International Training and Study Visit Program on Eco-Governance and Coastal Ecosystems for District Administration Officials of Sindh, Pakistan
Venue: AIT Extension Bangkok, Thailand
28 April – 3 May 2008

BACKGROUND

Badin is a socio-economically deprived district in Sindh, Pakistan. Various social, cultural, political, environment, and economic development issues, such as water scarcity, poverty, mismanagement of resources, environment degradation, pollution, etc. hamper the development process in this district. Situation is quite similar in some other districts of Sindh.

Effective dealing with these multiple challenges, requires specific set of skills, trainings and exposure for the local administration officials. Experience points to a lack of local institutional capacity and context-specific tools to answer leadership training needs. Moreover, insufficient cross-sectoral dialogue/networking between different governance actors (government, NGOs, media, private sector) to collaborate on advancing national/regional good governance agenda poses as a major impediment to local economic development.

To address the above issues, LEAD Pakistan with the support of UNDP GEF SGP undertook a project titled GEF Environment Leadership Programme. Under this programme important stakeholders from Badin district were nominated by UNDP GEF for a two part training programme. The first training which was the National Training session was conducted in Karachi in early March 2008, while the final training was conducted internationally at Thailand in early May 2008.

This NFR pertains to the International training session (ITS) organized at by LEAD Pakistan in collaboration with AIT Extension, Thailand. The ITS proposed a short-term training-cum-exposure visit program for selected local administration officials (Annex I – List of participants). The program was organized by AIT Extension in Thailand, using examples of best practices in coastal zone management.

OBJECTIVES

This short course aimed to enhance sensitivity and responsiveness of local administration officials to local needs and priorities through trainings focused on conceptual learning as well as attitudinal change to encourage adoption of best practices in the area of planning, management and service delivery at the local level through international exposure and experience sharing.
RECORD OF DISCUSSION

The ITS had the following training session (Annex II) where by first day was spent at AIT and a crash course on coastal management theory was provided by three resource persons. This was to provide the participants an academic framework to coastal management and its ecology. The two of the resource persons had worked on projects in the post tsunami period and thus shared their experience with the participants.

From day two most of the learning was out of class and through field visits. The first visit was to one of the local District government offices within Bangkok. This District Bangkhunthien is the only district in the province of Bangkok that has a sea coast. The the visit started with a briefing on the initiatives being taken by the district government at their office and was followed by a field visit to the mangrove trail that the district government had made to promote eco tourism as well as a boat ride in the gulf of Thailand.

The group then traveled to Phetchaburi Province where one night stay had been arranged. The following day (Day 3) was spent visiting a Mangrove Resource Centre (Mangrove nursery) and a local school where mangrove conservation and eco tourism was being taught to young students as well as people of all ages.

The Mangrove Resource Centre is an initiative of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources. The Centre is run with the basic philosophy of involving the community in the conservation and restoration of the mangroves and coastal eco system. The Centre is not only a hub for learning but is also a research place where mangroves and its eco system are nurtured for further use and learning.

The Bangtaboon Wittaya school initiative was led by a senior teacher for the past 28 years and through her efforts around 100,000 people had been trained in mangrove conservation and eco tourism. The briefing at the school was followed by a boat ride with the young trained students were the guides of the visit. The boat ride enlightened the participants of the livelihood possibilities that are available by properly utilizing the sea and the coast.

On day four the participants were back at AIT where they briefed by UNDP GEF representative in Thailand Mr. Poonsin on the initiatives being taken by UNDP GEF in Thailand. This was a very informative session whereby the participants got knowledge on community based initiatives/projects that are being financed by GEF and executed by the communities.

This session was followed by a visit to the Kasetsart University, Bangkok. Here the participants were briefed on one of the Kings project The Royally Initiated Leam Phak Bia Environment Study, Research and Development project. A brief documentary was shared about the project followed by a presentation and Q& A session with Dean of School of Environment Mr. Kasem Chankao. Mr. Kasem was one of the pioneers of the project and had worked closely with King. The project had two aspects one was managing solid waste and the other was treatment of waste water. The processes used to undertake both the activities was based on the philosophy of simplicity, natural and cost effective. A documentary has been shared
by them that explains all the methods used for water treatment and solid waste management.

Day five started off with an Integration Session which was chaired by Dr. Sahdev Singh Head of programme area Agriculture Resource and Environment. Dr. Sahdev Singh was the focal person from AIT for this training with regards to the conceptualization furthermore he was with the participants during the field visits on 29-30 April.

Dr. Sahdev summarized the entire entire training course and highlighted the main aspects of all the sessions. He then requested all the participants to share what aspects of the learning’s were relevant to Badin and/or other coastal areas of Pakistan. All the participants provided detailed reflections on the training session. The main points highlighted by all are summarized below:

1. **Effective leadership**: The sincerity of leadership i.e. the King and the civilian government. Their faith in the abilities of the people, in terms of decentralization that had taken place to the District level and they were managing a number of departments including finance on their own. Furthermore the numerous projects that the King has invested in, in particular the Laem Phak Bia project in Phetchaburi for solid waste management and waste water treatment which is simple and cost effective as it uses natural process.

