



Activity Title and Number: Internship at DG MARE; A300-C3

Beneficiary: State Ocean Administration (SOA)

Location and Date: Belgium; 15 January-21 March, 2014

Stakeholders: Member States experts, Industry, Academic institutions

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

The European Commission and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a High Level Dialogue on an integrated approach to Ocean affairs in Oct 2012. The aim of the MoU is to promote and enhance mutual understanding of ocean affairs through information exchange on domestic policy approaches, legislation, and best practices. Both governments agreed to put the MoU into practice through various activities, being the internship at DG Mare the first activity. This activity increased mutual understanding of the ocean policies of the EU and China and helped the identification of areas for reinforced future cooperation.

Activity Description

The Deputy Director, Division of Bilateral Cooperation, Department of International Cooperation, of the State Ocean administration of the P.R. China (SOA) was assigned to the International Affairs, Law of the Sea, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, DG MARE to better understand the organizational structure, mandates and working mechanism of EU Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries for the period from 15 January 2014 to 21 March 2014. The Key issues addressed and the main technical contents were:

- Improve the understanding of the organizational structure, mandates and working and legal mechanisms of DG MARE and of the EU in general in the area of Integrated Maritime Policy;
- Provide insight in the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy, including its sea basin applications, including the Arctic, and cross-cutting instruments, such as maritime spatial planning, in view of their potential benefit for SOA;
- Gain experience in the practical implementation of integrated maritime policy (day to day office work on law enforcement);
- Preparation for High-level visit of the Commissioner to SOA and development of the future cooperation between SOA and DG for Maritime Affairs and Fishery.

Results and Dissemination

- ✓ This assignment facilitated the linking between Chinese and EU in ocean policies, regulations and practices
- ✓ SOA increased its capacity to understand deeply the EU's regulation and practices in maritime affairs and fishery
- ✓ Both sides identified areas for future cooperation in maritime affairs and fishery