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ASIA-PACIFIC CHAPTER

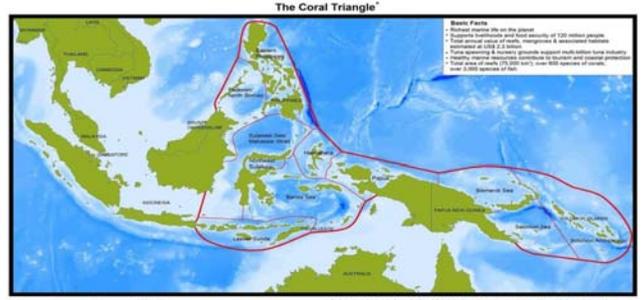
United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Alumni Newsletter— Asia-Pacific Chapter

Coral Triangle Initiative

In the Asia-Pacific region, The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) might be one of the most popular issues currently. The initiative was firstly proposed by the Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudoyono (SBY) by sending letters to six leaders in the region. The idea was positively responded to by those leaders and is formalized as an initiative.

The objective of the CTI is to contribute toward “safeguarding the region’s marine and coastal biological resources for the sustainable growth and prosperity of current and future generations.” Its goals include seascapes management, ecosystem approach in fishery management, marine protected area management, adoption of climate change measures, and improving the status of threatened species.

The actions of CTI include



Coral Triangle covering the Philippines, Malaysia (Sabah), Indonesia (central and eastern), East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

assessment, monitoring and information management, sustainable financing, capacity building, public/private partnerships, and enabling relevant laws and policies. This program geographically involves six states: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands.

The first official meeting of CTI was held in Bali, Indonesia during the UNFCCC in Nusa Dua. Since then, several activities have been

planned, including call for actions.

The latest developments of the CTI can be accessed via its official secretariat website: <http://www.cti-secretariat.net>. The website offers things to discover, including basic principle, aims, options to contribute.

The UNNFF alumni, especially those in the region, can support the initiative through ideas and actions. Coordination and collaboration need to be done among relevant States.

Editorial: Believe, take action and tell stories

The Earth, our planet water, is now facing a lot of serious problems. Global warming, IUU fishing, and environmental damages, just to mention a few. What can be done with these problems? Can these global problems be overcome by individual actions?

It is very easy to be pessimistic. However, a short talk by Deepak Chopra in the UN Secretariat Building in New York at end of 2007 might be worth recalling. He advised three things should be considered: believe in yourself, take action and tell stories,

is. Good ideas without realization is nothing. Thirdly, share your ideas and what you have done with others. Simply, tell stories. This is an effective way of persuading others to duplicate what you are doing.

You may have different approaches in dealing with problems and issues, but Chopra’s suggestion is worth considering. Only when you believe in yourself, will global problems faced by the Planet Earth be resolved. However without taking action, nothing will change. Also, tell people what you have done and be an inspiration to others.

Inside this issue:

Coral Triangle Initiative	1	First, one should believe in him/herself in making a difference. “It is YOU, not the organization, not your boss”, said Chopra. Secondly, take action, no matter how small it
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Opinion: Extending Indonesia's maritime area?

Pursuant to article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), a coastal State may confirm its sovereign rights over continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from its baselines (extended continental shelf, ECS). For this purpose, a coastal State should delineate the outer limits of its ECS and make a submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the Commission).

On 16 June 2008 Indonesia submitted the outer limits of its ECS to the Commission for the area to the northwest of Sumatra Island. This is the twelfth submission by a coastal State and is the first one made by an Asian State. This may also be considered as one of the earliest submission by a developing State, which deserves appreciation.

Indonesia's submission may also be referred to as extending maritime area, which is not exactly the case. Indonesia does not extend its maritime area, but only confirms its sovereign rights. In the said area, article 77 of UNCLOS states that a coastal state secures sovereign

rights over the continental shelf which "do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation."

Indonesia's current submission accounts for 3915 sq km and is a partial submission. The area submitted is formed by

five fixed points shaping a closed polygon (see Figure 1). These five points are defined by fixed point along the 200 M limits (1 and 5), 1% sediment thickness (2 and 3), and fixed point on the computed median line between Indonesia and India (4).

The definition of point 4 in particular may give rise to problem as this may spark a dispute with India if it does not agree to the computed median line. It has been confirmed that Indonesia has not yet made any communication with India regarding this (cont. on page 3).

