



# High-Level FINANCIAL ROUNDTABLE Ministerial Meeting and MARKETPLACE



# Meeting Report

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# Introduction

The 1st Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) High-Level Financial Roundtable aimed to bring together the Environment/Fisheries and Finance Ministers and Senior Officials of the six Coral Triangle countries (CT6), the CTI Interim Regional Secretariat, the CT6 National Coordinating Committees (NCCs), development partners, potential donors, and other key stakeholders to discuss the financial needs of the CT6 in implementing their national and regional plans of action (POAs) and strategies for mobilizing resources from national budgets, private sector investments, donors, and other sustainable financing mechanisms (e.g., payment for ecosystem services).

The concept of the roundtable originated from the 4th Senior Officials Meeting in October 2009 and was further confirmed in the 6th Senior Officials Meeting in 2010 as part of the CTI Financial Resources Working Group Roadmap. The roadmap outlines the establishment of a CTI-wide financial resources architecture, including a plan for sustaining the financial needs of the regional and national plans of action.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Regional Cooperation on Knowledge Management, Policy, and Institutional Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative organized the meeting, which was co-sponsored by ADB. It was held in conjunction with the 45th Annual ADB Meeting in Manila to take advantage of

the presence of the finance ministers of the CT6 and other stakeholders attending the ADB meeting.

The roundtable consisted of two parts: a Ministerial Meeting followed by the CTI Marketplace. Country presentations of the ministers focused on the key achievements in implementing their national plans of action, priority activities for the next eight years (up to 2020), resource requirements to finance priority activities, and funding requirements by source. Finance ministers from the CT6 countries were invited in order to foster dialogue between the two ministries and encourage in-country financing of prioritized projects.

The CTI marketplace showcased the priority projects and activities of each of the CT6 countries and the CTI Interim Regional Secretariat. Flyers, booklets, and compact disks (CDs) distributed during the marketplace were the product of a series of meetings and sustainable finance workshops organized by the ADB project. NCCs developed concept notes and costings for their immediate priorities and funding needs, and presented these to prospective partners and to the CT6. At the regional level, immediate priorities and estimates of their cost were drawn up by each thematic and cross-cutting working group.

The proposals and other relevant documents are available online through the Coral Triangle Learning Resource Network: [www.coraltriangleinitiative.net/HighLevelMarketplace](http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.net/HighLevelMarketplace).

# Summary Report

**Undersecretary Gil Beltran** of the Policy Development and Management Services Group, Department of Finance, Philippines, welcomed the delegates to the roundtable on behalf of Secretary Cesar V. Purisima. He said that the roundtable was an opportunity to highlight the need to foster closer conversations between environment protection and finance sectors. He was aware of the challenges that the six Coral Triangle countries (CT6) were confronting nationally and regionally in implementing their plans of action and echoed the need to secure a sustainable way of financing priority activities and projects of the initiative.

In his opening statement, **ADB Vice President (Operation 2) Stephen Groff** linked the theme of the 45th Annual ADB Meeting, “Inclusive Growth through Better Governance and Partnerships,” to that of the roundtable in terms of ensuring financial sustainability for the initiative. He stressed the need for critical long-term investments, which would demand dedicated and holistic support in terms of policies, budgets, and political will from the CT6. He enumerated key projects supported by ADB in the Coral Triangle and affirmed ADB’s support to help the CT6 develop financial strategies in coordination with other development partners.

The **Honorable Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, J.P.**, Chair of the CTI-CFF Council of Ministers, reviewed the milestone achievements of the CTI-CFF since its inception in Manado in 2009. These include developing the set of operational principles that comprise the CTI Charter, country ratification of the CTI Charter, institutional-building, and a closer relationship between the CT6 and partners, built on trust and common goals. He recognized the efforts of the countries in mobilizing the needed financial and human resources during the last three years, which had pushed the initiative forward. Minister Ongkili called on partners in the international community to support the regional priorities of the CTI-CFF in the next two years. The estimated cost was \$8.5 million and included the following:

- *Continued institution building* (about \$3.5 million). This will require technical expertise in organizational development, financial system design, human resources development, large-scale project planning, communications, fund-raising, and monitoring and evaluation.

- *Strengthening the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion and the Bismarck-Solomon Seascape* (about \$2.15 million). This will cover capacity building to carry out transboundary seascape planning in the preparation of future seascapes, and to monitor ongoing programs.
- *COASTFISH (Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Poverty Reduction Initiative) program envisioned to deal directly with poverty, food security, and livelihood generation* (about \$950,000). This program will identify COASTFISH sites in each of the CT6; map out current investment actions addressing food security, livelihoods, and poverty; and design a full investment program.
- *Activities to strengthen marine protected areas (MPAs)* (\$1,000,000).
- *Strategic activities to support climate change adaptation* (about \$500,000); and
- *Red List Assessments of 1,300 bony fishes of the Coral Triangle and development of a comprehensive threatened species action plan for the Coral Triangle* (about \$325,000).

## Ministerial Speeches

**Indonesia.** Dr. Gellwynn Jusuf (Secretary General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries on behalf of Honorable Sharif Sutardjo, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries) reported that their National Coordinating Committee (NCC) conducted a national workshop at the end of 2011 to assess progress and achievements, and to lay down priorities and future plans. Some of the projects will be presented at the marketplace. Dr. Jusuf presented four action points for the CTI -CFF ministers:

- He asked the CT6 to hasten the internal process that will ratify the permanent Regional Secretariat so that it can better facilitate and serve the CTI-CFF.

- He invited the body to participate in a CTI-CFF side event on the topic of “Blue Economy” during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012.
- He declared support for the upcoming presentation of the State of Coral Triangle Report at the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium in Cairns, Australia, in July 2012.
- He asked the CT6 to support the initiation of a “Coral Triangle Day” on 9 June.
- He also proposed to organize a CTI-CFF Leaders’ Summit 2013 in Bali as a side event of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting.

**Malaysia.** Honorable Datuk Ujang Sulani, (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Industries, Sabah, and Deputy Chair of Malaysia NCC) briefly summarized the structure of the Malaysian NCC and their government’s full support of the initiative in terms of financial commitment and leadership in CTI-CFF activities. He briefly discussed the extent of their participation in regional capacity building programs and projects (e.g., knowledge management, payment for ecosystem services) and involvement in technical working groups, such as marine protected areas (MPAs) and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

The Permanent Secretary invited partners to consider proposed but unfunded, and new CTI-CFF initiatives of Malaysia, especially in Sabah’s Tun Mustapha Park.

**Papua New Guinea.** Honorable Thomson Harokaq’veh (Minister of Environment and Conservation) sent his apologies that he was unable to attend the event but signified that his department is very interested in the outcomes of the roundtable and will participate follow-on activities of the roundtable.



**Philippines.** Honorable Ramon Jesus P. Paje (Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources) affirmed the country's commitment to fulfilling the goals of the CTI-CFF regional plan of action. He enumerated the accomplishments of the Philippines, particularly in the development of the West Philippine seascape as one of CTI's priority seascapes, advancement of MPA monitoring, and development of plans for illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and fisheries management focused on live reef fish.

He described the five priority projects of the Philippines, which were estimated to cost around \$186 million. Secretary Paje called for support in funding these projects and said that the Philippine Government will provide a guaranteed counterpart of 30% of the total cost of these projects, or \$55.8 million.

**Solomon Islands.** The Honorable John Moffat Fugui (Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Meteorology) noted that their investment plans have to be linked to their national development strategy (2011–2020) and the Millennium Development Goals. More importantly, these plans must be strategic and meaningful particularly to the lives of their citizens. "Inclusive growth" for them means working collectively with the help of development partners, donors, and the country's diverse communities, as they fulfill their various legislation and policy obligations. He identified priority areas for donors' assistance and affirmed his country's commitment to ensure that priorities were realized on the ground—in the communities.

**Timor-Leste.** Honorable Mariano ASSANAMI Sabino Lopes (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries)

discussed key accomplishments of the government, including the establishment of the first national park in the country, the Nino Konis Santana National Park, and activities in a subregional forum to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. He also summarized the priority projects for funding that have been developed by the Timor-Leste National Coordinating Committee, particularly those related to expansion of marine protected areas, rehabilitation of mangrove forests, development of sustainable fisheries, and adaptation to climate change, as well as the drafting of regulations to implement management measures.

### **Message from the Development Partners**

Ms. Nicole Glineur, Senior Biodiversity Specialist, Global Environment Facility, spoke on behalf of the CTI-CFF development partners (i.e., ADB, Government of Australia, Conservation International, Global Environment Facility, The Nature Conservancy, Government of the United States, and World Wildlife Fund). She stressed that the role of the development partners was "to help and promote this integrated regional approach that provides economies of scale that six non-coordinated national initiatives could not accomplish on their own." She listed several key points that the CT6 must address to achieve sustainable financing. These were

- expediting establishment of the permanent Regional Secretariat;
- drawing up clear targets and priorities under the five goals of the initiative;
- identifying financing sources and mechanisms for priority actions;



- aggressively engaging the private sector, which includes building on the gains from the CTI-CFF business forum held in Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia; and
- exploring the broad spectrum of innovative financing mechanisms, such as payment for ecosystem services.

### **Message from the Regional Secretariat**

Dr. Suseno Sukoyono, Executive Chair of the Coral Triangle Initiative Interim Regional Secretariat, congratulated the CT6 in their efforts to prioritize activities and programs under their respective national plans of action and develop their financing strategy. He said that the process has strengthened ownership of their plans for implementation and demonstrated their self-reliance by offering counterpart support from their national budgets. He also repeated earlier calls for more donors and the private sector to invest in the Coral Triangle because the benefit will extend to millions more people outside the six countries.

From a regional perspective, he said the roundtable was a significant milestone because it showed the commitment of the CT6 to take decisive steps to achieve sustainable financing. He thanked current development partners and encouraged them and prospective partners to know more about the regional funding priorities and identify opportunities to respond to the gaps.

