

BACKGROUND OF DEPLOYMENT OF THE ICRM PROJECTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES AND THE REGIONAL SEMINAR

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I. DEPLOYMENT OF THE ICRM PROJECTS IN THE SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

In Thailand, the deterioration of livelihood in coastal fishing communities as a result of the over-exploitation of fishery resources and the degradation of coastal environments has led the government to introduce the concept of community-based fisheries management (CBFM) within the framework of coastal fisheries development and management. Another important factor being considered is the pressure on the government to decentralize and devolve administrative authority to local actors. A successful example of this being the joint DOF and Bay of Bengal Project (BOBP) Phangnga Bay project set up in 1996. Another example was the 1989 DOF Fishing Rights Pilot Project (FRPP) in Bang Saphan and Bang Saphan Noi District. Following these successes, the DOF decided to start a new coastal fisheries management project in Chumphon Province as an integrated component of the comprehensive development project implemented by the Royal Project Council in early 2000.

Meantime, SEAFDEC had implemented the regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries under the four major themes; i.e. responsible fishing operations, aquaculture development, fisheries post-harvest, and fisheries management. Under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) scheme, Thailand took charge as the lead country for the SEAFDEC member countries and the Training Department as the lead SEAFDEC Department for the activities under the domain of fisheries management.

Under this scheme, it was decided in 2001 that the Training Department (TD) would collaborate with the DOF in implementing a coastal resource management program, and an existing project proposal for Chumphon was reformulated as a joint initiative for a period of five years. Thailand was designated as the lead country for the SEAFDEC Members and TD as the lead implementing SEAFDEC Department. It was further agreed that the knowledge and experience gained through the project operation would be disseminated to other member countries through the SEAFDEC information and technology transfer mechanism.

Thus, the project on “Locally Based Coastal Resources Management in Pathew District (LBCRM-PD)” commenced in November 2001 in Chumphon with the overall project objectives of: (1) establishing sustainable coastal resources management at the local level; (2) rehabilitating the coastal fishery resources; and (3) alleviating poverty in coastal fishing communities.

The project had produced tangible impact as acknowledged by the Members at the 4th SEAFDEC FCG Meeting in Myanmar in March 2002 and at the 25th SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting in Singapore in October 2002. During the latter meeting, it was pointed out that it was time to impart the technologies, including the experience and knowledge gained, to other member countries. Thus, the Committee Member for Malaysia offered Langkawi as a pilot site for the implementation of a similar approach on a cost-sharing basis. Subsequently, SEAFDEC/TD missions to Langkawi were mounted to look into the possibility of setting up a similar coastal fishery resources management and development project. Eventually, the second project on “Locally Based Coastal Resources Management – Pulau Langkawi (LBCRM-PL)” took off in August 2003 for a period of four years.

These two projects were later reformulated to fit into the new thrust of the Japanese Trust Fund IV Program, which commenced in 2004. This new program on “Capacity Building of Human Resources and Participation in Integrated Coastal Resources Management” placed more emphasis on the component of human resources development (HRD) in each project. Thus, the projects’ titles were changed to Integrated Coastal Resources Management in Pathew District (ICRM-PD) and Integrated Coastal Resources

Management in Langkawi (ICRM-PL), respectively, to take into consideration the thrust of the new program and these comprise the second phase of the project.

Meanwhile, further recommendations were put forward at the SEAFDEC Program Committee meetings in 2003 and 2004 specifying that experiences and knowledge gained through these project operations should be transferred to other SEAFDEC member countries under the collaborative project mechanism. To this end, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Cambodia and Myanmar expressed their intentions to initiate similar projects in their respective countries. Among these countries, it was envisaged that the 3rd project would take place in Cambodia taking into account the geographical advantage and the prioritized need of a CBRM approach in the country. The preliminary site survey was carried out in June 2004 to inspect the proposed site and to collect relevant data and information with regards to responsible community fisheries. Based on the findings and observations from the survey, a tentative work-plan was submitted to the 27th PC Meeting held in December 2004 and was endorsed. Thus, steps were then taken to put the project forward for the initiation of its actual activity in 2005. Eventually, the project commenced its operation on 11 November 2005 for three-year tenure.

