



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS



Charting a New Decade of Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies

1-2 DECEMBER 2021 • Hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia

7th East Asian Seas (EAS) Ministerial Forum

2 December 2021, 8:50 AM - 10:50 AM (GMT+7)
Online via Zoom

ORGANIZER:



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



Cambodia Ministry of
Environment

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH EAST ASIAN SEAS (EAS)
MINISTERIAL FORUM (MF)**

02 DECEMBER 2021

VIRTUAL EVENT

A. INTRODUCTION

- i. The Seventh East Asian Seas (EAS) Ministerial Forum was held on 02 December 2021 as part of the EAS Congress 2021, which was held through a hybrid mechanism, with country delegations convening in their respective countries and connected via Zoom. The Ministerial Forum was hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Ministry of Environment, with support from the Provincial Administration of Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia and co-organized with PEMSEA.
- ii. Carrying the theme, “Advancing our Sustainable Development Agenda: Road to 2030 for Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies”, the Seventh Ministerial Forum, a) highlighted the progress made by the EAS region through the PEMSEA partnership on the implementation of the region’s common framework of action- the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA); b) recognized the impacts as well as the opportunities to build back stronger and greener from the global pandemic, as well as other persistent and emerging concerns in the region; and c) endorsed the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 that is anchored on the SDS-SEA vision, shared commitment to the Blue Economy strategy and on the overall sustainable development agenda.
- iii. Eleven countries were represented at the Seventh Ministerial Forum, namely: Cambodia, PR China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. The event was participated by the PEMSEA Chair Emeritus, Executive Committee members, representatives from the PEMSEA Non-Country Partners, and various PEMSEA networks from the local governments, academe, and youth as observers. Representatives from PEMSEA’s developing partners from the regional and international level, including from UNDP, were also present, together with other observers from PEMSEA collaborators. The PEMSEA Resource Facility served as Secretariat to the Forum.
- iv. Following the Seventh Ministerial Forum, a 30-minute virtual Press Conference was held, wherein MOE Minister Say Samal, PEMSEA Council Chair Mr. Arief Yuwono, and PEMSEA Executive Director Ms. Aimee Gonzales served as panelists, together with media representatives from the different PEMSEA member countries.
- v. The Seventh EAS Ministerial Forum and Press Conference programmes are found in Annex 1.

B. MINISTERIAL FORUM PROPER

1.0 Introduction of the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum Delegate

- 1.1 The Heads of Delegation from the 11 PEMSEA Country Partners together with their Senior Government Officials were introduced. Followed by the introduction of the PEMSEA Officials and other partners and collaborators.
- 1.2 The list of the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum participants is found in Annex 2.

2.0 Opening of the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum

- 2.1 On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, H.E. Say Samal, Minister of Environment and High Representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen-the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, chaired the Forum and formally welcomed the distinguished Ministers, Vice Ministers and Senior Government Officials from the PEMSEA member countries and guests.
- 2.2 In his opening remarks, Minister Say Samal highlighted how the global pandemic has underscored how everything and everyone is interconnected and the need to therefore acknowledge the cross-cutting impacts of the crisis at the political, socio-economic and environmental perspective in order to achieve a meaningful recovery. The Minister cited the important contribution of PEMSEA's work in mainstreaming river, coastal and ocean protection and responsible management in delivering common goods not only for the region but also worldwide. Minister Say Samal further underscored the value of the East Asian Seas' ecosystem on food security, income generation, livelihood, recreation, shoreline protection, climate regulation and overall development. On the part of Cambodia, Minister Say Samal emphasized their commitment to continue the successes gained from the implementation of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as well as their commitment to sustainable, equitable, and resilient blue principle for socio-economic development. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum in coming up with new insights and plan, particularly in laying down a roadmap that would guide the region in the new decade. With this, Minister Say Samal declared the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum officially open.
- 2.3 Following the Opening Remarks from the host country, the Ministerial Forum opening video was shown featuring the PEMSEA partnership and EAS Ministerial Forum journey over the years.
- 2.4 A copy of the Opening Statement of Minister Say Samal is found in Annex 3.

3.0 Ministerial Statements

- 3.1 The heads of delegation from the 11 PEMSEA Country Partners delivered their respective country statements, highlighting: country achievements and new initiatives, policies, and plans contributing to the implementation of the SDS-SEA; commitment and initiatives to build back better from the impacts of the global pandemic on their coastal and marine economies and communities; and support to the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and the sustainability of PEMSEA operations to keep the momentum on scaling up SDS-SEA implementation and to achieve key international and regional commitments on sustainable development.
- 3.2 Copies of the full ministerial statements are found in Annex 4.

PR CHINA

- 3.3 On behalf of the People's Republic of China, Hon. Zhang Zhanhai, Chief Engineer and Director General of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) underscored that a safe and healthy ocean is the most basic of public goods that provide universal benefits and it is therefore integral to work together in order to address the different challenges facing the ocean. In support of the SDS-SEA, Director General Zhang shared China's efforts in boosting green ocean development which has already resulted to: (a) the establishment of 22 ICM demonstration sites and set up of marine ecological conservation red lines which promoted coordinated development and formulation of comprehensive plans; (b) rehabilitation of 1,200 km of coastline and 23,000 ha of coastal wetlands as a result of "Blue Bay" project and restoration projects; (c) curbed illegal reclamation and limited coastal reclamation in major national projects; and (d) development of blue and low-carbon economy and marine ecological economy. In view of the different challenges on climate change, habitat degradation, frequent marine disasters, and slow economic development, Director General Zhang emphasized the need for countries of the region to join forces and work together through "Blue Partnerships" by (a) committing to stronger support to SDS-SEA and further upgrading ICM capacities through introduction of new concepts, measures and technologies; (b) identifying areas of convergence and priorities with EAS countries to facilitate each other's economic development and ecological protection; and (c) promote exchanges of best practices through PEMSEA's wide-ranging cooperation platforms. Acting in the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, Director General Zhang indicated that China will continue to identify areas where development policies and priorities may converge and take the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an opportunity to leverage countries' respective strengths. He concluded by reaffirming China's continued support to PEMSEA as a bridge for regional cooperation.

DPR KOREA

- 3.4 On behalf of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hon. Ri Myong San, Vice Minister of the Ministry of External Economic Relations (MEER) informed the Forum of recent developments and plans in the country including the result of the 8th Congress of the Worker's Party of Korea conducted in January 2021, whereby a new 5-Year Plan was set out to develop the national economy by pursuing land development and ecological protection as well as sprucing up coastal development particularly in the eastern and western coasts of the country. Vice Minister Ri also shared a number of policy and regulations that were adopted in recent years, such as, the Regulation on the development, utilization, and protection of marine resources; Regulation on Protection and Management of Coast; amendment of the Law on Prevention of Sea Water Pollution; as well as the Enforcement Regulation on the Prevention of Sea Water Pollution and Enforcement Regulation of Law on the Vessel Safety. Different protected areas have also been established to protect useful marine products, non-migratory fish stocks, and extraordinary MPAs which take seasonal impact. Vice Minister Ri also informed the Forum that Kim Il Sung University, one of PEMSEA's ICM Learning Centers, continues to build a roster of experts on marine and coastal protection and management by conducting ICM-related courses twice a year. Vice Minister Ri highlighted that PEMSEA's activities have shown significant contributions in promoting exchange and cooperation between countries, particularly through ICM. In support of the establishment of DPR Korea's National ICM Plan, "The solution for sustainable protection and management of marine environment" was also developed as part of a research for marine ecological environment management in Wonsan in Mt. Kumgang area. Vice Minister concluded by urging PEMSEA countries to continue SDS-SEA implementation, exchange and cooperation, and capacity building.

INDONESIA

- 3.5 On behalf of the Republic of Indonesia, Hon. Mme Luckmi Purwandari, Acting Director of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) stated that despite the severe impact of COVID-19 on global health and economy, Indonesia believes that the EAS countries are among the champions and on the way to overcoming the multi-dimensional challenges posed by the pandemic. In Indonesia, Director Purwandari informed the Forum that the government has initiated the National Economy Recovery (PEN) Program in 2020. The program has a budget of almost 700 trillion Indonesian Rupiah or close to USD48.8 bilion, and is aimed at helping reverse the decline in economic activities with particular focus on informal sectors and micro, small and medium enterprises. This helped increase productivity and harnessed livelihoods, and is seen as a significant demonstration of Indonesia's commitment to meaningful recovery and development as the G20 chairman beginning December 2021. Director Purwandari recalled the arduous process that the EAS countries have undertaken in order to arrive at a reasonable, operational and robust 7th Ministerial Declaration, and expressed her congratulations to all for reaching a

consensus on the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration which will endorse the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030. She further emphasized the value of PEMSEA in supporting ICM and Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM), as well as the important work done through the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments and PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers. To date, she underscored that out of 34 provinces, 28 provinces in Indonesia have now declared their respective Coastal Area and Small Islands Zoning Plans covering about 83 percent or 90,000 km of Indonesia's coastline under ICM. In addition, Indonesia has also recently recognized PEMSEA as an international organization, which provided Indonesia the legal basis to fortify its support for the SDS-SEA implementation and enabled the country to start providing voluntary funding contributions to PEMSEA. In closing, Director Purwandari informed the Forum that the Regent of Tangerang has been elected as Vice President of the PNLG on December 1, 2021 and invited everyone to the 2022 Annual Forum of PNLG for Sustainable Coastal Development to be hosted by Tangerang Regency.

JAPAN

- 3.6 On behalf of Japan, Hon. Masayuki Takada, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) underscored the importance of utilizing sustainable sea approaches or measures in addressing the increasing challenges of global warming. In particular, he cited the role of the ocean in reducing CO² emissions by tapping it as a source of renewable energy through offshore wind power generation. In line with this, Japan established the 6th Basic Energy Plan in October 2021 with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality in 2050 by introducing offshore wind power generation of around 45 GigaWatt by 2040. Japan will also pursue decarbonizing of Port Areas by realizing a "Carbon Neutral Port" that will reduce CO² emissions to net zero through the mass import, storage and utilization of next-generation energy such as hydrogen and ammonia, and the upgrading of port functions in decarbonization. The country will also continue to promote the enhancement of the function of marine ecosystems in eelgrass beds and tidelands as a carbon sink, and improvement of biodiversity. In line with SDS-SEA's priority management programs on climate change and disaster risk reduction, Deputy Minister Takada, expressed Japan's commitment to contribute on carbon neutrality and support to the establishment of PEMSEA Roadmap 2030 and emphasized the role of PEMSEA in helping integrate global efforts into feasible efforts that are tailored to the characteristics of the region along with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

LAO PDR

- 3.7 On behalf of Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Chanthanet Boualapha, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) shared the key achievements of the country in support of the SDS-SEA implementation, which includes: (a) management of Sedone River Basin and its sub-basins in the most southern part of Lao; (b) development of the second National IWRM Demonstration site; (c) provision of water use in pilot area to support drought

mitigation and to improve local livelihood, and development of the draft water use agreement. At the policy and planning level, Lao PDR have also implemented its 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020), and is currently implementing the 9th National Plan and Action Plans of the Natural Resources and Environment Sector (2021-2025). In May 2017, the country also adopted the revised Law on Water and Water Resources. In support of regional actions, the country has supported the: (a) Scaling up of Mekong-Integrated Water Resources Management Program, ten-year Strategic Framework of the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Program, IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy of the Lower Mekong River Basin 2016-2020, and ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action for Water Resources Management; and (b) Lao PDR as chair of the ASEAN Water Working Group for 2020-2022 and the Global Water Partnership for Southeast Asia (GWP-SEA) from 2019 to 2021. Vice Minister Boualapha emphasized the value of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration, to be adopted by the 7th Ministerial Forum, in providing an in-depth platform for effective governance, healthy ocean, people, and economies that is based on land to sea approach, and called on PEMSEA countries for continuing cooperation and support on sustainable river, coastal and ocean management.

PHILIPPINES

- 3.8 On behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, Hon. Roy A. Cimatu, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) highlighted some of the impacts of the pandemic as well as climate change and other persistent challenges to the marine sector in the country. In particular, he cited the impact of the pandemic on the Philippines' tourism revenue (i.e., over 8 billion USD lost in tourism revenue; est. income loss of 31 million pesos on MPAs). Recognizing climate change impacts and challenges, the Secretary underscored the Philippine position and support to climate finance in orchestrating grants for climate resiliency at the recently concluded UNFCCC COP26. Secretary Cimatu further shared some of the key initiatives of the country in support of sustainable coastal and ocean development, such as: (a) application of "blended protection" that includes 30 percent coverage of both land and sea; (b) rehabilitation of key coastal ecosystems (e.g., Boracay; Manila Bay); (c) adoption of National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter; (d) support to sustainable tourism; (e) sustainable fisheries and aquaculture programs; and (f) investment on more green ports. He further informed the Forum that the country plans to further spur: (a) forests and terrestrial ecosystems conservation and restoration; (b) conduct next State of Ocean and Coasts (SOC) reporting for continuous monitoring, measurement and to support pursuit of sustainable and resilient Blue Economy; and (c) pursue the ICM Act. The Secretary highlighted PEMSEA as a pathway for meaningful partnerships, effective follow up and review, and inclusive sharing of experiences, and expressed support to the development of the detailed PEMSEA Roadmap 2030 and SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027.

RO KOREA

- 3.9 On behalf of the Republic of Korea, Hon. MOON, Seong-Hyeok, Minister of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) delivered their country statement through a pre-recorded video. Minister Moon underscored the need for countries to work in a concerted manner in order to preserve the ocean as the most valuable asset of the region. He proceeded by sharing some of the key responses and actions taken by RO Korea in addressing mainly climate change, habitat destruction, and marine litter. Apart from developing diverse policies to ensure sustainable use of marine resources, in response to climate change impacts, the country declared last year its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. In particular, MOF aims to go beyond carbon-neutral toward carbon-negative for the oceans and fisheries sectors. RO Korea also plans to promote decarbonization in the shipping industry, and to develop and expand ocean-based carbon sinks (blue carbon). In support of habitat protection, the country continues to protect ecologically significant tidal flats by designating them as MPAs. Korea's tidal flats were inscribed on the list of UNESCO's World Natural Heritage in July 2021. With regard to addressing marine litter, RO Korea has established the Pan-Governmental Marine Litter Management Commission and continues to promote ADOPT-A-BEACH Program. In May 2021, the country successfully hosted the P4G Seoul Summit where international commitments to address climate change, marine litter and work towards achieving SDGs were made. An MOU with PEMSEA entitled, "East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans" was also launched at that time which is aimed at seeking civil society-based solutions for marine litter in East Asia. Minister Moon also indicated that the EAS Congress 2021 would serve as a good sounding board in the upcoming 5th Session of the UN General Assembly which is expected to discuss the adoption of a binding international treaty regarding marine litter. With the compounding impacts of climate change, marine debris and marine biodiversity loss, Minister Moon emphasized that the threats faced by the ocean is now more pressing than ever, thus, all countries must rise to the challenge and ensure the protection of the ocean as a crucial resource.

