



ACB and Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. Foundation to promote business and biodiversity cooperation

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and HARI Foundation, Inc. (HFI) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on 30 March 2017 in Manila, Philippines to pursue joint initiatives that will strengthen business and biodiversity efforts in the ASEAN region.

“Joining hands with HARI Foundation is an important milestone for the Centre as the partnership signals the greater involvement of the business sector in global efforts to conserve biodiversity. This partnership will serve as a platform to generate awareness on the intricate link among biological resources, the economic well-being of industries, and the people who depend on these businesses for livelihood,” Atty. Roberto V. Oliva, Executive Director of ACB, said.

He added that promoting public awareness of biodiversity by partnering with key sectors such as business, the academe, and media is a key mandate of the ACB. “We are supporting the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, a worldwide campaign to engage the private sector in preserving the natural foundations of life for future generations. We welcome HFI as a keen supporter of this campaign,” Atty. Oliva explained.

“At Hyundai, we understand that it is in the best interest of companies to take into account the value of biodiversity in our systems.” Ms. Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, President of HFI and President and CEO of HARI, said. “This partnership is also in line with HFI’s vision to build a climate change-adaptive and resilient nation where every Filipino responsibly protects and preserves the environment,” she added.

Under the MOC, HFI will support the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes, a project designed to recognize outstanding individuals from the ASEAN Member States who have contributed significantly to biodiversity conservation and advocacy efforts in their respective countries and the region.

HFI will also help build a Biodiversity Knowledge Hall at the New ACB Headquarters. The hall will be a knowledge hub that will showcase best practices in biodiversity conservation covering various thematic areas. It will also serve as a venue for innovations forum, capacity building activities, and conferences on biodiversity conservation. In addition, HFI will support the Adopt-an-ASEAN Heritage Park Programme which seeks to protect areas of high

continued on page 2...

What's
Inside?



ACB
Participates
in HARI's
Innovation
Congress



ACB and KfW sign
second phase of
the ASEAN Small
Grants Programme

ACB participates in HARI's Innovation Congress

The first ever Innovation Congress of the Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) took place on 30 March 2017 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, Philippines. The Congress, more popularly called as iCON, was part of the activities that kicked-off the 2017 Manila International Auto Show and focused on the theme "Harnessing Accessible and Responsive Innovation".

iCON brought together four leaders from different organizations, to share their individual thoughts and experiences on how different sectors can adapt to the changing demands of consumers and other market players.

Following messages from HARI Foundation, Inc. (HFI) President, HARI President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ms. Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo and from Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology Mr. Fortunato de la Peña, CEO of Dentsu Aegis Network Philippines Mr. Donald Lim was the first of the invited speakers for the forum to come onstage. Centering on Future-Proofing Innovation, Mr. Lim shared what he had learned about innovating to maintain the lead in the market through his years as a student, as an executive in a television network, as a professor, and as a father. "You cannot teach innovation. It is all a mindset, more than anything", he said.

"The biggest motivator for Filipinos to delegate to technology is to be able to learn new things or gain intelligence.", shared Ms. Pamela Garcia, Executive Strategic Planning Director of J. Walter Thompson Philippines, based on a recent case study that her company has conducted. Speaking about points on Unlocking Keys to Innovation Excellence, Ms. Garcia shared a number of videos from brands that her team has worked with, including a video showcasing a type of ink that converts home printers to Braille printers, and a video for a chocolate brand who innovated on public benches that led to increase in product sales.

Advancing Innovation for Business and Biodiversity in the ASEAN was the topic of Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Atty. Roberto Oliva during the forum. After orienting the audience



on the ASEAN, and on biodiversity and how it affects man's daily life, he proceeded to explain how business and biodiversity are connected, and how businesses can impact biodiversity conservation.

"Corporate Social Responsibility is not only about dole outs and giving gifts; but rather about taking on a social issue so that a society can be better and be more sustainable", Atty. Oliva emphasized.

Brand Strategy Team Head from Hyundai Motor Company Mr. Kuen-Young Lee was the last speaker for the forum. Apart from sharing an overview of his career in the business and challenges the company has

encountered, Mr. Lee spoke about Disruptive Transformation in the Automotive Industry: The Hyundai Story. A video showing how, in the future, Hyundai's technology can save lives on the road was featured, to illustrate how Hyundai is continuously applying innovation to maintain their status as one of the leading motor companies.

