

[Progress Report 5. 1]

RCA-UNDP Environment Project

Following activities have been carried out after launching the RCA-UNDP Post-tsunami Environment Impact Assessment Project in July 2006.

(1) Designation of National Project Coordinators (NPCs) and Appointment of National Project Teams (NPTs)

The participating Member States in the RCA-UNDP Project have designated individual National Project Coordinators who are responsible for implementing the project on national basis. The National Project Teams have been appointed by the NPCs in each participating Member States. The NPTs are particularly active in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Many NPTs embrace local end-users including the government policy makers.

(2) Project Main Stakeholders Meeting

A project main stakeholders (PLCC, APLCC, OLCCs, NPCs, RCARO) meeting was held in Jakarta from 22-25 August 2006 in co-operation with BATAN. The meeting reviewed the 2006 work plan as well as 2007 work plan.

(3) Expert Missions

Three expert missions have been carried out in 2006 and in the first quarter of 2007.

- i) Mr Ron Szymczak (ANSTO, AUL) to THA during 20-22 September 2006 on health and long-term viability of coral reefs and associated fisheries and interaction with the end-users
- ii) Mr Suresh V Navada (BARC, IND) to SRL during 18-24 December 2006 on the use of isotope techniques in seawater intrusion analysis in the tsunami affected area in Sri Lanka
- iii) Mr Ron Szymczak (ANSTO, AUL) to MAL, INS and THA during 11-21 February on design and setting up radiotracer bioaccumulation experiment of coral reefs including data evaluation and assessment method.

(4) Regional Training Workshop

A regional training workshop on the use of NATs and interaction with the end-users was held in Kuala Lumpur from 5-9 February 2007 in cooperation with the Nuclear Malaysia. A total of 14 trainees have participated in the workshop from Member States. 6 regional lecturers and 5 local

lecturers have been invited.

(5) Provision of materials and goods

IAEA reference materials and NIST standard reference materials have been procured and provided to SRL, THA, INS, MAL and PHI for use in their analytical works.

Main activities to be implemented in 2007 are as follow;

- i) 2007 Sampling and subsequent analysis works will be continued in Phuket (Thailand), Banda Aceh (Indonesia), Kedah (Malaysia) and Sri Lanka (Hikkaduwa), Bangladesh (Chittagong)
- ii) Project Review Meeting will be held in Phuket, Thailand in late September.
- iii) Provision of core samplers to INS, MAL, THA, SRL and IND
- iv) Arrange participation of project stakeholders in the international environment conference
- v) Expert missions to build capability to interact with the end-users