

**Taxonomic Capacity Building and Governance for Conservation
And Sustainable Use of Biodiversity**

Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City, Philippines

31 August – 01 September 2010

Inception Workshop Report

Introduction / Backgrounder

The lack of trained human resources and inadequate capacities on taxonomy has been stressed as one of the obstacles in the implementation of CBD commitments, especially in the ASEAN region. ASEAN + 3's dynamic growth in recent years has increased the pressure on its natural resources. Human activities, the driving force behind the regional growth, threaten the biological resources. Lack of scientific information on biodiversity in this region is a crucial issue in the assessment and prediction of biodiversity changes, caused mainly by the lack of taxonomic capacity in data collection and analysis.

Taxonomic classifications of bioresources, therefore, will be vital first, in the comprehensive identification of these potential resources; and second, in the formulation of suitable mechanisms that will regulate industrial and commercial utilization and production of these resources to ensure use efficiency and sustainability in the future, in compliance of CBD and the attainment of MDGs. It will also protect and strengthen the cultural identity, spiritual values and appreciation of biodiversity among the peoples of ASEAN + 3 countries while boosting opportunities for livelihood, business, ecotourism, education and research in the region. Ultimately, it will contribute significantly to the global efforts to meet the UN Millennium goals on the environment and achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 as a commitment to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Under the CBD-COP-9, the programme of work with deliverable outcomes was adopted (Decision IX/22). Hence, parties to the convention were urged to promote/carry-out the programme of work for the GTI through coordination of its implementations with existing national, regional, sub-regional, and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions, designation of national GTI focal points, provision of updated information about legal requirements for exchange of genetic/biological specimens, and about current legislation and rules for access and benefit-sharing in terms of the needs for the GTI, and initiatives of setting-up of national and regional networks to aid the Parties in their taxonomic needs in implementing the CBD.

To push the GTI programme of work, a series of GTI workshops were conducted in various venues: 2001 for Central America and Africa, 2002 for Asia, and 2004 for Asia-Oceania (Wilson et al., 2003; NIES, 2005). However, as far as the CBD Secretariat is concerned, the 2002 GTI Workshop is the First GTI Regional Workshop followed by the Second GTI Regional Workshop for Asia-Oceania in 2004. An ASEAN + 3 Regional GTI Workshop: Needs Assessment and Networking was held in the Philippines last May 2009 and came up with the GTI Regional Action Plan.

Adequate taxonomy is one of the necessary fundamental tools required for the global community to be able to implement the MDGs and the development targets from the World Summit for Sustainable Development. Without adequate long-term investment in the human, infrastructural (including, important biological collections) and information resources necessary to underpin the science of taxonomy, the now well-recognized taxonomic impediment will

continue to prevent adequate implementation of sound, scientifically-based sustainable, environmental management and development policies.

Further, taxonomic capability is a critical tool for combating the threat from invasive alien species and other concerns such as in human health. Without access to support, misidentifications are made costing precious money and time when rapid decisions need to be made. Prompt and reliable identifications, supported by networking that promotes the sharing of experiences, information and expertise, may eliminate the need for costly programmes. Where these are needed, taxonomists help to develop the most environmentally benign, economic, yet effective methods.

It is in this context that the project titled "*Taxonomic Capacity Building and Governance for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity*" proposed by ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) was approved by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund in July 2010. To implement the project, an Inception Meeting / Workshop was conducted, initially to provide direction and work out the details of the project. The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MoE-J) is also planning to conduct taxonomic capacity building training workshops in accordance with ESABII Work Plan 2010-2011. The collaboration between two projects by ACB and MoE-J were discussed in the Inception Workshop.

