

Regional workshop

“ IN THE HANDS OF THE FISHERS ”

Community Based Coastal Resource Management and Stopping Destructive Fishing Practices

November 6 to 9, 2000

**Trang Plaza Hotel
Trang, Thailand**

Co-organized by:

Yadfon Association, Thailand & MAP, USA

Funded by:

Mangrove Action Project (MAP), USA

Country Participants:

Penang Inshore Fishermen Welfare Association (PIFWA) - Malaysia
North Sumatra Fishermen Advocacy Network (JALA) - Indonesia
North Sumatra Fishermen Union (SNSU) – Indonesia
Yayasan KELOLA – North Sulawesi, Indonesia
Quaker’s Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Project - Cambodia
Yadfon Association, Trang - Thailand
Fisher Leaders Representatives - Southern Thailand

BACKGROUND

Coastal and marine ecosystems are under serious pressure around the world. This is particularly true in South East Asia where development is occurring very rapidly, often without proper planning mechanisms and without local participation. In our tropical coastal seas we have three important interrelated ecosystem components, coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove forests, that together support a vast array of marine organisms, which feeds and employs large numbers of people living in coastal fishing communities in our region. This fishery also provides an important source of protein for national food security as well as a livelihood for tens of thousands of people. In Thailand, approximately 90% of the all fishers can be classified as small-scale, inshore or artisanal.

This critical inshore fishery is under threat from three sides. The first major issue is the wide use of unsustainable fishing practices, such as dragnets, trawlers, pushnets, lights, bombs and poison. The second is simply over-fishing. As the saying goes, “we have too many boats chasing too few fish”. In Thailand, it is estimated that there are twice as many trawlers in operation as the fishery can support. This is why Thai trawlers are often apprehended in neighbouring countries’ waters. The third issue is habitat destruction, especially of the mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds. Coastal water pollution from agriculture, industries, urban areas and shrimp aquaculture is an added burden for corals and seagrass beds.

It is becoming increasingly clear in many parts of the world that a top-down controlled fishery has not been able to solve important problems. In many developed countries, where there has been a traditional heavy dependence on fishery scientists and managers, there is now a new movement to involve fishers in the management of the resource. Here in S.E. Asia there is a revival of traditional fisheries management systems, such as existed in Indonesia. There is also a growing movement to support and document successful examples of fisheries co-management and community based management (CBM) systems. This interest and support for CBM is coming from NGOs, institutions such as the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), foreign donors and even some fishery departments.

The idea behind “In The Hands of The Fishers” workshops is that fishers are central stakeholders, and therefore must be fully involved in all aspects of fisheries management and protection of the coastal ecosystem. The stewardship of the resource should be “in the hands of the fishers”, which involves both rights and responsibilities. “In The Hands of The Fishers” is a forum where small-scale fisher leaders will be empowered to be effective leaders and stewards of our coastal resources.

The regional aspect of this workshop allows learning and sharing of experience across political boundaries, recognizing that there are no boundaries when it comes to our natural ecosystems. All humans must learn to share and protect these resources more equally.

Workshop Objectives

1. To allow fisherfolk from the region to share ideas and experiences regarding efforts to stop destructive fishing practices that threatens the livelihood of inshore fishing communities. It is believed this exchange will empower and support fisher leaders to become stronger and more effective leaders.

2. To share experience in the form of case studies of co-management or community based coastal resources.
3. To present ideas for alternative sustainable livelihoods that could be adapted by groups or individuals to suit the needs of a fishing community.
4. To form a network amongst groups in the region to exchange knowledge, skills and support for sustainable management of coastal resources.

Forward

This report documents the proceedings of the “In the Hands of the Fishers” regional workshop held in Trang, Thailand, November 5-9, 2000. The majority of participants were fisherfolk, and most of them spoke only Thai or Bahasa Indonesia/Malay. There was therefore constant translation between those languages, and to a lesser extent English. The organizers are extremely grateful for the exhausting work done by the translators. The presentations reported here are by no means *verbatim* transcriptions, but are summaries from notes and tapes, most of them in Thai. Hopefully, the number of errors and misrepresentations resulting from the process of summarization and translation among three languages are few, but they are unavoidable.

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November 6 – 9, 2000

Trang Plaza Hotel, Trang, Thailand

WORKSHOP PROGRAM:

Sunday November 5, 2000

Participants arrive and register during the afternoon

17:30	Meet Together at the Plaza Grand Ballroom - 2 (2nd floor)
19:00	Welcoming Dinner Cultural Entertainment

Monday November 6, 2000

Facilitator for the session: Mr. Jim Enright

07:00-08:00	Breakfast
08:00-08:30	Welcoming Address by Mr. Pisit Charnsanoh, President of Yadfon Association Plaza Grand Ballroom - 1
08:30-08:50	Opening Address by Mr. Chalermchai Preechanont Governor of Trang Province
08:50-09:20	Keynote Address by Mr. Maitree Wisetsart Fisherfolk Leader
09:20-09:50	Keynote Address by Dr.. Somsak Sukhawong Regional Community Forestry Training Center, (RECOFTC) Bangkok
09:50-10:20	Introduction to MAP - Mr. Alfredo Quarto
10:20-10:50	Coffee/ Tea Break
10:50-11:20	Review the Schedule by Mr. Jim Enright – S. E. Asia MAP
11:20-12:00	Overview on Status of Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management in Thailand, by Prof.Roengchai Tansakul – PSU
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-13:15	Group Photo
13:15-14:00	Presentation of KELOLA – North Sulawesi, Indonesia Eha Traditional Management System Kakorotan Island, North Sulawesi
14:00-14:45	Presentation of PIFWA - Penang, Malaysia
14:45-15:15	Coffee/ Tea Break
15:15-16:15	Presentation of YADFON – Trang, Thailand
16:15-17:00	Presentation of World Wildlife Fund Thailand – Pattani, Thailand
17:00-18:00	Free Time
18:00-19:00	Dinner

19:00-20:30 Introduction to the Field Trip and Formulation of 4 Small Groups

Tuesday November 7, 2000

06:30-07:30 Breakfast
07:30- Participants Divide into 4 Groups & Depart by Mini-bus for Field Trip

Group 1 - Ban Laem Makham and Ban Toh Ban

Group 2 - Ban Chao Mai, Ban Mod Tanoi

Group 3 - Ban Yan-seu and Ban Koh Khiam

Group 4 - Ban Laem and Ban Tung Tahseh

12:00-13:00 Lunch and Coffee / Tea Break in the Village
13:00-17:00 Continue the Field Study
17:00- Return to Trang Plaza Hotel
18:30-19:30 Dinner
19:30-21:00 Preparation for Field Trip Follow-up Presentations

Wednesday November 8, 2000

Facilitator for the session: Mr. Jim Enright

07:00-08:00 Breakfast
08:00-09:00 Presentation of JALA and SNSU – North Sumatra, Indonesia
09:00-10:00 Field Trip Follow-up/ Group 1
10:00-10:30 Coffee/ Tea Break
10:30-11:30 Field Trip Follow-up/ Group 2
11:30-12:30 Field Trip Follow-up/ Group 3
12:30-13:30 Lunch
13:30-14:30 Field Trip Follow-up/ Group 4
14:30-15:30 Panel Discussion on the Perception and Knowledge from the Field Study
15:30-16:00 Coffee/ Tea Break
16:00-16:30 Overall Summary for the Village Field Study
16:30-17:00 Slide Presentation on small-scale alternatives - Mr. Alfredo Quarto
17:00-19:00 Free Time
19:00- Dinner Party at a Restaurant outside the Hotel

Thursday November 9, 2000

Facilitator for the session: Mr. Pisit Charmsanoh

07:00-08:00 Breakfast
08:00-10:00 Presentations and Discussions on Problem and Possible Solutions in each country
09:45-10:15 Coffee/ Tea Break
10:15-11:30 Preparation of Final Declaration, Plan of Action
11:30-12:00 Workshop Evaluation
12:00-12:30 Workshop Closing Ceremony
12:30- Lunch

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

INDONESIA

A brief introduction to JALA

JALA (Jaringan Advokasi Nelayan), or the North Sumatra Fishermen's Advocacy Network, was founded by NGOs and activists on August 3 1997 in North Sumatra. One role of JALA is to provide information and communications among NGOs and traditional fishermen. To achieve that, JALA regularly publishes a bulletin and information sheet. As well, JALA focuses on advocacy activity, and the empowerment of fishermen. That is its most important role. Through advocacy, JALA attempts to influence policy and decision making in government, especially during the drafting of legislation. Nowadays, one of the main issues for JALA is the elimination of trawler operations on the east and west coasts of North Sumatra. The role of JALA is to provide a support system for fishermen in their struggle for their rights.

The aim of JALA is:

- 1) To provide a base for NGOs, activists, and peoples' organizations in North Sumatra to struggle for the rights of traditional fishermen.
- 2) To network with NGOs, activists, and peoples' organizations to develop a strategy to empower fishermen.
- 3) To develop the knowledge and ability of local fishermen to realize their own rights.

Profil JALA

JALA (Jaringan Advokasi Nelayan) didirikan pada tanggal 3 Agustus 1997 oleh beberapa LSM dan sejumlah aktivis yang tertarik dan concern pada masalah nelayan tradisional. JALA berfungsi sebagai media komunikasi dan informasi antara LSM yang bekerja untuk nelayan serta antara LSM dengan nelayan tradisional. Salah satu wujud dari kegiatan JALA adalah menerbitkan bulletin dan lembaran informasi secara teratur. Di samping itu, JALA juga konsentrasi pada kegiatan advokasi (pembelaan) dan pemberdayaan ((empowering) terhadap nelayan tradisional. Ini adalah peran dan fungsi JALA yang paling penting sebagai lembaga Jaringan . Melalui kegiatan advokasi JALA tidak hanya melakukan kegiatan yang bersifat non litigasi tetapi juga mempengaruhi pembuat kebijakan serta pengambil keputusan di tingkat pemerintahan melalui pembuatan draft peraturan tandingan, khususnya yang berkaitan dengan persoalan nelayan dan pesisir laut. Saat ini, salah satu isu utama yang sedang ditangani oleh JALA adalah penghapusan trawl/pukat harimau di kawasan Pantai Timur dan Pantai Barat Sumatera . Posisi JALA dalam rangka gerakan nelayan di Sumatera Utara adalah sebagai system pendukung bagi upaya tegaknya hak-hak nelayan tradisional. Tujuan JALA adalah : Sebagai basis jaringan bagi LSM, individu dan kelompok-kelompok nelayan yang ada di Sumatera Utara untuk memperjuangkan hak-hak nelayan tradisional.

Sebagai basis jaringan bagi LSM, individu aktivis dan kelompok nelayan untuk menyusun dan merencanakan strategi aksi bersama dalam mengatasi persoalan yang dihadapi oleh nelayan tradisional.

Membangkitkan kesadaran dan pengetahuan nelayan tradisional untuk mampu merealisasikan hak-hak mereka.

เครือข่ายพิทักษ์สิทธิแห่งชาวประมงพื้นบ้านสุมาตราเหนือ (จาลา)

จาลาได้รับการจัดตั้งเมื่อวันที่ 3 สิงหาคม 2537 โดยกลุ่มองค์กรพัฒนาเอกชน และนักกิจกรรมอื่นๆ ในสุมาตราเหนือ จาลามีหน้าที่หลักในการจัดหาข้อมูลข่าวสารและเป็นองค์กรกลางในการสื่อสารระหว่างองค์กรพัฒนาเอกชนต่างๆ และกลุ่มชาวประมงพื้นบ้าน

กิจกรรมที่ดำเนินการ

- จัดพิมพ์และเผยแพร่เอกสารแผ่นปลิวเกี่ยวกับข้อมูลต่างๆ โดยมุ่งเน้นกิจกรรมการแหงนความคิดเห็นและการเรียกร้องสิทธิรวมไปถึงการเสริมสร้างความเข้มแข็งของชุมชน
- จาลาพยายามที่จะมีบทบาทในการวางแผนนโยบาย เกี่ยวกับการตัดสินใจของรัฐ โดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่งในเรื่องราวกฎหมายต่างๆ

ปัจจุบันมีประเด็นหลักที่จาลาพยายามผลักดันให้เกิดผล คือ การกำจัดและยกเลิกอวนลากในบริเวณทั้งฝั่งทะเลตะวันออกและฝั่งทะเลตะวันตกของสุมาตราเหนือ

บทบาทของจาลาคือ การสร้างเสริมและสนับสนุนระบบการเกื้อหนุนต่อกลุ่มชาวประมงพื้นบ้าน เพื่อต่อสู้เรียกร้องสิทธิโดยมีเป้าหมายดังนี้ คือ

1. สร้างฐานให้กับองค์กรพัฒนาเอกชน นักกิจกรรมและองค์กรประชาชนในสุมาตราเหนือ เพื่อต่อสู้เรียกร้องสิทธิของชาวประมงพื้นบ้าน
2. สร้างเครือข่ายขององค์กรพัฒนาเอกชน นักกิจกรรมและองค์กรประชาชนในสุมาตราเหนือ เพื่อพัฒนายุทธศาสตร์ในการสร้างองค์กรชาวประมงพื้นบ้านให้เข้มแข็ง
3. พัฒนาองค์ความรู้ความสามารถของชาวประมงพื้นบ้าน เพื่อให้สามารถเข้าใจถึงบทบาทและสิทธิของตนเอง

A brief introduction to SNSU

SNSU (Serikat Nelayan Sumatera Utara), or the North Sumatra Fishermen's Union is a mass organization for the empowerment of fishermen, founded by fishermen and NGOs in North Sumatra. The inspiration for the organization came from workshop activity in 1996 by fishermen in Perbaungan. On July 14 1998, the existence of SNSU was declared in front of government offices in North Sumatra, followed by a day of mass demonstrations. Unlike NGOs, SNSU is a mass organization. So, they have a real mass base in the grass roots. All of the members of the organization are fishermen. There are representatives in four districts: Tanjung Balai, Asahan, Deli Serdang and Langkat.

