



## Coral Triangle Day celebration calls for plastic resistance

**Manado, Indonesia June 2018** – On June 9 2018, marine conservation groups and organizations in Coral Triangle member countries come together to show their support to the #plasticresistance movement as a means to celebrate Coral Triangle Day.

This year's celebration focuses on increasing awareness on the impacts of plastic on marine environment and the destructive wastefulness of single use plastics such as straws, coffee cup lids, cotton buds and product packaging.

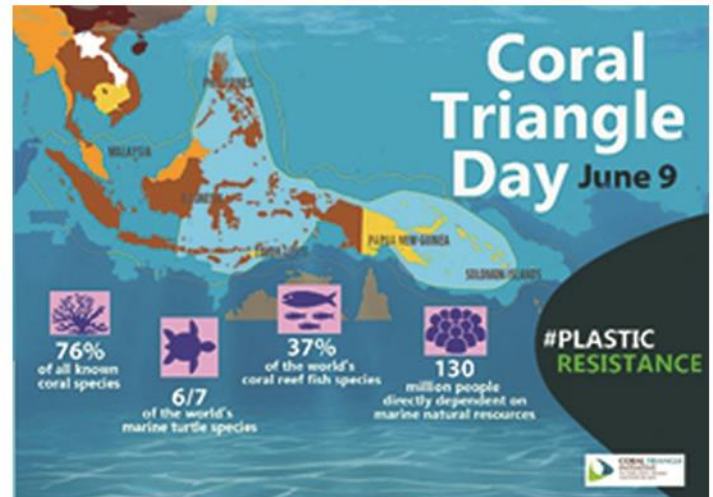
The No Trash Triangle Initiative, an Indonesia-based NGO advocating for the protection of the ocean from plastic pollution, conducted an education and cleanup activity among schoolchildren and community in Lihunu, Bangka Island. The children were informed about the impact of plastic pollution in the ocean and the ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle plastics. They also mobilized students and volunteers to undertake cleanup activities in the surrounding neighborhoods and beach of Malayang, South of Manado.

The group from the Sustainable Ecosystems Advanced Project conducted an "Ocean Story" Photo Story Contest that invites marine and photography enthusiasts to send their best ocean and coastal images with a short story as a way to celebrate the beauty of ocean and the importance of protecting it and its abundant resources.

The WWF together with CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and other marine conservation advocates run the #plasticresistance Instagram Photo Contest that encourages users to show how they are helping cut out single-use plastics by tagging their photo or video with #plasticresistance and #coraltriangle. The Instagram contest attracted a total of 447 entries and ran until June 22. More information about CT Day is available at [www.coraltriangleleday.org](http://www.coraltriangleleday.org).

Organizations in Papua New Guinea such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Papua New Guinea Conservation and Environment Protection Authority and the National Capital District Commission organized a beach cleanup activity in Elevala Village.

On the other hand, the National CTI-CFF Coordinating Committee launched its CT Day celebration with a myriad of activities such as beach cleanup, turtle tagging and release as well as awareness campaign on plastic pollution to celebrate CT Day in a coastal village. They are also planning to conduct school awareness roll-out program on plastic pollution up till November 2018. Also, to support advocacy on plastic



Photos from top to bottom: (1) 2018 Coral Triangle Day focuses on increasing awareness on the impacts of plastic on marine environment; (2) Students from UNSRAT Department of Fishery and Marine Science collect wastes on Malayang beach, Manado; and (3) Children from SD Gmim Lihunu Primary School display the plastics they have collected to show how they are taking part in the #plasticresistance movement. The activity was organized by No Trash Triangle Initiative. ©No Trash Triangle Initiative/2018

pollution, the Ministry of Environment and Conservation and Climate Change has banned import, manufacturing and selling/use of shopping bags in accordance to the Environment Act 2000.

In the Philippines, a coastal cleanup activity was conducted in the shore of Matabang, Toledo City, Cebu with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 7 at the helm. A film showing on "A Plastic Ocean," a documentary about the shocking impact of plastic on oceans and the marine animals was also held for student leaders from different universities in Metro Manila.