SINGAPORE

- 3.10 On behalf of the Republic of Singapore, Hon. Hazri Hassan, Director of International Policy of the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) emphasized the opportunity from COVID-19 to rebuild and recover towards more sustainable and resilient pathways. Director Hazri underscored the importance being accorded by Singapore on sustainable and integrated management of coasts and marine environment as part of their sustainability agenda. In 2021, the country unveiled the Singapore Green Plan 2030, which will strengthen country's efforts to fulfill obligations under the Paris Agreement and towards achieving the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The plan has five pillars: City in Nature, Energy Reset, Sustainable Living, Green Economy and Resilient Future. Director Hazri also signified Singapore's continued promotion of Integrated Urban Coastal Management (IUCM) Framework to enhance coordination of

governmental stakeholders and policy coherence, and to encourage active partnerships to optimize the use of coastal resources and conservation of sensitive coastal habitats amidst urban coastal development. One of the key developments cited was the restoration of Khatib Bongso, a 40-hectare nature park from 2021 up to 2024, as part of Singapore's Nature Park Network. This will extend the natural habitat for biodiversity while providing more nature spaces for the community. Director Hazri emphasized that country efforts alone will not be sufficient in overcoming the challenges of the global commons, and urged countries to continue the efforts in scaling up ICM and to leverage on shared experiences by working with all partners and stakeholders to promote greater sustainability in the EAS region.

TIMOR-LESTE

- 3.11 On behalf of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Hon. Acacio Guterres, Director General for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) indicated that for more than 15 years of being a PEMSEA Country Partner, Timor-Leste has demonstrated and benefited from the strategic, integrated, and vision-oriented approach of PEMSEA. Through the SDS-SEA and ICM implementation, 30.34 percent of the country's coastline is now covered by ICM programs. In line with this, the country has undertaken: (a) capacity building that also supported sustainable livelihoods (e.g., salt making, seaweed cultivation, and fish and food processing); (b) enhanced MPA management (i.e., increase in METT rating in the MPA in Suco Vila Maumeta in Atauro Island in Dili; (c) participatory climate change vulnerability assessments, preparation of ICM action plans, and implementation of habitat protection and restoration activities in Liquica, Manatuto and Atauro Island; (d) the Green School program in Liquica which has become an eco-enterprise, whereby revenue obtained from recycling of solid waste was used as a revolving fund; (e) continuous capacity building efforts with help from ICM Learning Centers (NUTL and Oriental University of TL). Director General Guterres further shared that at the national level, the country is committed to pursue the approval of the National Oceans Policy as part of commitment to Blue Economy and National Strategic Development Plan 2021-2030 and other global commitments. He also highlighted some of the ongoing initiatives under the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA-2 program and other regional commitments/affiliations. Director General Guterres, expressed Timor-Leste's continued commitment to provide financial support to PEMSEA, and expressed their full support to the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030 and the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, which are targeted to be developed following the endorsement of the 7th Ministerial Forum through the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration.

VIET NAM

- 3.12 On behalf of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Hon. Le Minh Ngan, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), informed the Forum of some of the major developments and initiatives in the

country in support of the SDS-SEA implementation, including: (a) replication of ICZM in coastal provinces; (b) promulgation and implementation of the Strategy for ICZM to 2020 with a vision to 2030; (c) Law on marine and island resources and environment; (d) publication of the National Report on the SOC 2018 on Blue Economy Growth; (e) completion of the National Report on the State of Sea and Island for the period 2016-2020; (f) development of reports on the current state of coastal areas at the provincial level; (g) establishment of national and local multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms in the implementation of coastal and marine economic development; and (g) efforts to integrate content on coastal and marine management, climate change, and risk assessment into undergraduate and graduate training programs, etc. Deputy Minister Le Minh Ngan indicated that MONRE is currently implementing the formulation of a national marine spatial plan and a master plan for sustainable exploitation and use of coastal resources based on the ecosystem approach, as well as the development of a strategy for sustainable exploitation and use of natural resources and environmental protection of seas and islands. In support of the UN 2030 Agenda and other international commitments, Vietnam has also issued Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW dated October 22, 2018 on the Strategy for sustainable development of Vietnam's marine economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045. Deputy Minister Le Minh Ngan reiterated Vietnam's pledge to their continued support to PEMSEA and the SDS-SEA.

CAMBODIA

- 3.13 On behalf of the Kingdom of Cambodia and MOE Minister Say Samal, H.E. Sao Sopheap, Secretary of State of MOE delivered the country statement. H.E. Sao shared a number of developments and initiatives in Cambodia contributing to the SDS-SEA implementation as well as to other regional and international commitments. At the governance level, he highlighted the development of White Paper for harmonizing policies and laws to help strengthen institutional mechanisms, as well as the development of local coastal strategies in all four coastal provinces that are all under ICM programs. In support of habitat protection and management and sustainable fisheries, Cambodia has updated Kampot's coastal use zoning plan, and is currently working on the declaration of Kampong Smach as second Marine Fishery Management Area in addition to Koh Rong Marine National Park which supports coastal and marine protection and climate resilience. MFMA has also been established in Koh Por and Koh Tonsay covering 11,307 ha and in Angkoul Commune wherein a community-based mangrove protected area was established covering 301 ha. In terms of pollution reduction and waste management, Cambodia has completed five sewage treatment plants in Sihanoukville and established the Sihanoukville Environment Laboratory to monitor water quality. A community-based solid waste management program is also being implemented in Koh Kong. In line with Cambodia's commitment on Green Development, a planning consultancy contract has been signed with China to turn Preah Sihanouk province into a model, multi-purpose special economic zone (SEZ). On monitoring, Cambodia has completed local and national SOC

reports. The country has also been actively participating in the subregional cooperation in the Gulf of Thailand, particularly in the implementation of GOT's Framework Programme for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response. Cambodia has developed National Guideline for the Use of Dispersants and targets to refine its National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. H.E. Sao also reported that several new partnerships and additional funds have been leveraged by the country with the Government of Sweden and UNDP (Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan, with Government of Japan and UNDP (USD 3 M grant agreement to address combatting marine plastic litter); and other projects in the pipeline such as the IKI/IMO/PEMSEA for Reducing Maritime Transport Greenhouse Gas Emissions and GEF/UNDP/ASEAN Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows. Building on the 28-year of partnership under PEMSEA, H.E. Sao reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to work in unison with the rest of the region in order to help the region emerge stronger from the combined impacts of the pandemic and ocean challenges.

4.0 SIGNING OF THE 7TH EAS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Introduction of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration

- 4.1 Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility, provided an overview of the key elements and objectives of the "Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration: Advancing our Sustainable Development Agenda: Road to 2030 for Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies". Ms. Gonzales highlighted that the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration is a product of several rounds of consultations and consensus-building at both the national and regional level. The Declaration embodies a pledge from the EAS countries to continue and upscale the implementation of the shared regional framework, the 'Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia' or SDS-SEA, which lay out strategic regional priority actions to accelerate Blue Economy and Sustainable Development, and support EAS countries' green recovery efforts to build back better and stronger from the impacts of COVID-19. It is also the region's collective response in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science and UN Decade Ecosystem Restoration, aligned with the commitment to help countries achieve UN SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, etc.
- 4.2 Ms. Gonzales emphasized that one of the key commitments in the Preah Sihanouk Declaration is the endorsement of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030, which is anchored on the region's collective vision of Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies (H.O.P.E), and Effective Governance. The document also provides guidance in the development of the next SDS-SEA 5-Year Implementation Plan in collaboration with PEMSEA partners, networks and collaborators, and builds on PEMSEA's strengths & experiences, such as on ICM, Blue Economy, inclusive and coordinated partnerships and networks.

- 4.3 The Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration concludes with a Call to Action to sustain partnerships with Non-Country Partners, local governments, private sector, academe, youth network, NGOs, media, financing institutions, and the international community. It further reaffirms the Country Partners' support to the PEMSEA Resource Facility as the secretariat of the partnership to build regional-national-local capacities, facilitate knowledge exchange and leverage technical expertise, skills and resources for sustainable coastal and ocean management. Lastly, the Declaration highlights the region's commitment in supporting green recovery to build back better, healthier ocean, people, and economies.

Signing of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration

- 4.4 The Ministerial Forum Chair invited the heads of delegation of the 11 PEMSEA Country Partners to sign the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration to formalize their commitment. The eleven Ministers and heads of delegations present at the Forum proceeded to affix their signature. The final copy of the declaration is hereto attached as Annex 5. *(Note: Consolidated signed Copy of the Preah Sihanouk Declaration will be shared to all countries and posted on the PEMSEA website upon receipt of signed copies from all PEMSEA Country Partners.)*

5.0 CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 7TH EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

- 5.1 On behalf of the EAS Partnership Council, the Council Chair, Mr. Arief Yuwono delivered a closing statement. Mr. Yuwono expressed appreciation and congratulations to the Royal Government of Cambodia and its Ministry of Environment, as well as the Provincial Administration of Sihanoukville for the successful hosting of the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum, together with the PEMSEA Resource Facility. He congratulated all the PEMSEA Country Partners for achieving another milestone through the signing of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration and endorsement of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030, and for carrying on the SDS-SEA work even under the most difficult situations. Mr. Yuwono underscored the regional achievements of the PEMSEA partnership, including its transformation from a marine pollution project into an internationally recognized organization for regional ocean governance in the EAS region, as well as the expansion of ICM coverage to more than 45 percent of the region's coastline. Mr. Yuwono emphasized that the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030 and the subsequent development of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 will provide the region with a good framework to move the sustainable development agenda forward and help align the countries' green economy development plans in support of bigger goals. The Council Chair noted with appreciation the continuing and increasing support to PEMSEA by various Country Partners, citing Indonesia's most recent ratification of legal recognition to PEMSEA which will facilitate provision of financial support to PEMSEA. He further noted the different PEMSEA projects that are in the pipeline and looked forward to their commencement. Mr.

Yuwono ended his statement by emphasizing that the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum and the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration not only marks a new milestone but also a challenge to continue redefining coastal and ocean governance for a better EAS region.

- 5.2 The Ministerial Forum Chair, Minister Say Samal, closed the Forum by expressing his deepest gratitude to all the Ministers, Vice Ministers, Senior Government Officials, PEMSEA Partners, networks and collaborators for their support in making the EAS Congress 2021 and the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum a success. Minister Say Samal underscored that while the road ahead would not be easy, he is confident that by working together and guided by a common vision, the EAS region would be able to steer the new decade to better opportunities. With the adoption of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration and commitment on the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030, Minister Say Samal looked forward to closer collaboration with various PEMSEA Partners and collaborators in designing and putting into effective implementation the next SDS-SEA medium term plan for 2023-2027, as well as to the continuing expansion of ICM and blue economy initiatives in the region. Minister Say Samal concluded by wishing everyone good health and reiterated Cambodia's invitation to all to visit the country once the situation improves. The Ministerial Forum Chair declared the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum adjourned at 1PM (Cambodia Time) on 02 December 2021.

- 5.3 Copies of the full Closing Statements are found in Annex 6.

ANNEX 1
7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM AND
PRESS CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

7th EAS Ministerial Forum

Virtual Event, 02 December 2021

THEME: “ADVANCING OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: ROAD TO 2030 FOR HEALTHY OCEAN, PEOPLE, AND ECONOMIES”

TIME (GMT+7 Cambodia Time)	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
Pre-Opening		
08:50 – 08:55 AM	Announcement of Meeting Guidelines	Master of Ceremonies Ms. Mitzi Borrromeo
7th MF Proper		
09:00 – 09:05 AM	Agenda 1.0: Introduction of Heads of Delegation and Key Participants 1) Introduction of Heads of Country Delegation 2) Introduction of PEMSEA Officials (Chair Emeritus, PEMSEA ED, and EC members) 3) Introduction of PEMSEA Partners and other participants	Master of Ceremonies
09:05 – 09:15 AM	Agenda 2.0: Opening of the 7th EAS Ministerial Forum Proper Opening Statement from the Minister of MOE Cambodia 7th MF Opening Video	H.E. Say Samal Minister of Environment Chairman of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Vice President of the National Committee of Cambodian Coastal Management and Development, and High Representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen-the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
09:15 – 10:20 AM	Agenda 3.0: Ministerial Statements from PEMSEA Country Partners	Heads of Country Delegation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ China ○ DPR Korea ○ Indonesia ○ Japan

TIME (GMT+7 Cambodia Time)	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lao PDR ○ Philippines ○ RO Korea ○ Singapore ○ Timor-Leste ○ Vietnam ○ Cambodia
10:20 – 10:30 AM	<p>Agenda 4.0: Signing of the Ministerial Declaration</p> <p>Overview of the 7th EAS Ministerial Declaration</p> <p>Signing Ceremony (Simultaneous in all 11 countries)</p>	<p>Ms. Aimee Gonzales Executive Director PEMSEA Resource Facility</p> <p>Heads of Delegation of Country Partners</p>
10:30 – 10:35 AM	<p>Agenda 5.0: Group Photo</p> <p>Group 1: Heads of Delegation (holding signed copy of the Declaration)</p> <p>Group 2: Heads of Delegation and PEMSEA Officials (Chair Emeritus, PEMSEA ED, and EC members)</p> <p>Group 3: PEMSEA Partners and Collaborators</p>	Master of Ceremonies
10:35 – 10:50 AM	<p>Agenda 6.0: Closing of the Ministerial Forum</p> <p>Closing Message of the EAS Partnership Council Chair</p> <p>Closing Remarks of the 7th EAS MF Chair</p> <p>Final Announcements</p>	<p>Mr. Arief Yuwono Chair EAS Partnership Council</p> <p>H.E. Say Samal Master of Ceremonies</p>

Post-Ministerial Forum Press Conference

Virtual Event, 02 December 2021

TIME (GMT+7 Cambodia Time)	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
10:50 – 11:05 AM	Transition to MF Press Conference (same zoom platform as 7 th MF)	
11:05 – 11:10 AM	Announcement of Press Conference Guidelines Introduction of Panel of Speakers and Media Representatives	Master of Ceremonies Ms. Mitzi Borrromeo H.E. SAY SAMAL, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia; Mr. ARIEF YUWONO, Chair, EAS Partnership Council; and Ms. AIMEE GONZALES, Executive Director, PEMSEA Resource Facility
11:10 – 11:15 AM	Welcome Remarks from PEMSEA Executive Director	Ms. Aimee Gonzales
11:15 – 11:35 AM	Q&A with Media	Accredited Media representatives and Panel of Speakers
11:35 – 11:40 AM	Closing and Group Photo	Master of Ceremonies

ANNEX 2
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**7th EAS Ministerial Forum
VIRTUAL EVENT, 02 DECEMBER 2021**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

OFFICIAL COUNTRY DELEGATION

CAMBODIA

H.E. Say Samal
Minister
Ministry of Environment

H.E. Eang Sophalleth
Secretary of State
Ministry of Environment

H.E. Dr. Vann Monyneath
Secretary General
Ministry of Environment

Secretaries of States (5)
Undersecretaries of States (4)
Minister's Cabinet (6)
Ministry of Environment's and Minister's
Advisors (4)
Secretary General and General
Directors (6)
Undersecretaries General and Deputies
Directors Generals (14)
Directors of Departments (14)
Deputies Directors of Departments (17)

