

CONCEPT PAPER

ARF WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF MARINE HAZARDS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Background

1. Many natural disasters are closely linked with the ocean. Marine hazards have brought great losses to human lives as well as the economic and social development in coastal areas of the countries in the Asia-Pacific. With the further development of coastal economy and increase of its population, if there is no effective control and prevention of marine hazards, the damage will be enlarged. It demands all regional countries to strengthen the cooperation in management in this field, so as to jointly deal with the threat from marine hazards.

2. In this context, China proposes holding an ARF workshop on Management of Marine Hazards in the Asia-Pacific, aiming at exchanging on up-to-date progress in marine hazards prevention and mitigation, improving the accuracy of marine hazard monitoring, prediction and forecast, reducing losses of life and properties, and eventually promoting stability, peace and prosperity in the region.

Topics

3. Technical exchanges and discussions are carried out in four topics to identify hot spots and urgent tasks.

Topic 1: Marine hazards assessment, management and mitigation in the Asia-Pacific region

Topic 2: Marine meteorology and short-term climate monitoring and prediction in the Asia-Pacific region

Topic 3: Marine environmental and ecological hazards monitoring and prediction in the Asia-Pacific region

Topic 4: Cooperation in emergency response to marine hazards in the Asia-Pacific region

Participants

4. Each ARF participant is expected to send up to 2-3 representatives from government authorities, agencies or business sectors to the workshop. Experts from certain relevant international organizations will also be invited to the workshop. Attendants will speak in their own capacity at the workshop and are not on behalf of their respective government or institution.

Date, Venue and Working Language

5. The 2-day workshop is scheduled to be held in October, 2016 in Guangzhou, China, by the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (NMEFC), State Oceanic Administration (SOA). English will be the working language.

Administrative Arrangements

6. China and one ASEAN member state will co-chair the workshop. Any questions about the workshop, please contact Mr. Bao Haibin (bao_haibin@mfa.gov.cn) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or Ms. Zhang Lu (zhanglupub@hotmail.com) from NMEFC.

7. The host will bear administrative costs of the workshop, including welcome dinner and working lunches. International travel, accommodation and any other personal costs will be shouldered by the attendants themselves.