Any matter regarding the Organisation of Work and the Sessions may also be considered.	
4 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS	
Under this Agenda Item, the SAS Secretariat will present an overall report on the institutional matters of the Secretariat since the Fourth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers.	

5	PROGRAMME MATTERS
5.1	Programme Activities from 2009 – 2013
5.1.1	<p>Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - IMO / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 75,000.00)</i> <i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC) facilitates international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to a major oil pollution incident and encourages States to develop and maintain an adequate capability to deal with oil pollution emergencies.</p> <p>In this regard a Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were developed in association with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. The final adaptation of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU has been pending since the year 2000. Three member countries viz. Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan have already signed the MoU.</p> <p>Follow up actions :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SACEP signed a MoU with IMO in August 2013 2. First Regional Meeting of the relevant national authorities dealing with oil spill preparedness and response will be held in first quarter of 2014. 3. Respective National Governments to expedite the signing of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan and associated MoU <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda Item 5.1.1 - Inf. Paper on Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region
5.1.2	<p>Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - IMO / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 35,000.00)</i> <i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>At the IMO/South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management (BWM) Strategy Development Meeting held in Mumbai, India in May 2012, it was decided that SACEP/SASP, to be the Institutional Framework to support and formulate the regional BWM Strategy and establish a Regional Task Force to ensure the execution of the action plan.</p> <p>As the BWM Convention is about to enter into force, the main objective of this activity is to conduct a follow-up meeting to review the draft regional strategy and incorporate the latest developments with a view to ascertain the progress made on the recommendations agreed, and to discuss the way forward to finalize the Regional Strategic Plan for the full implementation of the BWM Convention in South Asia.</p> <p>Follow up actions :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SACEP signed a MoU with IMO in August 2013 2. To establish a Regional Task Force to facilitate the process 3. First meeting of the Regional Task Force and workshop are to be held in first quarter of 2014. 4. Respective National Governments to coordinate with SACEP Secretariat to carry out necessary baseline studies to workout a possible way forward <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda Item 5.1.2 - Inf. Paper on developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization 2. Annex 1 of Inf. Paper
5.1.3	<p>A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA</p> <p>(Collaborators - UNEP-GPA / FAO/ BoBLME / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 46,278/- + SACEP Contribution; Funds received US \$ 13,884/-)</p> <p>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</p> <p>SACEP/SASP participated in a Regional meeting in June 2012, to share experiences in addressing Land-based sources of Marine Pollution, in relation to development of a Regional Strategic Action Plan for the countries along the Bay of Bengal. At this meeting SACEP/SASP was requested to develop and submit a project proposal to the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) on mitigating of the nutrient loading to the marine environment.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>Recommendations & Follow up actions :</p> <p>1. In this regard SACEP/SASP developed a project concept titled “Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region” with the inputs from UNEP-GPNM (Global Partnership on Nutrient Management).</p> <p>2. SACEP secured funding from FAO to prepare a desktop review report on the present status of nutrient loading and to conduct a three day workshop to validate the findings. The overall outcome would be initiation of a process in developing regional/national level political dialogue to address currently unsustainable nutrient management practices to reduce environmental impacts.</p> <p>3. National Focal Points to forward relevant data and information to finalize the review report.</p> <p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Agenda Item 5.1.3 - Inf. Paper on Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA</p>
5.1.4	<p>Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / MFF / SACEP; Total funds allocated US \$ 125,000/-; Funds received 9,000/-)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>SACEP signed a SSFA with UNEP in 2013 to formulate a Marine Biodiversity Strategy for South Asia as a part of the ongoing process of preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to implement the Aichi targets for the 2011-2020 period.</p> <p>The main purpose of the Marine Biodiversity Strategy is to provide overall policy directives for promoting collaborative activities at regional level as well as national initiatives for the sustainable utilization and the protection of the rich marine and coastal biodiversity of the South Asian Region.</p> <p>The process will assist and provide additional information for the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action plans (NBSAPs), while also guiding the update of the South Asian Seas Action Plan, as mandated by IMM 4.</p> <p>National Focal Points to forward relevant data and information to prepare the Regional Strategy.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Agenda Item 5.1.4 - Inf. Paper on Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region</p>
5.1.5	<p>Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance</p> <p>In 2009 SACEP published a report titled “Guideline document on the status of conventions and protocols in the field of Marine Environment by the South Asian Seas Countries”. Presently this report is being updated and further SACEP/SAS is looking at the possibility of organizing a Regional Workshop on Ocean Governance issues.</p> <p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.5 - Guideline document on the Status of Conventions and Protocols in the Field of Marine Environment by SAS Countries’</p>
5.1.6	<p>International Coastal Clean-up Day</p> <p>SACEP has been organizing many activities to commemorate the Coastal Cleanup Day since 2006. Since then, SACEP and Indian Coast Guard jointly organized the event in Chennai, India which is continued to date.</p> <p>In year 2010 SACEP in collaboration with US Embassy in Colombo and Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka organized the beach clean-up programme in a selected beach stretch in Negombo, Sri Lanka and an awareness programme was organized for the participating school children on the importance of maintaining a clean beach. More than 500 school children and people from hotel industry contributed towards this activity.</p>
5.1.7	<p>Global Coral Reef Partnership</p> <p>The urgency in addressing the downward trajectory of the world's coral reefs is reflected in paragraph 176 of ‘The Future We Want’ as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 10: “By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning”. Commitment to the partnership was made in the Regional Seas Strategic directions 2013-2017.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>Partnership development was also presented to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) at its General Meeting in July 2012. International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), which concluded in 2012 was the partnership established as ICRI's primary mechanism for implementation through the Regional Seas. It was developed in close consultation with the ICRI Secretariat and ICRI members.</p> <p>Progress on partnership development was presented at the global meeting of the Regional Seas in September 2013. The main objective of this Partnership is to provide a delivery support framework for achieving internationally adopted targets relevant to coral reefs at the regional and national level, in particular Aichi Target 10 as well as other targets relevant to coral reefs. To this end the partnership will promote activities consistent with the ICRI Call to Action and Framework For Action, through the Regional Seas.</p> <p>International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)</p> <p>SACEP/SASP is the ICRI Focal Point for the South Asian Seas Region.</p> <p>SACEP/SASP was an active member of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the UNEP EU funded Projects on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia was concluded in March 2009.</p> <p>SACEP/SASP is exploring possible funding support from ICRI to keep the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) active which was launched under the above project.</p>
5.1.8	<p>Activities with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME)</p> <p>BOBLME project is funded principally by the GEF, Norway, the Swedish International Development Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), participating Governments and the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA).</p> <p>The main focus of the project is on gaining a better understanding of major marine resources and identifying the critical issues and the underlying causes contributing to a decline in the health of the Bay of Bengal ecosystem. BOBLME project is managed by a Steering Committee which is made up of two government representatives of fisheries and environment ministries from each participating country.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>SACEP/SAS is a collaborating partner of BOBLME since year 2012.</p> <p>Agenda Item No 5.1.3 is implemented in collaboration with BOBLME and exploring the possibilities of implementing activities such as ecosystem conservation and Marine Protected Areas (MPA) establishment.</p>
5.1.9	<p>Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010</p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP-WCMC / SACEP; Total funds allocated US \$ 10,000/-; Received 10,000/-)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.2)</i></p> <p>In line with the International Year of Biodiversity, UNEP decided to prepare a Marine Biodiversity Outlook Report which covered the 18 Regional Seas Areas. The objective of this project was to enhance the understanding of key regional and global issues for marine biodiversity conservation through the issuance of outlook reports on the coastal areas covered by the Regional Seas Programmes.</p> <p>UNEP entrusted SACEP to prepare the Outlook Report for the South Asian Seas Region and the Report was launched at the CBD CoP 10, Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.</p> <p>Related Document</p> <p>1. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.9 - UNEP Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series'</p>
5.1.10	<p>Regional Training and Capacity Building workshop in Coral Reef Monitoring Identifying Indication for Regional Adaptation and Resilience</p> <p>A five day capacity building workshop was organized as a collaborative venture between SAARC-Coastal Zone Management Centre, SACEP, Coast Conservation Department, Sri Lanka, and UNEP in May 2012.</p> <p>The main objective of the workshop was to impart training to the participants, share experiences, knowledge and develop an understanding about coral reef ecosystems and its status or health as an important monitoring indicator of the coastal environment for climate change.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	
5.1.11	<p>30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India</p> <p>The 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation was convened by the International Sea Turtle Society in April 2010 in Goa, India. SACEP was a co-partner in organizing the Symposium in collaboration with the International Sea Turtle Society and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.</p> <p>SACEP/SASP organized a South Asia Mini Symposium, where representatives of member states, NGO and Academia sectors came together to discuss the present situation and how to come up with a united regional response to sea turtle conservation in the sub region. In this regard the role that can be played by SACEP/SASP as an intergovernmental partner was also discussed.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM	
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AGENDA ITEM	
contd.....	<p>In 2010 National Workshops were conducted in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in collaboration with the NFPs to have discussions with stakeholders in member countries to propagate the idea of beach certification. These workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes.</p> <p>Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on the Beach Certification Programme</p> <p><i>5th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers may request the national governments to facilitate their national process of implementation.</i></p> <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda Item 5.1.14 - Inf. Paper on Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia 2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 5.1.14 - Blue Flag Report - South Asia'
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AGENDA ITEM

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Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will decide on the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers, which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for formal agreement.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Under this Agenda Item, The Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials for the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.

9 ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Rapporteur will present the Draft Report of the Meeting for its consideration and adoption.

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Any representative participating in the Meeting may wish to make concluding statements regarding the deliberations at the Meeting and its achievements. The Chairman will finally declare the Meeting closed.

Senior Programme Officer (Regional)

The appointment of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) was approved by the First Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM.1) of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) held on 26th March 1999. (**Annex 1**)

Until the financial resources were available for appointment of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) an Interim arrangement was recommended by IMM.2-SASP held on 1st July 2002 to cover the vacancy and it had been recorded as 'Programme Co-ordinator'. (**Annex 2**)

IMM.3-SASP held on 26th August 2005 recommended to expedite the appointment of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) and the decision had been recorded as 'Regional Co-ordinator'. (**Annex 3**)

As such the first appointee for the position was designated as the 'Regional Co-ordinator', SASP on 1st August 2006. The service of the appointee was terminated on 31st January 2007 due to gross misconduct.

The Second appointee commenced duties on 3rd December 2008 and was designated as the SASP Co-ordinator. The initial Service Contract was for a period of one year which was extendable upto three years.

The second appointee was a public servant who applied through the Head of Department. On selection the leave granted for him by Government of India was for a period of one year and was extended for a further period of 6 months on repeated requests of SACEP. As such the appointee could not complete the full term of tenure.

The Vacancy Announcements were published in the Regional News Papers in the five member countries of South Asian Seas Programme as sufficient number of qualifying applications were not received from the National Focal Points in the above two instances.

Based on the background information and the financial cost involved in the above two instances, the below recommendations are proposed by the Secretariat :

1. The designation of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be continued as approved at IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999
2. Guidelines for the Post of Senior Programme Officer (Regional) – Decision 7b (d), Annex 11 of IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999 to be the criteria except the 'Method of Recruitment'
3. Method of Recruitment of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be replaced by – 'The principle of nomination on rotation to be followed

starting from the alphabetical order beginning from Bangladesh for a period of three years by replacing Decision 7b (d) - Annex 11, 'Method of Recruitment' of IMM.1-SASP held on 26th March 1999'

4. Future nominations of the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) to be started at the end of two years of the term so that selection is completed well before the completion of the stipulated / fixed three year term.

Considering the above, the procedure may be introduced or an appropriate alternative process be adopted



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONN

IMM 5.SASP / SoM
Agenda Item 4 - Annex 1
Page 1 of 4

Annex 6
5 IMM.SASP / NFP-SGO

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers

Islamabad, Pakistan 26th March 1999

REPORT OF THE FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

7.(a) REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The concerned Document under this Agenda Item was SAS / NFP / IMM 1 / WP 1, titled Review of Progress of the Implementation of the Action Plan.

- a) The date of commencement of the Implementation of the Action Plan was agreed as February 1998 mainly because all the country contributions to the SAS Trust Fund to meet the cost of the Secretariat were received in January 1998.
- b) While it was left to the discretion of the countries to decide upon the composition of the National Co-ordinating Committee, the role for the National Focal Point vis a vis the National Committee was defined.
- c) Lack of funding for developing detailed project documents for the priority projects was discussed in length. UNEP representative informed the meeting that due to the financial crisis his organisation was unable to support the South Asian Seas Programme to the levels expected by SACEP. However as the situation has improved now UNEP has included among other Regional Seas Programmes the South Asian Seas Programme in its programme of work for 2000 and 2001. He requested the SAS Secretariat to make available concrete proposals for consideration for funding by UNEP. In this regard, the meeting felt that since the implementation of the South Asian Seas Action Plan is in the interest of the member countries, the projects, which have significant national components, should be funded by the countries themselves without awaiting external assistance.
- d) Even though the Action Plan was adopted in March 1995 all the country contributions were received only by January 1998. However the SAS Secretariat with the available SACEP staff had carried out several interim activities such as development and implementation of a Training Programme for the Management of Marine Protected Areas, active participation in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and organising a meeting to develop a proposal to study the Beaching of Corals in the South Asian Region, International Coral Reef Initiative Network (ICRI), Organising a Regional Workshop for the Development of National Plan of Action towards the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the Marine environment from Land based activities etc. The meeting appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat.

7. (b) INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANISATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The concerned Document under this Agenda Item was SAS / NFP / IMM 1 / WP 2, titled "Institutional, Organisational and Financial Arrangements of the South Asia Seas Action Plan.

- (a) The meeting noted that while the need to designate National Focal Points, constitution of the National Co-ordination Committee and designation of National Institutions have been specified in the action plan, the need for identification and strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence has been specified only under the Priority Areas of Activities. It was clarified by the Secretariat that such centres would be useful to deal with the regional aspects of the projects identified.
- (b) Two countries have already hosted the IGMM meetings and the next meeting could be held in any of the other three countries. The Secretariat can initiate the consultations to hold the next IMM in October 2000 with the probable host country at least six months prior to October 2000. The dates should be intimated to the member countries at least 3 months in advance.
- (c) The SAS Secretariat in consultation with other Regional Seas Secretariats may formulate suitable Rules and Regulations of SASAP for administrative and financial activities for approval by the next meeting of IMM. These rules will have to be formulated within six months from the date of issue of report of the present IMM meeting. Till then SACEP can be empowered to make all administrative and financial decisions as per accepted procedure followed by SACEP.
- (d) SACEP will recruit within 6 months from the date of issue of Report of the First IMM, one Senior Programme Officer (Regional) and within 3 months one Programme Officer

(Local) and a Secretary. The posts will be on contractual basis for a period of 4 years with the salary of US \$ 2,500 per month for the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) and Sri Lankan Rupees 17,000 per month for the Programme Officer (Local). The salary includes house rent, medical and other expenses. The Guidelines for formulation of Schemes of Recruitment are given in **Annex 11**.

- (e) The countries, which are yet to constitute their National Co-ordinating Committee are requested to do so within 4 months from the date of issue of report of the IMM.
- (f) Selection of the National Institutions will be made by the National Focal Points for each priority area. Broad guidelines for selection include availability of core expertise in the relevant field and infrastructure at a reasonable level. These institutions are meant for one or more priority areas, which will be designated as the National Institutions for the SAS programme. Adequate efforts will have to be made by the Governments/National Focal Points/National Institutions/Others to make available the services of National Institutions to the SAS programme on a long-term basis.
- (g) The meeting considered the issue of payment of the compensation to the Deputy Director Programmes and 7 other Administrative and Supporting Staff of SACEP who spared their services for the SAS programme. It was agreed that payment of the compensation be considered from 1 February 1998, which has been fixed as the date of commencement of the Action Plan. Payment of an amount Sri Lankan Rs.10,000 per month was approved for the Deputy Director Programmes from 1 February 1998 and will be continued till the date the Senior Programme Officer is appointed. For other staff it is 15% of their salary and may be continued till the time the Secretary is appointed. Thereafter, the payment for the other administrative staff will be determined on actual time spent on SAS work.
- (h) The member countries may consider expediting the payment of their country contributions in order to facilitate smooth functioning of the Secretariat. Minor differences arising due to currency exchange rate fluctuations are ignored.
- (i) The Audit Report for the year 1997 was approved. It was agreed that the unspent balance available may be treated as a Reserve fund which will be used for payment of salary to the SAS staff in case there are delays in receiving the country contributions.
- (j) The Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) was empowered for reappropriation upto 20% from one item to the other. In case of more, it need to be approved by the Consultative Committee which will be ratified at the time of IMM. The budgetary requirements proposed for the Secretariat and corresponding country contributions for the years 1999 and 2000 was approved by IMM. The details are given below:
- (k) The IMM requested the UN organisations such as UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO etc, International and Regional financial institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and multi and bi-lateral donors for funding activities essential for implementation of the Action Plan. It seeks co-operation for technical assistance of NGO's such as WWF, IUCN etc, for South Asian Seas Action Plan.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SAS TRUST FUND					
COUNTRY		1997	1998	1999	2000
	%	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	14.5	10,367.50	11,020.00	12,120.00	13,335.00
India	35.0	25,025.00	26,600.00	29,260.00	32,185.00
Maldives	6.5	4,647.50	4,940.00	5,435.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	29.5	21,092.50	22,420.00	24,660.00	27,130.00
Sri Lanka	14.5	10,367.50	11,020.00	12,125.00	13,335.00
TOTAL	100.00	71,500.00	76,000.00	83,600.00	91,960.00

GUIDELINES FOR FORMULATION OF SCHEME OF RECRUITMENT
POST OF SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER (REGIONAL)

Job Description

The Secretariat of the South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP) has been charged with the responsibility of implementing the South Asian Seas Action Plan agreed upon by the 5 marine member states based on the decisions of the participating governments at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries held in New Delhi in March 1995.

