



MNOCC

CASE STUDIES

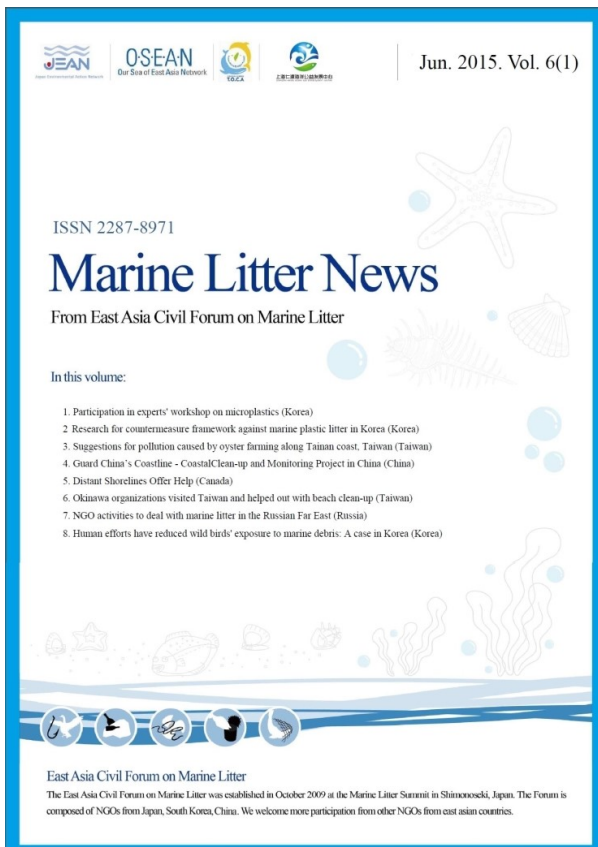
OSEAN

OSEAN (Our Sea of East Asia Network) is a South Korean non-profit organization aiming to protect the marine environment by linking citizens and science. Established in 2009, OSEAN is a 'learning community' of citizens aiming to find scientific solutions to environmental problems at the same time being a voluntary group for environmental protection. Specifically, OSEAN places focus on the issue of marine debris. OSEAN is a civic group dedicated to research, education, policy development, and international cooperation for the protection of the marine environment.

CONTEXT

OSEAN (Our Sea of East Asia Network) is a non-profit organization established in 2009 and registered at the Ministry of Land, Transportation, and Maritime Affairs of South Korea.

OSEAN's vision is to be a network hub for East Asian marine environmental protection. They see their mission as the protection of the global marine environment by linking science and citizens, and their core values are: respect for life, citizen participation, creativity, sound science, and solidarity.



Above: Biannual newsletter published by East Asia Civil Forum on Marine Litter.

Project Name

OSEAN

Location

South Korea

Concept

OSEAN is a "learning community" of citizens aiming to find scientific solutions to environmental problems, at the same time being a volunteer group for environmental protection. Their focus is particularly on marine debris.



"Please save the Black-faced Spoonbills" (above) is one of the several **research studies** conducted by OSEAN

HOW DOES IT WORK?

OSEAN is a civic group dedicated to research, education, policy development, and international cooperation for the protection of the marine environment. To solve the problem of marine debris, OSEAN believes it requires cooperation from all the global citizens as well as diverse interest groups including governments, researchers, fishers, and businesses.

A multi-approach process

OSEAN proceeds towards environmental protection and awareness-raising, by following diverse approaches:

1. Research

The representative citizen science research by OSEAN is now known as the National Marine Debris Monitoring Programme. It was started in 2008 before OSEAN was established and it still continues up until now with NGOs participation at 40 beaches all across South Korea under the control of KOEM (Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation), and with governmental support. OSEAN has implemented many other research projects since then.

2. Education

Based on research results, OSEAN has developed an educational kit for fishermen and educational materials for elementary school teachers targeting young children at elementary school level. In addition, OSEAN has been organizing the International Coastal Clean-up in Korea.

