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THAILAND POST-TSUNAMI SUSTAINABLE COASTAL LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM

NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON POST-TSUNAMI SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS TRANSITION

**AIT Conference Center,
Asian Institute of Technology**

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A Program of the Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement on
Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems (SUCCESS)

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COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER
University of Rhode Island



**UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII
HILO**

ABBREVIATIONS

AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
AS-CUC	Amana Sooksamran Credit Union Cooperatives
CB-TRAI	Community Based Tsunami Recovery Action Initiative
CHARM	Coastal Habitats and Resource Management Project
DoF	Department of Fisheries
JOMPA	Joint Management of Protected Areas
KCLC	Kamphuan Community Learning Center (Green Building – Touk Kheaw, in Thai)
K.I. Asia	Kenan Institute Asia
KTAO	Kamphuan Tambon Administrative Organization
TAO	Tambon Administrative Organization (Or Bor Tor, in Thai)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. FORMAT OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION	2
3. EXPERIENCES GAINED FROM PROJECTS & LESSONS LEARNT	3
4. EXPERIENCES FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	10
5. GENERAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	11
6. NEXT STEPS (PRIORITIES)	11
APPENDIX-1: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AGENDA	13
APPENDIX-2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	14

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the **Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program** is to help coastal communities in Southern Thailand rehabilitate livelihoods, become more resilient to future natural disasters and adopt new and alternative livelihood practices that use natural resources sustainably. The USAID Environmental Cooperation-Asia (Eco-Asia) assists coastal communities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, preparedness in the face of natural hazards and protection of their natural heritage.

The goal of the round table discussion is to increase awareness of coastal management issues in post-tsunami Thailand; to share good practices and lessons learned; and, to advance a shared vision on the steps necessary to change behavior and see progress toward more sustainable coastal development patterns and uses of marine and coastal resources. The specific objectives are to:

- Share information/experiences and evaluate progress achieved in the Post-tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Project over the last 3 years.
- Provide a forum for national government and local partners to present and announce their commitments to continue to work towards sustainability of some of the key relevant activities,
- Identify continuing priorities for the development and sustainability of successful existing project activities.

Themes and questions to be addressed in the discussions were: **1) learning from project experiences** by highlighting salient features of projects, successes and pitfalls; and, **2) addressing specific innovative practices, technologies, and approaches** that have been tested in field projects with potential for replication. Discuss the principles and good practices of community rebuilding and rehabilitation of livelihoods that have been developed after the tidal disaster by international institutions and government/non-governmental organizations.

Focus questions to be addressed in the roundtable meeting are **“What are the institutional, technological, political, social and financial barriers to getting it right after the disaster?”**

It was expected that at the end of this discussion participants would develop recommendations on what needs to be done in the future to promote sustainable coastal and marine development to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards.

2. FORMAT OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The meeting was comprised of short presentations (15-20 minutes) by the various project key actors and the representative(s) of local beneficiaries. The presentations highlighted important components of the project, success stories, challenges and lessons learned.

After the presentations, the floor was opened for questions and answers, and followed by discussions on success factors, outcomes and possible solutions to problems. Participants also discussed their views on ways in which project activities can continue forward especially when USAID phases out and stakeholders take key roles in carrying the project activities forward.

The latter part of the meeting was a plenary session that allowed participants to raise their concerns on factors affecting project implementation and to reflect on their mandates, roles and responsibilities to contribute to the sustainability of the activities.

Participants were then tasked to develop a set of recommendations so that similar roundtable discussions could be organized in the future to discuss in greater detail the way forward.

3. EXPERIENCES GAINED FROM PROJECTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

3.1 Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program (SCL) – Overall Lessons Learned

Background:

The December 2004 Tsunami affected over 300 villages and 50,000 people living along the Andaman coastline in Southern Thailand. The USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia responded with the SCL demonstration program to help coastal communities rehabilitate and become more resilient to hazard events. The field site was located in Laemson National Park. The five selected villages with a population of 5,000 were dependent on fishing and agriculture for their livelihoods. This relatively small, compacted area made it suitable for modeling an integrated approach to coastal disaster rehabilitation. As a model project, the knowledge gained and lessons learned is transferred to other at-risk coastal communities not only in Thailand but also other countries in the Asia region.