### **Open Forum**

ADB Vice President Groff said the roundtable was an important first step for the CTI-CFF. He added that the bigger challenge for the CT6 ministers was to strengthen their linkage with their respective finance ministers so that funding of key CTI-CFF projects will increase. This comment was made because only a few finance ministry representatives were able to attend the meeting. He urged the CTI-CFF to work harder to convince their partners and finance ministries to prioritize the plans of action. He added that the countries, through the NCCs, should carefully prioritize and identify which projects can be financed domestically and which need external funding through the private sector or donors.

Furthermore, he remarked that current and potential funders are on the lookout for results; a significant amount of resources had already been allocated to the CTI-CFF, which should now demonstrate on-the-ground, meaningful results. He asked the ministers to work together to leverage resources, opportunities, and partnerships and to get the private sector more involved in the CTI-CFF.

Other comments during the open forum focused on the following:

- Countries that have explored other sustainable finance strategies, such as payment for ecosystem services and user fees, can share their experiences so that others can learn from them.



- USAID affirmed their continued support to the CTI-CFF and stressed the importance of establishing the permanent Regional Secretariat. Countries were encouraged to approach them through their partners on the ground and the interim Regional Secretariat so they can better respond to their priorities.

- Draw from the lessons and experience of other intergovernmental organizations that have a similar mandate in conserving and managing coastal and marine resources. CTI-CFF should tap existing resources of those working at different levels in both the private and public sector.



- Nongovernment organizations have rich experience from their project sites, particularly about behavioral change in communities, that can provide insights on effective implementation of the plans of action. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Center for Biodiversity is an example of an intergovernmental organization that is willing to share its learning.

### Wrap-Up and Closing

Vice President Groff closed the formal ministerial meeting, thanked the participants, particularly those from the finance sector, and invited the audience to visit the CTI-CFF marketplace.



### CTI-CFF Marketplace

Representatives from the NCCs manned booths where they distributed flyers containing their project proposals and costing. These proposals were developed through a series of sustainable finance workshops and meetings in 2011. The participatory process increased ownership of the priority projects and activities, which were drawn directly from their national plans of action.



The marketplace fostered a spirit of togetherness among the six countries as they learned about each others' plans and strategies on how to achieve them. The dynamic interaction among the CT6 was evident as the NCCs engaged in lively conversations with their counterparts and exchanged information about their teams and progress with their plans of action. The informal network sessions became an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships among the CT6 as well as between the NCCs and partners.





## Welcome Remarks

### **Gil Beltran**

Undersecretary, Policy Development and Management Services Group,  
Department of Finance, Philippines

ADB Vice President Stephen Groff, Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Environment, Fisheries, Marine Affairs and Science Ministers of the CT6 countries, our development partners, our civil society organization partners, guests, ladies, and gentlemen:

On behalf of Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, the Chair of the Board of Governors for the 45th ADB Annual Meeting, and the Department of Finance, I welcome you to Manila and the Philippines, and to this High Level Financial Roundtable Ministerial Meeting and Marketplace. We are glad to be the host country for this prestigious meeting of the ADB Governors, and it is our pleasure to gather our Coral Triangle 6 (CT6) countries for this very important ministerial meeting.

The ministerial meeting for the Coral Triangle Initiative this afternoon highlights the imperative to foster closer conversation between environment protection and finance sectors. We support the goals and objectives of the Coral Triangle Initiative, as it adopts a multilateral, collective, and cooperative framework in addressing the challenges confronting the Coral Triangle, while at the same time empowering the six member countries in protecting their resources and promoting sustainable development within their boundaries.

At the same time, we are well aware of the challenges we confront nationally and regionally in implementing our individual national plans of action and the CTI Regional Plan of Action. On top of the challenge to be vigilant in our enforcement and efforts to address food security, climate change, and environmental destruction, we need to secure a sustainable way to finance and provide resources for our efforts and ensure continuity in our work.

*“The ministerial meeting for the Coral Triangle Initiative this afternoon highlights the imperative to foster closer conversations between environment protection and finance sectors.”*

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In this light, we believe this occasion is an opportune time to have a dialogue with our development partners, financial institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector. We want to showcase the achievements we have attained since the start of this initiative in 2007, and at the same time explore or renew partnerships with our development partners in achieving the objectives of the Coral Triangle Initiative.

We look forward to a productive session with all of you. Once again, thank you for coming to Manila and Mabuhay!



## Opening Statement **Stephen Groff**

Vice President (Operations 2), Asian Development Bank

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen: Good afternoon and welcome to this First High Level Financial Roundtable on the Coral Triangle Initiative.

ADB is honored to co-host this roundtable with the countries of the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Interim Regional Secretariat, and development partners.

The core theme of the ADB Annual Meeting is inclusive growth through better governance and partnerships. The Coral Triangle Initiative is surely a model for inclusive growth—from its highly committed political leadership to effective on-site governance, broad networks, and partnership arrangements spanning academe, NGOs, local and national governments, donor agencies, and the private sector.

It is fitting that a special event such as this roundtable is being held in connection with ADB's Annual Meeting. It attracts special attention to the connection between the environment and the economy—for we know that heightened poverty levels have a devastating effect on natural resources. And it emphasizes that critical long-term investments in protection of our coastal resources require dedicated and holistic support in terms of policies, budgets, and political will.

At the First Senior Officials Meeting in Bali in 2007, ADB was asked to serve as lead agency in helping the Coral Triangle Initiative countries gain access to resources from the Global Environment Facility (or GEF). We took up this challenge and have since actively engaged not only with the GEF, but also with other partners to encourage technical and financial contributions to the Coral Triangle Initiative. We will hear shortly from GEF how successful the group of development partners has been in supporting the initiative so far, and what is needed to sustain it.

ADB's core support to the initiative includes three regional projects providing technical assistance and supporting demonstration activities in the Pacific, in Southeast Asia, and across the Coral Triangle. These new efforts build on a foundation of ongoing coastal investment projects in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, including the Coral Reef Rehabilitation

*“...critical long-term investments in protection of our coastal resources require dedicated and holistic support in terms of policies, budgets, and political will.”*

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and Management Project in Indonesia, and the Integrated Coastal Resources Management Project in the Philippines.

The idea behind this Roundtable is to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Coral Triangle Initiative. ADB, on its part, is engaging with the Coral Triangle Initiative countries very substantially and on a continuous basis through our country and regional partnership strategies and business plans. The six countries have been preparing and costing priority projects in their national plans of action and ADB is in a unique position to help countries consider different financial strategies and instruments. We are ready and committed to assisting Coral Triangle Initiative countries, in close coordination and cooperation with other development partners.

On behalf of ADB, I wish you well in your important discussions and deliberations today.





## Keynote Speech

# **Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, J.P.**

Chairman, CTI Council of Ministers and Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia

Honorable CTI Ministers of Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste:

Good afternoon.

Welcome to the first CTI High Level Financial Resources Roundtable. On behalf of the Coral Triangle Initiative, we thank the Government of Philippines and Asian Development Bank for hosting this special occasion in conjunction with ADB's 45th Annual General Meeting here in Manila. Thank you everyone for joining us here.

I would also like to extend a special greeting to our CTI Partners. They are the United States and Australian Governments, the Asian Development Bank, the

Global Environment Facility, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, The Nature Conservancy, and Conservation International.

Three years ago, in May of 2009 in Manado, Indonesia, six leaders convened and announced the formation of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security. The CTI-CFF was a ground-breaking multilateral partnership to protect and sustain the Coral Triangle—the world’s richest marine environment, comprising six million square kilometers of ocean and coastal waters, 76% of the world’s coral species, 37% of the reef fishes found in the planet, and over 120 million people who are directly dependent on its resources. Since then, milestones upon milestones have been reached as the six countries formalized their engagement and commitment.

Today, we reach another milestone as we convene together the CTI Council of Ministers to affirm the commitments of our respective governments; to relay what has been accomplished; and to call for partnerships to manage a common resource of not only the Coral Triangle countries, but also the world at large.

Since its launch, the CTI-CFF has demonstrated progress with national and local governments, working with nongovernment organizations and development partners in achieving the five goals under its Regional Plan of Action. These goals are to strengthen management of seascapes, apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, develop and strengthen the management of marine protected areas, implement climate change adaptation measures, and protect threatened marine species. The economic realities of our countries differ, but over the past three years, we have made significant allocations from our own national budgets and mobilized hundreds of thousands of person hours to negotiating, planning, and thinking Coral Triangle.

*“Ultimately, our goals are to remain strong in our cooperation to bravely face the challenges on emerging Asian economies toward a sustainable long-run growth path, strengthening domestic demand, broadening economic prospects in marine industry and reduce risks.”*

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Ultimately, our goals are to remain strong in our cooperation to bravely face the challenges to emerging Asian economies toward a sustainable long-run growth path, strengthening domestic demand, broadening economic prospects in marine industry, and reducing risks. In its Asian Development Outlook 2012 report, the Asian Development Bank highlights the continuous growth in the region, despite current financial uncertainties and economic stagnation in some parts of the world. ADB forecasts a growth rate of 6.9% for the region in 2012, increasing to 7.3% in 2013. All six of the Coral Triangle countries are members of the ADB and, for us the forecasted growth rates range from 4% (in Malaysia) to 10% (in Timor-Leste) in 2012; and from 4.5% (in Papua New Guinea) to 8% (in Timor-Leste) in 2013. Indeed, amongst the CTI countries, Malaysia’s solid economic growth rates of 4% to 5% seem modest in comparison!