The aim of SNSU is:

- 1) To unify fishermen in one mass organization.
- 2) To motivate fishermen to get justice, and to improve their welfare and living conditions.
- 3) To protect fishermen from oppression, whether social, political, economic, legal or cultural.

Profil SNSU

Serikat Nelayan Sumatera Utara atau lebih sering disingkat SNSU adalah organisasi massa nelayan yang ada di Sumatera Utara yang berkepentingan untuk memberdayakan kehidupan nelayan. Didirikan oleh sejumlah nelayan dan LSM di Sumatera Utara. Cikal bakal pembentukan organisasi ini muncul ketika diadakan kegiatan lokakarya mengenai persoalan Nelayan di Perbaungan pada tahun 1996. Selanjutnya, tepat pada tanggal 14 Juli 1998 SNSU dideklarasikan di depan Kantor Gubernur Sumatera Utara. Deklarasi ini juga diiringi dengan aksi demonstrasi sehari penuh oleh seluruh anggota SNSU yang berlangsung di depan Kantor Gubernur Sumatera Utara.

Berbeda dengan LSM, keberadaan SNSU adalah sebagai organisasi massa. Sehingga ciri kuat SNSU sebagai organisasi massa adalah mereka didukung dan memiliki basis massa yang semuanya terdiri dari nelayan. Semua anggota kepengurusan di lembaga ini terdiri dari Nelayan. Mereka masing-masing mewakili daerah seperti : Tanjung Balai, Asahan, Deli Serdang dan Langkat.

Tujuan SNSU :

Untuk mempersatukan seluruh nelayan yang ada di Sumatera Utara ke dalam satu organisasi SNSU.

Untuk mendorong nelayan untuk mendapatkan perlakuan yang adil serta kehidupan yang lebih baik.

Untuk melindungi nelayan dari ancaman penindasan baik di bidang politik, ekonomi, sosial, budaya dan hukum .

องค์กรชาวประมงพื้นบ้านสุมาตราเหนือ

เป็นองค์กรร่วมขององค์กรชาวประมงพื้นบ้านหลายองค์กรรวมตัวกัน โดยมีเป้าหมายหลักเพื่อที่จะเสริมสร้างความเข้มแข็งให้กับชาวประมงพื้นบ้าน องค์กรนี้ได้ร่วมกันจัดตั้งโดยองค์กรพัฒนาเอกชนและชาวประมงพื้นบ้านที่ปฏิบัติงานอยู่ในเขตสุมาตราเหนือ ความคิดริเริ่มและแรงบันดาลใจในการจัดตั้งองค์กรนี้ เกิดจากเวทีสัมมนาของร่วมกันประกาศให้องค์กรชาวประมงพื้นบ้านสุมาตราเหนือให้เป็นที่รู้จัก ณ ที่หน้าทำเนียบรัฐบาลในสุมาตราเหนือ ซึ่งวันนี้เป็นวันก่อนหน้าที่จะมีกระประท้วงรัฐบาลครั้งใหญ่เพียงหนึ่งวัน

องค์กรชาวประมงพื้นบ้านสุมาตราเหนือเป็นหน่วยงานที่แตกต่างไปจากองค์กรพัฒนาเอกชนคือ มีฐานชุมชนระดับรากหญ้าที่หลากหลายกว่า รวมทั้งสมาชิกทุกคนขององค์กรเป็นชาวประมงพื้นบ้านทั้งสิ้น

พื้นที่ปฏิบัติงานมีอยู่ 4 แห่ง

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. ดันหยงบาลัย | 3. เกลีเซอดัง |
| 2. อาซาฮัน | 4. ลังกัต |

วัตถุประสงค์ขององค์กรมีดังต่อไปนี้ คือ

1. เพื่อรวมศูนย์ให้ชาวประมงพื้นบ้านเป็นหนึ่งเดียวกัน
2. เพื่อกระตุ้นให้ชาวประมงพื้นบ้านได้รับความยุติธรรมและปรับปรุงสวัสดิการรวมไปถึงถึงคุณภาพชีวิตที่ดี
3. ปกป้องชาวประมงที่ถูกกดขี่ทางด้านสังคม เศรษฐกิจ การเมือง กฎหมายและวัฒนธรรม

The Indonesian Secretariat for Co-operation in Forest Conservation (SKEPHI)

Sekretariat Kerjasama Pelestarian Hutan Indonesia (The Indonesian NGOs Network for Forest Conservation), established 14 August 1982.

Vision and Mission :

Man and nature are inseparable and should be perceived as one systemic unity. Approaches to conserve the environment should not only be partial and technical (micro), but should also consider the structural (macro) aspects.

- The empowerment and strengthening of communities.
- Changes for a better quality of community and environment.
- Conservation of forests and other natural resources.

Programs:

- Field research/ investigations and feasibility studies.
- Research/training, workshops, seminars.
- Publication of a bulletin, newsletter, and books.
- Advocacy, community development and consultation.
- Community pilot projects.
- Documentation and information.

Target of Activities/Programs that are related to Environmental Issues:

- Community strengthening and empowerment.
- Promoting community participation in the management of forests and the environment.
- Conducting social reviews of government policies in the environmental and forestry sectors.
- Monitoring the environmental impact of development activities by the government and the private sector.

Sekretariat Kerjasama Pelestarian Hutan Indonesia

SKEPHI (Sekretariat Kerjasama Pelestarian Hutan Indonesia) adalah sebuah organisasi non-profit yang bekerja untuk isu lingkungan dan hak asasi manusia. SKEPHI didirikan pada tanggal 14 Agustus 1982 di Jakarta. SKEPHI memiliki visi dan misi mencapai suatu keselarasan antara manusia dan alam, memperkuat dan mendorong masyarakat, perubahan terhadap kualitas hidup masyarakat dan lingkungannya, serta pemanfaatan hutan dan sumber daya alam lain secara berkelanjutan. Kegiatan SKEPHI adalah studi lapangan, investigasi, dan studi kelayakan. Di samping itu SKEPHI juga mengadakan kegiatan pelatihan, lokakarya, seminar, publikasi, advokasi, dan proyek percontohan pengembangan masyarakat.

สำนักงานความร่วมมือเพื่อการอนุรักษ์ป่าอินโดนีเซีย

เป็นองค์กรที่ไม่แสวงหาผลกำไร ที่ทำงานด้านสิ่งแวดล้อม และสิทธิมนุษยชน ก่อตั้งขึ้นเมื่อวันที่ 14 สิงหาคม 2525 ที่กรุงจาการ์ตา

SKEPHI มีภารกิจ และวิสัยทัศน์ เพื่อสร้างความเท่าเทียมกันระหว่างมนุษย์และโลก เสริมสร้างความเข้มแข็ง และให้คำแนะนำต่อสังคม เพื่อให้เกิดการเปลี่ยนแปลงคุณภาพชีวิตของสังคมและสิ่งแวดล้อม ในขณะเดียวกันให้ผลประโยชน์ต่อป่าและสิ่งแวดล้อมอื่นๆ

กิจกรรมของ SKEPHI ได้แก่ การศึกษาสถานภาพของพื้นที่ ความสามารถของชุมชนท้องถิ่น ผ่านกระบวนการฝึกอบรม สัมมนา ประชุมเชิงปฏิบัติการและกิจกรรมการพัฒนาสังคมอื่นๆ

Who and what is Yayasan KELOLA?

Yayasan KELOLA is an Indonesian community based coastal zone management NGO (Non-Governmental Organization). KELOLA does not have any political affiliations or allegiances but instead aspires to restore the management of the coastal zone of both North Sulawesi and Gorontalo Province to the members of its coastal communities. Yayasan KELOLA was formed on January 10, 1995 in Manado, North Sulawesi expressly out of this commitment of empowerment. Together with the communities, KELOLA has undertaken studies and surveys of coastal and oceanic natural resource potentials, discussed the feasibility of various coastal zone management techniques and implemented sustainable livelihood alternatives.

Yayasan KELOLA's program divisions: KELOLA's programs are carried out by several departments in two major divisions, Technical Programs (Survey and Field Investigation, Community Organization and Group Strengthening, Information and Documentation) and Facilitation of Activities Programs (Internships, Empowerment of Women's Roles, Network Building and Documentation).

Apa dan siapa Yayasan KELOLA?

Yayasan KELOLA merupakan sebuah Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat (LSM) nirlaba, yang tidak berorientasi kepada golongan dan aliran politik tertentu, dengan misi strategi pengelolaan wilayah pesisir berdimensi kerakyatan (community based coastal zone management) di Sulawesi Utara dan Propinsi Gorontalo. Yayasan KELOLA didirikan 10 Januari 1995 di kota Manado. Yayasan Kelola lahir dari komitmen memberdayakan masyarakat. Bersama-sama masyarakat pesisir, Yayasan KELOLA melaksanakan kajian dan survai nilai dan potensi sumberdaya alam hayati pesisir dan laut, membahas kelayakan teknik-teknik pemanfaatan ekstraktif yang digunakan serta menggali bersama-sama peluang-peluang dan alternatif pemanfaatan yang berlanjut. Bidang Kelola di bagi beberapa biro yang dibagi atas dua kelompok program yaitu bidang program kegiatan teknis (Biro Survai dan Investigasi Lapangan, Biro Pendampingan dan Penguatan Kelompok, Biro Informasi dan Dokumentasi) dan bidang program fasilitasi (Magang, Pemberdayaan Peran Perempuan, Pengembangan Jaringan dan Pemetaan Kampung Partisipatif).

ยายาซาน เคโลลา/ เกาะสุลาเวลี

ประเทศอินโดนีเซีย

ยายาซาน เคโลลา เป็นองค์กรพัฒนาเอกชนที่ทำงานส่งเสริมและสนับสนุนการจัดการทรัพยากรชายฝั่งโดยชุมชน เคโลลาเป็นองค์กรที่ไม่ยุ่งเกี่ยวหรือผูกพันเกี่ยวข้องกับพรรคการเมืองใดๆ

พื้นที่ทำงานเกาะสุลาเวลีเหนือและจังหวัดโกโรนดัม องค์กรยายาซาน เคโลลา จัดตั้งขึ้นเมื่อวันที่ 10 มกราคม 2538 ณ เมืองมานาโด เกาะสุลาเวลีเหนือ โดยมีพันธสัญญาร่วมกับชุมชนในการส่งเสริมให้ชุมชนเข้มแข็ง

เคโลลาได้ทำการศึกษาและวิจัยเกี่ยวกับทรัพยากรชายฝั่งและศักยภาพของทรัพยากรธรรมชาติและทะเล รวมทั้งได้คิดค้นด้านเทคนิค และวิธีการสำรวจหาเงื่อนไขความเป็นไปได้ในการจัดการทรัพยากรชายฝั่ง รวมไปถึงจนถึงการปฏิบัติการสร้างทางเลือกในการอยู่รอดของชุมชนแบบยั่งยืน

ภายใต้องค์กรพัฒนาเอกชนเคโลลามีทีมงานต่างๆ ที่ทำงานร่วมกันหลายฝ่าย แต่มีเนื้อหาหลักอยู่ 2 ประเภท คือ ฝ่ายเทคนิคทำหน้าที่เกี่ยวกับการสำรวจและค้นคว้าหาองค์กรชุมชนและส่งเสริมสนับสนุนชุมชนเข้มแข็งและเก็บรวบรวมข้อมูลและจัดทำเอกสารเผยแพร่

ส่วนอีกฝ่ายหนึ่งเป็นการผลักดันกิจกรรมภาคปฏิบัติ เช่น การฝึกอบรมวิชาชีพต่างๆ การเสริมสร้างบทบาทของกลุ่มสตรี การจัดตั้งเครือข่ายและจัดทำเอกสารเผยแพร่

MALAYSIA

A brief introduction to PIFWA

The Penang Inshore Fishermen's Welfare Association (PIFWA) is an association registered since 1994 under the Registrar of Society Act 1966. Its main objectives include maintaining solidarity among inshore fishermen in Penang, protecting traditional fishing, and catering for the welfare of traditional fishermen by addressing issues and finding solutions to problems affecting their livelihoods. As part of our activities, we have held talks with authorities at State and National levels regarding illegal encroachment by trawlers. We have voiced our opposition to mangrove destruction for shrimp farming and land reclamation by replanting mangroves, and taken action against pollution by removing garbage. To highlight our cause we also talked to the media, and affiliated ourselves with international organizations, such as the World Forum of Fisherpeople (WFF).