2. **Sustainable Development**: The vision of the Thai people of training and preparing their future leaders (reference to the school in Phetchaburi where young students are being trained to conserve and preserve the mangrove and are trained to be tour guides to promote eco tourism and mangrove awareness; in addition to this the Mangrove Resource Centre where all three stakeholders, community of coastal area, government and local students as well as from Bangkok are working together to conserve and preserve the mangroves and its eco system).

3. **Community Ownership**: Appreciation of the government for providing ownership rights to the people residing in the coastal areas. In contrast to this in Pakistan the fisherman folk have no right on the land and most of it is controlled by the Rangers or Navy. Due to ownership of the coastal area the people in Thailand are undertaking development and conservation activities as they have a direct stake in the land and their livelihood is directly dependent on the health of its eco system.

4. **Hope for Change**: By seeing the level of development within Bangkok and the cleanliness in public places the participants were able to observe impact of education and good leadership on the country. The fact that this was undertaken in the last 30-35 years gave them hope to aspire towards such a change within Pakistan.

After the integration session the Closing Ceremony was conducted. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Director of AIT Extension joined the ceremony. Certificates were distributed among all the participants by Dr. Jonathan Shaw and Dr. Sahdev Singh. This was followed by a brief address by Dr. Jonathan Shaw who was pleased with the success of the training programme and hoped to continue having such programmes in partnership with LEAD Pakistan. Dr. Sahdev also closed with suggestion of not
making future programmes so tight and suggested a period of at least two weeks. Mr. Masood Lohar, National Coordinator UNDP GEF SGP Pakistan, distributed a few cultural souvenirs to Dr. Jonathan and Dr. Sahdev as well as Ms. Sorat who was part of the field visits.

The closing ceremony was followed by a Cultural Visit around Bangkok for a better understanding among the participants of the Thai lifestyle and belief system.

Resources:

1. Training folder (Hard copy)
2. Soft copy of the training folder and material (includes a few presentations)
3. Handouts & CD
   a. Session 1: Project Report of CHARM Project by Mr. Sanchia Tandavanitj, Expert, Department of Fisheries.
   b. Bangkhunthien District Office Handouts
   c. UNDP GEF SGP Thailand Program Hand out and CD
   d. Kaestsart University, Bangkok, The Royally Initiated Leam Phak Bia Environmental Study, Hand outs and CD
4. CD of closing ceremony pictures provided by AIT.

Outcomes:

The UNDP GEF SGP National Coordinator termed the training as an “unprecedented success”. He was proposing a future initiative of an exchange visit among young students from Bangtaboon Wittaya School and students from different schools in Pakistan for them to learn about mangroves, eco tourism and coastal eco system.

Feedback from the participants was also very positive in terms of the expansion of their vision on coastal management. The participants appreciated and commended the effort of LEAD Pakistan team and AIT extension team. Formal feedback from a few participants has been received in writing. The feedback from remaining trainees is being solicited through email discussion and will be part of the End of Project report of the project.

The professor Mr. Kasem Chankao the Dean of College of Environment at the Kasetsart University Bangkok, was very open to coming to Pakistan with a team to facilitate management of solid waste and water treatment as undertaken in the Project. He shared website of the Chaipattana Foundation www.chaipat.or.th where we can email and request for his services.

A detailed training report from AIT will follow by end of May. All resources listed above will be handed over to the Training department.
ANNEX I

AIT and LEAD Pakistan Regional Training Session on Eco-Governance and Coastal Eco-Systems
28 April – 3 May 2008

Organized by
AIT Extension
Asian Institute of Technology
DONOR

1. Mr. Masood Ahmed Lohar
   National Coordinator
   GEF Small Grants Program
   UNDP Pakistan
   25, Bagh-e-Irum, Qasimabad
   Hyderabad Sindh, Pakistan
   Tel: +92 22 383 0026
   Fax: +92 22 383 0017
   Email: masood.lohar@undp.org

2. Mr. Naseer Ahmed Memon
   Provincial Coordinator
   Project Management Department
   LEAD Pakistan
   LEAD House, F-7 Markaz
   Islamabad, Pakistan
   Tel: +92 51 265 1511
   Fax: +92 51 265 1512
   Email: nmemon2004@yahoo.com

3. Mr. Ashiq-Ali-Khowaja
   Secretary General
   Citizen Community Network Dist Badin
   Near D.C.O. Chowk Badin Sind
   Pakistan
   Tel: +92 29 773 7637, +922 933 252 1060
   Fax: +92 29 786 1170

4. Prof. Abdullah Mallah
   Principal
   Principal Islamia College Badin
   P. O. Badin Sind
   Pakistan
5. Mr. Ashfaque Ahmed Memon (Khalifa)  
   Chairman  
   Dist Badin Sindh Pakistan  
   Citizen Action Committee Badin  
   Near Hanfiq Mosque Shahbaz Road  
   Badin Sindh  
   Pakistan  
   Tel: + 92 333 2281 034  
   Fax: +92 322 318 1175  