In Solomon Islands, the Ministries of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology led the celebration by collaborating with various development organizations and local government. The government led the cleanup activity along the Botanical Garden stream and Rove seafront in West Honiara. Other activities include cultural dances and shows, film showings, tree planting, school awareness and demonstration of waste compost and the likes.

Coral Triangle member countries along with other nations are taking serious actions to protect and conserve marine resources from plastic pollution. Based on a recent study, one million plastic bottles are bought every minute around the world and the number is expected to top half a trillion by 2021. Less than half of those bottles end up getting recycled. Some plastics get caught in corals and affect the health of reefs.

## What they say about Coral Triangle Day...

*"We should be involved in activities because the impact of plastic pollution is very dangerous especially for humans. We know that it takes a very long time for a piece of plastic to get rotten."*

- Jody Umboh, Headmaster of the state-secondary school in Lihunu

*"I want to get involved in this because I realize that losses due to plastic waste will impact the future, especially regarding the sustainability of our rivers and seas."*

- Tabita Sri Haryuni Suyoto, Master's Student of Aquatic Science Magister Program



Photo from top left to bottom right: (1) and (2) Students from the Aquatic Science Magister Program and lecturers from the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science of Sam Ratulangi University, representatives from the Environmental Agency of Manado City government and No Trash Triangle Initiative joined together to clean up the shores of Malalayang Beach in Manado City, North Sulawesi; (3) Children from a local primary and junior high school in Lihunu enjoyed learning about the impact of plastic pollution in marine life through a puppet show. The puppet show was organized by Suara Pulau and No Trash Triangle Initiative; and (4) No Trash Triangle Initiative and Blue Bay Divers's Resort donated waste bins to a local school in Lihunu, a coastal village on the island of Bangka, North Sulawesi. © No Trash Triangle Initiative/2018.



## Winners of 2018 Coral Triangle Day Photo Instagram Contest



s.hilbourne • Follow  
Maldives

s.hilbourne Oral hygiene is important but it doesn't have to come at a cost to the marine environment.

I ditched my normal toothbrush and switched to bamboo to help protect the world's oceans and marine life.

I pledge to keep switching and ditching to protect our planet.

#coraltriangle #plasticresistance @coraltriangle I nominate @joshasdell

Load more comments

savingmantas Omg this is amazing!

sustainable\_leo Ohhhh snap this pic is AWESOME!!!

sustainable leo @monussery @robomq

1,063 likes  
JUNE 7

Add a comment...



kidancagalli • Follow  
Bunaken, Sulawesi Utara, Indonesia

I've stopped using plastic straws, I always, always recycle, and I've made it a point to call Amazon a few times to complain about the amount of plastic they put in their boxes, which I recommend EVERYONE do!! Every time I go to the beach I bring a bag to pick up any trash I see, and even though it's so frustrating, I would rather take 10 minutes to clean up as much as I can than see one sea turtle with a plastic bag in its mouth.

#plasticresistance #coraltriangle

30 likes  
7 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...



lolo\_atp • Follow

lolo\_atp This is HOW and WHY I say NO to pointless plastics. After conducting a variety of solo-recreational beach cleanups and to combat with the EXPLOSIVE number of plastics polluting our world, I changed my entire career to Marine Science along with a plastic-free lifestyle. Broadening education is key!

#plasticresistance #coraltriangleday #leadbyexample #pointlessplastics #beachcleanup #catchoftheday #backwaskillin #implasticworstnightmare #comingforyouplastic #mastersinmarinescience #marinescience #allithinkabout

51 likes  
JUNE 7

Add a comment...

Organizers



Partners



## Learning exchange focuses on fisheries and seafood traceability system in the Coral Triangle (CT) Region

**Manado, Indonesia 29 June 2018** – Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a threat to the fish stocks, marine ecosystems and overall fisheries sustainability in the Coral Triangle Region. Insufficient fisheries management and a lack of transparency in the seafood supply chain bring about such threat.

Cognizant of these critical issues, the Regional Secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) partnered with the USAID Oceans to conduct a learning exchange among marine and fisheries specialists from CT member countries. The learning exchange focused on the application of catch documentation and traceability (CDT) system for fisheries and seafood products. The activity was held from 25-28 June 2018 in Manado and Bitung, Indonesia.

