



# SACEP NEWS

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## 10th Governing Council (GC) of SACEP

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The Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council (GC) of SACEP was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2007. The meeting were attended by delegates from all member countries viz: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), US Environmental Hub for South Asia, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Center for Environmental Studies (CEE), India attended the meeting as observers.

The Chief Guest for the inaugural session was H.E. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Minister of Finance, Government of Nepal. After the welcome address given by Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP, a

message from H.E. Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal was read by Hon. Man Bahadur Vishwakarma, Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal. This was followed by an address of the Minister and the inaugural speech was delivered by the Chief Guest, H.E. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat.

The meeting was next addressed by the Chair of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP, H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchen, Hon. Deputy Minister, National Environment Commission (NEC), Government of Bhutan. The Vote of Thanks given by Mr. Bal Krishna Prasai, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

In accordance with the provision of the Articles of Association of SACEP the following were elected to the 10th GC.

Chairman Hon. Man Bahadur Vishwakarma, Minister of State for

Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

Vice Chairman Hon. Mr. Malik Amin Aslam Khan, State Minister of Environment, Government of Pakistan.

Rapporteur Mr. W.R.M.S. Wickramasinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka.



H. E. Man Bahadur Vishwakarma, Chairman of 10th GC, addressing the 10th GC of SACEP, held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 25th January, 2007.



Delegates of the 10th GC, held in Kathmandu Nepal, 25th January, 2007

SACEP Celebrates its Silver Jubilee, in February, 2007

## 25th Anniversary of SACEP

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the oldest environmental Intergovernmental organisation in the world celebrated its Silver Jubilee on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2007. It was held in Kathmandu, Nepal just prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. The Government of Nepal very graciously agreed to host these celebrations.

The Chief Guest on this occasion was H.E. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Minister of Finance, Government of Nepal. The honoured guests at this celebrations were H.E. Mr. Ahmed Shah Karim Olomi, Deputy Director, National Environmental Protection Agency, Afghanistan; H.E. Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal; H.E. Mr. Dasho Nado Rinchchen, Deputy Minister, National Environment Commission, Bhutan; Hon Mr. Namo Narayan Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, India; Hon Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Maldives; H.E. Mr. Man Bahadur Vishwakarma, Minister of State for Environment, Government of Nepal; H.E. Mr. Malik Amin Aslam Khan, State Minister of

Environment, Pakistan; Mr. W. R. M. S. Wickremasinghe, Head of Sri Lanka Delegation to 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP and Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP. The programme included the release of the "SACEP Celebrates 25 Years" video produced by young Akash Boaz and also the Presentation of Mementos to the Guests of Honour which included a Silver Jubilee T-Shirt, Mug, Plaque and Copy of the Video.

There was a special release the Silver Jubilee Souvenir published by SACEP. Many traditional cultural dances performed during the celebrations. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by longest serving officer of SACEP Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Advisor to SACEP and the South Asian Seas Programme. The celebrations was concluded with a special buffet dinner hosted by the Government of Nepal.

### Silver Jubilee Souvenir & CD



### Silver Jubilee Mug, Plate & Tshirt



**Chief Guest, H.E. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, (L) handing over a souvenir to the Chairman – Hon. Man Bahadur Vishwakarma. Dr. A.A. Boaz Director General of SACEP in the center**



**From L-R, Chief Guest, of the 25th anniversary, H.E. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Hon. Man Bahadur Vishwakarma, H. E. Dasho Nado Rinchchen, Chairman of 9th GC and Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP addressing the Silver Jubilee ceremony of SACEP, held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 24th January, 2007.**

## National 3R (Reduce, Recycle and Reuse) Workshop

A National 3R workshop was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) attended the workshop.

It was organized in collaboration with different partners and International Organizations such as The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in Japan, SACEP, the Department of Environment and Forest of the Government of Bangladesh and by an organization named "Waste Concern".

The objectives of the workshop was to provide an in depth review on selected issues

related to the 3R promotion in Bangladesh. It also focused in Sharing of the International Experience on 3R, Municipal solid waste management, Medical waste management, Industrial and hazardous waste management and the way for ward to promote and develop of a National 3R strategy for Bangladesh.