Objectives of the Inception Workshop

Generally, the inception workshop threshed out the details of project implementation. In providing the details, the workshop will:

1. Identify the members of the steering committee and develop its Terms of Reference
2. Identify and agree on the topics that would make up the proposed training workshops
3. Identify resource persons for each of the topics in the training workshops
4. Identify the venues as proposed and determine which topic would be handled by what institution
5. Finalize the composition of the participants for each topic identified (who and what are the qualifications)
6. Discuss the collaboration of the training workshops between GTI JAIF project and the ESABII/MoE-J project for future activities
7. Nominate the GTI-National Focal Points for the networking and come up with the Terms of Reference for the NFPs
8. Provide the details of the Educational Internship Program
9. Finalize the schedules of the training workshops and the Educational Internship Program

Expected Outputs

The outputs of the Inception workshop were the following:

1. Names and expertise comprising the Project Steering Committee and its TOR
2. Identified topics, venue and qualification of participants
3. Collaborative Implementation Plan of Training Workshop by the GTI JAIF and ESABII/MoE-J projects
4. Discussion of GTI-NFPs and their TOR
5. Details of the Educational Internship Program
6. Schedule of implementation of the Training workshops and the Educational Internship Program

Participants to the Inception Workshop

Except for Myanmar, the Inception Workshop was participated in by the nine (9) ASEAN Member States, from the ASEAN Secretariat; from the ESABII / MOE-Japan; the +3 countries – China, Japan, Korea; and from the ACB . The participants were chosen with background in taxonomy or related discipline.

The total number of participants totalled 26, exclusive of the 7 support staff of the ACB. Of the participants, 15 were Ph.D. holders of taxonomy and related fields and the rest had masteral degrees. The list of participants is in Appendix 1.

ACB facilitated the Inception Workshop.

Agenda of the Inception Workshop

The following are the agenda that were discussed and finalized during the Inception Workshop:

1. Presentation of the Project
2. The Project Steering Committee
 - a. Composition
 - b. Terms of Reference
3. Project Activity 1 Training and Capacity Building
 - a. Topics for the 3 training workshops
 - i. Venues of the training workshops
 - ii. Participants to the workshop (who and what would be their qualifications)
 - iii. Collaborative Implementation Plan of Training Workshop by the GTI JAIF and ESABII/MoE-J projects
 - b. Internship Program
 - i. Venues
 - ii. Participants
 - iii. Modules/components for the Internship Program
4. Project Activity 2 Networking and Institutionalization
 - a. The GTI National Focal Points
 - b. Terms of Reference of the NFPs
 - c. East and South East Asia Regional GTI Action Plan (for finalizing / details)
5. Implementation Schedule

Program of the Inception Workshop

Day 0 Arrival of Participants (August 30)

Day 1 (August 31)

8:00 – 8:30

- Registration of Participants

8:30 – 9:00

- Opening Program
 - Welcome Remarks Dir. Rodrigo U. Fuentes, Executive Director, ACB
(Represented by Dr. Sheila Vergara)
 - Welcome Message Dr. Mundita S. Lim, Director, PAWB DENR
Host Country Representative (Represented by Dr.
Antonio Manila, Asst. Director)
 - Opening Message Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi, Dep. Director, Biodiversity
Center-Japan, Ministry of Environment-Japan
 - Photo Opportunity

9:00 – 9:10

- Introduction of Participants Dr. Sheila Vergara, ACB

9:10 – 9:30

- Overview of the Project Dr. Filiberto Pollisco, Jr., ACB

9:30 – 10:00

- Workshop Proper in plenary
 - The Project Steering Committee
 - Composition
 - Terms of Reference

10:00 – 10:15

- Break Time

10:15 – 12:00

- Continuation of Workshop
 - Project Activity 1 Training and Capacity Building
 - Introduction of taxonomic capacity building training programmes
ESABII: Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi
Plant: Dr. Eiji Suzuki & Dr. Dedy Darnaedi
Marine: Dr. Yoshihisa Shirayama
CITES: Mr. Sulma Warne, Traffic Southeast Asia

12:00 – 1:00pm

- Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:00pm

- Topics for the 3 training workshops

2:00 – 3:00pm

- Discussion on each workshop (Parallel)
 - Venues of the training workshops
 - Participants to the workshop
 - What would be the curriculum
 - What are the criteria for selecting participants
 - Where will it be held
 - When will the workshop be held

3:00 – 3:15pm

- Break Time

3:15 – 5:00pm

Continuation of discussion

6:30 – 9pm

- Dinner

Day 2 (Septembr 01)

8:00 – 9:00a.m.

