



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Mina Bahari 2 Building, 17th Floor
Ministry of Marine Affairs & Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur 16
Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Phone: +62 21 3521780 ext 1723

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I thank you all for continuous support and genuine commitment to move forward the CTI-CFF throughout the year of 2011. In my capacity as the Executive Chair of the Interim Regional Secretariat, I have the opportunity to meet and discuss with partners' representatives as well as countries' focal points and champions, and I found that the level of enthusiasm and commitment is motivating. Therefore, I am convinced that the CTI-CFF will be successful in achieving its goals and targets in the year to come.

In reflection, this year we have accomplished many aspects of CTI-CFF. On technical and programmatic sides, there were some direct activities on the field, establishment of thematic working groups and regional exchanges for some themes to name a few, whereas in the governance and legal issues, there were financial resources meeting, business forum and drafting of the legal documents for the establishment of the Regional Secretariat. There were much more CTI-CFF related activities in each member country. Surely it was a very busy year for all of us.

It is not too much if I say that our work in 2011 reached its peak at the third Ministerial Meeting (MM3) last October. In that event, our accomplishments had been acknowledged, endorsed and adopted by Ministers from the six member countries. Results from this meeting gave us a strong basis to continue and move forward in 2012. Some of those results were the endorsement for the establishment of thematic working groups that will address the goals in the CTI RPOA, re-launching the CTI-CFF website that was strengthened with sections on knowledge management and learning networks, acceptance of the first draft of the CTI-CFF Annual Reports, and agreement to adopt the legal documents for establishing the Regional Secretariat.

The year of 2012 is a transitional period for CTI-CFF. In that period, the interim Secretariat needs to strengthen its capacity internally and externally to face the challenge in conducting its tasks and mandates. Internally, the interim Secretariat will be recruiting a Communication Specialist to create outreach and promotional materials in the website, as well as running a periodic newsletter. Bolstered with sections on knowledge management and learning networks, the continuous and updated website is much needed for maintaining cohesiveness and life-force of the CTI-CFF. The Secretariat will also add some assistance to improve the operation of the office. Externally, the interim Secretariat urges partners to close ranks and focus

coordination with the Secretariat. We have discussed a cooperation agreement with the USAID/RDMA last month in Bangkok which hopefully could be followed by other partners in 2012. We are confident, as the capacity of the interim Secretariat is strengthened and partners focused its coordination with us, the effectiveness of the interim Secretariat can start to move upward and reach its potential. This approach will ensure a smooth hand over of an effective fully operational entity to the permanent Regional Secretariat later on once it was legally established.

We have in our hands two roadmaps to guide us in 2012. One roadmap will guide us through programmatic, constructive events and direct actions; and the other is for legal and financial processes toward the establishment of the permanent Regional Secretariat. The programmatic roadmap becomes a common responsibility for both member countries and partners; but the legal processes become an internal challenge of commitment for the six member countries of the CTI-CFF. The year of 2012 will witness how the countries can overcome that challenge.

As a final point, I would like to thank again many institutions and individuals who have participated, assisted and supported the CTI-CFF with their time, funding, energy and dedication in many ways. I look forward to 2012 with better capacity, closer coordination and higher achievements. I wish each of you a happy New Year.

Best regards,

Suseno Sukoyono
Executive Chair,
CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat