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THAILAND POST-TSUNAMI SUSTAINABLE COASTAL LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

DRAFT

OCTOBER 1, 2006 – SEPTEMBER 31, 2007

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

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Acronyms

AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
ARC	American Refugee Committee
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
CBDM	Community Based Disaster Management
CCR	Coastal Community Resilience
CHARM	Coastal Habitats and Resources Management Project
CULT	Credit Union League of Thailand
DDPM	Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management
DMCR	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
DNP	Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation
DOF	Department of Fisheries
DOL	Department of Livestock
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
IOTWS	U.S. Government Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System program
JOMPA	Danish Joint Management of Protected Areas initiative
LWA	Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement for Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems
NATR	Network of Andaman Tsunami Relief
NDWC	National Disaster Warning Center
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
RDM/A	USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia
RTG	Royal Thai Government
SUCCESS	Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems Cooperative Agreement
TAO	Tambon Administration Organization
TICA	Thailand International Development and Cooperation Agency
UHH	University of Hawaii-Hilo
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

1. INTRODUCTION

Following the tsunami of December 2004, the USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia responded with the creation of the Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods (SCL) project. The SCL project is implemented by the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center (CRC) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) through the USAID-URI Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement for Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems (SUCCESS). In June 2007, the SCL project was granted a 6 month no-cost extension to March 31, 2008 for selected project elements.

The SCL project has helped coastal communities of Southern Thailand rehabilitate livelihoods and demonstrate alternative livelihoods, increase community preparedness to natural hazards, improve solid waste management systems, build social capital, and enhance natural resource management. Five tsunami-affected villages in Ranong Province were selected for the demonstration initiative. Located within Laem Son National Park, these villages have a population of about 5,000 and are primarily dependent on fishing and agriculture for their livelihoods. The SCL project has sought to build coastal community resilience with a focus on rebuilding the economic basis of livelihoods and on giving people the skills and resources for self-recovery. Key project elements include building livelihood opportunities with the creation of innovative community credit schemes, reducing vulnerability to natural hazards, pilot testing new livelihood opportunities, introducing community-based waste management practices, and strengthening local governance.

The project has also strengthened capacity and promoted the transfer of best practices and lessons learned throughout the region by sponsoring regional workshops, study tours and exchanges, small grants to test innovations, training-of-trainer workshops, and regional training in coastal management for practitioners.

The SCL project is focused on the following inter-related components:

Build a common vision for action. The project works closely with local government authorities and community leaders to build local ownership and establish a common vision for rehabilitation. The project's activities are accomplished by community efforts and collaboration.

Reestablish and diversify environmentally sustainable livelihoods. Microfinance, livelihood training, demonstration of new livelihood practices, small grants, and cash-for-work are strategies to reestablish and diversify livelihoods. Environmental sustainability is supported through training and capacity building in marine resource co-management, cash-for-work in conservation projects, 'green design' Learning Center, solid waste management, environmental screening of new livelihood options, and water quality monitoring.

Enhance community readiness and resilience to coastal hazards. The project builds readiness and resilience to natural hazards in coastal communities through mapping of areas at risk to inundation, delineation of evacuation routes, training, village disaster management planning, evacuation drills, and First Aid training.

Build capacity for planning and decision-making in the coastal zone. The project provides training and facilitates planning with local and national partners.

Share experience and best practices. Regional learning workshops and study tours are convened to share lessons learned with others in tsunami rehabilitation and disaster preparedness.

These activities are designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Negotiate with local authorities and with the communities themselves, a unified approach to rehabilitation
2. Reestablish sustainable livelihoods through training, grants and microfinance
3. Promote alternative coastal livelihoods and micro enterprises that are viable and environmentally sustainable
4. Build capacity at village, Tambon and provincial levels for disaster prevention and preparedness
5. Promote learning and exchange of techniques and experience in tsunami rehabilitation in Thailand and other tsunami-affected countries

This annual report of the SCL project covers FY 2007 (October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007). It details implementation outcomes, PMP results, leveraged resources and outstanding issues.

2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major accomplishments for FY07 are listed below:

Reestablish and diversify environmentally sustainable livelihood

- **Microfinance.** US\$21,875 in new loan capital, plus US\$35,468 in loans repaid and relent for livelihood activities through village banking scheme in 5 communities. Conversion of Village 3 microfinance group to a Cooperative Credit Union, allied with over 1,300 similar Credit Unions in Thailand under the Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT). Field survey and lessons learned report on microfinance and livelihood development completed.
- **Alternative livelihoods.** Creation of 21 new businesses through project loans, grants or vocational training
- **Reestablishment of livelihoods.** 51 livelihood activities restarted as a result of loans and vocational training, and 1,073 person days of members from the communities benefit from cash-for-work program
- **Entrepreneurship training.** Over 60 small-scale business operators were recipients of extension and training. Community members trained to be trainers in small business entrepreneurship

Natural resource management and environmental stewardship

- **Watershed monitoring.** Water quality assessment of the Klan Naka watershed, which is critical to mariculture livelihoods in the project area
- **Co-managed fisheries.** Laemson Marine Park Advisory Committee received training on co-management of marine protected areas and learned from successful experience in study tour to Indonesia

- **Environmental education.** Training on environmental impacts of livelihood activities and development of environmental screening guidelines for small business loans. Thousands of community members participated in environmental protection and conservation activities through cash-for-work program and village beautification campaign
- **Waste management.** A “Waste Expo” was organized to expand awareness and celebrate achievements in Villages 2 and 4. Over 100 people are members of village waste-bank where villagers can exchange recyclable materials for household items like eggs and dish detergent. Over 50 households are also composting using household food waste to make liquid compost used as a fertilizer. An outreach brochure in English and Thai on community based waste management and recycling was prepared and is now in lay-up to be printed and used for education and outreach at the Learning Center
- **Sustainable tourism.** In February, 2007, a tourism strategic planning workshop was conducted at the Kamphuan Community Learning Center with authorities from Provincial, District and Tambon government offices

Kamphuan Community Learning Center

- “Green design” Learning Center constructed, landscaped and outfitted
- December, 2006, inauguration ceremony brought together 500 people from the project area, including local authorities and dignitaries from the District and Province
- Learning Center Director hired and takes office in June, 2007, Local Advisory Committee and Governing Board formed and hold regular meetings, and business plan prepared and strengthened over time
- Meetings and learning workshops hosted by the Center with Provincial and nation-wide scope of issues and participants
- Major steps taken to form a Learning Center Foundation to provide an independent structure with the authority to manage the finances and operations of the Learning Center
- Center staff trained to deliver training to community members on personal computer use

Community-based disaster management

- Over 1,000 community members and local leaders trained in disaster preparedness and tsunami evacuation procedures
- Five disaster management plans in five Kamphuan villages prepared and adopted by local leaders; Village hazard risk maps prepared in 7 villages
- Tsunami museum and informational kiosk installed and publicly launched at Kamphuan Community Learning Center
- Outreach brochure on CBDM prepared

Regional learning and capacity building

- **Coastal Institute Asia.** Three-week certificate level course on “Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management” with 27 participants representing 12 countries from Asia, Africa and North America

- **Regional exchange program.** Three scoping missions and two peer-to-peer regional exchanges strengthened knowledge sharing across tsunami rehabilitation efforts and trained over 20 participants in microfinance and mariculture strategies and technologies
- **Capacity building.** Seven government agencies received technical support from the sustainable coastal livelihoods project
- **Learning from experience.** Socioeconomic survey of Kamphuan households conducted and empirical results analyzed providing objective and science-based information to guide future post-disaster coastal rehabilitation projects

Project management

- Six-month project extension proposal submitted to RDM/A and approved
- PMP audit finds monitoring database in good order
- Two new full time staff added to the SCL team: Mr. Murray who was hired in February 2007 to be Regional Exchange Coordinator, and Mr. Phatthadhol, hired to be Director of the Learning Center Director
- Closing of field office and transfer to the TAO on September 20, 2007
- Completion of service of field staff in September: Mr. Dunbar, Kuhn Therachai, and Kuhn Sumon

3. PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Performance objectives and expected outputs as defined in FY07 work plan	Self assessment		
	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaches Expectations
Assess impact, facilitate consensus and build a common vision for action Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer production and continuation of Kamphuan in Action newsletter to local group • Resolve conflicts, promote consensus, and build a common vision • Document impacts, progress and lessons learned Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kamphuan in Action newsletters (6) • Assessment of socioeconomic changes, project impacts and lessons learned 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓
Reestablish and diversify environmentally sustainable livelihoods Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity for the growth and long term success of village microfinance groups • Demonstrate the financial, technical, environmental and social feasibility of new production practices • Integrate Provincial tourism development plans with District and local plans Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business finance, planning, marketing, and entrepreneurship educational materials • Assessment of livelihood enabling environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of good practices and lessons learned in microfinance and microenterprise development • Revolving fund comparative assessment in Kamphuan and good practices • Tourism plan that integrates Provincial, District and local tourism development plans 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓
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Natural resource management and environmental stewardship	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaches Expectations
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Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with partners to enhance marine resource co-management capacity and build environmentally sustainable livelihood opportunities • Develop monitoring plan and institutional capacity for water quality monitoring for watershed management • Support the success and expansion of community driven waste management efforts • Strengthen environmental awareness and planning Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality monitoring and resource management plan of Klong Naka for adoption and implementation by the DOF • Environmental education materials for members of village microfinance groups 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
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Kamphuan Community Learning Center	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaches Expectations
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Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity in computer technologies • Support private-public cooperation in Learning Center operational activities • Establish livelihood development activities at KCLC • Facilitate community meetings and decentralized governance • Demonstrate green building and landscaping practices Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed physical structure, landscaping, and furnished interior • Learning Center operational plan • Road signage to the KCLC • Tsunami displays • Educational placards on green design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 	
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Community-based disaster management			
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Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build awareness, capacity and tools for CBDM Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsunami survivor DVD edited for educational use • Digital maps for coastal hazard planning and training • CBDM educational materials • Assessment of coastal community resilience • Village disaster management plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 	
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Strengthening TAO governance capacity	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaches Expectations
Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen Kamphuan TAO and village leaders knowledge and skills in good governance 		✓	
Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training materials 		✓	
Regional learning and capacity building			
Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize and host study tours that demonstrate good practices of post disaster rehabilitation that can be replicated Improve the transfer of ideas and techniques through small grants and sharing good practices on post disaster rehabilitation Build long-term capacity in the Asian region in coastal management 	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ 	
Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replication of good practices Lessons learned on the replication of tsunami recovery practices Discussion paper on regional comparative assessment of post-tsunami goals and outcomes Regional Learning workshop recommendations and proceedings report Curriculum on coastal hazard planning and management for graduate degree training program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ ✓

4. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SPECIFIC PROJECT COMPONENTS

4.1 Assess impact, facilitate consensus and create a unified vision for action

To build village and local government consensus, as well as capacity for decentralized governance, the project continued to work closely with local government authorities, community leaders, and village volunteer facilitators. Building consensus is woven into many elements of the project. Meetings are held with village leaders and local government authorities for planning and execution of project activities such as work on the Learning Center and its inauguration ceremony, disaster preparedness management, solid waste management, tourism strategic planning, and livelihood development.

To assess project impact and changes in perceptions two years after the tsunami, a socio-economic survey and assessment was conducted in the 5 villages during February and March, 2007. This survey follows the baseline survey conducted in June and July, 2005. Results on specific themes (e.g. livelihoods, fishing, investment orientation, and natural resource conservation) have been analyzed and a final synthesis document that reports the full array of results is being finalized.

Other accomplishments include:

- Production of five “Kamphuan in Action” newsletters in English and Thai language. The newsletter is distributed to the TAO and to the villages through the project’s village volunteer facilitators

- Quarterly meetings held with RTG national agencies
- Regular meetings held with village leaders for updating and planning
- Six-monthly meetings with the entire community in all 5 villages
- Regular meetings held with TAO for reporting and planning

4.2 Reestablish and diversify environmentally sustainable livelihoods

4.2.1 Microfinance

Two village microfinance groups received additional loan capital due to good payback performance and expressed need. Village 1 microfinance group received 200,000 baht in capital for additional loans in June 2007 and Village 3 was awarded an additional half-million Thai baht in November 2006 targeted for new livelihood initiatives. The group's microfinance by-laws were changed to enable the additional funds to be used only for new livelihoods.

The project's microfinance funds have been successfully managed for 2 years. Payback rates have been very good in three villages with significant capital (savings) accumulation. However, most members of the village microfinance groups are concerned that their savings are not safe since the community managed microfinance groups are small and not legally recognized. Moreover, two years since the 2004 Tsunami, the needs of the communities have changed. They need savings, insurance and other financial services not just small loans.

To better understand these changing needs we requested Siri Consult to evaluate overall performance of all microfinance groups, and to assist us with a study tour to demonstrate communities with a history of successful microfinance. We received a set of recommendations from these two activities. One of the strong recommendations was for the successful village microfinance groups to transition into formal financial institutions such as a Cooperative Credit Union to increase the size and permanence of the small village microfinance institutions. Many members and leaders of the microfinance groups agreed with this concept.

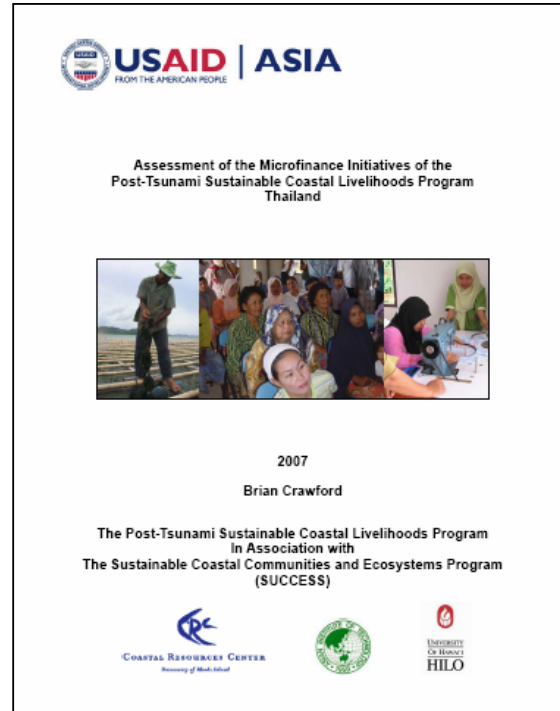
From April 4-6, 2007 a study tour to observe Cooperative Banking systems and their management was conducted. The participants included 22 village microfinance members, two SiriConsult staff, one TAO member, one district official and two SCL field staff. The group visited two sites: the Mai Riang cooperative in Chawang province and the Ta Krob Cooperative in Nakkorn Sri Tammarat province. Participants were exposed to comprehensive information related to the concept of cooperatives and their establishment as a legal entity. The goal was to understand the steps necessary to create a Cooperative that can link with Thailand's national level cooperative banking unit.

A full-day workshop was subsequently held in Surat Thani (May 8), at which time SCL project staff, SiriConsult, and a Cooperative Credit Union official (regional manager) discussed the advantages and disadvantages of conversion of the village microfinance groups to a Cooperative Credit Union, and the specific steps and actions that would be required to promote the conversion. It was decided that the conversion should be tested with the strongest village microfinance group (Village 3) first. If successful, others could follow. It typically takes 3-6 months to establish a new cooperative when the member numbers are adequate and the books are in good order.

The required documentation was prepared, and in September 2007, we received notice from the Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT) that the Village 3 microfinance group was approved

for Associate Credit Union status. This is the first necessary step in the development of a cooperative Credit Union. By becoming a Cooperative Credit Union, the village fund will be a formal lending institution, allied with over 1,300 similar Credit Unions in Thailand. CULT provides training and support to Credit Unions in 76 provinces in Thailand, serving 1.1 million people with over 10 billion baht in total assets.

In addition to the SiriConsult evaluation of microfinance performance, another assessment of our microfinance and livelihood activities was conducted in February and March, 2007. This second assessment is part of the broader learning agenda of the SUCCESS program on good practices and lessons learned in sustainable livelihoods. The report from this assessment was completed in June 2007. Mr. Crawford, SUCCESS Director, prepared the microfinance and livelihoods assessment with leveraged support from the SUCCESS program (available at <http://www.crc.uri.edu/index.php?actid=242>).



4.2.2 Alternative livelihoods, occupational skills development, and entrepreneurial training

Entrepreneurship training

Four women from the Kamphuan field site were sent to a four day training-of-trainers workshop (July 2-5, 2007) on Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning (REAL) in Khao Lak put on by Keenan Institute Asia. In REAL, the participants learn to be entrepreneurs by doing the things that successful small business owners do, including:

- Self-assessment, to identify and develop their existing or potential marketable skills and ideas
- Community analysis, to find out what businesses

USAID's Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program and Kenan Institute Asia Provide Training on Entrepreneurship

From July 2-5, 2007, SCL collaborated with the Kenan Institute Asia to provide business training to women in Khao Lak in southern Thailand to meet the increasing needs of new business entrepreneurs in tsunami-affected areas. The four-day training program was designed for small business owners and provided guidance on start up and expansion of sustainable businesses while maintaining good environmental practices. Participants learned skills needed to succeed in their ventures, such as sales, marketing, accounting, and inventory. Participants will share their recently acquired knowledge with other microenterprise entrepreneurs in the region. A local businesswoman that has been managing the family retail shop since her parents retired explained that the bookkeeping skills she gained during the training made her feel more confident to expand her business. She will receive additional training in basic computer use so she can transfer much of her financial accounting to electronic format. The training furthers SCL's efforts to enhance economic skills and opportunities for community members in the region.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, July 27, 2007

- are needed and could be supported in their area
- Writing a business plan, to help them understand exactly what business they are in and why their idea is a good one
- Understanding cash flow so that the business plan provides for adequate capital
- Operating the business they design to experience the challenges and rewards of self-employment

An entrepreneurial training course was planned for the field site following the TOT workshop. They were delayed due to scheduling conflicts with Kenan Institute and restrictions on meeting and training programs in Thailand while the Thai government is drafting a new constitution.