Where have these riches come from? First, the goods and ecosystem services emanating from the marine and coastal ecosystems contribute significantly; more than 80% of global production in corals and other

invertebrates, and more than 20% in the production of tunas, bonitos, and billfishes are from the CT6. The region is also an important source of live reef fish for food and for the aquarium trade. More than 35 million tourists visited the six countries in 2010; some, if not most, will have engaged in beach recreation. More specifically, reef-based tourism in the Philippines and Indonesia alone is estimated at more than \$250 million per year. Second, economic growth also comes from other sectors, such as agriculture, forest logging, industrial manufacturing, and the extraction of oil, gas, and mineral resources.

We have to be honest, however, that our growth is not all built on sustainable foundations. Overfishing plagues our waters, including through illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities. Destructive methods for fish harvesting are still rife, including the use of cyanide, bombs, and other harvesting methods that degrade the marine and coastal habitat. In the desire to cater to mass tourism and large-scale aquaculture, we have converted the face of our coasts.

The sustainability of our coasts and oceans is also under pressure from negative externalities from agriculture, forest logging, industrial manufacturing, and the extraction of oil, gas, and mineral resources—the very sectors that contribute significantly to our economic growth. Pollution, sedimentation, and habitat conversion are some of these negative impacts that reduce the productivity of our marine and coastal environment. Domestic activities of the population, an estimated 120 million living on our coasts, compounds the pressure on our marine and coastal ecosystems. The risks do not stop there, as climate change impact has started to manifest itself, amongst other ways, in the form of high tides, severely fluctuating weather, and coral bleaching.

The Coral Triangle Initiative was formed to tackle these issues and advance another model of development, the ‘blue economy,’ if

you will, where fisheries and other marine sectors implement sustainable harvesting and utilization practices, where benefits are distributed in an equitable manner, and where the negative externalities plaguing our coastal and marine resources are minimized and managed.

Anyone who has been involved in international negotiations will tell you that it is not a straight forward path. Coral Triangle negotiators and development partners can confirm that it is true, down to the last nosebleed. Nevertheless, we soldiered on, and have made great progress over the past three years. First, by the time of the Leaders’ Summit, we agreed to the foundational principles and a Regional Plan of Action, which outlines our five overarching Goals: priority seascapes designed and effectively managed, ecosystem approach to management of fisheries and other marine resources fully applied, marine protected areas established and effectively managed, climate change adaptation measures achieved, and threatened species status improving. Within a year, we decided collectively on the location of our Regional Secretariat: in Manado, Indonesia. At the same time, an interim Regional Secretariat was set up in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Our next challenge was to develop a set of operational principles that will make up the CTI Charter, and I am happy to report that Ministers agreed to a final text in October 2011. Countries are now undergoing their domestic process for the ratification of the agreement. Other progress in institution building includes the establishment of national coordinating committees in each of the CT6, successful implementation of 7 Senior Official Meetings and 3 Ministerial Meetings, establishment of working groups to advance the thematic agenda, and a closer relationship between the CT6 and partners, built on trust and common objectives.

We have also made progress on our thematic goals. The seascape approach to the management of large marine ecosystems, for

example, is perfectly facilitated through the CTI, where transboundary governance of resources takes center stage. The CT6 have agreed to a joint framework for seascape design and implementation, and we have enhanced our capacity to implement the seascape approach. We have embarked on joint planning in two seascapes, the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion and the Arafura and Timor Seas region. We look to advancing the approach to the Pacific with the Bismarck-Solomon Seascape.

Destructive fishing, overfishing, and other unsustainable extractive activities are some of the real threats to the livelihoods of communities and food security in the Coral Triangle countries. Thus, one of the CTI goals is cooperation in implementing the ecosystems approach to management of fisheries (EAFM), firstly through formulation of a strong legislative, policy, and regulatory frameworks in EAFM for the CTI. This is not an easy task given the differing fisheries management regimes in place across the CT6. Accomplishments to date include several regional exchanges, both within and outside the region, to enhance capacity for planning and implementing the EAFM approach. A regional framework for EAFM cooperation supported by the US Coral Triangle Support Partnership has also been drafted and is to be finalized at the regional exchange workshop on 25–28 May 2012 in Kuala Lumpur.

Establishment of protected areas, and ensuring they are effectively managed, is the third goal of the CTI. The target is straightforward: establish a region-wide system of protected areas which can act as our food 'bank': the spawning areas, the habitats of commercially important species, and the places of unique beauty, among others. Further, ensuring connectivity in the network will enhance their resilience and thus benefit commercial and extractive activities being undertaken in and around the region. With the support of partners, the CTI Regional Framework for an MPA system, including

methods to define and prioritize the benefits of a regional system and network design, have been established.

As island and maritime nations, implementing effective adaptation measures to climate change impacts is very much a priority of the Coral Triangle countries. We have made great strides by establishing a Region-wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation. Together, the CT6 have invested in the ability to conduct climate change vulnerability assessments and to plan for improving resilience at identified priority sites where adaptation measures are fostered. Additionally, the CTI has actively conducted international outreach on climate adaptation and mitigation, such as through joint communiqués in the past two UNFCCC Conferences of Parties.

In addition to a seascape or landscape approach, the CTI is also concerned with the survival of species that make the region their home. These include charismatic mega fauna (turtles, marine mammals, and elasmobranchs), corals, sea grasses, mangroves, and around 1,100 coastal bony fishes with threatened status in the IUCN Red List criteria.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Indeed, the CTI has made much progress. The economic realities of our countries differ, but over the past 3 years, we have made significant allocations from our own national budgets and operational expenditures, and mobilized hundreds of thousands of man-hours to negotiating, planning, and thinking Coral Triangle. It has been an exciting process, and now I would like to draw your attention to our priorities for 2012–2013.

First, the institution-building aspect will need to continue. In parallel to the ratification process being carried out in each country, at the regional level we will begin to set up the organizations, including staff recruitment, administrative and financial systems, standard



operating procedures, and eventually, the fitting out of the CTI office in Manado whose construction began last year. Technical assistance is needed in the form of experts in organizational development, financial system design, human resources development, large-scale project planning, communications, fund raising, and monitoring and evaluation. These experts will work side by side with CT6 experts mobilized by our governments to oversee the process. By our estimate, the process of getting our organization off the ground will require and investment of about \$3.5 million.

The institutional set up of our organization takes center stage at this time. Without a working structure, the CTI will not be able to fully implement the regional and national plans of action, which are the lifeblood of our organization and without which the relevance of the organization is in question.

In advancing the seascape approach, in the next two years the organization will focus on strengthening the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion and the Bismarck-Solomon Seascape. These are rich fishing grounds, including a prolific production of tuna. Development plans for the two seascapes have been drawn up; the next step is translating the development plans into investment plans, which include the necessary legal and governance networks, institutional capacity development plans for transboundary planning, and support for social, political, and private sector engagement. Additionally, capacity building is needed to carry out transboundary seascape planning in preparation of future seascapes, and to monitor ongoing programs. The estimated cost to carry out these programs is \$2.15 million.

Among the many rewards from a healthy marine environment, bulging nets may be the most iconic, but increasingly CT6 fishers encounter empty nets. Depletion of fisheries resources is sadly a very real and probable outcome if a good fisheries management

regime is not in place. Managing fisheries or habitats alone will be insufficient to address some of the core issues causing destruction and overfishing. EAFM requires a change in attitudes of the people who are dependent on the fisheries resources and an understanding of the wider economic environment in which fishers operate, especially if market forces are influenced by factors that are regional in scope. COASTFISH is a program envisioned to deal directly with poverty, food security, and livelihood generation. Over the next year, the CTI plans to identify COASTFISH sites in each of the CT6 countries; map out current investment actions addressing food security, livelihoods, and poverty overall; and design a full investment program. The cost of this preparation phase is estimated to be \$950,000.

The MPA working group is one of the most prolific in the CTI given strong linkages with institutional priorities of our partners Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. In the next few years, priorities include holding regional exchange workshops to share progress on development of common criteria for MPA management effectiveness and to further refine regional and national roadmaps. Additionally, further workshops to support development of MPA monitoring and evaluation systems in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are needed. Finally, support is needed to take advantage of research grants from the Australian Research Council, which will be used to further enhance the design of the Coral Triangle network of MPAs. The estimated cost of these activities is about \$1 million.

To implement effective actions for climate adaptation, social and natural impacts of climate change and adaptation actions in the Coral Triangle need to be identified. The CTI will seek to collate and prepare this information, and to prepare a CT-wide baseline data sharing and depository system.

Resilience building and adaptation measures are being implemented across households and communities in the Coral Triangle. Some communities will be successful (despite receiving no facilitation); some will not. A randomized, long-term surveillance of the welfare impacts of climate change adaptation strategies on households across the CT will be beneficial in crafting adaptation policies and assistance; support is sought to design this study. And finally, in the international arena, 'blue carbon' has become a focal point over which negotiations and discussions on the role of marine and coastal ecosystems in capturing carbon are centered. In the next two years, the CTI will identify the blue carbon potential in the CT6 and to plan for active engagement of the CTI in this area, including the development of a Climate Adaptation Marketplace. The total estimated cost for these strategic activities to support climate change adaptation is estimated to be about \$500,000.

Our final priority for 2012–2013 is to complete Red List assessments of 1,300 bony fishes of the Coral Triangle, and develop a comprehensive threatened species action plan for the Coral Triangle, estimated to cost \$325,000.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you can see, the cost of getting this ship off the ground is substantial, and our total estimate for regional programs is \$8.5 million over the next two years. The CT6 governments are allocating a substantial amount of financial and other resources to implement the regional and national plans of action, but call for technical and financial support from the international community, private sector, and continued support from the development partners to be part of the CTI business community. The Coral Triangle is an asset and food security for the world, so we invite you to invest in the CTI!

Thank you.

## Dr. Gellwynn Jusuf

Secretary General, Ministry of Marine Affairs on behalf of  
Honorable Sharif Sutardjo, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries



His Excellency Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus J. Ongkili, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia and the Chair of CTI COM,

their Excellencies the CT6 Ministers,

distinguished country delegates of the CT6, CTI-CFF development partners (the Government of Australia, the Government of United States, the Asian Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, The Nature Conservancy, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and Conservation International),

ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon and best wishes to you all.

