

# CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING 2 HIGHLIGHTS

October 23, 2008

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Center, Metro Manila

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## Opening Session

Welcome Remarks were delivered by Dir. Mundita Lim, of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau- Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines. She provided an overview of the state of the coastal environment in the Philippines and the need to join other CT countries in working towards preserving marine productivity.

The meeting was formally opened by Dir. Gen. Prof. Dr. Syamsul Maarif, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia. He thanked the Filipinos for their hospitality in hosting both the CCC3 and SOM2 meetings. The strong bond among CTI members was important due to the sharing of responsibilities among them to ensure that the CT will still be conserved for future generations to enjoy. The consultative process being employed for CTI may be long and expensive but in the end, it is still the ideal process to follow among the CT countries.

Statements of support were expressed by the US and Australian Governments. US Ambassador Kristie Kenney commended the CT countries for stepping up to the challenge of working together and ensuring preservation of the CT. The CT countries were recognized as the true superpowers when it comes to biodiversity. The US government has decided to give US\$40M dollars, partly in grants for NGO partners, but also for supporting the CTI Secretariat.

Ms. Angela Williams of Australia commented that we can collectively make a difference by sharing our desire of preserving our biodiversity, and she welcomed the leadership of CT governments that started this partnership and is building political will. She reiterated the Australian government's support for CTI programs and concluded that that effective coordination, concrete outcomes, and teamwork are what are necessary for their success.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Hon. Jose L. Atienza, Jr., Secretary of the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He welcomed the senior officials from the CT countries, and thanked them for giving priority to sustainable development and the coral triangle. The Philippines is challenged with the length of its coastline and it recognizes the inadequacy of past responses. It feels confident now because of the CTI partnership and the regional approach being employed to achieve

quantitative goals. The participation of development partners and the private sector was likewise acknowledged.

A Photo Session with the Senior Officials followed the opening speeches.

Dr. Maarif of Indonesia requested the delegations to introduce their members one by one.

The Chairmanship was then turned over to Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines. He noted the importance of observing protocol in official events such as the SOM, and that formal turnover of the Chairmanship should be considered as a rule.

Malaysia was nominated as Vice-Chair, given the possibility of their hosting the next CCC4, pending approval from their Cabinet.

The agenda was presented by the Secretariat and approved by the body. In finalizing the Chairman's Summary, the Chair requested each country to send a delegate to meet with the Secretariat and finalize the document prior to presenting it to plenary.

## Overview of Results from the CCC3 Meeting

The Secretariat presented the summary and major decision points from the CCC3 meeting. Regarding the hosting of CCC4, Timor Leste commented that Indonesia offered to be the alternative venue if it cannot be held in Malaysia. Apart from a few more minor corrections, the body approved the summary and endorsed the decisions recommended by CCC3.

### Section 3 of RPOA

On the CTI RPOA, a few pending issues arose from the CCC3 meeting for Goal 3 on MPAs. The body finally agreed to use 10% as the interim target for no-take zones in the CTMPAS at the regional level, and 20% as the ultimate target.

On the language to use for the "transboundary" provisions, the Philippines and Indonesia agreed to use the word "transnational" with qualifying statements recognizing national laws and regulations as primary.

On the mention of RFMOs and other international cooperation bodies in Goal 2, the proposed and approved revision in the text by PNG and Solomon Islands consisted of the following:

- Strengthened collaborative governance of shared tuna stocks will be at the center of actions to achieve this target... "such as, but not limited to, *the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern*

*Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)*, where applicable, which also involve countries outside the CTI Implementation Area.

## **Section 4 of RPOA**

All recommendations were approved by the body. The Chair suggested nominating a country that will provide the leadership at the Ministerial Level in the interim. Indonesia was the unanimous choice.

The Steering Committee was changed back to Coordinating Committee. Bali agreements were limited to establishing a Secretariat and a Coordinating Committee, not a Steering Committee.

## **Other Sections, Roadmap**

All other sections were approved and endorsed by the body.

The conduct of preparations and details for the upcoming Ministerial Meeting, CCC4 and Summit were approved by the body. On the need for more than one minister to participate, only Malaysia expressed reservations on this, stating the need for their Cabinet to approve of this change.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **1. Geographic scope of CTI Implementation Area**

Apart from a few grammar corrections proposed by the Philippines, the operational geographic scope of the CTI to include EEZs of all CT6 countries was approved.

### **2. East Asia Seas Congress**

The Philippines announced the conduct of the East Asia Seas Congress in November 2009 in the Philippines. A session to discuss follow-through activities after Manado will try to be worked out.

### **3. Deadline for submission of National Plans**

The body agreed to keep the deadline of submission of National Plans of Action as Annexes to the RPOA, i.e. during the next CCC4 meeting.