The Senior Programme Officer will function under the overall direction and the supervision of the Director General of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme who has been designated as the head of the Secretariat of the SASAP. His duties and responsibilities which also include implementing of the Action Plan identifying, formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects, liaising with international, regional and national institutions and organisations, undertaking fund raising activities, keeping abreast of relevant projects and activities in the region and discharging any other assignments entrusted to him by DG SACEP.

Qualifications & Experience

- Age below 50 years
- A Ph.D. or Masters Degree in the field of marine sciences, environmental sciences or natural resource management.
- A minimum of 10 years experience after Masters Degree or a minimum of 7 years in case of Ph. D experience after first degree in project identification, formulation and management. Preference given to include implementing
- Excellent reading, writing and communicating skills in English
- Computer literacy of acceptable standards
- Good interpersonal skills and communication abilities

Terms and Conditions of Employment

- Employment will be on contract basis initially for one year and extendable annually upto 3 years or a maximum period of 4 years purely at the discretion of the Director General of SACEP.
- An all inclusive salary of US \$ 2,500 per month
- Transport costs from home country to Colombo and back after period of contractual employment
- The duty station will be the SAS Secretariat presently located in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Method of Recruitment

Each National Focal Point will be required to nominate not more than 3 eligible and eminent candidates with requisite qualifications, experience and proven track record within eight weeks from date of vacancy announcement. The nominations so received will be scheduled and short listed by a panel of 3 International Experts appointed by the Director General of SACEP. The 3 best nominees so short listed will be interviewed in Colombo by the panel of International Experts along with the Director General of SACEP and the most outstanding nominee will be selected for appointment.

REPORT OF THE
SECOND INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS
OF
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME



1ST JULY 2002
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

The meeting welcomed the information from the representative of IMO that an amount of US \$ 200,000 has been allocated for the South Asian Seas region for the purpose of training under OPRC and MARPOL during the biennium 2002-2004. He also stated that IMO is currently assisting the Governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan to develop their National Contingency Plans.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

18. The 2nd IMM considered the recommendations put forward by the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points. These recommendations were carefully considered and the following recommendations were approved by the 2nd IMM.

Noting that a Review Process of SACEP is ongoing and without precluding the outcome of this Review Process:

- a. The IMM requests the SACEP Secretariat to commence with the recruitment procedures for the Programme Co-ordinator as soon as financial resources are available and requests the Director General of SACEP to make the interim arrangements for SAS co-ordination. The IMM welcomes UNEP's offer to financially support an interim co-ordinator.
- b. Noting the urgent need for a Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and also that only two member states are in the position to sign the associated Memorandum of Understanding, the IMM urges the other three member states to expedite their acceptance at an early date and requests the SAS Secretariat to make arrangements for signing the MOU immediately after these countries convey their acceptance.
- c. The IMM endorses the programme of SAS as reflected in this Report and calls upon UNEP, GPA Coordination Office, WCMC, IMO, NIVA and other potential partner agencies to continue to assist the Secretariat in securing the resources for the implementation of the programme.
- d. The IMM urges the countries in the region to identify the projects of national relevance under the 4 priority areas of the SAS Action Plan and implement them using the resources available to them.
- e. The IMM noted that most of the countries have not made their agreed annual contributions to the SAS Trust Fund. The IMM urges these countries to expedite the payment of their contributions and arrears. This will facilitate smooth functioning of the Secretariat and the implementation of the programme of work.
- f. The IMM approved the Audited Accounts of the South Asian Seas Programme for the years 1999 & 2000.



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

3rd Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers

Thimphu, Bhutan

26th August 2005

REPORT OF THE THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

A) INSTITUTIONAL

a) Appointment of Staff Approved for SAS Programme

The meeting noticed that that the post of the Regional Co-ordinator, which is a key position, approved by the 1st IMM to carry out all functions related to the SAS Programme, is remaining unfilled since the year 2001. The meeting strongly urged SAS Secretariat to fill up the position without any further delay and in any case not later than 31st March 2006. The procedures for appointment of the Regional Co-ordinator to be adopted by SAS Secretariat would be as follows:

1. SAS Secretariat will widely publicise the vacancy by itself and through the National Focal Points using the qualifications prescribed for this position by the 1st IMM. The applications will be received at the SAS Secretariat.
2. SAS will constitute a panel of 5 experts nominated one by each member country with DG, SACEP as the Chairman. The panel will scrutinise the applications and recommend a short list of eligible candidates to be called for the interview. The panel will interview the short listed candidates and select the Regional Co-ordinator. DG SACEP can make the appointment of the selected candidate.

b) Interim arrangement to meet staff requirement

The meeting noted that in the absence of a regular Regional Co-ordinator, SACEP has been implementing the SAS programme through an Interim co-ordinator who is being paid an amount of US \$ 1,000 p.m. from the funds provided by United Nations Environment Programme. Since the workload has increased substantially the Interim Co-ordinator requested for appropriate compensation. The meeting considered the request and suggested a payment of US \$ 500 per month from the SAS trust fund for the period up to, which UNEP provides funding that is 31 Dec 2005. For any need for continuation of services of the Interim Co-ordinator beyond this period, the meeting requested the DG SACEP to make an appropriate proposal to the Governments of the member countries as it may result into creation of additional staff position in the SAS Programme.

B. PROJECTS & PROGRAMME MATTERS

The Meeting directed the SAS Secretariat to do the following with respect to projects and programmes for 2005 - 2007

- 1) Persuasion of implementation of projects approved by 1st and 2nd IMMs, the details of which are given in Annex XII.
- 2) Undertaking new programmes relating to Management of Natural Oceanogenic Disasters and Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas. The details of aspects to be undertaken along with prioritisation is given in Annex XII

PROGRESS REPORT THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

JUNE 2008 – NOVEMBER 2013



5th Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers
South Asian Seas Programme
Islamabad, Pakistan, 4 - 5 December 2013



South Asian Seas Programme



Bangladesh
India
Maldives
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

- 1/5 of world population - 50 % living along the coast

- Unique Coral reef, mangroves, Sea Grass ecosystem providing habitat for large number of species as well as providing livelihoods for millions of people – fishery and tourism
- Importance of intact coastal ecosystems as defense mechanisms - Tsunami

Main threats

- Climate Change
Cyclones , Delayed Monsoons and Unprecedented Rain, Flash Floods and Sea Level Rise
- Over exploitation of resources
- Destruction of habitats
- Land-based source pollution
- Sea based pollution -60 % the world's Oil Tanker Traffic

The South Asian Seas Programme

- The establishment of SACEP in 1982 as the regional environmental hub facilitated the introduction of the Regional Seas Programme to South Asia.
- 11th Governing Council of UNEP held in 1983 recommending the development of a Regional Seas Programme for South Asia in close collaboration with SACEP and the Governments in the region.
- As the first follow-up activity to this recommendation, SACEP called up a meeting of the National Focal Points of its five maritime states in March 1984.
- The South Asian Seas Action Plan was formally adopted at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the concerned countries held in New Delhi, on 24 March 1995 and the Action Plan came into force in January 1997, when the Government of Bangladesh ratified the Final Act.



South Asian Seas Action Plan

The overall objective of the SASAP is to protect and manage the marine environment and related coastal ecosystems of the region in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.

The Action Plan in addition to specifying the needs under the main components of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management, Environmental Legislation & Institutional and Financial Arrangements, identified the areas where priority activities need to be developed for implementation.

These priority activities are in four specific areas:

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Planning
- Human Resources Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence
- Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities



Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM)

	Date and Venue	Main Recommendations and Outcomes
1	26 th March 1999, Islamabad, Pakistan	Guidelines for Institutional and financial arrangements; Approval of the work plan for 1999-2002
2	1 st July 2002, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Request countries to expedite the signing of Oil Spill Contingency Plan; Countries in the region to identify the protects of national relevance under the 4 priority areas of SAS Action Plan
3	26 th August 2005, Thimphu, Bhutan	Implementation of project approved by 1 st and 2 nd IMM and new programmes relating to management of natural oceanogenic disasters and management of coastal and marine protected areas
4	22 nd May 2008, Jaipur, India	Approval of the Marine Litter Framework document and the proposed actions; need for training programmes on methodologies for determining the economic value of coastal areas in, incorporating Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long term Strategic Planning in the implementation of NPAs. Expedite the formal adoption of Oil spill contingency plan

Programme Activities



Endorsement of MoU for Co-operation on the Response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region and Associated Regional Action Plan



The MoU and the associated Action Plan were developed in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNEP and member governments for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. The final adaptation of the same has been pending since the year 2000.

The 4th IMM in May 2008, requested SACEP to finalize the Regional Plan and MoU as a matter of High Priority.

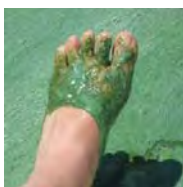
Updates up to 1st December 2013

- Three member countries have already signed the MoU.
 - Bangladesh – 27 September 2010
 - Maldives – 13 October 2009
 - Pakistan – 22 July 2010
- Sri Lanka has obtained Cabinet approval for signing the MoU. Information from India indicates the country is in advanced status of adopting the MoU
- Follow-up activities identified will be carried out by SACEP/SASP with approval of this IMM



Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task force to address Ballast Water Management

- The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) adopted in 2004 intend to minimize the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through ship ballast water
- At the IMO/South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy Development Meeting held in Mumbai, India in May 2012, it was decided that SACEP/SASP, to be the appropriate Institutional Framework to support and formulate the regional BWM Strategy and establish a Regional Task Force to ensure the execution of the action plan.
- SASP/IMO regional meeting is scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2014 to facilitate the establishment of the Task Force and to finalize the draft regional Strategy



A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA

- At a Regional meeting organized by UNEP-GPA and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) in June 2012, in Thailand to share experiences in addressing Land-based sources of Marine Pollution, SACEP/SASP was requested to develop and submit a project proposal to BOBLME to address the mitigating nutrient loading to the marine environment.
- In this regard SACEP/SASP signed a LOA with BOBLME (FAO) in April 2013 to implement a project concept titled “Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region” The main objective of the project is to reduce and control of nutrient loading into the coastal waters of the South Asian Seas Region through development of a Regional Action Plan and Policy Forum/Framework.
- The desk study/draft scoping report is now under preparation and will be discussed at the stakeholder meeting scheduled be held in the 1st quarter of 2014.

Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region

- SACEP/SASP signed a SSFA with UNEP in December 2012 to initiate the develop a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region as a framework for coordination and collaboration between the countries to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity targets for the 2011-2020 period with special reference to Targets 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15, which address specific coastal and marine issues
- **Presently desk reviews are being undertaken and the findings will be validated at a regional workshop in first quarter of 2014**

Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance

- In 2009 SACEP/SASP published a report titled “Guideline document on the status of conventions and protocols in the field of Marine Environment by the South Asian Seas Countries. This report is being updated.

International Coastal Clean-up day



In the International Environment Calendar for each year, Saturday of 3rd week of September marks the International Coastal Cleanup Day, where events are organized to make the public aware of the growing problem of debris accumulated in coastal areas.

Since 2006, SACEP has been organizing many activities to commemorate the Coastal Cleanup Day.



In 2010, SACEP in collaboration with US Embassy in Colombo and Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka organized a beach cleanup programme to mark the 25th Anniversary of the International Coastal Clean-up Day on 25th September at a selected beach stretch in Negombo. More than 500 school children and people from hotel industry contributed towards this activity.



SACEP and Indian Coast Guard jointly organize the event each year.

Global Coral Reef Partnership

Commitment to address the issue of coral reef degradation was made in the Regional Seas strategic directions 2013-2017 adopted in 2012 and a draft global coral reef partnership was developed by UNEP.



- The objectives of the partnership are to:
 - At the global level, develop approaches and tools that enable an ecosystem approach to assessment, planning and management of coral reefs and related ecosystems, and support exchange of best practice and lessons learned between regions through a community of practice;
 - At the regional level, adapt and tailor approaches, tools and methods to regional and national needs, and facilitate their adoption by regional intergovernmental mechanisms through provision of policy support;
 - At the national level, support uptake, application and capacity building through pilot or demonstration interventions implemented with national and regional partners.

SACEP/SASP as is actively involved in the development of this initiative

Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010



UNEP entrusted SACEP to prepare the Outlook Report for the South Asian Seas Region. The Global Synthesis report was launched by the UNEP-Regional Seas Programme on 19th October 2010 at Nagoya, Japan at the CBD COP10.

Regional Training and Capacity Building workshop in Coral Reef Monitoring Identifying Indication for Regional Adaptation and Resilience

- This five day capacity building workshop was organized as a collaborative venture between SAARC-CZMC, SACEP, CCD Sri Lanka, and UNEP. It was held from 21-24th May 2012, Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka.

The main objective of this workshop was to impart training to the participants, share experiences, knowledge and develop an understanding about coral reef ecosystems and its status or health as an important monitoring indicator of the coastal environment for climate change. 15 participants from five maritime countries of South Asia participated at this event.

30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India

The South Asia Mini Symposium, held on 26th was partly funded by SACEP, where representatives of member states, NGO and Academia sectors came together to discuss the present situation and how to come up with a united regional response to sea turtle conservation in the sub region. In this regard the role that can be played by SACEP/SASP as an intergovernmental partner was also discussed.





Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, May 2010

Objectives of the workshop was to enhancing the awareness, capacity and capabilities of participating countries of Southeast and South Asia to facilitate the ratification, implementation and enforcement of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) - Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Protocol. The Workshop was organized by Ministry of Housing, Transport & Environment, Maldives, IMO and SACEP / SASP. There were 33 participants from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam.

Recommendations:

1. Raise awareness and promote the importance of the OPRC-HNS Protocol and of its requirements to Ministers and senior level managers of National Competent Authorities in order to promote ratification and implementation
2. Develop a training programme to assist countries in producing their National HNS Contingency Plan
3. Encourage the participation of National representatives to the meetings of the OPRC-HNS Technical Working Group.



On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas

- The training workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and UNEP. UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of Sea and UNEP-GRID Arendal were the other partners in this activity.
- 10 mid-level managers from the five SAS countries participated in this training programme held from 18-22 September 2009 in India.
- The Training Manual which was launched at the Opening of the Workshop in Chennai, provides detailed information with research articles presented in Five Thematic Areas, can be a reference reading material in the field of Ocean Management.





UNEP/ EU Funded Project on MCPAs in Coral Reef Ecosystems in South Asia

- The project was successfully completed in December 2008 and relevant reports were submitted on 31 March 2009.
- Activities undertaken with the Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) on Educational Awareness in member countries in MCPAs were very successful. Under the SSFA the following documents were produced and published by the SACEP Secretariat:
 - Regional Communication Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia
 - Regional Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia
- South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) was established under this project to Promote transboundary cooperation and coordinated responses to coastal management challenges.



Finance

Status of SAS Country Contributions

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2012	Agreed CC 2013	Received CC Nov 2013	Arrears upto Nov 2013
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	103,267.40	13,335.00		116,602.40
India	0.00	32,185.00		32,185.00
Maldives	0.00	5,975.00	5,975.00	0.00
Pakistan	102,199.05	27,130.00	26,733.87	102,595.18
Sri Lanka	62406.72	13,335.00		75,741.72
TOTAL	267,873.17	91,960.00	32,708.87	327,124.30

% of Receipt on Cash Basis – **35.6%**

% of Receipt against Agreed Country Contributions of 2013 – **6.5%**

Thank you



PROGRESS REPORT OF SASP FROM JUNE 2008 – NOVEMBER 2013

Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.1

A Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were developed in association with the International Maritime Organization for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region.

The final adaptation of the same has been pending since the year 2000. The 4th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM) held in Jaipur, India on 22nd May 2008, requested SACEP to finalise the Regional Plan and MoU as a matter of High Priority.

As Governments of Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka had no objection to the text of the documents, SACEP undertook missions to Pakistan in May 2009 and to India in July 2009 to finalize the text in the Regional Plan and the MoU. As all member countries agreed on the text of the documents the Regional Plan and MoU was sent to the member countries for signature.

Three member countries viz. Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan have already signed the MoU. It is understood that, status with respect to the signing of MOU by India and Sri Lanka is at an advanced stage.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has indicated that the South Asia Region will get much more benefits once all the members of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) sign the MoU for collaborative activities.

It is envisaged that once the Secretariat received the signed MoU from all countries a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries will be convened. Therefore the two remaining countries which have not signed the MoU are requested to expedite the process.

SACEP signed a MoU with IMO in August 2013 and the first regional meeting of the relevant national authorities dealing with oil spill preparedness and response will be held in first quarter of 2014.

Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.2

South Asian Seas region lies within one of the busiest shipping lanes globally as it falls within the oil conveyor belt from the Gulf to East Asia. Therefore, ballast water can pose serious economical and ecological damage through introduction of invasive alien species to our coastal and marine waters. The International

Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM) contains measures to prevent the potentially devastating effects of the spread of harmful aquatic organisms carried by ships' ballast water. It requires all ships in international traffic to implement a Ballast Water and Sediments Management Plan, to carry a Ballast Water Record Book, and an international ballast water management certificate. All ships will have to undertake ballast water management procedures to a given standard. Existing ships will be required to do the same, but after a phase-in period. The BWM Convention was adopted on 13 February 2004 and is not yet in force. Presently out of five maritime countries of South Asia, only Maldives is signatory to the BWM Convention.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) organized the South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy Development Meeting in Mumbai, India in May 2012 and it was decided that SACEP, as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, would be the Institutional Framework to support and finalize the Draft Regional BWM Strategy and to ensure the execution of the Action Plan.

(Enclosed Digital Copy of the Workshop Report)

It was also agreed to establish a Regional Task Force to facilitate the process, and it is envisaged that the First Meeting of the Task Force to take place in the first quarter of year 2014. SACEP plans to prepare a Status Report on BWM activities within the region and look forward to receiving inputs from its member countries to carry out the activities successfully.