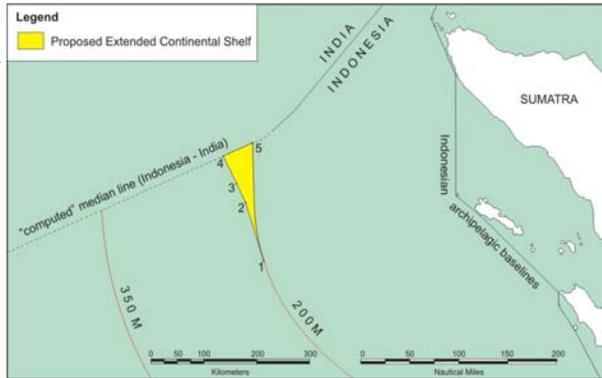


Figure 1 Indonesia's proposed Extended Continental Shelf for the area to the northwest of Sumatra Island

Asia-Pacific Alumni Profiles

Since its first batch in 2005, the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship (UNNFF) has awarded fellowship to individuals from Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Africa. As of now, there are thirty alumni and ten current fellows in the program. In Asia-Pacific in particular, twelve alumni are recorded including Nguyen Manh Dong (Vietnam), Michael Garcia (The Philippines), Mom Ravin (Cambodia), Muhammad Nazmul Hoque (Bangladesh), Rudolf Henry Dorah (Solomon Island), Pakjuta Khemakorn (Thailand), Chinthaka Mendis (Sri Lanka), Hendra Siry (Indonesia), Mang Hau Thang (Myanmar), Ritche Capahi (The Philippines) Sampan Panjarat



Rudolf, Pakjuta, Chinthaka, Hendra

(MoFA). Michale recently joined the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) as a foreign service officer. He is currently attending a cadetship course at the Foreign Service Institute. Before joining the DFA, he was doing PhD studies with the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong, Australia. Mom is also working with MoFA in Cambodia, as a Bureau Chief of ASEAN Regional Forum Division. This is similar to Nazmul who is working in the MoFA of Bangladesh.

another civil servant working in MoFA of Sri Lanka as a legal officer. Hendra is the Head of the Program Development Section, Planning Division, in the Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research, Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. He is currently a PhD student at the Australian National University, Australia.

Thang, like many of the alumni, is working in the MoFA of Myanmar and is now posted in the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore. Ritche is another alumni from the Philippines working as a Legal Officer in the Maritime Legal Affairs Office, Maritime Industry Authority. Meanwhile, Sampan is another fisheries biologist from Thailand. She is working in the Thai Department of Fisheries. Andi is a lecturer and researcher in Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia. Similar to Michael, he is currently a PhD student in the University of Wollongong, Australia.



Dong, Michael, Mom, Nazmul

(Thailand), and I Made Andi Arsana (Indonesia).

Dong is the head of the Territorial and Border Affairs Section in the Department of International Law and Treaties, Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Rudolf is an Assistant Secretary of Regional Economic Corporation Branch in Solomon Islands, while Pakjuta is a fisheries biologist working as a civil servant in the Thai Department of Fisheries. She is joining the University of Wollongong, Australia for a PhD degree. Chinthaka is



Thang, Ritche, Sampan, Andi

UNITAR Series on Sea and Human Security

“Towards a comprehensive security for seas and oceans: the Hiroshima Initiative”

During 28 September-3 October 2008, I had a good opportunity to attend the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) training workshop titled “Towards a comprehensive security for seas and oceans: the Hiroshima Initiative” at UNITAR, Hiroshima, Japan. It provides the conceptual ground and practical guidelines for a comprehensive approach to security and identifies four main action items that would be further developed:

1. Interrelations between habitats, ecosystems and human food security
2. Strategies for disaster management and risk reduction
3. Training of trainers for ICM implementation
4. Ocean governance: awareness creation and implementation

This workshop aimed to facilitate peer exchange, skills and knowledge development among key policy makers working

in the field of marine and ocean affairs, in order to identify key challenges in specific fields; agree on targets in order to tackle identified problems; design feasible action plans for policy implementation; and develop an overall strategy taking into account interrelations between subject areas.

There were 26 participants (potential decision makers and trainers within national administrations, selected ministries, NGOs, academia and private corpo-



Pakjuta with a discussion group (UNITAR workshop)

rations), from 15 countries i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Federated States of Micronesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The schedule was quite tight due to limited time for various topics. However, the benefits and experiences that I gained from the workshop will be truly useful for my daily professional duties and future role as a trainer in Thailand. Hopefully, UNITAR will continue arranging this comprehensive workshop, which facilitates peer exchange, skills and knowledge development for those working in the field of marine and ocean affairs, in order to support the sustainable management for our seas and oceans security.

For workshop documents and materials, please visit the official website at URL: <http://www.unitar.org/hiroshima/programmes/shs08/>

Pakjuta Khemakorn - Alumni 2006-2007

IOTC Working party on Tropical Tuna, Ecosystem and Bycatch

On 20 October-1 November 2008 in Bangkok, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission held a working party on the topic of “Tropical Tuna and the Ecosystem and Bycatch.”