On behalf of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to convey our high appreciation to the Asian Development Bank and all CTI-CFF partners for hosting and arranging this very important event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia has committed to conserve its reefs ecosystem and maintain its services that are essential to strengthen our efforts for this region's food security, including the coastal communities' welfare. Implementation of CTI-

CFF in Indonesia has been directed toward the accomplishment of the 5 goals of the Regional Plan of Action endorsed in the Leaders' Summit in May 2009. Our National Plan of Action also mirrors the layout, structure, and target accomplishments laid out in the Regional Plan of Action and we have established a working group for each goal to facilitate its planning process and implementation.

In the preparation of this event, we conducted a national workshop at the end of 2011 to assess progress, achievements, and laying down priorities and future plans. Some of those plans will be presented here and in the Market Place event with expectation that you might be interested to support us to make them implementable.

As the initiator and the host for the Regional Secretariat, our commitment to the CTI-CFF has been demonstrated by the development of a new office building for the Secretariat in Manado and signing the establishment agreement for the Regional Secretariat in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta in October 2011, with an agreed contribution of more than US\$400,000/year. As such, I would like to propose to other member countries to accelerate the internal process and sign the document. I do believe that the Regional Secretariat needs to be established as soon as possible to facilitate and serve our regional initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen,

CTI-CFF is recognized as a significant regional platform for collaborative efforts to sustain our oceans services for the world. There have been several actions that highlight the growing global concern on the need to balance economic development with a low carbon footprint and social inclusiveness in the use of the ocean and its ecosystems. I would like to inform you that Indonesia has registered a CTI-CFF side event of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) next month on the topic of Blue Economy. I invite member countries join so we can demonstrate our commitment for

better management of the ocean's resources and provide the world with a model for implementing the Blue Economy concept.

In addition to reaching out the scientific community, we support the initiative of the Interim Regional Secretariat and partners to present the State of Coral Triangle Report in the International Coral Reef Symposium in Cairns in July 2012.

In an effort to embrace wider support and create awareness among youth, the private sector, tourism industry, and civil society, we support the initiation of Coral Triangle Day on June 9.

Another action that we are proposing for next year is to invite member countries to attend the CTI Summit 2013 in Bali as a side event of the APEC meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia has committed a considerable budget for hosting the Interim Regional Secretariat and implementation of CTI NPOA. Nevertheless, the complexity of issues and coverage of ocean resources that need to be addressed are overwhelming our limited capacity. CTI partners have been there since the beginning with their support, but I do believe they also have some limitations too. Therefore, we would like to use this opportunity to call for continuous support from partners and mobilization of new assistance from the international community, private sector, and developed countries.

With your support and assistance, we have an opportunity in time and place, to manage the ocean's resources and its biodiversity to sustain the welfare and food security of our people. Let us work with the spirit of togetherness to make progress on these critical goals.

Lastly, I thank again the Asian Development Bank for its kind facilitation in hosting and conducting today's event.

Thank You.



## Honorable Datuk Ujang Sulani

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Industries, Sabah  
and Deputy Chair of Malaysia CTI's Coordination Committee



YB DSP Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Chair of CTI Council of Ministers/  
Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia,

Excellencies/Honorable CTI Ministers of Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua  
New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste,

Excellencies Finance Ministers,

Excellency Cesar V. Purisima, Secretary, Department of Finance, Philippines,

Mr. Stephen P. Groff, Vice President (Operations), Asian Development Bank.

Good afternoon.

It gives me great honor and pleasure to speak for CTI Malaysia at this Ministerial High level Financial Roundtable. I appreciate the opportunity given by YB Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Minister of Science Technology and Innovation Minister (MOSTI) to appoint me as the Deputy Chairman for the National Coordination Committee (NCC) and to be responsible for CTI implementation in Sabah. Coincidentally, before this, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Sabah was also been appointed as the lead agency for the implementation of programs under the BIMP-EAGA

Sulu Sulawesi Marine EcoRegion (SSME). This is a synergistic role for me in carrying out the CTI National Plan of Action in Sabah.

Malaysia has established the organization structure and TOR of the NCC that constitutes both federal and Sabah state ministries and agencies (made of 17 ministries and agencies), the CTI National Secretariat at the National Oceanography Institute of MOSTI, the learning center at CTI-Sabah Branch of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), and the Department of Fisheries, Sabah, to provide the technical and facilitation support and coordination.

For the Regional TWG, Malaysia has been given the Chairmanship for Goal 2, i.e., the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and other marine resources fully applied. A total of RM2.74 million from MOSTI has already been disbursed to CTI-Sabah for the operation and implementation of the CTI. This allocation includes setting up the branch operational office with a data center linked to MYNODC of the national secretariat that supports the CTI data portal, and partial support for activities of TWGs, including meetings and community-based programs.

The CTI National Secretariat is also in close discussion with development partners for support in the setting up of the CTI project office in Putrajaya. This is but a small allocation to our larger goal of getting enough funds to expand our commitments to both the CTI RPOA and NPOA and we hope to have a really meaningful cooperation with our development partners, including funds where needed.

Various communication and capacity building programs were conducted and information shared and exchanged at the regional and national level via training workshops. Guided by the 5 goals, the RPOA, and NPOA, a pool of experts and technical working groups are already

established. Malaysia supported the production of the State of Coral Triangle Report (SCTR). The draft was deliberated in Manila last week; we look forward to the launching of the regional SCTR in Cairns, Australia, in July.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Malaysia held the 4th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM4) in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, in October 2010 and one of the significant outputs is the agreement on sustainable financing of the CTI, i.e., when the proposal to organize a High Level Financial Roundtable was mooted. Malaysia also held the CTI Regional Business Forum (CTI-RBF2011) in Kuala Lumpur in October 2011 and the recommendation was to bring in the regional private sector (public-private-partnership).

A proposal to set up a CTI Business Advisory Group was put forward during the Financial Resources Working Group meeting held after the CTI-RBF2011, where ADB proposed the organization of the Financial Roundtable in conjunction with ADB's 45th Annual Meeting in Manila. This idea was discussed and endorsed at the 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting SOM7 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting. That brings us to today's event.

Regional exchange programs with the support of the US Coral Triangle Support Partnership, namely the "Live-Reef-Fish Trade" and the EAFM were held in Kota Kinabalu in 2011. To further enhance capacity for planning and implementing the EAFM, a regional framework for EAFM cooperation has also been drafted and is to be finalized at the 3rd regional exchange workshop on 25–28 May 2012 in Kuala Lumpur. This event is to be led by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia. The Sabah team had the experience in the SSME program together with Indonesia and Philippines, whereby Malaysia leads on sustainable fisheries management and

illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing.

A comprehensive action plan has been developed, which could fulfill not only the CTI goals but also Millennium Development Goals. For this, we propose a demonstration project of best practices in fisheries management within the context of the EAFM of Kudat District in Sabah—an area within our Priority Conservation Area.

ADB also supported a national workshop on “RETA-Knowledge Management” held in Putrajaya. Congratulations! The KM learning notes are immensely useful as we communicate science and environment concerns to policy makers and to the public. Some technical members from the NCC Malaysia have also had the opportunity to attend regional training held in other CTI countries, Australia, and the US. These personnel would be members of the local training team, working hand-in-hand with the experts provided by the development partners.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Malaysia is currently at an early stage of developing its own capabilities in the Marine Spatial Planning and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), that is, we are identifying and assessing ecosystem service prospects and potential buyers. This project initiative is spearheaded by the Economic Planning Unit under the Prime Minister’s Office with UNDP Malaysia and our local expert who has been involved in the Eco-Resource Management of Marudu Bay. The earlier studies highlight several recommendations for the local community to alleviate poverty and promote food security, sustainable aquaculture, and alternative livelihoods, such as ecotourism.

PES is fairly new to Malaysia and application for CTI requires expert assistance locally and internationally, especially through the ADB RETA-KM and SEA Coastal Resources management for the Tun Mustapha Park, which is proposed to be gazetted by 2015. With the support of partners on the CTI Regional Framework for an MPA system, including methods to define and prioritize the benefits of a regional system and network design, CT6 personnel have been trained and have established greater understanding. Our current priority for Malaysia is to concretize the special priority areas for MPAs and the strong supportive and parallel efforts from the various stakeholders in supporting the response and data and information needs through research and innovative community programs. Some information materials on the NPOA and our priority list of projects and their targets—especially of projects proposed but unfunded and new CTI initiatives proposed for the five goals—are available in the booklets and CDs that have been distributed.

The 2nd NCC 2012 has been proposed to be held in Sabah and we would welcome the regional secretariat and partners as we are open to future dialogue in CTI. Sabah recorded 2.8 million tourist arrivals in 2011 with estimated tourism receipts of \$1.7 billion, a large percentage of which was from marine ecotourism, including SCUBA diving. We hope to enhance and expand our nature tourism, and that includes our part of the Coral Triangle. Nature tourism done right is a win-win situation for both tourism operators and nature conservationists. The “land below the wind” beckons you to enhance our partnership in CTI.

Thank you.

## Honorable Thomson Harokaq'veh

Minister of Environment and Conservation

The Minister sent his apologies that he was unable to attend the event but signified that his government is very much interested to find out about the outcomes of the roundtable and that will participate in the follow-on activities of the roundtable.



## Honorable Ramon Jesus P. Paje

Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources



Honorable Chair, Secretary Purisima of the Department of Finance

Excellencies the CT6 Ministers: Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili; Chair of the CTI Council of Ministers and Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia; H.E. Marianno Assanami Sabino Lopes, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Timor-Leste; H.E. John Moffat Fugui, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Solomon Islands;

Asian Development Bank Vice President, Mr. Stephen Groff;

CTI Regional Secretariat, partners on the conservation of the Coral Triangle, observers, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon!