SACEP already has an Umbrella MoU with IMO which was signed in 2005 for collaborative activities and an agreement was signed between the two organization for the BWM activity in August 2013.

A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.3

SACEP/SASP participated in a Regional meeting in June 2012, in Phuket, Thailand to share experiences in addressing Land-based sources of Marine Pollution, in relation to development of a Regional Strategic Action Plan for the countries along the Bay of Bengal.

At this meeting SACEP/SASP was requested to develop and submit a project proposal to the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) to address the mitigating nutrient loading to the marine environment.

In this regard SACEP developed a project concept titled “Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region” with the inputs from UNEP-GPNM (Global Partnership on Nutrient Management). The main objective of the project is to reduce and control of nutrient loading into the coastal waters of the South Asian Seas Region through development of a Regional Action Plan and Policy Forum/Framework.

The activities include;

- An inventory of point/non - point sources of nutrients that end up in the coastal waters
- Estimating the impact of nutrient enrichment on coastal water, especially through regular observations in potential hotspots at fixed coastal sites;
- Develop and undertake actions to reduce nutrient inputs to agriculture as well as remedial measures for over eutrophication/hypoxia conditions in identified sites.
- Development of a Regional Action Plan and establishment of a Regional Policy Forum to monitor progress of action and define corrective actions to be pursued by member countries.

SACEP secured funding from FAO / BoBLME to prepare a desktop review report on the present status of nutrient loading and to conduct a three day workshop to validate the findings. The overall outcome would be initiation of a process in developing regional / national level political dialogue to address unsustainable nutrient management practices to reduce adverse environmental impacts.

Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.4

SACEP and South Asian Seas Programme together with UNEP have initiated an activity to develop a South Asia Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP) in partnership with various other stakeholders to strengthen the updating of the NBSAP process.

The Strategy will be prepared during 2013-2014, in parallel with the NBSAPs which are currently under development, and will assist the five maritime countries of South Asia to achieve Aichi Biodiversity targets relevant to coastal and marine biodiversity on national as well as regional level. This process will support and guide future revision of the South Asian Seas Action Plan.

The following activities are to be carried out:

1. Conduct desk review to provide a knowledge base for the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy;
2. Prepare draft Strategy based on desk review and consultation with countries;
3. Organize regional workshop to validate and fine-tune the Strategy;
4. Finalize the Strategy and present for endorsement at the South Asian Seas Inter-Ministerial Meeting.

The Regional Workshop to present the Draft Strategy is proposed to be held in first quarter of 2014.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Ocean Governance

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.5

In 2009 SACEP published a report titled 'Guideline document on the status of conventions and protocols in the field of Marine Environment by the South Asian Seas Countries'. Presently this report is being updated and further SACEP/SAS is looking at the possibility of organizing a Regional Workshop on Ocean Governance and related issues.

(Enclosed Digital Copy)

International Coastal Clean Up Day

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.6

In the International Environment Calendar for each year, Saturday of 3rd week of September marks the International Coastal Cleanup Day, where events are organized to make the public aware of the growing problem of debris accumulated in coastal areas. In 1986, the Ocean Conservancy, an NGO ran its first Coastal Cleanup event in Texas, USA and in later years became the coordinating agency for the International Coastal Cleanup, helping to spread the concept to nations around the world. This year it celebrates the 28th year of the International Coastal Cleanup Day. The International Coastal Cleanup engages people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris and to change the behaviours that cause pollution.

Since 2006, SACEP has been organizing many activities to commemorate the Coastal Cleanup Day. Since then, SACEP and Indian Coast Guard jointly organized the event in Chennai, India.

In year 2010 SACEP in collaboration with US Embassy in Colombo and Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka organized the beach cleanup programme on

Saturday the 25th September 2010 at a selected beach stretch in Negombo, Sri Lanka. On 24th September 2010, an awareness programme was organized for the participating school children on the importance of maintaining a clean beach.

More than 500 school children and people from hotel industry contributed towards this activity.

(Enclosed Digital Copies of Press Releases & Brochures)

International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.7

SACEP/SASP is the ICRI Focal Point for the South Asian Seas Region. ICRI is an informal partnership between nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), the partnership established as ICRI's primary mechanism for implementation through the Regional Seas was concluded in 2012. SACEP/SASP was an active member of ICRAN and the UNEP EU funded Projects on MCPAs of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia came into an end in March 2009.

Recognizing the objectives of ICRI in encouraging the adoption of best practice in sustainable management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, capacity building and raising awareness at all levels on the plight of coral reefs around the world, SACEP/SASP is exploring the possible funding support from ICRI to keep the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) active which was launched by SACEP in December 2007.

Collaboration with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BoBLME)

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.8

The main focus of the BoBLME project is on gaining a better understanding of major marine resources and identifying the critical issues and the underlying causes contributing to a decline in the health of the Bay of Bengal ecosystem. BoBLME project is managed by a Steering Committee which is made up of two government representatives of fisheries and environment ministries from each participating country.

SACEP/SASP is a collaborating partner of BoBLME since year 2012.

Agenda Item No 5.1.3 is implemented in collaboration with BoBLME and exploring the possibilities of implementing activities such as ecosystem conservation and MPA establishment.

Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.9

In line with the International Year of Biodiversity and 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) 10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Japan, in October 2010. UNEP decided to prepare a Marine Biodiversity Outlook Report which covers all 18 Regional Seas areas. The objective of this project was to enhance the understanding of key regional and global issues for marine biodiversity conservation through the issuance of outlook reports on the coastal areas covered by the Regional Seas Programmes.

UNEP entrusted SACEP to prepare the Outlook Report for the South Asian Seas Region and the Report was launched at the CBD CoP10. Furthermore, these outlook reports contributed to the discussions on marine and coastal biodiversity at the CoP 10 of the CBD.

(Enclosed Digital Copy of Outlook Report)

Regional Training and Capacity Building workshop in Coral Reef Monitoring Identifying Indication for Regional Adaptation and Resilience

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.10

The workshop was organized by the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre in collaboration with SACEP, UNEP, Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (BoBLME) and the Coast Conservation Department (CCD) of Sri Lanka from 21-24 May 2012 in Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka in order to develop and improve the monitoring capacity in the South Asian region for sustainable management and protection coral reef and other important coastal ecosystems.

The workshop also facilitated impart training to the participants, share experiences, knowledge and develop an understanding about the coral reef ecosystem as an important monitoring indicator of the coastal environment for climate change and help to improve the capacity of coral reef monitoring in the region.

The workshop developed an understanding about the significance of coral reefs as an important ecosystem in the SAARC region and necessity of their conservation and management.

UNU-INWEH, UNESCO and SACEP - International Training Course on Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystems

An International Training Course on Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystems is conducted by the Annamalai University, India. UNU INWEH and UNESCO MAB have been providing core funding for this course annually since 2004. In order to ensure the course is continued to serve a valuable purpose, UNU INWEH organized

a meeting to review the achievements of Annamalai University in convening the International Mangrove Biodiversity course.

As SACEP/SAS is working on the areas of marine and coastal environment of the South Asian region, SACEP/SAS was invited by UNU INWEH to contribute its expertise to improve the course materials and to provide suggestions to meet the requirements of the region.

In this regards, SACEP/SAS provided technical inputs at the second review meeting of the UNU-INWEH & UNESCO International Mangrove Biodiversity course held in Nagoya, Japan on 17 October 2010 in sideline with the CBD CoP10.

SACEP took part at the 11th UNU-INWEH, UNESCO and SACEP International Training Course on Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystems held at the Annamalai University, India from 5-19 October 2011.

Further, SACEP also assisted Annamalai University in preparation of the course material.

(Enclosed Digital Copy of Report)

30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.11

The 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation convened by the International Sea Turtle Society was held from 27 – 29 April 2010 in Goa, India. SACEP was a co-partner in organizing the Symposium in collaboration with the International Sea Turtle Society and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.

This important gathering brought together around 700 participants from 70 countries around the world for promoting the exchange of information that advances the global knowledge of sea turtle conservation.

A South Asia Mini Symposium, was held on 26th April 2010 which was partly funded by SACEP, where representatives of member states, NGO and Academia sectors came together to discuss the present situation and how to come up with a united regional response to sea turtle conservation in the sub region. In this regard the role that can be played by SACEP/SASP as an intergovernmental partner was also discussed. A presentation titled “Collaborating for the Conservation of Marine Turtles and their Habitats in the South Asian Seas Region” was made by SACEP/SASP at this event.

One of the important events that took place at this mini symposium was the signing of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia (IOSEA) Marine Turtle MoU by the Government of Maldives, which made all five member states of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) are members in this multilateral agreement established under the auspicious of Bonn Convention on Migratory Species.

SACEP/SASP plans to play more active role in turtle conservation activities in the region in the future and is looking at the possibilities of conducting a sub-regional

meeting to enhance the knowledge on how to conserve this migratory, highly threatened species.

Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, May 2010

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.12

Within the framework of the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the 2009 -2010 biennium, a Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop was organized on 3 – 6 May 2010, with a view to enhancing the awareness, capacity and capabilities of participating countries of Southeast and South Asia to facilitate the ratification, implementation and enforcement of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) - Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Protocol.

The Workshop was organised by Ministry of Housing, Transport & Environment, Government of Maldives, IMO and SACEP / SASP. There were 33 participants from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

The objectives of the workshop were to train national authorities and industry in the operational and incident management aspects of a HNS spill response and also provide an overview of the applicable International Legislation for HNS incidents such as the OPRC-HNS protocol & the HNS Convention.

During this Regional OPRC-HNS Operational Level Workshop, the participants identified the following recommendations to facilitate the ratification and effective implementation of the OPRC-HNS Protocol and its requirements throughout the region:

1. Raise awareness and promote the importance of the OPRC-HNS Protocol and of its requirements to Ministers and senior level managers of National Competent Authorities in order to promote ratification and implementation. Participants have suggested that seminars to be held to develop an information package aimed at informing senior level managers about the benefits of ratifying this important instrument.
2. Develop a training programme to assist countries in producing their National HNS Contingency Plan. Participants believe that technical support is needed to identify the information necessary to effectively implement the requirements of the OPRC-HNS Protocol and to develop a National HNS Contingency Plan. The development of a model contingency plan for HNS was also mentioned as a potentially useful tool to assist national authorities.
3. Encourage the participation of National representatives to the meetings of the OPRC-HNS Technical Working Group. The OPRC-HNS technical groups aims at facilitating the implementation of the OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol by developing technical tools and manuals. It is composed of technical experts from various countries and meets once or twice a year at the IMO headquarters in London. Participation of representatives from the

region would raise awareness about the needs of the region and consequently influence the development of adapted technical tools.

This workshop also clearly demonstrated the interest and motivation of all countries in the SAS region to work together and to improve their capacity to deal with a marine HNS spill and to minimize its effects on local population, the environment and their economy.

(Enclosed Digital Copy of Workshop Report)

On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.13

The training workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and UNEP. UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea and UNEP-GRID Arendal were the other partners in this activity. 10 mid-level managers from the five SAS countries participated in this training programme which was held from 18-22 September 2009 in India.

Outputs Achieved :-

- Strengthened the collaboration and interaction among the participants and with experts which will contribute to develop and implement future regional activities. The Government of India offered to support the SAS member countries in Mapping Coral Reef Ecosystem as it is presently being executed in India by INCOIS and CholoGEN Project.
- The participants could enhance their skills and knowledge relevant to Ocean policy making from the hands-on experience and the lectures delivered by eminent resource persons from the UNEP, UNDOALOS, UNEP GRID Arendal and number of Indian Research Institutions such as ICMAM PD - Chennai, NCAOR - Goa and INCOIS – Hyderabad, and the Indian Coast Guard enabled the participants to understand the importance of Ocean Data Collection and Interpretation which would benefit them to define policies and programmes.
- The Training Manual which was launched at the Opening of the Workshop in Chennai, provides detailed information with research articles presented in five thematic areas, can be a reference reading material in the field of Ocean Management. This document can be downloaded from the SACEP website.

The Government of India offered to support the SAS member countries in mapping Coral Reef Ecosystem as it is presently being executed in India by INCOIS and CholoGEN Project

The Secretariat has initiated a dialogue with UNDOALOS and UNEP GRID Arendal for follow up of the Training Workshop

(Enclosed Digital Copy of Workshop Report and Manual)

Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.14

Under this activity, SACEP/SASP in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark, and the financial support of UNEP took the message of “A Clean beach – A Tourist Haven” for promoting sustainable tourism in the SAS region.

The Blue Flag is a voluntary exercise and certification is awarded by FEE. This exclusive eco-label is presently awarded to more than 3200 beaches and marinas in 38 countries worldwide. This is highly relevant as the five maritime countries of South Asia, are endeavoured with coastal and marine resources which have enormous potential to develop sustainable tourism industry. Governments as well as businesses are gradually incorporating sustainability principles as one of the core values to drive the tourism industry forward with the attempt of being more responsive to environment and community requirements. In this regard, as a first step, the application of a voluntary beach certification programme can be successfully used as one of the management tools.

SACEP/SASP organized National Workshops in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in February – March 2010 in collaboration with the National Focal Points to have discussions with stakeholder in member countries to propagate the idea of beach certification. These workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes. Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on the Beach Certification Programme

A Draft Regional Project Proposal was prepared by SACEP/SASP with the inputs received from countries and has been forwarded to UNEP and other funding agencies for implementation.

(Enclosed Digital Copy of Workshop Report)

UNEP EU Funded Projects on MCPAs of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia

Ref : IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.15

This project was successfully completed in December 2008 and relevant reports were submitted by 31st March 2009.

The following documents were produced and published by the SACEP Secretariat in December 2008 :

- Regional Communication Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia
- Regional Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia

In view of the regional importance of this initiative, SACEP Secretariat is actively searching for possible donors to take the project activities forward.

In this regard a meeting was held with UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and requested UNEP and ICRI to support a small funded project to keep the

South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) active which was launched under this project on 21st December 2007.

Long Term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia

European Commission Proposal titled “Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia” was prepared in cooperation with UNEP-Coral Reef Unit and ICRAN was approved by the European Commission and signed on 26th December 2005. The project was launched on 1st January 2006. EC agreed to provide Euros 748,720/- over a three year period and 20% of this amount was expected as co-finance from the participating countries and other sources.

The first workshop under the project was titled “Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation Workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia” was held in Colombo during 27 - 28 September 2006. This was attended by delegates from the five member countries and International Organisations like ICRAN, IMM, CORDIO, IUCN

Two workshops on the livelihood component of the project have been held with the help of IMM and IUCN. The first workshop was attended by practitioners from 16 organisations involved in Coastal Livelihood work in five SAS countries across South Asia as well as Indonesia and representatives from IMM and IUCN. The Second Workshop was from 4-10 June 2007, at Negombo, Sri Lanka. This was attended by participants from the region along with IMM and IUCN.

Establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)

The 10-GC SACEP endorsed the establishment of South Asia Coral Reef Task Force. SACEP with help from ICRAN developed the structure and ToR for the Task Force members and circulated it to a group of experts and country governments for review and suggestions. The suggestions were incorporated and put before the Second Regional Workshop, held from 25 – 27 July 2007. The objective of the workshop was to officially finalise, endorse and launch the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF). After discussions and endorsement by the member countries the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) was launched on 27th July 2007.

The first meeting of the SACRFT was held on 21st December 2007. The Second and the Third Meetings of the SACFTF were held on 31st August and 16th December 2008 respectively.

The Training Workshop on (MCPA) Managers Exchange Programme was held from 5 – 8 November 2008 and the IYOR (International Year of the Reef) Special Commemorative Stamp was issued on 25th November 2008 under this project.

The activities undertaken with the Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) on Educational Awareness in member countries in MCPAs were very successful.

(Enclosed Digital Copy of Workshop Reports and Publications)

Strategic planning and developing Market Based Instruments for the medium to long term strategic planning of the Sri Lankan National Plan of Action on GPA

The Activities under the MoU with UNEP-GPA for “Strategic planning and developing Market Based Instruments for the medium to long term strategic planning of the Sri Lankan National Plan of Action on GPA” was implemented in Sri Lanka.

International and national consultants were appointed and their reports were presented, discussed and was finalized at the workshops organized in Colombo. The report was accepted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka.

The following reports were prepared by the concerned authorities under this project:

- a) The Study of Economic Significance of Coastal Region of Sri Lanka in the Context of Environmental Changes of Pre and Post Tsunami and
- b) Report of the Study of Socio-Economic Aspects of Coastal Regions and Squatter Settlements with Special Reference to the Western Province

The Final Report on Development of Market Based Instruments for Environmental Management in Sri Lanka was published in May 2008.

(Enclosed Digital Copy of Workshop Report)

Library of SACEP / SASP

SACEP has almost completed taking an Inventory of all the publications received by the secretariat since its inception which could be referred easily under specified categories.

SACEP is in the process of scanning its own publications in-house which enables to refer the documents in digital format.

More than 99% of the publications of SACEP / SASP since its inception are in digital form now.

