



## **2.1 Administrative Matters:**

Based on the decisions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter Ministerial Meeting held in August 2005 the first task ahead was to revamp the Secretariat to make it into an efficient, task oriented work force to deliver as per the targets set for it. Great emphasis was laid on the administrative and financial matters and the following was achieved by the Secretariat.

2.1.1 After the successful conduction 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting of SAS on 26th August 2005, hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan, the final reports of the meeting was finalised and forwarded to the country governments after approval of the respective Chairman.

2.1.2. As per the rules of the SASP, the Accounts of SASP had to be audited every year and put before the IMM for approval. The accounts for the year 2001 to 2004 were audited and put before the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMM which approved the audited accounts.

*For the first time in the history of SASP, writing and completing the Annual Final Accounts for the year 2005 was done in-house. In the past these accounts were written by the same external agency that was doing the Audit. This led not only to a greater control on the accounts but also led to satisfaction of the financial principal that the same agency should not do both the accounting and the Audit of the accounts. Thus, greater transparency and correctness of the financial accounts was established. This process also led to a large financial saving as the amount paid to the external agency for accounting was saved.*

2.1.3. Capacity development of the administrative staff of SASP has been carried out by establishing role clarity, constant support and guidance. The staff has also been encouraged to write scientific papers which have been selected in prestigious International Conferences. Senior officers and Programme Officers at SASP have also been fully funded by organizers of such conferences to attend several conferences, meetings and training camps.

2.1.4. Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Staff : All Staff of SASP have been covered by a specific ToR for Year 2007- 2008 based on the approved Work Programme.

2.1.5 Appointment of the New Auditor: External Audit of SASP had been carried out by the same auditors since its inception. This was brought before the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMM who directed the Director General to change the Auditors every three years as per Auditing principles. The external auditors for SASP were appointed with the approval of the Consultative Committee, as recommended by the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMM immediately and the audits for year 2005, 2006 were got done by the new auditors.

2.1.6. Financial Matters : Sound financial management has been put into place. Monthly accounts are finalized by the administrative section and reconciliation done with the bankers on a regular basis. These accounts are then regularly audited by the external auditors and now we are up-to-date with all audit reports till the year 2006.

2.1.7. All US \$ Deposit accounts of SASP have now been put on a fixed deposit scheme. This has ensured earning of much higher interest for the money in these accounts. The Earned Interest up to 10 April 2008, to US \$ 31746

2.1.8 Appointment of Staff :

- a. Programme Officer : One new programme officer has been appointed
- b. Junior Programme Officer : One new programme officer has been appointed
- c. Secretary : One new Secretaries has been appointed
- d. ICRAN-SACEP South Asia Project Officer : For the 'Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs' Project

- e. SASP Co-ordinator (South Asian Seas Programme) : SACEP is in the process of reappointing the SASP Coordinator as per the directions of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the existing procedure as the Service Contract of the Regional Co-ordinator, South Asian Seas Programme was terminated with effect from 31st January 2007 due to gross misconduct.
  - f. One Data Manager and one Asst Data Manager are being recruited to manage the growing amount of Data and the Web Server that is being installed. The Asst Data Manager has been appointed.
- 2.1.9. Improvement and upgradation of facilities for staff have been done to provide the staff with better working environment. These include Dual Core and Core Duo desktops computers with LCD screens, Laptops, LCD Projector, Centralised double sided printing facility, LAN and wireless networking, air-conditioning in all rooms, refrigerator, microwave oven, development of front Office, lounge, Central PBX systems, Individual cubicles, etc.
- 2.1.10. Archive Development : At the time of my joining the SACEP /SASP, no records or archives was available in a systematic manner. This led to great difficulty in not only day to day work but also in referencing past activities. I have now established a regular archive in SACEP / SASP. All IMM reports and Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meetings were collected and archived both in Hard copies and converted into digital format for easy reference and archive purposes. A complete database of all MoU / LoA / Gazette Notifications has been done right from the inception of SASP. A photographic and movie archive has also been established for maintaining a photo and movie record of the activities of SASP.
- 2.1.11 Steps have being taken to establish an internal library with Journals and Reference Books for the secretariat. Nearly 50 Scientific Journals have been subscribed to and several important publications on current environmental issues added to enrich the Library. Three separate rooms have been refurbished and a reading room equipped with computers has been established. A DVD/CD Library has also been established. Besides our staff, Local students and researchers are encouraged to make use of this Library.
- 2.1.12 A new look of SACEP Website has been developed in-house. Separate space has been dedicated for SASP and all its activities. Constant efforts are on to make this website interactive and more useful for the member countries. The site is being updated periodically.
- 2.1.13 The 3<sup>rd</sup> IMM approved the following programmes to be taken under SAS Programme for the period 2005 - 2007
- 1. Persuasion of projects approved by the 2nd IMM seeking funding for their implementation:
  - 2. New project areas identified by the meeting:
    - i) Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and tsunamis
      - Identification of coastal areas vulnerable for seawater flooding 2005-06
      - Education and awareness 2005-06
      - Adoption and Evaluation of Ecosystem services in Coastal and marine areas. 2006-07
      - Capacity building in mitigation measures such as creation/maintenance of natural defences like sand dunes, coastal plantation, coral reef, mangroves 2006-07
    - ii) Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
      - Coral Reefs and Sea Grass-2006-07
      - Mangroves-2005-06
      - Lagoons-enhancing the tidal influx 2006-07
  - 3. South Asian Regional Oil Contingency Plan:  
The meeting recognised the importance of the early operationalisation of South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and requested the 2 countries who have yet agree to