As scheduled, the project in Chumphon, the ICRM-PD was terminated in December 2006. The projects in Langkawi, the ICRM-PL and in Sihanoukville, the ICRM-SV will be terminated in December 2007 and 2008, respectively.

		Timeframe of the Program Implementation							
No.	Component	Year							
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	Component 1 Project 1: Thailand - LBCFM-PD: 1st Phase (JTF-1) - ICRM-PD: 2nd Phase (JTF-4)								
2	Component 2 Project 2: Malaysia - LBCRM-PL: 1st Phase (JTF-1) - ICRM-PL: 2nd Phase (JTF-4)								
3	Component 2 Project 3: Cambodia - ICRM-SV (JTF-4)								

II. REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INTEGRATED COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

In the wake of the completion of the project ICRM-PD in December 2006, it was proposed that a regional seminar be organized to primarily review the project outcomes with participants coming from SEAFDEC member countries. The detailed description and background of the seminar are indicated in the Prospectus of the Regional Seminar.

1. Objectives of the Regional Seminar

The objectives of the Regional Seminar are:

- To report the achievement and outcome of the project during its 5-year implementation and review its progress in line with the original project concept
- To verify the impacts of the concept to the beneficiaries, from the project's activities in terms of quantity as well as quality considering both facets of community development as well as sustainable fishery resources management
- To discuss its resultant rationale and implication in the dissemination of the project concept to other SEAFDEC member countries under component 2
- To identify the necessary follow-up actions to be undertaken by DOF Thailand and other collaborating local agencies

2. Envisaged outcomes

The expected outcomes of the Regional Seminar are:

- All data and information collected and analyzed during the project implementation are documented and presented
- The project activities are thoroughly reviewed and its impacts to the beneficiaries verified
- Through discussions, follow-up actions of the project to be undertaken by DOF Thailand and other local agencies are recommended
- Description of the two other on-going activities in Malaysia and Cambodia is made and the rationale in implementing similar project approach is discussed, and some recommendations may be derived for the possible reorientation of the projects
- The seminar offers opportunities for member countries other than Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia to consider the applicability of CBRM concept with its project approach in their respective countries
- In a sense, the seminar also serves as overall mid-term program evaluation and review.

3. Target Groups of the Regional Seminar

The seminar has two target groups of participants:

3.1 Foreign participants

There are two groups in this category: representatives from the member countries and representatives from the ICRM-PL and ICRM-SV projects. The former participants are expected to be engaged in community-based fishery resources management field in their countries. They are expected to play an important role in this seminar by participating in the discussions reflecting their views and experiences in their respective countries. They are also expected to bring back in essence the outcomes of the seminar to their countries and make best use of them in their decision making in the deployment of similar approach. The latter participants will present their respective project approaches and the progress made although the projects are still currently on-going. They are expected to benefit from the seminar by reflecting on the recommendations, suggestions and outcomes and applying these in their future project implementation and approach.

