



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers

Islamabad, Pakistan 26th March 1999

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING
OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME**

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**REPORT OF THE
FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING OF
THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
28TH MARCH 1999
ISLAMABAD,
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

**SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME
FIRST INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS
26TH MARCH 1999
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers was held on 26th of March 1999 in Murree, Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

2. ATTENDANCE

The Meeting was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries: - India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

It was also attended by Observers from the following UN Agencies and International Organisations: - Asian Development Bank (ADB), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) & United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

The List of Participants is in **Annex 1**.

3. OPENING SESSION

Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi, Director General of SACEP delivered the Welcome Address. In welcoming those present on this historic occasion Dr. Joshi thanked the Government of Pakistan for their kind gesture in hosting this 1st Meeting of Ministers and said that the Meeting of Senior Officials has come up with a very pragmatic plan of work and he sought the assistance of all the member countries in meeting the challenges ahead of them. A copy of his address is in **Annex 2**.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP, the following Office Bearers were elected.

Chairman	-	Hon. Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud	-	Pakistan
Vice Chairman	-	Dr. A. E. Muthunayagam	-	India
Rapporteur	-	H.E. Mr. Alfred David	-	Sri Lanka

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

The Draft Agenda prepared by the Secretariat for this Meeting was adopted. The adopted Agenda is contained in **Annex 3**.

6. COUNTRY STATEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS FROM UN AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

The Country Statements from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to the Intergovernmental Meeting were delivered by the respective Heads of Delegations. The respective Country Statements are found in **Annexes 4 to 6**.

Representatives of the UN Agencies and International Organisations attending the Meeting also addressed the Governing Council and their statements are found in **Annexes 7 to 10**.

7. ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

Under this Agenda Item, the Secretariat presented the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points (**Annex 15**). The meeting discussed the Report at length under the respective headings and adopted the recommendations of the Report with certain amendments. The approved decisions under the respective headings are given below.

7.(a) REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The concerned Document under this Agenda Item was SAS / NFP / IMM 1 / WP 1, titled Review of Progress of the Implementation of the Action Plan.

- a) The date of commencement of the implementation of the Action Plan was agreed as February 1998 mainly because all the country contributions to the SAS Trust Fund to meet the cost of the Secretariat were received in January 1998.
- b) While it was left to the discretion of the countries to decide upon the composition of the National Co-ordinating Committee, the role for the National Focal Point vis a vis the National Committee was defined.
- c) Lack of funding for developing detailed project documents for the priority projects was discussed in length. UNEP representative informed the meeting that due to the financial crisis his organisation was unable to support the South Asian Seas Programme to the levels expected by SACEP. However as the situation has improved now UNEP has included among other Regional Seas Programmes the South Asian Seas Programme in its programme of work for 2000 and 2001. He requested the SAS Secretariat to make available concrete proposals for consideration for funding by UNEP. In this regard, the meeting felt that since the implementation of the South Asian Seas Action Plan is in the interest of the member countries, the projects, which have significant national components, should be funded by the countries themselves without awaiting external assistance.
- d) Even though the Action Plan was adopted in March 1995 all the country contributions were received only by January 1998. However the SAS Secretariat with the available SACEP staff had carried out several interim activities such as development and implementation of a Training Programme for the Management of Marine Protected Areas, active participation in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and organising a meeting to develop a proposal to study the Beaching of Corals in the South Asian Region, International Coral Reef Initiative Network (ICRI), Organising a Regional Workshop for the Development of National Plan of Action towards the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the Marine environment from Land based activities etc. The meeting appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat.

7. (b) INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANISATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The concerned Document under this Agenda Item was SAS / NFP / IMM 1 / WP 2, titled "Institutional, Organisational and Financial Arrangements of the South Asia Seas Action Plan.

- (a) The meeting noted that while the need to designate National Focal Points, constitution of the National Co-ordination Committee and designation of National Institutions have been specified in the action plan, the need for identification and strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence has been specified only under the Priority Areas of Activities. It was clarified by the Secretariat that such centres would be useful to deal with the regional aspects of the projects identified.
- (b) Two countries have already hosted the IGMM meetings and the next meeting could be held in any of the other three countries. The Secretariat can initiate the consultations to hold the next IMM in October 2000 with the probable host country at least six months prior to October 2000. The dates should be intimated to the member countries at least 3 months in advance.
- (c) The SAS Secretariat in consultation with other Regional Seas Secretariats may formulate suitable Rules and Regulations of SASAP for administrative and financial activities for approval by the next meeting of IMM. These rules will have to be formulated within six months from the date of issue of report of the present IMM meeting. Till then SACEP can be empowered to make all administrative and financial decisions as per accepted procedure followed by SACEP.
- (d) SACEP will recruit within 6 months from the date of issue of Report of the First IMM, one Senior Programme Officer (Regional) and within 3 months one Programme Officer

(Local) and a Secretary. The posts will be on contractual basis for a period of 4 years with the salary of US \$ 2,500 per month for the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) and Sri Lankan Rupees 17,000 per month for the Programme Officer (Local). The salary includes house rent, medical and other expenses. The Guidelines for formulation of Schemes of Recruitment are given in **Annex 11**.

- (e) The countries, which are yet to constitute their National Co-ordinating Committee are requested to do so within 4 months from the date of issue of report of the IMM.
- (f) Selection of the National Institutions will be made by the National Focal Points for each priority area. Broad guidelines for selection include availability of core expertise in the relevant field and infrastructure at a reasonable level. These institutions are meant for one or more priority areas, which will be designated as the National Institutions for the SAS programme. Adequate efforts will have to be made by the Governments/National Focal Points/National Institutions/Others to make available the services of National Institutions to the SAS programme on a long-term basis.
- (g) The meeting considered the issue of payment of the compensation to the Deputy Director Programmes and 7 other Administrative and Supporting Staff of SACEP who spared their services for the SAS programme. It was agreed that payment of the compensation be considered from 1 February 1998, which has been fixed as the date of commencement of the Action Plan. Payment of an amount Sri Lankan Rs.10,000 per month was approved for the Deputy Director Programmes from 1 February 1998 and will be continued till the date the Senior Programme Officer is appointed. For other staff it is 15% of their salary and may be continued till the time the Secretary is appointed. Thereafter, the payment for the other administrative staff will be determined on actual time spent on SAS work.
- (h) The member countries may consider expediting the payment of their country contributions in order to facilitate smooth functioning of the Secretariat. Minor differences arising due to currency exchange rate fluctuations are ignored.
- (i) The Audit Report for the year 1997 was approved. It was agreed that the unspent balance available may be treated as a Reserve fund which will be used for payment of salary to the SAS staff in case there are delays in receiving the country contributions.
- (j) The Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) was empowered for reappropriation upto 20% from one item to the other. In case of more, it need to be approved by the Consultative Committee which will be ratified at the time of IMM. The budgetary requirements proposed for the Secretariat and corresponding country contributions for the years 1999 and 2000 was approved by IMM. The details are given below:
- (k) The IMM requested the UN organisations such as UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO etc, International and Regional financial Institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and multi and bi-lateral donors for funding activities essential for implementation of the Action Plan. It seeks co-operation for technical assistance of NGO's such as WWF, IUCN etc, for South Asian Seas Action Plan.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SAS TRUST FUND					
COUNTRY		1997	1998	1999	2000
	%	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	14.5	10,367.50	11,020.00	12,120.00	13,335.00
India	35.0	25,025.00	26,600.00	29,260.00	32,185.00
Maldives	6.5	4,647.50	4,940.00	5,435.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	29.5	21,092.50	22,420.00	24,660.00	27,130.00
Sri Lanka	14.5	10,367.50	11,020.00	12,125.00	13,335.00
TOTAL	100.00	71,500.00	76,000.00	83,600.00	91,960.00

APPROVED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 1999 – 2000

	1999	2000
	Cost in US \$	Cost in US \$
PERSONNEL		
International		
Senior Programme Officer	30,000*	30,000*
Local		
1 Programme Officer	3,250*	3,250*
1 Secretary	2,500*	2,500*
OFFICE INFRASTRUCTURE		
Furniture, Office Equipment & Consumables	8,070	13,215
RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE	7,480	8,065
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	5,845	6,430
MEETING & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	14,685	15,855
DOCUMENTS & PUBLICATIONS	2,920	3,210
CONTINGENCIES	8,850	9,435
TOTAL	83,600	91,960
RECURRENT	75,530	78,745
CAPITAL	8,070	13,215
T O T A L	83,600	91,960

* All inclusive

7. (c) POLICY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

The concerned Document under this Agenda Item was SAS / NFP / IMM 1 / WP 3, titled Policy Considerations in the Implementation of the South Asian Seas Action Plan. Under this Agenda item the areas discussed were to obtain policy guidance in the programming, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects under the Action Plan.

The following decisions were taken on Policy matters by the Meeting:

- (a) The planning and programming cycle of 4 years with a 2 years work plan as suggested in the working paper is applicable to the Secretariat. The projects identified under each priority area will be formulated by the Secretariat with the experts / consultants will have their own duration and work plans. After formulation of the proposal, they will be submitted to the Consultative Committee for approval. The members of the Consultative Committee will have prior consultation with the National Focal Points before according their approval.
- (b) To convene meetings of National Focal Points once a year immediately preceding meetings of IGMM to take stock of all completed, ongoing and planned programme and project activities and decide on the Final Work Plan for the following two years and a Tentative Work Plan for the ensuing two years, and also deliberate on institutional, organisational and financial matters which are of relevance to the implementation of the Action Plan. The Agenda and Working paper be sent to the National Focal Points at least three months before the date of the meeting.
- (c) It is necessary to establish the principle that each Member State and the regional components from donor funding or agreed contributions of Member States fund the national components of projects implemented under the Action Plan. If a project has significant regional component, funding should be ensured first for the regional component before commencement of the project. In case of non-availability of funding for such regional aspects, the project could be dropped in consultation with the Consultative Committee.

- (d) The Secretariat is to undertake in close consultation with the member States a study on capacity building requirements of National Institutions and formulate a project for donor funding.
- (e) The Secretariat is to formulate in close consultation with the member States guidelines on modalities and methodologies for project identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

7. (d) PROPOSED WORK PLANS FOR THE PROGRAMME CYCLE 1999 - 2002

Under this Agenda Item, the concerned document introduced by the Secretariat was SAS / NFP / IMM 1 / WP 4 titled "Proposed Work Plans for the Programme Cycle 1999 - 2002". The purpose of this Paper was to present a realistic and achievable Work Plans in relation to resource availability and planning and implementation capacity

The meeting discussed recommendations and the following were approved by the meeting.

The following priority projects, which have been identified for the Programming Cycle 1999 - 2002 under the 4 Priority Activities stipulated in the Action Plan, were considered for development and implementation. The details of these Project Proposals are given in **Annex 12**.

(a) Integrated Coastal Zone Management:

- (i) Capacity Building for the control of coastal erosion in the context of ICZM in the South Asian Seas Region - 1999-2000.
- (ii) Integrated Management of the Environmentally Sensitive Coastal and Marine Ecosystems - 2001-2002.
- (iii) Assessment of Areas Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise in the South Asian Seas Region

(b) National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning:

- (i) Capacity Building in the Development and Operation of National Oil Spill Contingency Planning - 1999-2000.
- (ii) Updating and finalising of the South Asian Seas Oil Spill Contingency Plan - 2001-2002.

(c) Human Resource Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence

- (i) Identification of Capacity Building Requirements in Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection and Management - 1999 -2000.
- (ii) Strengthening the Capacity of the Regional Centres of Excellence in the Protection and Management of the Coastal and Marine Environment - 2001-2002.

(d) Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Activities

- (i) Identification and Assessment of the nature, extent, problems and causes of Marine Pollution from Land-based Activities and the Preparation of a National Programme of Action for Control of Land-based Sources of Pollution - 1999-2000.
- (ii) Development of National Water Quality Criteria for different uses of Sea Water - 2001-2002.
- (iii) Draft Project Proposal to GEF for a PDF Block B Grant

It was explained in the meeting that the criteria selected for identification of these projects is based on the current level of environmental problems prevalent in the South Asian countries under each priority area of activity and also to fulfil the gaps existing in the capacity building areas. The meeting considered the above project areas and agreed for their further development. The time frame/duration mentioned in the project outline are unrealistic and need to be determined in accordance with the extent of the activity. The Secretariat will develop detailed Project Proposals with the help of expert consultants using funding from the international sources such as UN Organisations, International and Regional Financial Institutions.

B. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting considered and adopted this Report on the 26th of March 1999. After the adoption of the Report, Hon. Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan delivered his closing address. This is given in **Annex 13**.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Deputy Director Programmes, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programmes. This is given in **Annex 14**.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

INDIA

Dr. A. E. Muthunayagam
 Secretary
 Department of Ocean Development
 Block 12, C. G. O. Complex
 Lodhi Road
 New Delhi 110003
 India

Tel: 91 - 11 - 4362278
 Fax: 91 - 11 - 4360336/436 0778

Dr. B. R. Subramanian
 Project Director
 Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM)
 Project Directorate
 Department of Ocean Development
 1st Floor Kondal Building
 Anna University Campus
 Chennai - 600 025
 India

Tel: 91 - 44 - 2301845
 Fax: 91 - 44 - 2301846
 e-mail: brs@icnam.tn.nic.in

PAKISTAN

Hon. Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud
 Minister of State
 Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
 9th Floor, UBL Building
 Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
 Islamabad
 Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 9224580
 Fax: 92 - 51 - 9202211

Mr. Muhammad Zubair Kidwai
 Secretary
 Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
 9th Floor, UBL Building
 Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
 Islamabad
 Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 9224580
 Fax: 92 - 51 - 9202211

Mr. Mahboob Elahi
 Director General (Env)
 Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
 8th Floor, UBL Building
 Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
 Islamabad
 Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 9201145
 Fax: 92 - 51 - 9202211

Mr. Kalimullah Shirazi
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 920 2960
Fax: 92 - 51 - 920 2211

Mr. Shahqat Ezdi Shah
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
9th Floor, UBL Building
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 922 4583
Fax: 92 - 51 - 920 2211

Mr. Imran Habib Ahmad
Section Officer (Biodiversity)
Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
9th Floor, UBL Building
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 920 7954
Fax: 92 - 51 - 920 2211
e-mail: moe@bio-unit.snkpk.undp.org

Brig (Retd) Akhtar Zamin
Director General
Environment Protection Agency
Government of Sindh
Karachi
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 21 - 5867925
Fax: 92 - 21 - 5867923

Mr. Asif Shujah Khan
Director General
Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency
44 E Office Tower
Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 9217882
Fax: 92 - 51 - 9201074

Mr. Farooq Ahmed
Director
Zoological Survey Department
Block 61, Pakistan Secretariat
Sharea Iraq
Karachi
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 21 - 9203334

Dr. Maureen Aziz Qureshi
Assistant Professor
Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology
University of Karachi
Karachi 75270
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 21- 470 572 / 475 001
Fax: 92 - 21- 497 8960
e-mail: mahmed@cemb1.khi.sd hpk.undp.org

Mr. M. Akhtar Tufail
Director IEE
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Islamabad
Pakistan.

Tel: 92 - 51 - 920 6149
Fax: 92 - 51 - 920 1944
e-mail: akhtartufail@hotmail.com

Mr. Jawed Ali Khan
Director (PEPC)
Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
9th Floor, UBL Building
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 920 2574
Fax: 92 - 51 - 920 2211
e-mail pecc@lsb.comsats.net

SRI LANKA

H. E. Mr. A. K. David
High Commissioner
High Commission of Sri Lanka
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 828723
Fax: 92 - 51 - 828751

Ms. R. D. Rajapaksa
Second Secretary
High Commission of Sri Lanka
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 82 8723
Fax: 92 - 51 - 82 8751

UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. Abdullah Hadi
Senior Programme Officer
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Environment Programme
The UN Building
Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Tel: 662 - 2882125
Fax: 662 - 2803829
e-mail: hadi@unescap.org

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Dr. Robert Gunwan
UNIDO Representative in Pakistan
P O Box 1051
2nd Floor – Saudi Park Tower
61 – A Jinnah Avenue
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 279 078
Fax: 92 – 51 – 822 247

Mr. Ibrahim Saeed
Assistant to UNIDO Representative
P O Box 1051
2nd Floor – Saudi Park Tower
61 – A Jinnah Avenue
Islamabad

Tel: 92 – 51 – 279 078
Fax: 92 – 51 – 822 247

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Dr. Kazl Jalal
Chief
Office of Environment and Social Development
Asian Development Bank
P O Box 789
1099 Manila
Philippines

Tel: 632 – 6326816
Fax: 632 – 6322195

Mr. Nassim Ahmad
Environment Specialist
Asian Development Bank
P.O Box 789
1099 Manila
Philippines

Tel: 632 – 6326816
Fax: 632 – 6322195/ 632 – 7417961

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC)

Dr. A. E. Murthunayagam
Secretary
Department of Ocean Development
Block 12, C. G. O. Complex
Lodhi Road
New Delhi 110003
India

Tel: 91 – 11 – 436 2278
Fax: 91 – 11 – 436 0336 / 436 0778

IUCN – THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION

Mr. Torben Berner
Head, Marine and Coastal Programme
IUCN – Sri Lanka
48 Vajira Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka.

Tel: 94 – 1 – 584402
Fax: 94 – 1 – 580202

Mr. Abdul Latif Rao
Head,
IUCN Balochistan Office
Manker Cottage
Zarghoon Road
Quetta
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 81 840450 - 2
Fax: 92 - 81 820 706 / 843246

SACEP SECRETARIAT

Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi
Director General
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 - 1 - 589 376 / 589 787
Fax: 94 - 1 - 589 369
e-mail: aj_sacep@eureka.lk

Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene
Deputy Director Programmes
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 - 1 - 596 442 / 589 787
Fax: 94 - 1 - 589 369
e-mail: pd_sacep@eureka.lk

Mr. K. H. J. Wijayadasa
Consultant
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 - 1 - 584 137
Fax: 94 - 1 - 589 369

Ms. Chandima Jayasuriya
Secretarial Assistant
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 - 1 - 589 787
Fax: 94 - 1 - 589 369

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
DR. ANANDA RAJ JOSHI
DIRECTOR GENERAL
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

Hon. Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State for Environment, Local Government and Rural Development of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Representatives of UN and other Intergovernmental Organisations, and Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme which functions as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme let me warmly welcome each and everyone of you to this very important ministerial meeting.

It is exactly 4 years since the historic Meeting of Plenipotentiaries, which was held in New Delhi where the Action Plan for the South Asian Seas was formally adopted. We are gathered here today to review the implementation of the Action Plan and make policy decisions concerning all institutional, organisational, programme and financial matters pertaining to the programme and, in particular to:

- i. Review the progress achieved in implementing the programme since the previous meeting;
- ii. Evaluate the results achieved;
- iii. Adopt a workplan for the Implementation of the programme for the Programme Cycle 1999 - 2002.
- iv. Provide the policy guidance for the procedures to be followed in the implementation of the programme;
- v. Approve the budgetary resources required to support the workplan and their allocation for a two year period; and
- vi. Agree upon the means for financing activities of the programme, including firm pledges for contributions to be made by Governments and other donors.

It is the responsibility of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme as the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan, to make all arrangements for the conducting of such meetings at a suitable venue as decided by the member states of the South Asian Seas Action Plan.

In this connection, I am indeed very thankful to the Government of Pakistan who so very readily agreed to offer this beautiful city of Islamabad as the venue for this meeting. My grateful thanks goes out to Honourable Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State for Environment, Local Government and Rural Development of Pakistan who has done his utmost to make this event a success. SACEP wishes to recognise the excellent logistical support given us by our National Focal Point, which is the Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan and in particular Mr. Mahboob Elahi, the Director General of that Ministry.

We are indeed greatly honoured by the presence Honourable Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State for Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan this morning as our Chief Guest at this opening session. The fact that you have taken time off your busy schedule to be with us on this occasion is a true reflection of your commitment to the cause of environment and sustainable development.

Let me also warmly welcome all the distinguished participants to this meeting. It is your valuable input that would indeed charter the course of this important programme. The Action Plan of the South Asian Regional Seas Programme states that "Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development depends upon the rational management of natural resources. Such management should take into account the goals of development as defined by national authorities, the assimilative capacity of the environment, and the economic feasibility of proposed policies". Today you will be deliberating on a number of issues which are of critical importance to the environmentally sound and sustainable utilisation and management of the coastal and marine ecosystems, natural resources and endangered flora and fauna of the South Asian Seas Region in relation to maintaining essential ecological processes, biodiversity and regeneration capacity.

It will be recalled that the South Asian Seas Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems of the South Asian Seas Region was formally adopted at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the South Asian member states convened in New Delhi on 24th of March 1995. The adoption of the Action Plan signified a further step towards closer sub regional co-operation in the field of Environment and Sustainable Development. It has also contributed to strengthening the processes of sub-regional consultation and collaboration in policy formulation, information exchange and environmental management for the future well being of the people of South Asia.

For the purposes of the Action Plan the South Asian Seas Region covers the marine and related coastal environment, including international waters adjacent to the 5 member States; namely, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. All components of the Action Plan are interdependent and provide a framework for comprehensive action, which would contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development of the region. The different components and activities of the Action Plan are intended to assist the governments of the member States to strengthen the processes of policy formulation, information exchange and environmental management.

The principal objective of the Action Plan is to protect and manage the marine and related coastal ecosystems of the region through sound management and promotion of sustainable development. This will be facilitated through enhanced consultations and technical co-operation among member States, recognising the socio-economic importance of the marine and coastal resources and establishing a co-operative network for collaborative activities.

The goals of the Action Plan include; preventing further deterioration of the marine and coastal environment originating from within and outside the region; promoting policies for protection, management and development of the coastal and marine resources, ecosystems, habitats, species and rational management of the human activities that affect them; encouraging greater regional collaboration by strengthening the institutions dealing with the coastal and marine environment and their capacities, improving training and exchange of information and stimulating growth of public awareness on the socio-economic importance, vulnerability and sustainable development imperatives involved.

Among the policy matters listed for discussion are planning and programming, project identification and formulation, financing of projects and implementation and co-ordination. There are 4 priority activities already identified by the 5 member States in the SAS Action Plan namely; (a) Integrated Coastal Zone Management, (b) National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning, (c) Human Resources Development and (d) Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land Based Activities. Under these major activities, 9 project outlines will be taken up for consideration and approval by the meeting for implementation during the 4 year Project Cycle 1999 – 2002.

Implementation of the national projects and the national components of the regional projects will be a matter for national governments of the 5 member states. The regional projects and the regional components of the national projects will be implemented by the SAS Secretariat and the relevant UN Bodies and Intergovernmental Organisations. Funding assistance has been sought from World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNEP, GEF and several multilateral and bilateral donor countries and agencies. Already funds have been pledged for several projects including Oil Spill Contingency Planning, Control of Land Based Pollution and Protection and Management of Coral Ecosystems etc.

Hon. Minister, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Let me conclude by requesting you to assist us in conducting these deliberations in the spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding with which SACEP and SAS have so far functioned.
I wish this meeting every success.

**SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
FIRST INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS
26TH MARCH 1999
ISLAMABAD,
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

AGENDA

1. Opening Session
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Country Statements & Presentations from UN and International Agencies
5. Adoption of Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points
6. Closing Session

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION
DR. A. E. MUTHUNAYAGAM
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
INDIA**

Excellencies,

I present the warm greetings of the Government of India and my Minister for Ocean Development, Dr. Murlu Manohar Joshi. I have great pleasure in presenting our Country Statement in this First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers for South Asian Seas Programme.

Oceans, the marine environment and its resources support the life on our planet and sustainable development. With increased knowledge of Oceans, one recognises the physical, chemical and biological interdependence. Ocean is a source of wealth and it promotes the economy of the nations. Ocean provides natural services such as carbon storage, atmospheric gas regulation, nutrient cycling and serves as an inexpensive dumping site for domestic and industrial wastes. Exploration and sustained utilisation of the vast marine resources for the socio-economic benefit of the society and judicious management and conservation of the fragile marine environment are the two primary pursuits of the nations today.

Ocean covers about 71% of the earth surface. It is estimated that about 66% of the global population live within 60 km. from the shore. Several highly populated cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Colombo and Karachi are situated along the coast. Increasing demographic pressure and rapid industrialisation around the world, more particularly in the developing nations, are posing serious threat to the health of our marine environment. There has been significant increase of pollution particularly in the developing nations, due to dumping of untreated domestic sewage waste as well as river discharges into the sea carrying a variety of wastes from far away locations. Transport of oil by ships and tankers pose the risk of oil spills leading to ecological disasters. National, Regional and Global approaches in a co-ordinated and integrated manner are necessary to meet the challenges to protect our marine environment from the various land and sea based activities.

The South Asian Regional Seas Programme even though conceived in 1983, could adopt the Action Plan only in March, 1995. I am glad that there is a forum available now to facilitate a regional co-operation to ensure the sustainable management of the marine environment of the South Asian Seas bordering India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Action Plan of the programme adopted in the meeting of the Plenipotentiaries held in March, 1995, New Delhi is one of the most comprehensive ones available today to deal with a variety of coastal and marine environment related issues prevailing in our region. The approach is to implement the Action Plan through four selected priority projects; namely Integrated Coastal Zone Management; Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning; Human Resource Development through strengthening of Regional Centres of Excellence; and Protection of Marine and Coastal Environment from land based activities. These projects are of regional relevance with contribution from national institutions. The time has now come for us to put all our efforts and thoughts in the implementation of the priority projects.

The Government of India through its Department of Ocean Development has already taken steps to implement the provisions of the Action Plan. Regarding the project on "Integrated Coastal Zone Management", the Government has realised the need to build capacity in the country to develop such plans. The knowledge and experience gained will be used to implement programmes by the coastal states with adequate infrastructure and resources. A programme called "Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM)" with financial assistance from International Development Association through the World Bank has been taken up since 1998. Under this scheme, it is proposed to develop capacity in four areas. The first area is on the application of Geographic Information System as a tool for management of critical habitats like coral reefs, mangroves and breeding and nursery grounds of threatened species like Olive Ridley turtles. This is being executed with the help of 11 institutions by collecting voluminous data and information on the critical habitats in India.

The second area is to determine the Waste Assimilation Capacity of water bodies such as estuaries and coastal waters with pilot studies at Tapi estuary (Gujarat) and Ennore creek and coastal waters (near Chennai) which have been taken up with technical assistance from Foreign and National Institutions. The outcome of the project will be used for the effective control of pollution by way of establishing the standards to achieve the acceptable pollution levels within the Waste Assimilation Capacity. The third area is on the development of detailed guidelines to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a variety of coastal activities like construction of ports and harbours, waste disposal from coastal industries, marine transportation and coastal tourism. These guidelines will facilitate the sound approach to conduct Environmental Impact Analysis in the country. The last area is to develop a model Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management Plan for a fast developing mega city like Chennai on the east coast, tourism rich area like Goa in the west coast and a large marine ecosystem like Gulf of Kutch. Simultaneously, the Government of India has drawn programmes to propagate the knowledge and techniques through dedicated training for the user agencies engaged in coastal area development. Towards this, modern facilities are being built in the country. Thus, India has strong commitment to implement the provisions of the Action Plan as well as accomplish the environmental management aspects stipulated in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 adopted in the Earth Summit, 1992.