CHINA

Dr. Zhang Zhanhai
Chief Engineer and Director General
Department of International
Cooperation
Ministry of Natural Resources

WANG Hua
Director General
Department of Marine Forecasting and
Monitoring
Ministry of Natural Resources

LIU Chunjing
Division Director
Department of Marine Forecasting and
Monitoring
Ministry of Natural Resources

SHEN Jun
Deputy Director General
Department of Marine Strategic
Planning and Economy
Ministry of Natural Resources

PANG Chong
Division Director
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FAN Xiangguo
Deputy Director General
Department of Sea Area and Island
Management
Ministry of Natural Resources

GAO Zhengqi
Division Director
Department of Sea Area and Island
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Ministry of Natural Resources

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Deputy Director General
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Natural Resources

XU Heyun
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Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Natural Resources

YU Xinwei
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Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Natural Resources

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National Marine Data and Information
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Ministry of Natural Resources

REN Xingyuan
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China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal
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WANG Shouqiang
Engineer/Programme Director
First Institute of Oceanography, MNR
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YU Xiaojian
Interpreter
Ministry of Natural Resources
Beijing Chinese-Foreign Translation &
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MENG Yuan
Interpreter
Ministry of Natural Resources
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DPR KOREA

Hon. Ri Myong San
Vice Minister
Ministry of External Economic
Relations

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Deputy Director General
General Bureau for Cooperation with
International Organizations

Kang Hyon A
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General Bureau for Cooperation with
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Interpreter

Ro Kyong Su
Officer
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Teacher
ICM Training Center
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Ri Il Kwang
Teacher
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INDONESIA

Hon. Mme. Luckmi Purwandari
Acting Director of Coastal and Marine
Pollution and Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

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Head of International Cooperation
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Ministry of Environment and Forestry

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Head of Multilateral Cooperation I
Subdivision
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Cooperation Analyst
Directorate of Coastal and Marine
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Environmental Control Impact
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Kensaku Kobayashi
Ocean Policy Division, Policy Bureau
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Ministry of Natural Resources and
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Rodolfo Garcia
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff
Department of Environment and Natural
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Jonas Leones
Undersecretary
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources

Analiza Rebuelta-Teh
Undersecretary
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Intergovernmental Session Chair
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Hanoi University of Natural Resources
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Hanoi, Vietnam

Dr. Jae Ryoung Oh
Technical Session Chair
East Asian Seas Partnership Council
and
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Technology (KIOST)
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Dr. Vann Momyneath (also reflected as
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Council Co-Chair
EAS Partnership Council

Dr. Keita Furukawa
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Palawan State University and
Former Staff of PEMSEA

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Global Ocean Inc.

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ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

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Master of Ceremonies

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ANNEX 3
OPENING STATEMENT BY
H.E. SAY SAMAL
MINISTER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
CAMBODIA



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

OPENING STATEMENT

H.E. SAY SAMAL

MINISTER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CAMBODIA

EXCELLENCIES, MINISTERS, SECRETARIES, CHAIR EMERITUS OF PEMSEA, EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL CHAIR, PEMSEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES and OBSERVERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

TODAY, ON BEHALF OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA, I HAVE THE GREAT PLEASURE AND HONOR TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE VIRTUAL 7TH EAST ASIAN SEAS MINISTERIAL FORUM. TOGETHER WITH THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDER OF THE EAS CONGRESS 2021, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO MY FELLOW MINISTERS AND TO ALL OF YOU FOR GRACING THIS IMPORTANT EVENT. WE WILL JOINTLY DELIBERATE AND COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS ON THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE.

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, WE HAVE CONFRONTED THE TREMENDOUS CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL PANDEMIC COVID-19. WE ARE LIVING IN THE MOST UNCERTAIN OF TIMES, BUT THE FACT THAT WE ARE HERE TODAY IS A TESTAMENT OF OUR STRONG RESOLVE TO RISE ABOVE ADVERSITIES AND TO BUILD BACK SMARTER, BETTER AND BLUER.

THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC HAS FURTHER UNDERScored HOW EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE IS INTERCONNECTED. TO ACHIEVE A MEANINGFUL RECOVERY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE CROSS-CUTTING IMPACTS OF THIS CRISIS FROM THE POLITICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE.

BUILDING ON THE PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP, INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABILITY, OUR COLLECTIVE PEMSEA HISTORY HAS SHOWN THE VALUE OF MAINSTREAMING RIVER, COASTAL AND OCEAN PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT IN DELIVERING COMMON GOODS TO THE PEOPLE ALONG THE EAST ASIAN SEAS AND BEYOND. THE SUCCESS OF INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT OR ICM IN PREAH SIHANOUK, FOR INSTANCE, HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR THE EXPANSION OF ICM IN ALL COASTAL MUNICIPALITIES OF CAMBODIA, AND DESPITE THE MANY CHALLENGES WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE CONTINUITY OF THIS HARD-EARNED SUCCESS.

OUR REGION'S HISTORY, CULTURE, ECONOMIES AND HEALTH ARE CLOSELY INTERTWINED WITH OUR SEAS. BASED ON THE PEMSEA STATE OF THE COASTS BLUE ECONOMY REPORT WITH DATA COMING FROM TEN COUNTRIES, OUR OCEAN ECONOMY IS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 1.4 TRILLION US DOLLARS IN VALUE ADDED. AS THE CENTER OF MARINE BIODIVERSITY IN THE WORLD AND THE HOME TO BUSIEST TRADING ROUTES AND HUBS, OUR REGION PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN FOOD SECURITY, INCOME GENERATION, LIVELIHOOD, RECREATION, SHORELINE PROTECTION AND CLIMATE REGULATION, AMONG OTHERS FOR THE PEOPLE NOT ONLY IN THIS REGION BUT ALSO THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.

AS REPORTED BY PEMSEA COUNTRIES DURING OUR OCEAN ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE IN JUNE THIS YEAR, THE MARINE SECTOR IS ONE OF THE SECTORS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC, COMPOUNDED BY THE INCREASING THREATS FROM LAND-BASED AND MARINE-BASED POLLUTION, HABITAT DEGRADATION, OVEREXPLOITATION OF MARINE SPECIES, AND CLIMATE CHANGE. WE HAVE SEEN HOW THESE IMPACTS HAVE CASCADED DOWN TO OUR COMMUNITIES' WELFARE AND LIVELIHOOD.

TODAY'S MINISTERIAL FORUM THEREFORE BECOMES EVEN MORE CRUCIAL, AS WE LAY DOWN OUR ROADMAP TO HELP THE REGION SAIL THROUGH TO A BETTER TOMORROW.

AS THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE OCEAN, MR. PETER THOMSON, HAS ONCE SAID, THERE WILL BE 'NO HEALTHY PLANET WITHOUT A HEALTHY OCEAN'. THUS, AS WE PURSUE OUR POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY PLANS LET US BUILD ON THE LESSONS AND GAINS THAT WE HAVE GENERATED FROM OUR PEMSEA WORK FOR THE LAST 28 YEARS AND TO CONTINUE MAKING OUR OCEAN AS ONE OF OUR GREATEST ASSETS IN MAINTAINING HUMAN AND PLANETARY HEALTH.

WE HAVE NOW ENTERED THE DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, SO WE MUST SEIZE ALL OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE US TO ACHIEVE OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND SDS-SEA VISION. CAMBODIA IS COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT BLUE PRINCIPLE FOR OUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

LATER, WE WILL HEAR MORE FROM OUR FELLOW MINISTERS, SENIOR OFFICIALS, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, PARTICIPANTS AND BY THE END OF THIS FORUM WE WILL COME UP WITH NEW INSIGHT AND NEXT STEP TOWARD BETTER BLUER EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ONCE AGAIN, ON BEHALF OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO YOU ALL FOR SPENDING YOUR INVALUABLE TIME ATTENDING THIS CRUCIAL VIRTUAL GATHERING.

FINALLY, I WISH THE 7TH EAST ASIAN SEAS MINISTERIAL FORUM A FRUITFUL SUCCESS.

I NOW DECLARE THE MINISTERIAL FORUM OFFICIALLY OPEN!

ANNEX 4
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS
(IN ORDER OF DELIVERY)



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

COUNTRY STATEMENT

HON. ZHANG ZHANHAI

**CHIEF ENGINEER AND DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

H.E. MINISTER SAY SAMAL,
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DEAR FRIENDS,
GOOD MORNING.

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO ATTEND THE 7TH MINISTERIAL FORUM OF THE EAS CONGRESS 2021. FIRST OF ALL, ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE STATE OCEANIC ADMINISTRATION, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OPENING OF THE FORUM AND EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THE HOST COUNTRY CAMBODIA AND PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN OVERCOMING THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC AND MAKING THIS CONGRESS POSSIBLE.

THE REGION OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS IS ONE OF THE REGIONS IN THE WORLD WITH THE RICHEST MARINE BIODIVERSITY AND MOST DYNAMIC MARINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. A SAFE AND HEALTHY OCEAN IS THE MOST BASIC PUBLIC GOODS AND THE UNIVERSALLY BENEFICIAL WELFARE. HOWEVER, AFFECTED BY THE CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN ACTIVITIES, AND THE PANDEMIC, CHALLENGES SUCH AS HABITATS DEGRADATION, FREQUENT MARINE DISASTERS, SLOW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND COMPLICATED INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SITUATION HAVE KEPT EMERGING. IT IS URGENT FOR US TO JOIN FORCES IN ADDRESSING THEM.

PEMSEA IS AN IMPORTANT PLATFORM FOR MARINE COOPERATION. CHINA HAS IMPLEMENTED ITS FOUR PHASES OF PROGRAMS. FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, PEMSEA HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF COUNTRIES' CAPABILITY IN INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT. CHINA ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (SDS-SEA). WE HAVE MADE UNREMITTING EFFORTS IN BOOSTING GREEN DEVELOPMENT OF THE OCEAN AND ACHIEVED IMPORTANT OUTCOMES.

FIRSTLY, WE HAVE BEEN PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICM IN CHINA, AND HAVE ESTABLISHED 22 DEMONSTRATION SITES ALONG THE COASTLINE. THE MARINE ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION RED LINES ARE SET UP, HIGHLIGHTING THE BOTTOM-LINE CONSTRAINTS OF MARINE ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION. WE STEADFASTLY PROMOTE LAND AND MARINE DEVELOPMENT IN A COORDINATED WAY, FORMULATE COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR COASTAL PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION, AND GUIDE THE COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED PROTECTION OF COASTAL AREAS.

SECONDLY, WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING MARINE ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION. IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, CHINA HAS IMPLEMENTED THE "BLUE BAY" PROJECT AND OTHER PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS FOR COASTAL AREAS. AS A RESULT, 1,200 KILOMETERS OF COASTLINE AND 23,000 HECTARES OF COASTAL WETLANDS HAVE BEEN REHABILITATED. THE DEGRADATION OF MANGROVES, SALT MARSHES AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS HAS BEEN CURBED, AND THE REGIONAL MARINE ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT HAS SEEN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED.

THIRDLY, WE HAVE BEEN STRICTLY CONTROLLING AND REGULATING COASTAL RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES AND STRENGTHEN THE INTENSIVE AND ECONOMICAL USE OF MARINE SPACE RESOURCES. CHINA HAS INTRODUCED A SERIES OF REGULATIONS TO CURB ILLEGAL RECLAMATION, AND PROHIBITED ALL COASTAL RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES EXCEPT THOSE FOR MAJOR NATIONAL PROJECTS.

FOURTHLY, WE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING THE BLUE AND LOW-CARBON ECONOMY AND EXPLORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE ECOLOGICAL ECONOMY. MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY, SEAWATER DESALINATION, MARINE BIOMEDICINE AND OTHER INDUSTRIES ARE NURTURED AND EXPANDED. MARINE INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED TOWARDS GREEN AND LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE CARRYING OUT KEY DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE MARKET VALUE OF GREEN PRODUCTS AND ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM FOR REALIZING THE MARKET VALUE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DEAR FRIENDS,

CHINA HAS MADE MAJOR ARRANGEMENTS OF "PROMOTING GREEN DEVELOPMENT AND SEEKING THE HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE OF MAN AND NATURE." WE ARE WILLING TO WORK HAND IN HAND WITH COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, UPHOLDING THE CONCEPT OF MARITIME COMMUNITY WITH A SHARED FUTURE. WE WOULD LIKE TO POSITIVELY DEVELOP "BLUE PARTNERSHIPS" WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE MARINE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE REGION.

FIRST, WE ARE COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING SDS-SEA. WE WILL ENCOURAGE PEMSEA'S DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INTRODUCING NEW CONCEPTS, MEASURES AND TECHNOLOGIES, AND PROVIDING MORE PUBLIC PRODUCTS, SO THAT PEMSEA WILL UPGRADE ICM CAPACITIES OF THE COUNTRIES AND SUPPORT THE HIGH-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AREAS.

SECOND, WE ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING SYNERGY BETWEEN COUNTRIES' DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES. DESPITE THE DIFFERENCES IN NATIONAL CONDITIONS, COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ARE IN A SIMILAR PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT AND SHARE THE SAME DEVELOPMENT GOALS. ACTING IN THE SPIRIT OF EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION, JOINT CONTRIBUTION AND SHARED BENEFITS, CHINA WILL IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE OUR DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PRIORITIES CONVERGE AND TAKE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEVERAGE COUNTRIES' RESPECTIVE STRENGTHS. IT IS ENCOURAGED TO FORM A JOINT FORCE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY FACILITATING EACH OTHER'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION.

THIRD, WE ARE COMMITTED TO REGIONAL COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION OF ALL LEVELS. PEMSEA PROVIDES MULTI-LEVEL AND WIDE-RANGING COOPERATION PLATFORMS FOR MARINE DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES. CHINA WILL STEP UP EXCHANGES OF BEST PRACTICES AMONG THE COUNTRIES, DIVERSIFY COOPERATION MEANS, SEEK PRACTICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS, AND KEEP ENHANCING THE INTEGRATION OF IDEAS, POLICIES, AND EMOTIONS, SO THAT THE COOPERATION WITH PEMSEA CAN REMAIN VIGOROUS. CHINA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PEMSEA AS A BRIDGE FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION.

FINALLY, I WISH THE 7TH MINISTERIAL FORUM A FULL SUCCESS. THANK YOU.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

COUNTRY STATEMENT

HON. RI MYONG SAN

**VICE MINISTER, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

MR. CHAIRMAN,
ESTEEMED DELEGATES,

FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS IN THE NAME OF THE DELEGATION OF THE DPR OF KOREA TO H.E SAY SAMAL WHO HAS BEEN ELECTED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 7TH MINISTERIAL FORUM, AND I HOPE THE FORUM WILL WITNESS A SUCCESS UNDER YOUR SKILLFUL CHAIRMANSHIP.

I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA AND THE PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY WHICH HAVE MADE MANY EFFORTS FOR THE SUCCESS IN THE FORUM.

FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS SINCE THE EAS CONGRESS 2018 AND THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL FORUM, THE DPR OF KOREA HAS CONSTANTLY PAID DEEP ATTENTION TO THE INTEGRATED COASTAL AND MARINE MANAGEMENT.

IN THE HISTORIC EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA HELD AT THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY THIS YEAR, KIM JONG UN, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA PUT FORTH THE TASK OF MAKING DECISIVE PROGRESS IN LAND DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT, SO THAT IT CAN PUSH AHEAD STEADILY WITH THE WORK TO TRANSFORM THE WHOLE COUNTRY INTO A SOCIALIST PARADISE, A BEAUTIFUL LAND BEFITTING THE ERA OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA, AND POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE TO PUSH AHEAD WITH THE MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION ON THE EASTERN AND WESTERN COASTS OF THE COUNTRY TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE, CONSERVE LAND AND SPRUCE UP THE COUNTRY'S COASTAL AREAS AS APPROPRIATE TO THE APPEARANCE OF A MARITIME NATION IN THE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN PERIOD FOR DEVELOPING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

AT PRESENT, OUR COUNTRY IS CONDUCTING AN ENERGETIC STRUGGLE TO BRING ABOUT A DECISIVE PROGRESS IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROTECTION OF ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT.

IN RECENT YEARS ALONE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DPRK HAS MADE A LOT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN STRENGTHENING THE STATE GUIDANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT INCLUDING THE ADOPTION OF “REGULATION OF THE DPR OF KOREA ON THE DEVELOPMENT, UTILIZATION AND PROTECTION OF MARINE RESOURCES” AND “REGULATION OF THE DPR OF KOREA ON THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF COAST”, AND THE AMENDMENT OF “LAW OF THE DPR OF KOREA ON THE PREVENTION OF SEA WATER POLLUTION”, “ENFORCEMENT REGULATION OF LAW OF THE DPR OF KOREA ON THE PREVENTION OF SEA WATER POLLUTION” AND “ENFORCEMENT REGULATION OF LAW OF THE DPR OF KOREA ON THE VESSEL SAFETY”.

MOREOVER, WE HAVE SET UP DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROTECTED AREAS SUCH AS THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF MARINE RESOURCES TO PROTECT USEFUL MARINE PRODUCTS INCLUDING SEA CUCUMBER, SEA URCHIN, EAR SHELL, LAYER AND AHNFELT’S SEAWEED, AND NON-MIGRATORY FISH STOCK PROTECTED AREAS, THE ONES FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL KINDS OF FISH AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MARINE PROTECTED AREAS WHICH TAKE SEASONAL IMPACT AND GROWING FEATURES OF FISH INTO ACCOUNT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DPRK, IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE POLICY FOR PROTECTING THE LIVES AND SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE AND CONSERVING LAND BY PUSHING AHEAD WITH THE MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION ON THE EASTERN AND WESTERN COASTS OF THE COUNTRY AS APPROPRIATE TO THE APPEARANCE OF A MARITIME NATION, LAID OUT THE MASTER PLAN FOR LAND DEVELOPMENT, THE MASTER COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLAN AND THE MASTER PLAN ON THE EAST COAST LAND USE AND CONSTRUCTION, AND IT IS PROPELLING DYNAMICALLY THE CONSTRUCTION OF COAST-PROTECTION FACILITIES INCLUDING SEA DIKE AND OFFSHORE BREAKWATER ON A NATIONWIDE SCALE.

THE ICM TRAINING CENTRE, THE FACULTY OF EARTH ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE, KIM IL SUNG UNIVERSITY ORGANIZES THE TRAINING COURSES TWICE A YEAR, IN ORDER TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE RANKS OF EXPERTS AND MANAGEMENT STAFF IN THE FIELD OF MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT.

THE LECTURERS AND RESEARCHERS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ACADEME WORKED OUT “THE SOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT” AS PART OF A RESEARCH FOR MARINE ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT IN WONSAN-MT. KUMGANG AREA, THUS MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PLAN FOR ICM.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DPRK WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDS-SEA WITH DEEP INTERESTS AND MAKE STRENUOUS EFFORTS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE FUTURE.

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT AND ACHIEVE THEIR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ALL COUNTRIES IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS SHOULD CONSTANTLY DEVELOP AND ENHANCE THEIR CAPABILITIES TO PROTECT AND MANAGE THEIR OWN MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT. AND PEMSEA COUNTRY PARTNERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN EACH OTHER.

PEMSEA COUNTRY PARTNERS SHOULD STRIVE HARD TO IMPLEMENT THE SDS-SEA DESPITE THE LACK OF SMOOTHNESS IN THE EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES DUE TO THE GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS.

THE PAST EXPERIENCES SHOW THAT PEMSEA'S ACTIVITIES FOR ACHIEVING THE PLAN AND GOALS OF THE SDS-SEA HAVE BEEN MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROMOTING EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN PEMSEA COUNTRY PARTNERS FOR ICM.

WE HOPE THAT PEMSEA AND ITS PARTNERS, IN THE FUTURE TOO, WILL PLAY GREATER ROLE, ATTACHING GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS.

MR. CHAIRMAN!
DEAR DELEGATES!

THE DPRK WILL, AS EVER, FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDS-SEA AND STRIVE HARD TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST ASIA.

THANK YOU.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

**COUNTRY STATEMENT
HON. DR. SIRI NURBAYA
MINISTER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY
INDONESIA**

**DELIVERED BY HON. M^{me} LUCKMI PURWANDARI
ACTING DIRECTOR OF COASTAL AND MARINE POLLUTION AND
DEGRADATION CONTROL
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY
INDONESIA**

EXCELLENCIES,
MINISTER SAY SAMAL
MINISTERS OF PEMSEA COUNTRY PARTNERS
PEMSEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PEMSEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REPRESENTATIVES FROM PEMSEA NON-COUNTRY PARTNERS, INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOOD AFTERNOON,

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY APPRECIATION TO THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY AND FOR ORGANIZING THIS CONGRESS RIGHT HERE IN BEAUTIFUL SIHANOUKVILLE.

CAMBODIA'S GENEROSITY IN HOSTING THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2021, INCLUDING AND PARTICULARLY OUR MEETING TODAY, HAS ALLOWED US TO FURTHER CEMENT OUR COMMON VISION OF HEALTHY OCEANS, PEOPLE, AND ECONOMIES.

OUR APPRECIATION ALSO GOES TO THE PEMSEA FOR EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY EXECUTING ITS MISSION TO FOSTER AND SUSTAIN HEALTHY AND RESILIENT OCEANS, COASTS, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMIES ACROSS THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA THROUGH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS.

AS MANY OF US ARE AWARE, THIS MEETING IS ESSENTIAL TOWARDS CHAMPIONING THE PROTECTION OF OUR COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, POLLUTION AND UNSUSTAINABLE PATTERNS OF RESOURCE USE.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON GLOBAL HEALTH AND ECONOMY IS SEVERE. INDONESIA, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THAT PEMSEA COUNTRIES ARE AMONG THE CHAMPIONS THAT HAVE RISEN ABOVE THE FRAY IN OVERCOMING SUCH MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHALLENGES.

NOT ONLY HAVE THESE COUNTRIES IMPLEMENTED A NUMBER OF RESPONSES TO NOT ONLY OVERCOME HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CRISES, PEMSEA COUNTRIES HAVE MANAGED TO CONDUCT BLUE AND GREEN ACTIVITIES TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATED THE NATIONAL ECONOMY RECOVERY (PEN) PROGRAM IN 2020. WITH AN ALLOCATED BUDGETARY INCREASE OF ABOUT 21 PERCENT COMPARED TO THE YEAR BEFORE, PEN'S 2021 BUDGET IS ALMOST 700 (SEVEN HUNDRED) TRILLION INDONESIAN RUPIAH WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO USD 48.8 (FORTY EIGHT POINT EIGHT) BILLION.

PEN AIMS TO REVERSE THE DECLINE IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON INFORMAL SECTORS AND MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES. DUE TO SUCH SUPPORT, THESE SECTORS WERE ABLE TO OPERATE DURING THE PANDEMIC. THIS INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FABRIC OF INDONESIA'S ECONOMY.

SUCH A CONTRIBUTION FOCUSSING ON HARNESSING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY IS MUCH NEEDED ESPECIALLY DURING INDONESIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE G-20 THAT BEGAN AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS MONTH.

INDONESIA STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT ONLY BY EMBRACING SUSTAINABILITY CAN COUNTRIES TRULY RECOVER STRONGER TOGETHER – TENETS UPON WHICH INDONESIA BASIS ITS G-20 CHAIRMANSHIP.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WE CONCLUDE OUR MEETING TODAY WITH THE ADOPTION OF OUTCOMES UPON WHICH WERE COLLECTIVELY AGREED. SUCH OUTCOMES INCLUDE THE PEMSEA ROADMAP 2030.

THE JOURNEY TOWARDS AGREEMENT WAS NOT EASY. THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY IN EXPRESSING MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN PRODUCING AN AMBITIOUS, REASONABLE, OPERATIONAL, AND ROBUST MINISTERIAL DECLARATION.

CONTINUOUSLY REGARDED AS A MODEL FOR STRONG REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PEMSEA HAS CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT (ICM) SYNERGIZING WITH THE INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT (IRBM) SOLUTIONS IN INDONESIA, INCLUDING THROUGH THE WORK OF PEMSEA NETWORK OF LEARNING CENTRES (PNLC) AND PEMSEA NETWORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (PNLG).

WE ARE PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT OUT OF 34 PROVINCES IN INDONESIA, 28 PROVINCES HAVE ALREADY DECLARED THEIR RESPECTIVE COASTAL AREA AND SMALL ISLANDS ZONING PLANS, COVERING ABOUT 83 % (EIGHTY THREE PERCENT) OR 90.000 (NINETY THOUSAND) KM OF INDONESIA'S COASTLINE UNDER ICM.

IN ADDITION, AS INDONESIA HAS RECOGNIZED PEMSEA AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION, INDONESIA HAS THE LEGAL BASIS TO FORTIFY ITS SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (SDS-SEA) IMPLEMENTATION AND TO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEMSEA.

IN WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COASTS AND OCEANS FOR THE REGION, WE TRUST THAT PEMSEA CAN FURTHER EMBRACE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN DEVELOPING MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, AS WELL AS TO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE A BROAD ALLIANCE OF STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING YOUTH AND WOMEN.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

INDONESIA APPRECIATES PEMSEA FOR A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIVE EVENT WITH THE REGIONAL CAPACITY CENTRE FOR CLEAN SEAS (RC3S) AND THE GEF FOR UNDERTAKING THE ASIAN WORKSHOP ON DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN BALI, 2019.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT REGENT OF TANGERANG HAS BEEN ELECTED AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PNLG YESTERDAY, AND THE UPCOMING ANNUAL FORUM

OF PNLG FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE HOSTED BY TANGERANG REGENCY. ALLOW ME TO CONCLUDE MY REMARKS BY SAYING THAT I TRULY LOOK FORWARD TO WARMLY WELCOMING ALL DELEGATES TO THE CITY OF TANGERANG, A CITY KNOWN FOR ITS INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTURE, URBAN DYNAMISM, AND RICH HERITAGE.

THANK YOU.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

COUNTRY STATEMENT HON. MASAYUKI TAKADA DEPUTY MINISTER FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM JAPAN

INTRODUCTION

DELEGATE OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEMSEA, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS MY GREAT HONOR TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE SEVENTH MINISTERIAL FORUM OF THE EAS CONGRESS AND SPEAK TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA AND THE PEMSEA SECRETARIAT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL HOLDING OF THIS CONGRESS REGARDLESS OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION.

JAPAN'S STRATEGY

SINCE AROUND THE END OF 2019, THE PANDEMIC OF COVID-19 HAS BROUGHT VARIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS NOT ONLY IN OUR COUNTRY BUT ALSO AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING DISRUPTION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES DUE TO LOCKDOWNS OR CURFEWS.

ACCORDING TO THE WMO, WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION, CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM FOSSIL FUELS DECREASED BY 5.6% IN 2020 COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR, BUT THE CO₂ ATMOSPHERIC CONCENTRATION IN 2020 REACHED A RECORD HIGH. IF HUMAN BEINGS DO NOT TAKE COUNTERMEASURES, TEMPERATURES ARE EXPECTED TO RISE AROUND 4 DEGREES AT THE END OF THIS CENTURY.

AS NATURAL DISASTERS BECOME MORE FREQUENT AND MORE SEVERE WORLDWIDE, REDUCING CO₂ EMISSIONS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THE GLOBAL WARMING ISSUE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PROTECTING LIVES AND ASSETS FROM NATURAL DISASTERS.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE ROLE OF THE OCEANS IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL WARMING IS VERY IMPORTANT FROM THREE PERSPECTIVES.

FIRSTLY, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF UTILIZING OCEAN SPACE, WE BELIEVE THAT OFFSHORE WIND POWER GENERATION IS AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF INTRODUCING RENEWABLE ENERGY AS A MEASURE TO REDUCE CO₂ EMISSIONS. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED THE 6TH BASIC ENERGY PLAN IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY IN 2050. ACCORDING TO THIS PLAN, JAPAN IS WORKING TO TURN RENEWABLE ENERGY INTO A MAIN POWER SOURCE, INCLUDING BY INTRODUCING OFFSHORE WIND POWER GENERATION OF AROUND 45 GIGAWATT BY 2040.

SECONDLY, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE THAT THE PORT AREAS IS OCEAN GATEWAY OF VAST SHIPPING NETWORK, WE BELIEVE THAT DECARBONIZING PORT AREAS IN OUR COUNTRY IS AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE MEASURE IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL WARMING BECAUSE CO₂ EMISSIONS OF THE PORT AREAS ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 60% OF TOTAL EMISSIONS IN JAPAN. SPECIFICALLY, WE AIM TO REALIZE A "CARBON NEUTRAL PORT" THAT WILL REDUCE CO₂ EMISSIONS TO NET ZERO THROUGH THE MASS IMPORT, STORAGE AND UTILIZATION OF NEXT-GENERATION ENERGY SUCH AS HYDROGEN AND AMMONIA, AND THE UPGRADING OF PORT FUNCTIONS IN DECARBONIZATION.

THIRDLY, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS, BLUE CARBON HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN ABSORBING CO₂. IT IS SAID THAT THE AMOUNT OF CO₂ ABSORBED BY THE OCEAN IS 2.6 BILLION TONS PER YEAR, WHICH IS MORE THAN THE 2.2 BILLION TONS PER YEAR BY LAND. WE PAY ATTENTION TO THE FUNCTION OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN EELGRASS BEDS AND TIDELANDS AS A CARBON SINK. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS SEA AIRPORTS AND PORTS, ATTENTION IS PAID TO THE CREATION OF SEAGRASS BEDS AND SHALLOW AREAS, AND EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY WHILE ENCOURAGING THE ABSORPTION OF CO₂ BY MARINE ECOSYSTEMS.

