



DRAFT Co-chair's Summary

The International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting / 4th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop

17th – 19th November 2008, Shinagawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo, Japan

The workshop was convened by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and ICRI secretariat with the participation of 10 East Asian government representatives and 26 organizations including international and regional organizations, academia, NGOs, in total of 65 participants (among which 13 was local observers). The workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Yoshihiro Natori of the United Nations University, and Dr. Vo Si Tuan of the Institute of Oceanography, Vietnam. The summary of the workshop is as follows:

1. Participants:

- ICRI members: 6 countries and states; 10 organizations
- Non-ICRI members: 4 countries and states; 16 organizations

2. Background

East Asian region (North-East and South-East Asia) encompasses wide range of rich and diverse marine and coastal ecosystems including the "Coral Triangle", the global center of marine biodiversity. Coral Reefs and related ecosystems are sustaining vast majority of livelihood and economic health of these coastal nations. Yet many of the reefs are at high risk and need urgent actions to be taken to improve conservation and management. Marine Protected Area (MPA) is recognized as one of the most effective tools to conserve such marine and coastal ecosystems. In this context, the international community has committed to develop representative networks of MPAs by 2012 at WSSD and CBD COP7.

Up to now, ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops had been held three times and developed regional policy documents, such as East Asia Seas Regional Strategy (1996, Bali), Okinawa Declaration (1997, Okinawa), and East Asia Policy Agenda on Marine Protected Areas as a Strategy for Coral Reef Conservation and Management (2001, Cebu). However, implementation of these policies frequently has not been followed-up afterwards. Although there have been many regional and national initiatives and programs going on and some tangible progress have been made in East Asia on MPAs/MPA networks, most of the countries are still at a developing stage



toward MPA global target and many challenges are remaining.

3. Objectives

The workshop was convened in order to improve conservation of coral reefs and related ecosystems by developing coral reef MPA Network in East Asia Region. The objectives for this workshop are mentioned as follows.

- i. To bring together policy makers, MPA managers, experts and practitioners who are concerned with MPAs that has coral reefs and related ecosystems in East Asia and other regions to increase understanding of status and challenges of MPAs/MPA networks on these ecosystems and discuss on how East Asian countries can enhance such MPA networks toward 2012 global target including through global perspectives.
- ii. To plan the way forward until 2010 as a preparatory meeting including development of regional strategy and provisional TOR of possible meetings and activities in 2009 and 2010.

4. Key note presentations

Dr. Wells reviewed the global backgrounds, status and challenges of international commitments on MPA networks, and made recommendations such as to enhance collaboration and co-ordination; and to take harmonized and stepwise approach. Dr. Kenchington overviewed the past ICRI regional policies made in the previous workshops (i.e., Bali 1996, Okinawa 1997 and Cebu 2001); and regional caucuses of ITMEMS 2 and 3, and pointed out that MPA is a major element of South East Asia. ICRI project worked, yet there are many challenges remaining. Prof. Chou reviewed the characteristics, significance, and status of coral reefs in East Asia, and regional activities on MPAs. He pointed out that there are only 8% of South East Asian reefs lies within MPAs, and only 1% within MPA that are effectively managed and further efforts are needed (Burke et al 2001?).

5. Case study presentations on MPAs/MPA networks

Case studies of MPAs/MPA networks on coral reefs and related ecosystems of each level were presented and good practices and issues are shared.

- Local and site level

The LMMA Network is a local community network in the Pacific Ocean area and East Asia regions. It consists with 342 MPA sites and facilitates adaptive managements for those sites. It was introduced existing meetings in which



local communities play central roles, and was mentioned the importance of capacity development of resources management. It was also reported research results of site investigations done in major coral reefs in the Coral Triangle area, and was recognized that illegal and over fishing had a great impact on coral reef. Then, it was stated the necessity of developing systems which consider the economical benefits for local community.

- National level

At national level, the representatives from Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Japan reported their actions, current status and future challenges toward coral reef conservation, and backgrounds of development of MPA Networks. Philippines first mentioned that the country is the most endangered marine biodiversity hotspot in the world. It was also introduced their legislations on environment, development of multi-sectoral network and transborder alliance among Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. In addition, their future challenges were raised such as strengthening coastal law enforcement and institutionalized MPA incentives for good performance. Then, Vietnams introduced domestic social networks and its process of PA legislations, such as the plan to develop MPA Network among listed 15 MPA sites. As its future challenges, it was pointed the need of institutional management for MPA Network among governments, capacity building and livelihood development for local residents in and around MPAs. Indonesia introduced its backgrounds and current situations and challenges on MPA Network. It requested the cooperation among local site activities and CTI operations and of the further implementation of existed Initiatives. The need for promotion of nature conservation, the shortages of financial and human resources were mentioned. From Japan, its current status on domestic MPAs, future challenges, including the need for enhancement of related legislations, were introduced.

