PROCEEDINGS OF THE PEMSEA NETWORK OF LEARNING CENTERS (PNLC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 2024

Palawan, Philippines

22 July 2024

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

PEMSEA NETWORK OF LEARNING CENTERS (PNLC)

2024 Executive Committee Meeting

Proceedings

Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines

22 July 2024 / 09:30-12:30

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The 2024 PNLC Executive Committee (PNLC EC) Meeting was organized by the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), which is currently serving as the interim PNLC Secretariat, on 22 July 2024 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines. It was organized as a back-to-back activity with the 16th EAS Partnership Council Meeting and the Blue Carbon Working Group Meeting. It was participated in by Prof. Yonvitner of the Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies of the IPB University (CCMRS-IPB) and President of the PNLC, Dr. Fang Qinhua, Deputy Director of the Coastal and Ocean Management Institute of Xiamen University (COMI-XU) and Vice-President of the PNLC, and Ms. Aimee T. Gonzales, PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) Executive Director as members of the PNLC Executive Committee. Ms. Isdahartatie and Dr. Gentha Akmal of the CCMRS-IPB University/incoming PNLC Secretariat and Ms. Maida Aguinaldo, PEMSEA Training and Capacity Development Manager served as the Secretariat of the meeting.

1.2 The following supporting documents are annexed to these proceedings:

- Annex 1: Meeting Agenda / Program
- Annex 2: Links to the meeting documents, presentation and photos
- Annex 3: List of participants

2.0 Opening of the Meeting and Approval of the Meeting Agenda

2.1 The meeting started at 9:30 AM (UTC+8).

2.2 Prof. Yonvitner opened the meeting and acknowledged the presence of the participants. He then presented the provisional agenda of the meeting for review of the group. See PNLC EC DOC/01 for the agenda.

2.3 Action taken: The agenda was adopted as presented.

3.0 Review of PNLC Workplan and Action Points

3.1 Ms. Maida Aguinaldo, PRF Training and Capacity Development Manager and interim PNLC Secretariat, presented the workplan and action points from 2023 and apprised the council on progress made. (See PNLC EC DOC/02 for the workplan and action points). Main points of the report are as follows:

- Of the 22 action points identified during the PNLC EC Meeting in 2023, 18 have been accomplished and 4 are ongoing tasks. The remaining ongoing tasks include clarifying fund

sources for PNLC Secretariat from the PRF Cost Sharing Agreement (CSA) with Indonesia and IPB University, strengthening SEAKB as a platform for information- sharing of members by getting inputs from members, and for CCMRS-IPB as the incoming PNLC Secretariat to include PNLC members' information, etc. in the PNLC Office in IPB before Secretariat turnover.

- Of the PNLC Workplan 2023-2024 presented during the PNLC GA, the status of accomplishment is as follows:

Components	**Sub-components**	**Tasks**	**Activities**	**Accomplished Activities** (updated as of this writing)
Governance	5	11	20	16 (70)
Programs	4	5	11	9 (81%) (continual)
Communications	2	3	5	3 (60%) (continual) (review 2 items if PNLC will take on)
Partnerships and Resource Mobilization	2	4	5	5 (100%) (continual)

3.2 Discussion points include:

- Fund sources for PNLC Secretariat: Apart from the CCMRS-IPB commitment to resource requirements for the PNLC Secretariat operations, a possible source of PNLC Secretariat operational funds would be a portion of the funds from CSA Indonesia. Ms. Gonzales confirmed during the meeting that CSA Indonesia funds are expected and a portion of this could be committed to support PNLC Secretariat operations. The allocation will also be based on an approved annual workplan and budget. The allocation will be, as of now, on a year-to-year basis and not yet a multi-year commitment. Details of actual commitments will be discussed when the funds are available.
- On the PNLC workplan, the PNLC Secretariat pointed out the need to review some items that the PNLC EC and GA should decide whether PNLC would take on (at least for the next year), such as the PEMSEA Youth Program, Internship and Traineeship Program.
- On the SEAKB, the SEAKB page is now live online. The link will be shared with the members for them to explore and make suggestions. More information from the members will also be requested to enhance the page.
- On the PNLC Secretariat Office in IPB University, Bogor, the PRF visual communications specialist will visit the PNLC office and assist in designing visual materials to incorporate earlier suggested PNLC information.

