

Letter from the ASEAN Secretariat

Dear Readers,

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) envisions by the year 2020 a clean and green environment with its rich human and natural resources contributing to development and shared prosperity. To help realize this Vision, the ASEAN Environment Ministers adopted the ASEAN Environmental Education Plan 2000-2005 in October 2000. The Plan aims to translate that Vision into reality through environmental education and public participation, thereby ensuring that the regional cultural traditions are in rhythm and harmony with nature, and citizens environmentally literate, imbued with environmental ethic, and willing and capable to contribute to the sustainable development of the region.

As a collaborative framework for regional and international cooperation, the Plan outlines priority activities that can be successfully implemented at the national and regional levels.

It is in this context that we happily note that the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation is publishing *ASEAN Biodiversity*. This newsletter is supportive of our endeavor to boost environmental knowledge and awareness in the region, a topic that falls under one of our areas of cooperation – land and forest fires and transboundary haze.


Haze pollution arising from fires continues to be the most prominent and pressing environmental problem fac-

ing ASEAN today. Each ASEAN member country is striving to be vigilant in undertaking short and medium term measures to prevent or control land and forest fires.

The Hanoi Plan of Action addresses the haze issue through the full implementation of the ASEAN Cooperation Plan on Transboundary Pollution, in particular the Regional Haze Action Plan (RHAP) within the year. It is strengthening the capability of the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre to monitor forest and land fires and provide early warning on transboundary haze.

We have already made substantial progress in the implementation of the three key components of the RHAP: prevention, monitoring and mitigation. In addition, eight Ministerial Meetings on the Environment, 18 meetings of the Haze Technical Task Force, and eight meetings of the Joint Sub-Regional Fire Fighting Arrangements (SRFA) for Borneo and Sumatra were held to review, implement and oversee the RHAP activities.

We welcome "*ASEAN Biodiversity*" as a new vehicle for education and information dissemination in the region. It lets readers know about our plans and activities, which we hope they will continue to support.



RODOLFO C. SEVERINO
Secretary-General of ASEAN

Call for Papers

We have already identified the theme of the first quarter 2002 issue of *ASEAN Biodiversity*.

The January - March 2002 issue will deal with **Community-based Mapping and GIS applications for Collaborative Natural Resource Management** (deadline for submission: February 28, 2002). For this issue,

we would be pleased to receive contributions on spatial visualizing methods and tools used in learning and negotiation processes related to resource use, management and tenure. Different from conventional participatory literature - which places emphasis on social learning and consensus building - the papers should deal with social learning, conflict negotiation and network building as key ingredients for innovative thinking and actions.

Please submit articles within the given deadlines. Articles should have a maximum of 2,500 words and be submitted in digital (MS Word) and hard format. Drawings and diagrams may be enclosed. Pictures are welcome either as prints or in digital format. The latter should be scanned at high resolution (300 dpi, 200%) and saved in *.tif format.

Please note that the editors reserve the right to edit submitted articles.

Did you miss out on the last ASEAN Biodiversity?

You may request for previous issues from

GLENN GARCIA
Librarian
ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation
Quezon City Annex
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
1101 Philippines

Or email library@arcbc.org.ph





Giacomo Rambaldi
Technical Advisor, Coordinator

Bridget P. Botengan
Editor

Sahlee Bugna
Rexie Jane Parreño
Writers

Nanie Gonzales
Creative Artist

Glenn Garcia
Circulation Manager

EDITORIAL BOARD

Gregorio I. Texon **John R. MacKinnon**
Co-Directors

Norma M. Molinyawe
NBRU-Philippines

Dr. Lena C. Chan
NBRU-Singapore

GUEST EDITORS

**Coordination and Support Unit
for the Regional Haze Action Plan**
(CSU-RHAP) under the Environment Unit
of the ASEAN Secretariat

**ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity
Conservation (ARCBC)**

Headquarters:
P.O. Box 35015 College, Laguna 4031
Philippines
Tels.: +63-49.536-1659 or 536-4042
Telefax: +63-49.5363173 or 536-2865
E-mail: contact.us@arcbc.org.ph
Website: www.arcbc.org.ph

ARCBC Annex
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1156
P.O. Box 1614 QC CPO, Philippines
Tels.: +63-2.926-9163 / 925-8406 / 925-8407
Fax : +63-2.925-8408
Email: publications@arcbc.org.ph

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Letters, articles, suggestions and photos are welcome and should be addressed to:

The Editor, ASEAN Biodiversity
ARCBC Annex
Ninoy Aquino Parks and
Wildlife Nature Center,
North Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City, 1156
P.O. Box 1614 QC CPO,
Philippines
Fax: + 63-2.925-8408
E-mail: publications@arcbc.org.ph

Readers' Corner

Dear Co-Directors

The Asian Development Bank shares the same interest to strengthen and promote biodiversity conservation and management in the Asian and Pacific region.

We congratulate you for having an informative publication and wishing you success in all your future endeavors.

Indira J. Simbolan

Social Development Specialist
Asian Development Bank
Metro Manila, Philippines



Dear Co-Directors

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the inclusion of the CREST (Coral Reef Education for Students and Teachers) in the Capsule Reviews of Some Training Resources Database Entries which appeared in your first issue of ASEAN Biodiversity (January-June 2001).

Please let us know how else we can best assist your office on matters related to marine biodiversity. Our email address is: info@imamarinelife.org, website: www.imamarinelife.org. At present we have country offices in Asia (Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Hong Kong) and the Pacific (Vanuatu, Fiji, Marshall Islands), an Integrative Biological Research Program based at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, and our International Headquarters based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

We find the newsmagazine very informative and we hope to be able to find more articles on marine matters in the succeeding issues.

Mary Jean Caleda

International Marinelife Alliance



Dear Co-Directors

It is hard to think of fires at this moment without thinking about the devastating attacks on New York and Washington on September 11th. We offer our condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

But while the international community can so easily acquire billions of dollars to clean up the rubble on Manhattan or fight terrorism, the biological heritage of Asia especially Southeast Asia remains under such severe threats. Indeed earlier this summer US taxpayers were sent a \$40 billion tax refund!

Shall we just continue dreaming of billions of dollars to save our environment? We hope to wake up one day and see the US taking the lead. Meanwhile, the environmental bomb ticks.

Roland Geronimo

Makati City



Dear Co-Directors

We wish to acknowledge receipt of the maiden issue of ASEAN Biodiversity. The newsmagazine will be of great help to our students and faculty of the University of the Philippines (U.P.) Integrated School.

Teresita D. Santos

Head Librarian
U.P. Integrated School, Quezon City

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