- Registration of Participants

9:00 – 12:00

- Internship Program
 - What would be the curriculum
 - What are the criteria for selecting participants
 - Where will it be held
 - When will the workshop be held
- Project Activity 2 Networking and Institutionalization
 - The GTI National Focal Points
 - Terms of Reference of the NFPs

10:00 – 10:15

- Break Time

10:15 – 12:00

- Continuation of the Workshop

12:00 – 1:00pm

- Lunch Break

1:00 – 3:00

- Continuation of the Workshop
 - Validation of the East and Southeast Asia GTI Regional Action Plan and Harmonization with the ESABII Action Plan

3:00 – 3:30

- Snacks / Break Time

3:30 – 4:00

- Presentation of Output for Day 1 & 2
- Refinement of Outputs / Discussions

4:00 – 4:30

- Closing Program
 - Next Steps
 - Closing Message
 - Adjournment

Dr. Sheila Vergara, ACB

Mr. Rolando A. Inciong, Head, CPA, ACB

6:30 – 9:00

- Dinner

Day 3 Departure of Participants (September 02)

The Inception Workshop

Day 1. August 31, 2010

Opening Program. The workshop was formally opened with the Welcome Remarks read by Dr. Sheila Vergara, Director of the Biodiversity Information Management Unit in behalf of the Executive Director, Rodrigo Fuentes of ACB. Director Fuentes highlighted the fact that taxonomy is needed in many of the industries and policies but it is not given due attention because of lack of awareness and lack of people in taxonomy. As such, taxonomists are already considered an “endangered species”. The full text of the Welcome Remarks is in Appendix 2.

This was followed by the Welcome Message coming from the Host Country which was read by Dr. Antonio Manila, Asst. Director of the PAWB in behalf of Dr. Mundita S. Lim, Director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Focal Point of ACB. Dr. Manila highlighted the need to equip and strengthen the taxonomic capacities in the Region to implement the Millenium Development Goals as well as the targets from the World Summit for Sustainable Development. He further mentioned that biodiversity is fundamental in uplifting human well-being and in increasing the Region’s taxonomic capacity could eventually solve the lack of scientific information on biodiversity. He called on the participants to work together towards a better state of environment. The full text of the welcome message is in Appendix 3.

The Opening Message was delivered by Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi, the Deputy Director of the Biodiversity Center of Japan, Ministry of Environment-Japan. He expressed enthusiasm and excitement in the implementation of the JAIF project and how it would dove-tail into the activities of the ESABII. He anticipated that with the implementation of the inception workshop and the full participation of the ASEAN + 3 countries, the JAIF and ESABII activities would be fulfilled in the coming year. The full text of the welcome message is in Appendix 4.

After the Opening Program, Dr. Sheila Vergara took over the table and proceeded to have the participants introduce themselves. After the introduction Dr. Pollisco presented in power point the overview of the JAIF project. The powerpoint presentation is in Appendix 5.

A photo opportunity was conducted to document the participants.

The Project Steering Committee

The working paper of the Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) was presented to the body for validation / revision. Agreements from the discussion are the following:

- Only 5 members would comprise the committee – 4 coming from the AMS and 1 from Japan
- ACB would sit as an ex-officio member and would serve as secretariat also
- ESABII represented by Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi would also sit as an ex officio member
- The targeted topics for the trainings are 1) marine / coral ecosystems, 2) terrestrial plants, and 3) CITES – Law Enforcement
- The TOR should be revised since it is too lengthy
- Viet Nam observed / suggested the following:

