



Report of the 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop

Submitted by: Japan

Background

1. A series of ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops were held in Japan in 2008, Vietnam in 2009, and Thailand in 2010, respectively, with the main focus to enhance development of MPA networks in East Asia region. One of the major outcomes from these workshops was the “ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010” whose suggestions were to: (a) strengthen the regional mechanism for ICRI in East Asia, (b) follow-up the activities on MPA networks toward 2012, and (c) reflect the priority recommendations to regional and national policies. The Regional Strategy has captured various needs, interests and recommendations identified by the East Asian countries and partners during 2008-2010. However, how to move forward many of the suggested short-term and mid-long term actions remained to be clarified.
2. At the 2010 workshop, therefore, it was decided that this series of workshops shall be continued at least until 2012 particularly to follow-up the implementation of the Regional Strategy and with particular focus on the MPA networks. Japan has committed to support the organization of these workshops.
3. In response to these suggestions, the Samoa ICRI General Meeting endorsed to organize the follow-up ICRI regional workshop in 2011, and the governments of Cambodia and Japan in collaboration with the ICRI Secretariat have agreed to co-organize the 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop in Cambodia in 2011 to continue the regional dialogue and collaboration in support of ICRI objectives.

The 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop

4. The 7th Workshop was held from 9th to 13th October 2011 at the Allson Angkor Paradise Hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The workshop was co-hosted by the Fisheries Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Royal Government of Cambodia and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in collaboration with the ICRI Secretariat. It was co-chaired by Mr. Yoshihiro Natori of the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation and Dr. Vo Si Tuan of the Institute of Oceanography, Vietnam. Technical support was provided by the Japan Wildlife Research Center. A total of 51 participants attended the workshop, of which 37 were international participants and 14 were local participants.
5. The objectives of the workshop were to:
 - Share the status, challenges and experiences of the ongoing efforts by East Asian countries toward achieving the 2012 MPA network target in the context of coral reefs and related ecosystems for mutual learning and to seek possible collaboration; and
 - Review the progress of implementation of the Regional Strategy and identify the priority actions and their way forward, in particular, the regional mechanism for

ICRI in East Asia and ongoing MPA actions.

6. The Workshop achieved to:
 - Clarify the progress and status of implementation of the Regional Strategy;
 - Prioritize the MPA related actions in the Regional Strategy and identified key recommendations to carry them forward;
 - Identify key recommendations on the ICRI's regional mechanism for East Asia, including:
 - The role and direction of ICRI in East Asia
 - ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops (including the next workshop in 2012)
 - GCRMN East Asia regional network
7. The key findings and recommendations will be further considered and implemented as appropriate by forming a working group or other means, and/or further discussed in the next workshop in 2012.
8. The Executive Summary of the workshop is available at **ANNEX**. More detailed Meeting Record as well as presentations and other meeting materials were posted on ICRIForum, at: <http://earw.icriforum.org/EastAsiaRW2011.html>

Action Requested

ICRI members are requested to:

9. Take note of the Executive Summary of the 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop as attached in the **ANNEX**.

ANNEX

*7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop
9-13 October 2011
Allson Angkor Paradise Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia*

Executive Summary

The 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop was held from 9th to 13th October 2011, at the Allson Angkor Paradise Hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. Share the status, challenges and experiences of the ongoing efforts of the East Asian countries towards achieving the 2012 Marine Protected Area (MPA) network target in the context of coral reefs and related ecosystems for mutual learning and to seek possible collaboration; and
- ii. Review the progress of implementation of the Regional Strategy and identify the priority actions and the way forward, in particular, the regional mechanism for ICRI in East Asia and ongoing MPA actions.

The Workshop was co-hosted by the Fisheries Administration (FiA), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Royal Government of Cambodia and the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), Japan in collaboration with the ICRI Secretariat. It was co-chaired by Mr. Yoshihiro Natori of the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation and Dr. Vo Si Tuan of the Institute of Oceanography, Vietnam. Technical support was provided by the Japan Wildlife Research Center.

The Workshop was officially opened by the Co-chair, and welcome addresses were delivered by Mr. Naoki Amako, Assistant Director, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, Mr. Dominique Mas (on behalf of the ICRI Secretariat), First Councillor, French Embassy in Cambodia, and His Excellency Dr. Nao Thuok, Director General, Fisheries Administration, Royal Government of Cambodia, welcomed participants to Cambodia.