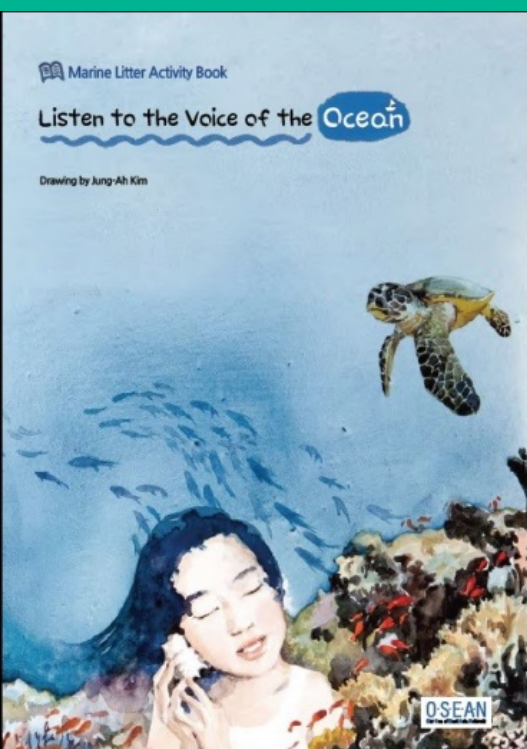
3. Policy Development

Based on research results, OSEAN is also involved in promoting policy development. The major OSEAN project in the policy sector is to develop a “National Management Plan of Marine Debris” for the government. It was completed in cooperation with the Korea Maritime Institute, a policy development institute supported by the government and KOEM.

4. International Cooperation

Together with JEAN (the Japan Environment Action Network), OSEAN has established the East Asian Civil Forum on Marine Litter, through which relevant NGOs and organizations in Asia could share experiences and information and work together on marine debris problems in the region. The East Asia Civil Forum on Marine Litter publishes biannual newsletters on marine litter. The forum is open to NGOs and organizations in the region that have an interest in and passion for marine issues. The current network member groups are Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and China.

OSEAN publishes **activity books for young children** (see below) and **educational kits for fishermen**



Research Projects

Since 2008, OSEAN has implemented many other research projects such as:

- determination of the impact of marine debris on wildlife in South Korea,
- protection of the endangered Black-faced Spoonbills from plastic debris in nests,
- determination of microplastic distribution on beaches and relationship among different size groups,
- improvement in recycling of derelict styrofoam buoys and finding solutions through participatory processes, and
- economic impact of land-based litter.

In 2013, OSEAN established the Korea Marine Litter Institute (KMLI). From 2013 onwards, KMLI has been undertaking research and playing a more important role to activate communication and sharing among civil societies, researchers, and decision makers on the marine litter issue.

Publications

In 2009, OSEAN published an educational kit on marine debris for Korean fishermen, titled “Endless Challenge to Clean Sea”, with financial support from the Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs (MLTM) and the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM). The kit, co-authored by Mr. Jongmyoung Lee and Ms. Sunwook Hong at OSEAN, aims to educate fishermen on the gravity of the marine debris issue and to show them how they can participate in efforts to reduce it. The primary target of the education kit is people who work closely with fishermen, such as local officials, the Coast Guard, instructors in local educational institutions, members of fishery cooperatives, and others. The kit is composed of an instructor’s manual, booklets, a DVD, posters, and a briefcase. The instructor’s manual provides detailed scripts for educators and supplementary information, references, and photos are also included in the DVD for in-depth education.

In 2012, an activity book for elementary school level children on marine debris was published in South Korea. The book under the subject, “Listen to the Voice of the Ocean”, was made with the artworks by artist Jung-Ah Kim, a member of OSEAN. The 20-page book is composed of nine activities with which young students can feel the pain of the wildlife damaged from marine debris, and understand the importance of our daily life behaviors. Originally, it was written in Korean and distributed to schools and NGOs who are interested in the marine environment in South Korea. In 2013, OSEAN prepared the English version, which is now available for download and global distribution.

Sustainability

East Asian countries are connected to each other environmentally, geographically, historically, and culturally through shared regional seas. The work which OSEAN is doing in South Korea and in East Asia could possibly be replicated in other regions. OSEAN focuses on research, education, policy development, and international cooperation for the protection of marine environment. These interrelated areas are believed to result in significant protection of the marine environment.



Global Partnership
on Marine Litter

This case study was developed in collaboration with OSEAN, a member of the Global Partnership On Marine Litter (GPML). For more information on the Initiative, visit: www.koreamarinelitter.blogspot.kr.

Do you have an innovative initiative that contributes to preventing or reducing marine litter? Please visit www.marinelitternetwork.org and share information or contact:

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