

Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for COP10 Bangkok Thailand, 14 – 18 January 2008

Maruay Garden Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Monday, 14 January 2008

- 9:00 - 10:00 Opening session
- Welcoming and opening address by Mr Chartree Chueyprasit, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand
 - Welcome by Mr Anada Tiega, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention
- 10:00 - 10:15 Presentation on the objectives of the meeting and adoption of the agenda *by Tobias Salathe, Ramsar Secretariat*
- 10:45 - 11:15 Overview of the achievements and challenges for the implementation of the Convention in the Asia Region: the international perspective *by Anada Tiega, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention*
- 10:15 - 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:15 – 11:45 Presentation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014 *by Anada Tiega, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention*
- 11:45 - 12:15 Ramsar Implementation in Thailand *by Dr. Kasemsun Chinnavaso, Secretary General, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning*
- 12:15 - 12:30 Introduction to the group discussions *by Rebecca D’Cruz*
- 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 – 15:00 **Plenary session: Priorities for the next triennium 2008 - 2011**
- Ramsar Secretariat Report on the implementation of the Convention in the Asia region: up-date and progress since COP9 *by Pragati Tuladhar, Assistant Advisor for Asia, Ramsar Secretariat*
 - Presentation of the Work Plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, including National STRP Focal Points *by Rebecca D’Cruz, STRP Vice-Chair & Regional Networking Member for Asia*
- 15:00 – 15:30 Tea Break
- 15:30 – 17:30 Group discussions: Challenges in implementing the Ramsar Convention at the regional and national level

- North-east Asia
- South-east Asia
- South Asia
- West Asia and Central Asia

19:00 **Reception Dinner hosted by the Government of Thailand**

- Celebration of new Ramsar Site designations

Tuesday, 15 January 2008

9:00 - 9:15 Plenary session: Summary of Day 1 *by Rebecca D'Cruz*

9:15 - 10:00 **Plenary session: Wetlands and Poverty Reduction**

- Lessons learnt from Wetlands, Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction initiatives *by Chen Kelin, Wetlands International*

Plenary session: Wetlands and Agriculture, including fisheries

- Presentation on rice paddies and wetland conservation in Asia *by Prof Gea-Jae Joo, Pusan National University, Republic of Korea*
- An assessment of the importance of aquatic biodiversity in rice-based ecosystems in Lao PDR *by Penroong Bamrungrach, FAO*

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 11:45 Concurrent group discussions:
 (A) Wetlands, Livelihoods & Poverty Reduction
 (B) Wetlands and Agriculture, including fisheries

11:45 – 13:00 **Plenary session: Avian Influenza, Wetlands and Waterbirds**

- Introduction *by Taej Mundkur, Deputy Wildlife Coordinator for Avian Influenza Infectious Disease Group/EMPRES Animal Health Service, FAO*
- Report from the working group meeting in China *by Doug Watkins*
- Discussion: Priorities for the next triennium 2008 – 2011, and elements for the COP10 draft resolution

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:00 **Plenary session: Ramsar and other wetland-related Regional Initiatives in Asia**

- The role of regional initiatives *by Tobias Salatbe, Ramsar Secretariat*

1. Ongoing Regional Initiatives under the Ramsar Convention

- Ramsar Regional Centre for Central and West Asia, Iran *by Yasaman Rajabkhab*

- East Asian-Australasian Waterbird Flyway Partnership *by Doug Watkins, Wetlands International*

2. Ramsar Regional Initiatives in preparation

- Proposed Regional Initiative for Asia *by Mr Hwang Suk Tae, Task Force for Ramsar COP10, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea*
- Himalayan Initiative *by Dr Eklabya Sharma, ICIMOD*

3. Proposed Regional Initiatives

- Opportunities and benefits of an Amur Ramsar Regional Initiative *by Tatiana Minaeva, Russian Coordinator, UNEP-GEF Amur/Heilong Project*

4. Lessons learnt from other Regional Initiatives

- Lessons for Wetland Management from the UNEP-GEF Project: “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” *by Dr Vo Si Tuan*
- The UNEP-GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project, *by Crawford Prentice, CTA*

