



**COUNCIL FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA  
PACIFIC**

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on

Marine Environmental Protection

3-5 April 2016

Manila, PHILIPPINES

**AGENDA (as of 9 February 2016)**

Study Group Co-Chairs: CSCAP Philippines, CSCAP Vietnam, CSCAP Singapore  
CSCAP China, CSCAP Australia, CSCAP New Zealand

Sunday, 3 April 2016

19.00                      **Welcoming Dinner** (Venue, TBD)

Monday, 4 April 2016

08.30-09.00              **Registration**

09.00-09.30              **Welcoming Remarks and Overview of the Study Group**  
CSCAP Philippines

9.30-10.45

## **Session 1**

### **Physical Landscape of the Marine Environment in the Asia Pacific**

The Asia-Pacific region is surrounded by large bodies of water – from the Pacific and Indian Oceans, to marginal seas such as the Bay of Bengal, Coral Sea, East China Sea and the South China Sea. This session will provide a geologic and geographic scan of the marine environment in the Asia Pacific particularly on coral reefs and their significance to the marine ecosystem, in order to establish a baseline understanding of a highly specialized area of study.

Chair: Vietnam

Speakers/Discussants: Russia, Canada, Thailand

10.45-11.15

## **Refreshments**

11.15-12.30

## **Session 2**

### **Status of Marine Biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific Region**

Coral reefs are part of the diverse ecosystems of the oceans that support thousands of marine species that make up a rich marine biodiversity. This session will provide a scan and status of the marine flora and fauna and the variety of marine habitats found in the region. It will also discuss the importance of biodiversity to food security, climate change adaptation and/or mitigation, and sustainable development in the region.

Chair: Singapore

Speakers: Philippines, China, EU

12.30-13.45

## **Lunch**

13.45-15.30

### **Session 3**

#### **Regional / Multilateral Mechanisms on Marine Environment Protection**

This session will provide an inventory of the existing frameworks for the protection of the marine environment in the Asia Pacific. It will also identify the legal instruments existing at the international and regional levels, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related instruments such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species. This session also seeks to examine the role of international organizations (UN), and regional organizations (ASEAN) in promoting marine environment protection.

Chair: Australia

Speakers: Japan, India, Indonesia

15.30-1600

### **Refreshments**

1600-1730

### **Session 4**

#### **National Laws and Policies on Marine Environmental Protection**

This session reviews the implementation of international marine environment agreements at the national level. It will also look at the dynamics among the government, private sector, and other stakeholders in promoting marine environmental protection.

Chair: Republic of Korea

Speakers: Vietnam, Malaysia, New Zealand

18.00

### **Dinner**

Tuesday, 5 April 2016

09.00-10.15

**Session 5**

**Challenges to Marine Environment Protection**

Despite the existence of formal and informal instruments on the protection of the seas, several challenges persist – from man-made activities such as marine pollution and unsustainable fishing practices, to the adverse effects of climate change. This session will discuss the different challenges to the marine environment and identify the gaps in regional cooperation.

Chair: Philippines

Speakers: US, Australia, Singapore

10.15-10.45

**Refreshments**

10.45-12.00

**Session 6**

**Identification of Major Findings and Next Steps**

The final session will synthesize the findings of the meeting. It will also identify agenda and other issues that can be taken up in the next meeting of the study group.

Chair: China

Speakers: All co-chairs

12.00-12.30

**Closing Remarks**