

Thailand API Community—Initiatives to Commemorate the API's 10th Anniversary



(From left) Alisa Hasamoh, Prangtip Daorueng, Kokaew Wongphan, Darunee Tantiwiranond, and Penchom Saetang.

Coinciding with the API 10th Anniversary, the API Thailand National Coordinating Committee (NCC) proposed to consolidate the intellectual resources generated thus far and publicize them to the Thai audience at large. Aiming at achieving such a goal, a series of country-level activities have been initiated, including a publication of the API Fellows' works in Thai language, a video project documenting the current work engagements as public intellectuals of Thailand API Fellows, and conducting a number of public seminars on different social issues. The proposal was endorsed by TNF in November 2009.

Between July 14 to 15, 2010, the first activity took place in Pattani province, Southern Thailand. The two-day event was

combined with a field visit and a public seminar, organized in collaboration with the Social Development Program, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prince of Songkla University. On the first day, 11 API Fellows separately joined in five field visits for exchange with local leaders and youth groups on particular concerns of each community, such as the unjust accusation of villagers as being terrorist sympathizers, conflicts over water use in newly industrialized districts, identity related discrimination by the state, and promotion of co-existence among people of different faiths by alternative media and community groups.

At the public forum held on second day at the Songkla University's Pattani

campus Prof. Amara Pongsapich, Chair of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, delivered a talk on 'Linking API's knowledge base to solve the crisis in Thailand's Deep South.' The forum was joined by local academics and students as well as attended by villagers from various marginalized communities. The forum successfully provided a channel for Fellows to share the lessons they had learnt from their fellowship experiences and learn about the local perspectives as well as to explore future effort to work with communities in such a conflict prone region. In early 2011, a further three public forums will be organized in Chiang Mai and Bangkok. ❖

REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Updates on Regional Projects and Activities

July-December 2010

RP Product Development

RP Book

Since the last report, much progress has been made in the RP Book development. The Selection Committee (consisting of RC Chair Herry Yogaswara, Narumol Aphinives as the RC Point Person for the RP Book development and Michiko Taki of TNF) has finally settled on hiring a Book Editor/Coordinator. The search for the Book Editor/Coordinator went through a rigorous and competitive process initially via a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) in the first quarter of 2010. After numerous inquiries, expressions of interests and submissions of proposals, the RFP was unsuccessful in

finding a suitable candidate, who matched the job requirements.

The Selection Committee decided to cast the net again through word of mouth, personal references and networks. Subsequently, the Selection Committee appointed Ms. Justine Vaz (Malaysia) for the position.

Ms. Vaz brings with her a wealth of experience in conservation and environment work. She has specialised knowledge on protected areas and their relationships with local communities, traditional wisdom and cultures. Ms. Vaz has worked for various environmental organizations and programs, including

WWF, the Borneo Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation and Partner for Wetlands, and which has taken her to places in Sabah and Central Borneo. The Selection Committee has every confidence in Ms. Vaz's abilities and energy in undertaking the complex task ahead.

Another development concerns the appointment of Professor Emeritus Koji Tanaka from Kyoto University, Japan, as the Technical Adviser to assist the RP Book development. He will be assisting in laying out the concept and providing a regional outlook and perspective for the Book.

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Participants of the RP Council of Working Groups and RP Management Team joint meeting held at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

In mid-November, a Strategic Planning Meeting was held in Penang, Malaysia, to encapsulate the strategy ahead for the Book development.

RP Website

The API RP Website (www.api-rp.com) has been up and running for several months. It contains information and materials related to the Regional Project. An Editorial Board has been established recently, and is chaired by Ms. Theresita V. Atienza, who is also the RC Point Person for the API RP Website. The Editorial Board members comprise the following representatives from the five participating countries, namely: Pataya Ruenkaew (Thailand), Motohide Taguchi (Japan), Joyce Lim Suan Li (Malaysia), Rosalie B. Arcala (Philippines) and Yayan Indriatmoko (Indonesia).

A Terms of Reference for the Editorial Board has been established, and a guideline for editorial content management has been agreed and disseminated. The Editorial Board will soon initiate the enrichment of the Website content by inviting site visit participants to submit contributions, whether as texts, pictures or videos.

The contractual engagement with the Website Developer, OpenEnd, ended

in October 2010, and the transfer of work on the Webmastering has been done. Sirirat Katanchaleekul (Thailand Fellow Year 2007-2008) has agreed to take-up the task.

RP Digital Documentary

The Regional Celebration of API Fellowships Program's 10th Anniversary, held last May in Manila, saw the showcasing of the two documentary trailers. The trailers were produced by Nick A. Deocampo (Philippines Senior Fellow Year 2000-2001), Creative Director of the Center for New Cinema (CNC). Except for Tasik Chini (Malaysia), the trailers contained footage of four other sites. In November the CNC conducted its research visit to Tasik Chini together with the Malaysia RPWG.

The documentary project is currently undergoing a formal Mid-Term Review process undertaken by the RP Manager, Dicky Sofjan, in consultation with the Executive Producer, Tatsuya Tanami of TNF, and Associate Producer, Yeoh Seng Guan, as the RC Point Person for the documentary. For this purpose, Mr. Deocampo recently visited Yogyakarta to hold meetings with the RP Manager. He also took the opportunity to engage with the Kali Code community leaders and filmed more

footage of the Kali River and its surrounding settlements. Together with the community leaders, Mr. Deocampo and the RP Manager visited the environs of Mount Merapi a few days before it erupted in late October.

Council of Working Groups

All RPWG leaders representing the five sites met up with RPMT and CI in Bangkok on 27-29 September to update each other and review policies regarding the Regional Project. A number of resolutions were made in line with the collaborative, interdisciplinary and pioneering nature of the RP. Among others, it was resolved to create an inventory of the database of audio/video recordings and interview transcripts to maximize resource sharing, and to conduct an internal review in the first quarter of 2011. It was also proposed to hold a "culminating event" of the RP sometime in 2012 after the PR Book and documentary have been completed.

In line with the rotational principle, Ms. Supa Yaimuang (Thailand) replaced Ms. Tatak Prapti Ujjiyati (Indonesia) as the CWGs Leader for Year 3 of the project. ❖

Reported by Yeoh Seng Guan (RC Liaison Officer) and Dicky Sofjan (RP Manager).

NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISC Member Transition

Takashi Shiraishi, Executive Member of the Council for Science and Technology Policy, Cabinet Office of Government of Japan, who served as International Selection Committee (ISC) member since 2000, has completed his term in 2010. He has contributed significantly to the high standard of Fellow selection. He is succeeded by **Koji Tanaka**, former Program Director for Japan Partner Institution. API extends our warm welcome and looks forward to working with him to further strengthening the Program.



Koji Tanaka



Takashi Shiraishi