



Regional Environmental Security Forum (RESF)

Day 1 (02 June 2014)

Purpose: To build military resilience to the impacts of climate change; to identify opportunities to operationalize environmental activities; to mature environmental security partnerships, diplomacy and awareness in the South Asia region; to focus on developing persistent cooperation between partner nations to ensure sustainable environmental management; to share sustainable and integrated water resource solutions and best practices; to address waste-stream management in a military context; and to communicate strategies and techniques in energy management to find interoperability solutions and resource savings.

Highlights

- MG Stevens (USACE) and Minister of Defence Nazim (Maldives) delivered opening ceremony remarks.
- Dr. Manthrithilake (International Water Management Institute), Mr. Gyawali (Nepal Ministry of Water Resources) and Mr. Rasheed (Male' Water & Sewerage Company) delivered three diverse water security presentations.
- A panel session was held on water security.
- Dr. Haynes (USACE) led an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) work group activity.
- MNDF hosted an icebreaker on Kudos Bandos Island.

Way Forward

- Waste Management will be the primary theme of the Forum tomorrow.
- Three speakers will present on waste management issues in South Asia. Topics will focus on post-disaster debris management, waste management siting, and solid waste strategies across South Asia. Speakers will also participate in a panel session.
- Forum participants will travel to Thulusdhoo Island and take a tour that focuses on coastal erosion, waste disposal, water desalination, and land reclamation.



MNDF performs a cultural procession during the opening ceremony



Forum participants engage during an IWRM work group activity





Regional Environmental Security Forum (RESF)

Day 2 (03 June 2014)

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Highlights

- Mr. Musthafa (Maldives Environmental Protection Agency) moderated the waste management theme.
- Waste management presentations were delivered by the Bangladesh Army, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, and the South Asia Environmental Co-Operative Programme.
- A panel session on waste management allowed participants to engage on the topic.
- A site tour of Thulusdhoo Island was conducted. The tour included stops to witness and discuss coastal erosion, waste disposal, land reclamation (see comparison photos below), and water de-salinization.

Way Forward

- Resource Protection will be the primary theme of the event tomorrow.
- Speakers from Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka will present and participate in a panel session.
- Topics will include maritime pollution, coastal zone management strategies, and payment for environmental services.
- A Table-Top Exercise (TTX) will be conducted. The TTX will evaluate the region's ability to respond to an oil spill originating in the Maldives and spreading to the Bay of Bengal.

Feb 2014

Jun 2014



Participants tour the Coca-Cola Factory on Thulusdhoo



Ms. Griffin (MARFORPAC) explains the Thulusdhoo waste disposal site





Regional Environmental Security Forum (RESF)

Day 3 (04 June 2014)

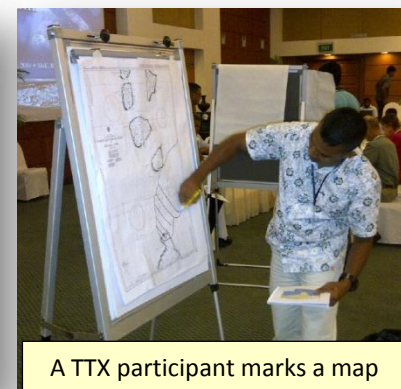
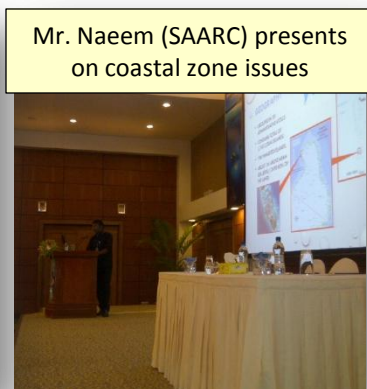
Purpose: To build military resilience to the impacts of climate change; to identify opportunities to operationalize environmental activities; to mature environmental security partnerships, diplomacy and awareness in the South Asia region; to focus on developing persistent cooperation between partner nations to ensure sustainable environmental management; to share sustainable and integrated water resource solutions and best practices; to address waste-stream management in a military context; and to communicate strategies and techniques in energy management to find interoperability solutions and resource savings.

Highlights

- Brig Gen Ahmed Shahid (Maldives) moderated the Resource Protection theme.
- Speakers presented on Payment for Environmental Services, Marine Pollution, and Coastal Zone Issues.
- An interactive panel session was held between speakers and participants on resource protection.
- A Table-Top Exercise (TTX) was conducted to evaluate how South Asian nations would respond to an oil spill near the Zero Degree Channel.
- An official dinner was hosted by MNDF for all participants.

Way Forward

- The RESF will conclude tomorrow.
- The final day will focus on energy topics.
- Four speakers will present on energy implications to maritime domains, electricity supply, renewable energy, and energy integration frameworks.
- Brig Gen Mark McLeod (USPACOM) will moderate the energy theme.
- Participant evaluation forms and After-Action Review comments will be collected.
- The closing ceremony will be led by Ambassador Michele Sison (USA) and Honorable Thoriq Ibrahim (Maldives).





Regional Environmental Security Forum (RESF)

Day 4 (05 June 2014)

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Highlights

- Brig Gen Mark McLeod (USPACOM) led the Energy theme.
- Subject Matter Expert energy presentations were delivered by representatives from India, Nepal and Australia.
- A panel session was held on energy topics.
- An After-Action Review was conducted where all countries provided suggestions for the 2015 event, as well as environmental security projects that could be brought to action.
- AMB Sison (US), Minister of Defence Nazim (Maldives), and Minister of Environment & Energy (Thoriq) led the closing ceremony.

Way Forward

- An After-Action Review report will be prepared for the event and distributed to all of the participants.
- Opportunities to operationalize projects in South Asia will be reviewed, and proposals will be prepared.
- The 2015 Pacific Environmental Security Forum will be hosted by the Thailand Ministry of Defence.
- An Initial Planning Conference for the 2015 event has tentatively been scheduled for 25-29 August.
- Security Cooperation Officers and Service Components will be invited to attend the IPC to identify potential environmental security project opportunities.
- Interim Progress Reviews will start with the Thais in July.



Brig Gen McLeod (USPACOM) moderates the Energy theme



A Maldivian study asks a question during the panel session



Energy panelists respond to questions from participants



AMB Sison speaks at the closing ceremony