

December 12-16
Haikou City, Hainan Province, PR China

Information Bulletin No. 1

The East Asian Seas Congress 2006

The year 2003 created new opportunities for the sustainable development of the seas of East Asia, as it heralded the birth of the first-ever East Asian Seas Congress. The five-day event, held from 8-12 December in Putrajaya, Malaysia, brought together various stakeholders from diverse disciplines to work hand-in-hand to uphold the welfare of the East Asian Seas and ensure the sustainability of their resources. It will be remembered as the occasion where the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) was endorsed by environment- and ocean-related ministers and senior officials from PEMSEA's 12 participating countries, with the signing of the Putrajaya Declaration.

This Congress, a follow-up to the Putrajaya event, promises to drive the wheels of sustainable development in continuous motion, thereby bringing East Asia closer and closer to ultimately achieving a healthy and bountiful future for its seas and its people. Designed to address pressing coastal and marine environmental issues in practical formats and against a multidisciplinary setting, the various Congress components provide participants the opportunity to take active roles in sustainable development.

Features

The EAS Congress 2006 features the:

- **Ministerial Forum on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA***
14–15 December;
- **International Conference on Coastal and Ocean Governance: One Ocean, One People, One Vision**
12–14 December;
- **Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council***
16 December; and
- **Youth Forum, Exhibits, Poster Sessions, Field Trip and other Side Events.**

*By invitation only.

Host/Local Organizing Committee

The 2006 Congress is being hosted by the government of PR China and co-organized by the State Oceanic Administration (SOA).

Contact Persons:

Mr. Li Haiqing
Director General
Department of International Cooperation
State Oceanic Administration
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue, Beijing 100860
People's Republic of China
Telephones: (86) (10) 6804-2695/6603-2211
(86) (10) 6852-71665
Fax: (86) (10) 6603-0799
E-mail: hgli@soa.gov.cn

Mr. Liang Fengkui
Director
Division of International Organization
Department of International Cooperation
1 Fuxingmenwai Avenue, Beijing 100860
People's Republic of China
Telephone: (86) (10) 6801-9791
E-mail: fkliang@soa.gov.cn

Congress Schedule

12 December	Day 1: Opening Ceremony, International Conference and Side Events
0830–1015	Opening Ceremony and Keynote Addresses
1015–1100	Photo Session and Exhibit Opening Tea/Coffee Break
1100–1300	International Conference
1300–1430	Lunch
1430–1630	International Conference
1630–1700	Tea/Coffee Break
1700–1900	International Conference
1900–2130	Reception Dinner
13 December	Day 2: International Conference and Side Events
0800-0900	Keynote Addresses
0900-1100	International Conference and PNLG Forum
1030-1100	Tea/Coffee Break
1100-1230	International Conference and PNLG Forum
1230-1400	Lunch
1400-1600	International Conference
1600-1630	Tea/Coffee Break
1630-1830	International Conference
14 December	Day 3: International Conference, Closing Ceremony, Ministerial Forum Opening Ceremony and Side Events
0830-0900	Keynote Address
0900-1030	International Conference and ICM Dialogue
1030-1100	Tea/Coffee Break
1100-1230	International Conference and ICM Dialogue
1230-1400	Lunch
1400-1600	Reporting on Conference Outcomes and Congress Closing Ceremony
1600-1630	Tea/Coffee Break
1630-1800	Ministerial Forum Opening Ceremony and Special Address
15 December	Day 4: Ministerial Forum, Field Trip and Side Events
0830-1030	Ministerial Forum, Field Trip and Side Events
1030-1100	Tea/Coffee Break
1100-1230	Ministerial Forum, Field Trip and Side Events
1230-1330	Lunch
1330-1530	Ministerial Forum, Field Trip and Side Events
1530-1900	
1900-2100	Farewell Dinner - Provincial Government
16 December	Day 5: Partnership Council Meeting and Side Events
0830-1000	Partnership Council Meeting and Side Events
1000-1030	Tea/Coffee Break
1030-1230	Partnership Council Meeting and Side Events
1230-1330	Lunch
1330-1530	Partnership Council Meeting and Side Events
1530-1600	Tea/Coffee Break
1600-1800	Partnership Council Meeting and Side Events

Congress Secretariat

The Secretariat is based in the PEMSEA Regional Programme Office in Manila, Philippines.