- Regional and sub-regional level

The CaMPAM Network includes MPA managers from 38 countries and territories of the wider Caribbean. Its representative explained its development of regional MPA database, communication tools, and capacity building. No trans-boundary MPA system. Although several countries have developed MPA national system. The Micronesia Challenge is participated by 5 countries. The conservation targets and common indicators are introduced. The Coral



Triangle Initiative was organized by 6 countries. Its draft of goals, targets and regional action plan were explained. It was also mentioned the South China Sea Project, carried out by UNEP and consisted with 7 countries bordering South China Sea, and the project's numerical targets on coral reef conservation and frameworks of designated national plans were introduced.

6. Breakout session

- In order to discuss the specific topics of the provisional plan during 2009 and 2010, all the participants were separated into three groups. The co-facilitators and main discussion topics in each group are described below.
- Ecological MPA network (Facilitators: Prof. Thamasak Yeemin, Dr. Shinichiro Kakuma):
- Social/Management MPA networks (Facilitators: Prof. Porfirio Alino, Prof. Makoto Tsuchiya):
- Information MPA networks (Prof. Chou Loke Ming, Prof. Kazuo Nadaoka):
Upgrading of the MPA database;

7. Provisional Plan 2009 - 2010

- The provisional plan to develop the regional strategy and other associated activities until 2010 was drafted based on compilation of results from the discussion in the plenary and breakout sessions. The draft will be circulated on Mailing List to workshop participants and ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on the ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop, and will be agreed after discussion and revision for one month period. Key provisional plans are as follows.
- Development of the Regional strategy
The meeting has agreed to develop a regional strategy based on the discussion in this workshop, 2009 and 2010 workshops and corresponding activities (a-c). The strategy consists from (1) short term action plan until 2012 to facilitate and assist national efforts; and (2) longer term strategy until 2020 or longer. The draft regional strategy will be prepared prior to the 2009 workshop, and the content to be discussed in the workshop. The following items were suggested to be the potential key topics in the regional strategy:
 - Ecological network taking into account of connectivity
 - Enhancement of local efforts
 - Network of monitoring and information sharing



- **Regional review and gap analysis (a)**
The meeting have agreed to conduct a regional review and a gap analysis of MPA networks on coral reefs and related ecosystems to understand the gaps toward 2012 target, by using the inputs from questionnaire surveys, case study presentations (oral and poster), and by upgrading the MPA database. It was agreed that a consultant(s) will be hired to conduct the drafting task, and cooperated with workshop participants (in 2009 and 2010) will review the document. TOR of the review and gap analysis will be determined. Japan has offered to seek to provide funding for hiring a consultant while it was noted that other donors are welcome. It was suggested that the draft will be ready until December 2009, and review process to be finalized by March 2010. The review and the gap analysis will be launched at the CBD COP-10.
- **Consideration for the Social / Management network(b)**
The workshop decided to propose “Regional Workshop for Assessment of MPA Management Effectiveness” to review experiences of existing management effectiveness assessment protocol at national and site level in each country of the region and develop recommendation. This is the first step in the strategic plans for social / management network to support effective MPA management. It was suggested to develop short-term and long-term strategic plan for training and capacity building programs for managers to improve operation of effective MPAs. The discussion about these plans will be continued to clarify the focus, goals and appropriate levels for potential social/information network in the region.
- **Upgrade of the MPA database (c)**
The workshop agreed to upgrade the MPA database to develop detailed working plan and follow up the progress of MPAs with coral reefs. It was suggested that the ReefBase (World Fish Center and Japan) is the most appropriate MPA database host for the next phase development. It has been proposed to finalize the database until December, 2009. The launch of the database was suggested to be at the CBD COP-10 in Nagoya, October 2010. The development of the information sharing network will continuously be discussed in 2009 and 2010.



8. 2009 and 2010 meetings

- The meeting generally agreed to organize another ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops in 2009 and 2010, respectively, to implement the above mentioned Provisional Plan, and have prepared the Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the 2009 and 2010 meetings. The Draft will be circulated to all the workshop participants and the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee members for comments, and will be finalized after discussion and revision in one month time. Main points are as follows:
- Vietnam offered to host the next workshop subject to the official request and approval. The time and location will be discussed between the local government and the Secretariat, and announced to relevant people.
- The form of the workshop will be similar to the current workshop, i.e., to present several case studies (including poster session); conduct group discussion by three groups. There will be optional case studies and break out sessions.
- The 2010 workshop was suggested to be held back to back with the 2nd Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium (Phuket, Thailand). The time and location will be discussed among relevant people and will be finalized at the 2009 workshop. It is assumed that 2010 workshop will be held similarly with the 2008 and 2009 workshops.
- Japan has suggested to provide funding for the major costs such as the venue, Secretariat functions, travel support, etc. for the 2009 and 2010 workshops, although the decisions will not be made until the start of each fiscal years (April). The meeting welcomed Japan's kind offer, but also recommended other donors to contribute for financial assistance. It was suggested that 2009 and 2010 host countries will consider covering part of the workshops, and participating governments and organizations were encouraged to cover their travels for the workshops.

9. Other

- The Draft summary report will be prepared within one month of the workshop, and circulated to participants for comments, and adopted after one month discussion.
- The adopted summary report, Provisional Plan for 2009 and 2010, and TOR for the 2009 and 2010 workshops will all be submitted to the next ICRI General Meeting (April 2009, Thailand).