3.3 Action taken: There were no further changes recommended on the PNLC Workplan.

3.4 Proposed next steps:

- Update PNLC EC on CSA Indonesia budget allocation.

- Develop PNLC workplan for 2025, to present for review in PNLC GA in November.

4.0 Review of PNLC Secretariat Turnover MOA

4.1 Ms. Aguinaldo opened the discussion on the Secretariat Turnover MOA and requested for comments and inputs on the MOA previously shared for the committee's review. (See PNLC EC DOC/03 for the PNLC Turnover MOA).

4.2 Comments and changes made to the MOA include:

- The Turnover MOA will be made between Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS), IPB University and PEMSEA.
- Signatories: CCMRS, IPB University, represented by Prof. Dr. Yonvitner and PEMSEA, represented by Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of the PRF will be the signatories to the MOA. The Chair of the EAS Partnership Council (Dr. Vann Monyneath), IPB Rector, the PNLC President and the Director General of Environmental Pollution and Degradation Control of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) of Indonesia, as focal point of Indonesia to PEMSEA, will sign as witnesses to the MOA.

4.3 Action taken: Secretariat Turnover MOA reviewed, with minor edits.

4.4 Proposed Next Steps:

- Finalize PNLC Turnover MOA for signing during the PNLC GA in November 2024 in Xiamen, China.

5.0 Update on Signing of Charter by New Members and New Application

5.1. Ms. Isdahartatie, CCMRS-IPB coordinator and PNLC Secretariat, updated the EC on the status of the new members: Mindanao State University at Naawan (MSU-Naawan) from the Philippines and National University of Laos from Lao PDR. She informed the EC that the 2 newly-accepted members will be signing the PNLC Charter during the PNLC GA on November 8 in Xiamen, China.

5.2. The EC was also informed of the new applicant from China: Guangdong Ocean University, has submitted all requirements to the PNLC Secretariat. A review of the application for PNLC membership will be scheduled with the PNLC EC in September (online).

5.3. Of the new applicant, Dr. Fang shared that while Guangdong Ocean University may be a fairly new university, Guangdong is one of the most dynamic zones in China and there are plans to build a research hub in the area. Dr. Fang also shared that the Guangdong Ocean University is very ably led by Vice Dean Dr. Shenghui Li. He provided a glowing background of Dr. Li who was his former student in Xiamen University.

5.2. Action taken:

- PNLC EC agreed to the PNLC Charter signing of new members in November in Xiamen, China.
- PNLC EC agreed to scheduling a review of the Guangdong Ocean University for PNLC membership in September via an online platform.

5.3. Proposed Next Steps:

- Schedule review of new PNLC membership applicant (online) in September
- Prepare for PNLC Charter signing of new members in November in Xiamen, China during PNLC General Assembly

6.0 Brief Updates on PNLC Financial Sustainability Efforts

6.1. Ms. Isdahartatie presented the Mapping/Matrix for membership contributions. The matrix is intended to be a framework for the PNLC General Assembly discussions on membership contributions. The information in the matrix was taken from the PNLC survey conducted in 2023. Important things to note were (1) the number of members (8 of 23 members) who expressed willingness to pay for either membership fees and/or annual fees (ranging between USD100-USD1000); (2) a good number of members who expressed willingness to provide in kind service as members' contributions to the PNLC. A third column in the matrix is on the members' participation in the EASC 2024. (See this link for the document: PNLC EC Meeting documents - Google Drive). Highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- Dr. Yonvitner suggested including benefits/extra services for members' cash contributions such as access to free trainings and workshops, accommodation, etc.
- Dr. Fang pointed out that there are no provisions in the PNLC Charter for membership fees.
- It was raised that if membership fees are to be required of the members, this provision should be included in the PNLC Charter.
- It was further suggested that the matter of mandatory versus voluntary contribution should be presented at the November GA. (*Note the PNLC members were requested to check with their respective universities' budget allocation for membership fees/ travels to attend PNLC GAs during the PNLC GA 2023. A report back ahead of the GA should be encouraged as many members may not be able to attend the GA to present the results.)*