This training course was to be lead by the same women who participated in the training-of-trainers course, with the assistance and guidance of Kenan staff. This was delayed due to Kenan Institute scheduling problems and has been rescheduled for the month of November.

4.2.3 Alternative Livelihoods and Occupational Skills Development

Many new livelihoods continue to be tried and tested at the field site with the extension assistance of SCL field staff. Progress on several of the more advanced demonstrations is described below.

Muslim headscarf production. A group of 14 women purchased two sewing machines with village microfinance loans and purchased another with their own funds. A management structure for the group was established and a month of technical and business management training was completed in December 2006. The village 3 head scarf group has received several product orders from buyers in Phuket and Songkla Provinces in preparation of the Ramadan season of fasting in September. Buyers select color and style of head scarves that they want and members of the group to produce these items on a piece basis.

Muscogee duck-fish-vegetable integrated aquaculture. In the last fiscal year, we worked with families in Village 1 to construct three household integrated aquaculture systems (Muscogee duck-tilapia-vegetables). Extension assistance was provided this year, with field staff keeping track of inputs to the system in order to identify potential improvements to optimize production. The integrated farms have been successful in providing the households with a supplemental nutrition source primarily for protein during the rainy season when ocean fishing is dangerous. This activity has catalyzed another new business – local retail sales of duck and fish feed.



Women receive training for head scarf production

Ginger farming. During this fiscal year, we assisted a group of 10 people prepare the land and plant yellow ginger. The SCL project supports this new enterprise with a microfinance loan of about \$1,000 for seed and other materials.



The village of Ban Talay Nok has a history of raising Muscovy Duck and catfish for food and local sale. In the past, each of these livelihoods has been independently undertaken. The SCL project initiated a system by which these two activities are integrated with vegetable gardening. Small-scale integrated aquaculture is seen as a viable means to develop supplemental income. This kind of integrated system has shown to be highly successful in other parts of Thailand.

Bead Jewelry. A bead jewelry group of 11 women in Village 4 was formed in June, 2007 and field staff have been providing hands-on training. This livelihood activity has proven very successful since it can be done at home in one's unutilized time during the rainy season and products can be produced and sold with a quick turn around. The products are being sold locally and in the Ranong provincial capital. The group has also received training on use of the internet so that they can select and buy more and better quality beads.

Other donor groups have expressed an interest in this microenterprise activity and in opportunities to receive training through the Learning Center to transfer bead jewelry skills to other villages in the area. Staff from the Adventists Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA) visited the KCLC on September 17, 2007 and confirmed that they plan to use the bead jewelry group leader to provide training to new groups of bead jewelers in villages outside our project area. ADRA is in the process of opening a small retail shop in Khao Lak that is intended to market products produced by jewelry groups in Ranong and Phang Nga.

Catfish hatchery and farming. In the catfish hatchery, a new group of local operators was established after several of the original members of the catfish hatchery group left the area. A new batch of brood stock was brought from the Department of Fisheries and fry were produced. Approximately 8,000 large fry are in tanks ready to be sold to local farmers for grow-out.

SCL field staff have also helped prepare a pond at the Kamphuan elementary school for catfish grow-out and stocked the pond with 200,000 small fry. The pond at the Kamphuan School was dug in June and a fence was build around it for safety and security.



Pond at Kamphuan School to be stocked with 200,000 catfish fry from the SCL supported hatchery



Khun Samruay shows school children how to spawn catfish

Seaweed farming feasibility and training. On March 13, 2007 Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons from the University of Arizona conducted a workshop at the KCLC on the feasibility of raising red algae seaweed (*Gracilaria sp.*). This marine algae is commonly found on fish cages and mussel rafts in the area occurring naturally in the rich estuarine waters of mangroves areas along the Andaman Sea. The workshop presented an integrated approach to aquaculture, using seaweed and bivalve culture to ameliorate the impacts of fish and shrimp aquaculture. Aquaculture occupational group members from the village microfinance groups in the project's five villages were invited to the workshop.

During the workshop Dr. Fitzsimmons explained several simple ways of growing and harvesting seaweed for human consumption. The following day, some of the workshop participants were taken to survey the waters of Klong Naka for ideal sites to grow seaweed. The group found several areas that would be suitable for seaweed production and discussed cultivation methods using existing fish culture cages. Community members also learned that by growing seaweed adjacent to fish culture cages, water quality can be improved therefore improving production of both fish and seaweed.

USAID Promotes Micro-Enterprise to Advance Environmental Stewardship in Thailand

On March 13-14, 2007, the USAID-funded Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Project and well-known U.S. scientist, Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons from the University of Arizona, conducted a workshop for community members of Kamphuan Sub-District, Ranong Province, Thailand on the feasibility of raising red algae seaweed (*Gracilaria sp.*). The marine algae is a local, naturally occurring species commonly found on fish cages and mussel rafts in the area. The workshop introduced an integrated approach to aquaculture, using seaweed and bivalve culture to ameliorate the impacts of fish and shrimp aquaculture. Community members learned that by growing seaweed adjacent to fish culture cages, water quality can be improved, thereby improving production of both fish and seaweed. Community members also learned several simple ways of growing and harvesting seaweed for processing and human consumption. On March 14, community members enthusiastic about engaging in this micro-enterprise surveyed the waters of Klong Naka for appropriate sites to grow seaweed. The group found several areas that would be suitable for seaweed production and discussed cultivation methods using existing fish culture cages.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, May 4, 2007



Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons examining native Gracilaria growing on aquaculture cages in Southern Thailand.

4.2.4 Tourism strategic planning

On February 5-7, 2007, a sustainable tourism workshop was conducted at the Kamphuan Community Learning Center. The event was part of the project's ongoing efforts to improve community governance of natural resources through promotion of sustainable eco-tourism while enhancing the diversification of livelihood options in tsunami-affected areas. The School of Travel Industry Management of the University of Hawaii facilitated the workshop. Twenty five participants from national, regional, provincial, and community-level organizations learned basic concepts and principles of environmentally sustainable tourism. Participants shared experiences and exchanged information and opinions on the present status and future of tourism development., including tourism vision and strategies for Suk Samran sub-District. The workshop also outlined national and provincial strategic plans to coincide with the district and local level plans.



Sustainable tourism workshop hosted by the Kamphuan Community Learning Center

Output from the workshop was distributed to district and provincial governors' offices. They have indicated interest in conducting similar workshops elsewhere. This has also brought district and TAO officials together to discuss tourism development plans for Kamphuan. Now, some of the TAO members understand what is meant by planning ahead for tourism.

4.3 Natural resource management and environmental stewardship

4.3.1 Building social capital through village beautification

To build community spirit and unity, the project facilitated the re-sodding of the sports field in Village 7. The village was severely affected by the 2004 tsunami forcing nearly 50 families to move their houses. Many constructed temporary shelters on the village sports field while waiting for new housing to be built. In March the TAO resurfaced the field with new soil and in October 2006 the USAID project supplied a village youth group with grass sod and fertilizer for the new field.

In September 2007, a community beautification program was conducted in which an estimated 4,500 trees in 6 villages in Kamphuan were planted. In cooperation with community members, Army, Department of National Parks and the Department of Forestry, this activity helped to build unity among partners working in the community.

4.3.2 Waste management

The waste management activities initiated last fiscal year under the direction of the Waste Management Committees in Villages 2 and 4, continued with success in this fiscal year. The village waste-bank, where villagers can exchange recyclable materials for household items like eggs and dish detergent, continue to operate with over 100 community members with waste-bank accounts. The villages now look cleaner and free of plastic bottles, plastic bags, papers or glasses.

Over 50 households in Villages 4 and 2 are also composting using household food waste to make liquid compost used as a fertilizer. The bioliquid extraction method is used with composting barrels and bacteria provided by the SCL project. The group is currently testing the liquid by growing vegetables and herbs in planter boxes for household use. As a demonstration of better practice, KCLC has placed three types of labeled trash bins around the compound designating recyclable, compostable and others bound for the dumpsite.

