

The Need for a National Ocean Policy

A MIMA Submission to the
National Maritime Council



Outline of Presentation

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- Preliminary Terms of Reference
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Objective of Presentation

- To present rationale for the development of a National Oceans policy for Malaysia.
- To present preliminary terms of reference for the study in the National Oceans Policy.
- To seek a decision from and an endorsement of the National Maritime Council to develop a comprehensive Oceans Policy for Malaysia.



Introduction

- The sea now plays host to many more activities than before.
- Ocean and coastal management have long ceased to be about fishing and navigation or “fish-and-ships” but about the management of a myriad of activities coexisting in a sea or coastal area.
- The increasingly complex use of the sea requires changes in sea management objectives and approaches.

Rationale for a National Oceans Policy for Malaysia

- The management of Malaysia's seas should be based on balancing the need to continue and perpetuate the provision of goods and services from the sea and for development and economic activities.
- However this could not be achieved if we continue to manage our seas in a fragmented manner because this creates conflicts between sectors.

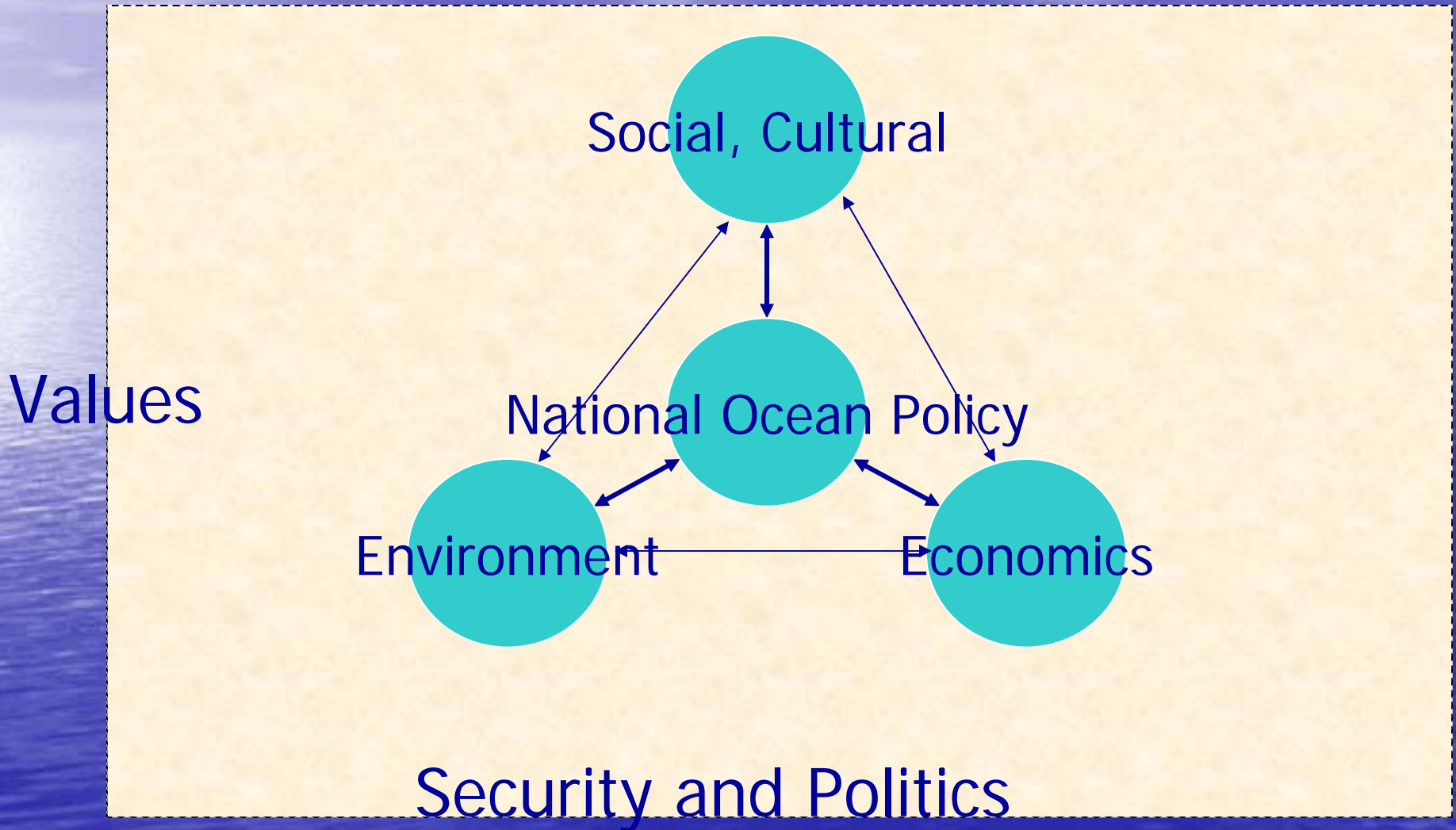
Rationale for a National Oceans Policy for Malaysia

- Ad-hoc policy-making would limit the potential for growth of the country's maritime economy.
- An overall policy on the other hand will promote economic growth and sustainable use of resources.
- The development of an over-arching policy requires an overall review of our management of maritime affairs, as alluded to in the 8th Malaysia Plan.

The Present Situation



The Ideal Situation



Preliminary Terms of Reference

- Identification of clear objectives and priorities for the management and development of Malaysia's sea areas and resources. These would include among others economic, social, environmental, cultural, developmental and political objectives as well as Malaysia's interests in the global ocean.
- Identification of new economic opportunities to enhance the already significant contribution of the maritime sector the national economy which stood at thirteen percent of the Gross Domestic Product at 1990 prices.
- Identification of means to enhance the existing maritime economy specifically in relation to ports and shipping sectors.

Preliminary Terms of Reference

- Identification of the different stakeholders (including coastal communities) of Malaysia's sea and its resources as well as resource use conflicts between the stakeholders and identifying appropriate mechanisms to facilitate and enhance their contribution towards the management of Malaysia's ocean.
- Examination of the present administrative arrangement in relation to any changes in sea use structure including the feasibility changing the present arrangement for better management of Malaysia's ocean.
- Identification of areas of marine scientific research which could contribute to better management of Malaysia's ocean.

Preliminary Terms of Reference

- Identification of human resource development needs in the various fields of maritime endeavour with a view to improving the expertise and skills of Malaysians in these fields.
- Identification of appropriate policy responses to resolve conflicts between different uses and users of the sea and to alleviate pressures on the marine environment and resources at the same time taking cognizance of the need for integrated planning and management of Malaysia's ocean. This would also include harmonising these policy responses with existing and forthcoming policy documents.

Estimated Cost

- RM 1.4 million

Concluding Remarks

- The time is opportune for a National Oceans Policy.
- Could be a major policy undertaking for 9th Malaysia Plan.
- A National Ocean policy could be the impetus for future growth of the country.
- A proposal has been tabled to Economic Planning Unit and was discussed at the Second Inter-Agency Planning Group meeting.

Thank You