The Government of India developed in 1993 a National Contingency Plan for comprehensively combating oil spills. I believe India is the first country in the region to develop such a plan. We are planning to enhance our capacity by acquiring additional infrastructure and operational facilities. India can use its expertise to technically assist the countries in the South Asian Region in preparing similar National Plans. This would facilitate the preparation of a Regional Contingency Plan identified as a priority project in the Action Plan for the South Asian Region.

Research & Development in Ocean Science & Technology in India is promoted through sponsoring Research Projects to specially established Research Institutions. Ocean Science & Technology Cells have been established in Academic Institutions for capacity building in many disciplines in Ocean Sector. The facilities and infrastructure of these institutions are constantly reviewed and upgraded to achieve Excellence in our endeavour.

India is one of the most populated countries in the world with mega cities like Mumbai and Chennai situated along the coast and other fast growing cities like Surat, Mangalore, Cochin and Visakhapatnam too situated on the coastline. The pollution arising from the coastal cities and towns due to the discharge of sewage into our coastal waters and untreated wastes from small and medium scale industries is a challenge to the country in ensuring the preservation of coastal and marine biodiversity. The Government of India enacted the Environment Protection Act in 1986 to regulate pollution from all the sources. India has taken up a massive programme of treatment of domestic sewage generated by the mega city of Mumbai with assistance from World Bank. Since 1991, India has a coastal water pollution monitoring programme to assess the health of our seas. We have deployed two dedicated Coastal Research Vessels with laboratories equipped with modern scientific instruments. Twenty five physical, chemical, biological parameters of the water column and the seabed sediments are collected at 82 selected coastal locations and analysed to assess the quality of the marine environment. A number of national laboratories are participating in this programme. India could assist the South Asian countries in assessing the quality of the coastal waters. The Central Pollution Control Board is taking necessary measures to keep the pollution levels of our coastal waters within the acceptable limits. A coastal action plan to deal with all issues relating to marine pollution has been initiated.

We have assembled here today to discuss the programmes towards effective implementation of South Asian Action Plan and to provide policy guidelines and directions to the Secretariat. I believe that the meeting of the National Focal Points, which was held on 24 - 25 March, 1999 will contribute towards the success of the meeting today. India is willing to render all possible assistance to the beneficial South Asian Seas programmes.

I extend my hearty thanks to the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for so graciously hosting this First Inter-Governmental Meeting of Ministers. I deeply appreciate the well co-ordinated efforts made by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme for organising this meeting and in making it a success.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION
MR. MAHABOOB ELAHI
DIRECTOR GENERAL
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PAKISTAN**

Honourable Minister for Environment, Pakistan

And Chairman IMM of SAS Programme
Distinguished delegates

Mr. Chairman

With your permission I directly go to the substance of the Statement.

Mr. Chairman

Pakistan's coastline is 1046 km with an Exclusion Economic Zone (EEZ) of about 240,000 sq. km. The maritime zone of Pakistan including continental shelf extends up to 350 nautical miles from the coastline. It is vast area with high economic potential and requires carefully planned investment programmes. The physiological features of the Arabian Seas, coastal orientation, circulation induced by atmospheric and ocean driving forces, mixing of water masses etc, have great bearing on the coastal processes and environment of this area.

Pakistan maritime zone, due to favourable processes is considered to be one of the high productive areas of the World. It is considered to be about 10 times of the average values of the World Oceans and about four times the average value of the Indian Ocean, equivalent to the fish biomass of about 9.4 million tons. Efforts are underway to determine sustainable fish yield and to translate it into strategies, plans and programmes.

Coastal areas of Pakistan, however, extend over only two provinces with three distinct physical sections, namely Indus Delta, the creeks in Karachi; in Sindh Province and Mekran coast; in Balochistan province region posing different sets of challenges to the respective provinces, as well as the local responses.

The challenges relating to coastal areas of Pakistan are not too different from the ones' faced by the other partner countries of South Asia Seas programme; that are:

- (a) Managing Karachi in order to save coastal waters from the adverse effects of human activities in Karachi;
- (b) Sustainable use of marine resources under provincial jurisdiction;
- (c) Protecting mangroves;
- (d) Promoting development in the smaller fishing settlements to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants; and
- (e) Management of industrial effluents from the Hub Industrial Area discharging into the Sea.

Mr. Chairman

We fully subscribe that the coastal environment including the marine environment of adjacent integrated sea and the EEZ forms an integrated whole that is an essential life support system of Pakistan. It is an important asset, which provides livelihood to millions of people all over the Country. The Pakistani's National Conservation Strategy has fully recognised the built in concept of sustainability and recommends practicable methods for enhancing the productive capabilities of renewable resources including marine resources. Some of the other specific actions taken in this regard include:

- Enactment of Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 as a comprehensive framework legislation to provide for protection, conservation rehabilitation and improvement of Environment for preservation and control of Pollution and promotion of sustainable development.
- Establishment of National Environmental Quality Standards relating to industrial and municipal liquid effluent prescribing maximum permissible of 32 critical parameters of Environmental Protection Agencies at the Federal and provincial level.

- Recycling of municipal wastewater for agriculture use in Karachi, Pakistan.
- Encourage private sector participation in the urban environmental services in major cities of Pakistan, with priority on Karachi.
- Rehabilitation of degraded riverine areas in Sindh and Punjab and mangroves plantation in the Indus Delta.
- Designation of Hignol Park; covering the Marine areas of Balochistan as Protected Area.
- Establishment of laboratories in Port Qasim and Karachi for monitoring water quality in the Sea.
- Implementation of National Drainage Programme in Pakistan.
- Increase in fluvial and alluvial load into the Indus Delta for the mangrove growth and shrimp industry development.
- Mass awareness and education campaign.
- Modernisation and mechanisation of shipping vessels (Total Vessels: 7,125; Motorised Vessels: 4,586).
- Pakistan has also signed the Ocean Charter. This Ceremony was held at the sea in Karachi under the leadership of the Honourable Minister of Environment of Pakistan in December 1998.

Mr. Chairman,

It will be noted that there is considerable positive co-relation between our national initiatives and the elements of SAS Plan of Action. We will, therefore, continue to support and work with SAS Programmes under SACEP. We will fully participate in the SACEP activities and to learn from the experiences of other countries, directly and / or through SACEP for the protection and preservations of our oceans and seas.

Let me conclude by reading the following quote by Bierce to explain the nexus between human dimensions and the oceans as a resource:

"The ocean is a body of water occupying about two-third's of a world made for man - Who has no gills."

I thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE SRI LANKA DELEGATION
H. E. MR. ALFRED K. DAVID
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF SRI LANKA IN PAKISTAN**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates
Ladies & Gentlemen

It is indeed an honour for me to participate in this First Inter-Governmental Meeting of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme. I also wish to convey to you the greetings of Hon. Nandimbra Ekanayake, Minister of Forestry and Environment in Sri Lanka, and Hon. Milroy Fernando, the Deputy Minister of Fisheries. Under normal circumstances one of them should have participated in this Ministerial Meeting. However, this has not been possible due to certain pressing commitments they have in Sri Lanka.

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) was inaugurated in Sri Lanka in February 1981 and thereafter SACEP gave priority to the establishment of a Regional Seas Programme. This resulted in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) designating the South Asian Seas as a region to be included in the regional seas programme, in close co-operation with SACEP and the governments of the region. UNEP also assisted in the formulation of a plan of action for the environmental protection of the South-Asian Seas. Thereafter a number of meetings were convened and various projects initiated in pursuance of the objective of establishing the South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP). This led to the adoption on 24th March 1995 of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region. For purposes of the Action Plan, the South Asian Seas Region covers the marine and related coastal environment, including international waters adjacent to the 5 member states; namely, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Action Plan was eventually implemented in February 1998.

Life on earth is closely linked with the oceans, since they sustain life on earth and provide many vital resources. The oceans are a source of food, energy and commerce. They also help to shape the weather patterns in the world. The protection and management of the coastal environment is a major concern of the Sri Lankan Government and the other South Asian members of SACEP. As Sri Lanka is an island nation, the protection of the coastal environment is directly linked with the development process of the country. The fisheries sector is an important part of Sri Lanka's economy, with 150,000 fishermen and fish farmers and further 100,000 persons involved in related occupations. Coastal and marine fish production is a valuable source of foreign exchange. The coastal zone is also important with regard to the cultivation of paddy and coconut. The economic importance of the coastal areas has increased further with the growth of human settlements, as well as the development of commercial and fishery harbours, landing facilities, recreational facilities and tourism.

The Sri Lanka Government has attached much importance to the natural coastal habitats. The Coast Conservation Department has carried out programmes to mitigate coastal erosion and to provide for coastal resource management. The local community in Sri Lanka actively participates in the planning and execution of environmental conservation measures. The National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) conducts research in the coastal and marine sector. Apart from reef research, NARA carries out research on the conservation of certain marine species of fauna and flora. Eco-tourism has much potential in the coastal areas of Sri Lanka. Beaches and areas with fringing reefs are favoured sites for tourism. Snorkelling, scuba diving and viewing corals are popular among tourists who visit Sri Lanka. The Master Plan for development of tourism in Sri Lanka provides guidelines for hotel developers regarding pollution control.

The South Asia Seas Programme has identified 4 priority areas with regard to its future work programme covering the period until 2002. These are (1) Integrated Coastal Zone Management; (2) National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning; (3) Human Resource Development through strengthening Environment from Land Based Activities. These four priority areas are particularly relevant with regard to problems currently faced by Sri Lanka. I have already spoken of the action taken by my Government with regard to the protection and management of the coastal environment. As a number sea lanes are situated in Sri Lanka's territorial waters, there is the problem of oil spilling which causes contamination of the sea waters. There is a direct risk to fish and plants. This can have a negative impact on Sri Lanka's fisheries industries. The hotel and tourist industry can also be affected by marine pollution since it can interfere with recreational activities such as snorkeling, scuba diving and viewing corals. Therefore it is of vital importance to Sri Lanka that there is the successful four priority areas.

Your Excellency, Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, I wish to express our gratitude to you and officials of your Ministry for the excellent arrangements that you have made for this Conference and for your warm hospitality. I also wish to thank others involved in organising this conference, and in particular Director General of SACEP and other SACEP officials. I also wish to express our appreciation to Mr. K. H. J. Wijayadasa, who has been involved in the work of SACEP from the very inception. He provided it much support during the years when he held high office in the Government of Sri Lanka, first as Secretary to the Prime Minister and then as Secretary to the President.

Finally, it is my earnest wish along with all of you participating in this Conference, that the Action Plan of the South Asian Seas Programme will be a success and that it would provide immeasurable benefits to the people of South Asia in the early years of the new millennium and thereafter.

**STATEMENT BY MR. ABDULLAH HADI
SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Your Excellencies, Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today, to address you at this important meeting on behalf of Mr. Klaus Toepfer, the Executive Director of UNEP.

UNEP, as the parent of the Regional Seas Programme led the preparation of the South Asian Seas Action Plan, in close co-operation with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). This started in 1982 with a mission to the States of the region to ascertain the views of the Governments regarding a regional programme in the South Asian Seas and we know that preparation and adoption of the Action Plan was a protracted and, at times, difficult process. Although the Action Plan was finalised in 1995, it was not until last year that all the five countries of the Action Plan signed it. We congratulate you all for the continuous effort that enable the Action Plan to come thus far - the convening of the First Intergovernmental meeting of Ministers.

Now the South Asian Seas Programme can become fully operational.

Recent developments have given us opportunities for strengthening the existing UNEP-SACEP co-operation. They also provide a firm basis for overcoming, some of the difficulties which have hitherto limited the implementation of certain activities in the past.

First, the establishment of the GPA Coordination Office will now facilitate the implementation of the outcome of the regional workshop on land-based activities, which was organised in close co-operation with SACEP. The GPA mechanism will enable us to accord a higher degree of attention to the management of land-based sources of pollution.

Second, the International Year of the Ocean enabled UNEP and SACEP to take stock of the progress made or needed in the management of the coastal and marine environment. The review carried out has now given us a better insight into the direction for change, which are required at the national, regional and global levels.

Thirdly, at its 7th Session, the Commission on Sustainable Development will focus its attention on the threats to coastal and marine environment. This high-level discussion will help to move the management of the seas from the margins to the centre stage of decision-making. This should augur well for UNEP - SACEP co-operation.

Fourth, at its Twentieth Session, held in February this year, the UNEP Governing Council took a decision to revitalise the regional seas programme. As the first step forward in the revitalisation process, UNEP is organising a meeting of the regional seas conventions and action plans from 5 to 9 July this year in The Hague, The Netherlands. It is a follow-up to the Interregional Seas Programme Consultation that was held, also in the Hague, in June last year. In this regard, UNEP, within its programme for the 2000 - 2001 biennium, will provide some financial support towards the activities of the regional seas programme, including the South Asian Seas Programme.

The meeting in July will help to identify and determine what activities UNEP can support. The key subjects to be discussed in the meeting will include possible roles of the regional seas conventions and action plans in the implementation of various international agreements such as:

- The Jakarta Mandate on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity;
- The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- The Buenos Aires Programme of Work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and
- The Global Programme of Action for Marine Mammals.

