Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance to Protect Marine Environment: A Case Study of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project

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Introduction of the YSLME Project

- Geographic boundary
Introduction of the YSLME Project

- Major environmental problems
Introduction of the YSLME Project

• The YSLME Project
  – UNDP, GEF, the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Korea
  – Its aims
Introduction of the YSLME Project

– Major achievements

• A practical Strategic Action Plan
  – Regional targets
  – Actions
    » 2 level technical actions
    » Governance actions
    » Legal and institutional actions

• Joint data research
• Involvement of DPRK
• Demonstration activities
The structure of regional ocean governance in the YSLME Project

• An effective regional coordination framework
The structure of regional ocean governance in the YSLME Project

- A wide participation of stakeholders

Top down process
- Parliamentary meeting
- Local government training

Bottom up process
- Youth program
- Intern program
- Small grant program
The structure of regional ocean governance in the YSLME Project

- An ecosystem-based approach
  - Science driven
  - ECC
    - Targets
    - Actions
The structure of regional ocean governance in the YSLME Project

– ECC

• Targets
• Actions

a 25-30% reduction in fishing effort
  Control fishing boat numbers
  Stop fishing in certain areas/ seasons
  Monitor and assess stock fluctuations

the rebuilding of fish stocks
  Increase mesh size
  Enhance stocks
  Improve fisheries management

Improvement of sustainable mariculture techniques to reduce environmental stress
  Develop environment-friendly mariculture methods and technology
  Encourage Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture (IMTA)
  Reduce nutrient discharge
  Control diseases effectively
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- IMTA concept: The particulate waste in the water column is removed by filter feeding bivalves, while the portion that ends on the seafloor is utilised by sea cucumbers. The dissolved inorganic nutrients (N, P & CO₂) are absorbed by the seaweed that also produces oxygen, which in turn is used by the other cultured organisms. Modified from (Fang et al. 2009)
Weak points of this ROG structure

- An ineffective national coordination mechanism
- Lack of total planning of the region
- Lack of scientific study of the ECC method