- The criteria for selection of members are too narrow. This should be clarified.
- Working mechanisms and way of communication should be clarified
- Item on “calling for meetings” should be removed
- Need to add two (2) consultative meetings for Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation, that is, every 6 months for the whole project
- Mention the period of the PSC position – only one (1) year with possible extension for another year
- The 1-yr term of the PSC shall be from July 07, 2010 to July 06, 2011
- Nominations ensued and the following have been elected to the PSC:
 - Dr. Dedy Darnaedi – Indonesia (elected as chairperson of the PSC)
 - Dr. Saw Leng Guan – Malaysia
 - Dr. Somchai Bussarawit – Thailand
 - Dr. Edwino Fernando – Philippines
 - Dr. Yoshihiso Shirayama – Japan
 - Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi (ex-officio) – ESABII/MoE-Japan
 - Dir. Rodrigo Fuentes (ex-officio) – ACB
 - Secretariat – ACB

The working paper of the Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Committee is found in Appendix 6.

Presentations

Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi briefed the participants on the training programs related to taxonomy of the Ministry of Environment-Japan. He also included the ESABII Basic Plan of Taxonomy courses for 2010 which include Terrestrial Plants, Coral taxonomy, and CITES Species. He requested the body to consider these three topics in identifying the training programs for the JAIF project. Each of the three topics will be discussed in-depthly by the succeeding speakers. Full powerpoint presentation of Dr. Sakaguchi is found in the appendix.

Dr. Eiji Suzuki, Professor of Plant Ecology in Kagoshima University, presented his ideas about the taxonomy trainings for terrestrial plants. He emphasized that the taxonomy profession needs both groups of taxonomist – the “real” taxonomists and the “para” – taxonomists. He further discussed the current state of taxonomy as gleaned from the lessons learned in Indonesia. He further pointed out the problems of double listings and wrong identifications, which is a common thing among field scientists. In the end, he posed a question on whether which would be more important in trainings – DNA analysis or morphological identification.

Dr. Yoshihisa Shirayama, Director of the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory in Kyoto University, presented the case of the coral taxonomy through the work of the National Geography in Shore Areas (NaGISA) Census on Marine Life Project. He discussed the activities and programs of the Marine Life Project that focused on the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life. He mentioned the many taxonomy workshops that were conducted by the project and the problems encountered in identification and the conduct of such trainings.

For the CITES Species Identification, Mr. Sulma Warne of the TRAFFIC South East Asia presented his case. He started off with describing what TRAFFIC is all about, which is a wildlife trade monitoring network with offices around the globe. He proceeded to discuss the rationale of wildlife trade and the CITES. He emphasized that “species identification is a vital skill needed by law enforcement officers in the fight against wildlife crime”. He concluded that there is a big demand for training courses in the identification of wildlife and law enforcement.

Full presentations in MS Powerpoint of the speakers are found in the appendix.

Project Activity 1. Capacity Building and Trainings

The plenary group was divided into three groups, namely:

Terrestrial Plants Group – 7 members, Chaired by Dr. Dedy Darnaedi, Indonesia
Corals Group – 7 members, Chaired by Dr. Yoshihisa Shirayama, Japan
CITES / Policy Group – 13 members, Chaired by Mr Sulma Warne, TRAFFIC SEA

The groups were tasked to identify (1) the curriculum of the training workshop, (2) the criteria on selection of participants, (3) validate or change the venue as they see fit, and (4) determine when the trainings would be held.