The SCL provided extension assistance to these activities and supervises progress. To engage other villages in recycling and composting a small Waste Expo was facilitated in Village 4 in November 2006. The Waste Expo had food, educational materials and games for kids.



Waste Expo celebration held in Village 4

An outreach brochure on community-based waste management and recycling was drafted this year and is in the process of being produced and printed. The brochure will be available in English and Thai and contribute to the outreach and learning agenda of the Learning Center.

The field team also worked closely with Agri-Corp's EU funded solid waste management program to ensure that our community was included in the project and that their work builds on our work with Villages 2 and 4.

4.3.3 Marine resource co-management and capture fisheries management

A week long training program on co-management of marine protected areas was held in Ranong from Sept 18-25 for newly appointed members of the Laemson Marine Park Advisory Committee (PAC). The workshop was followed in November by a 7-day study tour to Bunaken National Marine Park in Indonesia. A two-day debriefing and planning workshop was held in Phuket upon their return on the 7-9 of November. The November study tour and debriefing was led by CRC and AIT in partnership with the DANIDA supported Joint Management of Protected Areas Program and the Department of National Parks. Approximately two dozen participants, representing local park staff and stakeholder representatives, discussed key concepts of co-

management and how this more participatory and transparent form of conservation governance can be carried out in Laemson National Park.

We coordinated with the CHARM project in an attempt to find a suitable study tour site of a co-managed fishery in Thailand to catalyze interest and ideas among local government and village leaders in Kamphuan. In May, project staff traveled to Krabi for this purpose. However, an example that would be suitable to the Kamphuan context could not be found.

4.3.4 Water quality monitoring and watershed management plan for Klong Naka

A strong recommendation of the Year 1 aquaculture assessment was to monitor the water quality of the Klong Naka and develop a use plan to ensure ecosystem sustainability of mariculture in the waterway. While the Klong Naka is outside the Kamphuan, many members of the Kamphuan villages use the waterway for mussel raft and fish cage culture. The Klong Naka is also within the boundaries of the Laem Son National Park.



Typical fish cage-culture rafts in Klong Naka watershed where the effects of aquaculture on water quality are being assessed

A workshop on Water Quality Monitoring for Watershed Management was conducted at the Ranong Aquaculture Field Office on January 25-26, 2007. The workshop aimed to improve the efficiency, relevance, and quality of watershed data collection in Ranong Province. Two U.S. scientists, Dr. Kevin Hopkins (University of Hawaii in Hilo), Katie Wolff (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), and SCL field staff Chris Dunbar discussed the principles of environmental monitoring, use of field-based tools to improve watershed management, basics of sampling and planning design, statistical sampling methods, and quality assurance methodologies. The 14 participants from the Provincial Fisheries Office, Khaolak National Park, Kasetsart University Marine Lab, and the Ranong Coastal Aquaculture Station learned practical applications of different monitoring instruments used in watershed management.



Ms. Katie Wolffe from US Environmental Protection Agency explains watershed monitoring to staff of the Ranong Coastal Aquaculture Station, Department of Fisheries

Following this workshop, over a period of 2 months, Ms. Wolff collaborated with local partners to complete a site assessment and characterization of the Klong Naka watershed, and collect information on aquaculture activities in the watershed. Ms. Wolff contributed her time to this work while on leave from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the “President’s Volunteers for Prosperity” program.

Preliminary observations indicate that Klong Naka watershed is quite large with excellent water quality and flows to accommodate cage culture as a viable alternative income generating activity for the surrounding communities. However, effluents from adjoining shrimp farms and marine cage culture could start to degrade the quality of this environment. The final report with recommendations for monitoring plan for watershed management was reviewed and discussed with the local Department of Fisheries office in September, 2007.

4.3.5 Environmentally sustainable aquaculture

Dr. Kevin Hopkins conducted the training on how to increase aquaculture production without increasing effluents. This training event was reported in the *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report* (see below).

Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program Conducts Sustainable Aquaculture Production Training

On September 4-5, 2007, the USAID Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods (SCL) Program organized sustainable aquaculture production training in Ranong, Thailand. The Director of the University of Hawaii-Hilo, Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center conducted the training on how to increase production without increasing effluents. Participants were occupational group leaders who received support from the Revolving Fund Village Banks initiated by the SCL Program. The trainer explained the principles on carrying capacity to encourage producers to minimize the adverse impact on the environment. The training also focused on improving existing aquaculture techniques to optimize production revenues and minimize costs. Participants took part in a series of exercises aimed at developing skills on how to analyze risks and how to minimize environmental and economic cost. Following the training, participants vowed to begin following better management practices that would increase income while preserving the environment.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, September 21, 2007

4.3.6 Mainstreaming environmental considerations into microfinance

The by-laws of the village microfinance groups include criteria to ensure that all funded microenterprise activities are environmentally sustainable. However, local awareness of environmental good practices may be limited. Therefore, the FY07 work plan includes training in environmental education and on how to incorporate rudimentary EIA procedures into lending decisions.

An environmental awareness workshop was conducted for Committee members of all 5 village microfinance groups on August 9. As a consequence of the training, the groups are considering changing their by-laws to require specific environmental screening procedures for future loans.

4.3.7 Ornamental fish culture

The FY07 work plan states that the project could provide assistance to DOF in developing criteria for good practices in hatchery design and traceability of hatchery ornamentals. This assistance did not happen because DOF did not express a strong interest in working on this.

4.4 Kamphuan Community Learning Center

Construction of the KCLC was completed on schedule in December, 2007 and the inauguration ceremony and commemoration of the 2004 tsunami was successfully held on December 18. The opening celebration of the Learning Center was attended by over 500 community members, officials, and private sector partners. The celebration included representatives of the Ranong Governor's Office, USAID, Coca-Cola, the University of Rhode Island and the Asian Institute of Technology.

USAID Opens Community Learning Center for Post-Tsunami Villages in Thailand

On December 18, the USAID-funded Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program celebrated the opening of a community learning center in tsunami-affected communities in Ranong Province. The opening was attended by over 500 community members, officials, and private sector partners, including representatives of the Ranong Governor, Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID RDM/A); Coca-Cola (Thailand), and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The event highlighted the community leaders' commitments to sustain efforts underway in diversified livelihoods, preparedness for natural hazards, and environmental stewardship.

The Center embraces a public-private partnership (USAID/Coca-Cola) with active local involvement. A Governing Board has been formed, with key institutions such as AIT, Rotary International, Coca-Cola, and Raks Thai, that will provide oversight, fundraising and guidance on program development. A local Advisory Committee, comprised of Provincial, Tambon and village leaders, will work directly with the Center's Director to implement programs with strong local buy-in.

The community learning center is a 500 square meter, two-story building, built on the principles of energy efficiency and environmental friendliness. The multi-use center will have facilities for community meetings, Internet access, and trainings in vocational skills, small business development, and sustainable environmental management. Displays provide interpretative educational information, while the Tsunami Memorial room offers educational materials and survivor testimonials on the impacts of the December 2004 tsunami.

USAID Asia, *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, December 21, 2006

On May 1st, a ceremony was held to celebrate the programmatic opening of the KCLC. The opening of the Tsunami Museum, touch-screen computer kiosks, display panels and computer room was featured. Local government officials and some 70 community representatives were present.

USAID Holds Ceremony to Open Tsunami Museum and Community Computer Center in Thailand

On May 1, 2007, USAID's Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program held an opening ceremony for the recently completed tsunami museum and computer room at the Tambon Kamphuan Community Learning Center in Suk Samran, Ranong, Thailand. The museum will serve as a local attraction and memorial, and as a focal point for the project's ongoing efforts to enhance community-based disaster management through linkages with both governmental and non-governmental organizations. The computers will be used by the local community and the Center will conduct computer training sessions. The opening ceremony was attended by USAID staff and over 70 government officials and local community members. Also in attendance was the newly appointed Center Director, Mr. Phanuwachr Phatthadhol. Keynote speeches were made by Police Major Colonel Chiawat Premsanga and Professor Walter Dudley of the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, May 11, 2007

A third public ceremony (Field Office Closing) was held on September 20, 2007. The District Governor (who is also the chairperson of the KCLC Local Advisory Committee) presided over the ceremony. The ceremony was followed by a tree planting ceremony. Community leaders and members planted 80 trees around the Center. At the breaking of the Ramadan fast, Muslim leaders came to the tsunami museum room in the Learning Center and prayed to bless the Center and staff who are leaving the project.

Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program Turns Over Community Learning Center to Local Community

On September 20, 2007, the Kamphuan Tambon Administration Office in Ranong, Thailand hosted a ceremony at the Kamphuan Community Learning Center to bid a warm farewell to the field staff of USAID's Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods (SCL) Program. The ceremony was attended by the Ranong Province governor representative, local community members and community leaders. Following 30 months of working in the area, the program is reducing its presence in Kamphuan because the community has in large part recovered from the 2004 tsunami. The program was successful in being able to assist the populace to "build back better" and the community is now cleaner, more economically diversified and resilient than it was pre-tsunami. As part of the ceremony, the SCL Program officially transferred ownership of the newly constructed Kamphuan Community Learning Center and a small office building to local officials. After the ceremony, members of the community planted 80 trees on the Learning Center Grounds to celebrate the formulation of the Kamphuan Community Learning Center Foundation. This being the holy month of Ramadan, members of the community broke their daily fast with a dinner held at the Center followed by a prayer at the Tsunami Museum of the learning center. The newly formed Kamphuan Community Learning Center Foundation will continue to provide educational programs at the center on such topics as livelihoods improvement, computer skills, English language, Community-based Disaster Management, and environmental education.

USAID Asia, *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, October 5, 2007

In addition to these public ceremonies, attention was focused in FY07 on programming and sustainability. There are three elements to this: 1) institutional set-up 2) programming and business planning, and 3) identification of an appropriate Director to the Center capable of championing the vision developed for the Center. Progress and challenges in these three areas have been described in detail in the other FY07 project reports (semiannual report and two quarterly reports) and won't be repeated here.

The Governing Board and Local Advisory Committee (LAC) have met several times and there has been progress with respect to the formation of a legal Foundation to provide an independent structure with the authority to manage the finances and operations of the Learning Center. Nine individuals have been selected by the LAC to serve on the Foundation, including TAO members, village heads, and local community members. Executive Committee roles have also been identified. By-laws have been set out for the Foundation and documents have been prepared for application to the provincial office.

The TAO has agreed in principle to the establishment of the Foundation and the authority it would be releasing to the Foundation for the fiscal and programmatic management of the Center. The TAO Chairman will submit to the TAO Council for approval at its next meeting a proposal that would define the arrangement of the Foundation and the TAO. The Foundation once established, will take over the role that the Governing Board currently plays.



Meeting of the Local Advisory Committee

In the short time since taking office (June 2007), Khun Phanuwachr has made progress on program development, facilities and grounds improvements, facilitating trainings and workshops, writing proposals, and improving the Business Plan for the Center.

The Learning Center is already providing important convening, educational, and training services to the Province. Examples include:

- Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management (DDPM) held a skills training for village security volunteers in partnership with the SCL project and Learning Center
- IUCN held a meeting at the Learning Center to have local stakeholders share experiences in Post-Tsunami resource management
- Meeting of a women's health issue group of about 30 people from the local area
- Meeting of TAO officials from southern Thailand
- Meeting of a group of 7 government officials from Indonesia interested in sustainable livelihoods

- From September 10-20, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (MICT) provided 10 days of training on computer use and training techniques to Khun Panuwachr and Khun Rattima. This training-of-trainers was followed up by a general computer training to be provided to 14 members of the community including staff from the TAO, District and Village Volunteers (see Regional Environment Office Weekly Report, below).

Community Leaders in Tsunami-Affected Areas in Thailand Plan Use of New USAID-funded Community Learning Center

USAID's Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods (SCL) Project held a series of consultation meetings in tsunami-affected rural communities in Ranong Province on January 22-28, 2007, to plan activities for the newly-constructed Community Learning Center in Kamphuan district. Community leaders expressed an interest in conducting computer training, English language instruction, cooking classes, batik and shirt making, basket weaving, and aerobic classes. The learning center was funded by USAID and was inaugurated in December 2006 as part of the SCL project's community strengthening institution.

USAID Asia, *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, February 2, 2007

Post-tsunami Community Learning Center in Thailand Provides Computer Training as part of National Knowledge Network

On September 24-28, 2007, the Ministry of Information Communication and Technology (MICT) of Thailand and USAID's Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program partnered to provide five days of training on basic computer skills and Internet usage for members of the Kamphuan community in Ranong province, Thailand. Fifteen members of the local community convened at the computer lab at the Kamphuan Community Learning Center to receive the Microsoft Standard training course that included modules on Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Internet use. Participants included local entrepreneurs, government officers, teachers, and members of the revolving funds group. This effort is part of the Royal Thai Ministry of Information and Communication Technology's (MICT) goal of establishing a nationwide network of Information, Communication, Technology (ICT) centers that help rural communities to increase their ability in using computers by making it applicable to their daily lives. The USAID-constructed Kamphuan Community Learning Center is being chosen to be part of this national network of ICT centers that are known as, "The Thailand Knowledge Center." For more information on the Thailand Knowledge Center Project, please go to <http://www.tkc.go.th>.

USAID Asia, *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, October 12, 2007

We have been exploring potential links with a new Ranong-based EU funded project on community-based waste management with the KCLC in which the Learning Center would provide a series of workshops to government officials.

4.5 Community-based disaster management (CBDM)

A successful evacuation drill was conducted on February 24, 2007, simultaneously evacuating over 900 people in three villages (Villages 1, 2 and 7) to safe areas in less than 20 minutes. During the drills, Thai disaster management officials activated national and local warning signals to test the system's ability to alert communities of impending natural disaster. Emergency medical and rescue personnel, local police and firemen participated in the drills. Many drills are

conducted throughout Thailand and this drill was unique in that we had an evaluation method in place (questionnaire and video recording of the event); we had detailed village level evacuation map for the community members to follow; there were seven community committees on alert to assist with their respective duties, and; local and district government as well as communities planned and prepared for the evacuation together.

After the drills, a discussion was held with each village volunteer group, DDPM, and representatives of police and military to provide feedback. The Governor moderated each of these sessions which were animated, open, and inclusive. Lessons learned and recommended disaster management plan modifications were discussed. Dr. Walt Dudley, University of Hawaii-Hilo, also led a debriefing discussion with district officials and community volunteers to assess the effectiveness of the evacuation, village preparedness, and next steps.

Tsunami-affected Villages in Thailand Hold Workshops and Drills to Strengthen Disaster Preparedness

The USAID Post Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Project (SCLP), Thai Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, National Disaster Warning Center, and the Suksamran District Government conducted six training workshops in Community Based Disaster Management for the Suksamran District in southern Thailand. The workshops concluded with successful drills on February 24, 2007, simultaneously evacuating over 900 people in three communities to safe areas in less than 20 minutes. During the drills, Thai disaster management officials activated national and local warning signals to test the system's ability to alert communities of impending natural disaster. Emergency medical and rescue personnel, local police and firemen participated in the drills. After the drills, participants and volunteers from each community provided feedback to help improve their community evacuation plans. Following the exercises, Dr. Walt Dudley, University of Hawaii-Hilo, led a discussion with district officials and community volunteers to assess the effectiveness of the evacuation, village preparedness, and next steps. Thai disaster management agencies plan to share lessons learned from the drills across six tsunami-affected southern provinces. The workshops and drills are part of ongoing efforts by the Post Tsunami Livelihoods Project to enhance coastal community resilience by initiating a Community-based Disaster Management Program that focuses on community preparedness, capacity building and governmental coordination.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, March 30, 2007

Also in February, planning and structuring of the tsunami memorial exhibition hall for public display in the Kamphuan Community Learning Center was conducted. Dr. Dudley spent considerable time and effort in making sure that the tsunami exhibition to be displayed at the Learning Center is sensitive to the local context.



More than 900 people in 3 villages participated in evacuation drills.



Volunteers from Ban Talay Nok, Ban Hat Sai Khao and Ban Tab Nua villages participate in drills that tested the effectiveness of their community evacuation plans.

Our demonstration efforts in CBDM have been recognized nationally and internationally.