As an active partner country in the Coral Triangle Initiative or CTI, the Philippines is committed to fulfilling the goals of the CTI Regional Plan of Action. Our National Plan of Action has been implemented in sites strategically selected by the national CTI coordination committee, the field implementers, our development partners, and academic and research institutions. Among the major milestones in implementing our National Plan of Action is the development of the West Philippine seascape, as one of CTI's priority seascapes. Resource assessments have been conducted in this area, along

with the identification of threats and vulnerabilities that are essential in the preparation of its management plan.

Knowing the importance of the establishment of marine protected areas or MPAs, the Philippines has also advanced the monitoring of MPAs with the help of USAID. The management effectiveness assessment tool, or M-E-A-T, has been developed to evaluate the effectiveness of establishing MPAs and to determine what still needs to be done for their effective management. Various climate change adaptation measures, such as vulnerability assessments, have been conducted to determine the impacts of climate change on coastal communities and to guide the local government units in creating policies to mitigate its effects.

Furthermore, the Philippines has been able to develop plans for illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and fisheries management, focused on live reef fish. Our country has also established ecosystem-based fisheries management in some areas in Palawan. The Philippine National CTI Coordination Committee, or NCCC, actively hosts and participates in several regional activities, such as the MPA regional exchange that promotes transfer of knowledge and lessons, drawing from the experiences of other CTI countries.

While I have shown you what our country has achieved in coastal and marine conservation, brought about by the implementation of the CTI National Plan of Action, there are still challenges that beset us. One of these is the sustainability issue, associated with the lack of funding support for the implementation of projects under our National Plan of Action.

Hence, the Philippines' NCCC, development partners, and other stakeholders have identified five priority activities, the funding of which will accelerate the implementation of the plan.

First of these is the establishment of the CTI-Philippines Endowment Fund. Through the development of an innovative sustainable financing mechanism, in partnership with donors, the private sector, civil society organizations, local governments, and communities, the Endowment Fund will address the financial requirements and encourage multi-stakeholder involvement in CTI projects all over the country.

Second, we plan to develop a project on designing coastal and marine-based payment for ecological services or PES. Ecological services include fish production, biodiversity, aesthetics, and recreation. This project, which runs for 18 months, aims to enhance local capacity toward the effective management, protection, and conservation of coastal and marine resources by compensating those who protect and maintain the ecosystem services. The scheme will involve the creation of a "buyer-seller" relationship between the local government unit, as the "seller" of ecosystem services, and the private sector as the "buyer" of ecosystem services. This PES scheme will promote the involvement of private investors, such as resort owners, in protecting their coastal and marine environment.

The third project is on climate change adaptation and mitigation through the convergence approach to a national greening program with a focus on mangrove rehabilitation. This is a four-year project that aims to mitigate climate change in the coastal areas through the reversion of abandoned, unutilized, and undeveloped fishponds into protected and productive mangrove forests.

The fourth project is the establishment of a national coastal and marine database through an integrated information management system. This will enhance the country's coastal and marine monitoring system and provide the data needed for



decision making, especially in critical flashpoints, such as the Scarborough Shoal and the Kalayaan group of islands.

Last but not least, the Philippines shall establish a national integrated coastal management program scheme for the sustainable development of the country's coastal areas and to uplift the quality of life of coastal communities. The program will have a structured framework with targets on governance, scaling-up, sustainable financing, capacity building, and establishment of learning networks. Since the Coral Triangle Initiative is anchored on integrated coastal management as the overall framework for guiding the actions and targets, the projects can benefit from collaborative planning and implementation under the umbrella of the national integrated coastal management program.

The funding requirements for these projects amount to around \$186 million. The Philippine Government will provide a guaranteed counterpart of 30% or \$55.8 million dollars. This is a commitment that will solidify the intentions of the Philippines in providing a sustainable coastal and marine environment, not only for its national constituency, but, as part of the

Coral Triangle, also for its partner countries.

In the long run, as our country embarks on the CTI sustainable financing mechanism and innovative resource mobilization and allocation, it is our hope that our projects will be self-sustaining. Thence, we will be able to carry out our National Plan of Action with minimal external financing requirements.

As the Philippines is at the apex of the "coral triangle," or the world's center of marine biodiversity, and is one of the 18-megadiversity countries that contain 75% of the global biodiversity and one of the "hottest of the marine biodiversity hotspots in the world," investments for coastal and marine protection in the country will benefit not only the Philippines itself, but also its partner countries in the Coral Triangle, the CT6.

Therefore, I would like to issue the call to development agencies, the private sector and to various stakeholders, to expand the base of support for the coral triangle initiative.

Thank you and Mabuhay!



# Honorable John Moffat Fugui

Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Meteorology



Colleague Ministers of the CT6 Group;

Development Partners, in particular, ADB;

Government of the United States of America; Government of Australia; Global Environment Facility; Conservation International; Nature Conservancy; World Wildlife Fund;

Invited guests, ladies, and gentlemen:

On behalf of the people and Government of Solomon Islands, It is an honor for my delegation to participate in this High Level Coral Triangle Initiative Financial Roundtable in conjunction with the 45th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank.

We extend our greetings to you, especially to the people and Government of the Philippines for the hospitality and welcome extended to my delegation.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today marks another historic gathering of the six Coral Triangle countries (CT6). Over the past five years, as a region, we have strived together to safeguard one



of world's most diverse marine areas, the Coral Triangle region, and its peoples.

In so doing, my delegation is keenly aware of my Government's policy obligations and priorities. First, development has to link our National Development Strategy (2011–2020) to the Millennium Development Goals. Next, we need to devise the necessary legislations for biodiversity, climate change, and fisheries management and development. All these have to be a collective effort by our development partners, donors, the Solomon Islands Government, and the diverse communities. If all these are implemented and linked to the country's overall development strategy, thus fulfilling ministerial obligations as per the national biodiversity strategy action plans, CTI National Plan of Action, and the various legislation and policy obligations, we would deem these to have led to "inclusive growth."

But such investments and developments, ladies and gentlemen, must be strategic and meaningful, in particular to the lives of ordinary Solomon Islanders!

With regard to financial and funding assistance, the Solomon Islands needs help in the following priority areas:

- Strengthening community-based marine managed/marine protected areas

- Helping coastal communities adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Establishment of national and provincial community-based data and information centers
- Development of community-based education and curriculum programs
- Mapping coastal habitats and inshore fish stocks/habitats.

These priorities are directly drawn from the Solomon Islands National Plan of Action for the Coral Triangle Initiative. The Government is committed to working together with donors, development partners, and implementing partners to see that these priorities are realized on the ground—at the community level.

We are encouraged to note that a CTI Regional Financial Strategy has been drafted. I congratulate the CT6 senior officials and our development partners for the work on the Financial Strategy. The Solomon Islands looks forward to be involved in discussions on further development of the Financial Strategy.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Solomon Islands is ready to stand in-partnership with other CTI countries to show our commitment, cooperation and mutual responsibility!

Thank you.

# Honorable Mariano ASSANAMI Sabino Lopes\*

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries



Honorable Ministers of the Coral Triangle Countries, Honorable Vice-President Groff, Undersecretary Gil Beltran, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

Timor-Leste is honored to participate in this first CTI High Level Financial Roundtable. On behalf of the Government of Timor-Leste, I thank the Asian Development Bank and the Government of the Philippines for your hospitality and facilitation, and we hope today's event is a precedent of many more similar opportunities in the future.

Timor-Leste is one of the smaller countries of the CT6, with only about 1.1 million people, about half of whom are poor. Our annual per capita gross national income is about US\$2,200; the agricultural sector contributes about one quarter of our gross domestic product.

My colleague Minister Ongkili mentioned our rate of economic growth, where double digit growth is no stranger to us. But our starting point has also been relatively low, and we have had to catch up with the region and the world. Our partnership with the Coral Triangle countries is part of our desire to work together with our neighbors to sustain our marine and fisheries resources so

Timor-Leste

that Timor-Leste might continue to reap future benefits as our citizens are increasingly empowered to do.

Over the past three years, the Coral Triangle has been an impetus for many activities in Timor-Leste. We recently completed the establishment of the first national park in the country, the Nino Konis Santana National Park. Our partnership with CTI countries and development partners helped to structure the regulatory framework for the national park, and currently we are collecting baseline data as the foundation for intervention and management. Second, we are working in a subregional forum to find ways to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Implementation of climate change adaptation is a major priority of our Government and we expect the CTI Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation to guide us in implementing site-level action.

At the foundational level, Timor-Leste has established a CTI National Coordinating Committee as a forum to harmonize the CTI with our other international and regional commitments. Our Government has also allocated funds toward Timor-Leste's contribution to the operations of a permanent Regional Secretariat.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the next two years, Timor-Leste is committed to contributing to achieving the goals of the CTI, much like our fellow CT6 countries. We have identified nine key activities. First, Timor-Leste's double digit growth in the last few years has been due to expansion of government expenditures. Indeed, one of our challenges is to have the private sector play a key role in our economy, and one way is through mobilizing large-scale fishing vessels. However, to do so prudently, we will need estimates of the size of our fisheries resources. Therefore, we have made it a priority to conduct both offshore stock

assessment and coastal biodiversity monitoring. These activities will require enormous investment; our estimates indicate that to do it well, we will need about \$3.2 million over the next two years. While costly, such an investment will enable us to determine the baseline fisheries condition, craft a prudent fishing vessel licensing policy, and design appropriate fisheries and marine conservation programs.

