

SPECIAL REPORT

Enhancing Coastal Communities' Resilience through Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

The Southeast Asian region is home to the largest Muslim population in the world, with Indonesia having the world's biggest Muslim population (about 42 % of the region's total population). Most of the Muslim communities are in coastal areas with fishing as an ethnic occupation. The coastal areas in Southeast Asia provide the means of livelihood to the coastal dwellers, where hundred of thousands of coastal families are directly engaged in fishing activities and coastal aquaculture including related activities such as fish processing, marketing, boat building, net making, etc. The coastal resources should therefore be sustainably utilized by coastal communities as source of food security and livelihoods.

To assist the fishing communities, building up and strengthening community resilience to ensure the sustainable livelihood of coastal communities becomes necessary. The project "Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management," funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), was aimed at improving the socio-economic status of the coastal communities through community fisheries organization and governance. The project involved various cross cutting issues which required strong commitment and coordination among the national governments, organizations, and local institutions. The overall goal of the project was to improve the socio-economic status of the coastal dwellers and to promote sustainable utilization and management of the coastal resources. The specific objectives were: 1) to enhance the capacity and capability of fishers and women in the fishing community to improve their social well-being and contribute to poverty alleviation; and 2) to build the capacity of the fishing communities to engage in sustainable livelihoods and improve coastal resource management. The target beneficiaries were the coastal Muslim communities in the IDB countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The project sites were located in Kg. Sungai Bunga and Kg. Serasa, Muara District in Brunei Darussalam; in Laikang Village, Takalar District, South Sulawesi Province in Indonesia; and in Tok Jembal Village, Kuala Nerus District in Peninsular Malaysia.

The Technical Assistance Grant Agreement of the project was signed on 18 November 2015 between SEAFDEC and IDB with SEAFDEC/MFRDMD as the Lead Department. The first disbursement of US\$125,000 was received by MFRDMD in March 2016 and the project started with the appointment of a focal point and the working team for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Then, a series of internal meetings and meetings with Malaysian officials were conducted to draft the assessment questionnaires. Assessment surveys in coastal communities were conducted in July-August 2016 in the three countries. The surveys revealed that each country prioritized the capacity building needs of each selected community and planned the related capacity building activities for the fisheries associations and coastal communities.

The project held the First Regional Technical Consultation on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 16-19 May 2016. The Meeting was attended by the representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia, representative from the IDB, MFRDMD officials, resource person from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), and an observer from the German International Cooperation. A representative from IDB in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia also joined the meeting through video conference.



Participants in the First Regional Technical Consultation on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

The Second Regional Technical Consultation on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management was organized by MFRDMD in collaboration with Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) in Makassar, Indonesia on 24-27 August 2017. The Meeting was attended by the representatives and stakeholders from Indonesia and Malaysia, the Chief and officials from MFRDMD, officials from MMAF, and the local government officials of Indonesia.



Participants in the Second Regional Technical Consultation on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

Seven capacity building activities for related fisheries associations were conducted in the three countries which involved more than 300 participants. Moreover, 11 capacity building activities for coastal communities were also conducted involving 283 participants. Among activities conducted were Surimi-based Processing Technology and Product Quality Control Course in Brunei Darussalam; Seashell Craft Making Course in Indonesia; and Maintenance and Repair of Outboard Engine in Malaysia.



Participants in Surimi-based Processing Technology and Product Quality Control Course in Brunei Darussalam



Maintenance and Repair of Outboard Engine in Malaysia

The Terminal Regional Technical Consultation on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management was co-organized by MFRDMD and the Department of Fisheries of Brunei Darussalam in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 20-22 March 2018. The Meeting was attended by the representatives and community leaders from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the Department Chief and officials from MFRDMD.



Participants in the Terminal Regional Technical Consultation on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

The impacts of the project include: 1) reduction of the breakdown time and cost saving of up to 30 % for the repair and maintenance of engine and fiberglass boats; 2) improved quality of fisheries products which had been standardized to comply with hygienic standards; 3) increased participation of women in community business activities; and 4) establishment of a new entity of small-scale entrepreneurs in fisheries business.

The outcomes of the project are: 1) significant involvement of the fisheries organizations and stakeholders particularly the Muslim fishing communities in the Southeast Asian region in the planning and undertaking of activities on sustainable livelihood and coastal resource management; and 2) standard of living of coastal communities, and the food security and job opportunities were enhanced while the coastal environment is protected and conserved. The project had successfully achieved its goal which was to enhance capacity of the Muslim coastal communities in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. It is planned that the project with similar activities would be extended in the future to all ASEAN Member States with possible funding support from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).



Seashell Craft Making Course in Indonesia