IMM 4 – Programme Matters Refer Item 8.B, a-p: page 2 - 8, 2008.05.22)
Programme Matters

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - a	<p>Marine Litter Programme for South Asia</p> <p>The major activity carried out under the programme included a Review of Marine Litter problem in the SAS region which was based on National Reviews and a framework for Marine Litter Management in the SAS region. The Secretariat presented the frame work document, wherein the following four activities were proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Capacity Building (Training and Awareness); ii) Beach Clean Up – An Approach to Control and Manage Coastal Litter in the SAS Region; iii) Creation of Port Reception Facilities; iv) Solid Waste Management in The SAS Region for Marine Litter Management. <p>SACEP proposes to develop specific project proposals based on the framework document and intend to seek the support from United Nations Organisations and donor communities for support in the implementation of the same. The outline of these project proposals is spelt out in the envisaged work programme for 2009 – 2010.</p> <p>The meeting approved the Framework Document and the related proposed activities by the Secretariat</p>	<p>2009.03 - UNEP-IOC Guidelines on Survey and Monitoring of Marine Litter</p> <p>Beach Cleanup activity carried out each year</p> <p>Introducing Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme to South Asia</p>	<p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.6</p> <p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.3</p>

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - b	<p>Endorsement for the formal adoption of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia and the follow up activities.</p> <p>A Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and associated MOU have been developed to promote regional co-operation and working arrangements in the event of oil spills. While India, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka consented on both the plan and MOU, Pakistan proposed a few amendments to the Plan and the MOU. While Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka agreed to the amendments proposed by Pakistan, India made a few observations on these amendments.</p> <p>It was also been proposed to establish a Regional Activity Centre to co-ordinate the key aspects of the contingency plan.</p> <p>The meeting approved the following recommendations;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request India to send comments on the Pakistan Amendments to SACEP for circulation among the SAS countries. 2. SACEP to convene a meeting of experts to consider i) the comments made by India on Pakistan's amendments ii) to arrive at consensus about the location of Regional Activity Centre and iii) to check whether the present version of the contingency plan needs updating. The meeting may be convened before December, 2008. Based on the outcome of the meeting, a decision to hold the meeting of Plenipotentiaries to sign the accepted version of MOU can be taken 3. The Secretariat to look into the possibilities of setting up of the Regional Activity Centre after the formal adoption of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan 	<p>Member countries agreed on the Text of the document of the Regional Plan and MoU.</p> <p>Three member countries viz. Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan have signed the MoU</p>	<p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.1</p>

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - c	<p>Coral Reef Conservation and Monitoring</p> <p>The major activity under the programme is the project on Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in South Asia. Two workshops have been held to discuss the conservation strategies and livelihood options for dependent communities in pilot areas in SAS region and a South Asian Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) has been constituted to plan and co-ordinate workshops, training programmes etc. The project is funded by the European Commission and the funding ends in Dec 2008. The meeting was requested to consider the proposal of SACEP to continue the programme.</p> <p>The project activities have been found to be useful and the meeting recommended for its continuation. SACEP also need to prepare a proposal for funding by countries and donors, thus indicating the extent of funds needed from each source. It was approved that a web based data base on health of coral reefs be developed.</p>	<p>Activity was completed in March 2009</p> <p>South Asia Coral Reef Task Force established</p> <p>Documents published in December 2008 :</p> <p>i)Reg Communication Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia</p> <p>ii)Regional Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia</p>	<p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.7</p>
8B - d	<p>Global Invasive Species Programme</p> <p>The project activity is mainly on the conducting of a training programme on Prevention of entry of alien species mostly due to discharge of ballast water by ships passing en route, their Early detection and Rapid Response, Incursion Management, International Response, Developing a National Strategic Framework and Communication, Education and Public Awareness. The International Ocean Institute, South Africa would be providing part financial and technical assistance. Other funding for this activity need to be explored.</p> <p>The meeting approved this activity be supported in view of the potential danger to the endemic species due to invasion of alien species on which the existing knowledge is very less</p>	<p>Activity commenced in August 2013</p>	<p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.2</p>

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - e	<p>Areas of Co-operation with UNDOALOS</p> <p>The UN-DOALOS Secretariat has identified SAS as one of the key geographical locations that need to be supported with capacity building on environmental law relating the Marine Protected Areas. A Regional Training Course on this subject is proposed to be organised. The total budget for the Regional Training Course is estimated at US \$ 97,000 of which UN-DOALOS has committed US \$ 33,500. SAS and UN-DOALOS is expected to raise the balance funding through partners, national governments and other funding agencies.</p> <p>The meeting approved that this activity be supported as the training will be useful to SAS region, as it houses one of the major mangrove and coral reef formations in the world.</p>	<p>Activity was not implemented</p> <p>On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas was done in collaboration</p>	<p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.13</p>
8B - f	<p>Areas of Co-operation with International Maritime Organization</p> <p>The Secretariat reported that as recommended by the 3rd IMM SACEP had signed a letter of Agreement with IMO for mutual co-operation in December 2005.</p> <p>The working paper also enumerated the major collaborative activities carried by SASP in conjunction with IMO in connection with implementation of various IMO Conventions.</p> <p>SAS has been selected by IMO as a special area for the development of a South Asian Seas Plan for the promotion and implementation of the Globallast Programme of IMO. IMO has planned to develop a proposal for preparation of Regional Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) for Ballast Water Management (BWM) and Control in the South Asian Seas Region. The proposal has been submitted by IMO to GEF for funding.</p> <p>The meeting recommended that this activity be supported as the ballast water and sediment disposal by ships is the major source of introduction of dangerous alien species in the marine environment & the adoption of strategy would help in dealing with this problem.</p>	<p>Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, May 2010 – Maldives</p> <p>An agreement was signed with IMO for the BWM and Oil Spill preparedness and response activities in August 2013.</p>	<p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.1; 5.1.2 & 5.1.12</p>

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - g	<p>Areas of Co-operation with UNEP GPA</p> <p>a) Market Based Strategy</p> <p>The National Programme of Action to deal with land-based activities for Sri Lanka has identified the need for incorporating appropriate public spending programs, pollution control regimes, market and fiscal incentives for pollution prevention and capacity building initiatives. In order to implement these activities UNEP/GPA provided financial assistance through SACEP to implement a project which had three components. The Component 1 was implemented with a view to review existing and potential MBIs in Sri Lanka, while Component 2 was to develop a strategic plan for implementation of the short, medium and long term implementation of the NPA. The component 3 was to study the economic significance of the coastal region of Sri Lanka in the context of socio economic and environmental changes of pre and post Tsunami disaster and for evaluation of the squatter settlements in the coastal region. The component 1 has been completed and component 3 will be taken up later.</p> <p>Even though it is a country specific programme, its outcome on developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning to deal with land based activities and the resultant development of methodology for assessment of economic value of coastal areas, will be useful for other countries in the region. As such SACEP was requested to arrange training programmes in the other countries in the region especially the methodology used to determine the economic value of coastal areas.</p>	<p>Activity concluded Development of Market Based Instruments for Env Management in Sri Lanka was published</p> <p>A new activity was Initiated 'a scoping study of nutrient pollution on the coastal and marine systems of South Asia' in collaboration with UNEP-GPA</p>	<p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1 – Progress Report</p> <p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.3</p>

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - h	<p>Coastal Clean Up Day</p> <p>Marine litter arising from land based littering and disposal of solid wastes by ships is a growing problem in the SAS region. A framework to deal with the issue has already been suggested in the marine litter activities. As a support to this, SACEP has proposed to observe a day in the 3rd week of September as a Coastal Clean Up Day, as it was done in India.</p> <p>The meeting approved the proposal to observe a day in the 3rd week of September for the observation of Coastal Clean up Day as it will enhance awareness on the negative impacts of marine litter in the region.</p>	Beach Cleanup activity carried out each year	Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.6
8B - i	<p>School Awareness Programme</p> <p>SACEP with Centre for Environment Education in India and with both Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and with the assistance of South Asia Youth Network organized a series of School Competitions (Essay, Drawing and Painting, Posters and Photography) from January to July 2007 for different age categories. The main theme of these competitions was Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management. SACEP intends to develop and conduct more environmental educational programmes within the region, in collaboration with partners to raise awareness among school children on issues of concern in the field of Environment in this region. As recommended by Maldives, it is proposed to have a South Asian Student Environment Forum in November 2008</p> <p>The meeting approved this programme as it will enhance awareness on negative impacts of climate change and waste disposal especially to the younger generation.</p>	Activity Completed	

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - j	<p>Collaboration with SAARC Disaster Management Centre for developing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for South Asia</p> <p>SAARC Disaster Management Centre has proposed to develop a template for preparing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plans especially to deal with disasters like floods, earthquake, cyclones and tsunamis by the countries in the region. A workshop of experts was organised recently to develop the template.</p> <p>The meeting approved the following</p> <p>a) The proposed template needs to take into account the Disaster Mitigation Plans prepared by the local authorities in the SAS countries, before its finalisation.</p> <p>b) That SACEP negotiates with SAARC to conduct training programmes on preparation of disaster management plans including its tools like preparation of vulnerability maps. The need for existing capabilities available in the region for preparation of such maps should also be utilized.</p>	Not Implemented	
8B - k	<p>Basel Convention Regional Centre</p> <p>SACEP has urged the Basal Convention Secretariat to establish a Regional Centre to assist the SACEP countries to deal with transboundary movement of hazardous wastes in the land and sea routes in South Asia.</p> <p>The meeting approved the establishment of the Centre as it will help the countries in dealing with hazardous wastes.</p>	Refer GC 13; Agenda Item 4	Included in 13GC.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.7

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - 1	<p>Development and Implementation of prevailing strategies in respect to perturbation in Coastal Areas caused by Land-based Activities</p> <p>In order to demonstrate the benefit adopting the ICZM practices in dealing with land based activities combined other sea based disasters and new threats like climate change, it has been proposed to undertake pilot projects on ICZM in selected areas in each SAS country. A proposal is to be developed and posed for funding to donor agencies.</p> <p>The meeting approved the proposed ICZM pilot projects as it will be useful to demonstrate the advantages of integrated management of land and sea based activities.</p>	Proposal to be developed	
8B - m	<p>MOU with World Meteorological Organization</p> <p>SACEP has signed a MOU with WMO to work together on aspects relating to the climate change, especially the impact of climate change in the region. A Specific project titled “Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding on the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Strategies for South Asia” has been developed and WMO will be partially supporting this project. WMO and SACEP will be seeking from other donor agencies to meet the balance funds.</p> <p>The meeting supported this project as SAS region is one of the regions that will be affected by the global climate change, as such the undertaking relevant studies with WMO, will be beneficial to the region.</p>	Funds could not be secured	

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - n	<p>Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Programme It is an initiative by IUCN and UNDP as an aftermath of Indian Ocean Tsunami which demonstrates the beneficial role of mangroves in mitigating the impact of tsunami. It is a programme by itself encompassing several activities including protection and development of Marine Protected Areas. The forum has membership and most of the SAS countries are members. SACEP has expressed its desire in participating the programme as a regional body so that it can develop regional proposals on MPA and secure funding.</p> <p>The following was agreed upon:</p> <p>a) Approval was given for SACEP/SAS to approach IUCN through UNEP to obtain recognition as a regional body to participate in the MFF.</p> <p>b) After securing the recognition, it was approved that for developing proposals SACEP/ SAS to seek funding from the IUCN-UNDP forum.</p>	<p>Development of a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region is ongoing.</p> <p>Partner organizations MFF & IUCN</p>	<p>Included in IMM 5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.4</p>
8B - o	<p>Collaboration with NALSAR on Environmental Legislation The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), University of Hyderabad India is implementing a programme to support the strengthening of Environmental Law in the SAARC Region. SACEP had been implementing many Environmental Law Programmes under its UNEP – NORAD – SACEP programme and have conducted many ground breaking programmes and have several Environmental Law Publications. SACEP has proposed to work jointly NALSAR in conducting workshops/trainings relating to environmental law.</p> <p>The meeting approved the proposal for the collaboration with NALSAR.</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	

IMM Decision	Activity	Status of Implementation	Remarks
8B - p	<p>Need for the Revision of the South Asian Seas Action Plan based on the current global trends.</p> <p>The SAS action adopted in 1995 was based on environmental issues prevailed during the last decade. Over a period of time new issues such as disasters and climate change and other environmental challenges have emerged, there is a need to update the action plan.</p> <p>a) The above was approved and SACEP should convene a meeting of the National Focal Points to discuss the proposed updating.</p> <p>b) It is also necessary that inputs from the member countries in the form of current environmental and other major coastal and marine environment related issues be obtained before preparing the draft of the updated plan.</p> <p>c) The member countries need to send their inputs to SACEP within a period of 6 months.</p>	In Progress	

Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region

The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC) facilitates international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to a major oil pollution incident and encourages States to develop and maintain an adequate capability to deal with oil pollution emergencies. The basic obligation of this convention is for parties to establish a national system for responding promptly and effectively to oil pollution incidents, while in order to facilitate the operational aspects of oil spill monitoring and response, the OPRC Convention encourages parties to conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements for oil pollution preparedness and response.

To fulfill the above requirement a Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were developed in association with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for enhanced co-operation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. The final adaptation of the same has been pending since the year 2000. The 4th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM) held in Jaipur, India on 22nd May 2008, requested SACEP to finalize the Regional Plan and MoU as a matter of High Priority.

Governments of Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka had no objection to the text of the Draft Regional Plan and the MoU for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region. SACEP undertook missions to Pakistan in May 2009 and to India in July 2009 to finalize the text with the respective country governments. As all member countries agreed on the text of the documents the Regional Plan and MoU was sent to the member countries for signature.

Three member countries viz. Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan have already signed the MoU. Status was reported to the 12th Governing Council of SACEP held in November 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and again requested the two remaining member states to expedite the process.

In respect to the signing of the MoU by India and Sri Lanka it is at an advanced stage and would get cabinet sanction in due course.

In order to facilitate and strength the process, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between SACEP and IMO on 15th August 2013 to promote the regional implementation of IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) in the South Asian Seas Region and SACEP's activities under marine pollution prevention and response for the Region collaboratively.

Under this MoU, an activity, titled 'Enhancing regional co-operation mechanisms on marine pollution preparedness and response in the SACEP region' will be

executed with the financial assistance of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

The following results/outcomes are expected at the completion of this project:

- The regional contingency plan, together with the MoU have entered into force;
- Key issues of importance regarding co-operation in case of major pollution incidents, such as the use of dispersants, aerial surveillance and liability and compensation addressed and related agreements reflected in the regional contingency plan; and
- A regional exercise conducted to test the communication and the operational procedures.

In this regard the First Regional Meeting for the relevant national authorities dealing with oil spill preparedness and response will be organized in the first quarter of year 2014.

Follow up actions :

The two Respective National Governments to expedite the signing of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan and associated MoU.

Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization

South Asian Seas region lies within one of the busiest shipping lanes globally as it falls within the oil conveyor belt from the Gulf to East Asia. Therefore, ballast water can pose serious economical and ecological damage through introduction of invasive alien species to our coastal and marine waters. The Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention was adopted on 13th February 2004 and is not yet in force.

It requires all ships in international traffic to implement a Ballast Water and Sediments Management Plan, to carry a Ballast Water Record Book, and an international Ballast Water Management Certificate. All ships will have to undertake ballast water management procedures to a given standard. Existing ships will be required to do the same, but after a phase-in period. Out of the five maritime countries of South Asia, only Maldives is signatory to the BWM Convention.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO), through the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme Coordination Unit, in collaboration with the Director General of Shipping, India, organised a two-day regional workshop in order to discuss the development of a Regional Strategy for Ballast Water Management, from 29 – 30 May 2012 in Mumbai (**Annex 1 – Recommendations of the workshop**)

Workshop Report – Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP – Item SAS 5.1.02).

The key objective of the workshop was to establish a regional Strategy for a harmonised approach in the region on ships’ ballast water control and management which is consistent with the requirements and standards of the BWM Convention. Additionally it provided participants with updated information on the compliance monitoring and enforcement provisions of the Convention and their implementation globally. Representatives from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka as well as IMO participated in this important event.

At this meeting it was decided that SACEP, as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, would be the Institutional Framework to support and finalize the Draft Regional BWM Strategy and to ensure the execution of the Action Plan. It was also agreed to establish a Regional Task Force to facilitate the process. This activity was further strengthened under a MoU signed between SACEP and IMO on 15th August 2013.

A regional workshop will be held in the first quarter of year 2014 to bring the key decision makers from governments dealing with the BWM Convention to revisit the draft regional strategy and amend it to incorporate the latest developments with a

view to ascertain the progress made on the recommendations agreed, and to discuss the way forward to finalize the Regional Strategic Plan for the full implementation of the BWM Convention in South Asia.

Follow up actions :

Respective National Governments to coordinate with SACEP Secretariat to carry out necessary baseline studies to workout a possible way forward.

ANNEX 3

South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy Development Meeting

Mumbai, India, 29-30 May 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Urging each participating country, besides Republic of Maldives, to expedite the ratification of Ballast Water Management Convention.
2. After deliberations it was consensually agreed that South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) would be the appropriate Institutional Framework to support and formulate the regional strategy and ensure execution of the action plan.

SACEP may appraise itself with regard to the progress made in this respect and as agreed upon by SACEP, assistance will be rendered by them if approached by the SACEP member states.

3. Respective Governments. to identify at least a sea Port and a responsible R&D organization or an academic organization for carrying out Port biological base line survey and risk assessment.
4. To identify the resources and capacity building requirements for the above activities and initiate action through appropriate national authorities. Progress made and assistance required, if any, may be communicated to SACEP for consideration and further action as necessary.
5. SACEP, with the assistance of member countries, to integrate the information received to develop a regional action plan by way of a project document with detailed break-up of budgetary provisions and implementation time table, as necessary, for submission to its governing Council/Ministerial meeting for necessary endorsement.
6. Develop an action plan or a road map for replication of activities for other Ports within their respective countries.
7. Member countries may request SACEP for making available the software of electronic ballast water reporting form developed by India.
8. To organize a follow-up Regional Strategy meeting in 2013, to review the progress made with respect to above recommendations and to identify the capacity building needs including training requirements for PSCOs. Sri Lanka volunteered to host the next meeting and this was agreed upon. Sri Lanka may approach IMO for financial support from its technical assistance programme, for this activity.
9. There is a need to set up a Regional Task Force for executing the actionable points as applicable, at the earliest, under intimation to SACEP. SACEP in turn will institutionalize the Regional Task Force.