USAID created a model to strengthen local capacity for self-management and self-government through participatory processes in the five villages. The model focused specifically on the environmental and economic recovery process. USAID helped villagers, local authorities, and community groups in Sooksamran District to collaborate in identifying priority concerns, developing a shared vision and mapping actions. Each of the villages selected representatives to act as a village extension team. The team served as a liaison between the Thai government, USAID and its partners, and their communities to coordinate recovery and development activities.

USAID and its partners also brought village representatives from village clusters in Kamphuan to visit Bangkok to learn how to spawn fish using artificial breeding techniques. During the training, villagers not only learned how to establish and manage backyard hatcheries but also developed simple business plans to foster future enterprise development.

The other USAID priority was helping individuals restart businesses. USAID field staff organized training of trainer initiatives to help people transfer knowledge and skills to small businesses in affected communities. These people then trained hundreds of entrepreneurs trying to restart businesses. They led targeted business planning workshops for individuals with the most promising proposals. Over six months, consultants helped 40 small enterprises develop business plans and secure financing.

To help Sooksamran District to build capacity to enter into the tourism industry and ensure long-term growth in tourism, USAID supported a program to train people in marketing, entrepreneurship, and sustainable tourism. Villagers learned the principles of sustainable tourism and how to leverage private sector participation in tourism and eco-tourism.

Lesson Learned:

- It is important for Community's resilience that villagers have diversified alternatives income generation activities
- Concerned agencies must be willing to provide culturally and economically relevant training programs. Fisher folk and villagers trained in these practices are much more likely to attempt new endeavors
- Capacity development and the promotion of alternative income options is the right thing to do, but not all players can be expected to be receptive.
- After 3 years of participatory approaches the people have a better understanding of holistic approaches to coastal resource management

Comments and Recommendations:

- The USAID project has provided a showcase on integrated coastal resource management that addresses the critical elements. Once the project phases out communities must take the lessons learned and keep on improving activities started by the project
- Momentum created by the project cannot be allowed to wane
- There must be a continuous interaction of experiences sharing amongst stakeholders and the community so as to create ownership
- Need a mechanism in place that encourages coordination between KCLC, KTAO and the KCLC Foundation.
- Roles and responsibility of KCLC, KTAO and the Foundation must be clearly defined

3.2 Microfinance/Community Saving Cooperative Project: Amana Saving Cooperatives, Kamphuan Sub-district, Sooksamran District, Ranong Province

Background:

In September 2005 the Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program began training activities to establish micro-finance revolving funds in the communities to provide the needed capital for community members to restart and diversify their livelihoods.

There were three phases of initial training:

1. Techniques of microfinance/revolving funds formation
2. Business Planning
3. Credit and loan management and accounting

Subsequently, due to community demand training sessions were expanded to include:

4. Business Finance
5. Marketing
6. Entrepreneurship

Under the terms of the revolving fund, low-interest loans were released to tsunami affected micro-entrepreneurs. As loans were repaid, more capital became available for additional micro-enterprises to borrow from, ensuring the availability of loans to a larger number of tsunami affected families.

Two years on, the USAID'S Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods microfinance initiative provided loans to 416 families. Since the first loan was disbursed in November of 2005 over 7.8 million baht (\$~240,000 USD) has been used to restart and diversify livelihoods.

Lesson Learned:

- Each of the MFI's in the 5 villages has enjoyed varying degrees of success but one was so successful that it has become a legally recognized Cooperative backed by the assets of CULT (Cooperative Union League of Thailand)
- Training and familiarization is the critical first step in the establishment of any new microfinance scheme
- Trusted leadership is one of key success factors for microfinance scheme
- Transparent and easy to use accounting systems are vital to the success of any MFI
- Study tours to other successful cooperatives are effective ways for people to gain practical knowledge and see how others do it
- Participation at all stages of the process is critical to the success of forming an MFI

Comments and Recommendations:

- Leadership is one of key success factors for community microfinance schemes
- Group cohesiveness and a sense of community contributes to members discipline and overall performance of the cooperatives
- It is vital that members of cooperatives recognize not only financial benefits but also the betterment of quality of life in the community
- Participation promotes increased members understanding and commitment to the rules and regulations of the cooperatives
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of loans is an important responsibility of the management committee to assure that financial health can be sustained

3.3 Green Building – Kamphuan Community Learning Center (KCLC), Kamphuan Sub-district, Sooksamran District, Ranong Province**Background:**

One of the cornerstones of the project was the building of the Kamphuan Community Learning Center. Inaugurated on December 18 2006, the Center provides Kamphuan with a venue for community learning and training, seminars, meetings and various outdoor social events. Housed within the Center are a conference room, meeting areas, computer lab and the Kamphuan Tsunami Museum. The Museum serves to commemorate the tragic victims of the catastrophe and raise awareness on disaster preparedness. Video kiosks in the Museum recount local survivor stories and provide practical advice on what to do in the event of another such event.