A total of 51 participants attended the Workshop, of which 37 were international participants and 14 were local participants ([Annex 1](#)). The agenda for the Workshop is attached at [Annex 2](#). All Workshop material (copies of presentations, etc) was made available to participants on a memory stick provided at the close of the Workshop. The PDF of the presentations were also posted on ICRIForum at: <http://earw.icriforum.org/EastAsiaRW2011-agenda.html>

1. Coral Reefs and MPAs in Cambodia

A session that focused on coral reefs and MPAs in Cambodia was organized and it was co-chaired by Mr. Ing Try, Deputy Director General of FiA Cambodia and Vo Si Tuan. There were three case studies presented, i.e., about setting up Cambodia's first legislated national MPA, NGO conservation activities, and on private sector involvement in conservation. In the subsequent discussion, it was noted that the provincial and community level MPAs are also playing an important role in coastal management in Cambodia, and there are many cross-boarder collaborations between Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam at different levels. There was also a high interest in the MPA managed by the private resort.

2. ICRI Member Country Reports

An ICRI member country report session was held and six participating countries (i.e., Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) presented their status, challenges and experiences on MPAs and coral reef conservation activities by responding to some common

questions given by the organizer prior to the workshop. Although there were variations in the status, challenges, priorities and approaches, many examples of progress and efforts on MPAs and coral reef conservation were shared among the participants. The Workshop congratulated these efforts and recognized that shared experiences will serve as a foundation for enhancing national actions and mutual collaboration.

3. Follow-up of MPA Actions in the Regional Strategy

On Day 2, a full day was dedicated to review the status of implementation of the Regional Strategy and to prioritize the remaining actions to facilitate further implementation. The Workshop Secretariat provided a brief on the status of implementation of actions including the results of a questionnaire survey which was undertaken by participating countries before the workshop. It indicated that there are some areas of progress but a majority of regional level actions remained to be unaddressed and requiring clarity on how to actually implement them. The workshop therefore first discussed each of theme in general and then organized a breakout session to identify priority actions and their recommended way forward. Below summarizes the recommendations from the breakout session and the discussion on each theme. The Workshop noted these for further consideration and implementation.

Regional MPA database – The outline of the “Coral Reef MPAs in East Asia and Micronesia” database developed on ReefBase in 2010 was presented but no progress was reported to be made. All the relevant actions in the Regional Strategy were identified as priority for implementation. The key recommendations were to: (i) Reconsider the name of the database so as to incorporate “related ecosystems” in addition to coral reefs and thus fully include all target MPAs; (ii) Assess how the database is used and if it is being used effectively; (iii) Strengthen the attractiveness and the promotion of the database to enhance its use; (iv) Encourage periodic update of data by country contact person to keep the data up-to-date; and (v) Increase traceability of all the data sources including mutual linkages with other databases.

Regional MPA gap analysis – The possibility of regional gap analysis using above database was proposed. The discussions revealed that the rationale for conducting a regional MPA gap analysis was not clear and even suggested the need to conduct a “gap analysis of the gap analysis” to clearly define the needs and priorities. It was suggested that the focus of the gap analysis will need to reflect what the countries need in terms of enhancing MPAs and that it should not just be academic but have some practical application to countries. The Workshop Secretariat was therefore requested to (i) Liaise with ACB on the status of their ASEAN regional/national MPA gap analysis, and (ii) Contact the four countries who have not initiated the gap analysis to understand their status and needs for potential support.

Coral reef habitat mapping – The outline of the new coral reef habitat map which was developed using satellite images and launched early this year was presented. Among several suggested actions in the Regional Strategy, improvement of the accuracy of maps and development of the user guide and technical report were identified as priority. The key recommendations were to: (i) Expand the area coverage to include higher latitudes; (ii) Improve accuracy of the data through ground-truthing by experts (e.g., GCRMN national coordinators, large NGOs) before making it available on ReefBase; (iii) Add the capability to select different habitat categories to be shown on the GIS; (iv) Provide detailed definitions of the legends; and (v) Recognize the current map as the baseline data and update it periodically (e.g., every 5 years) in future.