Prior to breaking up into three groups, discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Time allotted for the training workshops (3 days as proposed in the approved proposal) should be extended to at least 5 – 8 days
- The regional effect of Invasive Alien Species should be considered especially with law enforcers to be trained in taxonomy
- Consider the three (3) training activities of the ESABII

Output of the three workshop groups are presented below:

WORKSHOP GROUP OUTPUTS

GROUP	TERRESTRIAL PLANTS	CORAL	CITES
<p>CURRICULUM</p>	<p>Year 1: Dicots Year 2: Monocots Year 3: Non-Flowering Plants</p> <p>UNESCO course as reference</p> <p><u>Day 1 (Mon) – General lectures</u> (lecturer who can also speak on the special lectures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GTI/CBD - ESABII - Taxonomy - Morphology - Biogeography - Cytology - Databasing - Molecular analysis - Barcoding - Specimen collection methodologies <p>Lecturers: 1) Dr. Peter Van Welsen 2) Dr. Edwino Fernando 3) Dr. Teguh Triono</p> <p><u>Day 2 (Tue): General lectures</u> - Continuation</p> <p><u>Day 3 (Tue): Special lectures for the</u></p>	<p>Target organisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reef-building Coral - Phylum Cnidaria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Class Anthozoa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Order Scleractinia <p>Tentative contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o General biology of corals o Cataloguing o Sample collection o Basic taxonomy o Sample processing and managing o How to identify o Existing information in internet o Biogeography • Trial of identification (specimens, photos) • SEM (demonstration?) • Taking photos of specimens • Molecular taxonomy (demonstration?) • Attempt of Description (final test) <p><u>Day 1</u> AM – Registration</p>	<p>2 trainings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of Trainers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 days (needs further discussion if # of days is enough) - WTRC and species identification (commonly traded reptiles in SEA) 2. Country specific training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5-day course - to be delivered by participants trained from TOT - WTRC followed by species ID course (country relevant reptiles); Host country given the choice to choose the specific group of reptiles to focus on - To be conducted in local language - TRAFFIC experts to mentor the trainers

	<p><u>families (dicots)</u> (AM) 1) Fabaceae/Legumes 2) Rubiaceae (Max Balgooy) 3) Rosaceae/Chrysobalanaceae 4) Ericaceae (Edwino Fernando) 5) Sapotaceae (Teguh Triono) 6) Euphorbiaceae (Peter Van Welzen) 7) Cucurbitaceae (Rugayah) 8) Miristacaceae</p> <p>- Practice using fresh materials</p> <p>(PM) Family TBD</p> <p><u>Day 4 (Wed): Special lectures for the families (dicots)</u> (AM) Family TBD (PM) Family TBD</p> <p><u>Day 5 (Thu): Special lectures for the families (dicots)</u> (AM) Family TBD (PM) Family TBD</p> <p><u>Day 6 (Fri): Field trip (National Park, Cibodas)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specimen identification and collection - Field notes collection - DNA coding/markings - Barcoding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening - Lecture 1 – General Biology of Reef-Building Coral (part 1) <p>PM – Lecture 2 – General biology of reef-building corals (part 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture 3 – Taxonomy of corals (part 1) <p><u>Day 2</u> AM – Lecture 4 – Taxonomy of corals (part 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture 5 – Methods of morphological observation <p>PM – Lecture 6 – Sample collection, processing and managing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratory work 1 – Sample processing and managing <p><u>Day 3</u> AM – Lecture 7 – Practical taxonomy of corals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratory work 2 – sample processing; observation of specimens identified by authorities <p>PM – Laboratory work 3 – Photographing sample</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratory work 4 – Trial to identify specimens prepared in the workshop <p><u>Day 4</u> AM – Lecture 8 – Advanced taxonomic method (Internet, molecular technique)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratory work 5 – Trial to identify photo samples (part 1) 	
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	<p>- Molecular analysis</p> <p><u>Day 7 (Sat): Field trip</u> - Continuation</p> <p><u>Day 8 (Sun): Report writing</u></p>	<p>PM – Laboratory work 6 – Trial to identify photo samples (part 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratory work 7 – Sample processing for advanced techniques (SEM observation, molecular taxonomy) <p><u>Day 5</u></p> <p>AM – Lecture 9 – Museum collection, management, cataloguing, storing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratory work 8 – Writing description of a species <p>PM – Laboratory work 9 – Presentation of accomplishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratory work 10 – Presentation of accomplishment (continued) - Closing Remarks <p>Trainers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Prof. Hironobu FUKAMI • Local specialists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prof. Zulfigar Yasin ○ Dr. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai ○ Mr. Niphon Pongsuwan (PMBC) • Yoshihisa SHIRAYAMA • Mr. Hibino (Administration) • Supporting staff (ACB supported by JAIF) 	
<p>CRITERIA OF PARTICIPANTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young professional taxonomists (below 35 years old) - People now working in the field of taxonomy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young (<=35) scientists who have academic position • Those who have background on coral biology 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of Trainers (TOT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 participants per country - 1 expert on