All communications regarding the Congress should be directed to:

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng

Regional Programme Director, PEMSEA and Head, EAS Congress 2006 Secretariat

GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme of Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

E-mail: congress@pemsea.org

Telephones: (63-2) 926 3752; (63-2) 920 2211 to 14

Telefax: (63-2) 926 9712

Congress Website

The Congress website contains information about the program schedule, plenary sessions, congress themes, workshops and seminars, submission of papers and abstracts and many others. It is accessible through www.pemsea.org/eascongress.

Pre- and Post-Congress Tours/ Accompanying Persons programme

Participants, spouses and/or accompanying persons who are interested in the tours and leisure activities may contact the Secretariat for assistance. Further information will be provided as soon as detailed arrangements are made.

Registration Information

Participants must complete a registration form and return it by fax, email or post to the Secretariat. Registration and payment can also be made through the Congress website.

Registration Fees

US\$300 for foreign participants

US\$150 for students

US\$250 for local participants

The registration fee covers attendance to the conference and workshops; conference package, which includes materials, kit, bag and ID; three lunches; coffee/tea during the breaks, two banquet receptions and conference proceedings. Deadline for registration is on 1 November.

Fifty percent of the registration fee can be refunded for cancellations made on or before 31 October. No refund will be given for cancellations made after this date.

The Secretariat will post/email a confirmation letter acknowledging your registration.

Mode of Payment

Payment can be made in cash, check or money order, or by telegraphic transfer or credit card (Visa, MasterCard and American Express only). Credit card payments can be made online at the Congress website.

Payment via telegraphic transfer should be sent to:


Account Name: International Maritime Organization
Account Number: 2-232-00310-8
Bank Name: Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank)
V. Luna - East Avenue Branch
Bank Address: 18 Lyman Bldg., V. Luna Road Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Participants shall shoulder all related bank charges when paying through telegraphic transfer.

Accommodation

The Congress Organizer will cover the cost of accommodation for PEMSEA supported/sponsored participants. However, incidental charges such as laundry, local and international calls, mini-bar consumption, etc., shall be charged to the participants' individual accounts.

For participants who are not sponsored, the Secretariat has blocked off a limited number of hotel rooms at special rates, ranging from US\$35-50. Participants are advised to make reservations as early as possible to be able to avail of the special Congress room rates. Reservations after 31 October will be subject to room availability and extension of discounted room rates will be at the hotel's discretion. To avail of the special rates, please fill up the attached reservation form and submit to the Congress Secretariat.

			
Huandao Tide Hotel (5 Star)	Bao Hua Harbour View Hotel (4 Star)	Golden Sea View Hotel (4 Star)	Yehai Hotel (4 Star)
Single/Double Occupancy - RMB370	Single - RMB300	Single - RMB350	Standard - RMB240
	Standard - 300 RMB	Standard - RMB300	Single - RMB260
Business Suite - RMB1200	Luxury Seascape Standard Rooms - RMB698	Superior Executive - RMB650	Superior Executive Suite - RMB780
18, Peace Avenue Haidian Island, Haikou 570208 Hainan, PR China Tel: (0898) 66268888 Fax: (0898) 66265588 www.huandaotide.com	No. 69 Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan, PR China Tel: (0898) 68536699 Fax: (0898) 68535358	No. 67 Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan, PR China Tel: (0898) 68537718 Fax: (0898) 68535999 www.goldenhotel.com.cn	No. 46 Yusha Road Financial & Trading District, Haikou, Hainan, PR China Tel: (0898) 68598888 Fax: (0898) 68593333 www.yehaihotel.com

*Currency exchange rate as of July 2006: US\$1 = RMB7.9.

Note: Breakfast not included. Breakfast at hotel is approximately RMB40.

General Information

Haikou, the Host City

Haikou, a shining pearl in the South China Sea, is the political, economic and cultural center of Hainan Province, the largest special economic zone in PR China. The subtropical location leads to a delightful tropical monsoon climate with adequate sunshine and rainfall.

Also called the Coconut City, Haikou is one of the first Excellent Tourism Cities in China, famous for its graceful coconut trees, which are also the municipal trees. The downtown area of the city has an excellent environment with streets lined with coconut palms. Here, modern and convenient public transport facilities abound. All that is best in a tropical seaside city is in Haikou, with its pollution-free streets and where tourist needs are met in a friendly and welcoming way by the locals.