Persatuan Kebajikan Nelayan-Nelayan Pantai Pulau Pinang (PIFWA)

Persatuan Kebajikan Nelayan-Nelayan Pantai Pulau Pinang (PIFWA) ialah sebuah pertubuhan yang berdaftar di bawah Akta Pertubuhan 1966 sejak 1994. Matlamat penubuhannya termasuklah mengekalkan semangat setiakawan di kalangan nelayan pantai di Pulau Pinang, menjaga kebajikan nelayan pantai dari segi menyuarakan isu dan mencari penyelesaian terhadap masalah yang memberi kesan kepada kehidupan nelayan dan melindungi penangkapan ikan secara tradisional. Sebagai sebahagian daripada aktiviti persatuan, PIFWA telah mengadakan sesi perbincangan dengan pihak berkuasa di peringkat Negeri dan Kebangsaan tentang isu pencerobohan bot pukut tunda, kemusnahan hutan paya bakau, penanaman semula hutan bakau, penebusan semula tanah dan pencemaran. Untuk lebih berkesan, kami juga telah berjumpa dengan pihak media dan menggabungkan diri dengan pertubuhan antarabangsa seperti WFF.

สมาคมสวัสดิการชาวประมงพื้นบ้านป็นัง (พิบวา)

สมาคมสวัสดิการชาวประมงพื้นบ้านป็นัง(พิบวา) ได้รับการจัดตั้งและจดทะเบียนเป็นสมาชิกสมาคมเมื่อปี พ.ศ 2537 ภายใต้กฎหมายว่าด้วยการจดทะเบียนสมาคม ปีพ.ศ. 2504 โดยมีวัตถุประสงค์หลัก คือ

1. สร้างเสริมความเป็นปึกแผ่นให้กับชาวประมงพื้นบ้านในป็นัง
2. ปกป้องรักษาการให้เครื่องมือทำการประมงแบบพื้นบ้านดั้งเดิม
3. สร้างเสริมสวัสดิการของชาวประมงพื้นบ้าน โดยการสร้างประเด็นเรียกร้องและสร้างทางเลือกในการแก้ปัญหาที่มีผลกระทบต่อการค้ารังซีพ
4. กิจกรรมอีกส่วนหนึ่ง คือ การเจรจาในเรื่องการบุกรุก และละเมิดกฎหมายของชาวประมงอวนลากกับเจ้าหน้าที่ของรัฐบาล ทั้งในระดับรัฐและระดับประเทศ
5. สร้างกระบวนการต่อต้านและคัดค้านการทำลายป่าชายเลนเพื่อทำนากุ้ง
6. ร่วมกันปลูกป่าชายเลนเพื่อเป็นการต่อต้านการถมพื้นที่ป่าชายเลน
7. รณรงค์การเก็บขยะเพื่อต่อต้านการสร้างมลภาวะในทะเล

ในการรณรงค์ให้สาธารณชนในการรับรู้ต่อประเด็นปัญหาและสาเหตุของปัญหาต่างๆ พบว่าได้รณรงค์ร่วมกับสื่อมวลชนและร่วมกับองค์กรต่างๆ ในระดับสากล เช่น เวทีชาวประมงโลก (WFF)

CAMBODIA

The Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Project in Cambodia

The Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Project attempts to empower rural residents with the knowledge and tools necessary to develop and maintain highly productive locally relevant strategies for sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their children, and to organize people into groups that can protect and manage sustainably the natural resources on which their livelihoods are based. Education, experimentation, demonstration, and networking are key elements of the project's work. Community development methodologies are used, and staff have natural resources management, animal health and production, sustainable agriculture, adult literacy, and community health skills. The project works in two districts of Koh Kong Province in southwestern Cambodia.

Projek Bersepadu Sumber Pendapatan Lestari di Kemboja

Projek Bersepadu Sumber Pendapatan Lestari ini bertujuan untuk melengkapi penduduk luar bandar dengan pengetahuan dan peralatan yang sesuai bagi membolehkan mereka menyusun strategi yang produktif dan relevan demi meraih sumber pendapatan yang lestari bagi diri mereka dan keluarga mereka, dan untuk membahagikan penduduk kepada kumpulan-kumpulan yang dapat memelihara dan mengurus sumber-sumber semulajadi yang menjadi asas pendapatan mereka secara lestari. Pendidikan, eksperimen, demonstrasi, dan jaringan merupakan elemen-elemen penting dalam projek ini. Kaedah pembangunan masyarakat telah digunakan, dan kakitangan mempunyai kemahiran dalam bidang pengurusan sumber semulajadi, kesihatan dan penternakan haiwan, pertanian lestari, literasi kumpulan dewasa, dan kesihatan masyarakat. Projek ini dilaksanakan di dua buah daerah di Wilayah Koh Kong di barat daya Kemboja.

กัมพูชา

โครงการพัฒนาการดำรงชีพที่ยั่งยืน

มีวัตถุประสงค์ที่จะให้คนในชนบทได้มีความรู้ และทักษะที่จำเป็นในการพัฒนาและการรักษาคุณภาพการผลิตให้ยั่งยืน อันจะนำมาซึ่งการดำรงชีพที่ยั่งยืนของชุมชน รวมทั้งการสนับสนุนให้เกิดองค์กรชุมชนเพื่อการจัดการทรัพยากรธรรมชาติแบบยั่งยืน ซึ่งเป็นพื้นฐานของการดำรงชีวิต

องค์ประกอบพื้นฐานที่สำคัญของการดำเนินโครงการได้แก่ การศึกษา ค้นคว้าทดลอง การสาธิตและการสร้างเครือข่าย

กิจกรรมเพื่อดำเนินงานพัฒนาชุมชนมีดังนี้ คือ

- การจัดการทรัพยากรธรรมชาติของชุมชน
- การเลี้ยงสัตว์
- การบำรุงพันธุ์สัตว์และผลผลิต โดยเน้นถึงการทำเกษตรแบบยั่งยืน
- การพัฒนาการดูแลสุขภาพของคนในชุมชน

พื้นที่ปฏิบัติการของโครงการอยู่ที่จังหวัดเกาะกง ทางทิศตะวันตกเฉียงใต้ของกัมพูชา

THAILAND

Yadfon Association

Yadfon (Raindrop) Association is a Thai NGO based in Trang Province, southern Thailand, which works with local communities to promote the sustainable management of natural resources. Since Yadfon was established in 1985 it has worked with 30 communities representing approximately 20,000 fisherfolk. The main strategy used by Yadfon is the promotion of a "critical thinking learning process" where by fisherfolk working with Yadfon staff build self-confidence and are able to identify problem solving measures which will strengthen and increase the self-reliance of the community. The objective for the community is to develop a plan of action for the sustainable management of coastal resources which will improve the entire community's welfare. Through community discussions, training, villagers work together to find acceptable solutions to solve their common problems based on a combination of local wisdom and scientific knowledge.

Villagers working together to protect and restore their natural environment have undertaken such projects as establishing community mangrove forests, seagrass conservation zones, an oyster conservation area, replanting mangroves and protecting fishing grounds from trawlers and pushnets. Yadfon also attempts to provide input/feedback to government policy and regulations dealing with coastal zones and acts as a regional centre for cooperation.

Pengenalan Kepada Persatuan Yadfon (Raindrop)

Persatuan Yadfon (Raindrop) ialah sebuah persatuan bukan kerajaan yang bertapak di Trang Province, Thailand Selatan; dan bekerjasama dengan komuniti tempatan untuk mempromosikan pengurusan sumber alam semulajadi secara berkekalan. Semenjak persatuan ini ditubuhkan pada 1985, ia telah bekerjasama dengan 30 komuniti yang mewakili lebih kurang 20,000 nelayan. Strategi utama yang dipupuk oleh Persatuan Yadfon adalah promosi "proses pembelajaran and pemikiran yang kritikal", di mana nelayan bekerjasama dengan pekerja persatuan untuk membina kepercayaan diri dan berupaya mengenalpastikan langkah-langkah berkesan bagi menyelesaikan masalah, dan seterusnya meningkatkan daya berdikari komuniti berkenaan. Pembentukan pelan tindakan berdasarkan pengurusan sumber alam semulajadi secara berkekalan untuk meningkatkan tahap kebajikan masyarakat merupakan objektif utama komuniti. Menerusi dialog dan latihan, penduduk tempatan bekerjasama untuk mendapat penyelesaian yang dipersetujui berlandaskan integrasi antara pengetahuan tempatan dan saintifik. Penduduk tempatan juga bekerjasama dan melibatkan diri dalam projek-projek melindungi dan memulihara alam sekitar; dan ini termasuklah mewujudkan hutan bakau komuniti, zon pemuliharaan rumpai laut, kawasan pemuliharaan oster, penanaman semula hutan bakau, dan perlindungan kawasan penangkapan ikan daripada pukut tunda (trawl) dan pukut siring (pushnet). Selain dari itu, Persatuan Yadfon juga memberi input dan maklum balas kepada polisi dan undang-undang kerajaan berkenaan dengan zon persisiran pantai, dan bertindak sebagai pusat untuk kerjasama serantau.

สมาคมหยาดฝน

จากสภาพความเสื่อมโทรมของระบบนิเวศชายฝั่ง อันเป็นผลพวงจากการพัฒนาเศรษฐกิจของประเทศ ในขณะที่ชาวประมงพื้นบ้านต้องทำการต่อสู้กับภาวะเศรษฐกิจ และปัญหาสังคมที่รุมเร้าตลอดเวลา ในปี พ.ศ.2528 สมาคมหยาดฝนได้ร่วมมือกับชุมชนชาวประมงพื้นบ้านขนาดเล็ก 7 หมู่บ้านในจังหวัดตรัง โดยมีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อพูดคุยแลกเปลี่ยนความคิดเห็น และวิเคราะห์ถึงปัญหา ตลอดจนแนวทางในการจัดการทรัพยากรชายฝั่ง เกิดกระบวนการใน

การเรียนรู้ร่วมกัน นับเป็นการผสมผสานระหว่างภูมิปัญญาท้องถิ่นกับความรู้สมัยใหม่ ผลที่ได้ คือ พลังชุมชนที่มี
สำนึกในการอนุรักษ์ด้วยการ “ฟื้นฟู” และ “ปกป้อง” ทรัพยากรชายฝั่งซึ่งเป็นผลประโยชน์ของส่วนรวม โครงการ
ต่าง ๆ ได้เกิดขึ้น อาทิ โครงการป่าชายเลนชุมชน โครงการอนุรักษ์ห้วยทะเล เต่าทะเล ปะการัง และแหล่งสัตว์น้ำ
หน้าบ้าน ปัจจุบันได้ขยายพื้นที่กว่า 40 หมู่บ้าน นับเป็นก้าวอย่างที่สำคัญของการจัดการทรัพยากรชายฝั่งอย่างยั่งยืน

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Workshop Participants

CAMBODIA

American Friends Service Committee - Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Project

- Mr. Pheng Rith (Team Leader Counterpart ISLP)

INDONESIA

Yayasan KELOLA – North Sulawesi

- Mr. Benjamin Brown (Yayasan Kelola)
- Mr. Lucki Harris Manoi ((Yayasan Kelola)
- Mr. Pak Rolex Kakomore (Villager from Bunaken National Park)
- Mr. Benyamin Talau (Villager from Kakoroan Island)

North Sumatra Fishermen Union – SNSU

- Mr. Zaman

North Sumatra fishermen Advocacy Network – JALA

- Mr. Edy Suhartono (Team Leader JALA)

MALAYSIA

Penang Inshore Fishermen Welfare Association (PIFWA)