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACB to screen applicants for endorsement to PSC - PSC to render final decision - Short CV will be required - Should have at least a working knowledge of English language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 slots for all 10 ASEANs supported by ESABII • 2 slots for all 10 ASEANs supported by JAIF • If slots were not filled, 2nd call for applicants will be done, and selection will be done by Steering Committee of JAIF • Should have at least a working knowledge of English language 	<p>CITES/wildlife trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 expert on national laws and policies - 1 species ID expert - include one person from China, Japan and Korea <p>2. Country specific training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25-30 law enforcement officers - Should have at least a working knowledge of English language
SCHEDULE	14-22 February 2011	3-9 December 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TOT – January 2011 2. Country specific training – February 2011
VALIDATION OF SITES (Venue)	Bogor, Indonesia	USM, Penang, Malaysia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TOT – Malaysia 2. Country specific training – Vietnam, could also be either Malaysia or Thailand
ADDITIONAL NOTES / REMARKS	<p>Next steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) TOR preparation 2) Announcement of training course offering (01 October 2010) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announcement through 		TOT participants are required to return to their own country and deliver a training; Some seed funding might be available for this

	<p>letters and ACB and ESABII website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation for lecturers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Submission of applications (13 November 2010) 4) Selection of applicants (13 January 2011) 5) Arrival at Bogor (13 February 2011) 		<p>Next steps for TRAFFIC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop outline curricula for ToT (within 2 weeks) 2. Develop criteria for selection of ToT participants (within 2 weeks) 3. Develop workplan and timeline 4. Draft budget
<p>Next steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ACB to consolidate and make revised presentation; will present and submit revisions made by the experts to JAIF and ASEAN Sec 2. Seek approval from JAIF on the revisions 3. Two months (hopefully less) for approval from JAIF 4. Implementation 			

During the plenary presentations of the group outputs, the open forum of the three presentations centred on the duration of the training workshops, which were deemed too short. The following are the outcome of the discussions made during each group output:

Terrestrial Plants:

- One week is still too short to conduct the training workshop
- If the training workshop will still be for 3-days, then only the tools of taxonomy could be focused on and not the other more essential elements of taxonomy
- The people who will be trained must be targeted to maximize participation and increase the impact of the training program
- Young professional taxonomists should be the target groups (local organizations will have the capacity to train people)
- There should be a limit as to the number of participants

Marine / Corals:

- The three (3) days allotted for the training workshop are not enough
- The training needs long supervision which will be taken care of in the internship program
- The two-month internship program is good, but what will happen afterwards to the intern?
- It was emphasized that the key to sustaining taxonomy is not more training (although it is a necessity), but having good projects that deal with the taxonomy of the biodiversity of the country
- The projects should have projects designed to fit national needs

CITES – TRAFFIC SEA:

- The training workshop should be institutionalized into a training curricula
- ESABII can sponsor 5 days plus the 3 days of the JAIF project, a total of eight (8) days can be used for the training
- This would be a wildlife trade regulation course
- Two training workshops can be done, one sponsored by the ESABII and JAIF project on a region-wide scale, and the other could be done in a specific country
- Species identification sheets and species identification course could be tailored to a specific location specifically for law enforcement officers

Day 2. September 01, 2010

The Internship Program

The program was presented to the plenary group following the same tasks that were requested from the Training Workshop Groups, to wit:

1. What would be the curriculum
2. Where will it be held (validation of the identified venues)
3. What is the criteria for the interns
4. When will it be held

Discussions ensued prior to answering the questions for the Internship Program. Dr. Saw Leng Guan was unanimously elected to chair this session. It was clarified that the Internship Program would be conducted only once.

