

**ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION IN NORTHEAST ASIA:**

**LESSONS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper investigates the development of an environmental cooperation regime in Northeast Asia to address the serious regional marine pollution problems including pollution in the Yellow Sea. The most successful regional cooperation to date involves the Mediterranean Action Programme (the Med Plan) that was formed to resolve marine pollution issues surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Attempts are underway to translated the Med Plan model into Northeast Asia. And yet, the unique geopolitical and economic situation in Northeast Asia raises questions as to the appropriateness of simply translating this model to Northeast Asia. This uniqueness requires original solution, including a soft institution building (an informal process to get a consensus among the actors while providing a forum and flexibility to the actors) by use of market instruments.

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