CDT is the practice of documenting key information about the harvest, processing, and transportation of a fisheries product from the point of catch to final destination – market – including the supply-chain. It serves as a market-based monitoring, control and surveillance tool in combating IUU fishing. USAID Oceans has been using CDT to electronically document and trace wild-caught seafood products in an effort to combat IUU

fishing, improve fisheries management and protect individuals in the fisheries sectors from human welfare abuses.

In the Learning Exchange, participants gained insights on the implementation of the USAID Oceans CDT schemes at one of their sites located in Manado-Bitung, Indonesia. They learned more about how CDT systems can be properly developed, implemented and integrated into their local fisheries development plan. This Learning Exchange is a modality to move forward towards the next SOACAP Workshop on CDT Design and Development.

The Learning Exchange is part of the many activities identified in the Strengthening Organizational and Administrative Capacity for Improved Fisheries Management (SOACAP IFM) partnership program between the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and USAID. The SOACAP-IFM is funded by USAID RDMA and DOI, and together with NOAA, the USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnerships (USAID Oceans) and SEAFDEC projects work towards strengthening regional cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, promote sustainable fisheries, and conserve marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle region.



Photo from top to bottom: (1) Marine and fisheries specialists from CT member countries focused on the discussion of application of catch documentation and traceability (CDT) system for fisheries and seafood products during the Learning Exchange on CDT held in Manado, Indonesia last June 25-29, 2018; (2) Participants of the Learning Exchange on CDTs during a field trip at Bitung Fishing Port; (3) and (4) Participants of the learning exchange on CDT visited the Smoked Skipjack Small Scale Business in Girian Atas Village in Bitung which is managed by the women community. The learning exchange also focused on gender equity issues particularly how women can be involved in the fishing process towards sustainable fisheries management. Credits: First photo: Medy Kesuma/CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat/2018; Second to fourth photo: Melinda Donnelly/The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans)/2018.

## 1st Threatened Species Working Group Regional Exchange pools experts to improve status of threatened marine species

**Manila, Philippines** – The Coral Triangle (CT) Region nestles a staggering number of corals (nearly 600 different species of reef-building corals) and nurtures six of world's seven marine turtle species and more than 2,000 species of reef fish. However, with a changing climate and different levels and methods of harvesting fish and other resources, marine species in the region continue to be threatened.

Focused on developing sustainable solutions to improve the status of threatened species the CT region nurtures, the 1st Threatened Species Working Group (TSWG) Regional Exchange brought together TSWG focal points, partners, and experts to further develop the terms of reference for the creation of a pool of experts on threatened species particularly on marine turtles, sharks, rays and marine mammals. The pool of experts is expected to provide technical guidance to the technical working group as it make every effort to achieve the targets of Goal 5 of the Regional Plan of Action.

Further, in the said activity, the participants drafted the monitoring and evaluation (ME) indicators. Apart from the ME indicators, a flow chart was also developed where participants also identified the capacity building needs of the countries.

The REX was also an opportunity for the countries to come together and identify management approaches and strategies as inputs to the region-wide conservation plans for marine turtles, marine mammals and sharks and rays.

During the session on Special Talks, Ms Lisa Paguntalan, Executive Director of the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. talked about seabirds providing insights about their characteristics, issues and threats, and the importance for monitoring and conservation.

The 1st TS Working Group Regional Exchange was hosted by the Philippine Government and organized by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat with technical and funding support from GIZ. The activity was held from April 24-26, 2018 in Manila, Philippines.



Photo from top to bottom: (1) Participants actively took part in reviewing and identifying marine protected areas during the breakout session; and (2) The 1st Threatened Species Working Group Regional Exchange gathered TSWG focal points, experts and resource persons from CT6 member countries. ©CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat/2018.

## Regional convergence meeting eyes transboundary coordination mechanism for Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

**Manado, Indonesia, June 2018** - The Sulu- Sulawesi Seascape spans 900,000 square kilometers of waters between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. It is known as the world's center of marine biodiversity nestling the highest number of coral, crustacean, and marine plant species and about 3,000 species of fish. Yet it faces major threats such as overfishing, destructive fishing practices, rapid population growth, unsustainable coastal development and pollution.