the signing of the concerned MOU to kindly pursue with the relevant authorities and convey their concurrence to the SAS Secretariat so that the SAS Secretariat could convene a Special Meeting for the formal signing of the MOU followed back to back with IMO Regional Training Exercise pertaining to some important elements of the plan.

### 3 Programme Activities :

#### 3.1 Completed Activities :

- 3.1.1 A MoU was signed with UNEP, Division of Environment Conventions (DEC), Nairobi for **“Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiators Regional Training Workshop (MEA-N)”**. The workshop was held from 5 – 7 October, 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and 35 participants from 09 countries attended the workshop. The Report of this workshop was released at the 10 GC-SACEP.
- 3.1.2 A MoU signed with UNEP for **“Rapid Assessment of the Environmental Damage due to the Tsunami Disaster in Sri Lanka”**. The Tsunami Task Force was established in Sri Lanka which submitted its report to the Government on both the Brown and Green Assessment of the damage. The MoU culminated on 31st December 2005. SACEP recovered 10% Administrative Charges for the services rendered by the Secretariat under the MoU.
- 3.1.3 A MoU signed with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a **Regional Seminar / Workshop on Ratification and Implementation of the OPRC-HNS Protocol, the AFS Convention and Identification and Establishment of PSSA’s**. The workshop was held in Chennai, India from 3 – 6 October 2005. 32 Participants from 14 countries from the Asia Pacific region attended.
- 3.1.4 A MoU was signed with IMO for the conduction of **Regional Workshop on The OPRC, OPRC/HNS Protocol, The BWM, AFS Conventions and PSSA’s** in Colombo. The workshop was attended by 22 delegates from 5 countries from the South Asia region. International consultants were provided by the IMO and the host facilities were provide by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- 3.1.5 Progress has been made for the finalization of Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan that was drafted in 1999 and agreed upon in 2000. An MOU was drafted in the year 1999 and presented to the countries for endorsement. Initially 3 member states, namely Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka agreed to the signing of the MOU. On a subsequent date Maldives too agreed to the MOU. Pakistan agreed to the signing of the MOU subject to certain amendments. The Governments of Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka have agreed to these amendments proposed by Pakistan. The Secretariat is awaiting the concurrence of the Government of India to these amendments
- 3.1.6 A report was published on the **“Workshop on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in South Asia,”** held in Chennai in 7-10<sup>th</sup> April, 2003.
- 3.1.7 A MoU with CEE-India (Ahmedabad) has been concluded during October 2006. Under this CEE-SACEP initiative **“A Scoping Exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change”** was conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007 in which government representatives and experts participated to consider a regional status of the priorities on adaptation to Climate Change under a consultative process. The report was finalised and submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> GC. The report was greatly appreciated and the 10<sup>th</sup> GC directed the DG to take action on the recommendations of the report. The CEE committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A Report on the Scoping exercise has been published.
- 3.1.8 MoU between Society for Development Alternatives, India and SACEP was signed for the period 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007 to 31 July 2007 to facilitate the development of need based responses in the region. Under the MoU, **“A Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia”** was conducted in New Delhi on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2007. DA and SACEP are working together to implement the above stated scoping exercise in countries associated with SACEP. The DA had committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A report on the Scoping exercise is under publication.
- 3.1.9 “Two national training programmes on CHM for developing capacities of Post Graduate students and researchers with respect to CHM.” Each was for 4 days and were conducted successfully in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2007 There were attended by 49 trainees from 8 Universities of Sri Lanka. The programme was well appreciated and there was heavy demand for similar programmes not only for postgraduate students but also for Government officials. Request for the same has been sent to the Royal Belgium Institute to include more programmes in their activities. Other

donors were contacted and UNESCO came forward to support one such programme that was conducted for Government Officials of Sri Lanka from 28 – 30 March 2008 with the help of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka

### 3.1.10 **School Environment Awareness Programme**

The School Environment Awareness Programme on SACEP's priority areas was conducted in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the CEE, with the participation of the several schools in the Colombo municipal area. The response has been extremely good in the Painting, Essay and Poster competitions held in various categories. SACEP has organised the Award ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> of July, 2007 at the Mahaweli Center Auditorium, Colombo 7. Chief Guest Hon. Mr. Mahan Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal graces the occasion. A Panel discussion on "Adaptation Strategies to Sea Level Rise in South Asia" and a Video presentation on Sea Level Rise was screened to show the global picture followed by an awards ceremony to the winners of the School Environment competition. A representative of the Best and most active winning School was fully sponsored to participate in the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education 26-28 November, Ahmedabad, India. The Standard Charter Bank has been gracious enough to sponsor the other awards for this function.

### 3.1.11 **Coastal Clean Up Programme**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September is observed globally as the International Coastal Clean up Day and South Asian Countries has been observing this day since 2006, with activities coming under the Marine Litter Programme.

The major player in the region has been the Government of India and to a lesser extent the other 4 member states of SAS

The International Coastal Clean up Day was jointly organised in India by SACEP / SAS, The Indian Coast Guard and the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006 & 2007

The International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 (ICC Day 2007) was successfully organized in all coastal areas of India. The event was a grand success.

The Government of India appointed Dr. R. Venkatesan, Group Head, Ocean Science and Technology for Islands, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, as the national consultant for the UNEP-SACEP/SAS. The Ministry of Defence on the other hand appointed the Indian Coast Guard as the coordinating agency for the event since environment protection is one of the statutory duties of the Coast Guard. These two agencies coordinated the programme at the national level.

The other member countries of SAS also observed the International Coastal Clean up Day in September 2007..

It is hoped that all member countries continue to celebrate the International Coastal Clean up day and observe this day on a bigger scale to spread more awareness about Marine Litter

## 3.2 **Ongoing Activities**

- 3.2.1 The European Commission (EC) Proposal titled "***Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia***" that had been prepared in cooperation with UNEP-Coral Reef Unit and ICRAN has been approved by the European Commission and signed on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2005. The project has been launched on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006. The EC will provide Euros 748,720 over a three year period and 20% of this amount is expected as co-finance from the participating countries and other sources.

### ***Completed Activities :***

Under the Project, the first workshop titled "*Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation Workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia*" was held in Colombo during

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006. This was attended by 27 delegates from the five member countries and International Organisations like ICRAN, IMM, CORDIO, IUCN

Two workshops on the livelihood component of the project have been held with the help of IMM and IUCN. The first workshop was attended by 17 practitioners from 16 organisations involved in Coastal Livelihood work in 5 countries across South Asia as well as Indonesia and representatives from IMM and IUCN. The Second Workshop was held from 4-10<sup>th</sup> June 2007, at Negombo, Sri Lanka. This was attended by 11 participants from the region along with IMM and IUCN.

The 10-GC SACEP endorsed the establishment of South Asia Coral Reef Task Force. SACEP with help from ICRAN then made the proposed structure and ToR for the Task Force members and circulated it to a group of experts and country governments for review and suggestions. The suggestions received have been compiled and will be put before the Second Regional Workshop that was held from 25 – 27 July 2007. The workshop officially endorsed and launched the South Asian Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF).

The Launch Ceremony of the SACRTF was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007 under the distinguished Patronage of HE Judge C. G. Weeramantry, the former Vice President of the International Court of Justice. H. E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Water and Energy, Government of Maldives and current Chairman, South Asian Seas Programme was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The First meeting of the SACRTF was held in Colombo on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007. This was attended by officials and experts from all five member countries and took important decisions on the establishment and consolidation of this initiative that is the first in Asia and only the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world. Efforts were also made to get experts from the Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation (CAFTA) Project in USA and Mexico to initiate action in South Asia for Coral reef enforcement and investigation issues and build the capacity of local resource Managers. A Representative from the East African Coral Reef Task Force was also present at this meeting to make the delegates aware of the actions taken by the African Task Force for its establishment and smooth functioning.

