

UPDATES FROM THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE



The Regional Committee at The Nippon Foundation Office.

During the run of Country Workshops held in March 2007, Fellows from the five API participating countries discussed and endorsed the API Community Vision, API Regional Committee Charter and Guidelines as well as “Guidelines for Participation and Project Development” of the first API Regional Project.

In all five countries, RC members made effective pitches, with Fellows-in-attendance approving the documents in principle.

In April 2007, members of the API Executive Committee (ExeCo) convened in Jakarta to review the documents presented by the RC and to hear feedback reports from the Country Workshops. The ExeCo then listed a number of critical suggestions aligning the RC Charter and Guidelines with current program structures.

Responding to the ExeCo, the RC met in Kuala Lumpur in May, joined by representatives of The Nippon Foundation, ExeCo, and Program Coordinators. This assembly adopted the API Community Vision to direct the entire program in its regional and collaborative thrusts.

In Kuala Lumpur, the RC also proposed restricting its present activities to the launching and management of the API Regional Project. More importantly, the KL meeting addressed certain apprehensions voiced during the country workshops. Mainly, these have to do with fears of over-politicizing the participation of Fellows (some felt that this might compromise their careers) and negotiating for disengagement (where others are no longer keen to take part in post-fellowship activities.)

A communiqué was prepared, addressed to the entire API Community, outlining the RC’s response to these pressing concerns.

In a significant way, the RC now enjoys formal endorsement of its representatives; gained during the Country Workshops. With the exception of Thailand (with Prangtip Daorueng as its sole representative), each of the API participating countries now has two representatives at the RC.

Sumit Mandal of Malaysia chaired the RC’s first session, from its preparatory meeting (Focus Group Meeting) in Bangkok more than a year ago to the April 2007 session in Kuala Lumpur. Danilo Francisco Reyes of the Philippines took over from Sumit Mandal as Coordinator of the RC.

The current RC members include Muktasam Abdurrahman and Herry Yogaswara (Indonesia,) Motoko Kawano and Wataru Fujita (Japan,) Khoo Salma Nasution and Yeoh Seng Guan (Malaysia,) Nick Deocampo and Danilo Francisco Reyes (Philippines,) and Prangtip Daorueng (Thailand.)

Before the year ends, the RC will rework the RC Charter Preamble and Guidelines to reflect the particulars of its current responsibilities.

The Regional Committee now focuses on launching the first API Regional Project. As part of its preparation, the RC met in Tokyo last July, where it received and discussed all proposals relating to the API Regional Project. During this synthesis session, the RC also made a series of recommendations about adjusting the various proposals to align with the project focus.

Early this September, the RC gathered selected proponents from the five API participating countries for the 1st API Regional Project Workshop in the Philippines that took place in Tagaytay, Philippines from 7-9 September 2007.

The API Regional Project adopts the theme of Environment: Knowledge and Responses to Contemporary Challenges. After synthesizing the bulk of submitted proposals, the RC has narrowed its project focus - establishing common threads and highlighting the strengths and solid starting points of the various proposals. Aiming for a translocal perspective, the API Regional Project follows a process with regional orientation, calling for multi-disciplinary involvement from Fellows, local stakeholders, and external partners in advancing environmental awareness.

Nick Deocampo (Philippines,) Herry Yogaswara (Indonesia,) Salma Nasution (Malaysia,) and Wataru Fujita (Japan) were named to the special task force that will steer the API Community through the workshop and project management phases of the API Regional Project.

Communiqué to API Fellows on Resolutions Pertaining to the API Community and the Regional Committee

1. The Regional Committee (RC) was launched officially at the Executive Committee (ExeCo) meeting in Jakarta in April 2007. The documents API Community Vision, RC Charter and RC Guidelines, prepared by the RC, have been approved in principle at all the various Country Workshops and by the ExeCo.
2. It would be desirable for API Fellows to have post-fellowship activities upholding life-long commitment to the values and goals of the API Community but they may choose not to participate in specific activities of the API Community.
3. An API Fellow who wishes to disengage formally from the API Community can do so by writing to the Chair of the Executive Committee, API Fellowship Program.
4. The API Community Vision has been adopted by the API Community.
5. The RC Charter and Guidelines apply only to the Regional Committee. Having received inputs from the Country Workshops, the RC has decided to rework the Preamble of the RC Charter.
6. Where any party of the API Community ventures into activities of a highly political nature in the name of the API, that party should initiate consultation with the rest of the API Community.

The Regional Committee
in collaboration with other Representatives of the API Community
(ExeCo, CI, PIs, The Nippon Foundation)
Kuala Lumpur, 21 May 2007