Fisheries and ecological assessments are not the only items in our agenda. We have also prioritized the conduct a national fisheries census of fishing households, households engaged in aquaculture, and households involved in the processing and marketing of marine products. It is ironic that in many cases, those who produce our food are often poor and struggling, as they face increasing food prices and decreasing terms of trade. We want to avoid this path of development and information from the census will yield valuable baseline information on the level of dependency of households on marine and fisheries resources for their livelihood. We will look into the experience of the other Coral Triangle countries in implementing such a census, which by our estimate will require an investment of about \$700,000, one third of which our government is prepared to invest.

The need to draft a national regulation on marine resource conservation to complement our existing Law on Fisheries is also one of our short-term priorities. In this regard, Timor-Leste is fortunate to be able to draw on extensive models in the Coral Triangle; however, these models need to go through our internal process of deliberation and codification. Additionally, we have also established a Marine Development Fund, which will be funded through compensation and tariffs from granting of fishing permits; fines imposed in the fisheries sector; and the value of catches, fishing gear, and vessels confiscated. However, the operational

regulation for disbursement of the fund still needs to be drafted. We seek support in undertaking the legal drafting of these two sets of regulations, which is estimated to cost \$65,000.

On the conservation front, we are inspired by our success in establishing our first national park and we plan to expand our protected areas. Two more marine protected areas are in the process of establishment. We seek support to finalize the process and plan for the future management of these areas so they do not remain “paper parks.” With the establishment of marine protected areas, the capacity of the management authority to design, manage, and monitor protected areas will also need to be enhanced. Our estimates indicate that we will need \$4.6 million in the next four years to undertake these measures.

And finally, Timor-Leste takes the impending impacts of climate change seriously. Our first priority is to rehabilitate the mangrove forests, which have been depleted over the last few decades due to

firewood collection and coastal development. Additionally, we seek to create a Climate Change Information Center that will house historical data and information on the climate and on climate change impacts, and act as a learning center for our communities. The total investment cost is about \$500,000, of which more than half will be supplied by our government.

Ladies and gentlemen, Timor-Leste is one of the newest nations in the world. Our greatest strength lies in the opportunity of getting our policies and programs correct at an early stage. The challenge is enormous, but we are invigorated and excited. We hope you will share this excitement with us.

Obrigado, thank you.

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*\*An abridged version of this speech was delivered by the Minister during the formal meeting of the High Level Financial Roundtable.*



## Ms. Nicole Glineur

Senior Biodiversity Specialist, Global Environment Facility, on behalf of Asian Development Bank, Government of Australia, Conservation International, Global Environment Facility, The Nature Conservancy, Government of the United States, and World Wildlife Fund



Good afternoon Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to deliver this message on behalf of the group of development partners in the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), which was initiated by President Yudhoyono of Indonesia in Bali in December 2007 and has since then stewarded by the six participating governments (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste).

The six development partners are the Asian Development Bank, Government of Australia, Government of the United States of America, Global Environment Facility, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. Our broad function is to help mobilize resources for the initiative and bring greater coordination and effectiveness to the financial and technical support that partners are providing.

We won't dwell on the initiative itself. Those of us less familiar with the area have been enlightened by the video and by the speeches from the Chair and Ministers about the extraordinary natural wealth in the triangle and the benefits enjoyed not only by the six countries in the initiative but by many other nations that fish or have related enterprises in the adjacent Pacific Ocean. I would,

however, like to re-emphasize one number though—120 million people, a third of the entire population of the six countries, depend directly on the coastal and marine resources of the coral triangle for their livelihoods and subsistence. This is a large constituency, living in a situation of fragile food security and disproportionate levels of poverty, that we can help through this initiative. We see it as a win-win initiative, improving both the welfare of the people and protecting natural resources and biodiversity of global significance. That is the bottom line.

And that is largely why we development partners are here today: to help and promote this integrated regional approach that provides economies of scale that six non-coordinated national initiatives could not accomplish on their own. It is not simply a matter of each country carrying out projects but also of, for example, harmonizing and implementing policies and good practices, training personnel in common ways of monitoring and evaluation, and educating communities.

To date, the initiative has mustered significant investments. However, the challenges ahead remain large. The plans of action need to be funded through to 2020, country programs must continue and be replicated, and regional programs must be strengthened. The interim regional secretariat is in place, with significant support from the development partners. There is need, however, to expedite the establishment and operations of a permanent Regional Secretariat to help support regional coordination and long-term financial resources mobilization.

We are very pleased that conversations and exchanges of understanding between the Ministers of Environment, Fisheries, Marine Affairs, and Science, and Finance Ministers have commenced through this roundtable. As highlighted by Minister Ongkili, Chair of CTI-CFF Council of

Ministers in his remarks, it will be important for the Initiative to develop a long-term sustainable financing strategy linked to each of the national planning processes of the six countries. In particular, we would like to highlight several areas that need consideration.

First, the countries need to firm up their targets and priorities under the five goals of the initiative. We commend the countries for seriously taking on this task of budgeting for their priority projects in their plans of action and look forward to further conversations with them on their plans and priorities at the marketplace.

Second, the six countries should examine which funding requirements are best sourced through domestic budgeting processes.

Third, we would encourage innovative thinking on generating internal sources of revenue, especially through more involvement of the private sector. We should build on and optimize the gains of the two business summits held by the initiative in Manila and Kuala Lumpur and examine how we can replicate and scale them up. In addition, the countries should explore the broad spectrum of options for sustainable marine conservation financing, like payment for ecosystem services and user fees for protected areas and mangrove walks.

Finally, there are other options for financing that partners can help the countries explore, such as the establishment of regional or national trust funds, and funding from various bilateral and multilateral funds.

Collectively, development partners and the countries are already supporting the actions of the initiative, through technical assistance, capacity building, grants, and loans. Since the initiative began in 2007, the partners have jointly mobilized around

\$300 million in financial resources to support the CTI-CFF.

As the initiative develops, we would also encourage active engagement with prospective new partners to provide additional support and knowledge. Also, with the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development coming up in Brazil in June, we believe there will be good opportunities to showcase the CTI-CFF and its potential for addressing global and regional concerns, including approaches for sustainable fisheries, protection of coral reefs, and the management of networks of marine protected areas and seascapes. Together, the approach being developed in the coral triangle can provide a model and leadership for developing a sustainable

“blue” economy—the Pacific small island states’ equivalent of a green economy.

Finally, we see this roundtable as the beginning of an important dialogue toward sustaining the CTI-CFF in order to reap all the short- and long-term development benefits that hinge on its success—in food security, livelihoods and poverty reduction, and in environmental services from healthy ecosystems—and just as importantly avoid the massive problems that the six governments will face if it does not succeed—mounting food insecurity and undernourishment, unemployment and poverty, and degraded ecosystems.

As we saw in the video earlier, can we afford not to invest?

Thank you.

## Dr. Suseno Sukoyono

Executive Chair of the Coral Triangle Initiative Interim Regional Secretariat



Good afternoon Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to deliver this message on behalf of the CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat.

Ladies and gentlemen, the roadmap from the 7th Senior Officials' Meeting stated that the High Level Financial Roundtable Ministerial Meeting and Marketplace would be conducted in tandem with the ADB Annual Meeting. This meeting would provide a venue for countries to generate additional funding for the implementation of the National Plans of Action, Regional Plan of Action, and Regional Secretariat. It would also be a venue for donors to communicate their funding priorities.

We are very happy to see that the High Level Financial Roundtable Meeting became a reality today. We thank the Asian Development Bank and the partners. As reported to us by the Chairman of the Financial Resources Working Group, the draft document on regional funding priorities for 2012–2013 has been completed. It contains the partial costing of certain priorities. The full



costing of the Regional Plan of Action, National Plans of Action, and Financial Strategy will be completed in the near future.

The current support from development partners has helped us a lot in moving forward from ideas to implementation. However, as the video this afternoon showed, more donors and the private sector need to invest in the Coral Triangle to help us sustain the area. The benefit of CTI will not only be for the six countries or for 120 million people but also for the whole world.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the CT6 countries in their efforts to develop their financial strategies and prioritization of CT6 actions under the National Plans of Action. The process has strengthened ownership of their plans for implementation and demonstrated their self-reliance by offering counterpart support from their national budgets.

Thank you very much.

# List of Funding Priorities presented during the CTI Marketplace

Copies of the proposals presented by the Regional Secretariat and the NCCs are available online. To download the PDF copy, click on the name of institution or the country. You can also visit the Coral Triangle Learning Resource Network at [www.coraltriangleinitiative.net/HighLevelMarketplace](http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.net/HighLevelMarketplace) to download the materials.