### **4. Updates from Development Partners**

Mr. David Mc Cauley from the ADB provided an update on the agreements reached during the Partners' Meeting at ADB. Seven activities emerged therefrom:

1. *Secretariat support* – a sub-group of the friends of the secretariat has been formed to support strengthening Secretariat to carry out tasks from now to

Manado, as well as sustainable financing needs in the long-term; existing models of regional Secretariats and successful financing schemes will be reviewed

2. *Formation of database* – a database will be developed both at regional and national levels; a recently approved US-funded Program will conduct a mapping exercise of all existing activities related to the CTI and implemented by the partners, which will be integrated at the regional level ; it will also map out newly committed resources by country, as a result of CTI
3. *Monitoring and evaluation* – Monitoring of results will be undertaken, and a set of indicators that can cut across all CT countries will be developed
4. *Science to support good decision-making* – this component will deal on how to organize existing scientific information; it will work in conjunction with the Regional Secretariat, and will form the basis for a Regional Advisory Group
5. *Upcoming meeting at Townsville* – this meeting will be hosted by the Australian government and will tackle issues that are still outstanding prior to the Manado meeting
6. *Information management* – relates partly to M&E, Science and database activities; a major output of this group will most likely be producing CTI websites; it will have multiple entry points that will be cross-linked; each government can have a CTI website, and each development partner's CTI activities will be linked to each other
7. *Capacity assessments*– partners will assess internal capacities of countries; partners will form a sub-group to look at capacity assessment and capacity development; this will be a major focus at the Townsville meeting

In conclusion, partners reiterated their strong support for the CTI and to help implement the POA. The next partners' meeting will be held in conjunction with the Ministerial Meeting in PNG.

The Chair noted that it is important for Ministers and delegation heads to determine how the partners' agenda will affect their respective programs, so as to avoid getting into conflicts of interest. In relation to this, he raised questions on how the website will be controlled, and stressed that the Regional Secretariat should be on top of data management. To this, the Secretariat responded that they are doing their own activities in getting the current CTI website up and running.

On the mapping exercise, the Secretariat assured the delegates that the mapping activities will be done primarily through the CTI national focal points and will be tightly coordinated with the Regional Secretariat. CCC will serve as the clearing house for regional projects that will emerge from the RPOA. Meetings with the partners will be held to determine the various mechanisms that need to be formed. SOM will be the venue to approve these projects.

## **Chairman's Summary**

The SOM chairman's summary was presented to the group and discussed. Philippines will lead the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, while Indonesia will lead the

Financial Resources and Coordinating Mechanisms Working Groups. Outputs of all working groups will be drafted in time for the next CCC4 meeting in January 2009. The Manila Declaration was changed to the Manila Resolution, which will contain all major agreements reached during the SOM.

The formal signing of the CCC3 Chairman's Summary, SOM Chairman's Summary and the Manila Resolution followed.

## Closing Remarks

Usec. Gerochi noted that the countries have shown their determination to move forward, and their heads of State have already committed to push through with the CTI. The spirit of friendly cooperation demonstrated the capability of the countries to be productive in a friendly atmosphere, and the barriers of formality have been removed. CT Countries can now join hands without reservation, and without discomfort with one another because of cultural differences among themselves. If countries build on that friendship and on that commonality of direction and ideas, no barriers will stand between them. Each country was then asked to deliver their respective closing statements.

The Indonesian head of delegation thanked the host country and the other delegations for their cooperation and a productive meeting. The long hours spent proves that everyone is really trying their best even beyond their normal capacity. It reflects their high level of commitment, and they are looking forward to another productive meeting in the future.

Malaysia thanked the Philippines, the members of the Secretariat who have organized the CCC3 and SOM2, and the Regional Secretariat who have been working very hard. In the spirit of cooperation, they would like to think they will be giving their full cooperation in the future.

Solomon Islands joined Indonesia and Malaysia in thanking the host country. They extended their gratitude to the Secretariat, to the delegates of CT6 and to all the development partners. They agreed that this meeting has been very successful, and they look forward to taking this further.

PNG thanked the Philippines and the organizers, and the sponsors and partners who have made it possible for their delegates to attend this meeting. They will be looking forward to working with the Secretariat preparing for the Ministerial Meeting, and they assured the delegates of a warm welcome in February.

Timor Leste thanked the Philippines for hosting this successful meeting. They likewise thanked the collaboration and contribution of all delegates. They recognize their lack of human resources, and assistance from partners and other CT countries was very welcome.

The Philippines noted that the CTI has come a long way since Bali. They are very pleased to have been part of the process towards Manado, by being host to this CCC3 and SOM2 meetings. The hard work paid off upon seeing the success of the meetings. They look forward to working with the other countries towards and after Manado.

The Chair formally closed the second SOM at 6:00 pm.