6.2. Item 2 under the Financial Sustainability agenda was the review of concept notes for PNLC Working Groups (Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), Biodiversity and Habitat Management (BHM), Climate Change Adaptation-Disaster risk Reduction (CCA-DRR), Marine Pollution). Because of the lack of time, only 2 of the 4 concept notes were shared: (1) ICM WG Concept note: PNLC engaging in the ENMAPS project of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity; and, (2) BHM WG concept note: utilizing partners' expertise and tools to expand the Regional learning portal of PNLC. The main points of the discussions include:

- On the ICM WG concept note, a 5-year project (2024-2028) entitled Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS Project) to be implemented by the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) has identified PEMSEA as a Regional Partner. PEMSEA will be expected to provide training on ICM and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and/or other area-based management approaches in 11 marine protected areas in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. It was proposed to explore the engagement of interested PNLC members with expertise and experience in ICM, MSP, MPA and

fisheries management in the project. A call to PNLC members will be made after details of project implementation are threshed out with ACB. (For details, see PNLC EC 2024 DOC05_Working Group Concept Notes.docx - Google Docs)

- On the BHM Concept note, earlier discussions with UPMSI (PEMSEA Regional Center of Excellence (RCOE) on Coral Reed Research and Marine Protected Areas) identified the sharing of their existing knowledge product on 'Coastal Survey for Citizen Science' and provide training to the wider regional network, specifically to the PNLC members. This training could then be offered by interested PNLC members to their local and national partners in their own areas. The PRF, could also then develop this further into other knowledge products (i.e. e-modules) that could be shared on the regional platform (SEAKB). This could serve as a knowledge platform for PEMSEA partners, such as the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) and the wider regional community to access information, skills and knowledge. At the same time, the SEAKB could be a platform for PNLC members to share their expertise, training programs and courses, researches, and knowledge products. Modeling the knowledge product UPMSI is willing to share to the network could pave the way for PNLC to create more thematic capacity development programs the PNLC can offer as a service to the region.
- Another inroad for PNLC to develop organize training courses is through serving the PEMSEA partner country needs for specific training they have identified as part of their country programmed budget. An example is an ICM training planned under the CSA of Cambodia. PNLC may choose to be involved in the development and conduct of the ICM training. Details on how this may be operationalized will be discussed with interested members.

6.3. Item 3 under the Financial sustainability agenda was sharing information and updates on the Joint proposal for regional research. Ms. Isdahartatie informed the PNLC EC that a Joint Proposal on Single Use Plastics was developed to answer a call for proposals by the South-East Asia Regional Project on Combating Marine Plastics (SEA-MAP). The proposal was developed by PNLC members: IPB University, State Key Laboratory on Marine Pollution (SKLMP), Xavier University, De la Salle University (DLSU-D), and Prince of Songkla University. She also shared that they have not received word on its approval yet.

6.4. Item 4 under the Financial Sustainability agenda was on the concept of a Regional ICM training: Elementary and Advanced, shared by Prof. Dr. Yonvitner. He briefly shared the concept of PNLC developing different levels of training, such as on ICM, that could be offered as a service to projects and partners and to develop training proposals for local leaders. More discussions could be raised with PNLC members during the General Assembly (GA) and in conjunction with the proposed development of training and training modules via the ENMAPS project.

6.5. Dr. Yonvitner also raised the idea of creating a Regional Learning Center that could house different themes including, as an example, Book on Blue Carbon (BC) Methodologies. Members could be invited to share their expertise, researches and knowledge products under this Regional Learning Center. This concept could be further discussed during the PNLC GA.

6.5. Action taken:

- The PNLC EC discussed and agreed on the concepts and requested to prepare for further discussions with members of the Network.

6.6. Proposed next steps:

- Present concepts to the members for their interest and inputs ahead of PNLC GA to ensure a robust discussion at the GA.