10. Support and facilitation from the industry pertaining to the member countries in the implementation of the action plan is to be encouraged.
11. The Regional Task Force to develop a road map for inter-regional cooperation for Ballast Water Management.
12. Member countries may request the IMO for the rights to screen the IMO BBC documentary “Invaders from the Sea”. IMO-GloBallast may consider facilitating of insertion of sub titles in respective national languages.

A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA

Nutrients, such as nitrogen, are a key of delivering food security and sustainable development. But excess use and inefficient practices lead to nutrient over-enrichment, causing soil acidification, groundwater pollution and the undermining of marine and coastal ecosystems and the services and livelihoods they support. Agriculture is the major driver of the greatly increased amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in the world through the use of synthetic phosphorous and nitrogen-based fertilizer. Other major sources of excess nutrients result from the burning of fossil fuels, fibre production, wastewater produced by humans, livestock, aquaculture and industry. Preliminary estimates of global freshwater basin's, nitrogen export are alarming for the future sustainability of Large Marine Ecosystems including the Bay of Bengal.

At the 3rd Intergovernmental Review (IGR-3) meeting of the UNEP-GPA in Manila, January 2012, the governments recognized the need to address nutrient challenge, and decided to support the further development of Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) and actively engage themselves to step up efforts to develop guidance, strategies or policies on the sustainable use of nutrients so as to improve nutrient use efficiency with attendant economic benefits for all stakeholders, including farmers and to mitigate negative environmental impacts through the development and implementation of national goals and plans over the period 2012-2016.

SACEP/SASP participated in a Regional meeting jointly organized by UNEP-GPA and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BoBLME) in June 2012, in Phuket, Thailand to share experiences in addressing Land-based sources of Marine Pollution, in relation to development of a Regional Strategic Action Plan for the countries along the Bay of Bengal.

At this meeting SACEP/SASP was requested to develop and submit a project proposal to BoBLME to address the mitigating nutrient loading to the marine environment.

In this regard SACEP developed a project concept titled 'Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region' with the inputs from UNEP-GPNM. The main objective of the project is to reduce and control of nutrient loading into the coastal waters of the South Asian Seas Region through development of a Regional Action Plan and Policy Forum/Framework.

SACEP signed a LOA with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in April 2013 to implements the above project. Although Pakistan is not part of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem, activities under the project will cover the country and will be financed by SACEP Secretariat.

The following activities will be under taken by this project:

- A scoping study (desk study) on the nutrient pollution of the coastal and marine systems in South Asia, as input document for a sub-regional workshop on nutrient management
- Conduct a sub-regional workshop to review and validate the scoping study, to build consensus in developing national level plans/strategies to support government initiatives to improve nutrient use efficiency, regulate nutrients load into coastal waters and to address unintended adverse environmental impacts of current nutrient use, containing an action plan and record of task force formation. This workshop is scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2014.

The overall outcome would be an initiation of a process in developing regional/national level political dialogue to address currently unsustainable nutrient management practices to reduce environmental impacts.

National Focal Points to forward relevant data and information to finalize the review report.

Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region

In decision X/2, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in October 2010 at Nagoya adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-2020. As part of this decision it was agreed to translate the overarching international framework into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), which are considered as principal instruments for implementing the CBD. The paragraph 5 of decision X/2 urges regional organizations to consider the development or updating of regional biodiversity strategies, as appropriate, including agreeing on regional targets, as means of complementing and supporting national actions and of contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

In the above context SACEP signed a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with UNEP in December 2012 to initiate the development of a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region as a framework for coordination and collaboration between the countries to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity targets for the 2011-2020 period with special reference to Targets 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15, which address specific coastal and marine issues.

The Strategy will be formulated as part and parcel of the ongoing process of preparing NBSAPs. It is envisaged to finalize the Strategy and submit for endorsement at the Inter-Governmental Meeting of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme in 2014/15.

The Strategy plans to group the Aichi targets in Chapters:

- 1) Prevention of Species Extinction
- 2) Control of Alien Invasive Species
- 3) Sustainable utilization of marine species including within the Aquaculture Industry
- 4) Ecosystem Services and wellbeing
- 5) Prevention of Marine Pollution
- 6) Regional Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

As the first step in the strategy development, a desk review will be conducted to prepare a knowledge base. It includes identifying gaps and needs, documenting relevant national and regional processes and identifying how the proposed strategy can complement the NBSAPs process with respect to achieving the Aichi targets relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.

Linkages will be built in ongoing projects and activities related to biodiversity related multilateral agreements and other initiatives.

The following outcomes are envisaged in preparing the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy:

1. Improvements in baseline information on high priority areas for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation will be identified based on the best available scientific information;
2. Identification of major threats to marine and coastal biodiversity and remedies to overcome the threats;
3. Increase the number and categories of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and their management capacities as well as promote networking;
4. Facilitation of community and private sector involvement in sustainable utilization of marine biodiversity.

Presently desk review is being undertaken for addressing issues pertaining to specific targets and the regional workshop is proposed to be held in first quarter of 2014.

National Focal Points to forward relevant data and information to prepare the Regional Strategy.

Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas

The Plenipotentiaries Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme formally adopted the Action Plan in March 1995 wherein Capacity Building is one of the four major Priority Areas. In view of the above, SACEP/SASP identified the requirement to involve middle Level Managers working in the field of Policy Making and Research relevant to South Asian Seas should be given an opportunity to understand the methods of sampling, analyzing and interpreting the data collected.

An On-board training workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and UNEP. UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea and UNEP-GRID Arendal were the other partners in this activity. 10 mid-level managers from the five SAS countries participated in this training programme which was held from 18-22 September 2009 in India.

Government of India provided a voluntary contribution of US \$ 80,000/- (approx) by providing a research vessel, expertise and the laboratory facilities to conduct the training programme.

Outputs Achieved :-

- Strengthened the collaboration and interaction among the participants and with experts which will contribute to develop and implement future regional activities. The Government of India offered to support the SAS member countries in Mapping Coral Reef Ecosystem as it is presently being executed in India by INCOIS and CholoGEN Project.
- The participants could enhance their skills and knowledge relevant to Ocean policy making from the hands-on experience and the lectures delivered by eminent resource persons from the UNEP, UNDOALOS, UNEP GRID Arendal and number of Indian Research Institutions such as ICMAM PD - Chennai, NCAOR - Goa and INCOIS – Hyderabad, and the Indian Coast Guard.
- Enabled the participants to understand the importance of Ocean Data Collection and Interpretation which would benefit them to define policies and programmes.
- The Training Manual which was launched at the opening of the Workshop in Chennai, provides detailed information with research articles presented in five thematic areas which would be a reference reading material in the field of Ocean Management. This document can be downloaded from the SACEP website.

At the end of the workshop all participants valued the contents of the training programme conducted and highly emphasized the need of repeating such training programmes in future.

It is suggested to the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers to consider to contribute voluntarily, towards implementing such programmes in future and requested the donor agencies to finically support the Programme.

Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia

SACEP/SASP in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark, and with the financial support of UNEP took the message of 'A Clean beach – A Tourist Haven' for promoting sustainable tourism in the SAS region.

The Blue Flag is a voluntary exercise and certification is awarded by FEE. This exclusive eco-label is presently awarded to more than 3200 beaches and marinas in 38 countries worldwide. This is highly relevant as the five maritime countries of South Asia, are endeavoured with coastal and marine resources which have enormous potential to develop sustainable tourism industry. The costs associated with unplanned and/or poorly managed tourism not only involves economic loss to the industry but also leads to the loss of traditional and indigenous ways of life, environmental quality and the natural resource base. Governments as well as businesses are gradually incorporating sustainability principles as one of the core values to drive the tourism industry forward with the attempt of being more responsive to environment and community requirements.

In this regard, as a first step, the application of a voluntary beach certification programme can be successfully used as one of the management tools.

SACEP organized National Workshops in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in February –March 2010 in collaboration with the National Focal Points to have discussions with stakeholders in the member countries to propagate the idea of beach certification.

These workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes. Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on the Beach Certification Programme.

SACEP developed a Draft Regional Project Proposal in Pilot testing the Blue Flag Initiative in South Asia with the aims of Promoting Sustainable Coastal Tourism through Eco-labeling Selected Beach Stretches in the Region as a follow up of the National Workshops.

The 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers may request the national governments to facilitate their national process of implementation and requested the donor agencies to finically support the Regional Proposal.

South Asian Seas Programme

6.2 Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by the Countries of SASP

SASP Country Contribution Status: as at October 2013

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2008	Agreed CC 2009	Received CC 2009	Arrears upto Dec 09	Agreed CC for 2010	Received CC 2010	Arrears upto Dec 2010
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	71,192.40	13,335.00		84,527.40	13,335.00		97,862.40
India	39,979.75	32,185.00	72,164.75	0.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	0.00
Maldives	5,975.00	5,975.00	11,950.00	0.00	5,975.00	5,975.00	0.00
Pakistan	74,508.93	27,130.00		101,638.93	27,130.00	54,033.41	74,735.52
Sri Lanka	18,836.63	13,335.00		32,171.63	13,335.00	3,398.91	42,107.72
TOTAL	210,492.71	91,960.00	84,114.75	218,337.96	91,960.00	95,592.32	214,705.64

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2010	Agreed CC 2011	Received CC 2011	Arrears upto Dec 11	Agreed CC for 2012	Received CC Dec 2012	Arrears upto Dec 2012
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	97,862.40	13,335.00	21,265.00	89,932.40	13,335.00		103,267.40
India	0.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	0.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	0.00
Maldives	0.00	5,975.00	5,975.00	0.00	5,975.00	5,975.00	0.00
Pakistan	74,735.52	27,130.00		101,865.52	27,130.00	26,796.47	102,199.05
Sri Lanka	42107.72	13,335.00	6,371.00	49,071.72	13,335.00		62,406.72
TOTAL	214,705.64	91,960.00	65,796.00	240,869.64	91,960.00	64,956.47	267,873.17

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2012	Agreed CC 2013	Received CC Nov 2013	Arrears upto Nov 2013
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	103,267.40	13,335.00		116,602.40
India	0.00	32,185.00		32,185.00
Maldives	0.00	5,975.00	5,975.00	0.00
Pakistan	102,199.05	27,130.00	26,733.87	102,595.18
Sri Lanka	62406.72	13,335.00		75,741.72
TOTAL	267,873.17	91,960.00	32,708.87	327,124.30

PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2009 - OCTOBER 2013

Ref No	Activity	IMM Decision	Donor	Funds Allocated US \$	Funds Remitted to SACEP / Utilized US \$	Remarks
IMM - 5.1.1	Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	IMO	75,000.00		On-going Activity
IMM - 5.1.2	First Regional Meeting for the relevant national authorities dealing with oil spill preparedness and response Developing a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization Regional workshop to develop a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Ballast Water Management	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	IMO	35,000.00		On-going Activity
IMM - 5.1.3	A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	FAO / BoBLME	46,278.00 + SACEP Contribution	13,884.00	On-going Activity

PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2009 - OCTOBER 2013

Annex 15
5 IMM.SASP/NFP-SGO

IMM 5.SASP / SoM
Agenda Item 6.2
Page 2 of 3

Ref No	Activity	IMM Decision	Donor	Funds Allocated US \$	Funds Remitted to SACEP / Utilized US \$	Remarks
IMM - 5.1.4	Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region To organize two Regional Workshops to support development of a Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP	30,000.00	9,000.00	On-going Activity
			UNEP/MFF	95,000.00		Funds not received yet
IMM - 5.1.9	Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010 Agreement between SACEP and UNEP-WCMC for preparation of the Outlook Report for the South Asian Seas Region	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP-WCMC	10,000.00	10,000.00	Activity Completed - Report Published
IMM - 5.1.12	Regional HNS Operational-Level Workshop, 3 - 6 May 2010, Malé, Maldives	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	IMO	35,000.00	Funds Physically not received Remitted Direct to Workshop Host - Maldives	Activity Completed - Report Published
IMM - 5.1.13	On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP Government of India	25,000.00 80,000.00 (approx)	25,000.00 80,000.00	Activity Completed - Report Published In kind contribution

PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2009 - OCTOBER 2013

Ref No	Activity	IMM Decision	Donor	Funds Allocated US \$	Funds Remitted to SACEP / Utilized US \$	Remarks
IMM - 5.1.14	Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia National Workshops on Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP	10,000.00	10,000.00	Activity Completed - Report Published
IMM - 5.1.15	UNEP EU Funded Projects On MCPAs of Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia SACEP/ICRAN Coral Reef Activities in South Asia	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP-GPA / European Commission	24,734.00	24,734.00	Activity Completed - Reports Published
	MoU between UNEP SACEP for UNEP's Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force	Plenipotentiaries Meeting; Decision 21, South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP	5,000.00	5,000.00	Balance funds of an activity completed in 2005
	Funds received for Meeting/Conference participation of SACEP/SASP - Year 2009 - August 2013		From Meeting Organizers	24,465.65	24,465.65	
	TOTAL			495,477.65	202,083.65	

APPROVED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION FORMULA

As per the Decision of Second Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of SASP held on 1st July 2002 (**Annex 1**)

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE	CONTRIBUTION IN US \$	ROUNDED OFF IN US \$
BANGLADESH	14.50%	13,335	13,335
INDIA	35%	32,185	32,185
MALDIVES	6.50%	5,975	5,975
PAKISTAN	29.50%	27,130	27,130
SRI LANKA	14.50%	13,335	13,335
T O T A L	100%	91,960	91,960

PROPOSED 10% INCREASE OF THE COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION FROM JANUARY 2014

COUNTRY	PRESENT CONTRIBUTION	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION	ROUNDED OFF IN US \$
BANGLADESH	13,335.00	14,668.50	14,668.00
INDIA	32,185.00	35,403.50	35,405.00
MALDIVES	5,975.00	6,572.50	6,572.00
PAKISTAN	27,130.00	29,843.00	29,843.00
SRI LANKA	13,335.00	14,668.50	14,668.00
T O T A L	91,960.00	101,156.00	101,156.00

A 10% Increase in the Annual Country Contribution for SASP is requested from January year 2014.

REPORT OF THE

SECOND INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

OF

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME



1ST JULY 2002
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

APPROVAL OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS & BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR 2002 -2004

17. The meeting approved the budgetary requirements for the years 2002-2004 and the country contributions for these years as recommended by the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points. The agreed country contribution & budgets for 2002 – 2004 is given below. The IMM also accorded flexibility to the Director General of SACEP in incurring the above expenditure with due approval from Consultative Committee.

APPROVED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SAS TRUST FUND

COUNTRY		2001	2002	2003	2004
	%	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	14.5	13,335	13,335	13,335	13,335
India	35.0	32,185	32,185	32,185	32,185
Maldives	6.5	5,975	5,975	5,975	5,975
Pakistan	29.5	27,130	27,130	27,130	27,130
Sri Lanka	14.5	13,335	13,335	13,335	13,335
TOTAL	100	91,960	91,960	91,960	91,960

APPROVED SAS SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2002 TO 2004

	2001	2002	2003	2004
	Cost in US \$	Cost in US \$	Cost in US \$	Cost in US \$
PERSONNEL				
International				
Programme Co-ordinator	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
Local				
1 Junior Programme Officer	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
1 Secretary	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
OFFICE INFRASTRUCTURE				
Furniture, Office Equipment & Consumables	13,215	13,215	13,215	13,215
RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE	8,065	8,065	8,065	8,065
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	6,430	6,430	6,430	6,430
MEETING & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	12,855	12,855	12,855	12,855
DOCUMENTS	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,210
CONTINGENCIES	6,435	6,435	6,435	6,435
TOTAL	91,960	91,960	91,960	91,960
RECURRENT	78,745	78,745	78,745	78,745
CAPITAL	13,215	13,215	13,215	13,215

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)
PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2014 & 2015

	ANTICIPATED INCOME WITH 10% INCREASE - 2014 & 2015 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2014 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2015 US \$	ACTUAL RECEIPTS - 2012 US \$	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - 2012 US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME					
1.1 BANGLADESH	14,668.00				
INDIA	35,405.00			32,185.00	
MALDIVES	6,572.00			5,975.00	
PAKISTAN	29,843.00			26,796.47	
SRI LANKA	14,668.00				
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	101,156.00			64,956.47	
1.2 Interest earned	6,000.00			4,349.23	
TOTAL INCOME	107,156.00			69,305.70	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE					
2.1 Senior Programme Officer (Regional)		28,500.00	36,000.00		-
2.2 Local Staff		17,500.00	17,500.00		11,718.17
2.3 Meetings & International Travel		15,000.00	15,000.00		14,276.08
2.4 Administrative Cost		10,000.00	10,000.00		10,191.77
2.5 Rental & Maintenance		13,500.00	13,500.00		12,259.88
2.6 Furniture, Equipment & Consumables		8,000.00	8,000.00		
2.7 Documents		8,000.00	8,000.00		1,239.57
2.8 Contingencies		5,000.00	5,000.00		986.99
3		105,500.00	113,000.00		50,672.46
Project Formulation		10,000.00	10,000.00		9,016.70
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		115,500.00	123,000.00		59,689.16
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(8,344.00)	(15,844.00)		9,616.54
2.1 * Year 2014 Budgeted for 9 Months Salary & Expenses for Recruitment					

**SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)
PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2014 & 2015**