Immediately after the very first iCON drew to a close, Ms. Perez-Agudo and Atty. Oliva, on behalf of HFI and ACB respectively, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to pursue joint initiatives that will strengthen business and biodiversity efforts within the ASEAN region.

ACB and Hyundai...continued from page 1

conservation importance which preserve a complete spectrum of representative ecosystems in the ASEAN region.

In the past years, HFI has implemented several environment-related initiatives, such as the Hyundai Center for Green Innovation (HCGI) in Angat, Bulacan in the Philippines. It is envisioned to be a hub for ideas, talents, and resources committed to growing a sustainable green economy and community for the Filipino. Currently, HFI is working with the Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) for the project Hyundai New Thinkers Circuit (HNTC). This scholarship program that covers

courses like Marine Science and Biochemistry, accepts outstanding high school students who aim to become future climate science experts.

"Partnering with like-minded organizations like HFI brings us a step closer toward achieving target 1 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which states that by 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably," Atty. Oliva said.

ACB sees the partnership as the start of its active collaboration with the private sector in biodiversity conservation.

ACB represents the Asia-Pacific Region in first Committee Meeting for Key Biodiversity Areas

After its establishment in September 2016, the first Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Committee Meeting happened on 31 January to 02 February 2017 in Washington DC. Hosted by the World Conservation Society, the event was attended by members and regional representatives of the KBA Committee, as well as observers. The participants discussed a number of organizational processes that needed to be set in order, such as: a) the process for developing the KBA Strategic Plan; b) the functions and process for recruiting the Head of Secretariat; c) fund raising; d) the KBA database and website; and e) guiding principles and recommendations for responsible business operations in and around KBAs.

Important agreements reached during the meeting were that a high-

ranking individual will be recruited as Head of the KBA Secretariat; funds will be raised to support this position; and KBA website content, related databases, and communication materials will be further advanced to ensure that the KBA process will reach a wider audience.

The KBA Partnership was founded and currently composed of the following: BirdLife International, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Amphibian Survival Alliance, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Global Environment Facility, Global Wildlife Conservation, NatureServe, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, World Wildlife Fund, and Wildlife Conservation Society.

Dr. Sheila G. Vergara, Director of the Biodiversity Information Management Unit of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) represented the Asia-Pacific Region to the KBA Community.



Director of the Biodiversity and Information Management Unit of the ACB Dr. Sheila Vergara (3rd from left) along with the other KBA committee members during the first meeting held in Washington DC.

ESABII and ACB collaborate to increase knowledge on fungi



Experts from ESABII, LIPI, and ACB trained participants from various ASEAN Member States on the study and classification of large fungi

Identifying and naming of fungi has led to the collaboration of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII) to gather participants from the ASEAN Member States (AMS) for a workshop held in Bogor, Indonesia on 01 to 03 March 2017.

Entitled “The ESABII – ACB Capacity Building Workshop on Taxonomy and Basic Mycology of Large Fungi”, most of the three-day event was held at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). The capacity-building workshop aimed to address the existing lack of information on taxonomy of large fungi and to encourage nationals of the AMS to study this field, among others.

Dr. Edwino Fernando of the University of the Philippines College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB CFNR) served as the facilitator of the workshop, which also had the following speakers: Director for Biodiversity Conservation of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia Mr. Bambang Dahono Adji; Programme Specialist for Conservation Policy and Research of ACB Dr. Filiberto Pollisco Jr.; Dr. Tsuyoshi Hosoya from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF); Dr. Tsutomu Hattori from Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute; and Dr. Kentaro Hosaka from the National Museum of Nature and Science. The Director for Herbarium Bogoriense, Botany Division, Research Center for Biology

of LIPI Dr. Joeni S. Rahajoe also served as one of the resource persons, along with Prof. Mien A. Rifai and Dr. Dedy Darnaedi who are also from Herbarium Bogoriense of LIPI.

After hearing from the resource speakers on taxonomy, mycology, and methods on collecting and preserving specimens, the workshop participants proceeded to the Bogor Botanical Garden for the field exercise on locating and collecting large fungi, which were then taken back to the laboratory for processing. The findings of the participants on the collected specimens were presented to the resource persons before the event drew to a close.

