

Chair's Report of the Ocean Policy Institute Network in the East Asian Region (OPINEAR) Kuala Lumpur Meeting

Date: November 25, 2008

Venue: Corus Hotel Kuala Lumpur

Participants:

Members:

CSEAS (Center for South East Asian Studies, Indonesia): Prof. Dr. Hasjim Djalal

KMI (Korea Maritime Institute, Republic of Korea): Dr. Chinsoo Lim

MIMA (Maritime Institute of Malaysia, Malaysia): Dato Cheah Kong Wai,
Prof. Capt. H M Ibrahim

OPRF (Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan): Mr. Hiroshi Terashima,
Mr. Takashi Ichioka

RSIS (S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore): Prof. Robert C.
Beckman, Mr. Kwa Chong Guan

Resource Person: Dr. Chua Thia-Eng

Observers:

PEMSEA: Prof. Raphael P. M. Lotilla

The Nippon Foundation: Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Mr. Yuzo Takahashi

Secretariat:

Mr. Tan Kim Hooi, Ms. Siti Nazatul Izura Mohd Ishak,

Dr. Fenjun Duan, Mr. Tetsuo Kotani, Dr. Kanae Komaki, Dr. Yinji Li

I. Opening Session

A. Mr. Hiroshi Terashima, Executive Director of OPRF was elected as chairman, Dato Cheah Kong Wai, Director General of MIMA was elected as co-chairman of the meeting.

B. The Chairman and co-chairman made opening remarks.

II. Adoption of Agenda

A. The Agenda was adopted according to the secretariat's proposal.

III. Organizational Matters

A. Chair's Report of the Tokyo Meeting

1. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, co-chairman of the Tokyo Meeting made a review of the

Chair's Report of the Tokyo Meeting.

B. Confirmation of establishment and official name of the network

1. The meeting agreed to adopt the official name of the network, "OPINEAR", and also reconfirmed the establishment of the network with its official name.

C. Discussion

1. The meeting agreed to identify the geographical scope of an OPINEAR member. In line with PEMSEA's definition of "Seas of East Asia", the coastal nations or those regarded as coastal nations along the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, the South China Sea, the Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Sea, the Indonesian Seas and the Gulf of Thailand were agreed to be accepted as OPINEAR members. (Laos would therefore be accepted as a member as it is connected to the ocean through rivers.)
2. The meeting discussed the acceptance of a new member with special focus on Taiwan. The meeting agreed that the network could accept institutes from Taiwan following the process of consultation with members, considering that OPINEAR is a network for research institutes and not for governments.
3. The meeting also reconfirmed that more than one institute from the same country could join the network.
4. The meeting agreed that OPINEAR can invite regional and international organizations as observers, as appropriate.

IV. OPINEAR Activities

A. Proposals on OPINEAR activities by member institutes

The outlines of each presentation are as below.

1. CSEAS

- a. Introduced its projects of the South China Sea, cooperation in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, etc.
- b. Proposed the studies on living resources management, scientific marine research, environment protection, and international cooperation in enclosed seas (or semi-enclosed seas) as future activities of OPINEAR.

2. KMI

- a. Introduced its organization, current activities, and Yeosu Expo 2012 (main theme "Living Ocean and Coast").

3. MIMA

- a. Introduced its projects for next year, such as the Global Halal Hub Development, the International Conference on the Straits of Malacca, etc.
- b. Proposed to have a presentation as OPINEAR in the World Ocean

Conference 2009 (hereinafter referred to as “WOC2009”) to be held in May 2009, Manado, Indonesia.

4. OPRF

- a. Introduced the latest development of national coastal and ocean policy in Japan such as the enactment of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy and establishment of the Basic Ocean Plan and OPRF’s current activities.
- b. Proposed to have joint research on the establishment and implementation of national coastal and ocean policy in the East Asian region as OPINEAR’s activities

5. RSIS

- a. Informed that maritime security will be the main theme of its activities.
- b. Expressed its intention to be the focal point of the OPINEAR, considering no research institute specialized in ocean policy exists in Singapore except RSIS.

B. Discussion

1. The meeting suggested that OPINEAR attend the NGO’s forum or side event of WOC2009.
2. There was also another suggestion that OPINEAR also attend the East Asian Congress 2009 (hereinafter referred to as “EASC2009”) to be held in November next year in Manila, Philippines instead of WOC2009 considering that the scale of WOC2009 is too large to attract the attention of policy makers.

V. New Membership

- A. The meeting agreed to the “procedure on participation of institutes seeking membership” proposed by the secretariat with the following amendments:
 1. Change the expression of “if there were no objections to” into “if all the members agree to”.
 2. Change the expression of “institutes interested in East Asia” into “institutes relating to East Asian Seas”.
- B. The secretariat, OPRF, will confirm the amended procedure to each member institute with a written document.
- C. PEMSEA expressed its intention that it will cooperate with OPINEAR and its member institutes as an observer since PEMSEA is a regional organization. PEMSEA also made a presentation introducing its organization and the schedule of EASC2009.

VI. Establishment of OPINEAR Website

- A. There was a suggestion emphasizing the necessity of identifying the objectives of OPINEAR website, considering each member institute has its own website.

- B. The meeting noted that the Chair's Report of the Tokyo Meeting states "(t)he network is to be established for pragmatic and efficient exchange of information and experience preliminarily through website linkage and network meetings".
- C. The meeting agreed that it is necessary for the members to cooperate with each other particularly in exchanging information and opinion through the website.
- D. There were other suggestions as well emphasizing the necessity of ensuring the uniqueness of the website by providing timely information on ocean governance especially updating global, regional and national efforts especially pertaining to those of its members.

VII. Next Meeting

- A. The next meeting will be hosted by KMI, Republic of Korea, around late October 2009. Details of the meeting will be forwarded to the members when confirmed.

VIII. Others

- A. There were some suggestions that OPINEAR would make a presentation on its activities either in WOC2009 or EASC2009. The meeting agreed that the secretariat look into this matter and make suggestions on it later.

IX. Closing Session

- A. Chairman and co-chairman made closing remarks.

**Procedure on participation of institutes seeking membership
(Agreed in the second meeting of OPINEAR in Kuala Lumpur)**

1. A certain institute, who is seeking participation to OPINEAR, shall contact the Secretariat for the application of membership of the institute. The application shall be accompanied by a summary of activities of the institute.
2. The member institute, who recommends the participation of a certain policy institute as a new member of OPINEAR, shall recommend to the Secretariat the participation of that institute. The recommendation shall be accompanied by a summary of activities of the recommended institute.
3. When the Secretariat receives application or recommendation for membership, the Secretariat shall contact all members and solicit their opinion on the application or recommendation.
4. If all the members agree to the application or recommendation from all members, the Secretariat shall invite the institute seeking the membership to the next meeting. The OPINEAR shall accept the institute as a new member at the meeting.