The meeting will also consider interlinkages among the regional seas conventions and action plans, with a view to strengthening those linkages through focused activities, including integrated coastal areas management and control of land-based sources of pollution.

These developments should be taken into account as we strive to identify priorities for action in our future collaborative efforts. In particular, it will be necessary to focus, *inter alia*, on the implementation of the GPA. There are a number of important issues of particular concern to the South Asian region, including those of international or shared waters. These concerns and challenges involve benefit sharing in the equitable and fair use, underpinned by sustainable management, of the resource by the riparian or littoral countries. Co-operation among these countries should be deemed essential, so that major issues, such as land-based pollution and its impact on water resources in the region, including the coastal and marine environment, are addressed effectively. We can work together on such issues within the South Asian Seas programme framework to achieve sustainable management of water resources in the region.

Other important issues requiring intergovernmental and international co-operation and dialogue include:

- Co-operation between SACEP, UNEP and IMO to combat marine pollution;
- The impacts of climate change;
- Sustainable Tourism;
- Freshwater Management;
- Environmentally Sustainable Fisheries;
- Coastal Zone Management; and
- Ongoing Reporting on the State of the Marine Environment

A programming exercise between UNEP and SACEP will be helpful and will enable us to identify specific areas of co-operation during the 2000 –2001 biennium. The UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific as well as the Environmental Conventions Division at UNEP headquarters will consult with SACEP on modalities for a systematic programming of co-operation and its periodic review.

UNEP is also aware that, in carrying out these activities, a closer co-ordination of regional and international agency activities is essential and UNEP looks forward to working very closely with the co-operation partners of the region. Co-ordination must be improved to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. Duplication and waste of resources must be avoided.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme, it is crucial that the member countries of the South Asian Seas programme send out a strong message of their continued firm commitment to protect and manage their important marine resources and environment.

UNEP is pleased to know that such strong commitments already exist among the member States and assures you of our continued and strengthened support for the south Asian Seas Programme. On behalf of UNEP, it is my pleasure to wish you fruitful and successful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.

**STATEMENT BY DR. KAZI F. JALAL
CHIEF
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

Hon Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State for Environment, Local Government and Rural Development,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to attend the First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Program. At the very outset, let me express our thanks to you and the Director General of SACEP for inviting ADB. I would also like to thank and congratulate Secretary Muhammed Zubair Kidwai and Director General Mr. Mahboob Elahi for the excellent arrangements and your kind hospitality.

Mr. Chairman,

The Asian Development Bank is a broad based development institution that attaches great importance to promoting regional co-operation as a complement to its primary role as a financier of sustainable development.

The Bank and its member countries have increasingly recognised that environmental management is both a priority area for regional co-operation and an ideal entry point for intergovernmental collaboration. It is a simple fact that the growing environmental challenges in the region do not respect any geographical boundary. For many of the common and transboundary issues facing the region, the solutions will require collaborative action among countries. This mutual interest among countries is perhaps most strikingly obvious in the management of coastal and marine environments. It is also true that the very nature of such shared problems, and the intricate relationships that govern them, represents a considerable challenge for joint action.

Fortunately, there is a growing body of experience in addressing sub-regional environmental problems through collaborative action among countries. During the current decade, the Asian Development Bank alone has committed more than 30 million dollars in regional technical assistance for concrete programs covering environmental information systems, capacity building in environmental management law and the strengthening of environmental institutions. One example is the Bank's assistance for the Greater Mekong Sub-region which has led to a highly acclaimed model for sub-regional co-operation, with a strong and dynamic program of activities among Cambodia, People's Republic of China, LAO PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The Bank's technical assistance for Environmental Co-operation in the South China Sea has led to a sub regional information system, enhanced capacity in coastal and marine resource management, and the formulation of new investment opportunities. On a more modest scale, the Bank has also provided assistance to the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme for the establishment of the Regional Environmental Natural Resources Information Centre. In addition, the Bank has been providing financing for a number of technical assistance projects in various priority environmental areas in each of the countries represented here.

To further support its Developing Member Countries in addressing common and transboundary environmental issues in the region, the Bank has recently approved a regional technical assistance project for the preparation of an Asian Environmental Outlook - 2000. This initiative is intended to provide the analytical basis for policy, capacity building and investment responses to shared environmental problems at country and sub-regional level. It will also strengthen the regional database for analysing environmental trends. In South Asia, it has been suggested that one promising focal area might be transboundary air pollution in the context of the Male Declaration, although we will be consulting with you further to define the actual themes.

Mr. Chairman,

Against this backdrop, the Bank has followed the deliberations on the South Asian Seas Program with great interest. We believe the program is urgently needed and deserves attention. It is heartening that, after a difficult and remarkably long gestation period the Action Plan has finally been adopted. On the other hand, it is frankly disappointing that this milestone Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers is taking place without the participation of all the concerned countries and without the level of participation envisaged. We trust that this does not reflect any lack of commitment or consensus among the member countries to make the South Asian Seas Program a success.

The Bank has found that tremendous sub-regional progress can be made when countries can agree on the issues, identify the priorities, define the necessary action, and avail of adequate institutional arrangements to facilitate co-operation. It is our hope that these elements will emerge in the context of the South Asian Seas Program. Certainly, the deliberations in the last two days seem to indicate that this is possible, although it will take a very focused and pro-active approach by the Secretariat. In particular, the Secretariat will need to add value to existing and planned initiatives at country level, complement and not duplicate activities undertaken by others, and ensure that its activities are placed within a longer term strategic framework. In this regard, a very positive sign has been the willingness of the participating countries to provide resources to the Secretariat.

For its part, the Bank is prepared to consider ways in which it might support the priority areas that have been proposed for the 1999 - 2002 Programming Cycle. We find that good scope for partnership exists within the priority area of Integrated Coastal Zone Management. In particular, Project No. 2 on Integrated Management of the Environmentally Sensitive Coastal and Marine Ecosystems might be an option for consideration. If broadly and flexibly conceived to identify and address critical capacity building needs for sustainable development in coastal zones rather than purely biophysical aspects, the regional project might have some relevance to the formulation of policy, institutional and investment responses. The Bank would be interested to receive a more detailed proposal for discussion.

To complement the priority projects identified, investment responses at national level might follow the example of the recently approved Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project in Bangladesh, which the Bank is financing together with the Global Environment Facility, and which fully integrates concern for coastal zone biodiversity with poverty alleviation objectives. At regional level, there might also be useful linkages with a recent proposal developed by the Bank for Capacity Building for Vulnerability and Adaptation for Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific, which is likely to be financed by the Global Environment Facility.

In closing, Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the member states for their efforts to launch the Action Plan and to thank the Ministry of Environment Government of Pakistan for its hospitality.

**STATEMENT BY DR. A. E. MUTHUNAYAGAM,
VICE CHAIRMAN, IOC AND CHAIRMAN, IOCINDIO**

Excellences,

Greetings from IOC

IOC and Regional Programmes

1. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) which is the international body entrusted with the responsibility of promoting ocean science and services globally, operates through the 7 regional programmes which includes Caribbean and adjacent region, Western Pacific, North and Central West Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean etc. The regional programme covering South Asia is a Regional Committee of the IOC for Central Indian Ocean: IOCINDIO. The countries viz. Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia besides United Kingdom and France through their Territories, bordering the Central Indian Ocean, are the members of the IOCINDIO.

IOCINDIO Sessions

2. The first meeting of the IOCINDIO was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, 3-7 July 1988. The Second Session of the IOCINDIO was held in November 1996 at Goa, in India. The delegations from Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, Qatar, Republic of Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka attended IOCINDIO-11 Session, apart from India. There were observers from Canada, Germany and Netherlands. The Goa Session discussed the regional aspects of the Ocean Sciences and recommended to hold a series of workshops to promote the ocean development activities in the region. The following Workshops were recommended: -
 - Sub-Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Modelling
 - Regional Workshop on Tropical Ocean & Climate
 - Sub-Regional Workshop on Coral Reef
 - Sub-Regional Workshop on Storm Surge
 - Regional Workshop on Integrated Coastal Studies including Coastal Marine Pollution
3. The IOCINDIO-11 also recommended for setting up of a net work of tide gauges for monitoring of sea level variations, in the region.

IOCINDIO Workshops

4. A Regional Workshop on Trajectory Modelling on Oil Spills, organised by Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC), Bahrain, was sponsored by IOC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA. The Workshop was held in Bahrain in February 1998. From the IOCINDIO region, three participants one each from Indonesia, Iran and India participated and benefited from the workshop. The participants had hands on experience on models predicting the trajectory (movement) of oil spills.
5. A Regional Workshop on Tropical Ocean and Climate was organised at Bangalore, in India, during November 1998. The workshop was sponsored by IOC and jointly hosted by the Department of Ocean Development, Indian Institute of Science and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore. The workshop was also dedicated to the International Year of the Ocean, 1998. The delegations from Australia, Bangladesh, Iran, Oman, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India participated in the workshop. Experts on the subject from USA & Australia delivered special lectures. The objective of the Bangalore Workshop was to discuss issues relating to Tropical Ocean & Climate, particularly of Central Indian Ocean. The Workshop has identified a number of areas for the co-operation in the climate research. Some of the recommendations of the workshop are:-

- Consolidation of data available from different national institutions
 - Setting up of the state-of-the-art observing system
 - Carrying out of three seasons surveys (pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon) in the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman and Bay of Bengal.
 - Human resources development and
 - Collaboration between the research and educational institutions of IOCINDIO countries.
6. A Regional meeting of the IOC on Tropical Cyclones and Storm Surge will be held in New Delhi, India on 23, 26 and 27 April, 1999. The Regional meeting will be preceded by a two day Workshop on Storm Surge, 21-22 April 1999. A group of experts constituted by the WMO and IOC have prepared a report on Storm Surge in the Northern Indian Ocean. The proposal envisages development and setting up of a reliable storm surge prediction system duly supported by oceanographic, meteorological and communication components in the region. The proposal also gives emphasis on capacity building. This report will be discussed in the Regional meeting and the views and recommendations of the member countries will be sought on the following issues: -
- Acceptance of the proposal
 - Acceptance of the responsibility for national components both physical and financial
 - Identification of funding agencies
 - Management System for implementing the project.
 - Implementation schedule
 - Future course of action

Tide Gauge Network

7. As per the recommendation of IOCINDIO-11, the regional **net work of tide gauge** is to be established in the IOCINDIO region. The IOCINDIO office at Delhi prepared a proposal in consultation with the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa for setting up such a net work. The proposal envisaged setting up of 40 tide gauges in the region. The data generated would be useful for research on climate changes, ocean circulation, etc. Out of the 18 countries consulted, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Sri Lanka have responded. Accordingly, a modified proposal covering these countries has been prepared and the IOCINDIO office at Delhi is presently in consultation with these countries for its implementation.

Next Session of IOCINDIO

8. As per the recommendations of the IOCINDIO-II Session, IOCINDIO-III will be held in Islamic Republic of Iran (who is currently the Vice Chairman of IOCINDIO). IOCINDIO office at Delhi, IOC Secretariat at Paris and Vice Chairman IOCINDIO at Tehran are under consultations for fixing the date of the meeting and the agenda for IOCINDIO-111.
9. The workshop on Integrated Coastal Studies Including Coastal Marine Pollution will be held in Tehran in conjunction with IOCINDIO-III.

Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

10. Apart from the fascinating beauty of corals, they are considered as treasure house of knowledge of seas. Realising the importance of the coral reefs, IOC joined UNEP and IUCN to establish GCRMN in 1995. GCRMN is a partnership of people, governments, agencies and institutions, whose objective is to assess the status and trends of coral reef. There are six net works covering the regions viz. Pacific, East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Western Indian Ocean - Eastern Africa and Caribbean - Eastern Tropical Americas.
11. The South Asia network consists of India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, and funded by U.K. The goal of South Asia network is to establish sustainable monitoring programmes within each country. The network organised three7 workshops and training in 1998 session.
12. The net work has also commissioned four pilot reef monitoring exercises through the following organisations: -
- i) National Institute of Oceanography, India. Reefs at Kadmat Island;
 - ii) Madurai-KamaraJ University, India. Reefs in the Gulf of Mannar;
 - iii) Marine Research Station, Maldives. Selected Maldivian reefs;
 - iv) Colombo University, Sri Lanka. Selected Sri Lanka Reefs.

13. Through the Workshops, Training and monitoring exercises, about 170 participants in the region got the exposure to the technique of data collection. An independent review of the network has recommended its continuation.

IOC and ROPME

14. IOC is extending co-operation in management of marine environment in the Persian Gulf. ROPME is the Regional organisation for protection of Marine Environment covering Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE and Oman. IOC has organised a mission to ROPME Region to study the region and make recommendation to establish effective ocean data and information collection and management infrastructure. As a follow up IOC / ROPME also organised a training course in Tehran.

IOC through IOC/INDIO will be happy to render all possible assistance to the programmes of South Asian Seas.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY MR. ABDUL LATIF RAO,
HEAD,
IUCN
BALOCHISTAN OFFICE**

Honourable Minister and Delegates

Director General of IUCN – The World Conservation Union has conveyed greetings and has expressed profound pleasure and satisfaction on the fact that SASP is taking off the ground. This is because of the following three reasons:

1. All member nations of SASP are state members of IUCN;
2. The focus of SASP is on environment; and
3. IUCN has great interest in coastal and marine ecosystems throughout the world and is working with many member states, government agencies and NGOs as well as with non-members for conserving and sustainably using the coastal and marine resources.