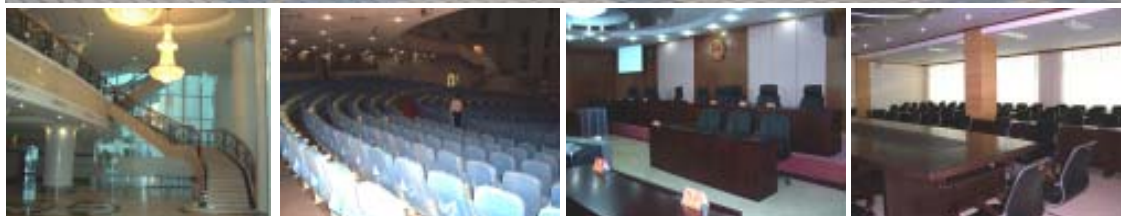
Haikou has evolved from being a simple sightseeing city to an attractive seaside resort and business center. The city is fast-becoming Southern China's key center for tourism, owing to its excellent services for its tourists.



Hotels marked in black are official conference hotels with special negotiated rates for participants.

Congress Venue

The People's Hall has been selected as the venue for the East Asian Seas Congress 2006. This multifunctional venue boasts of world-class facilities that are ideal for large-scale international events. Fully equipped with spacious plenary halls and state-of-the-art meeting rooms, the People's Hall offers a safe, conducive and engaging atmosphere for significant gatherings.



Language

The official language for the Congress is English.

Liability

The Congress organizers accept no responsibility for any damage or injury to persons or property during the Conference. Participants are advised to arrange for their own travel and health insurance.

Passport and Visa Requirements

Participants may be required to obtain an entry visa to PR China. Please consult the Chinese Embassy or Consulate in your country for detailed information on entry requirements or exemptions. Please ensure that your passports are valid at least six (6) months from date of travel.

Letters of invitation to assist in governmental regulations and visa processing may be requested from the Secretariat.

Climate/Tourism

Hainan is the largest ocean island and the smallest land province in PR China. Known for its natural beauty, travelers from around the world have come to call it "the Oriental Hawaii."

Located at the south end of PR China, Hainan offers a mild climate and tropical environment, favorable for those seeking a peaceful experience with nature or a relaxing holiday with family and friends.

Hainan is an ideal place to be away from the cold winter. The average temperature in January and February is 16 C to 24 C and in July and August, 25 C to 29 C. The rainy seasons are from May to October. The best time to visit Hainan is from between November to March the following year.

Travel

PEMSEA-sponsored participants will be contacted separately by the Congress Secretariat regarding airline booking and other travel arrangements.

Non-sponsored participants booking their own air-tickets should inform the Congress Secretariat of their flight details.

The Best hub to Haikou is via Guangzhou, with about 10 flights daily, to and from. Alternative hubs are via Hong Kong, Xiamen, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Please consult with your travel agency.

To facilitate smooth and quick airport formalities, participants are reminded to fill-up the arrival/departure form, health, and customs declaration forms. These forms are usually available with the airlines/flight attendants.

Airport

Haikou Meilan Airport is located in Meilan Village, Qionghua City, a crow-fly distance of 15 km (9 miles) southeast to Haikou City.

Since it opened in 1999 to replace the former Haikou Dayingshan Airport, Haikou Meilan International Airport has had an amazing growth of 13 percent in its yearly capacity of handling passengers. As one of the top ten busiest civil airports in China, it is capable of serving 9,300,000 passengers every year, with 4,016 per hour during peaks. Expanded from 2003-2005, it has one of the highest air traffic control towers in Asia (70.34 m/231 ft). It has a specially-designed terminal building which resembles the houses of the local Li people and covers 99,300 km² (25 acres). Densely greened, the garden-like airport is also famed for its well-equipped facilities and premium services. It is now connected to 56 cities by 95 air routes, 9 of which are international..

Transportation

Haikou Meilan Airport is a short 30-minute ride from downtown by bus. A shuttle service operates between the airport and downtown Haikou, beginning at 5:30 am and running until the last flight of the day. China Southern Airlines and Hainan Airlines provide a free shuttle service to the airport. The route for the China Southern Airline shuttle starts at the gate of Civil Aviation Hotel on Haixiu Road while the Hainan Airline shuttle starts at the old airport building. Taxi fares to the airport range from RMB 30-40, but be sure to bargain the rate with the driver. The local host, however, will provide buses for airport-hotel transfers. Flight details should be received well in advance by the Secretariat.

EAS Congress information/assistance counter will be set up at the airport. Participants may proceed to this counter for any assistance.

If transportation is needed within Haikou and neighboring locations, the Secretariat and the local organizing committee will be happy to assist in making arrangements as necessary. Taxi services are also available in Haikou.

Time Zone

GMT: +8

Difference from Hong Kong: +0