UNCRD, In Keeping with line the recommendations made by the Senior Official Meeting on 3R held in Tokyo and the subsequent 3R Conference on 3R Asia held during the year 2006, facilitates both national and regional level activities to promote sound waste management and developing national 3R strategies in developing countries. Therefore UNCRD and SACEP

are working in partnership to carryout such range of activities to promote 3R in the South Asia region in collaboration with Local and National governments, NGOs and donor organizations.



**Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP, addressing the gathering**

Years always keep rolling by leaving behind a world of beautiful moments to cherish forever. The dawn of 2007 saw SACEP complete 25 years of its existence and gave its member countries an occasion to celebrate the rich tradition of several great achievements of cooperation in the field of environment. The colourful silver jubilee celebrations were held in the cradle of the mighty Himalayas, in the beautiful capital of Nepal and SACEP was honoured to have the Finance Minister of Nepal, Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, the Environment Ministers of its member countries and many representatives from the International Agencies to grace the occasion. During these 25 years, SACEP has made all out efforts to foster regional cooperation and to voice its member countries common environmental concerns in the international arena.

This quarter also marked the hosting of the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council by the Government of Nepal on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007. This Governing Council will be remembered for the 'Kathmandu Declaration' through which the country governments reiterated their commitment to the development of SACEP to serve the region.

SACEP had been established to address the environmental concerns of the region and

we have a long road ahead to achieve the desired goals. The Governing Council reiterated its emphasis to focus on Waste Management, Adaptation to Climate Change and Data and Information Management as the main focus areas in SACEP's Work Programme for 2007-08. It also lay emphasis on closer cooperation with UNEP and other International agencies to widen the horizons of SACEP. It also emphasized that UNEP should ensure capacity building of SACEP in the Male Declaration.

The beginning of 2007 has been extremely auspicious for SACEP. At the very beginning, it held a Scoping Exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change that was well attended by the government representatives, experts and Nongovernment organizations of the region. This exercise identified the critical issues of the region and its report was well received at the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council that directed the Secretariat to go ahead with developing projects based on the recommendations of the Scoping Exercise. SACEP was identified as one of the main agencies for collaborating with IUCN in the 'Mangroves for the Future' Programme. SACEP also signed an MOU with UNESCO to collaborate in various fields of common interest.

The training programmes for Post Graduate students in the CHM with the help of the Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences were a grand success and there was a heavy demand for continuing the programme and extending it to other countries in South Asia. UNESCO has expressed its interest to collaborate to extend the programme. SACEP has also collaborated with the UNCRD to initiate the 3-R Approach to Waste Management in South Asia with the conduct of a National Workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh. A MoU has also been signed with Development Alternatives, New Delhi to carry out a scoping exercise on E-waste.

The month of March heralded the advent of Spring. Blooming Buds, flickering butterflies, singing birds and vibrant colours got in sight everywhere. I am sure that the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council has given SACEP a renewed vigour to bloom anew in this spring season to embark on the road to tackle critical environmental concerns of the ever growing population of our region and to play a vital role in connecting policy dialogue and advocacy at the regional level and also address specific development initiatives to meet the goals of sustainable development.

## Capacity Building for the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD

Residential workshop on "Capacity Building for the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia: A case study for Sri Lanka" was held in Colombo, during 19-22 March 2007 and 26-29 March 2007, at the Hector Kobekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute. This was organized by the SACEP in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Sri Lanka, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and with the financial assistance of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS).

Hon. Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest. Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP made the welcome address and highlighted the significance of this initiative to as an extremely important project undertaken by SACEP for the first time in the region.

This particular workshop was designed to train post graduate students on various issues related to biodiversity conservation,

related international conventions and clearing house mechanism. The objective of this programme was "to create awareness among post graduate students on Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and build their capacity on how to make use of it for conservation and research activities". The course coordinator was Prof. Sarath Kotagama, University of Colombo.

The training course included lectures, Power Point Presentations, computer based practical sessions and a field visit, which covered the following areas.

- Introduction to the Information Systems and its use
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
- Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)
- How to get the use of internet for conservation and research work.
- Convention on Migratory Species

(CMS) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Implications of the CBD to the country

At the end of the workshop, participants highlighted the importance of conducting such programmes, and requested SACEP to implement more such programmes in future.



Staff and Participants at the workshop



museum





# Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia

## Project NEWS: January-March 2007

### The Team:



IMM LTD



UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION



Through a grant from the European Union, activities have commenced in the 5 maritime nations of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka): to develop management capacity and training tools for staff at marine and coastal protected areas; to improve communications and data management; to strengthen cooperation in marine and coastal management efforts; and to develop a systematic approach to livelihood diversification and enhancement in coastal communities. The project is implemented by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) in collaboration with international and local partners. This brief details the latest advances in the project.