- The SCL project facilitated a Beta test of the IOTWS community resilience assessment tool in December. Consultations included the TAO, villagers, Provincial Agriculture, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Department of Fisheries and several NGOs (see *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report* below).
- A new Masters level course entitled: Coastal Community Resilience was developed at AIT building on the SCL project experience and IOTWS training materials. In July, we were also asked by IOTWS and AIT to serve as resource for the International Tsunami Training Institute course held at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

- The National Disaster Warning Center and DDPM used lessons learned from our efforts in CBDM and adapted them to provide training materials for use in preparing 403 village in the 6 southern provinces for the July 25th drill
- After our successful evacuation drills in the communities on February 24th, we were asked to prepare a complete report in Thai which has been completed and presented to the District Office. It was used to prepare for the IOTWS-led evacuation drill in six provinces on July 25th
- The National Disaster Warning Center requested that our program serve as observer to the nation-wide tsunami evacuation drill for the six southern provinces on the Andaman sea
- We were asked by IOTWS and ADPC to make a presentation of our coastal community resilience model in a workshop in Phuket held on June 7-12, 2007
- On March 28-29, 2007, Village 1 (Talay Nok) welcomed a group of 30 community members and government officials from Krabi and Ranong Province to teach them about their experience in CBDM
- Thai Red Cross and the National Disaster Work Group requested that we present our findings on CBDM and tsunami evacuation on July 13, 2007 in Hua Hin

Coastal Community Resilience Guidebook Field Tested in Ranong, Thailand

A team comprised of professionals from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the University of Rhode Island, and the Program Integrator for the U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program field tested resiliency benchmarks in the Coastal Community Resilience Guidebook. The team conducted the tests in the tsunami-affected province of Ranong, Thailand, in collaboration with USAID's Post-tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Program. Based on the results from the field, the team will refine the guidebook and assessment methodology, which will be used for country-level training on assessing resilience and developing local action plans. The tests included various levels of consultation and interviews with local people, key informants, and agency professionals from government and NGOs in the Kamphuan sub-district of Ranong.

USAID Asia Regional Environment Office Weekly Report, December 15, 2006

From August 15-17, a three-day skills training on first aid, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and mass-casualty situation management was conducted for the 28 members of the Tambon Kamphuan Community Disaster Management Volunteer Team. As the final training module in the CBDM program, the Thai Red Cross and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center provided a team of seven experts to conduct this training at the Learning Center.

An outreach brochure on the SCL project experience in community based disaster management has been drafted and will now be formatted and printed. The brochure will be available in English and Thai and contribute to the outreach and learning agenda of the KCLC.

4.6 Strengthening TAO governance capacity

Two training workshops were planned in FY07 for the local level government (TAO) on planning, governance and leadership as a part of a capacity development package. The first workshop (September 13-16, 2007), held at the Learning Center, focused on good governance (e.g. rule of law, transparency, accountability, participation, and ethics) and leadership in the practice of public service delivery at the level of the TAO (see *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, below). It was delivered by Dr. Soparth (AIT) and King Prajadhipoks Institute (KPI). KPI has done similar training in a number of TAO offices.

The second training workshop was intended for FY07, but scheduling conflicts with KPI and the government ban on public meetings has caused a delay. It is now planned for October 28-31, 2007. It will focus on 'leadership skills' and 'conflict management'.

Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program Joins King Prajadhipok Institute and AIT to Improve Coastal Community Governance

On September 13-16, 2007, the USAID Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program, King Prajadhipok Institute and Asian Institute of Technology conducted a participatory workshop at the USAID-supported Kamphuan Community Learning Center (Green Building) in Ranong Province, Thailand. The workshop was designed to improve the governance capacity of community leaders and Tambon administrators, and highlighted the importance of transparency in governance and rule of law. Additionally, the sessions emphasized the significance of people's participation in local decision-making and the value of public service and ethics. Participants learned how to put into practice principles of good governance through lectures, open dialogue and field exercises. The lively discussions resulted in constructive criticism of the 'business as usual' model. As a final product of the workshop, this group of leaders developed a plan for action or 'road map' to improve the way it does business. In turn, the King Prajadhipok Institute agreed to follow-up on their progress, which will lead to certification and an award for the most accomplished Tambon Administration Office.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, September 21, 2007

4.7 Regional learning and capacity building

4.7.1 Regional study tour and learning workshop

Reconnaissance missions to Sri Lanka, Banda Aceh, and Maldives were completed in November 2006, February 2007, and April 2007 respectively, as initial steps in the implementation of the regional peer-to-peer exchange program on best practices in disaster rehabilitation. India was visited earlier in 2006. The scoping missions were used to design the exchange program, including the selection of demonstrable activities, participants, and in-country

USAID and Partners in Banda Aceh Identify Best Practices on Post-Tsunami Reconstruction for Regional Sharing

Representatives from USAID Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods (SCL) Project in Thailand visited Banda Aceh, Indonesia to meet with potential partner organizations involved in tsunami reconstruction efforts and identify best practices that could be shared with post-tsunami reconstruction practitioners in the region. The visit represents an initial step in the implementation of SCL's Exchange Program and illustrates the project's continuing effort to promote regional learning initiatives and enhance the capacity of local institutions.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, March 2, 2007

counterparts to assist with exchange visits.

Planning and organizing the reconnaissance missions took much more time than was originally thought. A request for a six month no cost project extension was submitted to the RDMA office with extension of the regional exchange and learning activity as one of primary program elements during the extension.

In February 2007, Mr. William Murray was hired to coordinate the regional exchange program.

Two exchanges were successfully completed in June. RDM/A's Regional Environment Office Weekly Report highlights the outcome of these two study exchanges (see below). A third and final study tour will bring regional participants to Southern Thailand in October 2007 to study horticulture practices.

USAID Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program Shares its Thailand Micro-finance Experience with Officials and Local NGOs from Indonesia and Maldives

USAID's Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods (SCL) project conducted the first workshop of a series of three from June 18-23, 2007, in Phuket, Thailand. The workshop series, "Peer-to-Peer Regional Exchanges" are combined with field visits. Ten participants from Aceh, Indonesia and the Maldives were first provided with an overview of how the SCL project adapted microfinance as a sustainable strategy for providing capital to re-establish and diversify livelihoods for those affected by 2004 tsunami. They were also shown how community cohesion may have resulted from group lending. The visiting group was provided ample opportunity to dialogue with the initiators and managers of USAID-established microfinance institutions at the field site. Substantive discussions included clustering of occupational groups, the selection of committee members as leaders, and effective recordkeeping. Participants also visited a successful credit union cooperative. Both groups from Aceh and the Maldives returned to their home country determined to share what was learned through awareness-raising campaigns, workshops and publications. The SCL project will follow up with small grants to groups in Indonesia and the Maldives to implement what was learned. Application of this initiative will be the part of the Regional Learning Workshop scheduled for January 2008.

USAID Asia Regional Environment Office Weekly Report, June 29, 2007

Like the scoping missions, we have learned that planning for and execution of a single exchange visit is complex because it involves multiple visa arrangements, coordinating with travel agencies, hotels, in-country travel arrangements, and harmonizing schedule of in-country resource persons with that of the participants.

Experiences of participants in both exchanges have been rich. Many ideas have been generated for implementing from what has been learned.

Our small grants program is designed to facilitate the transfer of project approaches and technologies learned from the exchanges to participants' projects. So far, three small grant project proposals have been awarded in sustainable aquaculture techniques and community mobilization methodologies.

USAID Program Conducts Study Tour on Grouper Hatchery Management and Seaweed Farming

On June 25-29, 2007, USAID's Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program led participants on a study tour to Indonesia to learn about seaweed farming and recent improvements in small-scale grouper production techniques as part of an on-going regional exchange program. The 10 study tour participants represented rural fish farming cooperatives in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, the Marine Research Center of the Maldives, and the Department of Fisheries in Thailand. Participants visited a number of seaweed farms and farming communities in southern Bali and learned from local producers that seaweed farming can provide an excellent alternative and/or supplementary occupation to fishers. Seaweed farming, when combined with fish or shrimp culture, can also significantly reduce effluents and also reduce disease incidences. The participants were then taken to Gondol Research Institute for Mariculture where Dr. Gede Sumiarsa highlighted the Institute's facilities and activities. Participants then toured a model 'backyard' grouper hatchery operation that has become well known around the world. Participants raised questions related to problems they were experiencing in their operations and Dr. Gede offered specific tips, advice and guidance to improve the programs. The participants also had the opportunity to observe and participate in the production operations. Study tour participants after returning to their home countries will utilize what they have learned with the assistance of small grants from USAID.

USAID Asia Regional Environment Office Weekly Report, July 6, 2007



Participants viewing seaweed ropes. Pecatu Bali Indonesia

4.7.2 Regional capacity building in coastal ecosystem management

On March 22-23, 2007 a Training of Trainers workshop for adult learning methodology and facilitation at the Asia Institute of Technology was conducted in preparation for Coastal Institute Asia. This was led by the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island and the Asian Institute of Technology with assistance from the AIT Extension Program. Twenty three participants from national, regional, provincial and community level organizations attended this 2-day workshop. Among the list of attendees were representatives from the Thailand department of National Parks - Marine Division, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, IUCN-The World Conservation Union Thailand Program, Regional Community Forestry Training Center, Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Project, the Wetlands Alliance, and faculty from the Asia Institute of Technology and Prince of Songkla University.