The participants agreed that the priority AMS who will avail of the Internship Program (per approved proposal) will be Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.

To take advantage of the internship program, the participants suggested the possibility that the MOE-Japan could sponsor participants from the other AMS so that there would be additional beneficiaries.

Prior to determining participants, topics for the internship program should first be identified, as suggested by Dr. Soetikno. This initiated the discussion on what species and specimens have in the AMS that need identification for the interns to study on. Discussions range from the species that are common to many AMS to those only found in the host country.

The discussion also suggested sending participants to Leiden University in The Netherlands but this did not prosper since availability of budget is in question and that there are French taxonomy experts working in Indochina that could be tapped.

On selecting participants to the program, Dr. Hamid suggested selecting participants from the ones who will be attending the training workshops. However, Dr. Sakaguchi cautioned the workshop participants that those who graduated from the training workshops would have a limited time back in their respective jobs before they are again sent to the internship program. This was seconded by Dr. Benny Tan who suggested that they be given sufficient time to prepare and file leaves of absences from their jobs. Also, it was suggested that the CLMV countries should be given freedom to choose what internship they would send their participant to, as in the case of Lao PDR who cannot attend in coral or marine taxonomy since they are a land-linked country.

Several candidate venues were suggested to the body. One criterion suggested was that the venue should be able to provide proper accommodations. One such venue is the LIPI in Bogor, Indonesia. Another recommendation was Bangkok, Thailand citing low cost of living and airfare from the CLMV countries, which would be advantageous. The Bangkok venue was also seconded citing similarities of species / specimens with the CLMV countries.

The chair expressed that the mechanics of the program require a bit of planning, hence, the group should identify the taxonomic groups they are interested in. He added that the internship program should not be confined to only one locality, hence the need to split up. Young botanists / taxonomists usually do not know the problems, therefore the experts should suggest generic problems the interns could solve / sort out during the 8-week program.

A concern arose on the transport of specimens for use in the program. Transport of specimens violate the policies of CITES. These need to have permits from CITES. The respective AMS governments could be of help in the program by supporting the permitting of transport of specimens. It was suggested that those national museums who have not yet registered in CITES should do so this early.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the plants and corals group would be the topics for the internship program. Dr. Shiryama mentioned that for the 6 other AMS, there would be only 1 person per AMS to participate and each AMS should decide

how many participants to send to the corals and plants groups. The corals group must have a selection of participants by end of November.

Since the topics have been identified, the venue was agreed to be in Thailand; for the plants group, it would be the Royal Forestry Herbarium in Bangkok; and the Phuket Marine Biological Laboratory in Phuket for the corals group.

Dr. Benchamaporn of Thailand acknowledged the selection of Thailand as host for the Internship Program. She also confirmed that there are lots of specimens for plants; however, she was not sure of marine specimens. She also expressed several concerns like the travel from Bangkok to Phuket which would entail budget, need to know the number of persons, and the specific time of the program.

After much discussion, the following have been agreed upon:

- The 8-week program shall be conducted in May to June 2011
- There will be two groups, the corals and the plants
- These will be conducted in the Phuket Marine Biological Laboratory and the Royal Forestry Herbarium in Bangkok, Thailand
- Details of the program shall be derived from the plants and corals groups output of this workshop
- There will be 8 interns for the plants group and another 8 for the corals group totalling 16 interns
- If budget is a problem, then number of interns should be reduced
- ACB waived its slots for the whole duration but would be involved onl for the first 3 days of the program to settle down the activity
- ACB should prepare a letter to the Thailand National Focal Point to formally request Thailand to host the internship program of the JAIF project
- ACB to make announcements of the internship programs as a follow up to the training workshops

Day 2 September 01, 2010

Project Activity 2. Networking & Institutionalization

The GTI National Focal Points

This session started out with the introduction of the GTI National Focal Points in which the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has obligated the Conference of Parties to designate experts. The CBD also came up with the terms of reference for the GTI NFPs to comply with. For the AMS, only 4 countries have officially designated their GTI NFPs to the CBD. These are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. This session had the objectives of informing the participants of the importance of having a GTI NFP in view of the JAIF GTI project, and revising / simplifying the GTI NFP terms of reference to accommodate the JAIF GTI project.

