



## ITMEMS3 Regional Caucus Statements

20 October 2006

Cozumel, Mexico

### THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN CAUCUS STATEMENTS

Recognizing the important role that local governments play in managing coastal ecosystems, Taking into consideration the insufficient opportunity to share findings with policy-makers, Having established various Networks & Linkages to promote regional & national coordination such as the Asia Pacific Coral Reef Network,

With research having been carried out and information disseminated with no baseline to monitor and evaluate progress of existing networks and research, and with action being not filtered down to the core community level, The countries of the East Asian region have recognized that the following major threats are soil run-off, over-fishing and destructive fishing, tourism, aquaculture and live reef fish trade.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FROM COUNTRIES IN THE REGION

1. Expand existing network of local governments among countries, resource managers, scientists, regional programs (PEMSEA, COBSEA, ASEAN APEC etc) to inform decision makers initiate and coordinate action from regional to local levels.
2. Implement effective enforcement at multi-level and inter-agency level as well as community-based enforcement/involvement in collaboration with local governments by establishing more effective MPAs, no-take or multi-use MPAs and establishing incentives through cross-compliance mechanisms (e.g. certification and recognition).
3. Integrate population management initiatives in coastal marine programs (e.g., co-responsible parenthood).
4. Link Research and Information to adaptive management actions with Research on recommended actions at the local level by utilizing up-to-date information such as satellite imagery for monitoring standardizing databases so as to be more accessible to managers and applying scientific-based restoration efforts.
5. Propose alternative Income and Sustainable Financing such as user fees, environmental fees, revenues, taxes with donor funding to help develop locally generated financing.
6. Establish a network among East Asian countries for Environmental Education and tools as a campaign to educate consumers on the excesses of unsustainable fishing practices (e.g. live food fish trade).

#### PROPOSED ACTIONS BY THE REGION

1. To establish a regional network for action plan to conserve the coastal and marine resources in this region (Japan to act as Coordinator for the regional network.).
2. To identify a focal point of each country and seek resources for the implementation of the action plan at the national and local level.
3. To convene a regional level Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium that to be held in sync with the International Year of the Reef (ICRS 2008) for national level focusing on good practices, more interface between scientists, managers, local governors and other stakeholders.

The International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) is a major activity of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI – [www.icriforum.org](http://www.icriforum.org)). Convened previously in Australia (1998) and the Philippines (2003), ITMEMS facilitates productive discussion and information sharing by people involved in management of coral reefs and related ecosystems, and the implementation of the ICRI Framework for Action.