

# Abstract

## SESSION 1:

A Decade of Partnerships in Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Synergies and Achievements

## WORKSHOP 1.3:

Coastal and Ocean Governance in the Sea of East Asia: from Nation to Region

## The Win-Win Partnership: Privately Managed Sugud Islands Marine Conservation Area

**Chung Fung Chen**

Lead Marine Biologist  
Reef Guardian Sdn Bhd  
Malaysia



Many marine protected areas (MPAs) have failed because of a lack of funding and effective enforcement for conservation. The private company, Reef Guardian Sdn Bhd was appointed by the State Government of Sabah, Malaysia, to manage the Sugud Islands Marine Conservation Area (SIMCA) since 2004. Conservation fees of RM25 (Ringgit Malaysia) per person per night is charged to all visitors to Lankayan Island Dive Resort within the SIMCA have generated a sustainable source of financing to meet most Reef Guardian's operational and management costs. The availability of adequate funds has enabled Reef Guardian to invest in capacity building and surveillance technology such as a land-based radar tracking system to monitor fishing activities within SIMCA. Through broader collaboration with Sabah Wildlife Department, Reef Guardian team members were trained and certified as Honorary Wildlife Warden to enforce the Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997 within SIMCA. Reef Guardian enforcement team has reduced illegal fishing and sea turtle eggs poaching within the conservation area for the past 11 years. Partnership with the resort operator in sustainable development practices, sewage water treatment, strict recreational rules and regulation has reduces environmental impacts from daily resort operation and increases environmental awareness to tourist and public. Private investment and management in MPAs offers an alternative approach that can address the problems of sustainable funding and enforcement that so often hamper MPAs success.



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015  
16-21 November 2015 • Danang, Vietnam

**Global Targets**  
**Local Benefits**

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

### **About Chung Fung Chen:**

Chung Fung Chen, or Achier Chung is probably the first non-government appointed marine biologist that manage and run the only privately managed Sugud Islands Marine Conservation Area (SIMCA) in Sabah, Malaysia. She earned her Master of Science in Universiti Sarawak Malaysia in 2001, and recently received her PhD in marine fisheries in Universiti Sabah Malaysia. Achier Chung joined Reef Guardian in 2004, where she works as a Lead Marine Biologist to lead, establish, manage and run marine research work, conservation area enforcement operation, fundraising and education works to stakeholders and the public. For the past 11 years, she engaged and established collaboration between private sector, government agencies, NGOs, tourist and tour operators in maintaining the conservation objectives of SIMCA. Her research and work interests are in coral trout spawning aggregation; marine protected area benefit, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.