As you may know, all IUCN programmes are collaborative and IUCN works with the partner organisations at all levels – international, regional, national, provincial, sectoral and local. IUCN has created and is capable of creating strong networks. The rich experience, thus gained, is effectively used in promoting and catalysing international and regional co-operation.

IUCN is a strong partner in conservation initiatives in South Asia, having physical presence in three of the member nations of South Asian Seas Programme, that is Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The organisation draws upon an extensive network of best practice experiences within the broad field of conservation, including marine and coastal protected areas, education and awareness, integrated coastal zone management and global marine coastal policy formulation. In respect of the latter, WWF/IUCN have joined forces to formulate a policy document 'Creating a Seas Change' that aims at providing guidelines for protection and sustainable management of the marine environment.

From the national perspective IUCN-Sri Lanka is currently preparing an Integrated Collaborative Management Project in the Southern area of Sri Lanka in close co-operation with government agencies, NGO's and local communities. IUCN has prepared mangrove management plan for the North-Western Sector of the Island and IUCN is currently preparing plans for the South-Western coastline. In addition to this, IUCN is acting as the secretariat for the preparation of a National Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan, a building block for a regional Indian Ocean Initiative started by IUCN-US.

The national and provincial environmental frameworks such as the National Conservation Strategies and Provincial Conservation Strategies prepared by some of the member nations of SASP, with the assistance of IUCN, provide action agenda and implementation mechanisms for coastal and marine environment. The Pakistan NCS and Bangladesh NCS are some of the examples. The development and demonstration of mangrove rehabilitation techniques in Pakistan by IUCN have not only benefited Pakistan but the mangrove ecosystem elsewhere could equally benefit. Four IUCN initiatives in pipeline in Pakistan include: Developing an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan; Establishing and Managing Coastal and Marine Protect Areas; Conservation of Marine Turtles; and A Study on Fresh Water Requirement of Indus Delta.

IUCN is a partner with the Government of Bangladesh in the implementation of its NCS, which has components of Saint Martin's island and coastal areas of Chittagong. A separate initiative related to Sunderbans.

IUCN has been working with UNEP, IOC and other organisation on the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

I trust that the experiences being gathered in these fields will add to the networking and collaboration suggested in the South Asian Seas Programme. SASP has great potential. The most priority, however, would be early establishment of National Co-ordination Committees that would help implementation of its agenda.

We were pleased to see a spirit of co-operation and accommodation displayed by the delegates of the member nations in the last few days of deliberations. The direction of the work plan is right. However, it would improve its usefulness if regional initiatives such as conservation of migratory species, especially cetaceans and marine turtles and promoting sustainable use programmes such as promoting sustainable use programmes such as promotion of tourism are included for benefiting the local communities. Information sharing between the member nations should be another priority area.

IUCN's strengths are technical expertise, networking, multi sectoral and participatory planning, capacity building, advice and advocacy and awareness raising. We offer our support and best wishes to the member nations for implementation of SASP.

Thank you

GUIDELINES FOR FORMULATION OF SCHEME OF RECRUITMENT
POST OF SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER (REGIONAL)

Job Description

The Secretariat of the South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP) has been charged with the responsibility of implementing the South Asian Seas Action Plan agreed upon by the 5 marine member states based on the decisions of the participating governments at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries held in New Delhi in March 1995.

The Senior Programme Officer will function under the overall direction and the supervision of the Director General of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme who has been designated as the head of the Secretariat of the SASAP. His duties and responsibilities which also include implementing of the Action Plan identifying, formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects, liaising with international, regional and national institutions and organisations, undertaking fund raising activities, keeping abreast of relevant projects and activities in the region and discharging any other assignments entrusted to him by DG SACEP.

Qualifications & Experience

- Age below 50 years
- A Ph.D. or Masters Degree in the field of marine sciences, environmental sciences or natural resource management.
- A minimum of 10 years experience after Masters Degree or a minimum of 7 years in case of Ph. D experience after first degree in project identification, formulation and management. Preference given to include implementing
- Excellent reading, writing and communicating skills in English
- Computer literacy of acceptable standards
- Good interpersonal skills and communication abilities

Terms and Conditions of Employment

- Employment will be on contract basis initially for one year and extendable annually upto 3 years or a maximum period of 4 years purely at the discretion of the Director General of SACEP.
- An all inclusive salary of US \$ 2,500 per month
- Transport costs from home country to Colombo and back after period of contractual employment
- The duty station will be the SAS Secretariat presently located in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Method of Recruitment

Each National Focal Point will be required to nominate not more than 3 eligible and eminent candidates with requisite qualifications, experience and proven track record within eight weeks from date of vacancy announcement. The nominations so received will be scheduled and short listed by a panel of 3 International Experts appointed by the Director General of SACEP. The 3 best nominees so short listed will be interviewed in Colombo by the panel of International Experts along with the Director General of SACEP and the most outstanding nominee will be selected for appointment.

**GUIDELINES FOR FORMULATION OF SCHEME OF RECRUITMENT
POST OF PROGRAMME OFFICER (LOCAL)**

Job Description

The Programme Officer will function under the overall direction and the supervision of the Director General of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and the Senior Programme Officer. He will be required to assist the Senior Programme Officer especially in the identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and discharge any other duties and responsibilities specifically assigned to him by the Senior Programme Officer and the Director General of SACEP.

Qualifications & Experience

- Age below 35 years
- Preferably a Masters degree in environmental sciences, freshwater and/or marine sciences or natural resource management.
- A minimum of 5 years professional experience for degree or 3 years in case of Masters in the relevant field.
- Excellent reading, writing and communicating skills in English
- Computer literacy of acceptable standards
- Good interpersonal skills and communication abilities

Terms and Conditions of Employment

- Employment will be on contract basis initially for one year and extendable annually upto a maximum of 3 years or a maximum period of 4 years purely at the discretion of the Director General of SACEP
- An all inclusive salary of Sri Lankan Rupees 17,000 per month

Method of Recruitment

Applications will be invited from eligible candidates by newspaper advertisement, the applicants short listed and interviewed by a panel appointed by the DG of SACEP and selection made in keeping with the scheme of recruitment.

AGREED WORK PLANS FOR THE PROGRAMME CYCLE 1999 – 2002

CONCEPT PAPERS

INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

PROJECT 1

Title of the Project: **Capacity Building for the Control of Coastal Erosion in the Context of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the South Asian Seas Region (1999-2000)**

Need:

The problems of coastal erosion in the SAS region are getting aggravated daily. Erosion is becoming more and more complex with intense human activity and development devoid of controls. Existing expertise has to be augmented further to cope with these problems of increasing complexity. Therefore, it is necessary to launch a project on capacity building for the control of coastal erosion.

Objective:

- (1) To provide training on tools and techniques that are necessary to study the phenomena associated with coastal erosion; and
- (2) Devising technical and management solutions for the control of coastal erosion.

Inputs:

- (1) Present status of coastal erosion in SAS countries with details of phenomena associated with them.
- (2) Current efforts including tools and techniques adopted for their control.

Output:

Expertise to deal with the problems and management technologies of coastal erosion.

Time Frame:

Six (6) months

Implementation Strategy:

Training in various tools and techniques involved in the control of coastal erosion at centres of excellence located either within the region or outside the region. Since it is benefiting the South Asian Seas Countries, funding for training can be provided by way of contributions by each country or could be organised through donors. Since the period involved is as much as six months, it is necessary that the donors meet the expenditure of training relevant to the training centre and the individual countries meet expenditure involved in the training of their personnel at the Regional/Foreign Institutions.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Group of National/Regional experts to obtain feedback from the trainees about the knowledge acquired and their ability to apply that knowledge.

**Integrated Coastal Zone Management
PROJECT 2**

Title of the Project: **Integrated Management of the Environmentally Sensitive Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (2001-2002)**

Need:

The coastal and marine ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs, estuaries, wetlands etc., exhibit a wide variety of biodiversity. Due to human interventions in these habitats, their ecology is under threat. A single issue management approach would not be adequate to protect these habitats. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt an integrated approach to preserve and protect these fragile ecosystems.

Objective:

Development of tools and techniques required for management of the environmentally sensitive coastal and marine ecosystems.

Inputs:

- (1) Key issues that cause degradation of the coastal and marine environment.
- (2) The current status of biodiversity in these vulnerable ecosystems.
- (3) Socio-economic conditions that are prevalent in the hinterland area of these ecosystems.
- (4) Availability of legislation, management priorities etc., to protect the biotic resources of these ecosystems.

Output:

Expertise to deal with the problems of these special ecosystems and development of integrated plans for their protection and management.

Time Frame:

Six (6) months.

Implementation Strategy:

Training of personnel from South Asian Seas Countries at a suitable institution which has expertise in the development of Integrated Management Plans for management of the special ecosystems. It is necessary to obtain financial assistance from donors to conduct the training programme along with expertise on development of management plans for such special ecosystems.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Group of National/Regional experts to obtain feedback from the trainees about the knowledge acquired and their ability to apply that knowledge.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

PROJECT 3

Title of the Project: **Assessment of Areas Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise in the South Asian Seas Region**

National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning**PROJECT 4**

Title of the Project: **Capacity Building in the Development and Operation of National Oil Spill Contingency Planning (1999 - 2000)**

Need:

South Asian Seas Region has a variety of ecologically sensitive areas like coral reefs in India, Maldives and Sri Lanka and the mangroves in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Frequent movements of oil tankers in the seas of the region pose a threat of oil pollution. Contingency plans to deal with the incidence of oil spills at the national level are necessary to protect these ecosystems. These national contingency plans form essential inputs for the preparation of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Objective:

To develop capacity in the South Asian Seas countries, which have had no, experience in the formulation and operation of National Oil Spill Contingency Plans.

Inputs:

- (1) Details of locations of ecologically sensitive areas like mangroves, coral reefs, breeding and nursery grounds of endangered species etc.
- (2) Oil tanker and ship traffic and quantum of oil transported in the sea as well as oil and oil products handled in the ports and probability of oil spills
- (3) Oceanographic features like surface winds, currents etc.

Output:

Capability to formulate and operate National Oil Spill Contingency Plans.

Time Frame:

Two (2) months

Implementation Strategy:

These objectives will be achieved through a workshop which can be held in India which has a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The funding for the workshop can be provided either by a multilateral donor or by the South Asian Seas countries, themselves.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The National Co-ordinating Committees for the SASAP can monitor the formulation of the plans. As a part of the workshop, the participants from South Asian Seas countries can be asked to develop the contingency plan for combating oil spill for a port or a small area.

National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning

PROJECT 5

Title of the Project: **Updating and Finalising of the South Asian Seas Oil Spill Contingency Plan (2001 - 2002)**

Need:

A draft Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the South Asian Seas region was prepared by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 1989 based on the inputs received from member countries. The plan reflects essentially the threats of oil pollution in the South Asian Seas Region based on the information and statistics made available during 1989. It is presumed that due to the increase in the quantum of oil being transported across the South Asian Seas and also more awareness about the impact of oil spills, the countries in the region have been planning to create infrastructure etc. required for combating oil spills. In order to reflect the present and future scenario, it is necessary to update the South Asian Marine Pollution Emergency Action Plan (SAMPEAP).

Objective:

Updating of SAMPEAP.

Inputs:

- (1) Details of location of ecologically sensitive areas in the South Asian Seas Region.
- (2) Quantum of oil imported, locations of SPBM, oil transfer facilities and other means of transferring oil.
- (3) Details of oil and oil products handled in ports.
- (4) Probability of oil spills on a geographical basis
- (5) Details of type and quantum of equipment held for combating oil spills and availability of other infrastructure facilities.
- (6) Status of oil spill contingency planning at the national level.

Output:

Updated SAMPEAP.

Time Frame:

Three (3) Person Months.

Implementation Strategy:

The IMO may be assigned this task with the funding from IMO itself or any other donors.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

SACEP and IMO to jointly workout the methodologies for monitoring and evaluation.

**Human Resource Development through the Strengthening of
Regional Centres of Excellence**

PROJECT 6

Title of the Project: **Identification of Capacity Building Requirements in Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection and Management (1999-2000)**

Need:

In order to prevent the degradation of marine and coastal environment from man-made activities and to ensure sustainable utilisation of coastal and marine resources, it is necessary to develop various strategies, which require a variety of scientific and engineering tools and techniques for implementation.

Objective:

To identify the specific areas of capacity building relevant to protection and management of coastal and marine environment in the SAS region.

Inputs:

- (1) Present status of environmental problems and analysis of their causes.
- (2) Key environmental issues.
- (3) Existing institutional arrangements to deal with issues and problems including availability of expertise.
- (4) Availability of perspective plans to strengthen institutions, and develop expertise.

Output:

Document on capacity building needs in Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection and Management in SAS countries.

Time Frame:

Three (3) Months.

Implementation Strategy:

National Focal Points (NFP) of the SAS Action Plan through the respective National Co-ordinating Committees can obtain the inputs and formulate a draft country document. The draft can be finalised at a meeting of NFPs and regional and international Experts.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

SACEP through a Regional Consultant to monitor progress and provide guidance.

**Human Resource Development through the Strengthening of
Regional Centres of Excellence**

PROJECT 7

Title of the Project: **Strengthening the Capacity of Regional Centres of Excellence in the Protection and Management of the Coastal and Marine Environment (2001-2002)**

Need:

A number of National Institutions specialising in the different disciplines and fields of Marine and Coastal Environmental Protection and Management should be upgraded to Regional Centres of Excellence (RCE)

Objective:

To strengthen the RCE in coastal and marine environmental protection and management in terms of expertise and infrastructure to enable them to meet with capacity building requirements on a wide range of coastal and marine environment related activities at the national and regional levels.