### South Asia Coral Reef Task Force Endorsed by Country Governments

To advance cooperation and coordination for the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems in South Asia, one of the major anticipated outputs of this project is the establishment of a regional Task Force. The Task Force will help participating countries to work together to safeguard their marine and coastal resources and to conserve essential habitats.

In September 2006, a regional workshop was conducted to start project activities, bringing together marine and coastal experts, and representatives from government and scientific institutions from the 5 participating countries. Following on from the recommendations of the workshop, country Governments were con-

tacted in the last quarter of 2006 and requested to endorse the establishment of a regional Coral Reef Task Force to support interagency and government cooperation in marine and coastal resource management.

This request was taken to the SACEP10th Governing Council Meeting held in Nepal in January 2007, attended by all participating governments, was given full endorsement to the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force.

The Project team will be working alongside Governments, stakeholders and experts from across the region to define the most appropriate role and constitution for the Task Force.

### Managing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas -A Toolkit for South Asia

Staff at marine and coastal protected areas face a multitude of challenges, on a daily basis and often in remote locations, which they must solve without easy access to sources of information or help. Recognising this need, the project will support the development of specialised training materials to encourage consistency in management strategies and, to build essential technical capacity in staff at marine and coastal protected areas.

Following consultations with stakeholders, and regional and international partners, IUCN and ICRAN aim to adapt the highly successful toolkit developed for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), and transfer the good practices and lessons learned to the South Asia region.

For more information on the WIO toolkit visit: [www.wiomsa.org](http://www.wiomsa.org)

**Project Background**

The South Asian region was ranked the lowest in the world in terms of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) in the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas, making the Indian Ocean with its wealth of coral reefs, mangroves, and tropical forests one of the world's most poorly protected ecosystems. As a result, the degradation of coastal and marine resources in South Asia continues at an unprecedented rate, and despite current conservation measures, one third of the coral reefs in the region are now effectively dead, and a further 30% threatened.

A grant has been awarded from the European Union for a three-year project in the 5 maritime nations of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka).

The aim of the project is to contribute to the reduction in the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity in the South Asian region, and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of these communities is based. Actions will focus on capacity building, information management, and on the development of a comprehensive regional plan for marine and coastal resources to move forward with commitments to developing members of ICRAN in the 5th and Multilateral Environmental Agreement (CEA).

**Project Components**

- REGIONAL COORDINATION** - Information gathering from regional MCPAs and related programmes.
- CAPACITY BUILDING** - Training and management programs for staff at marine and coastal protected areas, and to improve the management of South Asian marine and coastal resources management challenges with good practices.
- ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS** - Training and management programs for staff at marine and coastal protected areas, and to improve the management of South Asian marine and coastal resources management challenges with good practices.
- PROGRESS** - Information gathering from regional MCPAs and related programmes.
- PARTNERS** - The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) is the lead partner in the project, with ICRAN as the main partner. Other partners include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Conservation Union (WCU), and the World Bank.

With funding from the European Union



## First SLED Workshop a Success Project Sites Selected

With the logistical support of the Swaminathan Davidson Marine Research Institute (SDMRI), IUCN and IMM implemented the first in a series of three workshops to develop and pilot the Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement and Diversification (SLED) approach. A 8 day workshop was held in India to characterise the dependency of poor coastal communities on coral reef and associated resources, and to undertake basic training in the SLED methodology. Field teams are currently implementing work in their respective communities to raise awareness and understanding of livelihoods. An internet information sharing facility will be developed for the Coral Reef Livelihood Initiative (CORALI) initiative and linked to the project website/information portal which we hope to launch shortly. For more information please visit: [www.innovation.ex.ac.uk](http://www.innovation.ex.ac.uk)

### Project Sites Selected

Working groups, with representatives from all 5 countries, evaluated the suitability of nominated sites for inclusion in project activities, and selected the following:

- St. Martins Island - Bangladesh
- Mahatma Gandhi National Park - Andaman Islands, India
- Baa Atoll - Maldives
- Bar Reef - Sri Lanka
- Jiwani (Gwater Bay) - Pakistan

The replication of effective project activities in other sites across the region will be actively encouraged.

