

Seoul Statement on the Cooperation of Members of the Ocean Policy Institute Network in the East Asian Region (OPINEAR)
Seoul, 8th February, 2010

Recalling that the concept and purpose of establishing a regional network of ocean policy institutes in the East Asian Region to promote, share experience and undertake collaborative research on coastal and ocean governance were initiated and agreed upon in Tokyo in 2008 and the operational structure and membership of OPINEAR were elaborated at the 2nd meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2008,

Recognizing that ocean and coastal governance has become increasingly important in achieving a balance between economic development and ecosystem protection, and in pursuing global efforts to mitigate and adapt the impacts of climate change,

Noting that the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia in 2003, Tokyo Declaration on Securing the Oceans in 2004, Lisbon Statement on Ocean Governance for the XXI Century in 2008, Manado Ocean Declaration in 2009 and the recent Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management for Sustainable Development And Climate Change Adaptation in The Seas of East Asia Region in 2009 have highlighted Integrated Coastal Management as an effective tool for addressing climate change adaptation,

Noting further that informal dialogues and cooperation between national institutes and NGOs contribute to regional collaboration on ocean security issues,

Aware of the urgent need to accelerate the process of coastal and ocean governance in light of severe environmental degradation, climate change, and loss of ecosystem services, aggravated by increasing population and economic pressures, rapid urbanization and change in consumption and use patterns,

Members of OPINEAR at its Third Meeting in Seoul, reached consensus to pursue the following:

1. to accelerate the development, adoption and refinement of coastal and ocean policy and legislation in all countries of the region in view of the important contribution and value of the oceans to economic development and their role in addressing climate change,
2. to work towards integrating planning and management of coasts and oceans into national and local agenda,

3. to raise awareness of the economic, social and environmental contributions of the marine sector,
4. to promote green growth of the ocean industry,
5. to develop policy guidelines and case studies which could help countries in the region to develop appropriate policy and management measures to conserve ecosystem services by addressing common issues of the region including:
 - coastal reclamation,
 - land-based pollution and eutrophication,
 - climate change,
 - biodiversity loss and
 - overexploitation of fisheries resources,
6. to strengthen local, national and regional capacity in coastal and ocean governance and related tools and technology,
7. to promote confidence building pertaining to the security of regional seas, including institutionalization of regional cooperation and enhancing processes for risk assessment and reduction, and for addressing maritime issues (including piracy, safety and enforcement issues),
8. to implement the above collaborative activities through:
 - a) joint organization of appropriate conferences, workshops, seminars and exhibitions such as CBD COP10 in Nagoya 2010, Yeosu Exposition 2012, and EAS Congress 2012),
 - b) hosting of researchers (such as through a visiting fellowship program), encouragement of students in member institutes to undertake bilateral or multilateral research activities,
 - c) participation in or joint organization of concerned training courses and capacity development programs related to coastal and ocean governance,
 - d) undertaking joint research (e.g. renewable ocean energy) and joint publication,
 - e) building and sharing information (including publication) and initiating efforts to develop a regional database online,
 - f) promoting public awareness on the importance of oceans and

integrating ocean issues in schools and social education programs,

9. to be affiliated with like-minded organizations such as Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) on ocean policy initiatives and to participate in the organization and implementation of related activities which will enhance OPINEAR's goals and objectives including securing financial support for members needing support to attend joint conferences/workshops.

Finally, Members of OPINEAR wish to express their gratitude to KMI for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the meeting.

Adopted in Seoul, Republic of Korea on the Eighth Day of February in the Year Two Thousand and Ten.

OPINEAR MEMBERS

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Center for South East Asian Studies (CSEAS)

Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)

Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA)

Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF)

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University (RSIS)

OBSERVERS

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

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