IMM 5.SASP / SoM

Agenda Item 6.3.2

Page 1

Annex 18
5 IMM.SASP / NFP-SGO

	ANTICIPATED INCOME AS AGREED - 2014 & 2015 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2014 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2015 US \$	ACTUAL RECEIPTS - 2012 US \$	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - 2012 US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME					
1.1 BANGLADESH	13,335.00				
INDIA	32,185.00			32,185.00	
MALDIVES	5,975.00			5,975.00	
PAKISTAN	27,130.00			26,796.47	
SRI LANKA	13,335.00				
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	91,960.00			64,956.47	
1.2 Interest earned	6,000.00			4,349.23	
TOTAL INCOME	97,960.00			69,305.70	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE					
2.1 Senior Programme Officer (Regional)		28,500.00	36,000.00		-
2.2 Local Staff		17,500.00	17,500.00		11,718.17
2.3 Meetings & International Travel		15,000.00	15,000.00		14,276.08
2.4 Administrative Cost		10,000.00	10,000.00		10,191.77
2.5 Rental & Maintenance		13,500.00	13,500.00		12,259.88
2.6 Furniture, Equipment & Consumables		8,000.00	8,000.00		
2.7 Documents		8,000.00	8,000.00		1,239.57
2.8 Contingencies		5,000.00	5,000.00		986.99
3		105,500.00	113,000.00		50,672.46
Project Formulation		10,000.00	10,000.00		9,016.70
4		115,500.00	123,000.00		59,689.16
TOTAL EXPENDITURE					
5		(17,540.00)	(25,040.00)		9,616.54
INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE					
2.1 * Year 2014 Budgeted for 9 Months Salary & Expenses for Recruitment					







SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

4th Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting

**Jaipur, India
22nd May 2008**

REPORT OF THE FOURTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

C) FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) The countries are urged to pay their arrears at the earliest, as lack of funds hamper are not encouraging to take follow up actions on implementation of programmes identified. Regarding the additional contributions sought, the increases sought for the 2008 has been agreed in principle, however, it is subject to approval by the member countries. Regarding the increased annual budgetary requirements for staff, office expenses etc., the proposed increase of salary of local staff as projected for 2008, 2009 and 2010 alone could be agreed and would be effective after receipt of additional contributions from the member countries. SACEP may manage the additional requirements of funds on other items for the period 2008-10, within the contribution made by the member countries
- b) The agreed levels of contributions to the SAS Trust fund are follows subject to the approval of the member countries

COUNTRY	% Contribution	2008 US \$	2009 US \$
Bangladesh	14.5	16,670	18,337
India	35.0	40,230	44,253
Maldives	6.5	7,470	8,217
Pakistan	29.5	33,910	37,301
Sri Lanka	14.5	16,670	18,337
TOTAL	100.0	114,950	126,445

c) Secretariat Budget for 2008 - 2009

	2008	2009
	Cost in US \$	Cost in US \$
PERSONNEL		
International		
Regional Co-ordinator	36,000	36,000
Local		
Senior Programme Officer	5,500	6,050
1 Junior Programme Officer	8,000	8,800
1 Secretary	3,600	3,960
PROJECT FORMULATION	20,000	22,000
OFFICE INFRASTRUCTURE		
Furniture, Office Equipment & Consumables	8,000	8,800
RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE	12,000	13,200
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	9,000	9,900
MEETING & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	15,000	16,500
DOCUMENTS	8,000	8,800
CONTINGENCIES	5,000	5,500
TOTAL	135,100	145,010



**5TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE
MINISTERS OF
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
(SASP)**

Reports of the Auditors of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), Financial
Years ended 31st December 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Balance Sheets as at 31st December 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 and the Financial
Statements

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31ST DECEMBER, 2007.**

Partners : R. N. Hettiarachchi FCA, FSCMA, CMA (AUS)
Ms. Darshana Wijayasuriya ACA, ASCMA
Dinuk Hettiarachchi ACA, ACMA, ASCMA

**REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
(SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME)
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2007.**

1. We have reviewed the accompanying Balance Sheet of **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme – South Asian Seas Programme** as at 31st December, 2007 and the Statement of Income for the year then ended. These Financial Statements are the responsibility of the Secretariat, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. Our responsibility is to issue a report on these Financial Statements based on our review.
2. We conducted our review in accordance with the Sri Lanka Auditing Practice Statement on Audit applicable to review engagement. This guidance requires that we plan and perform the review to obtain moderate assurance as to whether the Financial Statements are free of material misstatements.
3. We are of the opinion that the Financial Statements are in agreement with the books of original entries and records maintained by the **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme – South Asian Seas Programme** for the year ended 31st December, 2007.

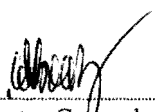
COLOMBO
20th November, 2008.

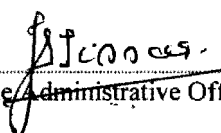

NIHAL HETTIARACHCHI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2007.

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2007</u> <u>US\$</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>US\$</u>
ASSETS			
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	(03)	762.87	1,176.60
		<u>762.87</u>	<u>1,176.60</u>
Current assets			
Country contribution receivable	(04)	184,186.51	151,568.61
Investment in fixed deposits	(05)	371,813.68	358,706.73
Prepayment and deposits	(06)	891.82	841.60
Staff loan receivables		130.02	175.36
Internal loan		5,000.00	-
Cash and cash equivalents	(07)	31,127.80	13,204.37
		<u>593,149.83</u>	<u>524,496.67</u>
Less :			
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	(08)	1,441.25	1,971.70
		<u>591,708.58</u>	<u>522,524.97</u>
Current assets less current liabilities		<u>592,471.45</u>	<u>523,701.57</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>592,471.45</u>	<u>523,701.57</u>
FUNDS AND RESERVES			
Accumulated fund	(09)	575,769.35	506,999.47
Accumulated project fund		16,702.10	16,702.10
		<u>592,471.45</u>	<u>523,701.57</u>
Total funds and reserves		<u>592,471.45</u>	<u>523,701.57</u>

The financial statements as appear on pages 02 to 12 were approved by the secretariat of SACEP.
Signed on behalf of the secretariat by,


The Director General


The Administrative Officer

November 20, 2008

The significant accounting policies and notes from pages 5 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2007.

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2007</u> <u>US\$</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>US\$</u>
ON ACCRUAL BASIS			
INCOME			
Country contribution	(10)	91,960.00	91,960.00
Exchange gain		-	36.25
Interest income		24,387.79	4,493.77
Over provision of Auditors' remuneration		-	35.88
Remittance from - NORAD / UNEP		-	12,001.80
- SACEP - CC		-	174.24
		<u>116,347.79</u>	<u>108,701.94</u>
LESS :			
EXPENSES			
Auditors' remuneration		308.26	160.32
Administrative expenses	(11)	17,039.29	32,257.41
Advertisements for appointment of regional co-ordinator		4,953.60	7,311.61
Communication - Land phone		702.53	1,874.51
Depreciation	(03 - a)	413.73	1,476.82
Entertainment		-	369.73
Exchange loss		28.56	-
Perdiem and air travel	(12)	14,489.33	7,663.87
Printing and stationery		520.24	2,116.14
Rent expenses		4,808.27	4,326.71
Repairs and maintenance		25.37	329.99
Salary - regional co-ordinator		2,500.00	11,693.55
Shipping charges		1,774.12	-
Transport		14.61	392.34
		<u>47,577.91</u>	<u>69,973.00</u>
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(09)	<u><u>68,769.88</u></u>	<u><u>38,728.94</u></u>

The significant accounting policies and notes from pages 5 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2007.

		<u>2007</u> US\$	<u>2006</u> US\$
ON CASH BASIS			
INCOME			
Country contribution	(Note A)	59,342.10	200,251.37
Interest income		24,387.79	4,493.77
Remittance from - NORAD / UNEP		-	12,001.80
- SACEP -CC		-	174.24
		<u>83,729.89</u>	<u>216,921.18</u>
LESS :			
EXPENSES		<u>47,716.29</u>	<u>67,850.94</u>
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>36,013.60</u>	<u>149,070.24</u>
Note A			
Country contribution received			
- India		32,185.00	96,580.00
- Maldives		-	36,421.00
- Pakistan		27,157.10	54,260.00
- Sri Lanka		-	12,990.37
		<u>59,342.10</u>	<u>200,251.37</u>

The significant accounting policies and notes from pages 5 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31ST DECEMBER, 2007

01. CORPORATE INFORMATION

1.1 General

The overall objective of the South Asian Seas action plan is to protect and manage the marine environment and the related coastal ecosystems of the South Asian Seas.

1.2 The notes to the financial statements on pages 5 to 12, form an integral part of the financial statements.

1.3 Numbers of employees

The number of employees at the end of the year was 03.

02. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 General policies

2.1.1 Basis of preparation

The balance sheet, statement of financial activities together with accounting policies and notes (“financial statements”) of the organization as at 31st December 2007 and for the year then ended comply in all material respects with the applicable Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

These financial statements presented in US Dollars have been prepared on a current cost basis. Financial statements which were previously prepared in Sri Lankan Rupees is hitherto presented in US Dollars for convenience and better usage by the member countries.

The management has made an assessment of the organisation’s ability to continue as a going concern and they do not intend either to liquidate or to cease operations.

2.1.2 Comparative information

The accounting policies have been consistently applied by the organisation and are consistent with those used in the previous year.

2.1.3 Foreign currency transaction

All Sri Lankan Rupee transactions are converted to US Dollars (US\$), which is the reporting currency at the rates of exchange prevailing at the time the transactions were effected. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in Sri Lankan Rupees are translated to US Dollar equivalents using year – end spot foreign exchange rates (Rs. 107.60 as at 31/12/2007). The resulting gains and losses are accounted for in the income statement.

Note to the financial statements continued on page 6.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31ST DECEMBER, 2007 (CONTINUED)

2.2 Valuation of assets and their measurement basis

2.2.1 Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are stated at the amounts they are estimated to realise.

2.2.2 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash in hand, demand deposits and short term highly liquid investments, readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of change in value.

2.2.3 Property, plant and equipment

(a) Cost

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation.

(b) Restoration costs

Expenditure incurred on repair or maintenance of property, plant and equipment in order to restore or maintain the future economic benefits expected from originally assessed standard of performance is recognized as expenses when incurred.

(c) Depreciation

The provision for depreciation is calculated by using a straight line basis on the cost or valuation of all property, plant and equipment other than freehold land, in order to write off such amounts over the estimated useful lives. The principal annual rate used is 20% per annum on all categories of assets.

2.3 Liabilities and provisions

2.3.1 All known liabilities have been accounted for in preparing the financial statements.

2.3.2 Retirement benefit obligations

Defined contribution plans- Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund

Employees are eligible for Employees Provident Fund Contributions and Employees Trust Fund contributions in line with respective statutes and regulations.

Note to the financial statements continued on page 7.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31ST DECEMBER, 2007 (CONTINUED)

2.4 Grants and subsidies

Grants and subsidies are recognized at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant / subsidy will be received and all attaching conditions, if any, will be complied with. When the grant or subsidiary related to an expenses item, it is recognized as income over the period necessary to match them to the costs to which it is intended to compensate on a systematic basis.

2.5 Statement of financial activities

2.5.1 Revenue recognition

(a) Country contribution

Represents the agreed contributions from member Countries, and are recognized on an accrual basis.

(b) Interest

Interest income is recognized on cash basis.

2.5.2 Expenditure recognition

Expenses are recognized in the statement of financial activities on the basis of a direct association between the cost incurred and the earning of specific items of income. All expenditure incurred in the running of the activities and in maintaining the property, plant and equipment in a state of efficiency has been charged to income in arriving at the surplus for the year.

Note to the financial statements continued on page 8.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER, 2007. (CONTINUED)

(03) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	As at 01st January 2007 US\$	Additions US\$	(Disposals) / Adjustments US\$	As at 31st December 2007 US\$
Cost				
Mobile phone	661.22	-	-	661.22
Cupboard	201.41	-	-	201.41
Furniture and fittings	1,545.76	-	-	1,545.76
Computer	5,454.87	-	-	5,454.87
Partition	640.78	-	-	640.78
Bicycle	69.55	-	-	69.55
	<u>8,573.59</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,573.59</u>
(03 - a)				
Accumulated depreciation				
Mobile phone	660.22	-	-	660.22
Cupboard	200.41	-	-	200.41
Furniture and fittings	1,471.64	26.39	-	1,498.03
Computer	4,424.94	373.43	-	4,798.37
Partition	639.78	-	-	639.78
Bicycle	-	13.91	-	13.91
	<u>7,396.99</u>	<u>413.73</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,810.72</u>
Written down value				
Mobile phone	1.00			1.00
Cupboard	1.00			1.00
Furniture and fittings	74.12			47.73
Computer	1,029.93			656.50
Partition	1.00			1.00
Bicycle	69.55			55.64
	<u>1,176.60</u>			<u>762.87</u>

Notes to the financial statements continued on page 09.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER, 2007.(CONTINUED)

		<u>2007</u> US\$	<u>2006</u> US\$
(04) COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION RECEIVABLE			
India	2006	-	32,185.00
	2007	32,185.00	-
		<u>32,185.00</u>	<u>32,185.00</u>
Bangladesh	2003	4,517.40	4,517.40
	2004	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2005	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2006	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2007	13,335.00	-
		<u>57,857.40</u>	<u>44,522.40</u>
Maldives	2007	5,975.00	-
Pakistan	2001	-	19,965.50
	2002	19,938.40	-
	2005	-	27,130.00
	2006	27,130.00	27,130.00
	2007	27,130.00	-
		<u>74,198.40</u>	<u>74,225.50</u>
Sri Lanka	2006	635.71	635.71
	2007	13,335.00	-
		<u>13,970.71</u>	<u>635.71</u>
		<u>184,186.51</u>	<u>151,568.61</u>
(05) INVESTMENT IN FIXED DEPOSITS			
Standard Chartered Bank Plc			
A/c No. 93367142028		269,809.49	262,706.73
A/c No. 93367142029		102,004.19	96,000.00
		<u>371,813.68</u>	<u>358,706.73</u>
(06) PREPAYMENT AND DEPOSITS			
Insurance - Medical		46.54	33.91
- Vehicle		34.13	39.11
- Fire		86.83	68.54
Newspapers		78.63	79.22
Equipment - Service charges		36.21	11.34
Mobile phone deposit		561.40	561.40
Rent deposit		48.08	48.08
		<u>891.82</u>	<u>841.60</u>

Notes to the financial statements continued on page 10.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER, 2007.(CONTINUED)

	<u>2007</u> US\$	<u>2006</u> US\$
(07) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Standard Chartered Bank Plc - FCBU - (USD)		
- A/c No. 02-3367142-01	29,922.03	11,914.20
Standard Chartered Bank Plc - (LKR)		
- A/c No. 3367142-01 - (Rs. 129,728.06)	1,205.65	1,290.10
Cash in hand	0.12	0.07
	<u>31,127.80</u>	<u>13,204.37</u>
(08) ACCRUED EXPENSES		
Air travel	-	580.20
Auditors' remuneration	329.17	160.32
Communication expenses	21.26	373.57
Electricity	104.70	204.00
Fuel charges	-	22.66
Miscellaneous (for posters)	-	43.14
Overtime	-	32.94
Printing expenses	143.72	143.12
Rental	704.78	-
Repairs and maintenance	11.20	18.60
Security charges	114.67	91.56
Stationery	-	52.75
Water	11.75	11.69
Web expenses	-	237.15
	<u>1,441.25</u>	<u>1,971.70</u>
(09) ACCUMULATED FUND		
Balance at the beginning of the year	506,999.47	468,270.53
Add :		
Net surplus for the year	68,769.88	38,728.94
Balance at the end of the year	<u>575,769.35</u>	<u>506,999.47</u>

Notes to the financial statements continued on page 11.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER, 2007.(CONTINUED)

(10) COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION	<u>2007</u> US\$	<u>2006</u> US\$
Bangladesh	13,335.00	13,335.00
India	32,185.00	32,185.00
Maldives	5,975.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	27,130.00	27,130.00
Sri Lanka	13,335.00	13,335.00
	<u>91,960.00</u>	<u>91,960.00</u>
(11) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Allowance - 13th month salary	376.39	124.41
Bank charges	155.25	279.21
Cost of living allowances	310.50	238.71
Courier charges	89.05	923.08
Custom charges for clearing	-	4,434.54
E.P.F.	737.00	629.55
Electricity	1,300.56	1,240.24
E-mail	165.61	171.83
Fuel charges	326.70	560.34
Interim relief	56.46	-
Insurance - Burglary	-	12.87
- Fire	120.65	92.30
- Medical	266.63	237.15
- Vehicle	56.18	62.18
Maintenance of secretariat	220.91	1,289.29
Miscellaneous expenses	78.92	671.84
Newspapers	82.03	35.12
Overtime	125.24	206.94
Postage	51.55	289.49
Publications	-	616.14
Salary - Local staff	2,930.13	5,380.37
SAS allowances	3,764.78	3,363.58
Security charges	1,256.47	1,142.35
Staff salary - contract	3,449.00	6,970.78
Staff welfare	163.16	173.62
Terminal benefit	-	1,418.78
Transport allowance	491.35	420.02
Vehicle maintenance	128.49	269.49
Water	184.51	163.46
Web / Network	151.77	839.73
	<u>17,039.29</u>	<u>32,257.41</u>

Notes to the financial statements continued on page 12.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER, 2007. (CONTINUED)

(12) PERDIEM AND AIR TRAVEL

<u>PERSON</u>	<u>PURPOSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>2007</u> <u>US \$</u>
Dr. A.A. Boaz	8th meeting of UN - New York, USA	4,164.00
	2nd Global conference - Qingdao, China	1,323.00
Dr. A.A. Boaz	ICRI meeting - Vietnam	385.00
Dr. A.A. Boaz	8th Regular Session of the IMO - UK	3,052.00
	Difference of perdiem paid	<u>1,160.00</u>
Total perdiem expenses		10,084.00
Foreign air travel		4,405.33
Total perdiem and air travel expenses		<u><u>14,489.33</u></u>



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED **31ST DECEMBER 2008**

HLB Edirisinghe & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

45, (2nd Floor),
Braybrooke Street, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka.
Tel : 2433933, 2430242, 2430243 Fax : 2445683
E-mail: info@hlblk.com

A member of  **International**

A world-wide organization of accounting firms and business advisers



Edirisinghe & Co

Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME**

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME., which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2008, Income Statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Scope of Audit and Basis of Opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. We therefore believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, so far as appears from our examination, the organization maintained proper accounting records for the year ended December 31, 2008 and the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Organization's state of affairs as at December 31, 2008 and its surplus for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

H. Edirisinghe

**HLB Edirisinghe & Co.
Chartered Accountants**

**Colombo
14-May-10**

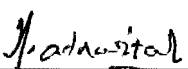


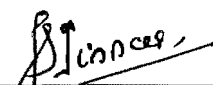
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2008

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
ASSETS	<u>NOTE</u>	US\$	US\$
Non Current Assets			
Property Plant and Equipment	03	349.14	762.87
		<u>349.14</u>	<u>762.87</u>
Current Assets			
Country Contribution Receivable	04	210,492.71	184,186.51
Investment in Fixed Deposits	05	418,726.60	371,813.68
Deposits and Prepayments	06	1,008.84	891.82
Staff loan receivables		531.40	130.02
Internal loan		-	5,000.00
Cash and Cash Equivalents	07	9,815.70	31,127.80
		<u>640,575.25</u>	<u>593,149.83</u>
Less:-			
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses	08	9,080.30	1,441.25
Current Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>631,494.95</u>	<u>591,708.58</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>631,844.09</u>	<u>592,471.45</u>
FUNDS AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Fund	09	622,646.52	575,769.35
Accumulated project fund		9,197.57	16,702.10
Total Funds and Reserves		<u>631,844.09</u>	<u>592,471.45</u>

The significant accounting policies and notes from pages 04 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements as appear on pages 01 to 10 were approved by the secretariat of SACEP.