\* CORALI activities will be implemented at two of the above sites, with additional sites in India and Indonesia. All countries will participate in training and information exchange activities.

### Outreach Materials Created

A poster and new project brochure have been designed for dissemination within the region to highlight the objectives and progress of the EU project to date. The brochure can be downloaded from the SACEP website and distribution within your own networks is encouraged.



Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia With funding from the European Union (EU)



## Regional Consultation on Climate Change Adaptation Opportunities and the way forward

SACEP and CEE - India, organized a regional Initiative on "scoping and facilitation of appropriate interventions on adaptation to climate change" on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2007, Colombo Sri Lanka. It aimed to help countries in South Asian Region to address the priority issues pertaining to climate change adaptation related to Identification of systems – Necessary specific technical interventions and Guiding the development of

GEF- able proposals.

In response to that this exercise has been taken up to help countries in South Asia to capture all the support available through the Resource allocation framework of GEF in particular; and in conjunction with the priorities of countries stated in their respective National communications to the UNFCCC.

Chief Guest at the occasion was Prof.

Mohan Munasinghe from the Munasinghe Institute for Development (MIND) and the welcome address was delivered by the Director General of SACEP, Dr. A.A. Boaz.

Visit :

[www.ceeindia.org](http://www.ceeindia.org)

[www.sacep.org](http://www.sacep.org)

## Effective Waste Management and Resource Use Efficiency in East & Southeast Asia

A 3R workshop for East Asia and South East Asia was held at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Head Quarters, Manila, Philippines, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Taking in to consideration the growing concern over Asian Resource Inefficiency, Expanding waste Management challenges and the G8 3R Initiatives in Asia, the workshop was jointly organized by the Asian Development Bank, (ADB), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

### Objectives

Share experience among the participants on key issues relating to the effi-

cient use of resources and effective waste management in countries of East and South East

Identify and discuss economically and financially viable opportunities for investments in waste and resource management.

Identify strategic policies and programs that could be essential parts of the national strategies for promoting 3R principals in developing countries. In the region.

It was attended by many participants from countries in East and South East Asia such as Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore Thailand and Vietnam, Also the representatives

from many International Organizations such as ADB, AIM, APRSCP, IGES, UNCRD, UNEP, UNESCAP and World Bank attended it. On behalf of SACEP Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP attended the meeting. Dr. Boaz also had a meeting with Dr. Bindu Lohani, the Director General of ADB and the Regional Director, South Asia for support of the ADB to the activities of SACEP in it's member countries. Dr. Lohani was extremely supportive of the idea and stated that SACEP with the support of it's member countries, should develop projects for ADB support it's prioritized areas.



## Bamboo in construction Status and adaptation to Climatic change issues

Bamboo is a well established cultural feature of many regions throughout the world. Some 1250 species and 1500 traditional applications have been identified. Bamboo is the fastest growing woody plant on the planet, which belongs to the grass family (Poaceae). Most species produce mature fibre in about 3 years, much faster than any tree species. Some species grow up to one metre a day, with the majority reaching a height of 30 metres or more. It is finding increasing use in land stabilisation, to check erosion and conserve soil. It can be grown quickly and easily – even on degraded land – and harvested sustainably on 3 to 5 year rotation.

Bamboo is adaptable to most climatic conditions and soil types, acting as an effective carbon sink and helping to counter the greenhouse effect. Bamboo plantations are therefore act as a remedy to the climate change issues and truly renewable, environmental friendly material.

The bulk of bamboo is gathered from the wild or rural environment. Plantations are already being raised in China and India to support the pulp and paper industry. Plantation technology for large-scale cultivation of bamboo is known – standard practices have been developed with culm cuttings and tissue culture is gaining acceptance.

One billion people live in bamboo houses worldwide. For the most part they are low grade, impermanent buildings, which belies the material properties of bamboo and does little to promote its image as a viable construction material. At little extra cost, these buildings can be upgraded to provide safe,

secure and durable shelter, benefiting the most vulnerable members of society. Bamboo is susceptible to attack by insects and fungi, and its service life may be as low as one year when in ground contact. However, the durability of bamboo can be greatly enhanced by appropriate design, and by the careful use of safe and preservatives such as boron. The main structural advantages of bamboo – its strength and light weight – mean that properly constructed bamboo buildings are inherently resistant to wind and earthquake forces.

