



HOURS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

DEAD ZONES



...ALGAL BLOOMS CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE NUTRIENTS DEplete OXYGEN IN THE WATER LEADING TO DEAD ZONES...

The 2006 'State of the Marine Environment' report estimates that there are now up to 200 'dead zones' in the world's seas and oceans. Dead zones are areas where algal blooms, triggered by nutrients from land-based sources—including fertilizer run-off, sewage and animal wastes—and atmospheric deposition from the burning of fossil fuels, can remove oxygen from the water. Low levels of oxygen in the water make it difficult for fish and other marine life to survive.





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22:55:10
UNIVERSAL TIME
BEIJING



...VEERLE VANDEWEERD, UNEP/GPA COORDINATOR, AND ZHOU SHENGXIAN, MINISTER, STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADMINISTRATION, CHINA, OPENING THE SECOND INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW OF THE GPA...

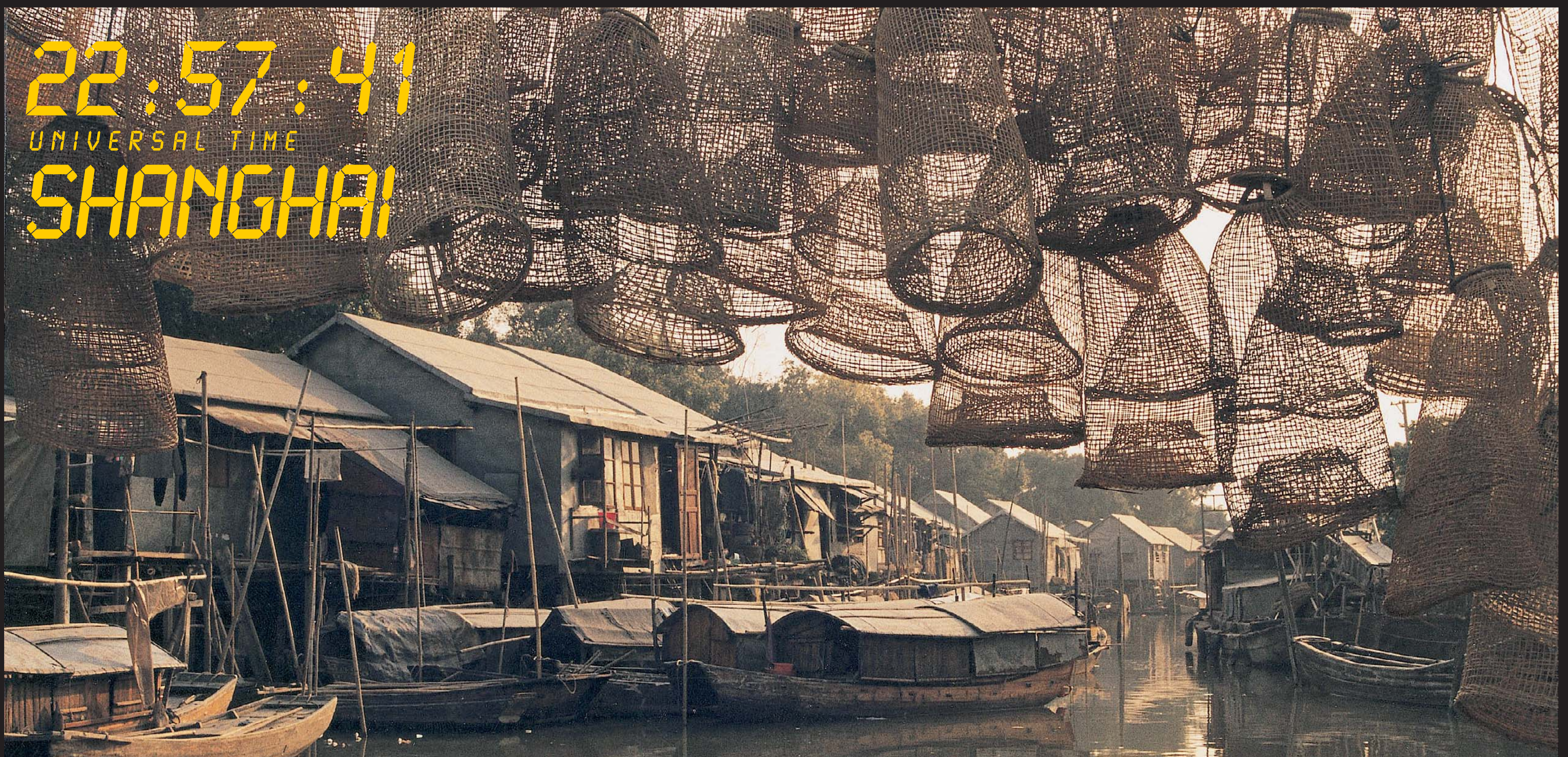
Over 500 delegates, including many ministers, from over 100 countries gathered in Beijing to review progress made by the GPA and to renew their resolve to address the global problem of polluted seas and oceans. They underlined the importance of addressing freshwater and coastal/ocean management in an integrated way.





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...DEAD ZONES POSE A MAJOR THREAT TO FISH STOCKS, THREATENING THE LIVELIHOODS OF FISHING COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD..

Some 80 per cent of the pollution load in the oceans originates from land-based activities. World wide, about one billion people live in coastal urban centers. Estimates show that almost 50 per cent of the world's coasts are threatened by development-related activities. The well-being and, in some cases, the very survival of coastal populations depends upon the health of coastal systems such as estuaries and wetlands.

**NON STOP
SEASON**