

# RCE Asia Pacific Meeting at Cha-am, Thailand

Date 2 November, 2011

## Report of the Biodiversity Thematic Discussion

**Facilitator:** Simanta Kalita, RCE Guwahati

**Rapporteur:** Salfarina Abdul Gapoor, RCE Penang

Other Participants included representatives from RCE East Kalimantan, Chubu, Tongyeong, Penang and Cha-am.

### Agenda of the discussion:

- Taking forward the A-P Yogyakarta resolutions
- Biodiversity ESD Case studies format
- Future Collaborations –
  - Web teaching
  - Youth exchange

### Proceedings:

Simanta anchored the discussion and invited Reita (RCE Chubu) to present the Yogyakarta resolutions. Reita made a presentation on the goals, strategic actions, implementation strategies and areas of interests agreed upon in Yogyakarta A-P meeting. His presentation included -

#### **Goals**

- Sustainable use and management of natural resources
- Asia-Pacific Traditional and local knowledge education

#### **Strategic Action**

- Documentation and validation of traditional and local knowledge
- Dissemination and integration (market/social)
- Ex situ and in situ conservation
- Influence Policy: Mainstreaming

#### **Implementation Strategy**

- HEI can validate and create evidence of TLK
- Training of trainers (e.g. agriculture-organic farming, compost making)
- Recognize and appreciate local wisdom by sharing knowledge with formal education institutions
- Application of selected appropriate practices
- Synergizing RCEs activities

#### **Areas of Interest:**

- a) Food security and agriculture :** Phnom Penh , Yogyakarta, Chubu, Tongyeong
- b) health and traditional medicine :** Penang, Yogyakarta, Bangalore, Kyrgystan, Kodagu, Tongyeong, E.Kalimantan
- c) coastal and marine conservation :** Chubu, Tongyeong, Yogyakarta, Penang
- d) income generation :** Phnom Penh, Yogyakarta
- e) forest conservation :** E. Kalimantan, Yogyakarta, Guwahati, Phnom Penh, Penang, Chubu
- f) friendly mining :** E. Kalimantan

After Reita revisited the Yogyakarta resolutions, RCE members shared about the action taken by different RCEs on the Yogyakarta action plan -

- RCE Penang and RCE Bangalore have initiated the training of healers from various countries, such as India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia. 30 healers will be involved in the TOT facilitated by the Foundation to Revitalize Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) under RCE Bangalore, in collaboration with UNDP Equator Initiative and supported by the UNU-IAS. The TOT will be held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011. This will be followed by an international conference, whereby 5 RCEs have confirmed to attend. A special meeting among the RCEs will be carried out during one of the parallel sessions to ensure continuous collaborations and plan for strategic future programs amongst the RCEs.

- RCE Tongyeong reported on the coastal and marine conservation programmes which focused on the gazette of specific areas for in situ conservation, awareness and education program and reciprocal activities to clean the coastal areas. The presentation described how the first Marine National Park in Korea was declared and how it has been managed.
- RCE Guwahati and RCE Lucknow have initiated a joint project on Ganges river dolphin conservation education. The project is mostly targeting students, teachers and through them some fisherman communities
- RCE East Kalimantan reported on their efforts at producing guidelines for the development on palm oil plantation in order to ensure sustainability and for certification purposes. Palm oil companies are also expected to contribute to minimise negative environmental impacts of the development of palm oil plantation, mainly in the form of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- RCE Chaam also reported on their efforts at creating database on biodiversity, research and disseminating information to the students and the public about the characteristics and trend of biodiversity composition in the local areas as well as to disseminate the importance of biodiversity conservation and ways to achieve them.

### **The Cha-am Action Plan for AP RCEs on RCE Biodiversity:**

After the updates the group reiterated the importance of the collaborative and inter RCE initiatives and documenting the best practices. The following points were agreed upon –

- To facilitate collaboration in biodiversity programmes, the members decided to highlight collaborations between RCEs by showcasing their partnership programmes. Good individual RCE programme can also be showcased. Information will be collected by distributing a standardized form which has been developed by Simanta (RCE Guwahati). The discussion also emphasized about the importance of a peer review process for the case studies. The process proposed for the case studies is –
  1. First format will be sent to all RCEs. It is to collect the concept from all RCEs.
  2. One RCE can submit more than one concept (separate form for each concept).
  3. First mail may go from RCE Service Centre / Won J Byun mentioning that Simanta shall be coordinating the matter; then Simanta can follow it up.
  4. Once the concepts are received in the first format, people will be invited to volunteer for a peer review process of the concepts. Or, RCE Service Centre may appoint/ identify a group of people for this.
  5. Only the peer selected concepts will be requested for detailed case studies
  6. Once, the concepts are peer reviewed, second format (a detailed one) will be sent to the selected RCEs
  7. Then a small editorial committee will finally edit the cases
  8. Some of the entries may be selected for showcasing in the Biodiversity COP 11 or subsequent events

Final publication may be in different format-

1. Small booklets of individual case studies - this will require a lot of information, which may need elaborate research and more time
  2. One book with all cases - this will require less information and if we can take stories covering different target groups, it can be a good document for COP
  3. In CD format
  4. Uploaded in the RCE website as downloadable stories
- Another strategy is to upload videos and pictures related to biodiversity projects in the RCE Portal.
  - The third strategy is to create a facebook group on RCE biodiversity that will be administered by RCE East Kalimantan (Petrus), RCE Tongyeong (Won) and RCE Penang (Malik). The purpose of this facebook group is to facilitate collaborations, disseminations and sharing of information of the

RCEs' biodiversity programmes. This will replace the previous "Cyber Dialogue" created and managed by RCE Chubu, despite its success in promoting discussion among the Japanese RCEs.

- The fourth strategy is to organize web teaching through either Skype or Google talk . Web teaching is the process of sharing biodiversity programmes to other RCEs through the web, mainly to direct stakeholders of different categories, such as undergraduates, postgraduates, the public, private and public agencies, depending on who the RCEs are working with. RCE East Kalimantan (Petrus), RCE Tongyeong (Park) and RCE Guwahati (Simanta) volunteered to be in the resource team to conduct such teaching classes (subjects and time are to be mutually decided)
- Training programme on Biodiversity is also suggested by RCE Chaam
- Youth exchange on Biodiversity was not discussed because the person who suggested the program was not available.