- Mr. P. Balan (Advisor/Coordinator - PIFWA)
- Mr. Haji Saidin Haji Hussain (Secretary - PIFWA)
- Mr. Saad Samsi
- Mr. Rosli Ibrahim
- Mr. Nayan Said
- Mr. Abdul Hadi Edar

THAILAND

Trang Province

- Mr. Bu Nuansri (Fisher Leader - Laem Makam Village)
- Mrs. Miya Hawa (Fisher Leader - Chao Mai Village)
- Mr. Nom Hunyek (Fisher Leader – Tung Ta-seh Village)
- Mr. Maitree Wisetsart (Fisher Leader – Koh Kiham Village)
- Mr. Ba Lemud (Fisher Leader – Laem Village)
- Ms. Fahtima Tongwahree (Fisher Leader - Laem Village)
- Mr. Winai (Fisher Leader -Tung Panan Village)
- Ms. Wimol Nuansri (Fisher Leader – Laem Makam Village)
- Mr. Plaung Toeha (Fisher Leader – Pra Muang Village)

Phangnga Province

- Mr. Chakropong Thanaworapong
- Mr. Ali Charnnam
- Mr. Dusit Butree

Surat Thani Province

- Mr. Sukit Siripat
- Saman Paensuwan

Songkhla Province

- Mr. Banjong Nasae

Pattani Province

- Ms. Suwimol Piriyanalai
- Mr. Mohamedsookry Masaning
- Mr. Isma-ar Chamud

OBSERVERS:

- Mr. Anuradha Wikramasinghe (Director, Small Fishers Federation- Sri Lanka SSFL)
- Mr. Alfredo Quarto (Executive Director, Mangrove Action Project, MAP - USA)
- Mr. Ruddy Gustave (SKEPHI Jakarta – Indonesia)
- Ms. Barb Johnson Malay (American Friends Service Committee - Cambodia)

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Dr. Roengchai Tansakul (Prince of Songkhla University (PSU), Songkhla)
- Dr. Somsak Sukkhawongsa (Regional Community Forestry Training Center RECOFTC, Bangkok)

TRANSLATORS:

- Mr. Asae Sakaya (Wetlands International – PSU – Songkhla)
- Mr. Somboon Bualuang (PSU – Pattani)
- Mr. Kamhaeng Kraithep

FACILITATOR:

- Mr. Jim Enright (MAP - S.E. Asia Coordinator)

DOCUMENTATION (English):

- Mr. Barry Bendell

YADFON ASSOCIATION STAFF:

- Mr. Pisit Charnsanoh (President)
- Mr. Yongyuth Rodren
- Mr. Samut Iadtrong
- Mr. Kowit Pongchababnapa
- Ms. Munin Nuserm
- Ms. Pornpimol Sornmee
- Ms. Kwansuda Khantawit
- Mrs. Ploenjai Charnsanoh
- Ms. Patraporn Chaengkhai
- Ms. Prapararat Kiatruangwit
- Mr. Chana Sianglai

Welcoming Address by Mr. Pisit Charnsanoh
President of Yadfon Association

Governor of Trang province and fisherfolk leaders from other countries: Yadfon Association is pleased to have the opportunity to organize this workshop and bring our friends together to meet here. When such good people come together, surely good things will happen. At this meeting, we bring together from various countries the most worthy and dedicated of fisherfolk leaders.

Southeast Asia has 400 million people. Indonesia has 200 million of those, and 20% are fisherfolk. Half the world's area of mangrove forest is in Indonesia. Thailand is among the top 10 producers of fish in the world, and is the largest producer of black tiger prawn. Throughout the region, coastal resources are not being used sustainably, and they are declining rapidly. But there are many people, like those of you here, who understand the value of resources, and the need to use them responsibly and to protect them from destruction.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone here. I hope you will gain from what you learn here. And I hope that our region will have a future as a rich source of abundant sustainable natural resources.

Opening Address by Mr. Chalermchai Preechanont
Governor of the Province of Trang

President of Yadfon Association; workshop attendants for Indonesia, Malaysia, and Cambodia; fishfolk from Southern Thailand: As Governor of Trang, I am pleased to have the opportunity to attend this meeting and get to know more about your work. Trang is located along the Andaman Sea coast, and has a population of approximately 700,000 people. The principle source of jobs is rubber, followed by fishing, palm oil and tourism. The later has made Trang well known in other countries.

In Trang, there has been cooperation between the government and non-governmental sectors, especially with Yadfon Association, which has been a leader in joining with the province to solve fisheries and coastal resource problems. Those problems include illegal fishing, push-nets and trawlers. In Trang, the way of dealing with those problems is to get people out of the illegal fishing business, to build strong communities, and to increase the understanding of the value of our resources. Now, there is a group that is working against illegal fishing that has received 32 million baht from the SIF (Social Investment Fund).

Because we are dealing with those problems, the sea in Trang is recovering. The people in branch district Had Samran, district Palian, and district Kantang, are beginning to see their resources increase. We are proud of solving this problem, and building stronger communities. The state cannot solve these problems on its own, but must work in cooperation with communities. Similarly, in the case of illegal drugs, strong communities are capable of helping to solve the problem. It is not possible for the government to do everything. In forestry, it is the policy of the Ministry of Interior that communities have a role. There is a greater coming together of the state and private sectors to solve problems. Meetings, such as this one, are an opportunity to study and to find realistic solutions. I wish you every success in achieving your goals.

Keynote Address of Mr. Maitree Wisetsart

Governor of Trang province, workshop participants and observers: Today fisherfolk from many places, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Southern Thailand, have gathered in concern for our marine resources. We are confronting many things in the world; but we especially face a critical situation in the sea. The people of the world want shrimp, clams, crabs and fish from the sea. It is time that mankind began to realize that they may not be there forever. Mr. Chalermchai Preechanont, Governor of Trang province, spoke of the need to develop strong communities. But illegal drugs are a big problem in our fishing communities. Those communities already lag behind, and have poor education. The drug problem is a further drain and disadvantage preventing their development.

Today we are going to talk a lot about how to maintain our coastal resources. For most of us it is a matter of maintaining our income. We are proud of the abundance of our resources. But there will be a few who will think to allow our resources to deteriorate. They have the attitude, that if the government cannot stop the pillaging of our resources, then, what are we to do? How could there be sustainable use, and what conditions could possibly be put on the use of resources?

We are experiencing a problem of consumerism, which has an impact on the life of rural people, especially fisherfolk. It has made more people move away from religion. Concerned people are looking for solutions, but if we loose religion than we will never succeed in finding any. We must be careful not to break the word of God. All religions teach that we should love one another. If we do that, then respect for society increases. It is now time for fisherfolk to develop their ideas. We must maintain our original way of life. We must use technology that does not break the teachings of God. And then we will have a peaceful society. In order that the resources of the nation, and of the fisherfolk, are maintained, we must come together, in meetings like this one, to cooperate and share our ideas.

Keynote Address by Dr. Somsak Sukhawong

Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC), Bangkok

Dr. Somsak expressed his pleasure at being able to join with the participants in this regional workshop, "In the Hands of the Fishers". His organization, the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific, supports people's participation in natural resource management. They make the basic assumption that people have the capacity to use resources to meet their own needs while using them sustainably. They work to relieve rural poverty.

More than half the world's poor live in Asia. The poorest people are found in rural areas, and the poorest communities are usually found near water. In northeast Thailand the poorest communities are along rivers, despite their access to the fisheries resource. In southern Thailand the poorest communities are coastal. Since the economic crisis of 1997, there has been an 11-14% increase in poverty. Forestry has a potentially important role in the alleviation of poverty.

The Southeast Asian region has an abundance of mangrove forests. The region also has a very diverse population with many indigenous peoples. Many of those are still living in close harmony with nature, and use traditional knowledge that has been transferred down through the generations.

There are traditional ways to manage forest resources. For example in Mu Koh Surin, the Morgan (Sea Gypsy) people have a traditional system of management. There, the condition of the traditionally managed forest is comparable to untouched forest. Elsewhere in the region, many systems of traditional management have been described over the last 20 years.

Traditional management systems have been eroded. In many cases, forests become state owned or are managed as concessions. The main considerations in their management are commercial, which results in a loss of control to outsiders. As a result local communities lose access to resources, and they become increasingly marginalized. Local people are the primary stakeholders, but they suffer first and are left poorer when resources are depleted.

Lessons have been learned, and new tools and techniques developed for better local management and planning. Yadfon association has reintroduced the community forest management idea to coastal communities in Trang. Local people have rehabilitated mangrove forests, and realized economic consequences. A family can get as much as 2,000 B/month from Nipa palm. Catches of fish, shrimp, and crabs increase after implementing a community forest. Those kinds of benefits have been documented in many villages.

In one community in Trat province, the local people took the initiative to reintroduce mangrove into an area that had been destroyed by illegal shrimp farms over a period of 10 years. Rules were implemented restricting the catch of crabs used in Somtam (green papaya salad). Those crabs can contribute 200-300 B/day to a family income. After implementing the restrictions, average catches increased from 5 kg to 8-10 kg per harvest. So there are immediate economic benefits to community forest management. It is not true, as first thought, that economic benefits would only be realized in the long term.

Mud crabs are collected from the mangrove forest, and there has developed an interest in reproducing them in captivity. It is very difficult to do as the adult crab returns to the sea to breed. So local people have studied the life cycle of the crab and are armed with better knowledge when they negotiate with push-net operators to protect the areas through which the crabs migrate.

The increasing number of community forest initiatives has led to a greater shared experience and an increased learning process. This has led to the development of networks, such as the small-scale fishing association. The rise of democracy gives greater credence to the participatory resource management approach. There has been support from NGOs, and parliament has been petitioned to implement the community forest bill.

Villagers lack legal support, and need to strengthen their organizational capacity. There needs to be government policy that allows for people to act together. The government bureaucracy can have a strong impact on policy development. Sometimes support is expressed in government for people's participation, but it is difficult to implement supporting policies. For example, it is easier to get a community forest recognized in a denuded inaccessible forest, than in a health accessible one. The same problems occur in the implementation of policy about destructive fishing practices. Sometimes governments only act in times of crisis, as in the case of floods in Thailand, or the forest fires in Indonesia. The economic crisis led to greater demands for self-sufficiency.

How are we to bring people together to learn? Poor people must compete with the rich and the government. We need to try to develop a strategy to help the poorest people to develop their potential and self-reliance, to strengthen their communities, to develop local economies, and to develop policies for resource management. This workshop is an opportunity to meet and

discuss, to share experiences, and to develop new strategies, and lobby, and define better mechanisms to help poor coastal people.

Introduction to Mangrove Action Project (MAP)

Alfredo Quatro - Executive Director of MAP

MAP began in 1992, after Alfredo came to southern Thailand and experienced the situation here first hand. He came as a traveler and journalist interested in development issues. He met Khun Pisit of Yadfon Association, and visited one of their projects at Ban Laem Makam. He learned of the issue of the loss of mangrove forest to shrimp farming. It was an issue that was very important in many areas of the south, but was virtually unknown in the north where the consumers were. So a network was formed, to draw attention to the issue, to close the gap between NGOs in the north and the south, and to give voice to local people. The consumers of the north were deaf to the issue. They did not know of the damage being done by their consumption of shrimp, and it was very important to close that gap.

MAP has existed for 8 years now. It has members in 60 countries, involves more than 400 NGOs and other networks, and about 200 scientists. Through the network there is an exchange of news and ideas. "Action Alerts" can be publicized and pressure put on government over particular issues. MAP works with the grassroots and local NGOs, such as Yadfon. It tries to join forces to work directly with local people to manage their own resources. There is a worldwide consensus that local people are the ones that will manage resources sustainably. Local people need to learn and be empowered to use their own resources. This meeting is an opportunity to do that, and to initiate action on important issues.

Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management in Thailand

Dr. Roengchai Tansakul – Prince of Songkla University

Ecosystems are made up of two parts: the biotic and abiotic. The biotic includes all of the living plants and animals, and the abiotic includes the water and all the non-living physical and chemical elements. There is a water cycle; such that water from the sea evaporates, forms clouds, falls as rain, runs off into streams and rivers, and eventually returns to the sea. There is also a cycle of nutrients, such as phosphorous. Small algae are consumed by small animals that are eaten by fish that are eaten by larger fish, then by birds and man. Billions of small animals are needed at the bottom of a food chain to produce a few animals at the top. Man and Nature must exist together in the system, and a balance needs to be achieved. Appropriate activities will provide a secure and sustainable future at the level of the family and the nation, as well as globally.

Dr. Roengchai highlighted some of the statistics showing problems in the management of coastal and marine resources in Thailand. Mangrove forests have declined from approximately, 2,299,000 rai in 1961 to 1,900,000 rai in 1996. The value of the marine fishery declined between 1985 and 1990, while the value of aquaculture soared from 63 to 33,598 million baht between 1977 and 1994. The catch per unit effort of trawlers has declined from 297.8 kg/hr to 37 kg/hr between 1961 and 1996.