ASEAN to recognize defenders of biodiversity

In February 2017, a critically endangered orangutan was shot, chopped to pieces, and eaten by palm oil plantation workers in Indonesia's Kapuas Hulu district. A few years back, a farmer from Impasug-ong, Bukidnon shot and killed a Philippine eagle known as Kagsabua. He made tinola out of one of the world's largest, tallest, and rarest eagles. Kagsabua was one of the remaining 800 Philippine eagles when he was shot in 2008.

These are just some of many reported stories on crimes against biodiversity committed by people who claim ignorance of the endangered species and the law.

"It is unfortunate that despite local, regional, and global efforts to communicate the importance of endangered species and biodiversity in general, there remains a huge communication gap between biodiversity experts and the general public," said Atty. Roberto V. Oliva, Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).

Awareness rising, but more work needs to be done

What is biodiversity? Only a few can accurately define it; fewer can explain its significance to human survival. The immense communication gap between the biodiversity conservation community and the public is a major factor hampering efforts to achieve biodiversity conservation goals in the ASEAN region and elsewhere in the world.

In Southeast Asia, a biodiversity awareness survey conducted by ACB among media practitioners shows that while reporters and editors have heard of biodiversity, they see the need to understand it better so they can report on the topic. They confirm that there is limited reportage on biodiversity, as is not seen as a priority topic.

Achieving Aichi Target 1

An assessment conducted by ACB in 2016 of the ASEAN Member States' (AMS) progress vis-à-vis the Aichi Targets shows that in terms of Target 1, at least half of the 10 countries have reported that they have



mobilized necessary actions towards the achievement of this target. While the assessment points to noteworthy progress, there are actions that must be taken to bridge the communication gap.

One important step identified by the Centre to bridge the gap is the selection of heroes or champions to represent the conservation sector.

Wanted: Defenders of biodiversity

To boost awareness for biodiversity conservation, ASEAN will recognize 10 ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes during the 50th anniversary of ASEAN on 08 August 2017. The awards ceremony will be held in Manila, Philippines.

The ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes is designed to highlight the outstanding contributions of 10 individuals from the AMS in the area of biodiversity conservation and advocacy.

"The ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes are individuals that people can identify with and will inspire others to take action for biodiversity in their own spheres of influence. As ASEAN Member States continue to work on national development and sustainability goals and collaborate on regional initiatives to conserve ASEAN's shared natural wealth, ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes play the crucial role of spreading awareness for the urgent need to conserve biodiversity," said Secretary-General of ASEAN Le Luong Minh.

The awards is supported by the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the European Union (EU) through Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas

in ASEAN (BCAMP) project, and HARI Foundation, Inc. (HFI). The ACB serves as awards secretariat.

"The Philippine Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), supports the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes," DFA-Office of ASEAN Affairs Assistant Secretary Hellen B. De La Vega, said. "Biodiversity protection and conservation is essential in sustainable economic development, a healthy environment, and food security in the region." Assistant Secretary De La Vega also explained that the Biodiversity Heroes from all 10 AMS will serve as role models for ASEAN peoples to work together in the conservation and sustainable management of ASEAN's biological resources to contribute to the region's improved quality of life.

In the business sector, a keen supporter of the Heroes is HFI, the corporate social responsibility arm of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI). "The ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes is our pioneering platform for spreading the word about the importance of preserving and sustaining the wealth of biodiversity in our region. By recognizing these biodiversity warriors, we inspire more people to join hands and spark a regional movement that will involve the business sector and various non-governmental bodies to intensify the clamor and facilitate shifts in governance and business strategies to align ASEAN with the global movement to save our planet. said Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, President of HFI and President and CEO of HARI.

Each ASEAN Biodiversity Hero shall receive a cash prize worth USD 5,000, a special heroes medal, and a certificate. They will also receive special prizes from HARI. The heroes from the 10 AMS will be also be known as the faces of biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region.

The ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes is one of the ASEAN region's contributions to the celebration of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 – an excellent opportunity to increase public awareness of the values of biodiversity and promote actions at the national, regional and local levels to conserve and sustainably manage the world's rich natural heritage.

ACB and KfW sign second phase of the ASEAN Small Grants Programme

To continue promoting biodiversity protection while providing alternative livelihood opportunities to the local communities of ASEAN Heritage Parks, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and KfW Development Bank, signed the second phase of the ACB-KfW Small Grants Programme (SGP) funded by the German Government at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Manila, Philippines.

The Financing and Separate Agreements, instruments that detail the arrangement of fund transfer, project design and implementation of the SGP, were signed by the ACB Executive Director Roberto V. Oliva and KfW East Asia and Pacific Director Dr. Christine Heimbürger.