***Future Activities :***

The following activities are planned in the balance period of the project :

- a) Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy
- b) Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management
- c) Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites
- d) Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs
- e) Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites
- f) Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF)
- g) Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base
- h) Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network
- i) Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users
- j) Long-term coral reef management in South Asia

A logo competition is being held among the regional stakeholders and entries will be reviewed and the best logo will be selected as the official logo for the SACRTF.

- 3.2.2 A MOU was signed with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 22nd November, 2005 during the visit of the WMO, Secretary General to the SACEP Secretariat. As a follow-up a proposal titled ***“Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding of the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for South Asia”*** was sent to WMO for financial support. WMO has agreed to act as a collaborator and support participants from LDCs for the activities in this project.

- 3.2.3 Activities under the MoU with UNEP-GPA for **“Strategic Planning and developing Market Based instruments for the medium to long term strategic Planning of the Sri Lankan National Plan of Action on GPA”** are being implemented in Sri Lanka. International and National consultants were appointed and their reports were presented and discussed at a workshop organized on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006 in Colombo. Another workshop was held in March 2007 to finalise the reports presented by the consultants. This was attended by nearly 50 experts from various ministries, NGOs and Institutions. The report **“Development of Market Based Instruments for Environmental Management in Sri Lanka”** has been formally approved by the Government of Sri Lanka and recently it has approved the levy of Environmental Cess in the country.

Under the same MoU, the following two Draft Reports have also been prepared by the Coast Conservation Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources through the employment of External Consultants

- A. The Study of Economic Significance of Coastal Region of Sri Lanka in the Context of Environmental Changes of Pre and Post Tsunami**
- B. Report of the Study of Socio-Economic Aspects of Coastal Regions and Squatters with Special Reference to the Western Province**

Based on the findings of the above three reports efforts are underway to provide recommendations for policy actions to be incorporated into the next Five Year Implementation Plan (2008-2012) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, including the potential entry points and opportunities for mainstreaming coastal and marine issues into relevant national development processes.

- 3.2.4 A **“Letter of Agreement with International Maritime Organization”** has been signed in compliance of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council decision, to facilitate the consultation on matters of common interest to both organizations, with a view to ensure maximum co-ordination of the work and activities of the respective organizations in respect to such matters. The 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IMO Assembly had approved the LoA and the signing was completed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

- 3.2.5 A MoU with UNEP was signed on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005 for general SASP coordination, the **“Development of a regional activity on Marine Litter for the SAS region, the development of a regional activity on Sustainable and Environmentally sound management of POPs in the South Asian Seas Region and the preparation of a GEF PDF-A proposal on Persistent Toxic substances in SAS region”**. Under the Marine Litter project, International Beach Cleaning Day was observed on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 and 2007 in India with the help of the Indian Coast Guard, who have been designated as the nodal agency by the Ministry of Defence, several Indian Universities and colleges, the NIOT, Chennai and several NGOs. The programme was observed in several places along the Indian Coastline and more than 30,000 people participated in the programme every year. In 2007, the main function was held in Chennai where it was graced by the Hon’ Governor of Tamilnadu.

With the assistance of the member governments and through a Regional Consultant and National Consultants from each of the member countries, the above activities were successfully concluded. The reports were published by SACEP in a publication titled **“Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas Region”** were printed. This document is in two parts. Part one contains a **“Review of Marine Litter in the SAS Region”** whilst part two spells out **“the Framework for Marine Litter Management in the SAS Region.”** The printed report has been widely distributed in the region and to all relevant agencies, including other Regional Seas Secretariats.

The SAS Secretariat will formally present as envisaged, the Framework Document’ “Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas” for consideration and adoption by the 4<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting.

Pending formal approved SAS Secretariat has identified 4 project areas, namely,

- a) Capacity Building (Training and Awareness);**
- b) Beach Clean Up – An Approach to Control and Manage Coastal Litter in the SAS Region;**
- c) Creation of Port Reception Facilities;**
- d) Solid Waste Management in the SAS Region for Marine Litter Management,**

to develop specific project proposals based on the framework document and seeks the support from United Nations Organisations and donor communities for support in the implementation of the same.

The outline of these project proposals is spelt out in the envisaged work programme for 2008 – 2009 for the approval of the 4<sup>th</sup> IMM.