Inputs:

- (1) Details of areas of capacity building and potential institutions that could be designated as RCE from **Project 1** (with details of expertise available in each institution).
- (2) Existing national policies and perspectives for strengthening the institutions.

Output:

Establishment and operation of RCE which will meet national as well as regional capacity building requirements in the specific areas relating to protection and management of coastal and marine environment in SAS region.

Time Frame:

Six (6) Months.

Implementation Strategy:

A workshop of NFPs along with regional and international experts will be organised to finalise a document containing the infrastructure needs and improvement of existing expertise in Institutions identified as RCE. Multilateral and bilateral donors will be approached for funding the identified RCEs.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Regional experts can periodically assess the performance of RCEs and provide feedback to SACEP. Meeting of NFPs / Ministers can work out further strategies for improvement where necessary.

**Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from
Land-Based Activities**

PROJECT 8

Title of the Project: **Identification and Assessment of the Nature, Extent, Problems and Causes of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Activities and Preparation of National Programmes of Action for Control of Land-Based Sources of Pollution (1999-2000)**

Need:

Increasing degradation of water quality in the coastal waters of South Asian countries is mostly due to the disposal of untreated wastes arising from the land-based activities. In order to prevent or at least minimise this degradation it is necessary to develop national programmes of action based on the actual ground conditions.

Objective:

To assess the pollution problems and the waste emanating from each of the SAS countries.

Inputs:

- (1) Data and information on existing land-based activities, which cause degradation of marine environment along with details of their ground quality and characteristics.
- (2) Current efforts to prevent or control land-based sources of marine pollution and perspective plans for the future.
- (3) Details on availability of water quality criteria and waste disposal standards.
- (4) Perspective plans for human settlements, industrial establishments and off-shore oil and gas explorations.

Output:

- (1) Basic document on impact of land-based activities on the quality of marine environment in SAS region.
- (2) A National Programme of Action to deal with land-based activities that are causing coastal and marine pollution.

Time Frame:

Six (6) Months.

Implementation Strategy:

National Focal Points can commission the project with funding expected from UNEP or other donors as a part of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Regional experts can periodically assess the performance of RCEs and provide feedback to SACEP. Meeting of NFPs / Ministers can work out further strategies for improvement where necessary.

**Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from
Land-Based Activities**

PROJECT 9

Title of the Project: **Development of National Water Quality Criteria / Standards for
Different Uses of Sea Water (2001-2002)**

Need:

Water quality criteria provides guidance/reference required for maintaining the appropriate water quality for a specified use. This is essential for preservation of ecology and for prevention of loss of resources due to pollution. Adherence to water quality criteria by each country is expected to keep the sea beyond the territorial limits/maritime boundaries clean.

Objective:

Development of National Water Quality (NWQ) criteria to ensure preservation of water quality in the marine and coastal environment of SAS region.

Inputs:

- (1) Different uses of sea water based on land-use patterns in the adjoining coastal areas.
- (2) Proposed land-use pattern.
- (3) Coastal water circulation patterns.

Output:

Designated best use of marine and coastal waters and national water quality criteria.

Time Frame:

One (1) Year

Implementation Strategy:

1. Preparation of draft National Water Quality Criteria / Standards for different uses of Sea Water by national Focal Points.
2. A workshop of National Focal Points (NFP) with regional and international experts to finalise a draft document prepared by NFPs.
3. Formal training of technical personnel in a country which has the expertise
3. Funding from multilateral/bilateral donors for training and establishment of facilities to determine water quality criteria.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

SACEP through a designated Regional Consultant to monitor progress of implementation and evaluate the proje

PROJECT 10

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
PROPOSAL FOR PDF BLOCK B GRANT

Country:	Regional: South Asia (5 countries): Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Focal Area:	International Waters / Biological Diversity
Project Title:	Development of a Strategy, including the Refinement of the Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine, Coastal and Associated Freshwater Environment from Land-based Sources Pollution in the South Asian Seas
Requesting Agency:	United Nations Environment Programme
Amount of PDF Funding Requested:	US \$ 350,000
Co-funding:	Governments: US \$ 50,000 (In kind contribution) SACEP US \$ 20,000 (In kind contribution)
Total Cost of Project:	US \$ 420,000 (including in kind contribution)

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 An Intergovernmental Conference convened in Washington D.C., from 23 October - 3 November 1995, adopted the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) and the Washington Declaration. The GPA adopted calls for the strengthening of regional co-operative arrangement, strategies and programmes for, amongst others:

- (a) Identification and assessment of problems and causes; and
- (b) Establishment of targets and priorities for action.

It is now clearly recognised and established that Regional and Sub Regional co-operation is crucial for development and implementation of successful actions in any activity, more so in the protection of both freshwater and marine environment from land-based activities. Such co-operation ensures more accurate identification and assessment of problems in particular geographic areas and more appropriate establishment of priorities for action in these same areas. It has been proven that such co-operation also strengthens regional and national capacity-building and offers an important avenue for harmonising and adjusting measures to fit the particular environmental, institutional and socio-economic circumstances. To this end, the Washington Conference designated UNEP as the Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action, with the task of promoting and facilitating implementation at the national, regional and global levels.

Article 207 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea requires States to adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources, to take measures as may be necessary to prevent, reduce and control such pollution and to endeavour to harmonise their policies in this connection at the appropriate regional level.

Decision 11/10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity also encourages the use of integrated marine and coastal area management as the most suitable framework for addressing human impact on the marine and coastal biological diversity. There is specific reference to land-based activities in Annex 1 to this decision.

In Agenda 21, Chapter 17 identifies prevention, reduction and control of degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities as the main management-related activity contributing to this goal.

The Call to Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) concluded that coral reefs are in serious decline globally, especially those near shallow shelves and dense human population areas, and that the primary agent of this degradation is human activity (e.g. population growth, increasing pollution and use of the fragile resource), and, therefore, the need is urgent to manage those human activities.

GEF's Strategy for International Waters, Paragraph 4.10 indicates that priority will be given to comprehensive approaches to management that emphasises imminent environmental needs. Within this overall priority, GEF will place priority on addressing control of land-based sources and ground water pollution; prevention of physical or ecological degradation of critical habitats that sustain biodiversity, provide shelter and nursery areas for the production of fish protein sources, and otherwise are important for restoring and maintaining ecosystems associated with international waters; control unsustainable exploitation of marine living resources as well as nonliving resources.

- 1.2 The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 came into force on November 16, 1994. Its universality has been assured by means of an implementing Agreement relating to Part XI of the Convention, which was opened for signature in July 1994. All but one country of the South Asian Seas Region are signatories to this umbrella Convention which regulates the activities of nations in the ocean sector both within and outside national jurisdiction. However, this country has sent in motion the process to obtain the necessary clearance from necessary authorities for being a party to this Convention. The Convention has specific provisions relating to the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from land-based activities.

A Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the five Maritime States of SACEP met in New Delhi on 24th May 1995 and unanimously adopted the Final Act for the establishment of the South Asian Seas Programme. This Meeting also adopted three other Resolutions pertaining to the South Asian Seas Programme. The Final Act, the 3 Resolutions and the 4 concerned Annexes are annexed herewith. (See ANNEX 1)

It also should be noted that a Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the South Asian Seas from Land-based Activities was prepared by SACEP for the Meeting of Government-designated Experts to Review and Revise a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, Reykjavik, 6-10 March 1995. The concerned member governments requested that this Regional Programme of Action be reviewed and concrete project proposals be developed to protect South Asian Seas region from land-based Activities.

The Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region was adopted at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on 24th March 1995 along with Institutional and Financial Arrangements (Resolutions 1 & 2 of the South Asian Seas Action Plan). South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) was designated by the Member Countries to be the Secretariat of the Action Plan. The Action Plan for the South Asian Seas Programme has identified four Priority Areas for developing projects and programmes. One such Priority Area is the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

- 1.3 In carrying out the Global Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels, the national capabilities available in the regions, and the capabilities of relevant regional and international organisations and co-ordinating bodies, as well as the existing regional programmes, must be used to greatest possible extent.

At the regional level, UNEP's Regional Seas Programme will play an important role in facilitating implementation of the Global Programme of Action, specially with regard to developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It should be noted that the all five member states of the South Asian Seas (SAS) Programme are all developing countries and one of them is a Small Island Developing State (SID). The Regional Seas Programme now comprises 13 regions with over 140 participant states, 16 UN Agencies and nearly 50 other international and regional organisations, all of which work closely with UNEP to protect and improve the marine environment, and make environmentally sustainable use of its resources.

The above information signifies the urgent need to develop and implement comprehensive Regional Strategic Action Plans to deal with the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.

Therefore it is herein proposed that the Regional Strategic Action Plans be carried out within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP's Integrated Water Programme ("Water"). It is expected that the regionalisation in implementation of the Global Programme of Action will promote and facilitate co-operation between participant States sharing similar problems and interests related to protection of the marine, coastal and freshwater environment.

The South Asian Seas Region can be categorised into two distinct geographical groups. While Maldives and Sri Lanka are island nations, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are situated on the Asian mainland. India has two groups of islands in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, whose problems are similar to that of Maldives and Sri Lanka. The northern Indian Ocean with its adjoining seas, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea form the common marine boundary for the five South Asian nations. The total land area covered by these countries is about 4.5 million sq. km. having a population of about 1.1 billion. The population density varies from 26 per sq. km. in Sri Lanka to 591 per sq. km. in the Maldives. The region except Sri Lanka has a high rate of population growth of more than 2%. Nearly 20 to 25% population of these countries are directly or indirectly dependent on the sea for living.

The region is characterised by the location of some of the largest population concentrations in the world in the five mega cities of Karachi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Dhaka and a large number of medium-sized towns and cities along the Indian and Bangladesh coasts. It is expected that these five cities would have a population of over 10 million by the year 2000. The entire island nation of Maldives has a coastal marine environment.

- 1.4 The Project supports the Action Plan of the South Asian Seas Programme and the priorities identified by the participating member countries and elaborated in the Action Plan. Furthermore, it builds on the main principles and aims of regional co-operation and action needed to address issues of transboundary nature. The project will support the formulation of regional strategies to mitigate and control land-based sources and activities affecting the quality and uses of the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment, including the identification of "hot spots" and impacts of land-based activities requiring priority actions. The updating the regional review also will set the basis for the terms of reference of a regional workshop to facilitate development of national and regional strategic programmes.

2. SUMMARY PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The main objective of the project is initially to review the already prepared Draft Regional Review of Land-based Sources for the South Asian Seas Region and activities affecting the quality and uses of the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment, including the identification of "hot spots" and impacts of land-based activities requiring priority actions, as well as activities undertaken to achieve them as a basis for development of a Regional Strategic Action Plan to address these problems.
- 2.2 The review will be conducted within the overall framework of the Global Programme of Action, the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region, in close co-operation with its associated projects.

- 2.3 The main objective of the project is to provide the broad basis for implementation of mechanisms and measures leading to the protection of the marine environment from harmful land-based activities, including a basis for development of an investment portfolio to address the most acute environmental problems caused by land-based activities, within the framework of a Regionally Strategic Action Plan which will form a part of Strategic Action Programme
- 2.4 The regional review will be undertaken under the overall co-ordination of the SACEP which is the designated Secretariat for the implementation of the all activities coming under the Action Plan for the South Asian Seas Programme, with guidance from the Water Branch, UNEP, Nairobi, and in close co-operation with UNDP and the World Bank.
- 2.5 The use of national experts and institutions ensures a multi-disciplinary approach within the countries, and that they acquire the necessary expertise to ensure continuity in the follow-up of the project activities.

3. DESCRIPTION OF PDF ACTIVITIES

The PDF funds will be used for the following specific activities:

- 3.1 To comprehensively update the Draft Regional Review to include:
- (a) identification and assessment of problems and their causes;
 - (b) quantification of pollution loads with a view to defining priorities for action; and
 - (c) Establishment of targets and priorities for action
- * The reviews will be prepared on the basis of the work done in the countries by nationals assisted by consultants, critical analyses and evaluation of available data and information provided by governments, as well as databases of relevant regional programmes, agencies of the United Nations System, Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organisations. (Please refer UNEP's Proposal: Institutional arrangements and Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protections of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities)
 - * To this end, Consultants will be engaged from the region to liaise with institutions in the countries and assist them and their experts to identify sources, quantify loads, and determine priorities for action as required and in close co-operation with Governments, Secretariat for SAS (SACEP), UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank. The Terms of Reference of these Consultants and the selection of them will be responsibility of the Secretariat for SAS (SACEP) in close collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank. The review will be submitted to a Regional Workshop as a basis for discussion, and will be finalised taking into consideration inputs from the Workshop participants and the National Reports.
 - * The Regional Consultant will visit each of the five countries, make institutional arrangements for collection of raw data from which quantitative estimates of pollution loads will be made, and return after specified periods to work relevant institutions to prepare a document containing quantitative estimates, the major sources of entry into the coastal and marine environment (lagoons, estuaries, rivers, creeks), the danger they constitute to the coastal development of resources, and recommendation for action based on the priorities defined.
- 3.2 Organisation of a Regional Workshop Involving Government nominated Experts, Business Communities, Intergovernmental and Non Governmental Organisations. The purpose of the Workshop will be to:
- * Familiarise the participants with the GPA and relevant International (global and regional) agreements and programmes;
 - * Discuss, improve and endorse the regional review and establish priorities for action; and
 - * Discuss possible elements of a Regional GPA Strategic Action Plan.

Government designated experts who are expected to have participated in the assessment studies, will prepare and present national reports dealing with land-based activities. Guidelines for the review will take into consideration the regional review, and will be prepared by the GPA Co-ordination Office, Secretariat for SAS (SACEP), UNDP and the World Bank.