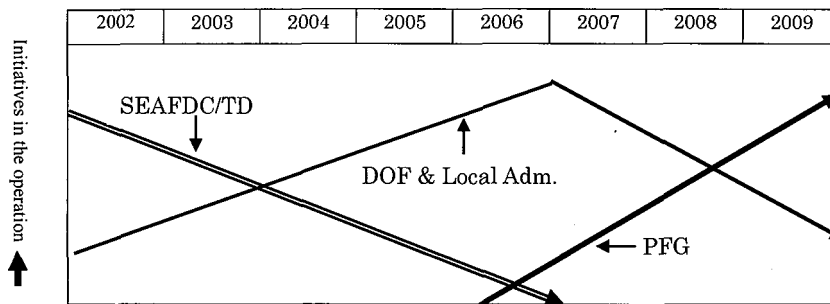
3.2 Domestic participants

The executive agencies involved in the ICRM-PD are the DOF Thailand and SEAFDEC/TD under the collaborative project operational scheme. In addition, a number of local administrative authorities have been involved in the project operation as supporting agencies since its inception; e.g. Provincial Offices including the Provincial Cooperative Promotion Office and District Office and the Ao.Bo.To. Moreover, the most important role was played by the Pakklong Fishermen's Group (PFG) as the uppermost beneficiary in this project. Representatives from these agencies and groups are expected to present their activities to the seminar and review the impacts that the project had given to the community and the coastal fishery resources management system. Together with the views from the foreign participants, the recommendations from this group of domestic participants will be reflected in the project's follow-up stage.

In terms of the sustainability of the project activity, this occasion is vital for PFG in particular, as they are the end party concerned in this self-regulatory fishery resources management regime. As seen in the following chart, the managerial responsibility in the fishery resources management activity should be shifted from DOF and the local administrative agencies to PFG toward the end of the follow-up stage. By all means, the DOF has to continue its involvement in this activity as a monitoring and supporting agency.

4. Contents of the Regional Seminar

Involvement and initiative in activities



As dealt at length in the Prospectus of the Regional Seminar and in the Annotated Agenda, the Seminar is primarily designed to monitor the extent of each activity's achievement through presentation and discussion from various angles in order that future proper orientation in the project follow-up stage would be derived. Further, based on lessons learned and experiences gained through the project operation of ICRM-PD, two similar projects, i.e. the ICRM-PL and ICRM-SV were started in 2003 in Malaysia and in 2005 in Cambodia, respectively. The regional collaboration involved will be described and its impact discussed towards further dissemination of the ICRM concept and approaches to other member countries.

Country papers describing the current approaches on community-based coastal fishery resources management will be presented by representatives from the member countries except Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia. These are intended to familiarize the other participants on the current status of CBFMR and the approaches adopted in each country. The participants will deliberate on the appropriate ICRM approaches and applications from the approaches that vary from country to country based on ideas expressed in the country papers.

The field trip to inspect various activities in the project site in Pathew District is also included in the seminar agenda. Although the project operation under the collaborative regime with DOF Thailand and SEAFDEC/TD has been terminated, the main activities have been ongoing at the follow-up stage by DOF Thailand and other local administrative authorities and also by the Pakklong Fishermen's Group, which has increased its pivotal role in the planning and implementation of the project.

In the last session of the seminar, conclusions, suggestions and recommendations will be finalized for the follow-up stage of ICRM-PD as well as for the future development in the domain of coastal fishery resources management approach in Southeast Asia. Particularly for the latter, these will include some selected issues related to SEAFDEC/TD's involvement in the deployment of such projects as a *modus operandi* at the regional scale and prospects for future development.

5. Acknowledgement

Taking advantage of this occasion, on behalf of all the project staff of ICRM-PD, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the DOF Thailand including CMDEC, Fisheries Technological Development Division, Chumphon Fisheries Provincial Office, Enforcement Unit and Aquaculture Center, Chumphon Provincial Administration Office including Pathew District Administration Office and Cooperative Promotion Office, the Chumphon Marine and Coastal Resources Research Center and SEAFDEC/TD. Special thanks are offered to the Government of Japan and the Royal Project in Thailand for the financial support to the project. Also, we are thankful to the Pakklong Sub-district Administrative Organization (Ao.Bo.To) for their contributions in kind, cash and loans for the project activities. Finally, we have to specifically state that the actors playing the main roles in the project operation are the fishers, *including fish-women by all means*, in the Pakklong Sub-district. Their self-motivation towards the realization of the CBRM concept and total community development is noteworthy, to which we extend a special appreciation. We wish the newly born fishermen's group, the PFG all success and prosperity in the future.