
Report to President of NUS (Oct – Dec 2002)

1. New Initiatives

A. ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC) Philippines

ARCBC invited APCEL to assist in developing its training programmes on applied biodiversity conservation, which are expected to go on-stream in 2003. APCEL has submitted its "Expressions of Interest" in response to ARCBC's letter.

- Start date – to be determined
- Target deliverables - to be determined
- Deliveries to date - to be determined

B. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

UNITAR has invited APCEL to assist in training the "UNITAR/ KIWC (Kushiro International Wetlands Centre) Training for the Asia- Pacific Region on the Implementation of Multilateral Agreements Related to Biological Diversity" course. The course will be held sometime in March 2003 in Kushiro, Japan

- Start date - March 2003 (details to be determined)
- Target deliveries - to be determined.
- Deliveries to date - on going - to be finalised.

C. International Conference on Intellectual Property Rights and Biological Resources

APCEL is organising an international conference on Intellectual Property Rights and Biological Resources, targeting at over 100 participants (local and international), in collaboration with the Singapore Academy of Law, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and other international organisations. The conference will be held in Singapore from 3 - 5 Dec 2003. Asst Prof Burton Ong is heading the Planning Committee.

- Start date - preparation from October 2002
- Target deliverables – process of drafting programme, etc.
- Deliverables to date - (not applicable)

D. SJICL Special December Issue 2002

APCEL is collaborating with the Law Faculty's *Singapore Journal of International and Comparative Law* to bring out a Special Issue on "Ten Years After Rio: Implementing Sustainable Development" for Dec 2002. Koh Kheng Lian is Guest Editor and Tan Khee Jin, the editor of this Special Issue. The Chief Editor of SJICL is Thio Li-ann.

Ambassador Tommy Koh will write the Forward.

- Start date - Jan 2002.
- Target deliverables - the closing date for articles to be submitted is 6 Dec 2002.
- Deliverables to date - A number of articles have been received. It is expected that the rest of the articles will be received soon.

E. Capacity Training for Law Professors and Legal Practitioners in the Philippines

APCEL will be assisting in the training of some law professors in the Philippines under the 'Singapore Mini Course' (ie, modelled on the IUCN/APCEL/UNEP 'Training the Trainers Course' 1997 -1998, held in Singapore).

- Start Date - March 2003.
- Target deliverables – to be determined.
- Deliveries to date - to be determined.

2. Ongoing Projects

A. APCEL/MFA Urban & Industrial Environmental Management Seminar -Cum Field Trips, 26 - 29 November 2002

This is the tenth on- going training course that APCEL has organised for the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The participants for this particular course are from Africa (Kenya, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) Bahrain, China, Ecuador, Fuji Islands, India, Indonesia, Laos, Lesotho, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

The resource persons for this seminar included APCEL members: Assoc Profs Lye Lin Heng, Bob Beckman, LR Penna, Alan Tan Khee Jin and Asst Prof Victor Ramraj. Prof Koh Kheng Lian was the Director of the Seminar.

- Start date: 25-29 November 2002
- Target deliveries: see programme attached.
- Deliverables to date: see programme attached.

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3. Milestones

A. IUCN/IGES/ADB Symposium: The 'Second Generation' of Environmental Laws in Asia , 11 November 2002, Tokyo

Professor Koh Kheng Lian presented two papers: (1) "The 'First Generation' of Environmental Laws in Asia", and (2) "Regional Biodiversity Collaboration – The ASEAN Approach". She also assisted in organising the symposium and launch of the ADB Book (*Capacity Building for Environmental Law in the Asian and Pacific Region: Approaches and Resource* (ADB : 2002) , together with the other two editors, Assoc Prof Donna Craig and Professor N A Robinson) at the symposium. Assoc Prof Lye Lin Heng chaired one of the sessions.

The proceedings of the symposium will be published by IUCN. Assoc Prof Lye Lin Heng is the editor. See attached programme.

B. Memorandum of Understanding

On 8 October 2002, APCEL signed a three-party Memorandum of Understanding - the parties are Macquarie University's Centre for Environmental Law; The Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law of the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore; and World Wildlife Fund for Nature - India Centre for Environmental Law, see attached. Macquarie University will be one of the sponsors for APCEL's conference on Intellectual Property Rights on Biological Resources, see above.

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4. Assessment

Since its establishment in 1996 APCEL has steadily gained its reputation as a centre of excellence in capacity building. Its success has inspired other regional centres, such as the Arab Centre for Environmental Law, to follow its model.

Its members have participated in numerous seminars, workshops and conferences, at the local, regional and international levels. They have also published many papers on environmental law. It may be mentioned that success has also brought with it its weaknesses. Not being a 'full-fledged' centre with full

- time staff (its members are academic staff of the Law Faculty), it has had to turn down a number of projects which are important and would have brought APCEL to greater heights of achievement.

Koh Kheng Lian
Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law
4 December 2002