

# SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

## Summary of Discussion

### Issues and Agenda for Yellow Sea Cooperation on the SDG 14

Jung-Ho Nam, Deputy for Marine Policy Research, KMI

#### 1. A Current State and Main Progress on the SDG 14(100-200 Words)

Among targets and indicators of SDG 14, coverage of marine protected areas is highlighted in evaluating progress of the goal. Many efforts at global, regional and local levels have been made to achieve the target, 10% MPAs of marine areas. Global society, however, has witnessed 7.7% of MPA coverage, less reached to the target, and Korea's progress was far limited, 2.3% of national jurisdiction sea area. MPAs seem to be more effective tool in terms of biodiversity conservation than 10 years ago, recalling that MPAs coverage of marine key biodiversity areas increased 20.5% in 2000 to 46.0% in 2020. MPAs as the most effective management tool, can be applied to protect biodiversity within areas beyond national jurisdiction. Control of land-based activities has been strengthened at regional and national levels through integrated coastal management or integrated river basin-coastal management. Nutrients discharge into coastal waters causing eutrophication or blooming is decreasing, except areas undergoing dead zone. Enactment and implementation of marine spatial planning become mainstreamed into policy regime among all level societies, which is an overarching institutional framework for achieving sustainable development of our ocean.

#### 2. Raised Issues Related to Progress on the SDGs Implementation (100-200 Words)

In the process of SDGs implementation, we are confronting some challenging issues. First one is that connectedness between SDG 14 and other SDGs is less understood, i.e. SDG 7 (clean energy), 11 (sustainable cities), 13 (climate actions), 15 (life on land), 16(peace & justice), and 17 (partnership). Connectedness is one of fundamental philosophies to endure SD, it might be nature of our action and thinking. Ocean people bring their focus on only marine, less even coastal lands. The lack of comprehensive and holistic approach to tackle SD issues leads to limited success. The narrowed focus also goes to 'land people'. Second, actions against ocean acidification, redistribution of marine organisms and its related functional transformation of marine ecosystem is very slow and less proactive. These issues are highly related with climate change. So, climate change agenda should be more incorporated into marine policy agenda set. Thirdly, despite of decrease of nutrients discharge, other longstanding or emerging issues, i.e. land-based litters, derelict fishing gear, and plastic pollution are heavily undermining ocean health and economy depending the health. Recognizing severity of the issue, our preparedness is still far from desirable level, thus development of sophisticated tools is required, institutional, social and economic ones.

#### 3. The International Cooperation Plans and Agenda on the SDG 14(100-200 Words)

SDG 17 deals with the cooperation, integral part in achieving SDGs by 2030 globally. Many countries have invested budgets and dispatched experts to help less developing countries. Unfortunately, of note, I often witnessed unnecessary competition, causing less effectiveness/efficiency and spending valuable resources. Collective efforts needs to be emphasized, accordingly. Place-based approach might be taken by donor countries or AID agencies, to overcome sectoral approach. Topic-based approach sometimes fails to achieve balanced progress, i.e. leaving some SDGs behind. When it comes to Yellow sea, on-going regional cooperation mechanism, Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project, is facing termination of phase II. Korea-China dialogue is underway, but not having brought fruitful output. Building a cooperation mechanism for our shared sea will be the firm base for international cooperation at regional level. More proactive bi-lateral cooperation for the sea can contribute to establishing more prospective and constructive relation. In the future, we might see tri-lateral cooperation, by encompassing North Korea, to protect and wisely use our common sea.