- 3.2.6 A MoU with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been concluded during the month of August 2006. The MoU outlines the intention to cooperate in the areas of common programmes in South Asia. Several collaborations have been developed with IUCN under this MoU including the SLED approach in the EU Project, the help of IUCN in the SAWTI initiative and the collaboration between SACEP and IUCN in the Mangroves for the Future Programme.
- 3.2.7 UNESCO, India Regional Office and SACEP signed a co-operation Agreement (USCA) on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007 to undertake joint activities in many areas of environmental management. A proposal to hold a **“National training programme on biodiversity management and the CHM”** was prepared and submitted to the UNESCO for funding. Subsequently, UNESCO signed an agreement for co-funding of 5000 USD for the project and efforts are underway for conducting the exercise. The training Programme has been finalized to be conducted from 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in Colombo with the help of the Ministry of Environment, who have agreed to contribute SLR 2,50,000 for the Project. The occasion will be graced by the Hon’ Patali Champika Ranawaka, the Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka and Ms Minja Yang, the Director, UNESCO regional office, New Delhi. Similar proposals are being prepared for other countries of the region. Several other programmes have been developed and implemented under this MoU. An International Workshop on **“Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve: an ecological model for Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihood and Sustainability”** was held under the joint collaboration of the Govt. of India (NBA), UNESCO and SACEP in Chennai on September 20-21, 2007. This was inaugurated by the Hon’ Minister of State for Environment, India and the Director General, SACEP, Dr Boaz, gave the keynote address. Another major programme was the organization of the **“International Workshop on Environmental Education”** with UNESCO and CEE and the Government of India in which the Director General, SACEP gave the Special Valedictory address along with the Valedictory by Dr M.S. Swaminathan and the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Masahiro Kochiro who gave the Closing Speech.

3.2.8 **Establishment of the BASEL Convention Regional Center at SACEP:**

In response to the mandate of the Governing Council on Waste Management, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), with the help of its member countries was able to get the decision at the CoP8 of the Basel Convention to establish a Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP agreed for the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka to host the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia.

As per the CoP decision VIII/3 of the Basel Convention, SACEP prepared a detailed proposal (Annex I) and a report of the feasibility study (Annex II) and submitted to the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting held from 3 to 7 September 2007. As the Government of India acceded the request of the SACEP at the 10<sup>th</sup> GC to deputize its experts on various fields on specific requests by SACEP to better programme establishment, the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India was kind enough to provide the services of its expert to prepare the two documents.

It was discussed at the OEWG meeting and the many countries including SACEP member countries as well as European Union supported to the proposal. Government of Russia kept the reservation saying that there are many BCRCs already established. SACEP countered the argument and said that South Asia has its unique problems of managing hazardous waste and the region is having one fifth of world’s population. BCRC at Iran also raised some concerns regarding the participating countries.

The OEWG of the Basel Convention at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting agreed to review both the detailed proposal and the feasibility study report and put up to the CoP9 of the Basel Convention which will be held on June 2008 for its consideration.

Since the BCRC will deal with the transboundary movement of Hazardous waste SASP will be able to derive great benefit from its establishment in SACEP.

3.2.9 **Mangroves for the Future** : Discussions are being carried out with the regional office of IUCN in Bangkok for SACEP to become a collaborator in the Mangroves for the Future Project being undertaken by IUCN. During the course of the Mangroves For the Future (MFF) consultations, SACEP expressed an interest in collaborating as partners in the implementation of this programme of work. This includes interests in developing and partnering in new projects, as well as the existence of ongoing or planned projects and programmes which contribute towards MFF results and objectives. SACEP has identified the key areas to be engaged in the activities for 2007, and proposed different approaches that SACEP would be interested in undertaking, in collaboration with the IUCN (for the year 2007). These come under six, out of the fifteen broad programmes of work mentioned in the action plan and they cover the principal areas of collaboration included in the MoU. Discussions were held with IUCN in the way that SACEP and IUCN could collaborate in the implementation of MFF.