It is for this reason that member countries are coming together through the Regional Convergence Meeting with the end goal of establishing a transboundary coordination mechanisms for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape.

The activity will bring together the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape member countries to discuss regional concerns on implementation of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) and explore possible actions and coordination mechanisms for the Seascape.

Participants from member countries will also review and finalize the DRAFT Sulu-Sulawesi Seas sub-regional Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management plan.

In the convergence meeting, current initiatives in the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape will also be presented such as the Project on Resilient Reefs for the Coral Triangle and the EAFM Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape being undertaken by USAID Oceans.

To further aid the participants in identifying way forward, some scientific researches being conducted on Sulu-Sulawesi seascape will be presented. These are the research on whale shark satellite tagging by LAMAVE and WWF Indonesia as well as the research on fisheries and fish stock in the Coral Triangle being handled by SEAFDEC.

The meeting will be held on 3-6 July 2018 in Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines. The event is organized under the Seascapes and EAFM Working Groups with support from GIZ, USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership and ADB-Pacific in collaboration with CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat.

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat is very proud to have Professor Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Haji Mokhtar as its first Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) Ambassador. As an Ambassador, Dr. Nor Aieni will lead the promotion of the rights of women and girls, build their networks and capacity and ensure recognition of the important role they are playing in furthering CTI goals.

Dr. Nor Aieni is one of the women leaders who has excelled in and shown life-long passion for science and technology. She joined the Faculty of Science at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in 1980 as an assistant lecturer, and in 1982, she obtained a Master of Science degree in Ionisation Physics from then the University College of Swansea. Her interest in research led her to obtain a PhD in Physics-Laser Technology in 1992 at UTM.

In 2008, she was appointed Undersecretary and Director of the National Oceanography Directorate (NOD) at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia. During her term, she was one of the key figures in strategizing niche areas in research and development to promote efficient marine resource management. In 2015, she was appointed as the first female Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaysia Terengganu, Malaysia.

Her interests lie in leading research groups in coastal and island studies as well as on coastal erosion and coastal engineering solutions and marine renewable energy.

We are inspired by the achievements of Professor Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Haji Mokhtar, so we tracked her down at UMT's corporate office in Putrajaya, Malaysia to get to know her better.



### 1. What is a typical day like for you?

A typical day for me starts with the obligatory Suboh (Fajr) prayer and it is always a good time to reflect and plan for the day, juggling both official work and family matters. My main responsibility are towards my 10,000 students and 2,000 staff.

Once I am at the office, my team and I shall prioritise tasks both based on normal schedules and ad hoc activities that came up at short notice.

As the Vice Chancellor, my duties are not limited to giving directions on management and planning for top management teams, it also includes consultations with key members of the university to achieve the specific mandates to run the university.

In between the set tasks, my office consistently receives guests from local and overseas. Thus, not only I manage the running of the university, I am also responsible in managing the social and public relations part on behalf of the university. At all times and in every action that I do, I think about how to improve, and plan to accelerate UMT's success and performance. My latest aim is to emphasise work with more technological driven industries and with financial institutions to keep up with current developments.

In the evening, often, it will be filled with appointments, meeting social responsibilities by meeting with state officials, national government officials as well as academicians; and communities to bridge the communication gap and engage with stakeholders.

Importantly, I try to make time to mingle with the staff and students at university events to get input from them on how to improve our services and inspire the stakeholders.

In a nutshell, it is always a full day for me and my sleeping time are often past midnight.

### 2. When did you first realize that you wanted to work for the public sector?

Taking into consideration my education background in physics, which is a very technical subject matter, I wondered how I am supposed to apply my knowledge to the mass and teaching was and is still the best platform to transfer the knowledge that I have. So, I applied for the position of a lecturer at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and ever since then, I have been serving the public. My transfer to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) as the Under-Secretary equipped me with the leadership skills that are needed in my current position as the Vice Chancellor. I enjoy serving the people and when it rewards the public, I am satisfied and that keeps me going.