Moreover, the Center provides training and educational materials focused on such vital post-tsunami issues as community based disaster management, livelihoods development, microfinance and environmental stewardship.

The building and office facilities of KCLC were donated by USAID and the Coca-Cola Company Ltd. (Thailand). The facility has been transferred as property to the Tambon Kamphuan Administrative Organization (Kamphuan TAO).

Three committees have been formed to oversee management and operation of KCLC. The Bangkok-based Advisory Committee was formed in August 2005. The KCLC Local Governing Board was formed and endorsed by the governor of Ranong Province in November 2006. The Board is chaired by the Kamphuan District Chief and board members

represent line agencies at the provincial level. The Director of KCLC serves as secretary of the board.

In order to mobilize financial resources, instill transparent management practices and to continue to support Center operations, the Kamphuan Community Learning Center Foundation was established in January 2008.

Role and responsibilities of KCLC are as follow:

- Plan and coordinate micro-credit and revolving funds schemes
- Conduct computer and internet training program
- Serve as a role model in implementing eco-friendly initiatives
- Motivate community participation in development activities and develop leadership skills
- Upgrade the skills and capability of community members to establish income generating activities
- Serve as coordinating hub amongst concerned agencies and stakeholders
- Provide training and outreach on community resilience and rebuilding

Lesson Learned:

- KCLC serves a vital role as knowledge hub for the community where people come together to share lessons learned on activities carried out and to prepare for future hazard events.
- A sense of ownership is imperative if we expect nearby communities and beneficiaries to continue to support and utilize the services and facilities provided by KCLC
- KCLC as a service provider to the community must be flexible and respond to the needs and wants of the community. KCLC must remain a community-driven learning center

Comments and Recommendations:

- Long term goals and direction of the KCLC should be clear and community driven
- KCLC should act as focal point of contact and as a data/information center
- Facilities and equipment of the KCLC must be well maintained
- All KCLC learning activities should be the result of community requests
- KCLC has an obligation to preserve the local cultural environment as well as natural resources

3.4 KCLC Foundation

Background:

Founded in January 2008 and registered as a non-profit organization, The Foundation received Bht 200,000 as initial capital. It aims to raise funds from a variety of sources such as: direct donations of individuals and organizations, interest generated from foundation assets and subsidized funds from government.

The Foundation aims to support community learning through KCLC programs. Education programs and training courses will be conducted to provide space for information sharing and knowledge dissemination. It supports activities to upgrade knowledge and skills of people to earn their living. At the same time, it plays a key role in promoting lifelong learning, human resource capacity building, and natural resource conservation. The Foundation also raises funds to support KCLC and community participation in KCLC's activities. Ultimately

the Foundation is to support the general public and contribute to development to society in the greater context. The Foundation will avoid conflict of interest and promote transparent governance.

The Foundation has prepared its first action plan for fund raising as follows:

- Coordinate and seek advice from KCLC Bangkok-based Advisory Committees and the KCLC Board so that the Foundation has clear direction and plan for appropriate actions
- Identify community volunteers to help raise funds
- Make direct contact with donors
- Place donation boxes in public places
- Create and distribute KCLC's Newsletters
- Public relations programs
- Seek funding support from sponsors and donors which have activities inline with KCLC's mandates
- Organize fund raising activities

Lesson Learned:

- KCLC Foundation needs to actively seek support from donor and private companies
- Recent governor of Ranong province and Sooksamran District Chief are now fully aware of vital role KCLC and the Foundation are going to play in the future
- The first chairman of KCLC Foundation is a man trusted by the people in Sooksamran

Comments and Recommendations:

- The management of the Foundation must be required to follow principles of good governance
- Fund raising activities should be transparent
- Involvement of stakeholders in decision making is necessary for sustainability
- Establish check and balance mechanisms

3.5 Community Resilience in Kamphuan Tambon Administration Organization (KTAO)

Background:

After the Tsunami of 2004, KTAO received technical and financial assistance from USAID and other international and local NGOs. Technical support and funds aimed to develop capacity for community resilience; to rehabilitate and appropriately manage coastal natural resources; to uplift socio-economic conditions, quality of life and security of the people; to create awareness and educate the community on safer land use planning and installation of disaster resistant public infrastructures; and, to build capacity of the TAO on community-based disaster risk management.