MPA management effectiveness – The work done by the Working Group, including the draft report and EXCEL model tool, was presented. To develop a set of minimum core indicators that are commonly important in all countries was identified as the highest priority by the breakout group. The key recommendations on Management Effectiveness Assessment Tools (MEAT) were to: (i) Provide clear definitions on each of the categories of ranking/rating system to avoid confusion and increase accuracy; (ii) Ensure the whole range of management elements are covered in the indicators, while taking account the weighting differences among the elements; (iii) Involve different stakeholders in the development process to identify simple and practical tool to allow wide application; (iv) Encourage adoption of evaluation indicators at the time of MPA establishment to achieve effective management; (v) Encourage inclusion of external verification in

the evaluation process to ensure robustness (e.g., inclusion of scientists in the evaluation team); (vi) Make aware that the assessment by MEAT is only a small part of the whole management process and that continuation (including funding) is necessary to achieve the objectives; and (vii) Consider mechanisms to translate the site level evaluation into an area level assessment (e.g., networking, national/regional levels).

Priority recommendations and MPA guidelines – Several case studies and reports were presented all of which focused on locally adapted MPAs and good practices on coastal management in Asia-Pacific region. The subsequent breakout session identified developing the MPA guideline in East Asia as the top priority. The Workshop Secretariat was requested to obtain more detailed information on Q19 of the questionnaire which asked about the use of Annex 5 of the Regional Strategy. Other key recommendations were to: (i) Set up a working group to work on the MPA guidelines; (ii) Identify case study writers on MPAs and fisheries/ecotourism experiences from each country and compile the findings for publication; and (iii) Develop the guidelines based on the findings and disseminate them through regional bodies.

4. GCRMN East Asia Network

The Day 3 was fully dedicated to discuss GCRMN matters with the objectives to: (i) Share the status and activities of GCRMN East Asia network; (ii) Discuss how to integrate GCRMN activities into the ICRI regional mechanism; and (iii) Discuss how to enhance coordination of coral reef monitoring and conservation activities in the region. The session was co-chaired by Karenne Tun, Node Coordinator for Southeast Asia, and Tadashi Kimura, Node Coordinator for North & East Asia.

The Workshop was initially briefed on the background and status of GCRMN including the ongoing global transition. Then the participants discussed the gaps and challenges of GCRMN activities, and how East Asia might want to respond to the global transition and integrate its activities into wider ICRI process. A summary of the discussion was compiled to serve as the basis for further discussion between GCRMN Management Group and node and national coordinators of GCRMN East Asia Region.

Supporting document: Summary of discussion on GCRMN East Asia Network ([Annex 3](#))

5. ICRI's Regional Mechanism for East Asia

Based on the identified needs and priorities in East Asia region from the discussions in Day 1 - Day 3, a fundamental question on the role of ICRI at the regional level and how it should relate to East Asia, and the potential regional mechanism to support ICRI activities in the region were discussed.

ICRI's role and direction in East Asia – The workshop recognized the uniqueness and benefits of ICRI's informal nature and the importance of empowering regional level collaboration to support national activities. There was a general consensus that East Asia region shall make the best use of ICRI and continue to maintain links for its own strategy and framework that best fits the region, a strategy that uses existing networks and links to the global process and other regional mechanisms.

ICRI's regional mechanism for East Asia – There was a strong recognition of the importance of the ICRI regional workshops as a rare opportunity for the coral reef community in the region to meet, share experiences and seek mutual collaboration, and the importance of its continuation was emphasized. The discussions mainly focused on strategies to continue the workshops sustainably, including reducing the burden for Japan in terms of support, and planning for the scenario when Japan may not be able to continue financially supporting the workshops in the future. The key recommendations were to:

- Encourage other countries to take on further responsibilities to self-fund their travel to attend the workshops by planning the next workshop at least a year in advance to allow countries to secure their own budget;
- Create cost effective meeting opportunities by making the best use of existing initiatives, meetings and projects; and
- Identify incentives for partners to participate in the workshops at their own expenses with reference to the registration fees system applied to the Asia Pacific Coral Symposia.

On the other hand, it was also noted that regional coordination cannot rely solely on meetings but a mechanism for strong communication and networking is considered vital. The key recommendations were to:

- Consider utilizing existing GCRMN regional network and coordinators for regional coordination with a precaution to avoid overload on their voluntary role and primary responsibility as the monitoring network; and
- Consider introducing a “Regional Secretariat” by applying a rotating system of the Secretariat which is to be hosted by a pair of countries or a country with an organization.

ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop – Japan reconfirmed support for organizing the 8th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop in 2012 to follow-up the Regional Strategy, and the workshop acknowledged its generous and continued support. Candidate locations and identified opportunities were to:

- Organize in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) in Cairns, Australia (July 2012); and
- Organize in conjunction with the IUCN’s World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Jeju, Korea (September 2012).