7.0 EAS Congress 2024 PNLG-PNLC Session

7.1. The PNLG-PNLC programme for the EASC 2024 developed by the PNLG Secretariat and previously shared and commented on by the PNLC EC members was reviewed. (See PNLC EC DOC/06 for the proposed programme: PNLC EC 2024 DOC06_2024 PNLG-PNLC Joint Learning Forum Provisional Agenda.docx - Google Docs). There were no changes to the programme. Suggestions on speakers and presenters were provided. It was also suggested that ample time be allowed for Q&A and to make the sessions more interactive.

7.5. Action taken: EASC 2024 PNLG-PNLC Programme was approved and speakers were identified. More speakers are requested to be identified with the help of technical staff from PRF.

7.6. Proposed next steps:

- Seek assistance from PRF to identify speakers and presenters.
- Review programme to ensure an interactive session by allocating time for Q&A and PNLC members sharing of experiences.

8.0 4th PNLC General Assembly Agenda

8.1. The 4th PNLC General Assembly is planned to be held on November 8, 2024 from 10:00 - 12:00 in Xiamen, China during the period of the EAS Congress 2024. The proposed agenda for the GA, which was previously shared with the PNLC EC members and secretariat, was reviewed. (See PNLC EC DOC/07 for the proposed PNLC GA Agenda.)

8.2. Changes and comments to the PNLC GA agenda are as follows:

- For Agenda 3 (Signing of the PNLC Charter by New Members), adjust preparations for a possible 3rd new member in Guangdong Ocean University. The application of Guangdong Ocean University will be reviewed prior to the GA.
- On Agenda 4 (Presentation of Accomplishments and Opportunities for PNLC Member Engagement and Workplan for 2025), Dr. Fang requested that instead of him, the PNLC Secretariat (IPB) present this agenda item.
- On the Closing, Dr. Fang also requested that a PEMSEA EC member be invited to do the closing remarks.

8.3. Action taken: Reviewed PNLC GA Agenda, revisions made.

8.4. Proposed next steps:

- For PNLC Secretariat to follow-up with PNLC members on their participation to the EASC 2024 and the PNLC GA.
- To include Guangdong Ocean University in Agenda 3.0 (Signing of PNLC Charter by New Members) if approved and accepted for PNLC membership. (Review of new applicant will be conducted online in September).
- Start preparations for PNLC GA.

9.0 PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program Updates

9.1. In preparation for the scheduled Blue Carbon working group meeting in the afternoon following the PNLC EC meeting, a brief opportunity was provided to raise important points or positions the PNLC EC might have on the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program.

9.4. Proposed next steps:

- To participate in BC Working group meeting in the afternoon and report on BC at the EAS PC Technical Session the following day.

10. Other Business

10.1. PNLG-PNLC Collaboration. Ms. Gonzales presented possible collaborative activities between PNLG and PNLC. Some activities she proposed include the following:

- Joint PNLG-PNLC Science-Policy Forum for local chief executives and scientists to serve as a platform for dialogue and information-sharing on existing initiatives.
- Joint ICM Executive Training Course that can be developed in collaboration between PNLG and PNLC focusing on management strategies and roles of local executives in ICM.
- Joint study tours to provide local chief executives/LGU officials to better understand the roles of local governments in the implementation of ICM/IRBM programs.
- Executive Committee representatives' participation in PNLG and PNLC General Assemblies and Partnership Councils to ensure coordinated planning and collaborative activities.
- Joint resource mobilization to fund future activities through diverse funding sources.
- Joint communications/marketing to communicate joint actions and impacts especially in forming decisions and actions, disseminating science-based policy-making and lessons learned.
- Joint assessment of needs of members in terms of technical assistance and capacity development from 2025 onward and assess how they could be met through joint learning activities, bilateral meetings, PRF projects, etc.

A draft MOA will be developed between PNLG and PNLC to be reviewed by both parties, witnessed by PRF.