Chairman of the Consultative
Committee of SACEP


Officiating Director General/
The Administrative officer

14-May-10
Colombo
Page 01



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<u>ON ACCRUAL BASIS</u>	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>US\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
INCOME			
Country Contribution	10	91,960.00	91,960.00
Interest income		11,996.81	24,387.79
		<u>103,956.81</u>	<u>116,347.79</u>
LESS:			
EXPENSES			
Auditor's remuneration		422.49	308.26
Administrative Expenses	11	34,949.77	17,039.29
Advertisements for appointment of regional co-ordinator		-	4,953.60
Communication - Land phone		602.97	702.53
Depreciation		413.73	413.73
Exchange loss		56.35	28.56
Perdiem and air travel		8,606.33	14,489.33
Printing and stationery		3,164.57	520.24
Rental - SACEP Secretariat		5,510.47	4,808.27
Repairs and maintenance		848.69	25.37
Salary - regional co-ordinator		2,338.70	2,500.00
Shipping charges		-	1,774.12
Transport		165.57	14.61
		<u>57,079.64</u>	<u>47,577.91</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u><u>46,877.17</u></u>	<u><u>68,769.88</u></u>

14-May-10
Page 02



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
ON CASH BASIS	US\$	US\$
INCOME		
Country Contribution (Note A)	65,653.80	59,342.10
Interest Income	11,996.81	24,387.79
	<u>77,650.61</u>	<u>83,729.89</u>
LESS:		
EXPENSES	<u>55,286.25</u>	<u>47,716.29</u>
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>22,364.36</u>	<u>36,013.60</u>

Note A

Country contribution received	- India	24,390.25	32,185.00
	- Maldives	5,975.00	-
	- Pakistan	26,819.47	27,157.10
	- Sri Lanka	8,469.08	-
		<u>65,653.80</u>	<u>59,342.10</u>

14-May-10

Page 03



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2008

01 CORPORATE INFORMATION

1.1 General

South Asian Seas Action Plan was formally adopted in New Delhi, India on 24 March 1995 at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries for the protection and management of the shared marine waters and associated coastal ecosystems by the five maritime countries of SACEP Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SACEP is the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan of the South Asian Seas Programme.

The overall objective of the South Asian Seas action plan is to protect and manage the marine environment and the related coastal ecosystems of the South Asian Seas.

1.2 The notes to the financial statement on pages 4 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

1.3 Number of employees

The number of employees at the end of the year was 03.

02 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 General Policies

2.1.1 Basis of Operation

The balance sheet, statement of income together with accounting policies and notes ("financial statement") of the organization as at 31st December 2008 and for the year then ended comply in all material respects with the applicable Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

These financial statements presented in US Dollars have been prepared on a current cost basis. Financial statements which were previously prepared in Sri Lankan Rupees is hitherto presented in US Dollars for convenience and better usage by the member countries.

The management has made an assessment of the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern and they do not intend either to liquidate or to cease operations.

2.1.2 Comparative Information

The accounting policies have been consistently applied by the Organization and are consistent with those used in the previous year.

2.1.3 Foreign Currency Translation

All Sri Lankan Rupee transactions are converted to US Dollars (US\$), which is the reporting currency at the rates of exchange prevailing at the time the transactions were effected. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in Sri Lankan Rupees are translated to US Dollar equivalents using year end spot foreign exchange rates (Rs.111.50 as at 31/12/2008). The resulting gains and losses are accounted for in the income statement.

14-May-10
Page 04



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2008

2.2 Valuation of assets and their measurement basis

2.2.1 Trade and other receivables

Trade Receivables are stated at the amounts they are estimated to realize.

2.2.2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash in hand, demand deposits and short term highly liquid investments, readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of change in value.

2.2.3 Property, Plant and Equipment

(a) Cost

Property, Plant and Equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation.

(b) Restoration Costs

Expenditure incurred on repair or maintenance of property, plant and equipment in order to restore or maintain the future economic benefits expected from originally assessed standard of performance is recognized as expenses when incurred.

(c) Depreciation

The provision for depreciation is calculated by using a straight line basis on the cost or valuation of all property, plant and equipment other than freehold land, in order to write off such amounts over the estimated useful lives. The principal annual rate used is 20% per annum on all categories of assets.

2.3 Liabilities and Provisions

2.3.1 All known liabilities have been accounted for in preparing the financial statements.

2.3.2 Retirement Benefit Obligation

Defined Contribution Plans-Employees Provided Fund and Employees Trust Fund

Employees are eligible for Employees Provident Fund Contribution and Employees Trust Fund Contribution in line with the respective Statutes and Regulations.

14-May-10
Page 05



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2008

2.4 Grants and Subsidies

Grants and Subsidies are recognized at their fair value where there is responsible assurance that the grant/subsidy will be received and all attaching conditions, if any, will be complied with. When the grant or subsidy related to an expense item, it is recognized as income over the period necessary to match them to the costs to which it is intended to compensate on a systematic basis.

2.5 Statement of Financial Activities

2.5.1 revenue Recognition

(a) Country Contribution

Represents the agreed contribution from member countries, and are recognized on an accrual basis.

(b) Interest

Interest income is recognized on a cash basis.

2.5.2 Expenditure Recognition

- (a)** Expenses are recognized in the income statement on the basis of a direct association between the cost incurred and the earning of specific items of income. All expenditure incurred in the running of the activities and in maintaining the property, plant and equipment in a state of efficiency has been charged to income in arriving at the surplus for the year.

14-May-10
Page 06



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2008

NOTE 03 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	As at 01st January 2008	Additions	(Disposals)/ Adjustments	As at 31 st December 2008
Cost	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Mobile phone	661.22	-	-	661.22
Cupboard	201.41	-	-	201.41
Furniture and fittings	1,545.76	-	-	1,545.76
Computer	5,454.87	-	-	5,454.87
Partition	640.78	-	-	640.78
Bicycle	69.55	-	-	69.55
	<u>8,573.59</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,573.59</u>
Accumulated depreciation				
Mobile phone	660.22	-	-	660.22
Cupboard	200.41	-	-	200.41
Furniture and fittings	1,498.03	26.39	-	1,524.42
Computer	4,798.37	373.43	-	5,171.80
Partition	639.78	-	-	639.78
Bicycle	13.91	13.91	-	27.82
	<u>7,810.72</u>	<u>413.73</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,224.45</u>
Written down value				
Mobile phone	1.00			1.00
Cupboard	1.00			1.00
Furniture and fittings	47.73			21.34
Computer	656.50			283.07
Partition	1.00			1.00
Bicycle	55.64			41.73
	<u>762.87</u>			<u>349.14</u>

14-May-10

Page 07



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2008

		2008	2007
		US\$	US\$
NOTE 04 - COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION RECEIVABLE			
India	2007	7,794.75	32,185.00
	2008	32,185.00	-
		<u>39,979.75</u>	<u>32,185.00</u>
Bangladesh	2003	4,517.40	4,517.40
	2004	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2005	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2006	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2007	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2008	13,335.00	-
		<u>71,192.40</u>	<u>57,857.40</u>
Maldives	2007	-	5,975.00
	2008	5,975.00	-
		<u>5,975.00</u>	<u>5,975.00</u>
Pakistan	2002	-	19,938.40
	2006	20,248.93	27,130.00
	2007	27,130.00	27,130.00
	2008	27,130.00	-
		<u>74,508.93</u>	<u>74,198.40</u>
Sri Lanka	2006	-	635.71
	2007	5,501.63	13,335.00
	2008	13,335.00	-
		<u>18,836.63</u>	<u>13,970.71</u>
Total		<u>210,492.71</u>	<u>184,186.51</u>
NOTE 05 - INVESTMENT IN FIXED DEPOSITS			
Standard Chartered Bank Plc			
A/c No. 93367142-28		278,263.85	269,809.49
A/c No. 93367142-29		105,200.46	102,004.19
A/c No. 93367142-31/37		35,262.29	-
		<u>418,726.60</u>	<u>371,813.68</u>
NOTE 06 - DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS			
Insurance - Medical		47.31	46.54
- Vehicle		33.77	34.13
- Fire		65.51	86.83
Maintenance of Secretariat		13.19	-
Newspapers		122.43	78.63
Equipment - Service charges		-	36.21
Mobile phone deposit		561.40	561.40
Rent deposit		165.23	48.08
		<u>1,008.84</u>	<u>891.82</u>



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2008

	2008	2007
	US\$	US\$
NOTE 07 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Standard Chartered Bank Plc - FCBU - (USD)	9,052.00	29,922.03
-A/c No. 02-3367142-01		
Standard Chartered Bank Plc - (LKR)	763.10	1,205.65
-A/c No. 01-3367142-01 - (Rs.)		
Cash in hand	0.60	0.12
	<u>9,815.70</u>	<u>31,127.80</u>
NOTE 08 - ACCRUED EXPENSES		
Auditor's remuneration	358.74	329.17
Communication expenses	167.07	21.26
Electricity	114.42	104.70
Local Transport	31.11	-
Overtime - Minor Staff	130.74	-
Printing expenses	1,345.13	143.72
Project Expenses	6,479.53	-
Rental	316.61	704.78
Repairs and maintenance	-	11.20
Security charges	126.99	114.67
Water	9.96	11.75
	<u>9,080.30</u>	<u>1,441.25</u>
NOTE 09 - ACCUMULATED FUND		
Balance at the beginning of the year	575,769.35	506,999.47
Add/Less:		
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	46,877.17	68,769.88
Balance at the end of the year	<u>622,646.52</u>	<u>575,769.35</u>

14-May-10
Page 09



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2008

	2008	2007
	US\$	US\$
NOTE 10 - COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION		
Bangladesh	13,335.00	13,335.00
India	32,185.00	32,185.00
Maldives	5,975.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	27,130.00	27,130.00
Sri Lanka	13,335.00	13,335.00
	<u>91,960.00</u>	<u>91,960.00</u>
NOTE 11 - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Allowance - 13th month salary	639.57	376.39
Seminars and Conferences (4 IMM)	6,576.94	-
Bank charges	182.80	155.25
Courier charges	52.86	89.05
E.P.F.	812.11	737.00
Electricity	1,750.62	1,300.56
E-mail	128.69	165.61
Fuel charges	406.27	326.70
Insurance - Fire	133.62	120.65
- Medical	283.07	266.63
- Vehicle	51.01	56.18
Maintenance of secretariat	294.54	220.91
Miscellaneous expenses	150.75	78.92
Newspapers	91.36	82.03
Overtime - Minor Staff	333.99	125.24
Postage	93.72	51.55
Salary - Local staff	5,854.66	2,986.59
Local Staff - Cost of Living Allowance	268.76	310.50
Local Staff - Transport Allowance	535.11	491.35
SAS allowances	5,906.25	3,764.78
Security charges	1,462.21	1,256.47
Staff salary - contract	8,021.36	3,449.00
Staff welfare	289.43	163.16
Vehicle maintenance	497.56	128.49
Water	132.51	184.51
Web / Network	-	151.77
	<u>34,949.77</u>	<u>17,039.29</u>

14-May-10

Page 10





**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED.....31ST DECEMBER 2009.**

HLB Edirisinghe & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

45, (2nd Floor),
Braybrooke Street, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka.
Tel : 2433933, 2430242, 2430243 Fax : 2445683
E-mail: info@hlblk.com

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Edirisinghe & Co

Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME**

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME., which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2009, Income Statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management of the South Asia Co-operative Environment programme is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Scope of Audit and Basis of Opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. We therefore believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, so far as appears from our examination, the organization maintained proper accounting records for the year ended December 31, 2009 and the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Organization's state of affairs as at December 31, 2009 and its surplus for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

HLB Edirisinghe & Co.

HLB Edirisinghe & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Colombo
23-May-11

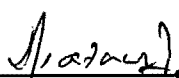


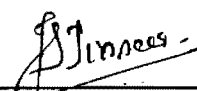
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2009

		<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>US\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
ASSETS			
Non Current Assets			
Property Plant and Equipment	03	414.53	349.14
		<u>414.53</u>	<u>349.14</u>
Current Assets			
Country Contribution Receivable	04	218,337.96	210,492.71
Investment in Fixed Deposits	05	409,765.10	418,726.60
Deposits and Prepayments	06	941.30	1,008.84
Staff loan receivables		186.27	531.40
Cash and Cash Equivalents	07	5,604.74	9,815.70
		<u>634,835.37</u>	<u>640,575.25</u>
Less:-			
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses	08	2,191.78	9,080.30
Current Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>632,643.59</u>	<u>631,494.95</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>633,058.12</u>	<u>631,844.09</u>
FUNDS AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Fund	09	627,002.52	622,646.52
Accumulated project fund		6,055.60	9,197.57
Total Funds and Reserves		<u>633,058.12</u>	<u>631,844.09</u>

The significant accounting policies and notes from pages 04 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements as appear on pages 01 to 10 were approved by the secretariat of SACEP.


Chairman of the Consultative
Committee of SACEP


Officiating Director General/
The Administrative officer

23-May-11
Colombo
Page 01



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2009

		2009	2008
ON ACCRUAL BASIS	NOTE	US\$	US\$
INCOME			
Country Contribution	10	91,960.00	91,960.00
Interest income		6,691.79	11,996.81
		<u>98,651.79</u>	<u>103,956.81</u>
LESS:			
EXPENSES			
Auditor's remuneration		402.66	422.49
Administrative Expenses	11	30,739.30	34,949.77
Communication - Land phone		2,285.30	602.97
Depreciation		395.21	413.73
Exchange loss		62.75	56.35
Perdiem and air travel		21,387.45	8,606.33
Printing and stationery		1,069.81	3,164.57
Rental - SACEP Secretariat		6,413.15	5,510.47
Repairs and maintenance		618.02	848.69
Salary - SASP co-ordinator		30,000.00	2,338.70
Transport		410.19	165.57
Terminal Benefit		511.95	-
		<u>94,295.79</u>	<u>57,079.64</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u><u>4,356.00</u></u>	<u><u>46,877.17</u></u>

23-May-11
Page 02



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2009

		2009	2008
		US\$	US\$
<u>ON CASH BASIS</u>			
INCOME			
Country Contribution	(Note A)	84,114.75	65,653.80
Interest Income		6,691.79	11,996.81
		<u>90,806.54</u>	<u>77,650.61</u>
LESS:			
EXPENSES			
		<u>100,613.87</u>	<u>55,286.25</u>
NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u><u>(9,807.33)</u></u>	<u><u>22,364.36</u></u>

Note A

Country contribution received	- India	72,164.75	24,390.25
	- Maldives	11,950.00	5,975.00
	- Pakistan	-	26,819.47
	- Sri Lanka	-	8,469.08
		<u>84,114.75</u>	<u>65,653.80</u>

23-May-11

Page 03



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2009

01 CORPORATE INFORMATION

1.1 General

South Asian Seas Action Plan was formally adopted in New Delhi, India on 24 March 1995 at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries for the protection and management of the shared marine waters and associated coastal ecosystems by the five maritime countries of SACEP Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SACEP is the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan of the South Asian Seas Programme.

The overall objective of the South Asian Seas action plan is to protect and manage the marine environment and the related coastal ecosystems of the South Asian Seas.

1.2 The notes to the financial statement on pages 4 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

1.3 Number of employees

The number of employees at the end of the year was 03.

02 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 General Policies

2.1.1 Basis of Operation

The balance sheet, statement of income together with accounting policies and notes ("financial statement") of the organization as at 31st December 2009 and for the year then ended comply in all material respects with the applicable Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

These financial statements presented in US Dollars have been prepared on a current cost basis. Financial statements which were previously prepared in Sri Lankan Rupees is hitherto presented in US Dollars for convenience and better usage by the member countries.

The management has made an assessment of the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern and they do not intend either to liquidate or to cease operations.

2.1.2 Comparative Information

The accounting policies have been consistently applied by the Organization and are consistent with those used in the previous year.

2.1.3 Foreign Currency Translation

All Sri Lankan Rupee transactions are converted to US Dollars (US\$), which is the reporting currency at the rates of exchange prevailing at the time the transactions were effected. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in Sri Lankan Rupees are translated to US Dollar equivalents using year end spot foreign exchange rates (Rs.113.10 as at 31/12/2009). The resulting gains and losses are accounted for in the income statement.