USAID's SCL project conducted various training programs targeted at community understanding of disaster mitigation and prevention. Local communities and TAO have increased their capacity to resolve conflicts associated with shared usage of natural resources. Eco-friendly methods for fishing and preservation of marine resources are well conceived and people now think more about the long term benefits and sustainable gains. Communities were trained also on risk mapping and zoning of disaster prone areas, and

USAID put in place community organizations to safeguard natural hazards and prepare disaster prevention plans.

The KTAO's communities have successfully participated in drills organized at both the community level and national level. Community people eventually paid more attention to the drills and many people participated in the events.

Despite a limited governmental budget, KTAO is aware of the benefits gained from the USAID project and is keen to support activities carried out by the KCLC as much as its capabilities fit.

Lesson Learned:

- By participating in disaster preparedness programs, communities in Kamphuan have collectively built their strength in risk management and prevention of damage and loss from natural hazards
- Plan of actions and budgets for building resiliency must be allocated on a continuous basis
- Communities have been enthusiastic when they received funding support from Thai NGO's
- Community members are now more responsive and taking more seriously community resilience and disaster management programs

Comments and Recommendations:

- KTAO should have a development road map in line with joint efforts on community based coastal resources management
- Need to strengthen the capacity of government staff and community on community development planning
- KTAO should assume a leadership role in managing future changes in the community

4. EXPERIENCE FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

4.1 PLAN (THAILAND)

In Kamphuan sub-district, a consultant from PLAN (Thailand) helped communities to form and start saving cooperatives and business activities. The consultant gave technical assistance on fund management within the cooperatives.

The disaster recovery strategy of PLAN (THAILAND) is to use local communities' skills and resources. Children should be a key part of the solution. It put a lot of effort into ensuring that the health conditions of children are well taken care of and that children have enough water, food and shelter. PLAN (THAILAND) has also been involved in building capacity of the local school board in which appropriate education programs and learning activities are given to parents and school children.

4.2 Department of Fisheries (DoF) and CHARM Project

DoF had continuously provided financial and technical assistances to fisher folk and fishing villages affected by Tsunami. The department received donations from international NGOs and international development agencies to rebuild fishing communities and grant fishing boats, engines and equipment to fisher folk in order to bring back their earnings to normal.

DoF joined hands with other concerned agencies to restore marine ecosystem and habitats and to ensure the continued richness of fish populations. Modern techniques recommended by NORAD were used to raise deep sea fish species in Andaman sea.

Actions taken by DoF are:

- rebuild and repair houses
- financial support for fishermen
- educational grants for children
- employ local people for boat repairs
- provide replacement boats, engines, gears, piers etc
- assist fisher folk in developing alternative and supplementary careers such as Batik painting, home stay services

CHARM Project took a leading role, jointly with DoF, to introduce community-based coastal resources management involving local stakeholders and community people. People participated in planning, managing and monitoring use of coastal resources, while CHARM provided technical assistance and guidance. CHARM also formed and trained volunteer reef monitoring groups, most of them from local dive businesses, who volunteered to work as long-term underwater monitors using the Reefcheck methodology.

4.3 Joint Management of Protected Areas (JOMPA)

JOMPA was supported by a grant of DKK 58.5 million and commenced on April 2004. The main objective of the sub-component is to manage protected areas efficiently. The main stakeholders include authorities of protected areas, local communities, local authorities, civil society organizations, and the private sector. Support is provided to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Protection under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

One of the major challenges in relation to protected areas is the legal framework, which does not recognize any rights for the local communities. DANIDA realized this vital issue so it endorsed a temporary provision for communities to be involved in joint management and to legally utilize resources within the boundaries of protected areas. There are four marine national parks actively joined in this project (Had Chao Mai, Laemson, Phi Phi and Thaleban National Parks).

4.4 KENAN Institute Asia (K.I. Asia)

K.I.Asia is carrying out the "Community Based Tsunami Recovery Action Initiative for Phang-nga" (CB-TRAI) in Phang-nga province. CB-TRAI will run for 18 months, starting in July 2007, and focus on sustainable tourism capacity building in local communities in Phang-nga. Project activities cover microfinance, entrepreneurship, and marketing, as well as a special student entrepreneurship project. To provide these services, K.I.Asia has been awarded nearly 20 million baht from the European Union.