### 3. If not an academican or a civil servant, what would you have been?

I would be an entrepreneur. I love to sell stuff. I started to sell small trinkets during my primary school days. In fact, I am now "selling" knowledge and products from the university. I see myself as a promoter, I promote other people's (researchers) products and making it economically viable for the university.

## 4. What are three events that helped to shape your life?

I do not have specific events per se but it is more on my life experiences at different stages of my being. I was the middle child, the fifth out of ten children from a poor background. We are taught to be adaptable and adjust to hardship but at the same time to be compassionate and understanding of the family's hardship. Support from my parents and siblings is my main driver to excel in education. My first life changing experience was when I went to an elite all girls boarding school (Sekolah Tun Fatimah). I had to adjust to the different culture and background of the students that came from all walks of life. It was an alien environment, but it was a great experience where we were trained to value education.

As one of the top students, I was offered to study overseas in physics. I persevered despite of others dropping out of the course and manage to graduate with Physics Honour Award. I am the only international student in the Physics Society of America then. It proved that anything is possible if you set your goal.

Further down my career path, of course I am faced with challenges to manage both personal and professional issues, hardship within the university and at the same time trying to manage a family remotely. I always believed that God tests you with hardship to prepare you for the next challenge. He will reward you in ways that you cannot imagine.

Earlier I was meant to serve UMT but instead was transferred to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). It was a great detour as it prepared me with the leadership and managerial skills that are needed when I became the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. So the move was made easier due to my experience at MOSTI. I do not see myself as a woman when doing my job, I take it as a responsibility and I am entrusted with the position, not as a woman. Of course, as woman it is an advantage to be a leader as we tend to be more successful at multi-tasking but at the same time not lose sight of the main goals.

## 5. As a female leader, what has been the most significant barrier in your career?

My first challenge when I was the first female in my physics class. Eventually, I became the first female to be appointed into the Board of Director of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and eventually the first female to be the Vice Chancellor of UMT. There are times I faced the prejudice of being a woman. I overcame it with results. I perform, behaved professionally. Nobody can refute results.

## 6. Who inspires you and why?

It would be our newly elected and appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail. She experienced more trial and tribulations compared to me and became the first female Deputy Prime Minister. I thought if she can balance her life with so many hardships - politically, professionally while managing her family, why can't I? Political life is more unpredictable compared to academic life. I believe the best mentor for all women are the courage, struggles, and principles of other women.

## 7. What will be the biggest challenge for the generation of women behind you?

Currently, there are more female students than male in higher learning institutions. Engineering and accounting (among others) are coming out into the job market, the environment is very competitive. As female, the challenges are more daunting, to balance professional and family life. A mother's job is to nurture and that shall always be translated in their work ethics. As a professional woman, one tends to be meticulous, and meetings can be bored, but the job gets done.

One of the biggest challenges for women are that they should be given the opportunity to work from home, gender bias should not be an issue. Women always have good intentions; wired to solve problems and are happy to execute and implement whatever job scope that are given to them.

Specifically, for Malaysia, we already have the first female Deputy Prime Minister. We are exercising the 30% rate of positions to be filled in government and corporate fields. Currently there are four (4) female vice chancellors. There are good women representation in most management committee of universities. Current Minister of Education is supported by many women top officials. I foresee more female Secretary Generals in the near future.

Our hope that the Ministry of Women, Family and Community who is also the Deputy Prime Minister shall advocate for gender equality and more positions created and filled by talented and able women professionals and leaders.

## 8. What is your life credo?

Be truthful to yourself. Life taught me to appreciate life and be thankful to what has been given. Always give back. When you receive, give back as much as possible. You will be rewarded with a fulfilling life.

## The CTI-CFF RPOA Review begins

The review of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) which is the guiding framework for the CTI-CFF has begun. The Review outputs will serve as precursors to the revision of the RPOA in 2020.

