

Update on Regional Project

THEME: COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES TOWARD HUMAN AND ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

After the Regional Project (RP) Product Development Meeting in Yogyakarta (Nov 2008), RP Working Groups (RPWGs) continued refining the processes and mechanisms for soliciting and developing the three regional products — video documentary, website and book. Tentative outlines were shared at the respective Country Workshops (early 2009), and the feedback was reported back to the Regional Committee (RC) and Council of Working Groups (CWGs) Joint Meeting in Malaysia (late May 2009) for further deliberation.

Video documentary

The TV-broadcast-quality digital video would require technical expertise and incur a high cost to execute professionally. Hence, it was decided to outsource this product to a suitably-qualified entity, and critical inputs from the RC and other RP stakeholders would be made through a consultative process. The Nippon Foundation (TNF) has appointed the *Centre for New Cinema* (CNC), run by Nick Deocampo (Philippines Senior Fellow Year 2001–2002), to this task. As a renowned filmmaker and a former RC member who was involved in the early formulation of the RP, Deocampo is the ideal candidate. Yeoh Seng Guan was appointed associate producer of the documentary.

A two-day **Content Development Workshop** (CDW) was convened by Deocampo in mid-August 2009 in Manila. The five participants who represented their respective country RPWGs were Ayame Suzuki (Japan Fellow Year 2006–2007), Henry Chan (Malaysia Fellow Year 2001–2002), Myfel Paluga (Philippines Fellow Year 2006–2007), Dave Lumenta (Indonesia Fellow Year 2002–2003) and Chalida Uabumrungjit (Thailand Fellow Year 2002–2003). They were given a crash course on the basics of cinematic storytelling, and were shown award-winning documentaries to help them visualize the end product. Based on detailed inputs from participants prior to and during the CDW, a tentative narrative — interweaving the disparate

elements found in each project site into a cohesive whole — was worked out.

Together with a TNF representative, the associate producer, and RP Manager, these participants would constitute the **RP Documentary Team**. They will collaborate with CNC in the next few years to produce a high-quality and accessible documentary for wide dissemination.

Website

The services of a web developer/designer have been contracted, and the mock-up design has been given to the **Website Development Team**. Revisions to improve the website features to reflect the spirit and essence of the first RP are being undertaken, and the website is expected to be launched to the public soon. Preparations are underway to set-up a website editorial board. Details would be further discussed during the forthcoming meetings of the CWGs in December 2009, and the RC in January 2010.

Book

A full-fledged Terms of Reference (TOR), which serve as guiding principles for the overall book development process, has been completed, and includes a revised timetable and workflow process. The TOR was largely based on the book proposal drafted by Tan Pek Leng (Malaysia Senior Fellow Year 2003–2004) while she headed the **Book Development Team** (BDT) as RC representative, and sought advice from RPWG members.

Based on the overall theme, the book has five sub-themes: Traditional Human-Nature Relationships; Experience of Environmental Degradation; Community Advocacy and Initiatives; Community-State Relations, Relations of the Community with External Organizations; and Toward Sustainability and Ecological Balance.

A course of action has been set to manage the production of the book, and is based on a Task Force meeting held in



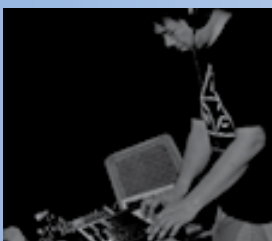
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Bangkok (October 2009) with RC member Narumol Aphinives (Thailand Senior Fellow 2005–2006) as the BDT leader. Proposed actions are as follows:

- A professional editor/coordinator would be hired to manage the substantive aspect of the book, and to coordinate the project. This move parallels the making of the documentary and website, in which professionals are engaged to accomplish the production.
- A draft Request for Proposal would be issued to vet candidates for editor/coordinator. As with the video documentary, preference would be given to API Fellows with experience in publishing and producing books.
- Based on the contracts for the documentary and website, a service contract is being drafted by the RP Manager.
- In addition to the professional book editor/coordinator, a proposal is being considered to appoint an RC member as associate editor for the book. This move would ensure that the best interests of the API Community would be reflected in the book project. The associate editor would also be the communication bridge between the editor/coordinator and potential contributors from the API Community.
- A Regional Book Panel, which would be the gatekeeper/quality controller of information and contributions from the five countries, is also being considered. The Panel would consist of individuals assigned by the five RPWGs. ❖

Report by Yeoh Seng Guan (Malaysia Senior Fellow Year 2005–2006 & RC member), assisted by Theresita Atienza (Philippines Fellow Year 2005–2006) and Dicky Sofjan (Indonesia Fellow Year 2007–2008 & RP Manager) — December 3, 2009.

UPDATES FROM FELLOWS



Dave Lumenta (Indonesia Fellow Year 2002–2003) recently finished his Ph.D. at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies at Kyoto University, Japan. His research focused on the social history of the borderlands in Indonesia and surrounding Southeast Asian countries. He is affiliated to the Center for Anthropological Research at the Dept. of Anthropology at the University of Indonesia. His other interests include sound design, music (he performs with the Indonesian progressive jazz outfit *Simak Dialog*) and ethnographic photography.