3.2.10 **Collaboration with UN DOALOS** : A meeting was organized with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Laws of the Sea (DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs during the 8th Meeting of the Consultative Process was held during 25-29 at the UN Head-Quarters, New York. During this meeting between Mr. Vaclav Mikulka, Director, DOALOS and Dr Arvind Boaz, Director General, SACEP, discussions were held on collaboration between SACEP and DOALOS on the delivery of a number of capacity building activities that DOALOS is presently engaged in. The SAS and DOALOS Secretariat are now finalising arrangements for the implementation of 2 major activities. The first is the conduct of a **“Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region”** and the second is the conduct of a **“Two Week Scanning Phase Workshop in connection with the UNEP Shelf Programme.”** The first of these activities is planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2008. The total budget for the Regional Training Course is estimated at US \$ 97,000 of which UN-DOALOS has committed US \$ 33,500. SAS and UN-DOALOS are expected to raise the balance funding through partners, national governments and other funding agencies. SAS Secretariat requests the member countries to pledge support for this programme.

3.2.11 **Collaboration with SAARC Disaster Management Centre for Developing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for South Asia**

In pursuit of implementation of the decisions of various SAARC forums especially with regard to the coastal regions of South Asia, the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC) Maldives organised an Expert Group Meeting in April 2007 to draft SAARC Coastal Zone Management Action Plan. One of the identified issues was that of coastal and marine hazards and the Expert Group recommended that SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) be requested to prepare a Coastal and Marine Mitigation Plan and the Governing Boards of SCZMC & SDMC endorsed this recommendation

Subsequently, the Programme Committee of SAARC, while approving the recommendation of the Governing Board, outlined the following approach and methodology for the development of a SAARC Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan

- a) Convening of a workshop of experts to discuss issues and suggest the methodology for the development of a template for the preparation of a Coastal and Marine Hazard Mitigation Plan for South Asia
- b) Based on the agreed methodology of SDMC shall develop the template which shall be divided in to two parts:
  - i) Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for each Coastal country

This will focus on the issues that each country has to address within the country and would serve as input for the regional plan

ii) Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for the region

The inputs from the member countries would form the basis the detailed Regional Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan

**Present Status**

A workshop was held in March 2008 conducted by the SAARC Disaster Management Centre New Delhi in collaboration with National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Goa for the development of a comprehensive SAARC Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan integrating the resources and expertise available with operational as well as R&D Agencies in the region taking into account the five priorities of Hyogo Framework of Action such as

- ❖ Ensure the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
- ❖ Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;
- ❖ Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- ❖ Reduce the underlying risk factors;
- ❖ Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

The workshop to which SACEP was invited, took into account the following

- ❖ Expert deliberations on the outstanding issues and challenges facing the region with regards to coastal and Marine disasters;
- ❖ Sharing the respective national initiatives in operational as well as research domains towards addressing these issues;
- ❖ Discussing the regional approach strategy and plan taking into account all the ongoing planned efforts at international, regional and national levels

The full-fledged Regional Mitigation Plan would be developed by November – December 2008 and the countries have been requested to develop their respective national plans.

SACEP / SAS are expected to play an important role in the implementation of the Regional Mitigation Plan.

3.2.12 **Development of a National Regional Strategic Framework on Global Invasive Species**

**A) BACKGROUND**

**The Global Invasive Species Programme**

The mission of Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) is to conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread and deleterious impacts of invasive alien species. GISP's main focus is to promote global co-operation in invasive species prevention and management, by fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between relevant international instruments and organizations. GISP has a mandate to support the implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention of Biological Diversity, which addresses the issue of invasive alien species.

Set up in 1997, GISP was initially a small, mainly voluntary partnership programme. In early 2005, GISP was constituted as a legal entity with Founding Members IUCN, CABI, The Nature Conservancy, and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The GISP Secretariat – sponsored primarily by the World Bank through the Bank Netherlands Partnership Programme and Development Grant Facility – is based in Cape Town, South Africa.

Following the distribution of a flyer advertising the training course at COP 8 in Curitiba in March, and at the IMO-UNEP Forum in London, both the UNEP-RS Office in Nairobi, and the GISP Secretariat, had received numerous requests to have the training course presented in various Regional Seas areas. We are therefore in the process of developing an 18-month programme which would see the delivery of the training course in at least 6 of our regions by the end of 2007.

SACEP had expressed its interest during the IMO-UNEP Forum, and an offer was received from UNEP for the conduct of a Training Course for the South Asian Seas Region, This was in May 2007.