The data indicates serious problems in coastal and marine ecosystems. There are similar problems throughout the Southeast Asian region. The Gulf of Thailand has one of the worst situations, which has led to greater government attempts at control, through licensing, decreasing the number of trawlers, and controlling the area fished. Limits on the fishing of

mackerel have resulted in an increase in fish caught in the Gulf of Thailand from 30,000 to 100,000 tons/year.

The situation in Thailand is part of a globally problem. Countries are guided by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Agenda 21. In the Southeast Asian region, countries need to cooperate, as current levels of exploitation are unsustainable. There needs to be sincere efforts at conservation, by “a government concerned to conserve the fisheries resource through an effective fisheries management system”.

Globally, the richest 20% of the world's population has 82.7% of the world's GNP, 81% of the trade, 94.6% of the lending and 80.6% of the domestic savings. In 1990, there were diminishing returns from fishing. About 100 million people depended on fishing, mostly in developing countries. Increasingly, fish are caught which go to fish meal for shrimp, which is sold to the wealthy while there are fewer fish for the poor. Only three types of fishing equipment are selective; traps, hooks and lines. The system is unsustainable and needs worldwide cooperation. It is not a matter for nationalistic protection, but cooperation in response to the effects of globalization. Management systems need environmental assessment, risk analysis, and public education.

Question from the audience: How many trawlers are there from Thailand in Indonesian waters, especially around North Sumatra.

Answer: There are about 200 trawlers from Trang, many of them that can be seen in Kantang port, and it was suggested that some of those are going toward North Sumatra.

Introduction to the situation in Indonesia

Ruddy Gustave - The Indonesian NOG's Network for Forest Conservation (SKEPHI)

Ruddy Gustave presented an overhead of facts and figures about Indonesia and its coastal resources, by way of an introduction to the case studies to be presented by the groups from Indonesia (KELOLA and JALA).

- Indonesia has a coastline of approximately 81,000 km, with about 17,000 islands, both big and small.
- Before 1980 there was approximately 4 million ha of mangrove.
 - After 1990 there were 1.2 million ha (as estimated by NGOs).
- Before 1980 there were approximately 144 million ha of forest (including mangroves)
 - After 1990 there were 90 million ha.
- In 1990 the population was approximately 200 million people.
 - 60% lived in the coastal zone.
 - 70% of those were involved in small-scale fishing.
- Since 1998 average annual income has been about 1.2 million rupiah per year, which is 133 \$US at the current exchange rate, but 80 \$US in 1998 when the rupiah fell to its lowest value.
- Problems in coastal and marine areas have two main causes:
 - 1) The use of unsustainable fishing techniques, such as trawling, using poisons and bombs, using very large fish nets and placing fish aggregating devices (Rupom).
 - 2) Aquaculture, especially intensive and semi-intensive shrimp culture which requires the cutting of mangrove forests and the expelling of wastes into coastal waters.

Government Policy and regulation has been ineffective in dealing with the problems because the main emphasis remains the economic exploitation of coastal resources. Government policy has especially encouraged foreign investment. There has been overlapping responsibilities in planning, and inconsistency in the application of policy. For example, zoning regulations have frequently been changed. When there have been good policies, enforcement has been ineffective. Local authorities do not necessarily know the regulations of the national government, and there may be corruption. For example, regulations concerning encroachment by foreign trawlers may not be enforced because of problems in the navy.

The net effect of those problems has been to lower income for small-scale fishers, destabilize social structures, and increase damage to coastal and marine ecosystems.

Presentation of Yayasan KELOLA

Lucki Manoi introduced himself and other members of the group from Yayasan KELOLA in North Sulawesi: Benyamin Talau, Rolex Kakomore and Benjamin Brown. Benyamin Talau gave the group's presentation, which concerned traditional management practices in his own island community. Lucki Manoi assisted him, with Benjamin Brown on a computer orchestrating their power-point presentation.

Title of presentation: **Mane'e – Penangkapan Ikan** (to catch the fish)

The presentation described Mane'e and Eha. The later is a system of taboos about where, when and how various marine animals can be caught. It is a system of regulation that follows an annual cycle, and Mane'e marks the end of that cycle. It is a ceremony that brings together all the people of the community to celebrate Eha. The system is not used in all communities, but where it is practiced it tends to unit the community and bring them together when outside forces threaten. The slide presentation described the nine steps of Mane'e. Those steps involved the cutting of vines to make rope, asking permission from God, finding a suitable place for the ceremony, making a net-like structure, releasing it, gathering it in, and collecting, sorting and distributing the caught fish.

At the first step of Mane'e, 40 people, representing 10 clans, go to the forest to collect vines for making rope. The population of the island is about 720 people in 177 families, which are divided among 10 clans. The population is protestant Christian. Prayers are given asking for permission from God, and for a good harvest and fine weather. The traditional leaders call on all the members of the traditional community to help make a large structure called a Janur Kuning. It is made from vine ropes and has a somewhat net-like appearance, but has only vertical lines and no led line. The making of the Janur Kuning is timed so that it can be used during the period of lowest tide in the year. A healthy Eha area is selected for its use. The Janur Kuning is used to surround an area of shallow water. The people gather and help to draw it in. The fish school and sort themselves out by species in the shallow water. Each family has a couple of boats, and they fill them with fish and divide the fish up between family members.

Last year the provincial governor and the minister of fisheries came to the ceremony. It was an important indication that the government was becoming more receptive to working with communities. The involvement of government officials, and the interest of other outsiders, gives more credence to the Mane'e, especially among young people who may be losing interest in traditional practices. It is hoped that by participating in Mane'e, the community will be motivated to follow the rules of Eha throughout the year, and help maintain a healthy biological system.

Mane'e helps to unit the community when threatened by outsiders using destructive fishing practices. When boats using cyanide fishing came into the area, the community was united against them. They were able to confront the fishermen and demand that they leave.

The Penang Inshore fishermen's Welfare Association (PIFWA)

Haji Saidin Haji Hussain – Secretary of PIFWA

The Penang Inshore Fishermen's Welfare Association (PIFWA) was founded in November 1994. Mr. Haji Saidin is the secretary of that organization. He is more than 70 years old, and has many children and grandchildren. He has considerable experience, and was pleased to be able to come to report on the activities of PIFWA. He was also thankful for the opportunity to exchange ideas on how to find solutions concerning trawlers, and other coastal problems.

PIFWA was founded to fight to solve the problems of inshore fishermen in Penang. The association arose out of a group of poor fishermen who came together voluntarily to form an organization with a fee of 2 Ringgits (approximately 20 Baht). Today there are about 600 members, most of them poor.

The biggest problem they deal with is encroachment by trawlers. PIFWA leads the local fight against trawlers. It has made reports on illegal trawler encroachment to the central government in Kuala Lumpur. However, there is little understanding in the central government. The encroachment continues, and coastal resources are being destroyed. The trawlers catch every kind of fish, big or small. Some species have disappeared from the waters around Penang. Mr. Haji Saidin worries about the future of other generations if the environment is destroyed. He called for the trawlers to be caught and expelled, and asked that everyone join together to resist the trawlers. He called for everyone to come together to help build prosperity, conservation and protection of the environment and our natural resources so that we can use them together for a long time.

Trawlers are not the only problem. The government has allowed concrete to be dumped in the sea for artificial reefs. It also allowed the destruction of the mangrove forest, which is a source of many animals. During World War II, when people were hungry, the mangrove provided food. Five years ago, the policy of the government was to destroy the mangrove. PIFWA resisted by replanting, and the government could not do anything about it.

The fishermen do not catch fish just for themselves, but also provide for consumers. As they are the ones who harvest the fish, it is appropriate that they be the ones who manage the resource.

There are a number of other problems. Some small-scale fishermen are using drift nets that are destructive. As a developing society, there are many different kinds of chemicals being produced that find their way into the sea, and ultimately in the bodies of fish that are eaten. Mr. Haji Saidin urges everyone to stop eating Black Tiger Prawn. He has especially asked the Taiwanese and Japanese student who have visited him to stop eating them.

Mr. Haji Saidin believes it is god's will that the workshop take place. Though the participants are of different faiths, they are not so different, but worship the same God. As fishermen, their lives and problems have the same meaning before God.

Further comments by Mr. P. Balan – Advisor/Coordinator for PIFWA

The trawler issue was the main reason for the coming together of PIFWA. The government did not want them to organize, but preferred them to be in a government-sponsored fishermen's organization. That organization would include both small-scale fishers and those from trawlers. The trawlers have more power and could control the organization. So it was necessary that a free and independent organization be established.

PIFWA has called on the authorities to arrest the trawlers. They have held talks with the authorities, organized seminars and given out information about the trawlers; but there has been no result. Their one temporary success came from the use of video recorders. When they made videos of them, the trawlers fled. When they gave the videos to the authorities, they did not want to see them, and did nothing about them. Many of the trawlers come from Thailand. Mr. Balan called for the help of Thais to control them.

A number of newspaper headlines were used to illustrate the fishermen's problems. "Fishermen's Income Down by Half" read one, which reflected the consequences of the loss of fish to trawlers. "Last Penang Mangrove to be Cleared" read another about the loss of mangroves to shrimp farms. "Fishermen and State at odds over Land Status" was the result of the government's refusal to recognize mangrove as forest. "Fishermen Fear for Their Livelihoods" was the headline after the mangroves were destroyed, and the molluscs that they collected died out.

Government departments have not been helpful. The fisheries department claims that water pollution is not its problem as the pollution came from a terrestrial source and was therefore not in their jurisdiction. The environment department says it is not responsible for problems of sediment in the water. There are a number of other coastal environmental issues about which PIFWA is concerned, such as recreational sports, seaside highway construction, and the building of cruise ship facilities.

Presentations from Thailand
Yadfon Association, Trang
 Meeya Hawa

Yadfon association first came to Miya's village, Ban Chao Mai, in 1991. People from her village went to see the work of Yadfon and Babu Nuansri in Ban Laem Makam, where there was a turtle conservation project. At Ban Chao Mai there were many problems, and the people there were using destructive fishing gear, such as push-nets, trawlers and explosives. Many of the men were going to work in the commercial fishery, and women were going to work in factories. The resources of the village were declining because of destructive fishing practices. With so many people seeking work outside, the village was quite and felt abandoned. People working with Yadfon urged them to stop using destructive fishing gear. But no one believed what was said.

Cooperative research was done with people from the university, Yadfon Association, and people from several of the villages in the area. It was not the typical research that researchers do, but something the villagers could do for themselves and see the results. They researched the impact of destructive fishing techniques. They calculated how much the fish were being sold for, and how much was being destroyed and discarded as by-catch, or sold to factories for fish meal. They examined the number of small fish, crab and shrimp in 1 meter square areas, and saw the damage done to the seagrass by push-nets. It was clear to the people what damage was being done, and how their livelihoods were being destroyed. The research gave them

increased pride in their resources, but also made them determined to stop destructive practices, like the use of push-nets.

Trang province is well known for the dugongs that are found there. The dugongs depend on the seagrass, and without it there would be no dugongs. When the use of push-nets was stopped, the dugongs returned to areas they had disappeared from. The dugongs brought the attention of the government, and it was an opportunity for people to communicate with the government for the first time. The government was not really interested in whether people starved or not, but they paid attention to the dugongs. The people of the villages see they must conserve seagrass, mangrove and coral. There are funds from projects to remove garbage or to build artificial reefs, but it is necessary to conserve what they have. There are regulations restricting trawlers to limits beyond 3,000 m, and banning push-nets. But the laws are just paper, and there still needs to be fisherfolk organizations and NGOs. People must conserve resources, not because of the law, but because it is their livelihoods which are at stake.

Once, men returned from the commercial fishery with drug addiction and AIDS. Women and children looked for work outside the village, and families broke up. Now that there have been conservation projects, the fishermen can return to their original professions, catching squid and raising grouper. Those are the things of pride for the fisherfolk and their families.

The shrimp industry is making a lot of profits, and a lot of money is being invested. But the costs are not known. A lot of money has been lost, and the mangrove destroyed, and no one knows how long it will take for it to come back to its original state. The fisherfolk are unknown. People do not know where the fish, crab and shrimp they eat come from. But it is the fisherfolk that provides it. So they are happy to see this workshop, as it may bring some light to their situation, and cause some people (like those living in air-conditioning) to change their ways and do some good.

World Wildlife Fund Thailand, Pattini
Mohamedsookry Masaning

Thirty years ago, fisherfolk did not feel there were any problems in the fishery, as it was still productive. From about 1966, inappropriate fishing gear begun to be used, such as trawlers and push-nets, and there was encroachment into the mangrove forest to build shrimp ponds. But fisherfolk still believed their resources would remain productive.