The purpose of the Training of Trainers workshop was to build capacity in adult learning techniques, receive guidance on effective teaching methods and approaches to apply in the design

USAID Conducts Training of Trainers on Effective Management of Coastal Resources

On March 22-24, 2007, USAID's Post-Tsunami Coastal Livelihoods Program conducted a Training of Trainers workshop on adult learning methodology and effective training facilitation at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand. This workshop was facilitated by the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island and the Outreach Program at AIT. Twenty-three participants from organizations such as the Thailand Department of National Parks-Marine Division, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, IUCN-The World Conservation Union Thailand Program, Regional Community Forestry Training Center, Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Project, the Wetlands Alliance, faculty from AIT, and Prince of Songkla University attended this three day event. The purpose of the training was to improve capacity of these organizations for more effective management of coastal resources. Participants are now better equipped to train members of their respective organizations and to act as experts in the upcoming Coastal Institute Asia course in Integrated Coastal Management that will be held at AIT from July 23-August 10, 2007.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, April 13, 2007

and content of the Coastal Institute, and to explore opportunities to partner with Thai and regional organizations in coastal ecosystem capacity building. Participant assessment of the workshop indicated that the objectives of the TOT were met. Specifically, participants were more able to: 1) design training courses that incorporate adult learning methodology, 2) develop activities for their training sessions that enable more interactive and reflective learning, and 3) facilitate sessions that build off participant experience. This event highlights the SCL's ongoing efforts to improve governance of natural resources in coastal regions.

Coastal Institute Asia was successfully delivered at AIT from July 23-August 10. This course serves the project objectives of improving local capacity in coastal management and sharing of lessons across the region. The *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report* provides a summary of the event.

USAID-Supported Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program Delivers Coastal Institute-Asia Certificate Course on Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management

Joining forces to improve management of the world's threatened coastal resources, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island (CRC/URI) completed a three-week certificate level course on "Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management" from July 23 – August 10, 2007. As a result of the course, 27 participants representing 12 countries from Asia, Africa and North America graduated from the Coastal Institute-Asia. The program provided practical skills in design and implementation, and participants learned from integrated coastal management experiences around the world, with a focus on the Asian region. Building upon a partnership between AIT and CRC/URI through the USAID Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program, the course combined Master degree students with field practitioners, and partnered AIT's Academic program with their Extension program. The knowledge and skills gained by participants will enable them to more successfully balance ecosystem conservation with sustainable development. Participants increased their knowledge of the characteristics of coastal ecosystems and the application of appropriate management tools, ranging from government regulation to economic incentives, and project design in the larger context of public policy and techniques to enhance coastal community resilience to natural hazards.

USAID Asia *Regional Environment Office Weekly Report*, August 31, 2007



Adult learning methods were utilized in the Coastal-Institute Asia course

Press on the Coastal-Institute Asia course was released in a local newspaper in Rhode Island (see Annex) and in URI's newsletter "InAdvance", which reaches 60,000 alumni world wide and students, staff and faculty in the state of Rhode Island (see Annex).

5 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Kamphuan Community Learning Center

Some of the challenges involved in building an institutionally sustainable program at the Learning Center have been over come, but others remain. Creating lasting institutional structures, building the new Director's experience and reputation, and developing partners to the Center and a financially sound business plan all take time. For this reason, continued support of the KCLC is part of the project's extension.

A key outstanding issue is the formation of a Foundation that can provide an independent fiscal mechanism and institutional structure to guide the Center's future.

Regional exchange and small grants

The regional exchange program was added during the later period of the SCL Project ('06) and was late in getting started because it also added to already busy schedule of 2006. Six month extension has helped in meeting its target. With last field exchange completed in mid-October, we expect to award 3-4 new small grant packages by the end of October. Progress on this will be followed through their monthly progress emails, telephone call and/ or limited number of site visits.

Regional workshop

The regional workshop, which was planned to be completed earlier was deliberately delayed because of our decision to incorporate lessons from our exchange program and to make sure that this legacy event marks the final completion of our SCL Project. A prospectus for the workshop has been drafted, tasks have been divided among project staff and partners. We are now preparing a list of potential participants.

Documenting the project

A great deal of written materials have been generated in the last three years. We had hoped to synthesize these materials into a series of ‘success stories’ to assist future disaster rehabilitation managers. Six topics have been selected for this, which will also serve as reference for the February workshop. This will be produced during the extension period of the Project.

6 RESOURCE LEVERAGING

An estimated total of \$353,927 of cash and in-kind resources were leveraged in FY07. Leveraging resources is important for increasing scope and impact of activities and for extending the benefits of the project beyond completion date. Leveraged resources also show buy-in and increase the long-term sustainability of project efforts.

Description of leveraged activity	Institution	Date	Estimated Value (\$US)
Ms. Pam Rubinoff travel to Thailand	IOTWS	Oct'06-Mar'07	2,000
Revolving Fund training by Raks Thai	Raks Thai Foundation	Oct'06	175
JoMPA training & study tour co-funding	DNP	Nov 06	31,649
Regional Learning – Aceh visit facilitator	GTZ	Jan'07	2,000
Mr. Brian Crawford travel to AIT, Ranong	SUCCESS - CRC	Feb'07	3,308
KCLC building construction	Coca-Cola	Oct'06-Mar'07	55,500
KCLC inauguration support: Site preparations, vehicle, staff Fish and fish tank display and posters Exhibition display boards Preparation assistance	TAO DOF WARED and NATR Kamphuan community	Dec '06	1,000 500 400 285
Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons time	Univ.of Arizona	March'07	2,000
ToT Facilitator support	IUCN	March'07	1,495
ToT assistant: Ms. Intira	AIT	March'07	80
Ms. Katie Wolff	Self support	Jan-April'07	23,300
Sewing machine (one)	Community	Jan'07	800
1 Administrative assistant (30%) + 1 Office assistant + facilities 1 travel secretary + facilities	AIT	Oct'06-Sep'07	8,000 9,500 16,000
Part of Dr. Bart travel to URI: Bangkok- Washington DC-Bangkok	CRSP	Feb-March'07	1,845
Lab equipment and facility use (2 days)	DOF	Jan'07	100
Tourism Workshop	NATR	Feb'07	120
One Fish tank/aquarium	Chris Dunbar	Feb'07	100
Evacuation Drill supports from: Two NDWC staff flew in from Bangkok 10 Local police officers 7 District Officials 4 Military officers 10 Provincial Public Health Officers 10 DDPM Staff	NDWC Police Force District Government Thai Army Ranong Public Health DDPM Ranong	Feb'07	1,400 200 140 80 200 200
Bead jewelry training	AIT Housewife association	June 2007	300
Regional ICM capacity assessment	Mangroves for the Future	June 2007	160,250

CI Asia 2007	IUCN, SIDA, IDRC, Qatar Foundation, Tanzanian Gov., Conservation Inter'l Philippines, AIT	July 22 – Aug 10, 2007	28,000
Computer Training for KCLC Staff	MICT	Sept 07	\$1000
Governing Board Time: Ranong vice gov., TAO chair, AIT Prof., individuals	Ranong Province, Raks Thai, Habitech Center, AIT	July 11 and Sept.4, 2007	2,000
TOTAL (exchange rate applied: 35 Thai Baht/1 US\$)			\$353,927

Synergies with MFF. Mangrove for the Future (MFF) is a post-tsunami initiative that attempts to address the need for better coastal management. Many of its initiatives are consistent with SCL program approaches. A forward looking concept paper was prepared by CRC and AIT to engage with MFF to bring together common components of our programs for mutual benefits. As a consequence of this note and meetings with the MFF officers, AIT/CRC was contracted to lead a coastal management capacity needs assessment of six Tsunami affected countries.

7 PMP RESULTS

FY07 targets for USAID's Results Framework for the Regional Tsunami Reconstruction Special Objective (SpO) 498-045 are shown in the Table below.

As planned, cash-for-work was reduced in scale significantly from FY06, but results still exceeded the target. This was because we planned and executed a large number of training and community work heavily utilizing village volunteers rather than hiring new staff. The decision was made to pay for their services and count this towards cash for work.

Creation of new business (21) closely matched the target (20), but the number of old business created (51) exceeded the target (20). It was our expectation that with time it would be increasingly difficult to find businesses affected by the tsunami that had not been restarted. Given the high number, it is possible that there is some double counting. For example, a business receiving a loan from the village bank a year ago and listed as an 'old business restarted' may be returning for a second loan after paying off the first and again reports itself as a business that was restarted after the tsunami.

The value of loans to small businesses was smaller than planned. This is because a smaller amount in new capital was granted to the village banks than was planned. Additional capital was granted to two village banks based on expressed need and past lending performance.

There is also a discrepancy in targets and actual performance in the number of government officials, community leaders, and community members trained in disaster preparedness. The evacuation drill and training in February 2007 involved over 900 participants. At the time the target was set, it was not possible to determine with a high level of certainty how many villages and what percent of the population would be involved in the evacuation drill.