AS MENTIONED BEFORE, MEASURES AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING FROM THE OCEAN ARE EXTREMELY POWERFUL, AND WE BELIEVE THAT AN APPROACH THAT UTILIZES THE SEA IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

IN LIGHT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, WHICH ARE BEING PRIORITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS UNDER THE エスディエス・シー S D S -SEA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018-2022, JAPAN WOULD LIKE TO STEADILY CONTRIBUTE TO CARBON NEUTRALITY.

IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THESE OCEAN ISSUES ARE GLOBAL IN NATURE, AND THAT CONCERTED EFFORTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ARE IMPORTANT.

IN ESTABLISHING THE PEMSEA ROADMAP 2030, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ROLE OF PEMSEA IS IMPORTANT IN INTEGRATING GLOBAL EFFORTS INTO FEASIBLE EFFORTS TAILORED TO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH REGION ALONG WITH THE UNITED NATIONS' EFFORTS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

IN PARTICULAR, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS MORE MEANINGFUL FOR JAPAN, AN ISLAND NATION THAT CONNECTS TO THE WORLD THROUGH THE SEA, TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

CONCLUSION

JAPAN BELIEVES THAT PEMSEA HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE VIRTUOUS CYCLE OF THE ECONOMIES AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

WE SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEMSEA ROADMAP 2030 AND SDS-SEA 2022-2030 AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIA PEMSEA'S ACTIVITIES.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA AND THE PEMSEA SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR GREAT EFFORTS IN PREPARING FOR THIS CONGRESS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

COUNTRY STATEMENT

HON. CHANTHANET BOUALAPHA

VICE MINISTER, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HIS EXCELLENCY SAY SAMAL, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA;
EXCELLENCIES;
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, IT GIVES ME GREAT HONOR AND PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY AT THE SEVENTH EAST ASIAN SEAS MINISTERIAL FORUM EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2021. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, FOR THE EXCELLENT PREPARATION THIS IMPORTANT MEETING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE *PARTNERSHIPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA* (PEMSEA).

EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WE GATHER TODAY AMIDST THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC SITUATION OF COVID-19, WHICH IS PROFOUNDLY AFFECTING LIFE AROUND THE GLOBE. THE ISOLATION, CONTACT RESTRICTIONS AND ECONOMIC SHUTDOWN HAVE RESULTED TO A COMPLETE CHANGE ON THE PSYCHOSOCIAL ENVIRONMENT OF AFFECTED COUNTRIES. THE SAME REASON HAVE ALSO TRANSFORMED THE WAY WE CONDUCT THIS TRIENNIAL FORUM, AS WE NOW MEET VIRTUALLY FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

IN THE PAST RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE MADE SOME ACHIEVEMENTS AS A MEMBER OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL. FROM OUR ORGANIZATION, WE HAVE ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (SDS-SEA) THROUGH ON THE GROUND ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS, MANAGEMENT OF THE SEDONE RIVER BASIN AND ITS SUB-BASINS IN THE MOST SOUTHERN PART OF LAO PDR, DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECOND NATIONAL IWRM DEMONSTRATION SITE, DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATER USE

AGREEMENT, PROVISION OF WATER USE IN PILOT AREA TO SUPPORT DROUGHT MITIGATION AND TOWARDS IMPROVING LOCAL LIVELIHOOD..

AT THE NATIONAL STAGE, LAO PDR HAS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED THE 8TH FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2016-2020) AND IS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING THE NEW 9TH FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2021-2025). IN ADDITION, THROUGHOUT THE COMPREHENSIVE PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH RELEVANCE LINE-AGENCIES FROM THE CENTRAL TO THE LOCAL LEVELS, THE REVISION OF THE LAW ON WATER AND WATER RESOURCES WAS OFFICIALLY ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN MAY 2017.

IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT, LAO PDR HAS COOPERATED WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO JOINTLY MANAGE AND DEVELOP WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES IN THE REGION, AMONG OTHER, IMPLEMENTING AND UPSCALING THE MEKONG-INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (M-IWRMP), THE TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE GREATER MEKONG SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM, JOINTLY FORMULATE THE IWRM-BASED BASIN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE LOWER MEKONG RIVER BASIN 2021-2030, AND THE ASEAN STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. IN ADDITION, LAO PDR HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE CHAIR OF THE ASEAN WATER WORKING GROUP FOR 2020-2022 AND THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA (GWP-SEA) FROM 2019 TO 2021. THIS IS THE GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE LAO PDR IN FACILITATING AND ENHANCING THE COOPERATION IN THE REGION WITH REGARD TO INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

OUR SEVENTH MINISTERIAL FORUM TODAY WILL ENDORSE THE PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION IN ORDER TO HAVE AN IN-DEPTH INNOVATIVE PLATFORM FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, HEALTHY OCEAN, PEOPLE, AND ECONOMIES THAT IS BASED ON LAND TO SEA APPROACH. WE JOIN OUR COUNTRY PARTNERS PRESENT HERE TODAY TO COMMIT TO GUIDE AND WORK WITH THE PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEMSEA ROADMAP 2030 AND THE SDS-SEA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2023-2027.

ON FUTURE DIRECTION, WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THE PEMSEA, COUNTRY AND NON-COUNTRY PARTNERS TO CONTINUE SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT AS WELL AS TO SUPPORT THE APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PROJECT; PROMOTE EXPERTS EXCHANGE ON INTEGRATED COASTAL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, FLOOD AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT, RIVER BASIN PLANNING, AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION; AND SUPPORT CAPACITY BUILDING

FOR LAO OFFICIAL ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY COORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT THE PEMSEA ROADMAP 2030 AND THE SDS-SEA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2023-2027.

MR. CHAIR,

TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY, ON BEHALF OF THE LAO DELEGATION, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS TO THE HOST COUNTRY, AND TO PEMSEA FOR PROVIDING A PLATFORM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR THE WATER SECTOR. I ALSO WISH TO EXTEND MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR THEIR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS FOSTERING COOPERATION IN THE REGION. ONCE AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE LAO PDR'S CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE WORK OF THE PEMSEA AND TO COLLABORATE WITH OUR FELLOW MEMBERS TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON GOALS.

FINALLY, I WISH THE SEVENTH EAST ASIAN SEAS MINISTERIAL FORUM GREAT SUCCESS AND FRUITFUL OUTCOMES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

COUNTRY STATEMENT HON. ROY A. CIMATU SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

GREETINGS FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

WE, THE MINISTERS OF OUR COUNTRIES IN THE EAST ASIAN REGION WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF SUSTAINABLY MANAGING OUR OCEAN RESOURCES, ARE GATHERED IN THIS MOMENT WHEN OUR CHOICES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ECONOMY, AND HUMANITY ARE BEING CHALLENGED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER ACTIONS THAT WILL POSITIVELY BENEFIT OUR REGION IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

WE ARE STILL BATTLING WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND DEALING WITH ITS IMPACTS AND THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

IN 2020, THE PHILIPPINES LOST OVER 8 BILLION DOLLARS IN TOURISM REVENUE AND AN ESTIMATED INCOME OF 31 MILLION PESOS FROM OUR COASTAL AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AS A RESULT OF CLOSURES OF BEACH RESORTS WHERE SOME MPAs ARE ALSO LOCATED AND LOW-IMPACT ACTIVITIES ARE REGULATED, THUS, EXACERBATING THE FINANCING GAP ON MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

IN THE 26TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, THE PHILIPPINES DRUMMED ITS POSITION THAT EFFECTIVE CLIMATE FINANCE IS BUILT ON AN ORCHESTRATION OF GRANTS TO BETTER PREPARE COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, INVESTMENTS IN MAKING BUSINESSES MORE CLIMATE-READY, AND SUBSIDIES TO HELP RENEWABLE ENERGY TO TAKE OFF.

CLIMATE CHANGE EXACERBATES THE CURRENT PRESSURES THAT OUR CORAL REEFS ARE EXPERIENCING. BASED ON A STUDY, THE PHILIPPINES IS ESTIMATED TO LOSE 6% OF ITS GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT EVERY YEAR UNTIL 2100 IF IT DISREGARDS THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE.

TO ADDRESS THE PRESSURES AND THREATS, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE OCEANS AND MARINE RESOURCES ARE CONTINUOUSLY BEING HARNESSSED AND STRENGTHENED BY THE PHILIPPINES.

THE COUNTRY WELCOMES THE APPLICATION OF “BLENDED PROTECTION” THAT INCLUDES 30% COVERAGE OF BOTH LAND AND SEA TO SIGNIFICANTLY MEASURE THE EQUIVALENT EFFECTS OF PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY THROUGH STRONG ENFORCEMENT OF OTHER CONSERVATION POLICIES // SUCH AS TOTAL BAN OF ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING, AMONG OTHERS.

THIS IS IN CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING THE SPECTRUM OF EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES AND ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS.

REHABILITATION OF THE COUNTRY’S COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING THOSE CONSIDERED AS PRIME TOURIST DESTINATIONS IS BEING DECISIVELY PURSUED.

THE WORLD-FAMOUS PRISTINE BEACHES OF BORACAY WERE CLOSED FOR SIX MONTHS TO ENFORCE FORESHORE EASEMENT, ESTABLISHMENT OF SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES, AND OTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY.

THE RENEWED IMAGE OF BORACAY WORLDWIDE NOW PROVIDES THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITIES WITH SUSTAINED TOURISM AND LIVELIHOOD.

THE COUNTRY HAS STARTED THE DAUNTING TASK OF CLEANING UP AND REHABILITATING THE MANILA BAY WHICH DRAINS INTO ITS SHORES 16 MAJOR RIVERS AND 14 RIVER OUTFALLS.

MASSIVE CLEAN-UP AND DREDGING OF ESTEROS, CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR-POWERED SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS, RELOCATION OF INFORMAL SETTLERS, AND BEACH NOURISHMENT OF THE BAYWALK ARE CONTINUOUSLY BEING UNDERTAKEN. SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN FECAL COLIFORM COUNTS WERE RECORDED AT SEVERAL MONITORING STATIONS IN 2020.

SUCH EFFORTS DEMONSTRATE THE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT AND INTEGRATED APPROACH IN ADDRESSING MARINE POLLUTION WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THE FRAGILE SITUATION OF OUR OCEANS.

TO PROMOTE SOURCE-TO-SEA SOLUTIONS, THE PHILIPPINES ADOPTED THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION, REDUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE LITTER TO PROVIDE A BLUEPRINT FOR THE REDUCTION OF MARINE LITTER TOWARD ZERO WASTE IN PHILIPPINE WATERS BY 2040.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AIMS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN THE AREAS OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND CLEANER PRODUCTION; WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE.

TO PROMOTE THE BLUE ECONOMY, THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUES TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE TOURISM WHERE WE ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE HABITATS, RESOURCES, AND WATER QUALITY AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE VIABLE LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES.

THE COUNTRY ALSO EMBARKS ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE THROUGH (1) ADAPTIVE AQUACULTURE AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS FOR FISHERS; (2) INTEGRATED MULTI-SPECIES AQUACULTURE AND (3) ELECTRONIC CATCH DOCUMENTATION AND TRACEABILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE TUNA FISHERIES. THE COUNTRY FURTHER INVESTS IN MORE GREEN PORTS USING RENEWABLE ENERGY, SOLAR PANEL LIGHTING, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SHORE RECEPTION FACILITIES.

APART FROM PROMOTING TRADITIONAL OCEAN-BASED INDUSTRIES, WE NEED TO SCALE UP IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE CONSERVATION OF FORESTS AND OTHER TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND ACCELERATE THEIR RESTORATION TO ABATE LAND-BASED POLLUTION THAT EVENTUALLY FINDS ITS WAY TO OUR OCEANS; SUPPORT INITIATIVES FOR EMERGING BLUE ECONOMY INDUSTRIES LIKE MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY, MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND GREEN SHIPBUILDING.

FURTHER, WE NEED TO MEASURE THE BLUE ECONOMY FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY BY DOING ECONOMIC VALUATION OF OUR OCEAN-BASED INDUSTRIES, COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES AND PRODUCE THE SECOND NATIONAL STATE OF OCEANS AND COASTS REPORT.

THE PHILIPPINES IS PROMOTING POLICY COHERENCE THROUGH THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT WHICH AIMS TO PURSUE POLICY AND FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATION TO SUPPORT THE COUNTRY'S ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COASTAL AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS, FOOD SECURITY, AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION, AND TO REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.

BEING THE MOST VULNERABLE REGION IN THE WORLD TO CLIMATE CHANGE, WE NEED TO ENHANCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UNDER THE EXISTING MECHANISM WHICH THE PEMSEA PROVIDES. WE NEED TO MAXIMIZE THIS SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AMONG US COUNTRY AND NON-COUNTRY PARTNERS TO STRENGTHEN SUCH ACTION-ORIENTED REGIONAL PLATFORM.

PEMSEA OFFERS A PATHWAY FOR ESTABLISHING MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS, EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW, AND INCLUSIVE SHARING OF EXPERIENCES ACROSS STAKEHOLDERS AND COUNTRIES.

AND SO, THEREFORE, IN THIS 7TH MINISTERIAL FORUM, THE PHILIPPINES NOT ONLY REITERATES ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEMSEA ROADMAP 2030, AND THE SDS-SEA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2022 TO 2027 BUT ALSO URGE ALL COUNTRY PARTNERS TO EMBRACE THE PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN EAST ASIA AND TO CONTRIBUTE IN ADVANCING THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

THE PHILIPPINES JOINS EVERYONE IN CONGRATULATING AND SINCERELY THANKING HIS EXCELLENCY MINISTER SAY SAMAL, THE CHAIR OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2021, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF CAMBODIA, AND THE PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY LED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AIMEE GONZALES FOR ORGANIZING AND HOSTING THIS YEAR'S EAS CONGRESS DESPITE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

LET US CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS OF OUR COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP FOR PURSUING TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS FOR HOPE - HEALTHY OCEAN, PEOPLE, AND ECONOMY.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

COUNTRY STATEMENT

**HON. MOON, Seong-Hyeok
MINISTER, MINISTRY OF OCEANS AND FISHERIES
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SAY SAMAL, THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT OF CAMBODIA,
MY FELLOW MINISTERS,

MR. ARIEF YUWONO, CHAIR OF THE EAS PARTNERSHIPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA,

MS. AIMEE GONZALES, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WARMEST GREETINGS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.
I AM SEONG-HYEOK MOON, MINISTER OF OCEANS AND FISHERIES.

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO START BY OFFERING MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE SUCCESSFUL STAGING OF EAS CONGRESS 2021 UNDER THE THEME OF
“CHARTING A NEW DECADE OF HOPE”.

THE FIRST EAS CONGRESS HELD IN 2003 IN PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA, MARKED THE
MILESTONE FOR THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF PEMSEA BY APPROVING SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA.