By 1976, trawlers and push-nets increased, as the government was emphasizing industrial development, and the use of resources to supply industry. The number of marine animals decreased, and the fishing gear of fisherfolk was destroyed by push-nets. Fisherfolk became angry, and fought back by burning and destroying push-nets. But the violent approach was not productive, as the push-net owners were influential, and could get the government on their side.

In 1995, it was realized that a network was needed for groups to work together to solve their problems, as many groups were encountering the same problems. An assembly of fisherfolk, in 3 districts and including 11 villages, was established so that individuals and groups could know and understand what was happening.

Activities

1. Making artificial reefs using local wisdom. From older people in the villages it was learned how to use bamboo and coconut palm to make the reef. It was important to use local wisdom, to build solidarity and be able to explain to outsiders about the goals of the activities.

2. Gathering data on the number of animals at the artificial reef, and spreading that information so that people from outside could understand what was happening. As the numbers of animals increased, people became more confident of the benefit of their activities. But if that increase only brought more encroachment by push-nets, then restoring those populations was not enough. They had to be protected. An organization was established for cooperation between the government and the people. They only managed to stop the push-nets for a while.
3. The assembly of fisherfolk in Pattani assisted in the drafting of laws to ban destructive fishing practices in the national social and economic development plan, number 8. But there was no resolution of problems with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperatives.
4. Next year, the assembly of the fisherfolk of Pattani and the assembly of the poor, will push for a solution to the problems with the department, so that destructive fishing gear is banned, and Pattani is declared a zone free of push-nets. The push-net operators have attempted to have the law canceled, and attempted to delay its implementation for two years.

The policy of the government for economic recovery opens up opportunities for investors from other countries, especially Korea, Taiwan and Japan. The effects of such investments in the fishing industry will be to further reduce the income of local fisherfolk, and cause deterioration in the quality of the environment.

Brief Comment – Anuradha Wikramasinghe

Because Anuradha was leaving the next day and would not have the opportunity to address the workshop again, he gave a brief statement at the close of the day's business. He spoke of the importance of these meetings. He reminded participants that there would be another "In the Hands the Fishers" workshop in Sri Lanka in the coming week. At that meeting participants would be coming from South Asia; India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. He spoke of the vision of the movement, and urged participants not to compromise in their struggle for the emancipation of fisherfolk from discrimination.

Tuesday 7 November

Participants were divided into 4 groups that each went on a daylong field trip. Each group went to two villages. The groups, and what they expected to see in the villages, were as follows:

Group 1 to Ban Laem Makham and Ban Toh Ban:

- Women's group, pandanus weaving, seafood processing
- Management and use of natural resources
- Experience in stopping trawlers and push-nets
- Self-sufficient fish cage culture
- Previous experience in aquaculture – green mussels

Group 2 to Ban Chao Mai and Ban Mod Tanoi

- Experience in stopping trawlers and push-nets
- Seagrass conservation
- Dugong conservation
- Shore bird sanctuary
- Mangrove forest conservation
- Impacts of tourism on the community

Group 3 to Ban Yan-seu and Ban Koh Khiam

- Management and use of natural resources
- Self-sufficient production from Nipa palm forest
- Experience in commercial fish cage culture

Group 4 to Ban Laem and Ban Tung Tahseh

- Oyster conservation project
- Fish cage culture
- Bivalve processing – Poker-chip venus (*Meretrix lusoria*)
- Management and use of natural resources

Wednesday 8 November

Jim Enright opened the day's proceedings by remarking that November 7 had been the tenth anniversary of the death of Korunamoyee Sardar, who died at the village of Harin Khola, in the Khulna region of Bangladesh. She was killed there in the conflict with shrimp farm operators, and every year her death is remembered, and large numbers of people gather at the site in Bangladesh. She has become a symbol of resistance to shrimp farming (see Appendix 1). Jim called for one minute's silence in her honour.

Pisit Charnsanoh, president of Yadfon Association, also spoke on the Bangladeshi case. It reminded him that there were a number of other cases of people who have died while trying to protect resources. He remembered the case of a woman who was killed by a bulldozer in India. Women have played an important role in the struggle. In Ban Chao Mai, 6 or 7 years ago, it was a group of woman who confronted those wanting to destroy mangrove to build shrimp ponds. There have been cases of people killed in Thailand who did not become well known. In Trang and Phangnga provinces there have been cases of killings in confrontations involving trawlers and push-nets. There were certainly other cases in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Case Study from North Sumatra
Mr. Edy Suhartono – JALA & Mr. Zaman - SNSU

A document, in Bahasa Indonesia and English, was prepared by JALA prior to the workshop. The Indonesian version was distributed to the Malaysian and Indonesian groups when they arrived. The English version is attached to this report (Appendix 2). As similar information was presented in the oral and the written presentation, only a brief summary of the oral is given here.

Edy Suhartono of JALA outlined the geographical situation, and the complex ethnic and religious mix in North Sumatra. JALA is an NGO operating as a network to empower traditional fishermen and community organizations in North Sumatra. It was founded in 1997. While JALA does not have a real membership, it works with other grassroots mass organizations such as SNSU. It helps those groups by doing advocacy and amplifying their voice. SNSU was started in 1998, and has a membership of about 3,000.

The issues the organizations have dealt with involve; bottom trawling, pelagic trawling, over-fishing, mangrove destruction, inequitable marketing practices. There have been various strategies for dealing with those problems. The most drastic has involved the burning of boats and nets. Between 1993 and 2000 17 boats have been burned. There have also been demonstrations, campaigning and lobbying. Local fishing organizations have been built up and strengthened. There has been participation in the drafting of new laws. They are hoping for the implementation of new laws giving greater control of inshore areas to local communities.

Questions and Comments from the floor after the presentation.

Q. Is JALA working with the local authorities? – Hadji Saidin

A. Yes, JALA has been working to clarify one law, Bill 22. As well, the organization was declared in front of government offices, so that the government would know about the problems they were dealing with, especially the issue of trawlers.

Q. I have heard that it is illegal to trawl in Indonesia, and that the trawlers are therefore coming over from Sumatra to Malaysia. I have also heard that because there are no more fish in the 1st world, investors are moving into the 3rd world and trying to buy land. We should unit and protect ourselves against this threat. – P. Balan

A. There have been controls on trawlers in Indonesia for 20 years but they have not been implemented. We are now trying to get more local laws. The government is now under greater pressure, because of the financial situation, to sell off more resources, and to work with international interests.

Comment from Ruddy Gustave: The laws of Indonesia were made without input from NGOs. Shrimp trawling was illegal in the '70s and '80s, but under pressure from fishermen they revised the law to allow shrimp trawling in under-populated areas of the country. So government policy has been inconsistent, and disappointing. They cannot control the trawlers. The trawlers can remain at sea for months at a time, and do all their business at sea where they cannot be regulated. Navy patrol boats are given only a small amount of gas, only about enough to start up their engines.

Q. What was the response of the government to the burning of the trawlers? – Barbara Johnson.

A. There have been a number of violent incidents. Fishermen have been run over by trawlers, and there have been shootings. Fisherfolk leaders have been jailed. But the courts are weak and nothing comes of these cases. When trawlers are arrested the cases never get processed through the courts.

Field Trip Reports

Group 1 – Ban Laem Makham and Ban To Ban

Group 1 met a women's group in Ban To Ban that makes baskets in their spare time. They have about 70 members. Their center was not just a place for selling their products, but was a place where tradition knowledge was passed down from one generation to the next. They were also making an income for their families during the period when their husbands could not get out to sea.

The women sell their products in the village, or to an agent who sells it outside. The groups noted that they did not make a lot of money, but it was enough to buy fishing equipment. They clear 800 B a month, and 2.5% went to the group. Yadfon association can help the group find a wider market. The activities of the group encourage young women to stay in the village rather than seek work outside. Members of group 1 suggested that yadfon might help with training in other activities, like the making of rice crisps.

Ban To Ban separated from Ban Hua Hin about 10 years ago. The mangrove forest in the area had been destroyed for making charcoal. But the loss of the resource made people aware of its importance and the need to recoup it. A group began to restore the forest, and its condition improved. Yadfon helped improve basic needs, such as drinking water. Yadfon was also a channel for the villagers to the government sector. The forestry department cooperated with the replanting of the forest. The approach of Yadfon was to work closely with the villagers. Though there has been a restoration of mangrove forest, there were still many shrimp ponds, and they were having a heavy impact on resources.

On the way to Ban Laem Makham the group say lush mangrove forest. At the village, they met a group of fishers involved in raising grouper in cages, and they had a chance to chat with them and exchange ideas. Yadfon came to the village in 1985, when they sent someone to study with the community about its problems. At that time the village had no drinking water and no electricity, and push-nets were destroying their resources. Government officials never ever went there. The first project was to dig a well so that there would be drinking water in the dry season. From that project village leaders could be identified. Those who worked against the trawlers also learned from Yadfon about planting forests. The Governor of Trang was invited to replant forest, and it was an opportunity to show him the various problems of the village. He was able to order the responsible government offices to take the village's problems more seriously. As well, the efforts of the village to replant the mangrove became widely acknowledged.

Group 2 – Ban Chao Mai and Ban Mod Tanoi

Ban Chao Mai has 76 households and a population of 600 people. The principle occupation is fishing, and the common fishing gear seen there were traps. There have not been push-nets or trawlers since 1991, when Yadfon first came to work there. The important thing is that there has been cooperation with government offices, the people and Yadfon Association. At first there was a half rai of seagrass conservation area, and now there is 700 rai.

Problems noticed in the village, involved tourism, specifically the inappropriate attire of tourists, and economic problems. One major difference with the situation in Indonesia, was that fishermen in Thailand own their own boats and gear, and they are their own bosses. An area of seagrass bed is a designated conservation area, marked off with cement poles to exclude trawlers. This is a source of pride for the village, and should be of interest for eco-tourists.

Ban Mod Tanoi has a population of about 1,000. It has about 1,500 rai of mangrove forest, and there has been conservation of the mangrove for a long time now. Income of the fishermen is about 200-1,000 baht per day. The commonly used gear is traps and hooks. It is estimated that about 80% of the fishermen are dependant on the mangrove forest.

Yadfon Association came to the village in 1991. At that time there was a major problem with push-nets. Working together with the community they tried to solve the problem. Now there are still some incursions by push-nets, but only at night.

The visiting group noted that Yadfon had not been very active in the village for about four years, but that its influence was still felt, and the conservation efforts continue.

Edy Suhartono noted, that mangrove replanting projects in his area had not been sustained because of problems getting seedlings, and problems motivating communities. He wondered about the long-term success of conservation efforts if the communities remained poor. There was a question about the ability of some communities to carry on without NGO support. Lucki Manoi noted there was a continuing impact from Yadfon's work, and he was impressed that there seemed to be an official local level policy, and that there were rules and regulations in place. He warned about the impact of tourism, and opposed the presence of home stays in his area.

Group 3 – Ban Yan Seu and Ban Koh Khiam

Ban Yan Seu is a village that makes products from an abundant local natural resource, the Nipa palm. It produces cigarette papers from the young leaves. Baskets are made from the midribs of the leaves. The fruit and sap is eaten. Sugar, syrup, alcohol and vinegar can be made from the sap. Herbal medicines also come from the Nipa. Brooms can be made from the stocks. Knowledge of the uses of Nipa has been passed down between the generations, and the mangrove has been conserved.

Ban Koh Khiam is a community which is 99% Moslem. Raising fish in cages has become an added source of income. The main activities are fishing and farming. Starting in 1977 there were many commercial boats in the area, because the port of Kantang was a major commercial fishing center for the Andaman Sea. All species of fish were being caught and local fisherman had trouble competing.

Before 1966 there were a lot of groupers, and the price received for them was 50 sadang a kilogram. Then in 1968, some Chinese came and began using grouper as food. That was the first time people started to know more about grouper and began to experiment with raising them. But they had problems with disease and falling prices. Up until 1989, the agricultural bank gave help with support money from the Japanese OCEF in the form of loans of 40,500 B per family. There were 13 groups for a total of 83 loans. But the fishers did not have much knowledge about management, and the bank wanted the loans repaid on time. Therefore, the fish had to be sold before the appropriate time, and the people lost money. Some remain in debt to this day. The problem lay with the government, but the fishers had no knowledge or experience with those matters.

Now there are about 30 families raising groupers, even though some live in debt. By raising the fish appropriately, and finding the food themselves, they are having some success and making a better living of it. In the Phangnga area, some push-nets have continued to operate using the excuse that the by-catch is needed to feed groupers in cages. There was some concern

expressed about the impact of collecting large number of young grouper might have on wild stocks.