Clarification was asked by the participants on whether the focal points could be either the GTI NFP or the ESABII focal point or both. This was confirmed that they could be either or both depending on the AMS' designation / appointment of the expert.

With regard to countries having more than 1 focal point, it was mentioned that the AMS have the flexibility to appoint more than one focal point but there should be 1 principal focal point for easier communication to avoid confusion.

The discussion leaned towards the focal points of EABII where it was mentioned that each member should appoint 1 ESABII focal point since the ESABII is a regional project and it is important to have focal points. It was pointed out, however, that the ESABII is only a project whereas the GTI National Focal Point is a formal appointment and must be approved by the government.

There were some discussions regarding the change in name of the focal points to distinguish the GTI NFP and the ESABII FP. After much deliberation, it was agreed for the names to remain as is.

After the round of deliberations for the NFPs, the TOR was discussed. Generally, the TOR mentions only three – networking, strengthening collaboration, and information sharing. The CBD GTI NFP Terms of Reference are found in Appendix 7.

Finally, this session agreed on the following:

- The TOR of the GTI NFP will be retained since this is already an approved TOR of the CBD
- ESABII Contact Persons have already been identified hence no need to change them, and
- ACB will request the AMS to re-visit their GTI NFPs and re-appoint or change their appointees or appoint one for those who have not yet designated their GTI NFP since this is a deliverable of the JAIF project and also a compliance of the CBD

Review of the East and South East Asia Regional GTI Action Plan

The objective of this session was to harmonize the Regional GTI Action Plan and the ESABII Action Plan so that there will be synchronization of activities between the JAIF project and the ESABII plan of activities.

The ESABII Action Plan was first presented (Appendix 8) and afterwards the Regional GTI Action Plan. After going through both action plans, only two insertions were made in the Regional GTI Action Plan to coincide with the ESABII Action Plan. The final output of the GTI Action Plan is in Appendix 9

Other Matters

- On the matter of the database of taxonomic experts as a deliverable of the JAIF Project, suggestions were the following:
 - For Malaysia, ACB could download taxonomic experts from the CHM website of Malaysia
 - A standard format was suggested to be provided where there should be ample space for experts to detail out their fields of expertise
 - There are several on-line databases of taxonomy experts existing such as the one in The Netherlands and another in the United States. It is just a matter of harvesting for South East Asia.
 - ACB should pattern the format of existing databases on taxonomists

Closing Program

The consolidated output of the two-day workshop was presented to the body to validate the documentation of the decisions made.

Afterwards, the “next steps” were presented (Appendix 10), which was a detailed presentation of the schedule of activities.

The Closing Remarks was delivered by Mr Rolando Inciong, Head of the ACB Communication and Public Affairs Unit, in behalf of the Executive Director, Mr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes. The main message was to revive the interest in taxonomy so that biodiversity can be catalogued and be used for development purposes. Adequate taxonomy is one of the fundamental tools required for the global community to implement the Millennium Development Goals and the development targets from the World Summit for Sustainable Development. Without adequate long-term investment in the human, infrastructural, and information resources necessary to underpin the science of taxonomy, the now well-recognized taxonomic impediment will continue to prevent adequate implementation of sound, scientifically based sustainable, environmental management and development policies. The full text of the message is found in Appendix 11.

The two-day Inception Workshop was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The participants departed the following day, September 02, 2010.

APPENDICES

Power Point Presentations