

MEPSEAS PROJECT
Ha Long Statement
THIRD HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING
25 – 27 October 2022
Quang Ninh, Viet Nam

Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam as participating countries to the Marine Environment Protection of the South East Asian Seas (MEPSEAS) project under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) adopted the following Statement at the conclusion of the MEPSEAS Third High Level Regional Meeting held on 25 to 27 October 2022 at Ha Long City, Viet Nam;

Acknowledge the importance of the South East Asian Seas to the countries and peoples of the region which calls for the need to urgently ratify and implement the international conventions related to the protection of the marine environment;

Recall the commitment to join in the efforts to undertake activities that focus on effective implementation of international conventions relating to ballast water management, application of anti-fouling systems on ships, prevention of marine pollution by dumping of wastes and other matter;

Acknowledge with gratitude the invaluable contribution of the MEPSEAS Project in enhancing their capacity to effectively implement the priority conventions pertaining to the protection of the South East Asian Seas with specific citation of the support extended by IMO and Norad;

Confirm the gains achieved through the adoption of a sustained platform of assistance founded on strong inter-agency cooperation and dedicated attention to the development of a robust implementation framework;

Support the call to build on the outcomes of the MEPSEAS Project as a way forward in the protection of the South East Asian Seas by sustaining the network established among the participating countries and knowledge sharing and experience with pertinent stakeholders and the wider maritime community;

Call for continued support of international and regional organizations and bilateral partners such as but not limited to the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG), The Tokyo MOU, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia and Women in Maritime-Asia for the region's endeavours to ensure a healthy and robust marine environment;

Request the Chair of the ASEAN MTWG to contact IMO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat to encourage the establishment of partnership cooperation between the two organizations to

carry out knowledge sharing, participation of each other's meetings, intergovernmental cooperation and joint resource mobilization.

Adopted this day, 26 October 2022, Ha Long City, Quang Ninh, Viet Nam.