Lucki Manoi was interested in the many uses of Nipa palm in Ban Yan Seu. In Sulawesi, their main use is for roofing, and he was interested in getting more information. Khun Pisit indicated that Yadfon is compiling its information on Nipa and will send it to interested persons.

Group 4 – Ban Laem and Ban Tung Ta Seh

Ruddy Gustave gave the presentation. His first impression at Ban Laem was that the klong was quite clean. He also noted the strong role being played by women's groups. It seemed to be a strong community with several sources of income. Income came from rearing fish in cages, clams and processing seafood. Ruddy felt there was a greater role being played by the government than there would be in a similar community in Indonesia. There, such a community would have been quite marginal, and there would be little thought for the government. Business interests would deal directly with influential individuals, usually the headman, which would lead to divisions in the community.

At Ban Tung Ta Seh they say the community forest. Ruddy thought the community was quite strong, had strengthened itself and fought for its rights in a systematic way. There seemed to be true community initiatives, and a high degree of political education. In Indonesia, the approach has been less systematic, and movements had fallen apart when confronted by the government. Ruddy noted the strong role of women at Tung Ta Seh. In Indonesia, only men got involved in conservation projects, and needed to be paid. So projects needed budgets, and when they ended, so did the conservation efforts.

Ruddy spoke of the experience in Timor. There, the mangrove had been cut down for firewood. A project was started which got millions of dollars (US) in international aid for replanting. Seedlings were planted, but no one knew how to care for them. The half-starved goats and sheep ate all of them within a month. The same sort of thing was repeated again elsewhere. The problem was that communities did not feel the need for the forest, but they needed the aid money.

Ben Brown thought that it would be interesting to compare techniques used here to those used in Sulawesi. The eco-systems were different though, because in North Sulawesi the mountains came more directly down to the sea. There, one main problem they had looked at was getting a better price for the tuna that the fishermen caught. He cautioned about problems caused by taking large numbers of young grouper from the wild for cage rearing. He intended to take back to North Sulawesi a fruit of the mangrove tree *Xylocarpus*, and an example of the local mud crab trap.

Panel Discussion

Five people representing different groups were asked to comment on some of the main issues and concerns found during the field trips to the villages. The five people that spoke in turn were P. Balan, Maitree Wisetsart, Rolex Kakomore, Pheng Rith, and Edy Suhartono, who came from Malaysia, Thailand, North Sulawesi, Cambodian, and North Sumatra, respectively.

P. Balan emphasized the issue of push-nets and trawlers. He urged unity amongst the groups in order to fight against destructive fishing techniques. He spoke of the failure of government to help them, and the need for fisherfolk to be strong and independent.

Khun Maitree spoke of the increasing emphasis on the consumer society, and the policies of governments in the region to encourage foreign investment and sell resources abroad. The result was the unsustainable use of resources and a deteriorating social environment.

Rolex Kakomore spoke of his own experience working as a fisherman to raise his many brothers and sisters. His greatest pride was being able to send his younger brother to study to be an engineer.

Pheng Rith addressed each of the four issues raised, alternative income generation, the use of Nipa, Aquaculture, and push-nets and trawlers. As life in coastal areas is more than fishing, there needed to be alternative income sources, and it was important for people have support after NGOs left. Nipa is not much used in Cambodia, but much was learned of its potential uses. Aquaculture was a rising problem, but the issue of greatest concern was trawlers, and the violent conflicts around them.

Edy Suhartono also spoke about the problem of trawlers. He was looking for approaches other than the violent confrontation approach. He urged a network on the regional level to fight trawlers.

Slide Presentation on Small-scale Alternatives

Afredo Quarto - Executive Director of the Mangrove Action Project

The purpose of the presentation was to show alternatives. MAP is developing a “tool box” of alternatives which can be used by communities and which can be modified and altered to meet local needs.

Alfredo got inspiration to found the Mangrove Action Project during a trip to Thailand. A fisherman told him, “if there are no mangrove forests, the sea will have no meaning. It is like having a tree without roots. Without the mangroves, there are no roots to the sea.”

Photos were shown from mangroves around the world; Ecuador, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Senegal. Shrimp farming threatens the mangroves in many countries. Mangrove forests support a high diversity of animal life, and are source of resources for the people who live in them. Photos were shown of people collecting clams and crabs in Ecuador, and raising groupers in Thailand. But it is important to know what the limits on that kind of activity are, and what is suitable for each location. It is necessary to know what the carrying capacity of the environment is, or stress could be put on the environment. Raising oysters on floating rafts have been used as an alternative to cutting the roots of *Rhizophora* for oysters in Senegal. It is important to provide alternatives that are realistic, and provide a livelihood without damaging the environment. MAP has been looking at Silvofisheries, which is now being done in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Phillipines. In those systems, crabs from the wild are raised in the presence of mangrove trees. Better production of crabs is achieved, and the mangrove is protected. But it is necessary to know the limits so that crab stocks are not overexploited. In Sri Lanka, freshwater fish are raised in small ponds, and are a supplement to the family income, and a source of protein. It is commonly said that small is beautiful, but it could also be said that small-scale is sustainable. In Kenya, mangrove wood is used in construction. In Thailand, Nipa palm is used for thatch and other products. *Pandanus* is used for baskets and mats, which provide another important supplemental source of income.

Replanting is an important activity, but the result is not the same as the original forest. Instead, it is often better to protect what is already there. MAP is important as a network communicating

skills about replanting, and growing seedlings etc. It is also important to motivate local communities for replanting, and to educate local people about mangroves, using such tools as a boardwalk. One slide showed a clear cut that had been designated a protected area in Thailand. Laws make little difference if they are not enforced. Local people have to feel motivated, and empowered to protect the forests themselves. Alfredo called for people to act together now, or we will see the end of the mangrove forest and the life of the fisherfolk.

Thursday 9 November

A representative from each country was asked to present a list of the problems of fisherfolk, and possible solutions in each of the countries, toward drawing up a plan for future actions. A summary of the problems is presented below:

Malaysia

1. Government authority, administration and procedure.
2. Trawlers destroying coastal resources.
3. Destruction of the mangrove forest.
4. Building shrimp ponds, and the release of wastewater from shrimp ponds.
5. Government officials not interested in helping small-scale fishers.
6. Government rental of islands for tourism and fishing activities.

Indonesia

1. Coastal resource problems from the use of destructive fishing gear, and trawlers.
2. Shrimp ponds.
3. Destruction of mangrove forests.
4. Fish aggregating devices.
5. Illegal fishing from neighbouring countries.
6. Government gives no importance and does not pay attention to small-scale fishermen.
7. Government concessions, such as the rent of islands for resorts and fishing.
8. Inappropriate fishing techniques, such as the use of chemicals and explosives.
9. Use of technologies by foreign commercial fishermen that reduce the amount of fish available to local small-scale fishers.
10. Poverty of the small-scale fisherfolk.

Thailand

1. Use of destructive fishing gear.
2. Government not interested in the problems of fisherfolk.
3. Lack of knowledge of rights under the current constitution.
4. Expensive fuel.
5. Unclear delineation of 3,000 m fishing zone.

Cambodia

1. No enforcement of laws on the management of coastal and off-shore resources, lawlessness and piracy.
2. Increasing numbers of trawlers, as 800 trawlers were bought from Thailand over 4 years, for a total of 1,000 trawlers in Cambodia now.
3. Fishers have large debts, from buying equipment, and will use inappropriate fishing techniques to recover their debt.
4. Limited resources, not enough for everyone who wants to use them.
5. Fishing communities lack knowledge, information and experience.

Summary of ways to solve problems

1. Participants felt it was useful to have more exchanges at the regional level, possibly in Cambodia or Indonesia.
2. Establishment of a regional environment fund.
3. Regional networking among fisherfolk.
4. Regional exchanges of information and news.
5. Exchanges of experts and technicians, at the village level.
6. Establishment of community forests around the world.
7. Youth to carry on into the future the experience in coastal resource management.
8. The complete elimination of illegal fishing and destructive fishing in the region.

Closing Address by Mr. Tawat Suwuthikul

Assistant Governor of Trang Province

Thank you Yadfon Association for giving the members of the CPT (Core Planning Team) committee the opportunity to come and listen to your "In the hand of the Fishers" regional workshop, on the sustainable management of resources. Coastal resources are important to Trang, as the province has approximately 119 kilometers of coastline. I would like to introduce you to the committee that is meeting here later today. The committee includes members from the government and non-governmental sectors. Among the members is Dr. Roengchai Tansakul from the academic sector. The committee receives support from Canada, so that people will have a role in the management of coastal resources. All over the world the management of coastal resources is receiving prime attention, because of:

1. The destruction of natural resources.
2. Increased populations using limited resources leading to problems in their use, and the need to build networks involving the people to find solutions to those problems.

In Thailand, the policy for the sustainable management of resources under the national economic development plan is to:

1. Limit the catch of marine animals, and eliminate destructive fishing techniques by 2001.
2. Allow the participation of citizens in the management of resources.
3. Reduce conflict over the division of areas for food production, so that everyone can use the resource.

In summary, this workshop has common cause with government policy, i.e. the building of strong communities, and participation in the management of natural resources. Thailand does not have greater expertise in the management of resources than Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia or Sri Lanka, but the people here have come to realize the need to protect their natural resources. Many other countries have experienced similar problems. The various proposals that come out of this meeting can be a guide to solving problems in other countries. By coming together to deal with the problems, we will know how to solve future problems, and make the world a peaceful place.

Closing Ceremony

Mr. Pisit Charnsanoh

I would like to thank everyone for coming together here and helping in the creation of real coastal environmental conservation for our future. We have been together for 5 days. We are

becoming part of a physical network, but also a network of shared beliefs and values, that can never be erased. I hope that this network will grow and prosper, and become worldwide. We may not know everyone in the network, but we will all share the same spirit.

I would like to call on Mr. Haji Saidin Haji Hussain from Malaysia to give the official closing address.

Mr. Haji Saidin Haji Hussain

I am greatly honoured that I was asked to do the closing ceremony. Even though we come from many countries and follow different religious beliefs, we have come together to fight for and protect our resources. This is the first time I have had the chance to come to Trang. This name “Trang” is also used for my hometown of Penang, and means good fortune. This is something given by God, that will make us stronger. When we come together, like sticks of bamboo, we cannot be broken. We are especially indebted to Mr. Alfredo Quarto. He came to speak to us in Penang and gave us the will to fight to protect our resources.

I would like to thank the organizers, and especially Yadfon Association for inviting us to meet. We have gained a lot of experience here in our search for ways to solve the problems of fishers. I am proud that we came together to confer, and to eat with each other. I have never been in a situation where higher officials have also come to a meeting. This is quite different from Penang, where the assembly of fisherfolk has not received acceptance. But we will fight on. Let us be clear, good things come from Allah, but the bad things come from our own stupidity.

Mr. Pisit Charmsanoh

The regional “In the Hands of the Fishers” workshop has come to a successful close. I would like to thank all of the participating organizations, the fisherfolk, and volunteers. Thank you, and have a safe journey home.

Declaration

Aims and Action Plan from the “In the Hands of the Fishers” Regional Workshop – Community Based Coastal Resource Management and Stopping Destructive Fishing Practices

5 – 9 November 2000, Trang, Thailand

Fisherfolk leaders from Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, along with observers from the United States, 46 persons in all, came together at the “In the Hands of the Fishers” regional workshop on “community based coastal resource management and stopping destructive fishing practices”, held in Trang, Thailand, 5-9 November 2000. There was an exchange of knowledge on the problems and experiences of fisherfolk, and it was decided to declare the aims and action plan of the workshop at four levels as a guide for future directions. The workshop called for:

1 Community.

- Fisherfolk communities to have the right to manage sustainable coastal resources for the benefit of everyone.
- Banning the use of all types of destructive fishing gear.
- Support for income-generating activities, and building strong communities together with women and youth.
- Carrying forward the goal of sustainable community development.

2 National.

- Networking by fisherfolk to help each other in conservation, and in the management of sustainable coastal resources.
- Fisherfolk to fight together for state prohibitions on the use of destructive fishing gear.
- True recognition of the rights of the people to manage their own resources.

3 Regional.

- Fisherfolk in Southeast Asia to come together to form a cooperative network, for the management of coastal resources and stopping the use of destructive fishing gear.
- Holding of workshops to exchange experiences and provide mutual support among fisherfolk leaders of the various countries in the region.
- Support for lobbying of governments to stop policies that destroy resources.
- Establishing funds to support activities of fisherfolk in the region.

4 Global.

- Cooperation with various global organizations, such as the United Nations, FAO, and private development organizations.
- Building of sustainable development alternatives.
- Increasing power to stop resource destruction in the various regions.
- Exchanging of information and research findings.
- Allocating funds for the support of fisherfolk.