16:00 – 16:30 Tea break

16:30 – 17:30 Group discussions: Cooperation through regional initiatives

- Priorities for the centre for training and capacity building in Iran
- Ramsar priorities for the Waterbird Flyway Partnership
- How to develop the Himalayan Initiative
- Proposed Regional Initiative for Asia

Wednesday, 16 January 2008

All-day field excursion to Bang Pu Nature Education Centre

Thursday, 17 January 2008

9:00 - 9:15 Plenary session: Summary of Day 2 *by Rebecca D’Cruz*

9:15 - 10:30 **Plenary session: Wetlands and Climate Change**

- Report from the Secretariat on Climate Change and Wetlands and the UNFCCC COP in Bali *by Anada Tiega, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention*
- **Special session on peatlands** including a presentation on the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy *by Faizal Parish, Global Environment Centre and Tatiana Minerva, Russian Federation*, and a presentation on Wetlands in Indonesia *by Sulis Sulistrianto, Ministry of Forestry, Republic of Indonesia*

- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:30 Group discussions: Wetlands and Climate Change
- 12:30 - 13:00 Summary report from the “International Conference on Managing Wetlands for Sustainable Development: Innovative Research and Lessons Learned, Effective Partnerships, and the Need for Co-Management, held on 9-11th Jan 2008, Trang, Thailand” *by Wetlands International - Thailand*
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 - 14:45 **Plenary session: Wetlands and Human Health**
- Introduction to the “Wetlands and human health” technical report prepared by the Ramsar STRP *by Rebecca D’Cruz*
 - Discussion: Elements for a COP10 draft Resolution on “Wetlands and Human Health”
- 14:45 – 15:00 Presentation on the Iraqi Marshes *by Hasan Janabi, Advisor, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq*
- 15:00 – 16:00 **Plenary session: Ramsar sites**
- Presentation on information needs, data management and official reporting for Ramsar sites *by Alexia Dufour*
 - Presentation on detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character at Ramsar sites *by Rebecca D’Cruz*
 - Local Conservation Groups & Wetland IBAs *by Simba Chan, BirdLife International Asia Division*
- 16:00 – 17:00 Group discussions: Ramsar Sites
- 19:00 – 21:00 **Welcome to COP10 - Reception Dinner hosted by the Republic of Korea**

Friday, 18 January 2008

- 9:00 - 9:15 Plenary session: Summary of Day 3 *by Rebecca D’Cruz*
- 9:15 – 10:45 **Plenary session: Financing Wetland Conservation**
- Trends in international environmental financing: implications for wetland conservation *by Joseph D’Cruz, UNDP-GEF with Hitomi Rankine, UNESCAP*
 - “Water schools” – an initiative by the Danone Group for the Ramsar Convention *by Christophe Lefebvre*
 - How to develop financing mechanisms for Ramsar *by Tobias Salathe, Ramsar Secretariat*
 - Discussion: How to increase our financial capacities

- 10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:15 – 12:30 **Plenary session: Preparation for COP10**
- Presentation by South Korea on preparations for COP10 *by Mr Hwang Suk Tae, Task Force for Ramsar COP10, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea*
 - Presentation on the COP process *by Tobias Salatbe*
 - Presentation of the New National Reporting format *by Alexia Dufour*
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:15 Presentation on the forthcoming Asian Wetland Symposium *by Viet Hong, Viet Nam Environmental Protection Agency*
- 14:15 – 14:30 Presentation on the Pakistan Wetland Conservation Programme *by Richard Garstang, National Programme Manager/ Chief Technical Advisor, WWF Pakistan*
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Plenary session: Discussion on the issues of relevance to the Asia region for COP10**
- Issues of interest to the Asia region on the COP10 agenda
 - Proposed Draft Resolutions from Contracting Parties in Asia
 - Regional representatives to the Ramsar Standing Committee
- 16:00 – 16:30 Tea break
- 16:30 – 17:30 **Plenary session: Presentation and adoption of the main conclusions and recommendations from the Asia Regional Meeting** *by Rebecca D’Cruz*
- 17:45 Close of meeting