Preparation for the review of the RPOA started last year following the decision of the 13th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in November 2017. An RPOA Review Committee was formed after a series of meetings and discussion by the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG). The Committee is chaired by the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) Chair with members from the Regional Secretariat and development partners i.e. the Australian Government, USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Dr. Lida Pet-Soede, leader of the Marine Unit of PT Hatfield Indonesia, has been appointed by the Committee to serve as the lead consultant while Dr. Sharifah Nora, Deputy Executive Director of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, is the assigned Review Manager.

The Review has three primary purposes:

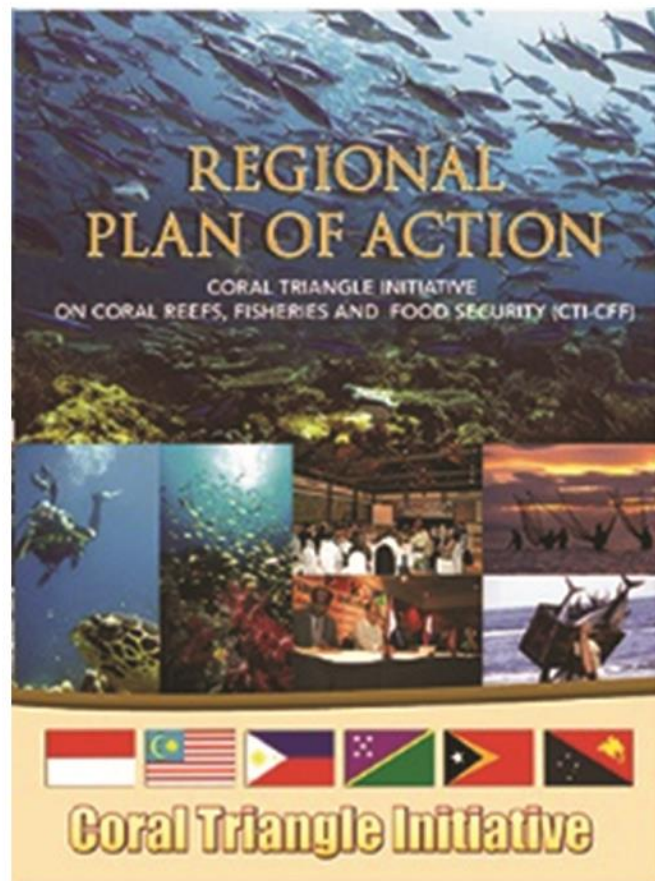
1. to provide an evidence-based assessment of the influence and effectiveness of the RPOA as the guiding framework for the CTI-CFF and its current utility as a framework for meeting the priorities and needs of the member governments, development partners and local stakeholders at the regional, sub-regional and national levels;
2. to promote institutional and operational improvements, learning and knowledge sharing and improved communication and partnerships between the CTI member countries, development partners, collaborators and other key stakeholders; and
3. to provide the CTI - CFF members and stakeholders with guidance on how the RPOA might be reshaped or revised in 2020 to build on the accomplishments of the past 9 years. Further, to take strategic advantage of any new regional and global drivers which have or are emerging and which might generate a positive influence and impact on the future achievement of CTI - CFF Goals.

By mid-June 2018, the Inception Report was completed and disseminated to NCCs with the Final Report to be submitted to the RPOA Review Committee in August 2018 for presentation and endorsement by the CTI-CFF Council of Senior Officers and approval of the Council of Ministers at the upcoming 14th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-14) and the Seventh Ministerial Meeting (MM-7) in Manila, Philippines scheduled for November 2018.

## Be part of GEF LME: Learn Regional Network!

The GEF LME Learn is improving global ecosystem-based governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts by generating knowledge, building capacity, harnessing public and private and north-to south learning partners and supporting south-to-south and north-to-south learning.

It aims to reach a variety of GEF marine and coastal stakeholders including project managers, international and local project staff, government officials, implementing agency staff, NGOs business community and others.



**GEF LME:LEARN REGIONAL NETWORKS**

**What is the GEF LME:LEARN Project?**  
A key element of improved ocean governance is mainstreaming cooperation and coordination between Large Marine Ecosystems, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) projects with overlapping themes and geographic areas, both for GEF projects and for non-GEF projects.