Appendix 2

The Fishermen's Struggle: Some Cases from North Sumatera presented by JALA

Introduction

North Sumatera is one of the provinces of Indonesia. It has an area of 71,000 Km², or 3.7% of the total area of the Indonesian archipelago region. It has 162 islands, of which 156 occur off the west coast, and 6 off the east coast. It is bordered in the north by Aceh Province, in the east by the Malaka Straits, in the south by West Sumatera and Riau, and in the west by the Indian Ocean.

The capital city of North Sumatera is Medan. The population of the province is around 12 million people. There are 3 regions; the plains, lowlands, and uplands located around the Bukit Barisan mountain range. The people are from diverse cultural backgrounds, such as: Malay, Toba Batak, Mandailing, Simalungun, Karo, Javanese, Chinese, Dairi, Nias, and Indian etc. But there is no single dominant culture.

According to statistical information from 1999, 70% of the people live in the rural area. Most of those are peasants and fishermen. The fishermen are separated between the west coast and the east coast of North Sumatera. Each region consists of many municipalities, such as: Nias, South and Middle Tapanuli, Mandailing Natal, Asahan, Deli Serdang and Labuhan Batu. Most of the people in those regions work as fishermen.

Fisherfolk of North Sumatera and their Problems

It is difficult to define exactly who the fisherfolk are. So we do not have a rigid definition. But, we can characterize them by the type and capacity of the tools they use for catching fish. Generally, the fisherfolk use nets and fish hooks without modern technology or machinery. The fisherfolk are found on both the west coast and east coast of North Sumatera. At the moment, JALA is present in just three municipalities on the east coast.

1. Municipality of Asahan

This region is located on the east coast of North Sumatera with an area of 4,581 Km² and 815,000 people. The main occupations of the people are peasant farmer and fisherman. Generally, most of them are of Malay and Batak ethnicity, and reside in the regions of Pagurawan, Kuala Tanjung, Bagan Asahan, etc. Traditional cultural activity still exists in this region, although it is becoming less intense.

2. Municipality of Deli Serdang

This region is located on the east coast with an area around 4,369 Km², and population of 1,755,500 million. The main occupations are peasant farmer, fisherman, businessman, and laborer. This region borders with Medan City. Fishermen are located in several regions, for example: Belawan, Pantai Cermin, Bagan Percut. Generally, they still use traditional methods to catch fish. Most of the fishermen are ethnic Batak, Javanese, Malay and Banjar. The traditional culture still exists here, but it has become mixed with other customs.

3. Municipality of Langkat

This region is located on the east coast of North Sumatera. It has an area of 6,262 Km², and population of 850,300 people. Their occupations are peasant farmer, fisherman, laborer, officer, etc. The major occupation is fishing in Pangkalana Brandan, Pangkalan Susus, Jaring Halus. Most people are Javanese, Malay, Batak, and Acehanese. Traditional culture still exists, but is based on Malay culture.

There are many problems facing the fisherfolk of North Sumatera, such as the distribution and selling of fish, mangrove destruction, and over-fishing. Most importantly, trawlers operating around North Sumatera result in:

1. Social tension between fisherfolk and trawler owners.
2. Over-fishing.
3. Monopolies.
4. Damage to the ecosystem in coastal areas.

Because of the above impacts, most fisherfolk in North Sumatera oppose trawler operations on the east and west coast.

The Indonesia Government's Policies on Trawlers

Soeharto's era

During the Soeharto era, the livelihood of fisherfolk was very under-developed. Most of them were powerless and poverty stricken. Some policies that arose during the Soeharto government that related to trawlers were as follows:

- Presidential Decree No. 39/1980 prohibiting trawler operations.
- Presidential Instruction No. 11/1982 about the guidance of Presidential Decree No. 39/1980.
- The Ministry of Agriculture Decree No. 545/Kpts/Um/8/1982 about the execution of Presidential Decree No. 11/1982.
- The Ministry of Agriculture Decree No. 503/Kpts/Um/80 about the steps of instruction to eliminate trawler operations.
- The Ministry of Agriculture Decree No. 633/Kpts/Um/9/1980 about the execution of Presidential Decree No. 39/1980
- Act of Agriculture Ministry No. 392/kpts/lk.120/99 about lines for catching fish.

In fact, the rules were very inconsistent, and overlapping. So, they became a problem for fishermen. Many trawlers operated outside the law. The result was conflict between fishermen and trawler owners. Fishermen and peasants have the lowest status in the community, and the country. Although the country is famous for its marine and agrarian culture, the peasants and fishermen are poverty stricken. In reality, government policy did not involve fishermen and peasants. The paradigm of development that was applied by the Soeharto regime damaged fishermen. The goal of economic growth tended to give priority to the middle class rather than the fishermen. So when the economic crisis came, there was a rapid fundamental collapse. Consequently, it was the people who had to take the economic burden.

Gus Dur's era

When Gusdur or Abdurrahman Wahid became the new President, there was hope of improved economic conditions for the country. One of the policies of Gus Dur's government was the formation of a Marine and Exploration Department. Of course, there was increased hope that fishermen would be involved in the development of their lives. For the moment, the department still has not set up its programs, not just in areas affecting fishermen's lives but in all areas.

The Marine and Exploration Department focuses on economic recovery. So, the programs and policies are about recovery. For example, several years ago the Department planned to sell Islands. Many Islands in the country are still empty. So the government saw an opportunity to get money, but many NGOs protested against it. The impact of the economic crisis is severe, so the government tries to maximize income generation from all sectors. In reality, the situation is the same as during the economic crisis in the Soeharto era.

In both of the above eras, government policy, and the economic orientation of the government damaged fishermen. They faced economic problems, as well as social, cultural and environment problems. Politically, the rights of fishermen to manage their environment, including catching fish, must be recognized by the government. So, the struggle to eliminate trawlers, not just burning some of them, must be followed by the management by fishermen of their own environment.

Nowadays, the government of Indonesia is preparing to implement the Act No. 22/1999 about Autonomous Regulation. It is an opportunity for each region in the country to bargain with the center government. Especially for the fishermen, the new regulations can be either a threat or an opportunity. So, JALA is concerned to criticize the act. By legal drafting and roundtable discussions, JALA wants to influence the house of representative in North Sumatera Province to design regulations concerning the fishermen of the region. Through Act No. 22/1999, JALA hopes for the rights of fishermen to be recognized by local government.

The Efforts of Fishermen to Eliminate Trawlers

Until now, there have been many trawlers, estimated at around 1,000, operating in North Sumatera. Most of them are operating illegally, and are mini-trawlers. Some of the efforts of fishermen to eliminate trawlers include:

1. Setting fire to trawlers at sea or in port.
2. Campaigning against trawler operations.
3. Mass demonstrations at government institutions.

The above actions still had weaknesses, because:

1. There were divisions in the community, and not everyone supported the complete elimination of trawlers.
2. The organization of the people was not improved by the organizers.
3. There was no strategy to empower the fisherfolk.
4. Local institutions had not been formed by the people.
5. The state apparatus still backed the trawler operations.

Generally, the enemies of fishermen are:

1. The trawlers, both domestic and foreign (Thailand).
2. Fishery officers.
3. Marine Corps or Navy.
4. National Police.

As a result of the above, some of local leaders, along with NGO activists, came together to evaluate their actions. From the discussions, all of the participants agreed to build an organization for all the fisherfolk. On July 14, 1998 SNSU (Serikat Nelayan Sumatera Utara) or North Sumatera Fishermen Union was established in Medan. Furthermore, its establishment was declared in front of the offices of the Government of North Sumatera (GUBSU). It was an important moment in the struggle for the rights of fisherfolk in North Sumatera, especially for the elimination the trawler operations. Some efforts of SNSU are as follows:

1. To generate a power base through networking in the community.
2. To continue actions, such as mass demonstrations and mobilizations.
3. Patrolling and controlling the trawler operations in each area.
4. Lobbying strategic components of the community for the elimination of trawler operations in North Sumatera.
5. Campaigning against trawlers at the regional, local and international level.
6. Networking with other people and institutions around the world.
7. Making legal drafts.

In the struggle for their rights, SNSU is supported by other NGOs in North Sumatera. Sharing among the organizations is very important, and gives more power to the fishermen in their struggle. SNSU works in the grassroots, and other NGOs support them through many activities, e.g. lobbying, campaigning, publishing, discussing, and holding village meets. SNSU is a mass organization, different from other NGOs. SNSU is an organization that consists of fisherfolk only. NGOs workers come from a different position and status. Most of them come from middle class and university backgrounds. Ideally, both of them should be working together to empower the fishermen.

Now, the real mass base of SNSU is around 3,000 persons in three municipalities. About 10,000 persons are participants. The achievements of SNSU so far include:

1. Increasing the bargaining position of fishermen with the government.
2. Many actions by fishermen have a political impact that directly pressures the government.
3. Synergies between fisherfolk, NGOs and other components of the community.
4. Restrictions on trawler operations.
5. Common strategies followed by fishermen, NGOs and mass organizations to eliminate trawler operations.

JALA's function as a Support System for Fishermen

JALA (Jaringan Advokasi Nelayan Sumatera Utara) or North Sumatera Fishermen Advocacy Network was established on August 3 1997. Founded by some NGOs and individuals that were concerned with the fishermen's struggle. The aim is to make alliances with other elements in the community to struggle for the rights of fishermen, especially against trawler operations.

In 1997, JALA and its members started activity to help fishermen campaign against trawlers operating on the east and west coasts of North Sumatera. From 1998-2000, the most important goal was eliminating the illegal operations of trawlers in North Sumatera. Some actions to achieve that goal were:

1. Making alliances with the many stakeholders that support the elimination of trawlers.
2. Lobbying together with SNSU at the government level.
3. Education and training of fishermen.
4. Social analysis of the current political situation, especially concerning government policies that relate to fishermen's lives.
5. Preparing counter drafts of legislation to advocate the right of fishermen to affect the law making process.
6. Monitoring developments and activities of government in the coastal area.
7. Litigation for fishermen's cases in court.
8. Data collection and documentation.

As a network, JALA has positioned itself as a support system for the fishermen's movement, especially in North Sumatera. JALA is supportive of fishermen's activities. It supports other grassroots movements of peasants, labours and the urban poor, through solidarity. In North

Sumatera many NGOs and mass organizations are mutually supportive to empower the people, especially the fishermen, at the grassroots level.

Appendix 1

Korunamoyee Sardar Memorial Day November 7, 2000

Marking ten years since the Murder of a Courageous Woman

Every year, on November 7, a memorial takes place in the village of Harin Khola, in the Khulna region of Bangladesh, to honour the memory of Korunamoyee Sardar. She died on this day ten years ago, and has become a symbol amongst landless people in Bangladesh of their fight for land rights, and against shrimp farming. I asked some local villagers to tell me what happened ten years ago. This is what I was told:

"On November 7, 1990, a rich man named Wazed Ali Biswash landed by boat with some guards in Harin Khola, 22 polder. He planned to clear the land for shrimp cultivation. It was 10 o'clock in the morning when we heard the news. We organized ourselves, and went together to Harin Khola. When we reached there, the shrimp farm owner and his men opened fire with their guns, and hurled bombs at our procession. Korunamoyee was hit by a bullet in the head, and died immediately. Another 46 of our people were seriously injured, and were hospitalized in Khulna and Dhaka. The incident lasted for 1½ hours before Wazed Ali Biswash and his men took all the boats and left. Korunamoyee's body was cut into pieces, and thrown into the river to hide the evidence of her murder."

"We found it hard to reach the hospital, because Biswash and his men took all the boats. When we finally reached the hospital, Biswah's men had already advised the doctors not to help us. After two months, all of us were back in 22 polder, but some of us still have disabilities as a result of that day. Anuaria for example has lost her eye."

"Our cases were taken up in Paikgacha Union Parishad, the district administration office in Khulna, and by the government in the capital, Dhaka; but without results. Still, there are 45 unresolved cases, and Wazed Ali Biswash is free."

On November 7, 1991 the shrimp owners came to disrupt the marking of Korunamoyee Sardar Memorial Day; but since then the people have honoured her in peace. A mosaic monument and a stone have been erected on the spot where she died in Harin Khola. The script on the stone reads "life is struggle, struggle is life".

On November 7 of this year, I will participate to show my respect for the landless people of Bangladesh, who suffer from violence caused by land conflicts and shrimp farming. We at Nijera Kori would appreciate if all of you, in your own way, would give this strong woman a thought on this day. I believe we will be able to feel your support all the way to Bangladesh.

Ms. Åsa Wistrand, Volunteer
The Swallows Association for Social Voluntary Service - Sweden
working with Nijera Kori (NGO)
BANGLADESH