23-May-11
Page 04



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2009

2.2 Valuation of assets and their measurement basis

2.2.1 Trade and other receivables

Trade Receivables are stated at the amounts they are estimated to realize.

2.2.2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash in hand, demand deposits and short term highly liquid investments, readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of change in value.

2.2.3 Property, Plant and Equipment

(a) Cost

Property, Plant and Equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation.

(b) Restoration Costs

Expenditure incurred on repair or maintenance of property, plant and equipment in order to restore or maintain the future economic benefits expected from originally assessed standard of performance is recognized as expenses when incurred.

(c) Depreciation

The provision for depreciation is calculated by using a straight line basis on the cost or valuation of all property, plant and equipment other than freehold land, in order to write off such amounts over the estimated useful lives. The principal annual rate used is 20% per annum on all categories of assets.

2.3 Liabilities and Provisions

2.3.1 All known liabilities have been accounted for in preparing the financial statements.

2.3.2 Retirement Benefit Obligation

Defined Contribution Plans-Employees Provided Fund and Employees Trust Fund

Employees are eligible for Employees Provident Fund Contribution and Employees Trust Fund Contribution in line with the respective Statutes and Regulations.

23-May-11
Page 05



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2009

2.4 Grants and Subsidies

Grants and Subsidies are recognized at their fair value where there is responsible assurance that the grant/subsidy will be received and all attaching conditions, if any, will be complied with. When the grant or subsidy related to an expense item, it is recognized as income over the period necessary to match them to the costs to which it is intended to compensate on a systematic basis.

2.5 Statement of Financial Activities

2.5.1 Revenue Recognition

(a) Country Contribution

Represents the agreed contribution from member countries, and are recognized on an accrual basis.

(b) Interest

Interest income is recognized on a cash basis.

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- (a)** Expenses are recognized in the income statement on the basis of a direct association between the cost incurred and the earning of specific items of income. All expenditure incurred in the running of the activities and in maintaining the property, plant and equipment in a state of efficiency has been charged to income in arriving at the surplus for the year.

23-May-11
Page 06



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2009

NOTE 03 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	As at 01st January 2009	Additions	(Disposals)/ Adjustments	As at 31 st December 2009
Cost	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Mobile phone	661.22	-	-	661.22
Cupboard	201.41	-	-	201.41
Furniture and fittings	1,545.76	-	-	1,545.76
Computer	5,454.87	-	-	5,454.87
Partition	640.78	-	-	640.78
Bicycle	69.55	-	-	69.55
Office Equipment	-	460.60	-	460.60
	<u>8,573.59</u>	<u>460.60</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,034.19</u>
Accumulated depreciation				
Mobile phone	660.22	-	-	660.22
Cupboard	200.41	-	-	200.41
Furniture and fittings	1,524.42	7.11	-	1,531.53
Computer	5,171.80	282.07	-	5,453.87
Partition	639.78	-	-	639.78
Bicycle	27.82	13.91	-	41.73
Office Equipment	-	92.12	-	92.12
	<u>8,224.45</u>	<u>395.21</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,619.66</u>
Written down value				
Mobile phone	1.00			1.00
Cupboard	1.00			1.00
Furniture and fittings	21.34			14.23
Computer	283.07			1.00
Partition	1.00			1.00
Bicycle	41.73			27.82
Office Equipment	-			368.48
	<u>349.14</u>			<u>414.53</u>

23-May-11
Page 07



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2009

		<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
NOTE 04 - COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION RECEIVABLE		US\$	US\$
India	2007	-	7,794.75
	2008	-	32,185.00
	2009	-	39,979.75
Bangladesh	2003	4,517.40	4,517.40
	2004	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2005	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2006	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2007	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2008	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2009	13,335.00	-
		<u>84,527.40</u>	<u>71,192.40</u>
Maldives	2008	-	5,975.00
		-	<u>5,975.00</u>
Pakistan	2006	20,248.93	20,248.93
	2007	27,130.00	27,130.00
	2008	27,130.00	27,130.00
	2009	27,130.00	-
		<u>101,638.93</u>	<u>74,508.93</u>
Sri Lanka	2007	5,501.63	5,501.63
	2008	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2009	13,335.00	-
		<u>32,171.63</u>	<u>18,836.63</u>
Total		<u>218,337.96</u>	<u>210,492.71</u>

NOTE 05 - INVESTMENT IN FIXED DEPOSITS

<hr/>		
Standard Chartered Bank Plc		
A/c No. 93367142-28	282,923.59	278,263.85
A/c No. 93367142-29	101,823.71	105,200.46
A/c No. 93367142-31/37	25,017.80	35,262.29
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	409,765.10	418,726.60

NOTE 06 - DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS

Insurance - Medical	80.53	47.31
- Vehicle	34.55	33.77
- Fire	-	65.51
- Workmen Compensation Insurance	87.20	-
Maintenance of Secretariat	-	13.19
Newspapers	12.39	122.43
Mobile phone deposit	561.40	561.40
Rent deposit	165.23	165.23
	<u>941.30</u>	<u>1,008.84</u>

23-May-11
Page 08



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2009

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
NOTE 07 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	US\$	US\$
Standard Chartered Bank Plc - FCBU - (USD)	5,012.2400	9,052.00
-A/c No. 02-3367142-01		
Standard Chartered Bank Plc - (LKR)	592.29	763.10
-A/c No. 01-3367142-01 - (Rs.)		
Cash in hand	0.21	0.60
	<u>5,604.74</u>	<u>9,815.70</u>

NOTE 08 - ACCRUED EXPENSES

Auditor's remuneration	761.40	358.74
Communication expenses	77.38	167.07
Electricity	114.66	114.42
Local Transport	-	31.11
Overtime - Minor Staff	30.80	130.74
Printing expenses	-	1,345.13
Project Expenses	-	6,479.53
Rental	325.66	316.61
Security charges	130.34	126.99
Water	5.97	9.96
Fuel	69.19	-
Air Travel	663.72	-
Insurance - Air Travel	12.66	-
	<u>2,191.78</u>	<u>9,080.30</u>

NOTE 09 - ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance at the beginning of the year	622,646.52	575,769.35
Add/Less:		
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	4,356.00	46,877.17
Balance at the end of the year	<u>627,002.52</u>	<u>622,646.52</u>

23-May-11
Page 09



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2009

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
NOTE 10 - COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION	US\$	US\$
Bangladesh	13,335.00	13,335.00
India	32,185.00	32,185.00
Maldives	5,975.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	27,130.00	27,130.00
Sri Lanka	13,335.00	13,335.00
	<u>91,960.00</u>	<u>91,960.00</u>
NOTE 11 - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Allowance - 13th month salary	212.83	639.57
Seminars and Conferences (4 IMM)	-	6,576.94
Bank charges	388.41	182.80
Courier charges	296.69	52.86
E.P.F.	896.24	812.11
Electricity	1,678.06	1,750.62
E-mail	172.23	128.69
Fuel charges	1,167.11	406.27
Insurance - Fire	65.51	133.62
- Medical	518.59	283.07
- Vehicle	51.05	51.01
- Air	216.45	-
- Workmen Compensation	62.28	-
Maintenance of secretariat	542.51	294.54
Miscellaneous expenses	540.82	150.75
Newspapers	138.10	91.36
Overtime - Minor Staff	681.68	333.99
Postage	88.50	93.72
Salary - Local staff	6,078.44	5,854.66
Local Staff - Cost of Living Allowance	232.50	268.76
Local Staff - Transport Allowance	597.52	535.11
SAS allowances	5,813.25	5,906.25
Security charges	1,547.21	1,462.21
Staff salary - contract	7,668.10	8,021.36
Staff welfare	260.56	289.43
Vehicle maintenance	284.16	497.56
Water	207.17	132.51
Web / Network	279.34	-
Entertainment	53.99	-
	<u>30,739.30</u>	<u>34,949.77</u>

23-May-11

Page 10





SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE
31ST DECEMBER 2010
YEAR ENDED.....

HLB Edirisinghe & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

45, (2nd Floor),
Braybrooke Street, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka.
Tel : 2433933, 2430242, 2430243 Fax : 2445683
E-mail: info@hlblk.com

A member of HLB International

A world-wide organization of accounting firms and business advisers

HLB

Edirisinghe & Co

Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME., which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2010, Income Statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management of the South Asia Co-operative Environment programme is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Scope of Audit and Basis of Opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. We therefore believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, so far as appears from our examination, the organization maintained proper accounting records for the year ended December 31, 2010 and the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Organization's state of affairs as at December 31, 2010 and its surplus for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

H. Edirisinghe

HLB Edirisinghe & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Colombo
12-Sep-12



45, Braybrooke Street, Colombo 02, Sri Lanka. Telephone: +94 11 2433933 Facsimile: +94 11 2445683, E-mail: info@hlblk.com



Report of the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers
South Asian Seas Programme
4-5 December 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan

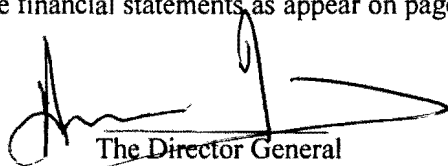


SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2010

		<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
ASSETS	<u>NOTE</u>	US\$	US\$
Non Current Assets			
Property Plant and Equipment	03	438.91	414.53
		<u>438.91</u>	<u>414.53</u>
Current Assets			
Country Contribution Receivable	04	214,705.64	218,337.96
Investment in Fixed Deposits	05	439,155.10	409,765.10
Deposits and Prepayments	06	1,127.75	941.30
Staff loan Receivables		209.76	186.27
Cash and Cash Equivalents	07	1,613.75	5,604.74
		<u>656,812.00</u>	<u>634,835.37</u>
Less:-			
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses	08	1,621.51	2,191.78
Current Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>655,190.49</u>	<u>632,643.59</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>655,629.41</u>	<u>633,058.12</u>
FUNDS AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Fund	09	652,170.73	627,002.52
Accumulated project fund		3,458.68	6,055.60
Total Funds and Reserves		<u>655,629.41</u>	<u>633,058.12</u>

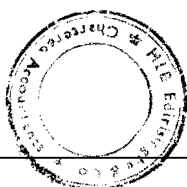
The significant accounting policies and notes from pages 04 to 10 form an integral part of these financial

The financial statements as appear on pages 01 to 10 were approved by the secretariat of SACEP.


The Director General


The Administrative officer

12-Sep-2012
Colombo
Page 01



Report of the 5th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers
South Asian Seas Programme
4-5 December 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

2010

2009

ON ACCRUAL BASIS

NOTE

US\$

US\$

INCOME

Country Contribution	10	91,960.00	91,960.00
Interest income		4,523.61	6,691.79
Exchange gain		234.38	-
		<u>96,717.99</u>	<u>98,651.79</u>

LESS:

EXPENSES

Auditor's remuneration		400.00	402.66
Administrative Expenses	11	30,371.72	30,739.30
Appointment of SASP co-ordinator		4,604.77	-
Communication - Land phone		1,702.76	2,285.30
Depreciation		147.52	395.21
Exchange loss		-	62.75
Perdiem and Air travel		14,370.69	21,387.45
Printing and stationery		243.32	1,069.81
Rental - SACEP Secretariat		6,762.47	6,413.15
Repairs and maintenance		315.78	618.02
Salary - SASP co-ordinator		12,500.00	30,000.00
Transport		130.75	410.19
Terminal Benefit		-	511.95
		<u>71,549.78</u>	<u>94,295.79</u>

NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR

25,168.21 4,356.00

12-Sep-12

Page 02



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

ON CASH BASIS

2010
US\$

2009
US\$

INCOME

Country Contribution

(Note A)

95,592.32

84,114.75

Interest Income

4,523.61

6,691.79

100,115.93

90,806.54

LESS:

EXPENSES

72,327.63

100,613.87

NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR

27,788.30

(9,807.33)

Note A

Country contribution received

- India

32,185.00

72,164.75

- Maldives

5,975.00

11,950.00

- Pakistan

54,033.41

-

- Sri Lanka

3,398.91

-

95,592.32

84,114.75

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2010

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2.1.3 Foreign Currency Translation

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SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2010

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(a) Cost

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(b) Restoration Costs

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2.3.1 All known liabilities have been accounted for in preparing the financial statements.

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SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 31ST DECEMBER 2010

2.4 Grants and Subsidies

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SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2010

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Cupboard	201.41	-	-	201.41
Furniture and fittings	1,545.76	171.90	-	1,717.66
Computer	5,454.87	-	-	5,454.87
Partition	640.78	-	-	640.78
Bicycle	69.55	-	-	69.55
Office Equipment	460.60	-	-	460.60
	<u>9,034.19</u>	<u>171.90</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,206.09</u>
Accumulated Depreciation				
Mobile phone	660.22	-	-	660.22
Cupboard	200.41	-	-	200.41
Furniture and Fittings	1,531.53	41.49	-	1,573.02
Computer	5,453.87	-	-	5,453.87
Partition	639.78	-	-	639.78
Bicycle	41.73	13.91	-	55.64
Office Equipment	92.12	92.12	-	184.24
	<u>8,619.66</u>	<u>147.52</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,767.18</u>
Written down value				
Mobile phone	1.00			1.00
Cupboard	1.00			1.00
Furniture and fittings	14.23			144.64
Computer	1.00			1.00
Partition	1.00			1.00
Bicycle	27.82			13.91
Office Equipment	368.48			276.36
	<u>414.53</u>			<u>438.91</u>

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2010

		2010	2009
NOTE 04 - COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION RECEIVABLE		US\$	US\$
Bangladesh	2003	4,517.40	4,517.40
	2004	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2005	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2006	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2007	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2008	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2009	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2010	13,335.00	-
		<u>97,862.40</u>	<u>84,527.40</u>
Pakistan	2006	-	20,248.93
	2007	-	27,130.00
	2008	20,475.52	27,130.00
	2009	27,130.00	27,130.00
	2010	27,130.00	-
		<u>74,735.52</u>	<u>101,638.93</u>
Sri Lanka	2007	2,102.72	5,501.63
	2008	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2009	13,335.00	13,335.00
	2010	13,335.00	-
		<u>42,107.72</u>	<u>32,171.63</u>
Total		<u>214,705.64</u>	<u>218,337.96</u>

NOTE 05 - INVESTMENT IN FIXED DEPOSITS

Standard Chartered Bank Plc			
A/c No. 93367142-28	286,132.30	282,923.59	
A/c No. 93367142-29	102,911.43	101,823.71	
A/c No. 9336714246-52	50,111.37	25,017.80	
	<u>439,155.10</u>	<u>409,765.10</u>	

NOTE 06 - DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS

Insurance - Medical	90.31	80.53
- Vehicle	42.08	34.55
- Workmen Compensation Insurance	81.42	87.20
Maintenance of Secretariat	3.32	-
Newspapers	94.75	12.39
Mobile phone Deposit	561.40	561.40
Rent deposit	254.47	165.23
	<u>1,127.75</u>	<u>941.30</u>

12-Sep-12

Page 08



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2010

	2010	2009
<u>NOTE 07 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u>	US\$	US\$
Standard Chartered Bank Plc - FCBU - (USD)	303.51	5,012.24
-A/c No. 02-3367142-01		
Standard Chartered Bank Plc - (LKR)	1,310.00	592.29
-A/c No. 01-3367142-01 - (Rs.)		
Cash in hand	0.25	0.21
	<u>1,613.75</u>	<u>5,604.74</u>
<u>NOTE 08 - ACCRUED EXPENSES</u>		
Auditor's remuneration	805.21	761.40
Communication expenses	43.26	77.38
Electricity	97.24	114.66
Overtime - Minor Staff	76.86	30.80
Rental	330.88	325.66
Security charges	157.80	130.34
Water	6.17	5.97
Fuel	104.09	69.19
Air Travel	-	663.72
Insurance - Air Travel	-	12.66
	<u>1,621.51</u>	<u>2,191.78</u>
<u>NOTE 09 - ACCUMULATED FUND</u>		
Balance at the beginning of the year	627,002.52	622,646.52
Add/Less:		
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	25,168.21	4,356.00
Balance at the end of the year	<u>652,170.73</u>	<u>627,002.52</u>

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31ST DECEMBER 2010

NOTE 10 - COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION

	US\$	US\$
Bangladesh	13,335.00	13,335.00
India	32,185.00	32,185.00
Maldives	5,975.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	27,130.00	27,130.00
Sri Lanka	13,335.00	13,335.00
	<u>91,960.00</u>	<u>91,960.00</u>

NOTE 11 - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Allowance - 13th month salary	239.86	212.83
Salary - Local staff	7,255.84	6,078.44
Local Staff - Cost of Living Allowance	215.54	232.50
Local Staff - Transport Allowance	872.31	597.52
SAS allowances	6,248.57	5,813.25
Staff salary - contract	5,613.42	7,668.10
Staff welfare	349.22	260.56
E.P.F.	909.63	896.24
E.T.F.	413.88	-
Overtime - Minor Staff	529.27	681.68
Insurance - Fire	-	65.51
- Medical	445.87	518.59
- Vehicle	55.59	51.05
- Air	71.98	216.45
- Workmen Compensation	145.36	62.28
Maintenance of secretariat	540.03	542.51
Meeting Expenses	345.33	-
Miscellaneous expenses	196.99	540.82
Newspapers	-	138.10
Postage	-	88.50
Electricity	1,536.13	1,678.06
E-mail	163.46	172.23
Fuel charges	817.95	1,167.11
Security charges	1,701.59	1,547.21
Bank charges	226.08	388.41
Courier charges	32.69	296.69
Vehicle maintenance	986.62	284.16
Water	242.64	207.17
Web / Network	215.88	279.34
Entertainment	-	53.99
	<u>30,371.72</u>	<u>30,739.30</u>