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is an intergovernmental organization established under Article XIV of the FAO constitution that currently has 28 Member States and three States of non-contracting parties. It is mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. Currently, 16 species that are under the management mandate. In addition, data on non-target, associated and dependent species affected by tuna fishing operations has to be collated.

The Working Party on Tropical Tuna (WPTT) was the Tenth Session of the IOTC, started with the presentation of the status of the IOTC database for tropical tuna. Each tuna species were examined in term of trend of catch amount, catch per unit of effort, trend in size and age of fish stock assessment, etc.

I had an opportunity to present the data of tunas unloading in Phuket Thailand, and the WPTT agreed to support a port sampling to get more data of fish tags in Phuket. In the whole picture of the meeting, it is tried to get as much as possible data from the member countries to support the tuna resources management. Finally the WPTT concluded that the tuna stocks are close to or possibly has recently entered the over-fished state. The 2007 tuna catch of 317,000 tons was above the maximum sustainable yield. The WPTT agreed that the catches should be reduced to less than 250,000-300,000 tons and below the levels observed in 2007.

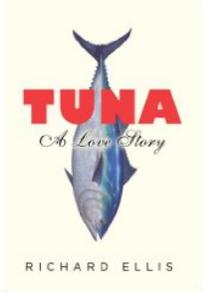
The Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB) was the Fourth Session of the IOTC. Here, the IOTC member countries reviewed the biodiversity of the Indian Ocean and the information available on the incidental catch of non target species by some kind of fisheries. The working party focused on the incidental catch of sharks, seabirds, turtles and marine mammal. The valuable scientific

information of species, catch and the relevant data that concerned and supported the management plan were presented, followed by comments and discussions. Although the WPEB expressed its disappointment that no National Plans of Action (NPOAs) to reduce those bycatch were provided by IOTC members, the outcome of the meeting is the fruitful updated framework and protocol to pursue and strengthen the enforcement in reducing bycatch and incidental fish.

Both of the working party are also expected to cooperate in the exchange of information regarding any fishing for the stocks, to provide the IOTC copies of laws, regulations and administrative instructions in force or, where appropriate, summaries thereof, relating to the conservation and management of stocks covered by the Agreement. Apart from those issues the participants were enthusiastic to exchanged ideas, cultures, and enjoyed their time in Bangkok. Above all, good relationship occurred among them.

Sampan Panjarat - Alumni 2007-2008

Tuna: A Love Story *a book review by Hendra Siry*



This is a latest book from Richard Ellis, the author of *The Book of Sharks*, *Imagining Atlantis*,

and *Encyclopedia of the Sea*. This book provides a story of the most popular food fish in the world, tuna, which is eaten in multi ways (raw, cooked, in sandwiches, in salads, and in catfood). Richard Ellis is one of foremost contemporary ocean chroniclers.

With his shocking and thrilling style, Ellis emphasise “calls of actions” to pre-

vent tragic demise in some endangered tuna species depletion, such as the bluefin tuna. This tuna is the most popular for the Japanese sashimi market and the most expensive fish ever, which is now heavily exploited. It seems that Ellis put the Japanese fondness for tuna sashimi and Japanese willingness to violate fishing restrictions as root of tuna depletion. He then tries to promote the practice of 'tuna ranching' to keep the continuity of humans sushi-supplied and avoid the disappearance of wild bluefin tuna populations.

Through comprehensive, documented and balanced analysis, Ellis proves that he has delivered eminently readable and reliably authoritative book. His book is a source of the information of the biggest, fastest,

warmest-blooded, warmest-bodied fish in the world. He presents fully documented book of unique biology and fascinating history of the tuna species, both on recreational and commercial tuna fishing. He also explains how tuna become a lucrative and most extensive commodity with its four million tons worldwide harvested.

Book Dimension:

Hardcover: 352 pages|
Pub: Knopf; 1 edition (July 15, 2008)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0307267156
ISBN-13: 978-0307267153
Dimensions: 9.4 x 6.1 x 1.5 inch.

Hendra Siry, Alumni 2006-2007

Extending ... (from page 2)

Meanwhile, Indonesia is currently preparing two more submissions: south of West Nusa Tenggara and north of Papua, which will be submitted before the deadline of 13 May 2009.

The Commission is expected to consider Indonesia's submission in one of its sessions in 2009. The [executive summary](#) of the submission is now available in the [Commission's website](#) for other States to examine, as to respond to as they deem

necessary.

Should this submission be recommended by the Commission, Indonesia may gain benefit from resource utilization. However, some issues may arise, including potential disputes with neighboring States. Delineation is not the end of the story as more maritime area, conse-

“... this may spark dispute with India if India does not agree to the computed median line”

quently, brings with it greater responsibility and management needs.

Apart from the challenges, Indonesia's submission may be a motivation to other developing States for making

submissions.