THIS TRIENNIAL EVENT IS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEMSEA COUNTRY
PARTNERS TO SHOWCASE THEIR OUTCOMES AND DEVELOP AGENDA ITEMS TO
ACHIEVE THE UN’S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

THE TREMENDOUS CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAVE NOT YET LOOSEN
THE GRIP, SO I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW DIFFICULT IT MUST HAVE BEEN TO PUT
TOGETHER THIS SIGNIFICANT EVENT. IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY
DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT FOR OFFERING THIS

WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR PEMSEA COUNTRY PARTNERS TO ENGAGE IN DYNAMIC TALKS.

CAMBODIA IS HOME TO THE ONE OF THE WORLD'S WIDEST SEAPLANT AND CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM, ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN OCEAN RELATED DISCUSSIONS WITH ITS ESSENTIAL ROLE.

THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS CLOSELY COOPERATED WITH THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS TO PRESERVE THE EAST ASIAN SEAS, INCLUDING THE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT CAMBODIA WILL PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN MARINE CONSERVATION, THEREBY MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE.

MY SPECIAL APPRECIATION ALSO GOES TO THE PEMSEA SECRETARIAT FOR ITS HARD WORK IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THIS MILESTONE EVENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HOST COUNTRY.

THE OCEAN IS OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET WHICH WE MUST PULL OUR WISDOMS TOGETHER TO PRESERVE IN A CONCERTED MANNER. THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IS RAPIDLY BEING DEGRADED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, MARINE DEBRIS, AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY LOSS. THE CALL FOR THE WORLD TO RISE TO THIS CHALLENGE AND PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT UNDER SUCH THREAT IS MORE PRESSING NOW THAN EVER BEFORE.

AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, PEMSEA'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE EAST ASIAN SEA BY ESTABLISHING SDS-SEA AND CONDUCTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT NOW HOLDS MORE SIGNIFICANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM HOME AND ABROAD,

THE OCEAN IS HOME TO COUNTLESS LIVING CREATURES, THE PLANET'S LAST BASTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, AND A SOURCE WITH UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEVISED DIVERSE POLICIES TO KEEP MARINE ECOSYSTEMS INTACT AND ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE RESOURCES.

AMONG OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES, CLIMATE CHANGE HAS POSED THE MOST SEVERE THREAT TO SEA CURRENT, SEA LEVEL, AND MARINE ORGANISMS. TO ADDRESS SUCH CHALLENGE AND BRING SUSTAINABILITY BACK TO THE SEA, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT DECLARED ITS COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY BY

2050, AS OF LAST YEAR. IN LINE WITH THIS ROADMAP, THE MINISTRY OF OCEANS AND FISHERIES OF KOREA AIMS AT GOING BEYOND CARBON-NEUTRAL TOWARD CARBON-NEGATIVE FOR THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES SECTORS.

TO THIS END, KOREA PLANS TO PROMOTE DECARBONIZATION IN THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY BY REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS FROM SHIPS, DEVELOPING ZERO-CARBON FUELS FOR VESSELS SUCH AS HYDROGEN AND AMMONIA, AND BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR HYDROGEN PORTS.

IN ADDITION, WE WILL NEVER STAND IDLE IN EXPANDING AND DEVELOPING OCEAN-BASED CARBON SINKS, SO-CALLED BLUE CARBON, BY CREATING MORE MARINE FORESTS AND RESTORING TIDAL FLATS.

THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ALSO CONTINUES TO PUSH ITS BOUNDARIES IN PRESERVING MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND ENSURING MARINE BIODIVERSITY.

KOREA'S TIDAL FLATS ARE KNOWN AS AN EXCELLENT CARBON SINK AND HABITAT FOR A VARIETY OF MARINE ORGANISMS. IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS TAKING AGGRESSIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT TIDAL FLATS BY DESIGNATING THEM AS MARINE PROTECTED AREAS.

ESPECIALLY, KOREA'S TIDAL FLATS WERE INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF UNESCO'S WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE IN JULY 2021, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE. ON BEHALF OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, I WILL STRIVE TO CONSERVE THIS VALUABLE HERITAGE.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND EXCELLENCIES,

OUR JOURNEY TOWARD THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OCEAN IS NOT AN EASY TASK.

DUE TO ITS FAR-REACHING IMPACT AND MAGNITUDE, MARINE LITTER HAS LONG BEEN A GLOBAL ISSUE THAT REQUIRES A JOINT RESPONSE ACROSS THE GLOBE. IT NOT ONLY DAMAGES MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY BUT HAS NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON ALL RELATED INDUSTRIES INCLUDING FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE, AND TOURISM.

THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS STRIVING TO RESOLVE SUCH ISSUE IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER. BASED ON A LIFECYCLE PERSPECTIVE OF MARINE LITTER ISSUE, KOREA IS TAKING MEASURES TO PREVENT THE GENERATION OF MARINE LITTER, COLLECT THEM IN A MOST EFFICIENT WAY, AND PROMOTE THE REUSE AND RECYCLING.

AS PART OF THE EFFORT, KOREA HAS ESTABLISHED THE PAN-GOVERNMENTAL MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION TO CREATE A PLATFORM FOR RELATED

MINISTRIES TO JOINTLY SEEK SOLUTIONS. KOREA IS ALSO ENCOURAGING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION FROM CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH THE ADOPT-A-BEACH PROGRAM.

THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS ENHANCED OUR SOLIDARITY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ACHIEVING THE SDGS VIA 2021 P4G SEOUL SUMMIT THIS YEAR.

THE P4G SUMMIT IN MAY SUCCEEDED IN SOUNDING THE ALARM FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD THAT MARINE LITTER ISSUES MUST BE RESOLVED PROMPTLY AND EFFICIENTLY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE OCEAN.

IN THAT SUMMIT, KOREA ALSO SIGNED AN MOU WITH PEMSEA TO LAUNCH THE “EAST ASIAN SEAS INITIATIVE ON CLEAN OCEANS” AIMED AT SEEKING CIVIL SOCIETY-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR MARINE LITTER IN EAST ASIA.

EXCELLENCIES AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE ADOPTION OF A BINDING INTERNATIONAL TREATY REGARDING MARINE LITTER, WILL BE HELD IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS. THIS ASSEMBLY IS TELLING US THAT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT REQUIRES A GLOBAL COOPERATION BEYOND THE INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS.

IN THIS CONTEXT, I AM CONFIDENT THAT 2021 EAS CONGRESS WILL SERVE AS AN IDEAL PLATFORM FOR DISCUSSIONS WHICH SERVES TO LEAD A MEANINGFUL CONSENSUS IN THE UPCOMING UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY.

IN ORDER TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE PRISTINE BLUE SEA IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, THE HUMANITY AS A WHOLE SHALL BE DETERMINED TO LEARN HOW TO EMBRACE AND FOLLOW THE WAYS OF THE SEA.

ON BEHALF OF MINISTRY, I WILL REMAIN OPEN TO THE VOICE AND NEEDS OF THE SEA THROUGHOUT THE FUTURE.

TO REALIZE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST ASIAN SEA, KOREA WILL CLOSELY COOPERATE WITH THE PEMSEA SECRETARIAT AND COUNTRY PARTNERS.

I WOULD LIKE TO ONCE AGAIN OFFER MY GRATITUDE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS CONGRESS. I ALSO SINCERELY WISH YOU THE BEST LUCK IN YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY, GOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS.

THANK YOU.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

**COUNTRY STATEMENT
HON. HAZRI HASSAN
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY
MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SINGAPORE**

HIS EXCELLENCY, DR SAY SAMAL, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

GOOD MORNING FROM SINGAPORE. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA AND THE PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY FOR HOSTING AND ORGANIZING TODAY'S FORUM.

INTRODUCTION

THIS FORUM'S THEME OF "ADVANCING OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: ROAD TO 2030 FOR HEALTHY OCEAN, PEOPLE AND ECONOMIES, IS TIMELY. IT HAS BEEN ABOUT TWO YEARS SINCE THE START OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHICH HAS UPENDED LIVES AND PLACED AN ENORMOUS STRAIN ON COUNTRIES, ECONOMIES, AND THE ENVIRONMENT. BUT THIS CRISIS ALSO GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD AND RECOVER TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT PATHWAYS.

THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA SUSTAIN OUR REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM. THEY ARE A REPOSITORY OF BIODIVERSITY, A BUFFER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, CRITICAL ARTERIES OF TRADE, AND A SOURCE OF JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS FOR OUR PEOPLE. AS A SMALL ISLAND STATE, SINGAPORE PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE SUSTAINABLE AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF OUR COASTS AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AS PART OF OUR SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA.

SGP2030

THIS YEAR, WE UNVEILED THE SINGAPORE GREEN PLAN 2030, WHICH OUTLINES THE WHOLE-OF-NATION APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. THE PLAN CHARTS AMBITIOUS AND CONCRETE TARGETS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN OUR EFFORTS TO FULFIL OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE UN'S 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. THE PLAN HAS FIVE PILLARS: CITY IN NATURE, ENERGY RESET, SUSTAINABLE LIVING, GREEN ECONOMY AND RESILIENT FUTURE.

AS PART OF THE GREEN PLAN, WE WILL INTENSIFY NATURE AND RESTORE WATERWAYS AND WATERBODIES IN OUR PARKS AND GARDENS TO FACILITATE

CONSERVATION OF OUR BIODIVERSITY. WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPROACHES, WHICH WILL BE KEY IN HELPING US NAVIGATE AN INCREASINGLY RESOURCE-CONSTRAINED WORLD. APART FROM REDUCING WASTE PRODUCTION AND MAXIMISING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, ADOPTING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPROACH WILL ALSO HELP US TACKLE MARINE LITTER AND MANAGE OUR COASTAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN A HOLISTIC MANNER.

IUCM

SINGAPORE HAS ADOPTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATED URBAN COASTAL MANAGEMENT (IUCM) FRAMEWORK: A PROACTIVE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS IN AN URBAN CONTEXT. IT IS A DYNAMIC AND ITERATIVE PROCESS BASED ON ESTABLISHING CONTINUOUS BASELINES AND FEEDBACK LOOPS TO FLEXIBLY ADDRESS AND COPE WITH THE INHERENT COMPLEXITY OF COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT ISSUES IN AN URBAN SETTING.

SINGAPORE'S IUCM FRAMEWORK ALSO SEEKS TO ENHANCE COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS AND POLICY COHERENCE; AND ENCOURAGE ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO OPTIMISE THE USE OF COASTAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION OF SENSITIVE COASTAL HABITATS AMIDST URBAN COASTAL DEVELOPMENT. EARLIER THIS YEAR, WORK BEGAN TO DEVELOP KHATIB BONGSU, A 40-HECTARE NATURE PARK. ONCE A PRAWN FARMING AREA, KHATIB BONGSU'S MANGROVES AND MUDFLATS WILL BE RESTORED BY 2024, WITH OVER 9KM OF WATERWAYS AND PROTECTED AS PART OF SINGAPORE'S NATURE PARK NETWORK. THIS WILL EXTEND THE NATURAL HABITAT FOR BIODIVERSITY WHILE PROVIDING MORE NATURE SPACES FOR THE COMMUNITY. AS PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY, SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL PARKS BOARD HAS ALSO WORKED WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS¹ UNDER THE FRIENDS OF THE PARKS SCHEME, TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE CATCH AND RELEASE OF UNDERSIZED FISH. OTHER GUIDELINES TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON RESPONSIBLE FISHING PRACTICES HAVE ALSO BEEN DEVELOPED. SUCH INITIATIVES SEEK TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE NEED TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR COASTAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENSURE THAT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CAN CONTINUE TO THRIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT. LOOKING AHEAD, INTEGRATED URBAN COASTAL MANAGEMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN SINGAPORE'S SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY, AS WE TACKLE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT ISSUES IN AN URBAN SETTING.

LOOKING AHEAD

AS WE HAVE HEARD TODAY, MUCH HAS BEEN DONE BY COUNTRIES TO SCALE UP INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES IN OUR REGION. WE MUST CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS AS WE WORK TOWARDS LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR COASTS AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

¹ Marine Stewards Singapore (MSS), a marine conservation organisation, set up to promote sustainable fishing guidelines through outreach and education, under Friends of Marine Park community.

HOWEVER, COUNTRY EFFORTS ALONE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT IN OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF OUR GLOBAL COMMONS. AS COASTAL COMMUNITIES, WE MUST LEVERAGE ON SHARED EXPERIENCES, WORK WITH ALL PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS, AND FIND WAYS TO PROMOTE GREATER SUSTAINABILITY IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS.

LET ME CONCLUDE WITH A QUOTE FROM AKUTAGAWA,² “*INDIVIDUALLY, WE ARE ONE DROP. TOGETHER, WE ARE AN OCEAN*”. SINGAPORE LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL COUNTRIES, PARTNERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS AS WE MAKE COLLECTIVE STRIDES TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

² Japanese short story writer.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

**COUNTRY STATEMENT
HON. PEDROS DOS REIS
MINISTER
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
TIMOR-LESTE**

**DELIVERED BY
HON. ACACIO GUTERRES
DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND MARINE RESOURCES
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
TIMOR-LESTE**

EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED PARTNERS AND DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD MORNING.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THROUGHOUT 2020, HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN CASES IN EARLY 2021 HAS UNDERSCORED THE THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH THAT THE PANDEMIC POSES. HEADWAY IS BEING MADE IN THE VACCINATION ROLL-OUT, WITH 40% OF THE COUNTRY AND 70% OF DILI FULLY VACCINATED (AS OF OCTOBER 2021). HOWEVER, WITH THE COUNTRY UNDER AN EXTENDED STATE OF EMERGENCY, THE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT, WITH A [CONTRACTION OF OVER 7% IN 2020](#). I AM VERY HONORED TO BE PART OF THE FIRST EVER VIRTUAL MINISTERIAL FORUM OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS WITH MY COUNTERPART MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS. ON BEHALF OF TIMOR-LESTE, I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA THROUGH ITS MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF SIHANOUK FOR SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZING AND CONVENING THE EAS CONGRESS AND MINISTERIAL FORUM 2021.

AS WE PROCEED WITH OUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLANS, IT IS CRUCIAL THAT WE ENSURE EQUAL CONSIDERATION OF OUR COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES AS ONE OF THE MAJOR DRIVING FORCES OF DEVELOPMENT. IN TIMOR-LESTE, 87 PERCENT OF OUR GDP ACCOUNTS FOR THE OCEAN ECONOMY WHICH COVERS OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS, PORT AND SHIPPING, COASTAL AND MARINE TOURISM, AS WELL AS FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE.

WITH THE INCREASING CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, COASTAL AND MARINE HABITAT DEGRADATION AND ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC, THE PEMSEA COOPERATION BECOMES EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.

FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS OF BEING A PEMSEA COUNTRY PARTNER, WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED AND BENEFITED FROM THE STRATEGIC, INTEGRATED, AND VISION-ORIENTED APPROACH OF PEMSEA. THE SDS-SEA AND ICM PROGRAMS DEMONSTRATED APPROACHES FOR COLLABORATIVE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND CAPACITY AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AT THE REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS. THUS FAR, ICM PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INITIATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF DILI, MANATUTO, AND LIQUICA, WHICH COVER 30.34 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S COASTLINE. THESE THREE MUNICIPALITIES HAVE ESTABLISHED MULTI-AGENCY ICM TASK TEAMS AND DEVELOPED THEIR RESPECTIVE COASTAL STRATEGIES, WHICH COULD SERVE AS GUIDE IN LOCAL PLANNING AS ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION PROGRESSES.