Also present during the signing were Mr. Michael Hasper, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Manila, Mr. Reinhold Strauss, Regional Manager of KfW for East Asia and Pacific; Ms. Clarissa Arida, Director of the ACB Programme Development and Implementation; and Ms. Corazon de Jesus Jr., Coordinator of the SGP Project.

“The overall objective of the SGP is the strengthening of biodiversity protection and management of natural resources in line with the basic needs of the local population in the ASEAN region by strengthening the ACB in its role to promote biodiversity protection. The first phase, which started in 2014, is currently being implemented in selected ASEAN Heritage Parks in Myanmar and Indonesia,” said Dr. Heimbürger.

“We are always thankful for the support of the German Government through KfW to the ASEAN Region and to the conservation of its rich biodiversity. The SGP provides an

opportunity to not only highlight the conservation efforts in the AHPs, but also the importance of collaborative management in these parks, bringing in the participation and involvement of other stakeholders,” said Executive Director Oliva.

Other than conservation, the SGP also emphasizes livelihood interventions for communities living in adjacent areas of AHPs. These interventions are aimed at minimizing the dependence of these communities on the resources within the protected areas, at the same time involving them in conservation activities.



Countries in partnership for migratory birds hold meeting in Singapore

More than 100 delegates from multiple partner countries gathered for The Ninth Meeting of Partners of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP MOP9), held on 11–15 January 2017 in Singapore.

Atty. Roberto Oliva, Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), and Ms. Clarissa Arida, Director of ACB’s Programme Development and Implementation Unit represented the Centre in the said event. ACB, which became the

33rd member of the EAAFP when it joined the partnership in 2014 to support in the conservation of habitats and ecosystems vital to migratory bird species in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway, presented its Work Plan as a partner, as well as its report concerning the proposed Southeast Asia Network of EAAFP.

During the Meeting, Hanns Seidel Foundation was presented as a new partner, and certificates were issued to the 13 New Flyways, including two

new sites nominated by Viet Nam, and one nominated by the Philippines.

Myanmar gave a country report wherein it advised of two new flyway sites: Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Meinhmala Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, the country declared 2016 as special year for the sandpiper.

Ms. Wendy Yap of the National Parks Board of Singapore presented on the existing proposal “Improving Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Resilience in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway through Better Informed Wetland Site Management”, its key activities, and its objectives, such as establishing the network and improving management capacities.

The EAAFP MOP9 was chaired by China; the new EAAFP Chair, USA, was elected during the Meeting.





First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines Mr. Koji Otani (second from the right), with (left to right) Project Development Officer Ms. Claudia Binondo, Programme Specialist Dr. Filiberto Pollisco Jr., Programme Development and Implementation (PDI) Unit Director Ms. Clarissa Arida, and Programme Officer Ms. Rhia Galsim, met on 03 February 2017 to discuss project concepts and future collaborations between ACB and Japan.

National Focal Points of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) of selected countries in South and Southeast Asia held a tandem workshop on mutually supportive implementation of the two agreements at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines on 27-30 March 2017. The participants also visited the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity's (ACB) Office during the last day of the workshop.



The Official Quarterly Newsletter of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Editorial Consultants

Roberto V. Oliva, Clarissa C. Arida, Sheila G. Vergara, Genalyn A. Bagon-Soriano

Editorial Board

Editors: Vanessa V. Carriedo and Pamela Q. Reblora **Writers:** Pamela Q. Reblora, Leslie Ann J. Castillo, Dion Zarina D. Tuazon **Layout and Design:** Reigna Belle C. Aguja **Photography:** Angela Rose Crissie A. Metin, Patricia Marie C. Tanyag, Froi Rivera, Dion Zarina D. Tuazon, Monina Ann P. Saguin **Production:** Pauline Kristy Erasga

For more information, log on to www.aseanbiodiversity.org or chm.aseanbiodiversity.org

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
3/F ERDB Building, Forestry Campus
College, Laguna 4031, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: +6349 536-3989/ +632 584-4210
Fax: +6349 536-2865

 ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

 @ASEANBiodiv

For story contributions, please contact the ACBeats editorial team at cpa@aseanbiodiversity.org.



Both men and women of ACB participated in “Walk for a Cause” for cancer prevention in women. With the theme “We Make Change Work For Women”, the activity was organized by the local government of Los Baños, Laguna in line with the International Women’s Month Celebration.



