

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

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Issues and Agenda for Yellow Sea Cooperation on the SDG 14

Fangli Qiao, Deputy Director General, FIO

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

I am Fangli QIAO, the Deputy Director-General of the First Institute of Oceanography of Ministry of Natural Resources of China, also the member of the Executive Planning Group of the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. First, I would like to thank the hosts for inviting me to attend the 2020 Sustainable Development Forum for the Yellow Sea. And it's a great pleasure for me to communicate with the colleagues from China, Korea and international organizations for the sustainable development of Yellow Sea.

There is a long history of marine cooperation between China and the Republic of Korea. In 1994, the two governments signed the first MOU on Cooperation in Marine Science and Technology and then the China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Center was established in Qingdao, China, in May 1995, serving as a unique platform for mutual communication, which marked an important milestone of China-Korea marine cooperation. Since then on, by taking full advantage of the Joint Center, the Chinese and Korean governments have effectively promoted the collaboration in marine affairs. The two sides have jointly funded and implemented more than 60 cooperative projects in a wide range areas including oceanography, marine environment, marine resources, ocean management and policy, marine economy and culture, data sharing, etc. More than 10 cooperation agreements have been signed between marine research institutions of the two countries and around 90 joint seminars or workshops have been successfully organized.

The Yellow Sea is of vital importance to both China and Korea, and it has always been the focus of our bilateral cooperation. So far, under the framework of the China-Korea Joint Ocean Research Center, most of the cooperative projects were related to the Yellow Sea, such as the Yellow Sea ocean circulation dynamics, Yellow Sea sediment dynamics and paleo-environment, Yellow Sea cold water mass, operational ocean forecasting system, climate change prediction and applications, the satellite monitoring of macro-algae bloom in the Yellow sea, etc. All these projects have achieved rich results and greatly contributed to our better understanding and sustainable management of the Yellow Sea.

Just now, a few speakers have referred to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. I very much agree with you that the UN Ocean Decade provides us with a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to significantly raise the awareness of governments and peoples on the importance of the oceans and seas, to change human cognition and behavior towards the oceans, to promote the innovation of marine science and technology, as well as to provide science-based solutions for the sustainable development of our oceans. Through implementation of the UN Ocean Decade, not only can we promote the sustainable development of the oceans, but also the sustainable development of human society as a whole.

A few weeks ago, Dr. ZHANG Zhanhai, the Chief Engineer of the Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources, delivered a keynote speech regarding China's plan of the UN Ocean Decade during the 2020 Xiamen World Ocean Week. During his speech, Dr. ZHANG mentioned that the Chinese government will be deeply involved in the UN Ocean Decade and is ready to make a positive contribution. China will establish a high-level National Committee for the Ocean Decade to coordinate relevant ocean-related governments at all levels, scientific research institutes and universities, enterprises, foundations, NGOs, etc. In addition, China will develop a National Action Plan for the Ocean Decade, which will put forward China's actions and commitments in working with the international community to protect the global oceans and promote the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources.

As one of the main technical-supporting organization for the Chinese government to the UN Ocean Decade, the First Institute of Oceanography is willing to work closely with relevant Korean institutions and international organizations to co-design and co-implement the Ocean Decade activities. In particular, for the sustainable development of the Yellow Sea, it is necessary to build on the outcomes of previous cooperation to further strengthen our cooperation in marine science and technology in areas such as observation and monitoring, Yellow Sea Large marine ecosystem under the changing climate, climate change and prediction, marine disaster warning systems, as well as data exchange and sharing etc. Under the high pressures of climate change and anthropogenic effects, the Yellow Sea and the global ocean have been facing more and more challenges for sustainable development. The Ocean Decade provides us a great opportunity for further cooperation on ocean and climate.

I believe that through the joint efforts of China and Korea, and by taking good advantage of important international mechanisms such as the UN Ocean Decade, our scientific knowledge, understanding and management of the Yellow Sea will be promoted to a much higher level. Let's work together to make the Yellow Sea truly "the ocean we want".