VARIOUS CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES HAVE CONTRIBUTED NOT ONLY TO INCREASED AWARENESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, BUT ALSO STRENGTHENED ENGAGEMENT IN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS SUCH AS SALT MAKING, SEAWEED CULTIVATION AND FISH AND FOOD PROCESSING, WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO HOUSEHOLD INCOMES IN THE PILOT SITES.

AS PART OF ICM IMPLEMENTATION, MPA MANAGEMENT WAS ALSO ENHANCED IN SOME AREAS. FOR INSTANCE, THE MPA IN SUKO VILA MAUMETA IN ATAURO ISLAND IN DILI HAS SHOWN AN INCREASE IN MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OR METT RATING FROM 36.3 PERCENT IN 2017 TO 67.5 PERCENT IN 2019.

IN LINE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION EFFORTS, COMMUNITIES IN LIQUICA, MANATUTO AND ATAURO ISLAND WERE ENGAGED IN PARTICIPATORY CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS, PREPARATION OF ICM ACTION PLANS, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE COASTAL DEFENSE FROM SEA LEVEL RISE AND COASTAL EROSION. HAVING ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS HAVE ALSO REDUCED THE VULNERABILITY OF SOME COMMUNITIES TO CLIMATIC CHANGES.

PEMSEA'S WORK HAS ALSO CATALYZED OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT DEMONSTRATE CROSS-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS, INCLUDING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE GREEN SCHOOL PROGRAM IN LIQUICA, IMPLEMENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, HAS BECOME AN ECO-ENTERPRISE, WHEREBY REVENUE OBTAINED FROM RECYCLING OF SOLID WASTE WAS USED AS A REVOLVING FUND. THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO BE REPLICATED IN MANATUTO.

THROUGH THE PEMSEA PROGRAM, A CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT MECHANISM FOR LOCAL ICM IMPLEMENTERS WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE ICM LEARNING CENTERS IN THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF TIMOR LESTE AND ORIENTAL UNIVERSITY OF TIMOR LESTE, WHICH CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ICM SITES THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THE NATIONAL OCEANS AND COASTS REPORT WILL BE A USEFUL REFERENCE FOR PLANNING AND PROMOTING BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY. AND DESPITE SOME DELAYS ENCOUNTERED IN THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL OCEANS POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE IS COMMITTED TO PURSUE ITS ADOPTION. THE NATIONAL OCEANS POLICY ONCE ADOPTED WOULD SERVE AS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMITMENT TO BLUE ECONOMY AND TO OUR NATIONAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2030 WHERE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION, INCLUDING BIODIVERSITY AND SEA AREAS ARE PART OF THE PRIORITIES. ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY WOULD ALSO FULFILL ONE OF OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER AND OTHER GLOBAL AGREEMENT SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE, AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET AND OTHERS.

MOVING FORWARD, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SUSTAIN THESE VARIOUS INITIATIVES. ICM WILL CONTINUE TO BE A KEY PRIORITY, AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT THROUGH THE ONGOING GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS ACTION PROGRAM OR ATSEA-2, WE ARE ABLE TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN ICM ACTIVITIES PARTICULARLY IN POSTO ADMINISTRATIVO BARIQUE IN MANATUTO AND ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE FISHERY MANAGEMENT, INCREASE RESILIENCE AND FOOD SECURITY. IN SUPPORT OF THE ATSEA GENDER ACTION PLAN, EFFORTS HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WOMEN LED COOPERATIVE FOR THE SALE OF LOCAL FISH, INCLUDING TRAINING ON FISH HANDLING AND BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SKILLS . APART FROM THIS, THE ATSEA-2 PROJECT IS ALSO EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE IN ADDRESSING ISSUES RELATED TO LAND-BASED AND MARINE-BASED POLLUTION, UNSUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, AS WELL AS HABITAT AND SPECIES DEGRADATION. EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO ESTABLISH VARIOUS PLANS AND PROGRAMS, NOTABLY THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (EAFM) PLANS, EXPANSION OF MPAS, AND POLLUTION AND PREVENTION PLAN, AMONG OTHERS.

APART FROM ATSEA-2, TIMOR-LESTE WILL ENSURE ALIGNMENT AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF ACTIONS WITH ITS VARIOUS REGIONAL COMMITMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS, INCLUDING IN RPOA-IUU, CTI-CFF, SEAFDEC, WORLD FISH, USAID, UNDP AND OTHER RELEVANT BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION.

THROUGH THE PEMSEA PLATFORM WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS ON THE GROUND. BUT WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT COASTAL AND MARINE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES DEDICATED LONG-TERM EFFORTS. WITH THIS, WE FULLY SUPPORT THE PEMSEA ROADMAP TO 2030, AND REST ASSURED THAT TIMOR-LESTE WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT SDS-SEA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 2023-2027. TIMOR-LESTE IS ALSO COMMITTED TO CONTINUE ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SUSTAIN THE PROVISION OF PEMSEA'S SECRETARIAT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

MAY THE PARTNERSHIP THAT WE ALL HAVE CAREFULLY CULTIVATED FOR 28 YEARS BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED. AS WE SIGN THE 7TH EAS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF OUR PEMSEA PARTNERS IN MOVING THIS REGION TOWARDS THE FUTURE WE WANT.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU AND GOOD MORNING.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

COUNTRY STATEMENT

HON. LE MINH NGAN

DEPUTY MINISTER

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

EXCELLENCIES,

MR. CHAIRMAN,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM HONORED TO REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM AND AS HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE 2021 EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS AND THE 7TH MINISTERIAL FORUM HOSTED BY THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA IN PREAH SIHANOUK PROVINCE.

VIETNAM HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF PEMSEA SINCE 2003, STARTING WITH THE SIGNING OF THE PUTRAJAYA DECLARATION AND ITS COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS (SDS-SEA). SINCE THEN, VIETNAM HAS MADE MANY EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM), WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WITHIN THE SDS-SEA TO DEVELOP COASTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY PEMSEA, VIETNAM HAS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED THE SDS-SEA, SPECIFICALLY: REPLICATION OF ICZM IN COASTAL PROVINCES; PROMULGATE AND IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY FOR INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT TO 2020, WITH A VISION TO 2030; PROMULGATE THE LAW ON MARINE AND ISLAND RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT; DEVELOP AND PUBLISH THE NATIONAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF OCEANS AND COASTS 2018: BLUE ECONOMY GROWTH; NATIONAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF SEA AND ISLAND FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2020; REPORTS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF COASTAL AREAS AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL; ESTABLISH NATIONAL AND LOCAL MULTI-SECTORAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; INTEGRATING CONTENT ON COASTAL AND MARINE MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND RISK ASSESSMENT INTO UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAMS, ETC. CURRENTLY, IN

ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES, THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT IS IMPLEMENTING THE FORMULATION OF A NATIONAL MARINE SPATIAL PLAN AND A MASTER PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION AND USE OF COASTAL RESOURCES BASED ON THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH; DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF SEAS AND ISLANDS.

SIR/MADAM, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF THE 12TH PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUED RESOLUTION NO. 36-NQ/TW DATED OCTOBER 22, 2018 ON THE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF VIETNAM'S MARINE ECONOMY TO 2030, WITH A VISION TO 2045. ACCORDINGLY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE ECONOMY ON THE BASIS OF GREEN GROWTH, CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS, AND ENSURING THE HARMONY BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS IS A CROSS-CUTTING POINT OF VIEW. THIS IS A DEMONSTRATION OF VIETNAM'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, SPECIFICALLY ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SDGS) AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC), THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITMENTS.

VIETNAM WISHES TO COOPERATE WITH ALL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND OTHER PARTNERS, ACT TOGETHER AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION OF EAST ASIAN SEAS. WE PLEDGE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDS-SEA IN VIETNAM.

ON BEHALF OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA AND PEMSEA FOR SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZING THE 2021 EAST ASIA SEA CONGRESS.

WISHING YOU HEALTH AND GREAT SUCCESS.

THANK YOU!



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

**COUNTRY STATEMENT
H.E. SAO SOPHEAP
SECRETARY OF STATE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
CAMBODIA**

*EXCELLENCY MINISTER AND CHAIR OF THE 7TH EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM
EXCELLENCY MINISTERS OF THE PEMSEA COUNTRY PARTNERS DISTINGUISHED
DELEGATES
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,*

IT IS MY GREAT HONOR AND PLEASURE TO JOIN YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TODAY, IN THE 7TH EAST ASIAN SEAS MINISTERIAL FORUM. I AM ALSO PROUD TO DELIVER CAMBODIA'S STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY SAY SAMAL, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CHAIR OF THE 7TH EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM, SHARING WITH YOU ALL OUR KEY DEVELOPMENT PROGRESSES MADE IN CAMBODIA, WHICH ARE IN LINE WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA* (SDS-SEA), AS WELL AS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

IN 2020, WE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE NATIONAL COMPONENT OF THE GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA PROJECT ON *SCALING UP SDS-SEA IMPLEMENTATION*. AS ONE OF THE EIGHT PEMSEA COUNTRIES THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AND BENEFITED FROM THE FOUR PHASES OF GEF SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDS-SEA, CAMBODIA WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE GEF, UNDP, PEMSEA SECRETARIAT, OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS FOR THEIR STRONG SUPPORTS AND ASSISTANCES WHICH LED US TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

BY ALIGNING OUR *NATIONAL AND LOCAL COASTAL AND MARINE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PLANS* WITH THE SDS-SEA THROUGH *INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT APPROACHES*, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT IN PLACE A NUMBER OF GOVERNANCE AND TECHNICAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS CROSS-CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES. FURTHERMORE, TO STRENGTHEN *THE COASTAL AND MARINE MANAGEMENT*, AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, A WHITE PAPER HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HARMONIZING NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS AS WELL AS STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS. AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, *COASTAL STRATEGIES*, WHICH ARE THE KEY INITIATIVES FOR INTEGRATING DISASTER RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INTO PROVINCIAL PLANNING,

HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AND ARE UNDERGOING IMPLEMENTATION IN OUR FOUR COASTAL PROVINCES.

IN SUPPORT OF *HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES*, THE COASTAL STRATEGY FOR THE PROVINCE OF KAMPOT INTEGRATES THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF ITS SEAGRASS BEDS AND IS CURRENTLY UPDATING ITS *COASTAL USE ZONING PLAN*. FOR THE PROVINCE OF PREAH SIHANOUK, APART FROM KOH RONG MARINE NATIONAL PARK WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY DECLARED IN 2016, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TOWARDS THE OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF *KAMPONG SMACH AS ITS SECOND MARINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AREA -MFMA*. WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CAMBODIAN CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE, THE PROVINCE IS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE KAMPONG SMACH MFMA MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION IN SUPPORT OF *COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES PROTECTION AND PROMOTING COASTAL RESILIENCE*. IN KEP PROVINCE, A 301-HECTARE *COMMUNITY-BASED MANGROVE PROTECTED AREA* HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ANGKOUL COMMUNE TO HELP ADDRESS SALTWATER INTRUSION IN AGRICULTURAL LAND. IN 2018, A *MARINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AREA* WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED IN THE PROVINCE'S KOH POR AND KOH TONSAY ARCHIPELAGOS COVERING 11,307 HECTARES OF CORAL REEFS, SEAGRASS BEDS AND MANGROVE FORESTS.

IN LINE WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO *POLLUTION REDUCTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT*, THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE WORKED COLLABORATIVELY TO IMPROVE THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY IN SIHANOUKVILLE. TO DATE, 5 SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AND THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING TREATMENT PLANT HAVE BEEN INCREASED TO SERVE THOUSANDS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND ESTABLISHMENTS. THE SIHANOUKVILLE POLLUTION ASSESSMENT, A MASTERPLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MUNICIPAL SEWERAGE OR DRAINAGE SYSTEM, AND A PLASTIC POLLUTION STUDY WERE COMPLETED WITH THE ASSISTANCES FROM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS. WITH SUPPORTS FROM MOE AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE SIHANOUKVILLE ENVIRONMENT LABORATORY WAS ESTABLISHED TO MONITOR THE PROVINCE'S WATER QUALITY. IN KOH KONG, COMMUNITY-BASED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

WITH REGARD TO *GREEN DEVELOPMENT*, THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY SIGNED A PLANNING CONSULTANCY CONTRACT WITH CHINA TO TURN PREAH SIHANOUK PROVINCE INTO A MODEL, MULTI-PURPOSE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (SEZ). THE CONTRACT WILL DEVELOP THE MASTERPLAN THAT HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY CONFIGURED WITH ALMOST ALL ASPECTS: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICAL. THE MASTERPLAN WILL FOCUS MAINLY ON *ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL LAND MANAGEMENT, LABOR MARKETS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, PUBLIC FACILITIES (SUCH AS WATER, ENERGY, GAS AND SOLID WASTE), INFRASTRUCTURE AND MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM AND ECOLOGICAL BIODIVERSITY, LIVEABILITY AND CITY WELLBEING, DESIGN AND URBANIZATION, LAND USE MANAGEMENT, GREEN BELT MANAGEMENT, INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND A FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN*.

EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AS PART OF OUR MONITORING EXERCISES ON THE STATE OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL MARINE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, *LOCAL STATE OF THE COASTS (SOC) REPORTS* HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN A NUMBER OF SITES, WHILE, A *NATIONAL SOC REPORT ON BLUE ECONOMY* WAS DEVELOPED. CAMBODIA IS COMMITTED TO FURTHER DEVELOPING SOC REPORTS TO GUIDE OUR FUTURE PLANNING AND ACTIONS.

AT THE SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL, WE ARE ALSO PART OF THE CONTINUING *COOPERATION IN THE GULF OF THAILAND*, PARTICULARLY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF *GOT'S FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR JOINT OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE*. WE HAVE DEVELOPED THE NATIONAL

GUIDELINE FOR THE USE OF DISPERSANTS, AND WE AIM TO REFINE OUR *NATIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN*.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR CONTINUOUS *CAPACITY BUILDING*, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF PHNOM PENH (RUPP) WHICH SERVES AS ONE OF PEMSEA ICM LEARNING CENTERS, FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL TRAININGS, MAINSTREAMING OF ICM INTO RUPP'S CURRICULUM, AND DEVELOPMENT OF ICM TRAINING MANUAL.