**GEF LME:LEARN aims to reach a variety of marine and coastal stakeholders including project managers, international and local project staff, government officials, implementing agency staff, non-governmental organizations, business community and others.**

**How will the Regional Networks Interact?**

**Face-to-face**  
Annual face-to-face meetings will be arranged in each region to gather the network to further enhance collaboration and partnership building among its members, but also to identify constraints and opportunities.

**Online**  
Each network has a dedicated platform on [iLearn](#). Members share their news, stories, activities and photos with their community, and have access to Lightning Chats for solution exchanges.

**What are the benefits of being part of a GEF LME:LEARN Regional Network?**

- Networking across the region
- Linkage to multiple projects and stakeholders
- Partnership building
- Twinning exchanges
- Inter-project Collaboration Opportunities
- Webinars
- Lightning chats
- Training

**Who should join?**

- GEF-funded marine, coastal and protected area projects
- Marine, coastal and protected area projects funded by other donors
- Regional bodies and Conventions
- National government line ministries
- Transboundary commissions
- Regional fisheries management organizations
- NGOs and Academia
- Private sector

**Three (early) Regional LME:LEARN project establishing?**

- Africa
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Asia and the Pacific

**To join a regional network or request more information, please contact:**  
Natalie Degger  
[natalie@iwlearn.org](mailto:natalie@iwlearn.org)

Being part of the GEF LME: Learn Regional Network gives you the opportunity to network across the region; link with multiple project and stakeholders; build partnership; undergo training; enjoy webinars, lightning chats and twinning exchanges; and have inter-project collaboration opportunities.

To join or know more about GEF LME: Learn Regional Network, contact Natalie Degger via email: [natalie@iwlearn.org](mailto:natalie@iwlearn.org).



## A fond farewell to CTI-CFF Executive Director Widi Agus Pratikto

The staff of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat extends its deep appreciation and warm goodbye to Dr. Widi Agus Pratikto, a leader who had steered the organization to new heights for the past three years.

Dr. Pratikto was instrumental in ensuring the smooth transition process from the Interim to the permanent Regional Secretariat and development of CTI-CFF activities and programs in pursuing the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA).

He also ensured the development of cooperation arrangements with other regional/international organizations as well as funding and development agencies such as Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Coral Triangle Center, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH/GIZ, and Pacific Regional Environment Program to ensure continuous implementation of the RPOA. During his term, partnership with 13 universities was established to promote marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, and food security through educational and professional accredited capacity building, research, and outreach activities within CT6 member countries under the CTI framework.

To facilitate and support Regional and National programs, Dr. Pratikto with support from the Secretariat helped ensure the establishment of practicable protocol, and standard proce-



dures for communication management and coordination mechanism structure within the CTI organization; such as CTI-COM, CTI-CSO, the office of the NCCs, TWGs, GWGs, Cross-cutting themes as well as CTI Partners and Collaborators.

Wishing him all the best and farewell to a wonderful leader who worked very hard to position the Regional Secretariat to where it is now.

## Thank you and farewell to CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Staff

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat bids farewell expresses its gratitude to four gentlemen who have immensely contributed to the efficient management and operation of the office. Toni, Ilham, Arezka and Windu have been a blessing to each and everyone in the office and we all wish them a great and meaningful journey ahead!



**TONI ARMAN**  
Human Resources and  
Office Management Manager



**ILHAM PERINTIS**  
Protocol and Convention  
Services Manager



**AREZKA ARI HANTYANTO**  
Legal and Agreement  
Assistant Manager



**WINDU MARGONO**  
IT Support Staff

## Welcome to CTI-CFF team!

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat warmly welcomes the new members of the team:



**Gregory Bennett** is the new Technical Program Senior Manager. Before joining the Regional Secretariat, he worked as the Western Province Hub Manager of World Fish in Solomon Islands for three years. His interests include coastal fisheries and natural resource management particularly resource governance, gender and conflicts associated to customary land and marine tenure system.



**Janet Rosalie Anne Polita** is the new Communication and Information Manager. Prior to her stint at the Secretariat, she served as a Communication for Development Officer of Development Officer in UNICEF Philippines for almost four years. She also worked as a Senior Science Research Specialist in one of the councils of the Philippines' Department of Science and Technology.