Representatives from ACB, the Kepulauan Seribu National Park, and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Indonesia conducted a Field Evaluation Mission at the Kepulauan Seribu National Park in Indonesia on 06 to 08 February 2017, for the proposal to have the said protected area as an ASEAN Heritage Park.

Ms. Lilibeth Cabebe, Clearing-House Mechanism and Knowledge Management Officer of the Biodiversity Information Management (BIM) Unit of the ACB served as one of the resource persons during the International Curator Lecture and Workshop on Emerging Technologies and Management of Microbial Resources held at the Dusit Thani Bangkok Hotel and at the BIOTEC Building, Thailand Science Park on 07 to 09 March 2017.



Team Leader for the project “Biodiversity-based products (BBP) as an economic source for the improvement of livelihoods and biodiversity protection” Dr. Martin Falke during the kick-off activity on 01 March 2017 in Siem Reap City, Cambodia. One of the main objectives of the activity was to identify and open opportunities for collaboration among project partners and concerned stakeholders.



Philippine AHP Managers and representatives, key officials and staff of DENR, BMB, and ACB attended the Fourth Meeting cum Workshop on Philippine AHPs in Cagayan de Oro City.

Philippine ASEAN Heritage Park officials meet towards improvements in conservation programs

Protected Area Superintendents and representatives of the eight ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs) in the Philippines, key officials and staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), and representatives from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) gathered in Cagayan de Oro City for the Fourth Meeting cum Workshop on Philippine ASEAN Heritage Parks held on 22 and 23 March 2017.

Held at the Chali Beach Resort and Conference Center, the Meeting and Workshop aimed to identify gaps and needs in the implementation of the AHP Programme across the Philippine AHPs and promote lessons learned and best practices in the management of AHPs in the country, among others.

Assistant Regional Director for Management Services for DENR Region 10 Paquito Melicor Jr. and Division Chief for Caves, Wetlands and Other Ecosystems Division Meriden Maranan opened the program by delivering welcome messages on behalf of OIC-Regional Director for

DENR Region 10 Edwin Andot, and DENR-BMB Director Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim, respectively.

Executive Director of ACB Roberto Oliva was also present, and delivered updates and relevant activities of ACB's AHP Programme.

Representatives for each of the eight Philippine AHPs delivered presentations showcasing the key features of their AHPs, accomplishments for the previous year, completed activities, on-going projects and lessons learned. After each presentation, the floor was opened to other participants who wished to comment or raise questions to the presenter.

The delegation of each AHP was given time to discuss and finalize on the prioritized activities, in accordance with the AHP Regional Action Plan 2016 – 2020, which embodies seven goals: (1) Strengthen national and regional systems of AHP management to ensure integration into global network and contribution to globally agreed goals; (2) Strengthen national and regional networks

and collaboration; (3) Enhance capacity of AHP managers and staff and other stakeholders to ensure effective management of AHPs; (4) Ensure that scientific knowledge and technologies are improved, widely shared, transferred and applied for the effective management of the AHPs; (5) Promote equity and benefit sharing; (6) Ensure sufficient financial resources and promote sustainable financing; and (7) Strengthen communication and promotion strategies.

Recommendations generated during the workshop included for each AHP to strengthen resource mobilization activities, promote equity and benefit-sharing, and for BMB to do inventory of protected area-related positions in the field offices to come up with recommendations to DENR Secretary.

As a culminating activity, participants who accepted the invitation for a field visit to Mounts Timpoong-Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument were taken to Camiguin and toured around the said AHP and other popular tourist destinations.

International delegates discuss disaster risk reduction during World Wetlands Day

With the theme "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction", this year's commemoration of the World Wetlands Day was held in Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary in Yangon, Myanmar. This yearly event, which was first celebrated in 1997, is held to mark the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 02 February 1971 that took place in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

Among the key persons who

delivered messages during the event were H.E. U Win Thein, Chief Minister of Bago Regional Government; U Khin Maung Yi, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) of Myanmar; and Mr. I-twellyn Young, Senior Adviser Asia-Oceania, RAMSAR.

Participants for this year's event were toured around the Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary to see

the migratory birds in the area, and were involved in a workshop on the development of management plans for protected areas.

During the event, a video documentary prepared by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) was shown, featuring the Meinmahala Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary as an ASEAN Heritage Park.