As multipurpose material Bamboo is widely used in construction throughout the world's tropical and sub-tropical regions, with a range of applications to match or even exceed those of timber. In Central and South America, bamboo buildings of every description can be found - from low-grade temporary shanties to exclusive, architect designed mansions. Bamboo products for use in construction are increasing in availability. These range from bamboo mat boards (flat and corrugated), through more sophisticated panel products such as fibreboard, 'plyboo' and flooring, to large laminated sections (currently under development) for use in external joinery.

Bamboo has been used as concrete reinforcement, and development work is continuing in this field. Bamboo is used for light traffic bridges, and the feasibility of constructing large span bridges carrying vehicular traffic has recently been demonstrated in Colombia. This is most suitable in many rural areas of the South Asian Countries. Bamboo as scaffolding is well known (40 storey construction

is not uncommon in the Far East), and its use is set to increase as a result of the development of a design and erection guide in Hong Kong. Other construction applications include ground stabilisation, through the use of retaining walls and piling, and coastal protection.

### Future potential

**Shelter-** provision of safe, secure, durable, affordable housing and community buildings.

**Livelihood-** generation of employment in planting, processing, construction, furniture etc.

**Ecological-** by conservation of natural forests through substitution of primary timber species, as an efficient carbon sink, and as an alternative to plastics and metals.

**Sustainable food-** by maintaining the fertility of adjoining agricultural lands, control of erosion and, in the case of bamboo, as a direct food source.

Effective dissemination aimed at popularising the new technologies is vital considering the negative perceptions held by many about bamboo in building. Imaginative design and the use of other locally available materials within the cultural context can make the building desirable rather than just acceptable.

Source *TRADA International, UK*  
(Mr. Lionel Jayanetti)

Web: [www.trada.co.uk/international](http://www.trada.co.uk/international)  
Email: [international@trada.co.uk](mailto:international@trada.co.uk)

## SACEP signed a MoU with UNESCO Asia Region

SACEP and UN's Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) with its programmes and offices in Asia intend to cooperate in the areas common to their programmes in South Asia according to the signed MoU on March, 2007. The MoU was signed in the UNESCO office in Delhi on 21st March 2007. Dr. Minja Yang, Asia representative of UNESCO and Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP signed the MoU on behalf of the two organizations.

UNESCO was founded on 16 November 1945. For this specialized United Nations agency, it is not enough to build classrooms in devastated countries or to publish scientific breakthroughs. Education, Social and Natural Science, Culture and Communication are the means to a far more ambitious goal : to build peace in the minds of men. The mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to

conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources.

**Principal Areas of Collaboration**  
UNESCO-Asia and SACEP have identified the thematic areas of Adaptation to Climate Change issues, Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management and the cross-cutting areas of environmental law and information management and public awareness raising as the substantive fields on which the partnership will begin to build. Also develop programmes for eco - rehabilitation in fragile ecosystems, marine, wetlands, drylands and mountains. Both parties will keep each other informed of their respective programmes of assistance and activities in Asia and develop alternative projects in the priority areas identified.

UNESCO is a key player in the global agenda on biodiversity conservation, climate change and linking cultural diversity with biodiversity conservation.



Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP and Dr. Minja Yang, Asia representative of UNESCO exchanging the MoU at New Delhi on 21st March, 2007

## Twenty-Fourth Session of the UNEP Governing Council

The 24th session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-24/GMEF) held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, during 5-9 February 2007. Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP represent the SACEP at the meeting. Participated Ministers and delegates at GC-24/GMEF discussed the emerging policy issues of globalization and the environment, as well as UN reforms.

As a result of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the UN General Assembly, in 1972, officially established UNEP as the central UN node for global environmental cooperation and treaty making. The resolution

also established the UNEP Governing Council (GC) to provide a forum for the international community to address major and emerging environmental policy issues.

The GC-24/GMEF also considered progress reports on: international environmental governance; the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building; strengthening UNEP's scientific base and financing; enhanced coordination across the UN system and the Environment Management Group; budget and programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007; updated UNEP's water policy and strategy; small island developing states (SIDS); environmental

and equity considerations in UNEP's procurement practices; chemicals management; and gender equality in the field of the environment.