THE FOUNDATION PROVIDED BY THE PEMSEA PARTNERSHIP HAS FURTHER CONTRIBUTED TO LEVERAGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS EMERGING PROBLEMS IN CAMBODIA. WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN AND UNDP, A *CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN* WAS DEVELOPED. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TOGETHER WITH UNDP ALSO SIGNED A USD 3-MILLION *GRANT AGREEMENT TO HELP COMBAT MARINE PLASTIC LITTER*. CAMBODIA IS ALSO ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES FOR THE IKI/IMO/PEMSEA FOR *REDUCING MARITIME TRANSPORT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH INCREASED ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF SHIP AND PORT ACTIVITIES* IN EAST ASIA, CURRENTLY AT PROJECT PREPARATION PHASE, AND THE GEF/UNDP/ASEAN PROJECT ON *REDUCING POLLUTION AND PRESERVING ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS* IN THE EAS THROUGH IRBM, CURRENTLY IN THE PIPELINE.

THROUGH THESE EFFORTS, WE HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING OUR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL TARGETS AND COMMITMENTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT OUR *NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON GREEN GROWTH*, *THE NATIONAL PLAN ON BIODIVERSITY*, AND *CLIMATE CHANGE*, AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS AND DIALOGUES ON KEY ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES.

*EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,*

TODAY, CAMBODIA TOGETHER WITH OUR PEMSEA FAMILY WILL JOINTLY SIGN THE 7TH EAS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SDS-SEA AND TO SUPPORT THE PEMSEA ROADMAP TO 2030 AS A STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD IN ADDRESSING THE COMPLEX TASKS AHEAD OF US. BUILDING ON OUR 28-YEAR HISTORY AS A MEMBER OF PEMSEA, WE ARE FULLY COMMITTED AND READY TO WORK IN SYNERGY WITH THE REST OF THE REGION, SO WE CAN EMERGE STRONGER FROM THE COMBINED IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC, CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEAN

CHALLENGES. TOGETHER, WE ARE “ADVANCING OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: ROAD TO 2030 FOR HEALTHY OCEAN, PEOPLE, AND ECONOMIES”.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.

ANNEX 5
PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION



PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Advancing Our Sustainable Development Agenda: Road to 2030 for Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies

The 7th EAS Ministerial Forum
East Asian Seas Congress 2021
December 2, 2021

We, the Official Government Representatives of eleven countries bordering the Seas of East Asia, have virtually gathered this 2nd day of December 2021 to review the progress and scale up good practices in implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia; chart our actions in the new decade to achieve our vision of healthy ocean, people, and economies; and respond to the global call for a green recovery strategy post COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a global crisis that disrupted trade, travel, tourism, and fisheries industries, plunging national economies across the region and affecting the lives and livelihood of the people.

We underline the need to address the impacts of COVID-19 by implementing green recovery plans, driven by a robust Blue Economy that boosts employment and equitable growth, and brings transformation towards responsible consumption, production and investment, while protecting our natural capital, enhancing resource efficiency and resiliency, and reducing carbon footprint.

We reaffirm our commitment to Blue Economy made in the Changwon Declaration in 2012 and Climate action under the Manila Declaration in 2009, and support the global efforts to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, with mitigation and adaptation as crucial underlying principles in our strategies and actions to accelerate Blue Economy and Sustainable Development.

We have taken initiatives to protect our coastal and ocean ecosystems from the impacts of climate change, marine pollution and other unsustainable patterns of resource use, mindful of the ecosystem services that it provides, including hosting nine of the world's busiest container-shipping seaports, producing 80% of the world's aquaculture and 40 million tons of annual fish catch, and supporting a third of the world's coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.

We have achieved our targets set in the Danang Compact 2015, specifically 1) the completion of a regional State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) and ten National SOC reports on Blue Economy, 2) scaling up of integrated coastal management (ICM) covering an estimated 40 percent of the region's coastline and contiguous watershed areas, surpassing the 25 percent target coverage by 2021; and 3) facilitating the formulation, adoption, and implementation of policies, action plans and programs on coastal, rivers, associated watershed areas and ocean ecosystems.

We recognize PEMSEA as a model for regional ocean governance and partnerships, and reaffirm the SDS-SEA as the regional framework of commitments for collaborative and inclusive actions, thus providing PEMSEA with the essential institutional foundation to help countries achieve global and regional commitments in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Sendai Framework, which were confirmed through the Danang Compact and the Iloilo Declaration.

We welcome the proclamation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and the UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration and support the global efforts in facilitating access to ocean science data and information to support science-informed coastal and ocean policies and interventions.

We are grateful to our non-country partners, development partners, collaborators, and donors; the PEMSEA networks of local governments, learning institutions, and youth; as well as non-government organizations, local communities, private sector and the media, which continue to support PEMSEA in achieving the SDS-SEA vision and goals.

PEMSEA ROADMAP TO 2030

We support the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030, which is anchored on SDS-SEA's vision and will complement PEMSEA Countries' green recovery plans. We commit to guide and work with the PEMSEA Resource Facility in the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030 and the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, based on the following regional priorities:

1. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE.** Improve policies for mainstreaming ICM and adopt relevant tools and mechanisms that will support an integrated, coordinated, inclusive and science-based decision making process; and strengthen institutional, technical and resource capacities by adopting innovative financing mechanisms and generating knowledge and regional best practices on river, coasts and ocean management through learning and technology exchange platforms, science research and information management initiatives.
2. **HEALTHY OCEAN.** Scale up ICM as a proven sustainable management approach to strengthen coastal resilience and protect the health of river, coasts and ocean ecosystems and related natural resources, as well as coastal communities from the threats and impacts of climate change, land-based pollution, including marine litter and debris, unsustainable activities and practices, and other unsustainable patterns of use that lead to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.
3. **HEALTHY PEOPLE.** Engage the community as responsible and effective stewards and enhance their capacities to protect and sustainably use and manage coastal, ocean and water resources thereby facilitating food security and nutrition, access to livelihood opportunities and better quality of life.
4. **HEALTHY ECONOMIES.** Accelerate blue investments and ensure sustainable and efficient utilization of coastal and ocean ecosystems, and related resources, to support green recovery initiatives that will generate jobs, livelihood and enterprises within ecological limits, towards contributing to the countries' sustainable economic development.



CALL FOR ACTION

We recognize the importance of the PEMSEA Resource Facility as the coordinating and enabling mechanism for the implementation of the SDS-SEA, which is aligned with the global goals that EAS Countries have signed to. We further assure the PRF of our continued voluntary contributions and technical support in sustaining partnerships in the region and call on our partners, local governments, private sector, academe, youth network, non-governmental organizations, financing institutions, and the international community to extend the necessary assistance to enable PRF to build regional capacities, facilitate knowledge exchange and leverage technical expertise, skills and resources for the sustainable management of coastal and ocean ecosystems.

COVID 19 continues to pose a challenge to the people and the environment. As the world adjusts and works to manage the pandemic resulting in economic crisis, PEMSEA should take the opportunity to support the green recovery to build back better and healthier ocean, people, and economies.





Adopted in Preah Sihanouk, The Kingdom of Cambodia, this 2nd day of December 2021.

The Kingdom of Cambodia

People's Republic of China

**Democratic People's
Republic of Korea**

H.E. Say Samal
Minister
Ministry of Environment

Hon. Zhang Zhanhai
Chief Engineer and Director General
Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Ri Myong San
Vice Minister
Ministry of External Economic
Relations

Republic of Indonesia

Japan

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Hon. Sigit Reliantoro
Acting Director General of
Environmental Pollution and
Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Hon. Masayuki Takada
Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism

H.E. Chanthanet Boualapha
Vice Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment

Republic of the Philippines

Republic of Korea

Republic of Singapore

Hon. Roy A. Cimatu
Secretary
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Hon. MOON, Seong-Hyeok
Minister
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Hon. Hazri Hassan
Director of International Policy Division
Ministry of Sustainability and the
Environment

**Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste**

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Hon. Acacio Guterres
Director General for Fisheries,
Aquaculture and Marine Resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Hon. Le Minh Ngan
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment



ANNEX 6
CLOSING STATEMENTS



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

CLOSING MESSAGE MR. ARIEF YUWONO EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL CHAIR

EXCELLENCIES, CHAIR EMERITUS OF PEMSEA, MEMBERS OF THE EAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEMSEA AND COLLEAGUES FROM PRF, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, OBSERVERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
WARM GREETINGS FROM JAKARTA.

ON BEHALF OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA, PARTICULARLY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF PREAH SIHANOUK, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS OF THE PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY, FOR THEIR STRONG SUPPORT AND TIRELESS EFFORT IN ORGANIZING THE 7TH EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS AND MINISTERIAL FORUM DESPITE THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGES UNDER THE NEW NORMAL.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONVEY OUR SINCEREST APPRECIATION TO ALL PEMSEA PARTNERS, NETWORKS AND COLABORATORS FROM LOCAL TO INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, AND TO OUR MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS FOR KEEPING THE FLAME OF OUR PARTNERSHIP ALIVE BY CARRYING ON THE WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE SDS-SEA ESPECIALLY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. INDEED, CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER.

IT IS HEARTENING TO SEE HOW FAR OUR PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITMENT FOR A BETTER EAST ASIA HAS TAKEN US. TOGETHER, WE HAVE TRANSFORMED PEMSEA FROM A MARINE POLLUTION PROJECT INTO AN INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ON REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE. FOR 28 YEARS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED AND PROVIDED SOLUTION AND SERVICES RANGING FROM ADVISORY AND PROJECT SERVICES, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, CERTIFICATION, AND FACILITATION AND SECRETARIAT SERVICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR COUNTRIES. OUR CONCERTED EFFORT HAVE RESULTED TO THE CONTINUING EXPANSION OF OUR ICM BRAND STARTING FROM TWO ICM SITES TO NOW 44 SITES COVERING MORE THAN 45 PERCENT OF THE REGION'S COASTLINE, SURPASSING OUR INITIAL 25 PERCENT TARGET AND OUR PLAN IS TO EXTEND THE SAME PRINCIPLES TO

INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRATED MARITIME TRANSPORT MODALITIES.

WHAT OUR PEMSEA EXPERIENCE HAS ALWAYS SHOWN US IS THAT-- CHALLENGES ABOUND, BUT SO DO OPPORTUNITIES. THE 7TH MINISTERIAL DECLARATION SIGNED BY OUR MINISTERS TODAY HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR A STRATEGIC APPROACH IF WE ARE TO SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOME THE COMPOUNDING CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND OCEAN DEGRADATION AMONG OTHERS. TO MOVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FORWARD, IT IS INTEGRAL THAT WE REMAIN FOCUSED ON OUR VISION OF HEALTHY OCEAN, PEOPLE AND ECONOMIES. AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE INTEND TO DO THROUGH THE PEMSEA ROADMAP TO 2030 AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE SDS-SEA MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR 2023-2027. THE BEAUTY OF THE PEMSEA PLATFORM IS THAT IT ALLOWS US TO COMBINE OUR RESOURCES AND STRENGTHS, AND ALIGN OUR COUNTRY GREEN ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN SUPPORT OF BIGGER GOALS.

THE DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROVIDES A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SCALE UP PEMSEA'S INNOVATIVE WORK. THIS WILL ALSO ENABLE US TO BENEFIT FROM NEW SCIENTIFIC AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRAMS AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES.

TO SUSTAIN THE GAINS FROM OVER TWO DECADES, WE WILL CONTINUE COLLABORATIVE WORK PARTICULARLY ON FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF ICM AND BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVES. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED THAT COUNTRY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAIN PEMSEA OPERATIONS IS INCREASING. IN ADDITION TO THE SIX COUNTRIES ALREADY PROVIDING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, WE WELCOME INDONESIA'S CONTRIBUTION FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF LEGAL RECOGNITION TO PEMSEA BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE THANKFUL TO ALL COUNTRIES FOR CONTINUING TO PROVIDE IN-KIND AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR VARIOUS SDS-SEA AND ICM RELATED IN-COUNTRY EFFORTS. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO THE ONGOING PROJECTS ON ARAFURA TIMOR SEAS PROJECT, ASEAN NORWAY COLLABORATION ON LOCAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ON MARINE PLASTICS POLLUTION AND EU-GIZ SHIP WASTE PROJECT), SEVERAL MORE ARE ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE TO PROMOTE INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT, REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE MARTIME TRANSPORT SECTOR AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS WE LOOK FORWARD TO COMMENCING SOME OF THESE PROJECTS BY NEXT YEAR AND IN THE SUCCEEDING YEARS TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS.

THE 7TH MINISTERIAL FORUM AND DECLARATION NOT ONLY MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN PEMSEA'S HISTORY, BUT IT ALSO CHALLENGES US TO CONTINUE REDEFINING COASTAL AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE TOWARDS BETTER YEARS AHEAD.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU TO OUR MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS AND TO ALL FOR TAKING THE TIME TO BE WITH US TODAY.



7th EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM

CLOSING STATEMENT

H.E. SAY SAMAL

MINISTER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CAMBODIA

AS WE ARE ABOUT TO CLOSE THE MINISTERIAL FORUM, I COULD NOT HELP BUT BE PROUD TO ALL THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST MONTHS IN LINE WITH THE CONDUCT OF VARIOUS EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS ACTIVITIES. WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO CONVENE IN PERSON, THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA DEEPLY APPRECIATES YOUR STRONG SUPPORT WHICH MADE THE VERY FIRST VIRTUAL EAS CONGRESS AND MINISTERIAL FORUM A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. INDEED, THIS WILL GO DOWN IN PEMSEA'S HISTORY AS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE CONGRESSES AND MINISTERIAL FORUMS THAT WE HAVE CONDUCTED.

WE ALL KNOW THAT THE PATH AHEAD WILL NOT BE EASY BUT BY WORKING AS ONE REGION, ARMED WITH OUR STRONG CONVICTIONS AND INSPIRED BY A COMMON VISION, WE CAN STEER THIS NEW DECADE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION AND COMMITMENT ON THE PEMSEA ROADMAP TO 2030, I LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH OUR PEMSEA COUNTRY AND NON-COUNTRY PARTNERS AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS NETWORKS AND COLLABORATORS OF PEMSEA TO DESIGN AND PUT TO EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION THE NEXT SDS-SEA MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 2023-2027. I ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO THE FURTHER EXPANSION AND STRENGTHENING OF ICM AND BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVES IN THE REGION WITH THE CONTINUING SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS PARTNERS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TO LOCAL LEVEL.

I HOPE THAT BY NEXT YEAR, WE WILL ALREADY BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER IN PERSON IN VARIOUS PEMSEA AND OCEAN-RELATED FORUMS. OUR INVITATION FOR YOU TO VISIT PREAH SIHANOUK AND OTHER ICM SITES OF CAMBODIA WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ANYTIME.

FOR THE TIME BEING, I WISH EVERYONE GOOD HEALTH, AND TO MY FELLOW CAMBODIANS WHO HAVE JOINED US HERE IN SIHANOUKVILLE A SAFE TRIP BACK TO YOUR HOMES OR PROVINCES.

ONCE AGAIN, EXCELLENCIES, MEMBERS OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY, MEMBERS OF PEMSEA NETWORKS, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, COLLEAGUES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU.

I HEREBY DECLARE THE 7TH EAS MINISTERIAL FORUM ADJOURNED!

ANNEX 5
PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Kindly check <https://youtu.be/m7CiTluyewc>.