## Regional Secretariat

### Priorities and Funding Needs in 2012–2013

#### Foundational Needs

1. Support to host CTI-CFF working groups on coordination mechanisms, financial resources, monitoring and evaluation, seascapes, MPAs, fisheries, and climate change adaptation, which seek to convene at least once per year
2. Sustainable Financing Specialist to design options for a CTI Regional Trust Fund
3. Support for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat
4. Support for the dissemination and outreach program of CTI-CFF
5. Support to host the CTI-CFF 8th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (SOM8) and the 4th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (MM4) in Malaysia
6. Professional large-scale planner for the Regional Plan of Action
7. Evaluation of the 9 Regional Priority Actions of the CTI: support for

technical assistance and regional workshop

8. Technical assistance to the regional M&E Working Group in developing the CTI M&E system, including tools and process
9. Regional workshop to validate/enhance the M&E system and process framework and developing communication messages
10. Development and production of information-communication materials

#### Thematic Support Needs

##### For Seascapes

1. A regional planning consultant to translate the development plans of the Sulu–Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion into investment plans
2. Periodic monitoring and evaluation of the Sulu–Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion program: support to organize meetings and workshops
3. Capacity building for responding to transboundary issues, especially in the Sulu–Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion, to ensure that priority seascapes are sustainably managed

4. Establishment of the seascape approach in the Pacific region of the CTI through the Bismarck–Solomons Seascape
5. Expert assistance to identify and facilitate planning for joint programs in mobilizing investments and funds for the established seascapes in the Coral Triangle

#### **For the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)**

1. Technical assistance and meetings to (i) identify COASTFISH sites in each of the CT countries; (ii) map out current investment actions addressing food security, livelihoods, and poverty, and (iii) design a full investment program
2. Strengthening of institutional capacity in EAFM for CT6
3. Analysis of trade routes and markets for IUU fishing activities
4. Integration and institutionalization of regional policy to national legislation and local regulatory frameworks

#### **For Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

1. Regional exchange workshops among the CT6 to share progress on development of common criteria for MPA management effectiveness and to further refine regional and national roadmaps for improving MPA management effectiveness
2. National workshops to support the input of data/information to the CT Atlas and to build capacity for analysis toward the design of MPA networks utilizing existing regional spatial data—in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines in 2012; and in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste in 2013
3. Further refinement and adoption of the CT MPA system framework by the CT6 in collaboration with development partners
4. Monitoring and evaluation of selected resilient MPA networks in at least one site

in each country to assist with field implementation and refinement of integrated management systems at the regional level

#### **For Climate Change Adaptation**

1. Technical assistance to collate and prepare data on social and physical impacts of climate change and adaptation in the Coral Triangle, and to prepare a CT-wide baseline data depository and data sharing system
2. Randomized, long-term surveillance of the welfare impacts of climate change on households across the CT to provide information on what adaptation strategies and measures are being implemented by households and their impact on well-being
3. Technical assistance and workshops to identify the “blue carbon” potential in the CT6 and to plan for active engagement of the CTI in this area
4. Establishment of a high quality portfolio of climate change adaptation projects across all 6 CT countries that delivers on the goals of the CT Regional Early Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation

#### **For Threatened Species**

1. Workshops to complete the Red List assessments of 1,300 remaining bony fish species of the CT
2. Synthesis workshops to plan a comprehensive threatened species action plan for the CT

#### **Indonesia**

1. Knowledge management center
2. Strengthening the management capacity of marine protected areas
3. Sustainable financing for MPA management
4. Development of priority seascapes

## **Malaysia**

National Plan of Action and priority list for funding (booklet format)

## **Philippines**

1. Establishing a national coastal and marine database through an integrated information management system
2. Climate Change Adaptation And Mitigation – A Convergence Approach to National Greening Program for Mangrove Rehabilitation (2013–2016)
3. Sustaining Our Coasts – The National Integrated Coastal Management Program (2013–2016)
4. Designing Coastal and Marine-based Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)
5. CTI Philippines Endowment Fund

## **Solomon Islands**

1. National Community-based Data and Information Centre for Locally Marine Manage Areas, Marine Managed/Protected Areas, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, and Climate Change Adaptation through Information Integrated Management System
2. Community-based Resource Management and Coastal Habitats Inshore Fisheries Stock/Habitat Mapping

3. Helping Coastal Communities Adapt to the Impacts of Climate Change
4. Strengthening Community-based Marine Managed/Protected Areas
5. Community-based Resource Management Education and Curriculum Development Program

## **Timor-Leste**

1. Drafting of operational regulation and procedures of the Marine Development Fund
2. National legislation on
3. marine resource conservation
4. Oceanographic and offshore fisheries stock assessment
5. Coastal habitat mapping and biodiversity research
6. National fisheries household census
7. Marine protected area establishment
8. Strengthening of MPA management capacity
9. Rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystem in Ulmera Village, Liquica
10. Climate change information center in Ulmera Village, Liquica



## CTI National Focal Points

Each of the Coral Triangle countries is working toward implementing CTI National Plans of Action in their individual countries. Should you be interested in supporting national activities in one or more of these countries, details of priorities and support needs can be obtained from the CTI National Focal Points:

### **INDONESIA:**

**Dr. Suseno Sukoyono**

Executive Chair of the Interim Regional Secretariat

[suseno.sukoyono@gmail.com](mailto:suseno.sukoyono@gmail.com)

### **MALAYSIA:**

**Professor Nor Aieni Haji Mokhtar**

Under Secretary/Director

Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

[noraieni@mosti.gov.my](mailto:noraieni@mosti.gov.my)

### **PAPUA NEW GUINEA:**

**Ms. Kay Kumaras Kalim**

Undersecretary

Department of Environment & Conservation

[Kaykalim@gmail.com](mailto:Kaykalim@gmail.com)

### **PHILIPPINES:**

**Ms. Theresa Mundita S. Lim**

Director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

[munditalim@yahoo.com](mailto:munditalim@yahoo.com)

### **SOLOMON ISLANDS:**

**Ms. Rosalie Masu**

Deputy Director of Inshore Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

[rmasu@fisheries.gov.sb](mailto:rmasu@fisheries.gov.sb)

**Ms. Agnetha Vave-Karamui**

Senior Conservation Officer/CTI Coordinator

Ministry of Environment, Conservation, Disaster Management and Meteorology

[Agnetha.vavekaramui@gmail.com](mailto:Agnetha.vavekaramui@gmail.com)

### **TIMOR-LESTE:**

**Mr. Fidelino Sousa Marques**

CTI National Focal Point

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

[fismar79@yahoo.com](mailto:fismar79@yahoo.com)

# List of Participants

## **CT6 Environment/Fisheries/Marine Affairs/ Agriculture/Science Ministers**

### **Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, J.P.**

Chair, CTI Council of Ministers and Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia

### **Ramon Paje**

Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines

### **John Moffat Fugui**

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology Solomon Islands

### **Mariano ASSANAMI Sabino Lopes**

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Timor Leste

## **Finance Ministers**

### **Honorable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak**

Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Malaysia

### **Honorable Don Polye**

Minister for Finance and Treasury Department of Finance, Office of the Minister, Papua New Guinea

### **Honorable Rick Houenipwela**

Minister of Finance and Treasury Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Solomon Islands

### **Honorable Emilia Pires**

Minister of Finance Ministry of Finance, Timor Leste

## **Finance Ministry Representatives**

### **Honorable H.R. Agung Laksono**

Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare, Indonesia

### **Gil S. Beltran**

Undersecretary, Policy Development and Management Services Group, Department of Finance, Philippines

## **Regional Secretariat**

### **Dr. Suseno Sukoyono**

Executive Chair  
CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat

### **Dr. Darmawan**

Regional Coordinator  
CTI Interim Regional Secretariat

## **CT6 Senior Officials**

### **Dr. Ir. Gellwynn Yusuf**

Secretary General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

### **Prof. Dr. Nor Aieni Hj. Mokhtar**

Undersecretary/Director  
National Oceanography Directorate  
Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation  
Malaysia

### **Engr. Lourenco Borges Fontes**

Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Timor Leste

## **CTI National Coordinating Committee Representatives/CTI Focal**

### **Mr. Anang Noegroho**

Chair, CTI-CFF Coordination Mechanisms and Financial Resources Working Group  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

### **Ms. Tri Iswari Budiastuti**

Secretariat Coordinator  
Indonesia National Coordinating Committee  
CTI-CFF, Indonesia

**Ms. Lynette Laroya**

Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist  
Coastal and Marine Management Office  
Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources,  
Philippines

**Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim**

Director, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources,  
Philippines

**Ms. Agnetha Vave-Karamui**

Senior Conservation Officer  
Environment & Conservation Division  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Meteorology,  
Solomon Islands

**Mr. Aleixo Leonito Amaral**

SSF-NDFA Consultative Council Coordinator and CTI  
Focal Point, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
State Secretariat of Fisheries, National Directorate of  
Fisheries and Agriculture, Timor Leste

**Ms. Sri Atmini**

Secretary Directorate General of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries,  
Indonesia

**Mr. Eko Rudianto**

Director for Marine and Coastal, DG Marine  
Directorate General of Marine, Coastal and Small  
Islands Affairs, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries,  
Indonesia

**Ms. Sri Yanti Wibisana**

Director of Marine and Fisheries and  
Deputy of Environment and Natural Resources  
National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia

**Datuk Haji Ujang Sulani**

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry Of Agriculture And Fisheries Industry, Malaysia

**Mrs. Azizah Binti Yusof**

Senior Under Secretary/Senior Director  
Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation, Malaysia

**Mr. Rayner Datuk Stuel Galid**

Director, Department of Fisheries, Malaysia

**Mr. Rakam Sijim**

Special Officer to the Minister (Biotech)  
Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation, Malaysia

**Mr. Chitdrakantan Subramaniam**

National Oceanography Directorate  
Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation,  
Malaysia

**Ms. Jane Ritikos**

Press Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology &  
Innovation, Malaysia

**Ms. Jasmin Caparas**

Writer, Department of Environment and Natural  
Resources, Philippines

**Mr. Marjun Jumao-as**

Videographer, Department of Environment and Natural  
Resources, Philippines

**Mr. Jose Morales, Jr.**

Photographer, Department of Environment and Natural  
Resources, Philippines

**Mr. Noel Jessie Aquino**

Artist, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Philippines

**Mr. John Erick Avelino**

Communication and Information Officer  
Coastal and Marine Management Office, PAWB-DENR,  
Philippines

**Ms. Jhorace Engay**

Project Evaluation Officer II  
Coastal and Marine Management Office, PAWB -DENR,  
Philippines

**Ms. Nora Rombano**

Administrative Assistant  
Coastal and Marine Management Office, PAWB -DENR,  
Philippines

**Ms. Patrie Cianne Gelvezon**

Project Officer II, PAWB -DENR, Philippines

**Ms. Rosalie Masu**

Deputy Director of Inshore Fisheries  
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Solomon Islands

**Ms. Estelita Brondial**

Department of Interior and Local Government,  
Philippines

**Mr. Inocencio Castillo**

Department of Environment and Natural Resources,  
Philippines

**Ms. Belinda Castro**

Department of Interior and Local Government,  
Philippines

**Mr. Angelo Paolo Kalaw**

Department of Finance, Philippines

**Mr. Samuel Mamauag**

Consultant, Marine Science Institute,  
University of the Philippines

**Mr. Jacob Meimban**

Executive Director, Coastal and Marine Management Office, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines

**Mr. John Adrian Narag**

Department of Finance, Philippines

**Ms. Felisa Poniente**

Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Philippines

**Mr. Nheden Amiel Sarne**

National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines

**Mr. Rommel Martinez**

Chief, Plans and Programs Office  
League of Municipalities of the Philippines

**Asian Development Bank Representatives**

**Mr. Stephen Groff**

Vice President (Operations 2)

**Mr. Kunio Senga**

Director General, Southeast Asia Department

**Mr. James Nugent**

Deputy Director General, Southeast Asia Department

**Mr. Javed Mir**

Director, SEER  
Southeast Asia Department

**Mr. Robert Guild**

Director, PATE  
Pacific Department

**Ms. Marilou Drilon**

Senior Natural Resources Economist  
Pacific Department

**Ms. Marissa Garcia**

Project Coordinator, CTI Southeast Asia

**Mr. Graham Walter**

Project Coordinator, CT Pacific

**Mr. Simon Tiller**

Team Leader (CT Pacific RETA), ANZDEC, Australia

**Development Partners**

**Mr. Renerio Acosta**

Regional Environment Specialist (Coral Triangle Initiative), USAID/RDMA-Regional Environment Office

**Mr. Oliver Agoncillo**

Natural Resource Policy Advisor  
Office of Environment, Energy and Climate Change  
US Agency for International Development/Philippines

**Ms. Luz Teresa Baskiñas**

VP for Project Development, WWF Philippines

**Mr. Charles Bedford**

Regional Managing Director, Asia Pacific  
The Nature Conservancy

**Mr. Egide Cantin**

Director, Sustainable Finance Asia Pacific  
The Nature Conservancy

**Ms. Nicole Glineur**

Sr. Biodiversity Specialist  
Natural Resources Division, Global Environment Facility

**Ms. Rebecca Guieb**

Governance and Coastal Marine Management Specialist, Office of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, SAID – Philippines

**Mr. William Jatulan**

Senior Regional Coordinator,  
US CTI Support Program Integrator

**Mr. Maurice Knight**

Chief of Party, Coral Triangle Support Partnership -  
Regional Program Office

**Ms. Nives Mattich**

Deputy Chief of Party, US CTI Support Program Integrator

**Mr. Frazer McGilvray**

Senior Director, Conservation International

**Mr. Gerald Miles**

Director of External Affairs, Asia Pacific  
The Nature Conservancy

**Ms. Juniper Neill**

Deputy Office, Chief, USAID-RDMA-Regional  
Environment Office

**Ms. Mikell O'Meally**

DLI Environmental Officer  
USAID/RDMA-Regional Environment Office

**Ms. Cathy Plume**

Director, Coral Triangle Program  
Asia Pacific Islands and Oceans Program, WWF US

**Mr. William Raynor**

Interim Director, Southeast Asia and Pacific Islands  
The Nature Conservancy

**Ms. Chrisma Salao**

Program Leader, Coral Triangle Support Partnership-  
Philippines, WWF Philippines



**Ms. Jacqueline Thomas**

Deputy Leader, WWF Coral Triangle Program  
WWF South Pacific

**Ms. Elaine Ward**

Counsellor, AusAID-Manila Post, Australia

**Mr. Jordao Henrique**

Media Officer of the Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Timor Leste

**Engr. Ervina Soares Pinto**

Chief of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries, Timor Leste

**Other Development Partners**

**Mr. Taufiq Alimi**

Vice President, Indonesia, RARE

**Ms. Clarissa Arida**

Head, Programme Development and Implementation  
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

**Mr. James Berdach**

Conservation Biodiversity Specialist  
James T. Berdach Consulting Services

**Mr. Peter Bryant**

Senior Program Officer, Environment Focus Area  
Walton Family Foundation

**Dr. Annadel Cabanban**

Senior Fisheries Expert  
Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management  
Project

**Ms. Jay Carmela Ciriaco**

Finance Manager  
Foundation for the Philippine Environment

**Mr. Eric Coppenger**

Director, New Business Development, RARE

**Ms. Rili Djohani**

Executive Director, Coral Triangle Center

**Mr. Martin Dorschel**

Deputy Director, East Asia and Pacific  
KfW Development Bank

**Mr. Tony Elliott**

Head of Secretariat for Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (ICG/OTWS)

**Mr. Leif John Fosse**

Senior Adviser  
The Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative

**Mr. Rodrigo Fuentes**

Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

**Ms. Ma. Rheyda Hinlo**

Project Officer, Program Development Unit  
Foundation for the Philippine Environment

**Mr. Motoo Konishi**

Country Director, World Bank – Philippines

**Mr. Robert Kressirer**

Country Director – Philippines, GTZ

**Prof. Raphael Lotilla**

Executive Director, Partnerships in the Environmental  
Management for the Seas in East Asia

**Mr. Steve McCormick**

President, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

**Dr. Hans-Peter Muessig**

First Vice President, East Asia and Pacific  
KfW Development Bank

**Mr. Uwe Ohls**

Director General for Europe and Asia  
KfW Development Bank

**Maripaz Perez**

Regional Director for Asia/Philippine Country Manager  
Philippine Country Office, The WorldFish Center  
SEAMEO-SEARCA

**Mr. Vincent Rousset**

Manager, AFD - Resident mission in Indonesia

**Dr. Walter Salzer**

Program Director and Principal Advisor  
BMZ Environment and Rural Development Program,  
German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

**Mr. Ralf Sanftenberg**

Deputy Country Director of GIZ for Indonesia and Timor  
Leste, GIZ Indonesia

**Mr. Takahiro Sasaki**

Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation  
Agency – Philippines

**Mr. Patrick Schwab**

Marine and Terrestrial Protected Area Manager  
German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

**Other Guests**

**Dr. Rosalia Sciortino**

Director, Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia,  
International Development Research Centre

**Mr. Sam Sharpe**

Acting Director, Asia, Caribbean and Overseas Territories  
Division, Department for International Development

**Mr. Geronimo Silvestre**

Regional Project Manager, Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable  
Fisheries Management Project/UNOPS

**Ms. Regina Sison**

Finance and Administrative Associate, Sulu-Celebes Sea  
Sustainable Fisheries Management Project/UNOPS

**Dr. SungKwon Soh**

Acting Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and  
concurrent Project Manager, Western Pacific and East  
Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project

**Mr. Kazuyuki Tsurumi**

FAO Representative in the Philippines  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Mr. Josefo Tuyor**

Senior Operations Officer, Philippines Sustainable  
Development Unit, East Asia and the Pacific Region  
World Bank-Manila Country Office

**Mr. Godof Villapando, Jr.**

Acting Executive Director,  
Foundation for the Philippine Environment

**Mr. Steve Watkins**

Vice President, Asia, Pacific, Africa and Caribbean  
RARE

**Mr. Mark Woodward**

Sustainable Development Leader  
East Asia and Pacific Region  
World Bank-Manila Country Office

**Vera Horique**

Research Assistant, UP Marine Science Institute

**Deborah Cleland**

Research Assistant, UP Marine Science Institute

**Dr. Florante Magboo**

Vice-President, PRIMEX

**Mr. Robert Martin**

IT Administrator/Consultant, PRIMEX

**Mr. Guillermo Morales**

Executive Vice-President, PRIMEX

**Ms. Ma. Lourdes Sumilang**

Senior Vice-President, PRIMEX

**Regional Cooperation on Knowledge Management,  
Policy, and Institutional Support to the Coral Triangle  
Initiative (RETA 7307) Team**

**Dr. Porfirio Aliño**

Decision Support System Specialist

**Ms. Lourdes Margarita Caballero**

Documentation Specialist/Web Writer

**Mr. Reniel Cabral**

Data Encoder

**Ms. Christine Marie Casal**

Research Analyst, Knowledge Integrator, WorldFish  
Centre

**Ms. Anna Zaniza Dumlao**

Technical Services Assistant

**Mr. Rollan Geronimo**

Research Assistant

**Ms. Lydia Napitupulu**

Junior Economist

**Ms. Mary Love Joy Ortiz**

Project Assistant

**Mr. Leo Pura**

Project Coordinator

**Ms. Annabelle Trinidad**

Team Leader/Environmental Economist & PES Specialist

# Acknowledgments

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## **Organizing Committee**

Marilou Drilon, Senior Natural Resource Economist, ADB

Anang Noegroho, Chair, CTI Financial Resources Working Group

Marissa Garcia, Project Coordinator, ADB

Jay MacLean, Editor

## **ADB Regional Cooperation on Knowledge Management, Policy, and Institutional Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative**

Abbie Trinidad, PES Specialist and Team Leader

Lydia Napitupulu, FRWG Liaison Support and Junior Resource Economist

Egide Cantin, Finance Specialist

Lourdes Margarita Caballero, Web Writer and Documentation Specialist

## **PRIMEX Inc.**

Leo Pura, Project Coordinator

Mary Joy Love Ortiz, Project Assistant

Aiza Dumlao, Project Assistant

For more information, contact:

**The Regional Secretariat  
Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs,  
Fisheries and Food Security**

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
Directorate General of Marine,  
Coasts and Small Islands  
Mina Bahari Building II, 7th floor  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16  
Jakarta 10110  
Indonesia

Email: [secretariat@cti-secretariat.net](mailto:secretariat@cti-secretariat.net)  
+62 21 386 0623, 351 9070 ext 8737  
+62 21 386 0623

Outputs from the CTI High-Level Financial  
Roundtable and Marketplace are available.

**Coral Triangle Learning Resource Network**

<http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.net/>

[HighLevelNews](#)

Email: [km4cti@gmail.com](mailto:km4cti@gmail.com)

