

## Updates from the Regional Committee



Following the Kyoto meeting (April), the Regional Committee (RC) convened again in Bangkok in August. As before, the RC's main attention has been on facilitating the birth of the inaugural API Regional Project. Finalizing the project sites, the RC officially endorsed Tasik Chini in Malaysia. As for the Philippines, due to the security concerns in recent months in Mindanao, the Philippine API Community endorsed Batanes as alternative site for Ligawasan Marsh which the RC likewise formally endorsed. Thus, based on the theme of "Community-based Initiatives for Human-Ecological Balance", the Regional Project site activities will unfold between 2009-2011 in five country sites, namely:-

- 2009 *Biwako (Japan)*
- 2010 *Batanes (Philippines) & Khiriwong (Thailand)*
- 2011 *Kali Code (Indonesia) & Tasik Chini (Malaysia)*

The RC deliberated on the shape of the regional "products" that will integrate the participants' collaborative research experiences in the various sites as well as project a common vision of the API Community towards the theme. It was decided that the "products" will be three-fold, viz. a book publication, video documentary,

and a website, for the purpose of reaching a wide and diverse audience. The RC found it necessary to form sub-groups to take charge of these regional products. The book publication group will be headed by Tan Pek Leng, the Video documentary group by Yeoh Seng Guan and the website group will be led by Theresita Atienza. It was also resolved that consolidation and integration of product development ideas will require a plenary discussion joined by Fellows who have vast experiences to contribute to the regional products. Hence, a day will be set aside for the product development meeting in Yogyakarta and it was agreed to invite Nick Deocampo for video documentary, Arnold Azurin for the book production and Nadarajah Manickam to contribute to the website development.

To ensure the efficient operation of the Regional Project, the RC agreed on a management structure wherein the RC will play the core role in determining the policy and implementation plans. Corollary to this, a Regional Project Management Team (RPMT) was created as a special window of the RC to

supervise and monitor the implementation of the Regional Project. The RPMT is composed of Herry Yogaswara, Theresita Atienza and Tan Pek Leng. This RPMT will directly supervise the Regional Project through a project manager who will be tasked to coordinate the working group activities of the five countries. This way all decisions regarding the Regional Project rest with the RC.

The RC also spent time on detailing the responsibilities and tasks in hiring a Project Manager who will ensure effective execution and management of the Regional Project throughout its entirety. It is hoped that this post would be filled before the end of the year.

The Regional Project will be officially launched in conjunction with the 7th Regional Workshop of the API Fellowships Program to be held in Yogyakarta in late November. ❖

*By Yeoh Seng Guan and Theresita Atienza  
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## Changes in the Regional Committee

The following movements in personnel have occurred in the Regional Committee these past few months:-

Malaysia - Tan Pek Leng (Year 2003-2004) replacing Khoo Salma Nasution (Year 2004-2005).

Former RC members:



*Motoko Kawano*



*Khoo Salma Nasution*



*Prangtip Daorueng*

Japan - Akiko Tashiro (Year 2002-2003) replacing Motoko Kawano (Year 2002-2003).

Thailand - Replacement for Prangtip Daorueng (Year 2001-2002) to be

announced later.

We bid a warm welcome to the new RC members and all good wishes and sincere appreciation to those who have served in the past few years! ❖

New RC members:



*Akiko Tashiro*



*Tan Pek Leng*

## UPDATES FROM FELLOWS

**Francisco A. Englis** (Philippines Senior Fellow Year 2002-2003) has formed the "Gruppo Musica Mundi", a world-music type band integrating indigenous and Western pop vocal-instrumental styles. The band members were selected from Englis' college choir singers, whom he transformed into a contemporary pop group.

They interpreted Englis' song, *Panawagan* (The Calling), which won third place in the Mindanao-wide World Music Festival, Davao City in August 2008. The song dwells on the calling of the Mindanao people who are "searching for peace, livelihood and love of nature".

The music incorporates ethnic and traditional musical motifs in three sections, utilizing Mindanao ethnic instruments with western pop instruments in a chant, children's play-song and Mindanao kulintang (gong-chimes ensemble).