Participants at the closing Plenary

## World Wetlands Day 2007 Will there be fish for tomorrow?

Fish for Tomorrow, was the slogan for World Wetlands Day (WWD) commemorated on 2nd February 2007, is one that touches almost all of us, wherever we live and whatever we do. One billion people rely on fish and shellfish as their main or even sole source of protein, and most of us include fish as part of our regular diet. Yet the current state of the world's fisheries is a matter of great concern. The demand for fish will continue to grow as the global population increases. The majority of our fishermen are smallscale fishers: their livelihoods depend on making sure that there will be fish for tomorrow.

The potential solutions to the problems facing the world's fisheries are many, as

our World Wetlands Day materials illustrate, and while some of them require international cooperation, many depend on national and local commitment.

This year's WWD focused in recognition of: the needs of the one billion people who rely on fish as their primary source of animal protein; the state of the world's fisheries where 75% of commercially important marine and most inland water fish stocks are either currently overfished or being fished at their biological limit, the urgent need for effective management of fisheries and the wetland ecosystems that support them.

Source:

[www.ramsar.org/wwd/7/wwd2007](http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/7/wwd2007)

2 February each year is World Wetlands Day. It marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.



## World Water Day

The United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March of each year as the World Day for Water by adopting a resolution. This world day for water was to be observed starting in 1993, in conformity with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development contained in chapter 18 (Fresh Water Resources) of Agenda 21.

The theme of the World Day for Water, 22 March 2007. "Coping with water scarcity" is the theme, under the leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. States were invited to devote the Day to implement the UN recommendations and set up concrete activi-

ties as deemed appropriate in the national context.

The theme highlights the significance of cooperation and importance of an integrated approach to water resource management of water at international, national and local levels. Equity and rights, cultural and ethical issues are essential to be addressed when dealing with limited water resources. Imbalances between availability and demand, the degradation of groundwater and surface water quality, intersectoral competition, interregional and international disputes, all centre on the question of how to cope with scarce water resources.



Source: [www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org)



Reach us on the web!

[www.sacep.org](http://www.sacep.org)

[info@sacep.org](mailto:info@sacep.org)

**SACEP**

Future editions of this Newsletter will highlight regional and national initiatives and emerging environmental issues. We would like to receive related articles or information to share with our readers. Any information published will be duly acknowledged.

We look forward to receive information that could be part of our database of experts and institutions in the region. We also request for information on case studies of best management practices and initiatives in the areas of environmental protection, sustainable resource management and community -based participatory resource management.

The SACEP Newsletter is published quarterly and can be downloaded from the website.

#10 Anderson Road, Colombo -5, Sri Lanka.

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## Recent Publications

Silver Jubilee souvenir & CD



Leaflets published for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas & Solid Waste Management programme for South Asia



## Farewell to Mr. P.K. Kotta

Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Kotta departs SACEP as a GIS Specialist and Project Co-ordinator of South Asia Environment Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC). He served at SACEP during the period January 1994 to February 2007.

During his tenure with SACEP, Mr. Kotta was involved in

Facilitating implementation of UNEP's Strategy for the region to the Early Warning and Assessment Programmes which includes setting up of GIS/IP facilities within the region Regional consultations to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) State of the Environment (SoE) Reporting and Assessment

Capacity Building and Data Management through establishment of GIS/IP facilities within the region Assisting SACEP's Programme development as per the recommendations of its Governing Council.

He may be contacted at [pradyumna.kotta@gmail.com](mailto:pradyumna.kotta@gmail.com) SACEP wishes all the best for his future endeavours.

## Two new staff members at SACEP

**Ms. Priyankari Alexander**

Ms. Priyankari Alexander assumed duties as a Programme Officer, at SACEP in January 2007. She is a graduate from the University of Delhi, India and is pursuing her M.Sc. in Environmental Science at the University of Colombo. Prior to joining SACEP, she has worked at the Urban Development Authority of Sri Lanka as a Planning Assistant (Environment) attached to the Environment and Landscape Division.

**Ms. Nelum Wickramasinghe**

Ms. Nelum Wickramasinghe assumed duties as a Junior Programme Officer, at SACEP for South Asian Seas Programme on March 2007. She is a graduate from the University of Colombo, and her experiences include Wild life Conservation and Management, Ornithology, Water Pollution Monitoring, and Wetland Conservation and Management. Prior to joining SACEP, she has worked at the Department of Zoology, University of Colombo as a Teaching Assistant.

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