Performance Monitoring Plan -- Post-Tsunami Livelihood Rehabilitation Program

USAID Tsunami Reconstruction SpO Results	Indicators	FY	Planned*	Actual	
S.O. Level Indicators To Save lives, help individuals rejoin the workforce and return to communities, and support host government led reconstruction and early warning/disaster preparedness	Number of persons back at work, including cash-for-work-programs, measured by number of people (M/F) and person days (1)	05	-	1,447 person days (40% M, 60% F)	
		06	500 person days	2,935 person days (48% M, 52% F)	
		07	400 person days	1,073 person days (65% M, 35% F)	
	New businesses created (including services) as a result of a loan, grant or vocational training, measured by number and total number of people employed	05	-	1	
		06	25	21	
		07	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 new businesses created through microenterprise loans • 5 yellow ginger production • 1 headscarf production • 1 bead jewelry • 1 Kamphuan Community Learning Center • 1 Kamphuan Cooperative Credit Union 	
	Old businesses restarted (including services) as a result of loan, grant or vocational training, measured by number and total number of people employed (2)	05	-	20	
		06	75	164	
		07	20	51 old businesses restarted through microfinance loans	
	IR 1 Transition from Camps to Communities	Number and value of loans to micro and small enterprises	05	-	0
			06	US\$70,000 in loans to 100 beneficiaries	US\$157,368 in loans (US\$131,579 initial capital disbursement plus US\$25,789 in loans repaid and relent) to 296 beneficiaries (110M, 186F)
			07	US\$75,000 in loans to 50 beneficiaries	US\$57,343 in loans (US\$21,875 in additional capital plus US\$35,468 repaid and relent) to 30 beneficiaries (13 M, 17 F)
Number of micro and small enterprise recipients receiving grant packages (e.g. assets, grants, training)		05	-	403 entrepreneurs (161M, 110F) receive training 12 (1M, 11F) entrepreneurs receive grant packages	
		06	250 recipients of financial assistance and/or training	367 entrepreneurs (178M, 169F) receive training 497 entrepreneurs receive grant packages	

		07	100	<p>92 entrepreneurs receive training and/or grant packages (30M, 62F)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 new members of microfinance groups receive funding (13 M, 17 F) • 10 Yellow Ginger (6 M, 4 F) • 13 entrepreneurs from Headscarf (0M, 13F) • 11 entrepreneurs from Bead Jewelry group (0 M, 11F) • 12 receive training in Batik Fabric (3 M, 9 F) • 16 Receive training in Sustainable Tourism (8 M, 8 F) • 5 entrepreneurs trained with Kenan (5 F)
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IR 2 Rebuild Infrastructure	Number of community buildings and infrastructure repaired (defined as work done on buildings in disrepair from the tsunami)	05	-	1
		06	2	81 buildings and infrastructures repaired
		07	5	2 (sports field re-sodded; catfish pond constructed at local school)
	Number of community buildings and infrastructure rebuilt (defined as buildings that no longer exist or are beyond repair because of the tsunami)	05	-	20 (fishing boats rebuilt)
		06	0	0
		07	1	0
IR 3 Early Warning System installed	Number of government officials, community leaders, and community members trained in disaster preparedness	05		0
		06	Five communities and 1,000 people trained	Five communities and 384 people trained (134M, 250F)
		07	500	1,057
IR 4 The capacity of governments to plan and undertake reconstruction strengthened	Number of agencies that received technical support	05	-	1 (TAO)
		06	5	5 government agencies
		07	3	<p>7 Government agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAO- KPI Good Governance Training • District Disaster Management Office • Department of Fisheries- Aquaculture Station • Provincial Tourism Department • National Disaster Warning Center • District Tourism Department • Sub-District Volunteer Disaster Team

*Life of project targets were defined for the first time in September 2005, after the USAID Tsunami Reconstruction SpO Results framework was released.

URI's Coastal Resource Center helps Asian countries deal with tsunamis' impact

NARRAGANSETT — The devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 was a tragedy that created a unique shared experience for residents of many countries in Asia and Africa.

It also created an opportunity for community leaders in those countries to better plan coastal development and resource use that is resilient to future natural disasters and that can provide local communities with long term benefits.

How to proceed with appropriate planning and coastal management was the subject of a three-week workshop in Thailand in July and August led by staff from the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center (CRC), who have provided similar advice to coastal countries around the globe.

"The regional nature of the tsunami allowed us to focus the workshop on this common experience that all the participants shared," said Virginia Lee, associate coastal resources manager at CRC.

"For these people, planning for a disaster isn't a 'what if' scenario. They've all been through it. Having seen the devastation caused by the tsunami, they recognize the need for management of their coastlines that includes economic and social impacts as well as environmental concerns, and for more sustainable development."

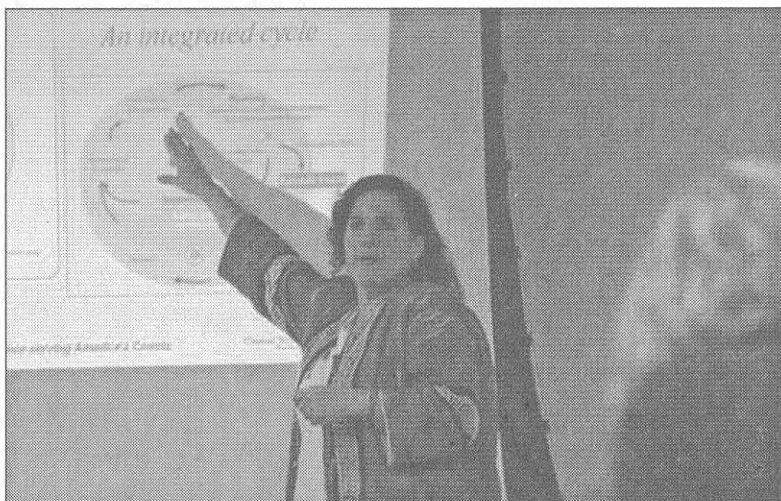
Most of the countries bordering the Indian Ocean also share similar economic levels, ecosystems, and community structures, so they could easily relate to each other and to the issues raised in the workshops, according to Pam Rubinoff, a CRC coastal management specialist who co-led the workshops with Lee, CRC colleague Brian Crawford and Wenresti Gallardo of the Asian Institute of Technology, the Bangkok-based hosting institution.

The three-week workshop graduated 27 participants from 12 countries, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Seychelles and Tanzania. They represented government agencies, universities, small non-governmental organizations,

and international groups like Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the World Wide Fund for Nature. The event was supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and co-sponsored by the World Conservation Union. "We've offered a similar training in Rhode Island every

focuses tightly on one important site with unique problems, and we've been exporting it for use elsewhere for years," said Rubinoff, who spent two years in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1980s.

"At this year's workshop we used a coastal case study from Sri Lanka that is based on an original project carried out in



Pam Rubinoff, a Coastal Resource Center coastal management specialist from URI, was among those who led three-weeks of workshops on tsunami preparation in Thailand.

other year since 1991, and in the interim years we have led intensive courses in other countries, but this was the first time we've held it in Asia," said Lee.

The course uses field trips, case studies and group projects to examine a wide range of coastal zone management issues, including fisheries, erosion, pollution, tourism, public access and development. Participants also developed their leadership skills while learning about ecosystem management, disaster management, and policy development.

This isn't the first time the Coastal Resources Center has offered its expertise in Southeast Asia.

The Center has worked in the region in collaboration with USAID since 1985. Most recently, it conducted an impact assessment in Thailand immediately following the tsunami, and later it developed demonstration projects in the region for rebuilding livelihoods for residents in the tsunami's aftermath.

Many of the strategies and tools that the workshop leaders taught participants in Thailand were developed and first used in Rhode Island.

"We developed a Special Area Management Program here in 1985, a concept which

Rhode Island's south shore salt ponds."

In addition, many of the key coastal management processes, policies, enforcement methods and public education programs developed by CRC for use in Rhode Island are pertinent in Asia as well. And, said Lee, "it's just as important for the community to be involved in decision making there as it is here."

"The pace of change in Asia is much faster than it is here in Rhode Island," she concluded, "but we all need to plan appropriately so our coastal communities are resilient in the face of the next natural disaster."



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URI Coastal Resources Center helps countries hit by tsunami learn better coastal management practices

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Three-week course uses cases studies, strategies developed in Rhode Island

NARRAGANSETT, R.I. – September 25, 2007 – The devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 was a tragedy that created a unique shared experience for residents of many countries in Asia and Africa. It also created an opportunity for community leaders in those countries to better plan coastal development and resource use that is resilient to future natural disasters and that can provide local communities with long term benefits.

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