- 3.3 Preparation of a GEF Project Proposal for the Development of a Regional GPA Strategic Action Plan.

4. PDF OUTPUTS

- 4.1 A comprehensive regional review on assessing land-based sources and activities affecting the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment.

- 4.2 Project proposal for the development of a Regional GPA Strategic Action Plan.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 All countries of the South Asian Seas (SAS) Programme are eligible for participation in this activity.

6. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PDF GRANT

- 6.1 The planned project activities and goals are in line with the GEF's Operational Strategy, policies and priorities and will contribute to the implementation of GEF's Programme, specifically in the Focal Areas of International Waters and Biological Diversity.

- 6.2 The results of the project will further the capacity of the region to fulfil their commitment assumed in the Action Plan for the South Asian Seas, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GPA.

7. ITEMS TO BE FINANCED BY PDF

Budget Item		Responsibility	Rate	Quantum in US \$
	Details			
Overall Co-ordinator / Regional Consultant	One	Recruitment by SAS Secretariat (SACEP), UNEP, UNDP and World Bank	US \$ 10,000 per month all inclusive for 12 months	120,000
National Consultants	5 Consultants	SAS Secretariat (SACEP), and National Governments	US \$ 10,000 all inclusive	50,000
International Travel	DSA & Tickets	SAS Secretariat (SACEP), & UNEP		30,000
Honoraria to Personnel of National Institutions		SAS Secretariat (SACEP)	US \$ 8,000 per country for 5 Countries	40,000
Regional Workshop	Travel of Participants - Minimum 4 per country + Resource Persons, Travel, DSA, Conference Facilities, Reporting, Communication & Printing	SAS Secretariat (SACEP), UNEP and National Governments		60,000
Administrative Overheads & Co-ordination		SACEP		50,000
			TOTAL	350,000

EXPECTED DATE OF PDF PREPARATION COMPLETION

12 months after the PDF is approved and GEF's funds released for its implementation.

CLOSING REMARKS BY**HON MR. MAKHDOOM SYED AHMAD MAHMUD****MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PAKISTAN**

Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi, Director General, SACEP
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates

It is an honour and a privilege for me to be here and for Pakistan to co-host the first Intergovernmental Meeting of the Ministers of South Asian Seas Programme under the auspices of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. I thank you for electing me as Chairman of this meeting and hope that I have fulfilled your expectations. The success of this meeting is attributed to the relentlessly for two days and made recommendations which have been adopted by consensus. This, by no means is a small achievement. I congratulate you on the success.

The presence of the representatives of Asian Development Bank, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and IUCN in the meetings of the National Focal Points also in this meeting has greatly enriched the deliberations and conclusions of the meetings. These organisations have long experience of planning and implementation of environmental programmes and projects at the global and regional level, which I understand, was of immense value. I expect their support and assistance would continue to be available for the implementation of South Asian Seas Programme and contribute to the betterment of the people of this region.

The holding of this meeting in the beginning of 1999 is also timely, as the nations around the globe take a stock of the activities undertaken in the context of the 1998 International Year of Ocean and the theme "Life on Earth: Save Our Seas." Equally important are the regional and national challenges that confront us to maintain health and integrity of our oceans and seas.

We agree, that complex nature of marine environment requires integrated and multi-sectoral approach for the management of oceans and coastal areas, including consideration of the fresh water that drain in the sea. The instances of lack of political will to make difficult adjustments, particularly in respect of access to marine resources and fishing rights are not too uncommon. Lack of control over fishing fleets, resistance of fishing industry to change, lack of involvement of traditional communities in decision-making and unfriendly fishing practices are contributing to the dilemma of the present state of our seas. Likewise, instances of marine pollution from the land-based sources, ships and other vessels and pressures from coastal developments are on increase, threatening biological diversity and sustainable use of ocean resources.

I recognise initiatives taken by this meeting will help to protect our seas better not only for the present but our future generations, as well. The success of the regional programme will, however, greatly depend on the support of individual country governments and their national programmes and projects. I hope the SACEP Secretariat will enhance the existing level of co-operation and explore resources available with the donors and international organisations.

I hope you have enjoyed your stay in Islamabad and were able to find some time to see our varied landscape and people.

The success of this meeting is due to the untiring efforts of Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi, Director General SACEP, Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Deputy Director Programmes and his staff who worked round the clock and produces necessary documents.

I thank all the delegations who have come all the way and contributed to objectives of this meeting.

I also must commend the efforts made by Mr. Muhammad Zubair Kidwai, Secretary and Mr. Mahboob Elahi, Director General (Environment) and other officials and staff of my Ministry who worked closely with the SACEP Secretariat. I assure that they will be available to render all possible support to SACEP in its future endeavors.

I thank you.

**VOTE OF THANKS BY
MR. PRASANTHA DIAS ABYEGUNAWARDENE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR PROGRAMMES
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

Hon. Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan,

Your Excellency Mr. Alfred David, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Pakistan,

Mr. Muhamad Zubair Kidwai Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan,

Distinguished participants from the Member Countries of South Asian Seas Programme,
Representatives of UN and International Organisations and Friends,

There is a much hackneyed phrase as to what a Vote of Thanks should be. It is that it should be like a ladies dress, short enough to arouse curiosity but long enough to cover the subject and that is what I exactly intend to do this morning.

Our Chief Guest today Hon. Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmud, Minister of State of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan is no stranger to SACEP and its activities. He has always been a supporter of SACEP and I still remember with much pleasure the meeting I had with him along with the then Director of SACEP Mr. Hussain Shihab and Mr. Lal Kurukulasuriya, Chief, Regional Environmental Law Programme of UNEP in February last year.

We were very impressed with his dynamism and his knowledge on the real environmental problems facing Pakistan and the far reaching measures he was initiating to mitigate the problems. We were also deeply touched by his humility and generosity and for excellent lunch he arranged for us. I am very confident that under his Chairmanship of the South Asian Seas Programme we would be able to achieve what we have embarked on. Thank you very much Sir for having taken time of your busy schedule to be here to chair this very important meeting and hosting this grand buffet lunch we are about to partake.

Mr. Muhamad Zubair Kidwai Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Pakistan we are indeed honoured by your presence and I trust that you are happy that the meeting you inaugurated achieved its objectives. We will still look to your guidance and wise counsel.

SACEP's sincerest thanks go to the Government of Pakistan for making such excellent arrangements for hosting this important meeting.

In this connection, our special thanks goes out to the dynamic Mr. Mahboob Elahi, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development for ensuring the excellent arrangements for both meetings. Thank you Mahboob and your team for having taken a great burden off SACEP's shoulder.

Among us today is another eminent personality in the calibre of Dr. Kazi Jalal, Chief of the Office of Environment of the Asian Development Bank. His presence here today indeed is a very happy augury for us. Dr. Jalal's involvement with the South Asian Seas Programme dates back to 1985 when he as Chief of ESCAP's Environment Programme provided substantial input in development of this Action Plan. Dr. Jalal your presence here today has indeed lifted the stature of this meeting. We are indeed encouraged to note that ADB is willing to support the development of one of the priority projects in our project cycle for 1999 – 2002 and look forward to continued ADB's support for the South Asian Regional Seas Programme.

To all our participants and their respective governments, SACEP's many thanks for being here today. We need your support and co-operation in all the future activities of this programme.

And finally my personal thanks to the SACEP Consultant Mr. K. H. J. Wijayadasa for your expert guidance in the preparation of the background documentation and for consenting to be a part of the SACEP delegation to this meeting and our Secretary Chandni for handling the Secretarial functions so efficiently.

**REPORT OF THE
PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
FOR THE FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING
24TH – 25TH MARCH 1999
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

**SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
FOR THE FIRST INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MINISTERS
24TH – 25TH MARCH 1999
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for the First intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers was held on 24th and 25th of March 1999 in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
2. It was convened in order to discuss all substantive issues concerning the Administrative, Programme and Financial Matters of South Asian Seas Programme. It was also agreed that the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points on the various Agenda items would form the basis of discussion of the First Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers.

ATTENDANCE

3. The Meeting was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries:- Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
4. It was also attended by Observers from the following UN Agencies and International Organisations:- Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

The List of Participants is in **Annex 15/I**.

OPENING OF MEETING

5. Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi, Director-General SACEP welcomed the delegates and outlined the tasks to be accomplished by the meeting. The Chief Guest Mr. Muhamed Zubair Kidwai, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development of Pakistan then delivered his Inaugural Address. Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Deputy Director Programmes, SACEP delivered the Vote of Thanks.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

5. In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP, the following Office Bearers were elected.

6.

Chairman	-	Mr. Mahboob Elahi	-	Pakistan
Vice Chairman	-	Dr. B. R. Subramanian	-	India
Rapporteur	-	Ms. Damayanthi Rajapakse	-	Sri Lanka

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

7. The Draft Agenda prepared by the Secretariat for this Meeting was adopted. The adopted Agenda is contained in **Annex 15/II**. The delegates also agreed on the working hours of the meeting.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

8. Under this Agenda Item, the Secretariat introduced the Working Paper SAS/NFP/IMM 1/WP1 titled "Review of Progress of the Implementation of the Action Plan" The purpose of this Paper was to review the progress of implementation of the Action Plan since its adoption in March, 1995 upto November 1998 in relation to institutional and financial matters and programme activities.

The meeting discussed the paper at length and the following observations/recommendations have been made for consideration and approval by the Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers (IGMM).

- (a) The date of commencement of the implementation of the Action Plan was taken as February 1998 mainly because all the country contributions to the SAS Trust Fund to meet the cost of the Secretariat was received in January 1998.
- (b) While it was left to the discretion of the countries to decide upon the composition of the National Co-ordinating Committee, the role for the National Focal Point vis a vis the National Committee should be defined.
- (c) Lack of funding for developing detailed project documents for the priority projects was discussed in length. UNEP representative informed the meeting that due to the financial crisis his organisation was unable to support the South Asian Seas Programme to the levels expected by SACEP. However as the situation has improved now UNEP has included among other Regional Seas Programmes the South Asian Seas Programme in its programme of work for 2000 and 2001. He requested the SAS Secretariat to make available concrete proposals for consideration for funding by UNEP. In this regard, the meeting felt that since the implementation of the South Asian Seas Action Plan is in the interest of the member countries, the projects, which have significant national components, should be funded by the countries themselves without awaiting external assistance.
- (d) Even though the Action Plan was adopted in March 1995 all the country contributions were received only by January 1998. However the SAS Secretariat with the available SACEP staff had carried out several interim activities such as development and implementation of a Training Programme for the Management of Marine Protected Areas, active participation in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and organising a meeting to develop a proposal to study the Beaching of Corals in the South Asian Region, International Coral Reef Initiative Network (ICRI), Organising a Regional Workshop for the Development of National Plan of Action towards the implementation of the Global programme of Action for the protection of the Marine environment from Land based activities etc. The meeting appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANISATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

9. Under this Agenda Item, the Secretariat introduced the Working Paper SAS/NFP/IMM 1/WP 2 titled "Institutional, Organisational and Financial Arrangements". The purpose of this Paper is to spell out the institutional, organisational and financial arrangements envisaged including those of the Secretariat and the National Focal Points and seek the approval of the IMM for their implementation.

The meeting noted that while the need to designate National Focal Points, constitution of the National Co-ordination Committee and designation of National Institutions have been specified in the action plan, the need for identification and strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence has been specified only under the Priority Areas of Activities. It was clarified by the Secretariat that such centres would be useful to deal with the regional aspects of the projects identified.

The meeting discussed the paper at length and the following recommendations are being made for consideration and approval by the IGMM.

- (a) Two countries have already hosted the IGMM meetings and the next meeting could be held in any of the other three countries. The Secretariat can initiate the consultations to hold the next IMM in October 2000 with the probable host country at least six months prior to October 2000. The dates should be intimated to the member countries at least 3 months in advance.
- (b) The SAS Secretariat in consultation with other Regional Seas Secretariats may formulate suitable Rules and Regulations of SASAP for administrative and financial activities for approval by the next meeting of IGMM. These rules will have to be formulated within six months from the date of issue of report of the present IMM meeting. Till then SACEP can be empowered to make all administrative and financial decisions as per accepted procedure followed by SACEP.
- (c) SACEP will recruit within 6 months from the date of issue of Report of the First IGMM, one Senior Programme Officer (Regional) and within 3 months one Programme Officer (Local) and a Secretary. The posts will be on contractual basis for a period of 4 years with the salary of US \$ 2,500 per month for the Senior Programme Officer (Regional) and Sri Lankan Rupees 17,000 per month for the Programme Officer (Local). The salary includes house rent, medical and

other expenses. The Guidelines for formulation of Schemes of Recruitment are given in Annex 11, page 30 of this report.

