

Abstract

SESSION 3:

From Vision to Reality: Aligning the Global Agenda with Local Benefits

WORKSHOP 3.3:

Blue Economy Development: Where are we now? Where are we headed?



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Global Targets Local Benefits

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

Ocean Economy and Ocean Health in Thailand

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Over the years, like many countries in Southeast Asia, there has been a steady decline in both area coverage and quality of Thailand's coastal and marine resources. In the past, one of the major causes for the drastic reduction in mangroves has been the market opportunities from shrimp farming; other pressures now include the expansion of urbanization, coastal development and problems of coastal erosion. One of the major threats to the ecosystems and aquatic species has been the declining water quality, which result from both land-based and sea-based activities. Ironically, the economic sectors that rely on the sustainability of coastal and marine resources, namely fishery and tourism sectors are also the sectors that pose major threats.

A first attempt to estimate the value of Thailand's Blue Economy was the study done by Padermsak Jarayaphand et. al (2007). This was estimated to be USD212,652 million, in 2007 prices. A later study by Nabangchang (2013) updated some of the values, and added the estimates for indirect use and non-use values. This later study cautioned that the estimated values should be recognized only as the 'lower bound estimates'. The use value from fisheries, for example, may not adequately reflect the revenues from small-scale coastal fisheries whereas the value of tourism in principle only reflect financial revenue as opposed to the use value from recreation based on the value of consumer surpluses. On indirect use values, the author also pointed out that there are other indirect benefits from coastal ecosystems, which were not included in this review, and will require further in-depth studies.

Management issues that underlie and perpetuate the problems mentioned above include the lack of adequate town planning, ineffective enforcement of land use plans and ineffective enforcement of command and control measures. Nevertheless, recent changes which allocate greater power to one of the key agency, namely the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources as well as greater recognition of the potential to use economic instruments to complement command and control measures may provide resource managers as well as resource users greater incentives for sustainable uses.

About Orapan Nabangchang:

Dr. Orapan Nabangchang is an Associate Professor of economics at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University. She completed her Bachelor Degree from the University of York, UK in the field of Politics and Sociology; her Masters in Rural Development from the University of East Anglia, UK and her Ph.D. in Land Economy from University of Cambridge, UK.

Dr. Orapan has done extensive research on the land and environmental issues of Thailand and Southeast Asia. She is also currently Deputy Director of the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) and Director of the Economy and Environment Institute of the Lower Mekong Sub-Region (EEI-LMS). Both agencies' main mandate is to build capacities of environmental economists in this Region. Dr. Orapan has conducted research for agencies that are interested in the theory and application of environmental economics, such as the Court of Justices, the Department of National Park Wildlife and Plants, and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources. Her main areas of interest and research are in the economics of marine and coastal resources.

About Nawarat Krairapanond:

Dr. Nawarat Krairapanond is currently Acting Policy and Planning Expert on Natural Resources and Environmental Management and Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Management Coordination Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

In 2013, he was appointed as Acting Director of Biodiversity Division (including Wetland Management Section). In 2012-early 2013, he served as Director of Urban Environment and Area Planning. In February-June 2010, he was appointed Director of Coastal Erosion Protection and Coastal Zone Management, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR). During 2008-2009 he was appointed Acting Director of Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning.

He has a B.S. in Agriculture and a M.S. in Soil Science from Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand. He received a Ph.D. from Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute (WBI), Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, School of the Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University (LSU), Louisiana, USA in 1989.