The workshop welcomed these suggestions and asked the Workshop Secretariat to consult with relevant people and determine the venue and time as soon as possible to allow participants to secure their budget for travelling. The workshop also agreed that the focus of the workshop will continue to follow-up the Regional Strategy on MPA networks, in particular to address unresolved matters discussed in the current workshop.

6. Conclusions

The key findings and recommendations identified during the workshop will be further considered and implemented as appropriate by forming a working group or other means, and/or further discussed in the next workshop in 2012.

Annex 1. Final participants list

Participants are listed alphabetically by the representation.

Representation (G: Government, O: Organization)		Name	Surname	Main E-mail
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Annex 2. Final Agenda

Day 1, Sunday 9th October 2011

1. Opening Ceremony

1-1. Opening remarks

1-2. Welcome address

- Japan (Mr Naoki Amako, Assistant Director, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment)
- France on behalf of the ICRI Secretariat (Mr Dominique Mas, First Counsellor, French Embassy in Cambodia)
- Royal Government of Cambodia (His Excellency Nao Thuok, Director General, Fisheries Administration)

2. Introduction

2-1. Introduction of ICRI and East Asia

- 2-1-1. ICRI and its roles (Francis Staub)
- 2-1-2. Background of ICRI in East Asia (Kohei Hibino)

2-2. Workshop objectives, expected outcomes and procedure (Kohei Hibino)

3. Adoption of agenda

4. Coral Reefs and MPAs in Cambodia

4-1. Case studies of current work in Cambodia

- 4-1-1. Processes and planning Cambodia's First MPA (Ouk Vibol)
- 4-1-2. Cambodian Reef Conservation Programme (Robert Major)
- 4-1-3. Private Sector Involvement in Coral Reef Conservation in Cambodia (Barnaby Olsen and Prak Saran)

4-2. Discussion

5. ICRI Member Country Reports

5-1. Member country reports

- 5-1-1. Indonesia (Cherryta Yunia)
- 5-1-2. Korea (Heung-Sik Park)
- 5-1-3. Japan (Naoki Amako)
- 5-1-4. Philippines (Jacob Meimban)
- 5-1-5. Thailand (Niphon Phongsuwan)
- 5-1-6. Vietnam (Nguyen Giang Thu)

5-2. Reports from organizations

[Welcome dinner hosted by FiA Cambodia]

Day 2, Monday 10th October 2011

6. Follow-up of MPA Actions in the Regional Strategy

6-1. Introduction

6-2. Status of implementation of the Regional Strategy (Kohei Hibino)

6-3. MPA database, MPA gap analysis and habitat mapping

- 6-3-1. Regional MPA database and gap analysis (Kohei Hibino)
- 6-3-2. Habitat mapping (Naoki Amako)

6-4. MPA management effectiveness (Kohei Hibino)

6-5. Priority recommendations and MPA guidelines

- 6-5-1. Asia-Pacific Style MPAs (Shinichiro Kakuma)
- 6-5-2. Side event at the Asia Regional Conservation Forum
- 6-5-3. Good practice guide in the Pacific (Francis Staub)

6-5-4. IMCC indigenous workshop (Clive Wilkinson)

6-6. Other potential activities toward 2012

6-7. Breakout session

6-7-1. Introduction of the breakout session

6-7-2. Feedback in the plenary session

[Poster session]

Day 3, Tuesday 11th October 2011

7. GCRMN East Asia Network

7-1. Introduction

7-2. Reaffirmation of GCRMN's regional network as part of ICRI's regional mechanism

7-2-1. Introduction on GCRMN and ICRI (Clive Wilkinson)

7-2-2. GCRMN East Asia network (Loke Ming Chou)

7-3. East Asia's response to GCRMN's global transition (Jerker Tamelander)

7-4. Regional activities

7-4-1. Structure of GCRMN East Asia region

7-4-2. East Asia Regional Report 2014

7-4-3. Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium in 2014 (Allen Chen)

7-5. MPAs in Brunei Darussalam (David Lane)

7-6. Enhancement of coral reef monitoring and information sharing in the region

7-7. Wrap-up of the session

Special Session: The history of "Mr. GCRMN" (Clive Wilkinson)

Day 4, Wednesday 12th October 2011

8. ICRI Regional mechanism for East Asia

8-1. Introduction

8-2. ICRI's role and direction in East Asia (Kohei Hibino)