However there was a change in the Focal Point in UNEP and the responsibility for the conduct of such training programmes was shifted to the International Oceans Institute of Southern Africa University of the Western Cape South Africa

SACEP has been in communication with IOI in South Africa and it proposed to conduct such a training programme during the course of 2008

**Title of Course:**

**Training Course on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species**

**Modules**

- Introduction to Marine & Coastal Invasive Species
- Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management
- Prevention
- Early detection and Rapid Response
- Incursion Management
- The International Response
- Developing a National Strategic Framework
- Communication, Education and Public Awareness

There would be 2 participants from each of the 5 SAS countries participating and IOI would provide the training staff and will conduct the Training Course

**B) Present Status**

Negotiations are currently on with IOI South Africa for the conduct of this Training Course. The estimated cost is around US \$ 59,000 of which the commitment of the Host Government and SACEP will be US \$ 16,000

There is a possibility that this course being dove tailed to a Regional Training Programme conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka and if so, the commitment from IOI would be reduced.

The time frame for this activity is during the course of 2008

**3.2.13 Globallast Programme – Development of a South Asian Seas Plan**

SAS has been selected by IMO as a special area for the development of a South Asian Seas Plan for the promotion and implementation of the Globallast Programme of IMO

At the 1<sup>st</sup> South Asia Regional Meeting on Ballast Water Control and Management the Development of South Asian Seas Plan was discussed.

The meeting welcomed the ongoing activities of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) and in particular its regional component

It recalled the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in its Agenda 21, requested countries to consider the adoption of appropriate measures to prevent the spread of non-indigenous organisms, and further to the appeal, in its Declaration on Environment and Development, that States apply the precautionary approach according to their capabilities;

It noted that the Adoption of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments by IMO member States on 13 February 2004;

It also recognised the recent and ongoing significant increase in shipping activity in the seas of South Asia and the associated risks of new invasions of harmful species and pathogens;

The meeting agreed to the following

1. To adopt the Regional Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) for Ballast Water Management and Control in the South Asian Seas Region;
2. to designate National Lead Agencies and form inter-ministerial/cross-sectoral National Task Forces for ballast water control and management issues form a Regional Task Force (RTF) and adopt the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the RTF
3. To support the rapid entry into force and implementation of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments
4. recommended that the issue of invasive aquatic species and ballast water transfers be recognized and given priority by existing regional programmes such as SACEP, BOB LME and others and that related activities under these programmes be coordinated with the Regional SAP to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships' Ballast Water
5. It also recommended that participating countries, relevant regional programmes including SACEP, the GEF Bay of Bengal LME project and GloBallast, and multilateral donors such as World Bank, GEF, ADB, UNEP, UNDP, IMO and others consider funding and/or otherwise supporting the implementation of technical cooperation projects on ballast water control and management under the framework of the Regional Action Plan; &
6. That GEF, UNDP and IMO secure continuation and replication of the GloBallast Programme within the timeframe needed to ensure a seamless implementation of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in the South Asian Region.

#### **Follow up on Globallast Programme**

There have been recent discussions with Dr. Jose Matheickal, Project Co-ordinator in IMO

As a follow up to the initial Phase of this programme, IMO is currently developing a stakeholder consultation plan for the GloBallast Partnerships PDF-B process.

There is a possibility that some funds will be available for implementing some areas identified in the Regional Action Plan which was finalised at the Singapore Regional Meeting.

They will keep us posted of the developments.

#### **4. Major Milestones during 2005-2008:**

- 4.1 It was for the first time in the History of SASP that the South Asian Seas Programme Chairman, H E Ahmad Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Government of Maldives graced the

SACEP activities in Colombo twice- Once at the Launch of the SACRTF on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and then again on the occasion of the First meeting of the SACRTF on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

- 4.2 Similarly, the current Chairman, SACEP Governing Council, H E Mahant Thakur, Minister of Environment and Forests Nepal, visited SACEP Secretariat with his Secretary, Joint Secretary and other officers on 16-19<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and graced the occasion of the School Awareness Programme held on the SASP issues.
  - 4.3 SACEP also had the privilege of H. E Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka gracing some of the major activities of SACEP like the First Meeting of the Coral Reef Task Force on 21.12.07.
  - 4.4 The Hon' Minister of State for Environment, India, HE Thirumigu S. Raghupati Avl graced the opening ceremony of the SACEP-UNESCO-NBA Workshop on the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere reserve in Chennai on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007
  - 4.5 The Director General of SACEP has presented more than 50 Papers and Presentations at International Meetings and Workshops to spread the word about the various activities of the SASP during the period 2005-2007. He has also been invited to deliver Key Note Address and Valedictory Address at various International meetings.
- 5 Request the 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting, South Asia Seas Programme to:**
- 5.1 Endorse the SASP Work Programme 2009 – 2010.
  - 5.2 Challenge grant for SACRTF
  - 5.3 Approval of Marine Litter Framework for Action
  - 5.4 Enhancement of
    - a) SASP Country Contributions
    - b) Establishment of SASP Corpus Fund
    - c) Commitment of Country Governments for suitable Building Complex of SACEP that houses the SASP in Colombo as the allotment of Land by Sri Lankan Government to SACEP is in a very advanced stage.
  - 5.5 Setup possible dates and country for the 5<sup>th</sup> IMM meeting

**6. Financial Matters:**

6.1 The recovery of Country Contributions arrears was taken up as a priority. We were able to realize the following amounts till date.

**Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by the Countries of SASP**

**SASP Country Contribution Status: From 2002 - 10th April 2008**

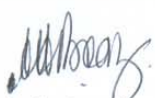
Country	Arrears up to 2004	Agreed CC for 2005	Received CC for 2005	Total Arrears up to 2005	Agreed CC for 2006	Received CC 2006	Arrears up to Dec 2006
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	17,852.40	13,335.00		31,187.40	13,335.00		44,522.40
India	64,395.00	32,185.00		96,580.00	32,185.00	96,580.00	32,185.00
Maldives	24,471.00	5,975.00		30,446.00	5,975.00	36,421.00	0.00
Pakistan	74,225.50	27,130.00		101,355.50	27,130.00	54,260.00	74,225.50
Sri Lanka	17,518.02	13,335.00	30,561.94	291.08	13,335.00	12,990.37	635.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198,461.92</b>	<b>91,960.00</b>	<b>30,561.94</b>	<b>259,859.98</b>	<b>91,960.00</b>	<b>200,251.37</b>	<b>151,568.61</b>

Country	Arrears as at Dec 2006	Agreed CC 2007	Received CC 2007	Arrears up to Dec 07	Agreed CC for 2008	Received CC 2008	Arrears from 2002 - 10 Apr 08
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	44,522.40	13,335.00		57,857.40	13,335.00		71,192.40
India	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00		64,370.00
Maldives	0.00	5,975.00		5,975.00	5,975.00	5,975.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	74,225.50	27,130.00	27,157.10	74,198.40	27,130.00		101,328.40
Sri Lanka	635.71	13,335.00		13,970.71	13,335.00	8,469.08	18,836.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151,568.61</b>	<b>91,960.00</b>	<b>59,342.10</b>	<b>184,186.51</b>	<b>91,960.00</b>	<b>14,444.08</b>	<b>261,702.43</b>

Interest Earned	Year 2005	237.52
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2006	3,051.68
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2007	24,356.95
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2008	4,100.37
<b>Total Interest – SASP</b>		<b>31,746.52</b>

6.2 We have also tried extremely hard to start new activities and get funds from different agencies to carry out activities as directed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter Ministerial Meeting. We are happy to report that several MoUs and LoAs have been signed and we have been able to attract funds for projects and activities as under:

Activity	Donor	Budget
MoU between SACEP and UNEP on Updating Regional Seas Report / Co-ordination of South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP	30,000.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP on Strategic Planning and Developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning of the Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action (MBI / NPA)	UNEP-GPA	64,000.00
MoU between UNEP SACEP for UNEP's Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force	UNEP	87,050.00
LoA between IMO and SACEP / Regional Workshop on Measures to Collect, Handle, Treat and Dispose of Waste Generated in Applying the AFS Convention, Chennai, India	IMO	71,998.00
MoU between South Asian Seas Action Plan(SASAP), SACEP and UNEP Regional Seas / co-ordination of SAS Action Plan, Marine Litter Activity & POP's and PDF A Proposal	UNEP	53,400.00
OPRC-HNS Workshop	IMO	35,000.00
Project Sanctioned by European Commission for the SACEP/ICRAN Coral Reef Work in South Asia (Three Year Project)	European Commission 875,907.43Euros	1,162,583.00
MoU SACEP-CEE, Scoping Exercise on Climate Change	CEE, Ahmedabad	10,000.00
School Awareness Programme	Government of Sri Lanka, Standard Charter Bank, CEE, SAYEN	5000.00
“Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region”	UN DOALOS, SACEP,	33,500.00
Support for SACEP to attend International Meetings (2005-2007)	Various Organisation	65,238.00
Interest to date on Project account (2006-2008)	-	14256.80
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>1,632,025</b>

  
**(Dr. A. A. Boaz)**  
**Director General**