- (d) The countries, which are yet to constitute their National Co-ordinating Committee are requested to do so within 4 months from the date of issue of report of the IMM.
- (e) Selection of the National Institutions will be made by the National Focal Points for each priority area. Broad guidelines for selection include availability of core expertise in the relevant field and infrastructure at a reasonable level. These institutions are meant for one or more priority areas, which will be designated as the National Institutions for the SAS programme. Adequate efforts will have to be made by the Governments/National Focal Points/National Institutions/Others to make available the services of National Institutions to the SAS programme on a long-term basis.
- (f) The meeting considered the issue of payment of the compensation to the Deputy Director Programmes and 7 other Administrative and Supporting Staff of SACEP who spared their services for the SAS programme. It is recommended that payment of the compensation be considered from 1 February 1998, which has been fixed as the date of commencement of the Action Plan. Payment of an amount Sri Lankan Rs.10, 000 per month is recommended for the Deputy Director Programmes from 1 February 1998 and will be continued till the date the Senior Programme Officer is appointed. For other staff, it is 15 % of their salary and may be continued till the time the secretary is appointed. Thereafter, the payment will be determined on actual time spent on SAS work.
- (g) The member countries may consider expediting the payment of their country contributions in order to facilitate smooth functioning of the Secretariat. Minor differences arising due to currency exchange rate fluctuations are ignored.
- (h) The Audit Report for the year 1997 may be approved. The unspent balance available may be treated as a Reserve fund which will be used for payment of salary to the SAS staff in case there are delays in receiving the country contributions.
- (i) The DG, SACEP, will be empowered for reappropriation upto 20% from one item to the other. In case of more, it need to be approved by the Consultative Committee which will be ratified at the time of IMM. The budgetary requirements proposed for the Secretariat and corresponding country contributions for the years 1999 and 2000 may be approved by IMM. The details are given below:

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SAS TRUST FUND					
COUNTRY		1997	1998	1999	2000
	%	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	14.5	10,367.50	11,020.00	12,120	13,335
India	35.0	25,025.00	26,600.00	29,260	32,185
Maldives	6.5	4,647.50	4,940.00	5,435	5,975
Pakistan	29.5	21,092.50	22,420.00	24,660	27,130
Sri Lanka	14.5	10,367.50	11,020.00	12,125	13,335
TOTAL	100.00	71,500	76,000	83,600	91,960

APPROVED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 1999 – 2000

	1999	2000
	Cost in US \$	Cost in US \$
PERSONNEL		
International		
Senior Programme Officer	30,000*	30,000*
Local		
1 Junior Programme Officer	3,250*	3,250*
1 Secretary	2,500*	2,500*
OFFICE INFRASTRUCTURE		
Furniture, Office Equipment & Consumables	8,070	13,215
RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE	7,480	8,065
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	5,845	6,430
MEETING & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	14,685	15,855
DOCUMENTS & PUBLICATIONS	2,920	3,210
CONTINGENCIES	8,850	9,435
TOTAL	83,600	91,960
RECURRENT	75,530	78,745
CAPITAL	8,070	13,215
TOTAL	83,600	91,960

* All inclusive

- k) The IMM requests the UN organisations such as UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO etc such as UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO etc, International and Regional financial institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and multi and bi-lateral donors for funding activities essential for implementation of the Action Plan. It seeks co-operation for technical assistance of NGO's such as WWF, IUCN etc, for South Asian Seas Action Plan.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

10. Under this Agenda Item, the Secretariat introduced the document SAS / NFP / IMM 1 / WP 3 titled, "Policy Considerations In the Implementation of the South Asian Seas Action Plan". The purpose of this Paper was to obtain policy guidance in the programming, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects under the Action Plan.

The following are the recommendations on Policy matters for consideration by the IMM

- (a) The planning and programming cycle of 4 years with a 2 years work plan as suggested in the working paper is applicable to the Secretariat. The projects identified under each priority area will be formulated by the Secretariat with the experts / consultants will have their own duration and work plans. After formulation of the proposal, they will be submitted to the Consultative Committee for approval. The members of the Consultative Committee will have prior consultation with the National Focal Points before according their approval.
- (b) To convene meetings of National Focal Points once a year immediately preceding meetings of IMM to take stock of all completed, ongoing and planned programme and project activities and decide on the Final Work Plan for the following two years and a Tentative Work Plan for the ensuing two years, and also deliberate on institutional, organisational and financial matters which are of relevance to the implementation of the Action Plan. The Agenda and Working paper be sent to the National Focal Points at least three months before the date of the meeting.
- (c) It is necessary to establish the principle that each Member State and the regional components from donor funding or agreed contributions of Member States fund the national components of projects implemented under the Action Plan. If a project has significant regional component, funding should be ensured first for the regional component before commencement of the project. In case of non-availability of funding for such regional aspects, the project could be dropped in consultation with the Consultative Committee.

- (d) The Secretariat is to undertake in close consultation with the member States a study on capacity building requirements of National Institutions and formulate a project for donor funding.
- (e) The Secretariat is to formulate in close consultation with the member States guidelines on modalities and methodologies for project identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

PROPOSED WORK PLANS FOR THE PROGRAMME CYCLE 1999-2002

11. Under this Agenda Item, the Secretariat introduced the document SAS / NFP / IMM 1 / WP 4 titled "Proposed Work Plans for the Programme Cycle 1999 – 2002". The purpose of this Paper is to present a realistic and achievable Work Plans in relation to resource availability and planning and implementation capacity. The meeting discussed the paper at length and the following recommendations have been made for consideration and approval by the IMM.

The following priority projects, which have been identified for the Programming Cycle 1999 - 2002 under the 4 Priority Activities stipulated in the Action Plan, may be considered for development and implementation. The details of these Project Proposals are given in Annex 12, page 34 of this report.

(a) Integrated Coastal Zone Management:

- (i) Capacity Building for the Control of Coastal Erosion in the Context of ICZM in the South Asian Seas Region - 1999-2000.
- (ii) Integrated Management of the Environmentally Sensitive Coastal and Marine Ecosystems - 2001-2002.
- (iii) Assessment of Areas Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise in the South Asian Seas Region

(b) National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning:

- (i) Capacity Building in the Development and Operation of National Oil Spill Contingency Planning - 1999-2000.
- (ii) Updating and finalising of the South Asian Seas Oil Spill Contingency Plan - 2001-2002.

(c) Human Resource Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence

- (i) Identification of Capacity Building Requirements in Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection and Management - 1999 -2000.
- (ii) Strengthening the Capacity of the Regional Centres of Excellence in the Protection and Management of the Coastal and Marine Environment - 2001-2002.

(d) Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Activities

- (i) Identification and Assessment of the nature, extent, problems and causes of Marine Pollution from Land-based Activities and the Preparation of a National Programme of Action for Control of Land-based Sources of Pollution - 1999-2000.
- (ii) Development of National Water Quality Criteria for different uses of Sea Water - 2001- 2002.
- (iii) Draft Project Proposal to GEF for a PDF Block B Grant

It was explained in the meeting that the criteria selected for identification of these projects is based on the current level of environmental problems prevalent in the South Asian countries under each priority area of activity and also to fulfil the gaps existing in the capacity building areas. The meeting considered the above project areas and agreed for their further development. The time frame / duration mentioned in the project outline are unrealistic and need to be determined in accordance with the extent of the activity. The Secretariat will develop detailed Project Proposals with the help of expert consultants using funding from the international sources such as UN Organisations, International and Regional Financial Institutions.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF MEETING

12. The Meeting considered and adopted this Report on the 25th of March 1999.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BANGLADESH

H. E. Mr. Masum A. Choudhury
 High Commissioner
 Bangladesh High Commission
 Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 279267
 Fax: 92 – 51 – 279266

INDIA

Dr. B. R. Subramanian
 Project Director
 Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM)
 Project Directorate
 Department of Ocean Development
 1st Floor Kondal Building
 Anna University Campus
 Chennai – 600 025
 India

Tel: 91 – 44 – 2301845
 Fax: 91 – 44 – 2301846
 e-mail: brs@icmam.tn.nic.in

PAKISTAN

Mr. Muhammad Zubair Kidwai
 Secretary
 Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
 9th Floor, UBL Building
 Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
 Islamabad
 Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 922 4580
 Fax: 92 – 51 – 920 2211

Mr. Mahboob Elahi
 Director General (Env)
 Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
 8th Floor, UBL Building
 Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
 Islamabad
 Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 920 1145
 Fax: 92 – 51 – 920 2211

Mr. Kalimullah Shirazi
 Deputy Secretary
 Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
 Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat
 Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
 Islamabad
 Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 920 2960
 Fax: 92 – 51 – 920 2211

Mr. Shafqat Ezdi Shah

Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Local Government and
Rural Development
9th Floor, UBL Building
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 922 4583
Fax: 92 – 51 – 920 2211

Mr. Imran Habib Ahmad

Section Officer (Biodiversity)
Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development
9th Floor, UBL Building
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 920 7954
Fax: 92 – 51 – 920 2211
e-mail: moe@bio-unit.snkpk.undp.org

Brig (Retd) Akhtar Zamin

Director General
Environment Protection Agency
Government of Sindh
Karachi
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 21 – 586 7925
Fax: 92 – 21 – 586 7923

Mr. Asif Shujah Khan

Director General
Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency
44 E Office Tower, Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 921 7882
Fax: 92 – 51 – 920 1074
e-mail: pakepa@isb.compul.com

Mr. Farooq Ahmed

Director
Zoological Survey Department
Block 61, Pakistan Secretariat
Shares Iraq
Karachi
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 21 – 920 3334

Mr. M. Akhtar Tufail

Director IEE
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Islamabad
Pakistan.

Tel: 92 – 51 – 920 6149
Fax: 92 – 51 – 920 1944
e-mail: akhtartufail@hotmail.com

Mr. Jawed Ali Khan
Director (PEPC)
Ministry of Environment, Local Government and
Rural Development
9th Floor, UBL Building
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 920 2574
Fax: 92 - 51 - 920 2211
e-mail: pepc@hsb.comsats.net

SRI LANKA

H. E. Mr. A. K. David
High Commissioner
High Commission of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
315 - C Khayaban-e-Iqbal
F-7/2, P O Box 1497
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 82 8723
Fax: 92 - 51 - 82 8751

Ms. R. D Rajapaksa
Second Secretary
High Commission of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
315 - C Khayaban-e-Iqbal
F-7/2, P O Box 1497
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 - 51 - 82 8723
Fax: 92 - 51 - 82 8751

UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Dr. Kazi Jalal
Chief
Office of Environment and Social Development
Asian Development Bank
P O Box 789
1099 Manila
Philippines

Tel: 632 - 6326816
Fax: 632 - 6322195

Mr. Nassim Ahmad
Environment Specialist
Asian Development Bank
P.O Box 789
1099 Manila
Philippines

Tel: 632 - 6326816
Fax: 632 - 6322195/ 632 741 7961

IUCN – THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION

Mr. Torben Berner

Head, Marine and Coastal Programme
IUCN – Sri Lanka
48 Vajira Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka.

Tel: 94 – 1 – 584402
Fax: 94 – 1 – 580202
e-mail: twcusi@sri.lanka.net / iucn@slt.lk

Mr. Abdul Latif Rao

Head, IUCN Balochistan Office
Marker Cottage
Zarghoon Road, Quetta
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 81 840450 - 2
Fax: 92 – 81 820 706 / 843246
e-mail: rao@iucn.qta.sdhpk.undp.org

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. Abdullah Hadi

Senior Programme Officer
United Nations Environment Programme
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Tel: 662 – 288 2125
Fax: 662 – 280 3829
e-mail: hadi@unescap.org

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. Abdul Qadir

Programme Officer
United Nations Development Programme - Pakistan
Saudi Park Tower
Blue Area
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 279165-74 Ext. 2220
Fax: 92 – 51 – 279080
e-mail: abduf.qadir@undp.org

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Dr. Robert Gumen

UNIDO Representative in Pakistan
P O Box 1051
2nd Floor – Saudi Park Tower
61 – A Jinnah Avenue
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: 92 – 51 – 279 078
Fax: 92 – 51 – 822 247
e-mail: gumen@un.org.pk

Mr. Ibrahim Saad
Assistant to UNIDO Representative
P O Box 1051
2nd Floor – Saudi Park Tower
61 – A Jinnah Avenue
Islamabad

Tel: 92 – 51 – 279 078
Fax: 92 – 51 – 822 247
e-mail: ibrahim@un.org.pk

SACEP SECRETARIAT

Dr. Ananda Raj Joshi
Director General
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 – 1 – 589376 / 589787
Fax: 94 – 1 – 589369
e-mail: aj_sacep@eureka.lk

Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardena
Deputy Director Programmes
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 – 1 – 596442 / 589 787
Fax: 94 – 1 – 589369
e-mail: pd_sacep@eureka.lk

Mr. K. H. J. Wijayadasa
Consultant
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 – 1 – 584137
Fax: 94 – 1 – 589369

Ms. Chandima Jayasuriya
Secretarial Assistant
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
10 Anderson Road
Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 – 1 – 589787
Fax: 94 – 1 – 589369

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Review of Progress of the Implementation of the Action Plan
 - a) Institutional Matters
 - b) Financial Matters
 - c) Programme Activities

5. Institutional, Organisational and Financial Arrangements

Institutional & Organisational Matters

- a) Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers
- b) The Secretariat – Staffing etc.
- c) National Focal Points
- d) National Co-ordinating Committee
- e) National Institutions
- f) Regional Centres of Excellence

Financial Matters

- a) Review of Country Contributions from Member States for SAS Trust Fund for 1999 and 2000
- b) Approval of the budgetary resources required to support the workplan for 1999 – 2000
- c) Agree upon the means for financing activities of the programme, including firm pledges for contributions to be made in cash and kind by governments for 1999 – 2000
- d) Approval of Annual Audited Report of Accounts for 1997

6. Policy Considerations

- a) Planning and Programming
- b) Project Identification, Formulation and approval
- c) Financing of Projects
- d) Implementation, co-ordination, monitoring & evaluation

7. Work Plans for the Programme Cycle 1999 – 2002

- a) Planning and Programming
- b) Consideration and Approval of Project Outlines
- c) Adoption of Work Plan 1999 – 2000
- d) Adoption of Tentative Work Plan 2001 – 2002

8. Any Other Business

9. Adoption of the Report

10. Closure of Meeting