I Made Andi Arsana, Alumni 2007-2008

Upcoming event - WOC 2009 in Manado, Indonesia



The 2009 World Ocean Conference (WOC) will be held in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia on 11-15 May 2009. Ocean and Climate

Change will be the main theme of the conference which will focus on climate change impacts on the ocean and the role of the ocean on climate change.

The International Ocean Science, Technology, and Policy Symposium 2009 will also be part of the conference. Participants are invited to submit papers to share their ideas on relevant topics. The events will cover a wide range of topics including technology, trends and policy, with 32 sessions in total. The symposium is accepting the submission of abstract from potential participants until 30 October 2008. Meanwhile full papers should be submitted on or before 30 January 2009.

The WOC 2009 will be one of the biggest ocean-related events next year. This is also a good opportunity for the UNNFF alumni to participate by sharing ideas or experiences in their respective regions. Alumni are encouraged to write papers either solely or collaboratively to be presented in the conference.

Latest development and information concerning the conference can be obtained from its official website: <http://www.woc2009.org>.



UN-NFF ALUMNI ASIA-PACIFIC CHAPTER

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***Building capacity in ocean affairs
and the law of the sea***

Next Issue:

*Illegal, unreported and unregulated
(IUU) fishing in Asia-Pacific region.*

*Please contact the editor for your con-
tribution: madeandi@ugm.ac.id*

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to write a few words for the inauguration of the United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellowship Asia-Pacific Region Alumni News Letter. As you all know, I am personally very invested in the Fellowship Programme, thus witnessing such developments makes me particularly proud and, I should admit, moves me.

You all took a very important and courageous step when you decided to submit your Fellowship application files. Perhaps without realizing it, you started a process which – I am sure – has lead to significant personal and professional development for all of you; and the friends you made and things you lived along the way also enriched your being.

This news letter is a testimonial to your strength of character and bears witness to your engagement to undertake a process of continuous personal development and sharing with like-minded individuals from the region and beyond. Coincidentally, the launching of this edition comes at an opportune time with respect to the Fellowship Programme and its Alumni: the announcement of the first of what is expected to become a series of United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme Alumni Meetings.

The first Alumni Meeting will be held in Tokyo, at the Foundation's Headquarters, and will bring together the Asia-Pacific Alumni, along with certain Academic Co-supervisors, and various scholars and practitioners from Japan and the wider Region for three days of exchanges. As with this news letter, the objective of the Alumni Meeting Series is to provide you with the opportunity to continue to share experiences and knowledge, and learn from each other and experts as well as prominent ocean affairs and law of the sea figures. As we move forward, updated information will be made available on the Fellowship website and Asia-Pacific Alumni will be contacted directly.

Finally, I wish to thank each and every one of you for having committed yourselves to this important journey, and a particular thanks to your 2008-2009 Alumni Representative, Andi, for his dedication to the Programme and to you, the Alumni.

Dr. François Bailet - Programme Advisor

Alumni's voice: Strengthening the network

*Andi Arsana **

Sometime in 2006, I received a text message from a senior colleague traveling to New York. He told me that DOALOS gave an opportunity for young people like me to be involved in a research program funded by the Nippon Foundation of Japan. The text message was really a starting point bringing me to this stage of my life. I applied for the program, got accepted and lived the nine-month journey of research and internship.

The fellowship, then I discovered, is not only about research, reports, presentations, and consultations, but also about friendship. Fellowship is friendship, as I mentioned to one of my good fellows once.

Apart from having good experience of conducting research supervised by world-class researchers and being in a superb research environment with an abundance of resources, making good friends with many of the brightest young people

from around the globe is really something. Not only did we learn from each other concerning ocean affairs and the law of the sea, but we also better understand and appreciate differences between us. If it was not because of the fellowship, I would not have known the amazing tale of the tortoise from Cameroon, or a song of a seagull from Thailand that my good fellow taught me. The fellowship opened my eyes and mind wider: we share the world we live in with many others. A small thing I do in the beach somewhere in Bali might affect my dear fellows somewhere in Colombia. This is how my understanding developed with respect to my duty to take care of the ocean.

The complete and balanced experience gives me a better understanding that we, as a family, face the critical ocean issues. The fellowship indeed does a good job in making important contribution to the capacity of developing States. However this fellowship is only the start. Many more ideas and real activities should

follow.

The alumni is also growing in numbers. By the end of this current batch (2008-2009), forty people will share the privilege of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship alumni. We now need to organize ourselves and take full advantage. This is now the time to make a real contribution, no matter how small it is.

The newsletter, meanwhile, is one small spark, and the fire of passion, knowledge and cooperation will hopefully spread. It is for sure that the newsletter is not our ultimate goal. We are hoping that it will motivate the emergence of other ideas from each of us and we can build from this.

** Alumni Representative (2008-2009)*



Taken from <http://maps.google.com>