Report of the 6th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop

25th ICRI General Meeting
8th – 12th November 2010, Samoa
Contents

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- 6th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop
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East Asia region

Intergovernmental organizations & frameworks
- ASEAN
- COBSEA (UNEP RSP)
- NOWPAP (UNEP RSP)
- PEMSEA
ICRI East Asia Regional Initiative on MPA Networks 2008-2010

**Overall objectives**

To support country’s efforts and enhance mutual collaboration toward achieving the MPA global targets on coral reefs and related ecosystems in East Asia

- Initiated to revitalize the ICRI’s regional approach
- Organized three ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops
- Focused on MPA networks
- Developed the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy
- Supported several relevant activities
Provisional Plan 2009-2010
(Adopted in the 4th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop, Dec 2008)

- ACTION #1: Regional MPA gap analysis
- ACTION #2-1: Regional MPA database
- ACTION #2-2: MPA management effectiveness
- ACTION #2-3: Criteria on MPA networks
- ACTION #2-4: Regional level social network mechanism
- ACTION #2-5: Mapping of coral reefs
- ACTION #3: ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA networks
- ACTION #4: Organize ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops in 2009 and 2010
6th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop
(26 - 28th June 2010, Phuket, Thailand)

Co-hosted by
• Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand
• Ministry of the Environment, Japan
• ICRI secretariat

Represented by 74 participants (41 international and 33 local)

Achievements
• Presented Thailand’s MPA case studies and shared the experiences
• Finalized the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010
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ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010

Started with no restrictions in the focus except MPA networks

Concepts and features

- Ensure consistency and continuity of ICRI’s regional policy (e.g., ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy, Bali, 1996)
- Avoid duplication with existing regional policies and programs
- Focus on practical guidance and actual actions
- Three year’s process; involving 13 East Asian countries & states and other regional partners

Resulted to be not a comprehensive strategy on MPA networks but strongly reflected the discussions and actions during 2008-2010.
Three key objectives
ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010

Objective 1
• Formalize an appropriate regional mechanism for cooperation, information sharing and coordination in East Asia to support and enhance ICRI’s objectives in the region

Objective 2
• Conduct tangible follow-ups on the ongoing activities under Provisional Plan 2009-2010 and realize effective use and dissemination of each activity and deliverable

Objective 3
• Reflect identified priority recommendations on MPA networks for East Asia in regional and national policies
Objective 1: Regional mechanism
ICRI Regional Workshops
(Annex 1 of the report)

- Continue to organize the ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops
  - Platform for regional collaboration and coordination
  - Filling the gaps and coordinating existing and planned works in the region
  - Focus on common and emerging issues which requires regional approach
  - Ensure tangible follow-ups on continuity of discussion and actions

- Proposed structure and procedure
  - Open to regional stakeholders including non-ICRI member countries
  - Keep the procedure simple and easy for sustainable organization
  - Reduce organization and travel costs by utilizing the opportunity of major regional meetings
  - Venue (host country) to be nominated in rotation to provide even opportunities
  - Host country(s) to lead the preparation, organization and follow-ups
GCRMN regional network
(Annex 2 of the report)

- Name of the region for the combined two Nodes: East Asia
- Retain existing active and successful Node structures and ongoing activities
- Coordinated by two Node Coordinators
  - No Regional Coordinator position
  - Supported by Country/State Coordinators (12) and ICRI members in the region
- Link with the Regional Workshop and information sharing network
- Regional action plans
  - Publish the East Asia Regional Status Report in 2010
  - [Provide a regional chapter for the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2011]
  - Support the activities of the Asia Pacific Coral Reef Society (APCoRS)
ICRI regional workshops could:

- Provide an informal and flexible forum to regional partners beyond existing political frameworks and constraints
- Facilitate linkage among neighboring countries and relevant organizations
- Serve as ICRI’s outreach mechanism at regional and national level
- Respond to the needs or emerging issues in the region flexibly
- Focus on familiar issues at regional and national levels on ICRI matters
- Raise coral reef agenda in national government level and induce gathering of cross-sectoral participation in the host country
Challenges
East Asia Regional Workshops

- Still at the start line toward establishment of the ICRI’s regional mechanism/network
- How to establish uniqueness, significance, and differentiate from other regional initiatives and programs
- How to keep the momentum and dialogue
- ICRI’s informality and flexibility vs. Involvements and commitments
- Difficulty in finding common interests on themes among diverse countries and partners
Next steps
ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops

- Candidate location for the next regional workshop
  - Cambodia in 2011

- Continue to focus on MPA networks until 2012
  - Japan’s commitment for continued support at least until 2012
  - Need to identify priority needs and gaps in the region on MPAs as the focus for discussion and actions

- Follow-up of Regional Strategy and review
  - Review and evaluation of achievements on action items