6. Mr. Abdullah Sheikh  
   District Police Officer, Badin  
   Sindh Police  
   Pakistan  
   Tel: +92 297 861 667  
   Fax: +92 297 861 663  
   Email: abdullahshkh@yahoo.com  

7. Ms. Tanzila Umi Habiba  
   Finance & Governance Consultant  
   SDSSP Office Badin  
   Pakistan  
   Tel: +92 346 375 6171  
   Fax: +92 297 861 001  
   Email: habiba21aya@gmail.com  

8. Dr. Khalida Sikandar Mandhro  
   Medical Specialist and Ultrasonologist  
   Mandhra Hospital Badin  
   Islamabad  
   Pakistan  
   Tel: 94 297 861 335  
   Fax:  
   Email: khalida Sikandar@yahoo.com
9. **Mr. Azizullah Dero**  
Member of Green Leader Group  
LEAD Pakistan  
District Council Badin City Suih  
Karachi, Pakistan  
Tel: +94 333 20 714481, +94 297 826 2238  
Mobile Phone: 0333 2071448

10. **Mr. Sardar Kamal Khan Chang**  
Ex Zilla Nazim Dist Government Badin  
Local Government  
Karachi  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 297 862 108  
Fax: +92 297 862 081  
Email:

11. **Ms. Sabrina Saeed Khan**  
Assistant Coordinator  
Project Management Department  
LEAD Pakistan  
LEAD House, F-7 Markaz  
Islamabad, Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 265 1511 ext 115  
Fax: +92 51 265 1512
ANNEX II

Agenda of Program Activities

Sunday, 27 April 2008

07:25  Participants’ arrival by CX2700

09:30  Check-in at AIT Conference Center Hotel

Day 1  Monday, 28 April 2008

08:00  Participants’ registration in B206, Second Floor, AIT Conference Center

08:30  Opening Session

Opening Address
Dr. Sahdev Singh, Head, Agriculture, Resources and Environment, AIT Extension
GEF Pakistan Representative, LEAD Pakistan

Opening Address
Dr Jonathan Shaw, Director, AIT Extension

Group Photo/Coffee Break

09:30  Program Orientation

Participants Introduction

10:00 Session 1: Panel Discussion: Coastal Governance and Decision Tools

In this session, panelists will make presentations of 25-30 minutes on themes related to governance in a coastal context, including governance assessment tools, illustrative governance capacities and case study on coastal livelihoods.

At the end of the presentations participants will be invited to ask questions, give comments/feedback and reflect on their own experiences.

Resource Persons
Dr. Amrit Bart, Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology
Mr. Sanchai Tandavanitj, Expert, Department of Fisheries

12:00 Lunch

13:30 **Session 2: Seminar Session: Strategies for Ecosystem Based Management**
*Dr. Somsak Boromthanarat, CORIN, Prince of Songkhla University, Thailand*

15:00 Tea/Coffee Break

15:30 Session Continue

16:30 Recess

18:30 Welcome dinner at AIT Dining Room

**Day 2**

**Tuesday, 29 April 2008**

07:30 Breakfast and check out

08:30 Leave AIT to **Bangkhuntien District Office**

09:30 Arrive. Briefing and discussion with the official on their role and responsibility in coastal management and eco-governance, current impact of coastal erosion and mangrove reforestation project, public participation on mangrove management

Lunch and Visit the affected area

15:00 Recess and travel to Hua Hin, Prachup Khiri Khan Province

18:00 Arrive, check in and stay overnight at Hua Hin Grand Hotel

**Day 3**

**Wednesday, 30 April 2008**

08:30 Leave for **Mangrove Resources Development Station, Phetchaburi Province**

09:30 Arrive. Briefing and discussion on the role and responsibility on mangrove resources management and development, impact of mangrove resources deterioration, reforestation campaign and coastal resources management and conservation networking.

12:00 Recess and proceed to **Bangtaboon Wittaya School**
12:30 Arrive and Lunch

13:30 Briefing and discussion on the background of the mangrove ecology study and preservation center, observe the center’s activities.

16:00 Recess and return to AIT

Day 4 Thursday, 1 May 2008

10:00 Meeting with UNDP GEF SGP Coordinator from Bangkok on the Program in Thailand

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Leave for Kasetsart University, Bangkok

13:30 Arrive. Briefing and discussion with the director of The Royally-initiated Leam Phak Bia Environmental Study, Research and Development Project on the background of the project, problems and solution.

15:30 Recess

Day 5 Friday, 2 May 2008

08:00 Integration and Large Group Discussion: Participant Presentations and Discussion

Participants’ representatives will present the lesson learnt from sessions and field visits.

09:00 Evaluation

09:30 Closing Session

10:00 Coffee Break

10:30 Cultural Program in Bangkok

Day 6 Saturday, 3 May 2008

17:00 Participants departure back to Pakistan by CX703