Monday, 14 January 2008

9:00 - 10:00 Opening session

- Welcoming and opening address by Mr Chartree Chueypratisit, 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 Infections 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 Rajabkhah
• 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 Eklarya 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


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 Salathe
- 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