In order to support the small-scale fishing folk, K.I.Asia is partnering with Gannon Realty to design and build the Long Tail Fishing Boat Repair Center and Pier in the Lam Kaen community. This facility will allow fisher folk to have a safe and cost-effective place to repair boats and unload fresh fish. The fisher folk are also looking for opportunities to use the facility as a way to engage tourists.

5. GENERAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 To ensure sustainable development, projects should also focus on children and youth development
- 5.2 The project is multidisciplinary in nature so key actors should arrange partnership with other organizations from which they can draw and share resources and expertise
- 5.3 Community development plans should be coordinated with provincial and national development plans
- 5.4 Data and information related to the project, especially results and lessons learned from the project, should be maintained at the KCLC. Such information is useful for planning of future activities

6. NEXT STEPS (PRIORITIES)

- 6.1 Prepare a specific and comprehensive community development plan and road map for future sustainable development
- 6.2 Identify working group/task force to carry out necessary activities to maintain momentum of the project
- 6.3 Develop capacity of KTAO staff to conduct community development planning exercises
- 6.4 Promotion and develop capacity for community leadership
- 6.5 Identify key activities, prioritize and minimize overlap
- 6.6 Keep records of all lessons learned from the project
- 6.7 Create effective coordination mechanisms amongst key actors

APPENDIX-1

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AGENDA

Introduction and Overview

- 08:30-09:00 Registration
- 09:00-09:10 Welcome by USAID representative (Mr. Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn)
- 09:10-09:20 Introduction, discussion Agenda and Objectives (Dr. Amrit Bart)
- 09:20-09:25 Group Photograph in AIT Conference Center's Lobby Area

Presentations

- 09:25-09:45 Participants introductions (Mr. Voravate Chonlasin)
- 09:45-10:15 SCL project outcomes and experiences
Microfinance (Mr. Samruay Maneekarn and Mr. Sahehyusoh Salasarat)
KCLC (Mr. Panuwach Phatthadhol and Mr. Isahak Salee)
- 10:15-10:30 Q&A/Discussion
- 10:30-10:45 Coffee/Tea Break
- 10:45-12:00 SCL project outcomes and experiences (continue)
Livelihoods (Ms. Sumon Saenkaew)
Resilience (Dr. Theerachai Kaitook and Mr. Daree Manoch)
- 12:00-12:30 Q&A and Discussion
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30-15:00 Similar Project Experiences
(PLAN (Thailand), DoF, CHARM, JOMPA and K.I. Asia)
1. Mr. Chanchai Thongsumrit (PLAN Thailand)
 2. Representative from DoF/CHARM
 3. Mr. Pichart Watnaprateep (DNP)
 4. Dr. Kitti Kumpeera (K.I. Asia)
- 15:00-15:15 Q&A and Discussion
- 15:15-15:30 Coffee/Tea Break
- 15:30-16:15 Next steps, outline and prioritization (discussion)
- 16:15-16:30 Wrap up and Program Closing
(Dr Amrit Bart, AIT and Mr. Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn, USAID-Asia)

APPENDIX-2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Dr. Amrit Bart	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
2. Mr. Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn	USAID
3. Mr. William Murray	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
4. Dr. Teerachai Kaitook	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
5. Ms. Sumon Sangkaew	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
6. Mr. Chaiyunt Patiyuth	Chief, Sooksamran District
7. Mr. Isahak Salee	Chairman, KCLC Foundation
8. Mr. Sahehyusoh Salasarat	Chairman, Amana Saving Cooperatives Credit Union
9. Mr. Dharee Manoch	Kamphuan TAO
10. Mr. Pichart Watnaprateep	JOMPA, Department of National Parks
11. M. Wattanawit Gajaseni	TICA
12. Mr. Panuwach Phatthadhol	Director, KCLC
13. Mr. Chanchahi Thongsumrit	PLAN (Thailand)
14. Dr. Kitti Kumpeera	Kenan Institute Asia
15. Mr. Wichai Saretawikul	Kenan Institute Asia
16. Mr. Sachan Theechatuk	Ranong Coastal Resources
17. Ms. Oranut Lerdkulnadilok	Rak Thai Foundation
18. Ms. Wilavan Noipo	Thailand Environment Institute
19. Ms. Sirirat Pornolai	Kamphuan TAO
20. (Representative)	Department of Fisheries/CHARM
21. Mr. Kwanchai Yoodee	Ranong Fisheries Office
22. Mr. Voravate Chonlasin	Moderator (AIT)