

International Seminar on Marine Protected Areas in YSLME and North-East Asia

for effective and equitable management of MPAs to achieve SDG 14 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Ganghwa Tidal Flat Center, Ganghwa County, Republic of Korea

14 July 2017

Organization

The secretariats of *North-East Asia MPA Network (NEAMPAN)* and the *Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME)* jointly organized **International Seminar on Marine Protected Areas in YSLME and North-East Asia**, which was co-hosted by Ganghwa County, Incheon, Republic of Korea and Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), Republic of Korea.

The Seminar was held in Ganghwa Tidal Flat Center in Ganghwa County. Participants to the seminar consisted of participants at the inception workshop of the UNDP/GFE YSLME Phase II Project, marine scientists, as well as local authorities and local stakeholders in Ganghwa Island including Governor of Ganghwa County. There were also representatives from UNDP, UNOPS, government officials from State Oceanic Administration of China, Bureau of Fisheries and Fisheries Law Enforcement from Ministry of Agriculture of China, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Republic of Korea, marine scientists from renowned institutes and universities from China and Republic of Korea, East Asian and Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), Conservation International (CI), and other NGOs working for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation in the region. More than 50 representatives including local authorities and local stakeholders participated in the meeting.

Mr. Sang Bog LEE, Governor of Ganghwa County and Mr. Jae Sang YOON, Chairman, Gangwha County Council delivered a welcoming speech. Mr. Jing Yong CHOI, Executive Director of Marine Conservation, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM) also delivered an opening speech on behalf of all the organizers including ESCAP (as NEAMPAN secretariat) and YSLME.

Presentations

“Designation and Management of MPAs in KOREA” by **Ms. Su-Jeong LEE**, Manager, KOEM: Ms. Lee highlighted the current status of tidal flats in the Republic of Korea and its ecological and economic importance, and outlined the designation and process and management of marine protected areas. She also briefed the participants on the strategies and targets to ensure integrated management of MPAs.

“Efforts of China to strengthen the MPA network and ways to increase awareness and cooperative actions of governments and society” by **Mr. Zhaohui ZHANG**, Deputy Director, First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration (China): Mr. Zhang provided an overview of three types of MPAs (marine nature reserves, special marine protected areas, and aquatic germplasm resources conservation zones) in China and China’s efforts to strengthen MPA network including the designation of six MPAs in NEAMPAN, as well as how the MPA’s development is linked with the 13th five-year plan. He also highlighted various efforts to

increase awareness on MPA and cooperative actions of governments and the society through regulation, public awareness, community co-management, training, etc.

“Experiences of MPA management in Japan” by **Mr. Mitsutaku MAKINO**, Head, Fisheries Policy Group, National Research Institute of Fisheries Science (Japan): Mr. Makino highlighted how MPAs are defined in Japan and provided examples of MPAs in Japan where various stakeholders including local fishermen are involved in planning and management of MPAs. In particular, Shiretoko is a unique example as it was designated as World Natural Heritage area whereas local fishermen self-regulate the fishing activities to protect key fish stock. Researchers provide supports through scientific advices and stock assessment.

“Efficient conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar Sites in Suncheon City” by **Mr. Wonduk KIM**, Suncheon (Republic of Korea): Suncheon Bay transformed from a site where dumping and dredging taking place to a wetland reserve, with initiative of citizens and social groups to protect the area. Now Suncheon Bay is designated as Wetland Protected Area and Ramsar site where 2 million tourists visit every year. Mr. Kim highlighted how Suncheon Bay has been managed through cooperation among citizens, government and academia, removing facilities which are damaging to the ecology, restoring ecology of the wetland and creating favourable environment for migratory birds including hooded crane.

“International cooperation for a shared biodiversity resource: Migratory waterbirds and their intertidal habitats in the Yellow Sea” by **Ms. Minseon KIM**, Programme Officer, EAAFP Secretariat: East Asian-Australasian Flyway represents the highest number of IUCN threatened birds’ species and of declining species of birds. Yellow Sea is a migratory bottleneck and the protecting tidal flat, particularly in Ganghwa, is critical for securing stopover sites of migratory birds. Ms. Kim also briefed on how East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) contributes in this respect.

“How to conserve MPA sites and strengthen MPA networking to ensure a healthy ocean -- lessons learned from CI’s Seascape achievements” by **Ms. Jing WANG**, Marine program manager, Conservation International (China): Ms. Wang outlined the experience of Conservation International in MPA management and network in coral triangle (Seascape project). She also introduced Ocean Health Index which provides assessments of ocean’s health according to the 10 goals associated with the wide range of services the ocean provides, such as food provision, carbon storage, tourism, biodiversity, etc.

“Experience in establishment of MPA network in the Yellow Sea and ways forward” by **Mr. Jeong-Ho NAM**, Research Fellow, Korea Maritime Institute (Republic of Korea): Mr. Nam reflected on the past development to form Yellow Sea network of Marine Protected Area and outlined the expected benefits of MPA network as well as different types of MPA networks (social, ecological, management-based networks, for example). He highlighted steps that can be taken into the MPA network of Yellow Sea forward.

Two presenters introduced the unique features of the sites in Suncheon where participants of the seminar visited as part of the field visit.

“Temptation, Between Costal Garden and Marine” by **Ms. Young-Rang KWON**, ArtDiCom, Ganghwa (Republic of Korea): Ms. Kwon presented how she designed and implemented her project to create a garden in tidal flat

in Suncheon to make the site more attractive to the visitors than previous time, taking account of the environmental conditions of the site.

“Black-faced Spoonbill, Gangwha” by **Mr. Yong Hoon JEONG**, Gangwha Birdwatching Club (Republic of Korea): Mr. Jeong explained the increasing number of black-faced spoonbill sighted and the critical importance of Gangwha tidal flat for migratory birds as a nesting site.

Sharing experiences

Through the presentations described above and interactions among participants, the Seminar shared experiences of North-East Asia in establishing MPAs with various stakeholders in local authorities and communities. As Ganghwa island is planning to designate part of the island as a tidal flat eco-park, Ganghwa county highly appreciated ENEA and YSLME's support for their efforts to designate the area as a new MPA (eco-park) and indicated their interest to partake in MPA networking.

Seminar website: <http://www.neaspec.org/article/international-seminar-marine-protected-areas-yslme-and-north-east-asia>