

SOUTHEAST ASIANS SHARE CBCRM EXPERIENCES

As the waters separate them, it too, connects them.



And just like the waters that unite the Southeast Asian coast, eleven true-to-life stories on Community Based Coastal Resource Management (CBCRM) from the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia were shared and celebrated in the recently held CBCRM Festival Workshop 2000.

The festival, with the theme “Hope Takes Root: CBCRM Stories from Southeast Asia”, was held in Bolinao and Anda, Pangasinan on June 22- 25, 2000.

Approximately 60 representatives of NGOs, POs, and GOs from all over Southeast Asia participated in the workshop. On the other hand, about 200 people including the local community organizations and officials partook in the thanksgiving festivities on the second day of the Festival Workshop.

Highlights of the 4-day affair were the presentation of different case studies depicting the various CBCRM experiences in Southeast Asia and the actual festival of songs, dances and good food at the Cangaluyan Island off Anda, Pangasinan. The latter was hosted by the peoples’ organizations from the local communities. Cultural numbers were provided by the Kaliwat Theater Collective from Davao City.

Actual practitioners narrated CBCRM accounts from Palawan, Batangas, Zambales, Pangasinan and Misamis Occidental. Their cases ranged from the community’s efforts to protect the sea cucumbers of Danao Bay to the Tagbanuan tribe’s fight to retain their ancestral land and waters; from the fishers’ legal hurdles to their livelihood triumphs; and from the participatory commencement of programs to the life of the people after the NGOs. The diverse and rich collection of anecdotes and fact sheets made the ensuing discussions lively and lesson-laden.

Across the seas, a relatively different version of CBCRM unfolded. Life stories of charcoal producers in Cambodia and their struggles to leave their mangrove- destructive source of income were recounted. Three cases from Vietnam were presented: a chronology of the Tam Giang Lagoon Management citing the different practices and systems employed across time, the case of the Quang Thai lagoon area showing the ebb and tide of a community-based enforcement of a ban on electric fishing and the experience in co-management for a reservoir fisheries in Daklak.

The Festival Workshop 2000 is the third and final workshop of a series organized under the Southeast Asia Case Writing Project (SEA-CWP). This is a regional expansion of a similar undertaking in 1995 that produced the “Seeds of Hope”, a book on CBCRM practices in the Philippines.

This activity was sponsored by the Coastal Resources Research Network (CoRR) in cooperation with the CBCRM Resource Center, with support from Oxfam Great Britain (Oxfam GB) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). *(See related feature in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, July 4, 2000 or visit <http://www.cbcrm-rc.freeservers.com>)*

FELLOWS DRAW ACTION POINTS for YEAR 2000

Now on its second year, the fellows of the CBCRM Resource Pool gathered and came-up with their action points for the year 2000. Common among the seven clusters were:

1. documentation/ information exchange dissemination/ communication
2. monitoring and evaluation of programs/ development of indicators (assessment of impacts)
3. capability-building/ consciousness raising strategies
* continue the RTDs towards learning and theory-building

Held last June 14, at the PSSC Building in Quezon City, the All Fellows' Meeting was conducted for the pool members to come-up with a common understanding on CBCRM and identify cluster issues and activities for the current year. Around 30 fellows and staff were present during the occasion.

Foremost of the issues identified were how to best use the existing legal resources/ structures, definition of concepts on sustainable livelihood and fisheries management, identifying indicators for participatory research, monitoring and evaluation, weak links of gender to issues carried by other clusters and challenges to CO processes and methods. The Disaster Management Cluster, being a new group in CBCRM, pointed to the need for existing DM tools to be integrated to CBCRM.

RESOURCE CENTER LAUNCHES WEBSITE

The CBCRM Resource Center's Website was formally launched during its extension office's inauguration last June 14.

Information on the different programs of the center as well as linkages to similar offices or institutions may be found on the site.

Visit <http://www.cbcrm-rc.freesevers.com> and learn more!!

Do you want to discuss on-line?

JOIN THE ICM/CRM NETWORK egroup by sending email to crmnet-forum-subscribe@egroups.com.

Resource fellows may send email to cbcrm-philippines-subscribe@egroups.com to join the pool's e-list.

The Waters

We give thanks to all the Waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms – waterfalls and rain, mist and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

"Now our minds are one."

(excerpt from the book of poems used by the Kaliwat Theater Collective)