10.2. Sharing of tools: *Fish-I* Technology. Dr. Laura David of the University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) introduced a tool designed for underwater fish identification and census. *Fish-I* is a semi-automated method for measuring fish species density and biomass, fish count, size and length and fish population density. The technology uses a camera rig and video analyzer and an information system that analyzes and stores results in the cloud. This method minimizes resources and effort and is highly scalable and highly accurate. It may used for valuation various purposes such as fisheries and marine resources, baseline studies, post disaster recovery assessments (e.g. oil spills), and marine protected areas (MPA) monitoring, among others. The tool may be shared and training may be organized for interested PNLC members. For more information on Fish-I, you may visit their website at Fish-i | Smart Solutions for Sustainable Seas (fishi.ph).

11.0 Closing

11.1. Dr. Fang Qinhua thanked everyone for the productive discussion. He expressed hope and was happy to see new members, including a new applicant from China and reminded the group to follow-up on the new members.

11.2. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM (UTC+8).

ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Provisional Program

Schedule: 22 July 2024, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Agenda	Speaker/Presenter	Document No.
1.0 Opening of the meeting and approval of the meeting agenda	**Prof. Dr. Yonvitner** President, PNLC	DOC/01
2.0 Review of PNLC Workplan and Action Points Action requested: Review and approval	**Maida Aguinaldo** PNLC Secretariat, PRF	DOC/02
3.0 Review of PNLC Secretariat Turnover MoA Action requested: Review and approval	**Maida Aguinaldo** PNLC Secretariat, PRF	DOC/03
4.0 Updates on Signing of Charter by New Members and New Application Action requested: Approval	**Isdahartatie** PNLC Secretariat, PKSPL-IPB	DOC/04
5.0 Brief updates on PNLC Financial ainability Efforts		DOC/05
● Mapping/Matrix for Membership Contribution (in cash and kind)	**Isdahartatie** PNLC Secretariat, PKSPL-IPB	
● Review of Concept Notes for PNLC Working Groups (ICM, BHM, PR/CCA-DRR)	**Maida Aguinaldo** PNLC Secretariat, PRF	
● Joint proposal for regional research - SEA-MaP Joint Proposal on Single Use Plastics	**Isdahartatie** PNLC Secretariat, PKSPL-IPB	
● Regional ICM Training: Elementary & Advanced ● Regional achievement for Learning Center: ex. book of BC methodology	**Prof. Dr. Yonvitner** President, PNLC	
Action requested: Review and approval		

Agenda	Speaker/Presenter	Document No.
6.0 EAS Congress 2024 PNLG-PNLC Session Action requested: Review and approval	**Aimee Gonzales** Executive Director, PRF	DOC/06
7.0 4th PNLC General Assembly Agenda Action requested: Review and approval	**Maida Aguinaldo** PNLC Secretariat, PRF	DOC/07
8.0 PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program Updates Action requested: Identify action points for recommendation to BC working group	**Maida Aguinaldo** PNLC Secretariat, PRF	DOC/08
9.0 Other Business - **PNLG-PNLC Collaboration** - **UPSMI: FishI**	**Aimee Gonzales** Executive Director, PRF **Dr. Laura David** Director, UP Marine Science Institute	
10.0 Closing	**Prof. Dr. Qinhua Fang,** Vice President, PNLC	

ANNEX 2: Meeting Documents, Presentation and Photos

Meeting documents:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gbOhKSXOGn5cJGKD1jAWBQ27CzwKB9js?usp=drive_link

Photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/140m5WvIUxvTMZ88-zvWnoa9Izfma-JQ2?usp=drive_link

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Participants	Institution
Prof. Yonvitner President, PNLC Director, CCMRS, IPB University	Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS), IPB University, Indonesia
Prof. Fang Qinhua Vice President, PNLC Deputy Director and Professor, COMI, Xiamen University Deputy Secretary General, PNLG	Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI) Xiamen University, China
Ms. Aimee Gonzales Executive Director, PRF	PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)
Ms. Maida Aguinaldo Training and Capacity Development Manager PNLC Secretariat	PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)
Ms. Isdahartatie PNLC Secretariat	Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS), IPB University, Indonesia
Dr. Gentha Surya Akmal PNLC Secretariat	Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS), IPB University, Indonesia
Guest	**Institution**
Dr. Laura T. David Director	Marine Science Institute University of the Philippines, Philippines