8-3. ICRI's regional mechanism for East Asia (Kohei Hibino)

8-4. ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop

Other matters

- Micronesian monitoring network supported by PICRC/JICA (Adelle Lukes Isechal)

8-5. Linkage with ICRI global process and future opportunities

8-5-1. France and Samoa ICRI Secretariat

8-5-2. ITMEMS4

8-5-3. ICRS 2012

8-6. Wrap-up of the session

9. Summary of the Workshop

10. Closing

[Cocktail and farewell dinner hosted by MoE, Japan]

Annex 3. Summary of discussion on GCRMN East Asia Network

BACKGROUND

The GCRMN is the main operational network of ICRI with the role of enhancing coral monitoring, raising awareness of the need for coral reef conservation and initiating direct activities on local reefs. The existing Southeast Asia Node and the North and East Asia Node have been historically cooperating and working quite actively together as one East Asia region.

ICRI is currently in the process of restructuring the GCRMN's global coordinating mechanism by strengthening the regional functions. These two Nodes are expected to be jointly coordinated under the new GCRMN global structure.

However, few of the governments in the region have recognized their role and activities, and also the coordinators have not recognized sufficiently their network as well as the linkages of their activities to ICRI. This GCRMN regional network was proposed to be as one of ICRI's core regional mechanism for East Asia in the Regional Strategy.

Thus government representatives and GCRMN coordinators met and discussed the actual operation and effective use of the GCRMN regional network in the context of ICRI at the 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop in Siem Reap, Cambodia, October 2011. All national and node coordinators of GCRMN East Asian Region agreed to provide this Results of Discussion as a workshop document for further discussion between GCRMN management group and node and national coordinators of GCRMN East Asia region.

The GCRMN coordinators and ICRI country members recognised gaps and challenges on the mechanism of regional network in East Asia.

GAPS

- Difficulty for coordination to collect data from different organizations (governments, University, NGOs and consultancy companies) at national level
- Lack of communication between ICRI and GCRMN;
- Weakness on involvement of government agencies and institutions for sharing data
- Lack of communication/Gaps between management group and regional/node/national coordinators;
- Lack of long-term strategy to maintain data collection instead of current efforts on voluntary basis;
- Absence of Myanmar and Timor Leste.
- Lack of mechanism to help in obtaining funds to help collect information and capacity building for each country

CHALLENGES:

- Recruit alternative contacts and supporters for national coordinators to assist their data collection and coordination.
- Reflecting confirmed structure of node and national coordinators of GCRMN East Asia to the global transition concept
- Consideration of a better mechanism and structure of GCRMN East Asia in the context of new global GCRMN strategy
- Raising fund for regular publication of regional report

All the GCRMN node and national coordinators in East Asia region agreed to recommend these items below on ICRI regional mechanism of East Asia and GCRMN global transition.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION IN ICRI

ICRI Regional Mechanism:

- Provide improved opportunity of communication between ICRI and GCRMN
- Support national coordinators to link with different stakeholders (governments/NGOs)
- Enhance government participation in ICRI family
- To support participation of country representatives in APCRS

GCRMN Global Transition:

- Invite regional/node coordinators to the discussion of management group
- Emphasize face to face communication to strengthening the regional and global networking
- Consider improving the support from Inter governmental organization and linkage with international donors for sustainable management
- Maintain and improve flexibility on mechanism/structure of networking among the regions
- Consider current mechanism of APCRS to gather scientists and NGOs for information sharing

GCRMN East Asia members also recognised to implement actions below.

OTHER RECOGNITIONS

- Establishment of International Organizing Committee for supporting the 3rd APCRS in Taiwan 2014;
- Offer from GCRMN Philippines to host the 4th APCRS in 2018;
- Confirmation of timeline for preparation of global status report 2012 and regional status report 2014
- Offer from Coral Cay in collaboration with Cambodian Fisheries Administration to provide bleaching data of Cambodia for the global/regional report
- Consideration of involvement of Myanmar and Timor Leste in GCRMN East Asia region
- Informal network (non government representative system) allow countries to participate easily without bureaucracy
- Collaboration between ICRI members and GCRMN national coordinators to gather different agencies, institutions (including COREMAP) and NGOs to conduct monitoring in Indonesia.
- Recognitions/endorsement of country coordinators, perhaps by letter or certificate should be forwarded if requested by individuals. This would help their participations in node activities.