CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

Regional matters

Regional reports

ASIA

1. This report has been prepared by a member (Suharsono Soemorumekso) and an alternate member (Nobuo Ishii) of the CITES Animals Committee for Asia^{*}. This document contains activities undertaken mainly in the Region after the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee (May 2014).

General Information

- 2. AC members: Shaker A. A. Khamdan (Bahrain) and Suharsono (Indonesia), and alternates Nobuo Ishii (Japan) and Choo-Hoo Giam (Singapore).
- 3. Number of Parties in Asian Region: 34.
- 4. Parties contributed information to this report: China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.

Major Activities related with AC

a) Review of Significant Trade

Indonesia

- In 2014, Indonesia has conducted the monitoring of species, which is in the review of significant trade, in South Sumatra for *Python reticulatus* and in East Kalimantan for *Amyda cartilaginea*.

Iran

- At the 65th meeting (July 2014), the Standing Committee decided that in the light of information received from the Islamic Republic of Iran, it should withdraw its recommendation to suspend trade in specimens of *Huso huso* from that country.

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Thailand

- There is a significant trade review project for species of seahorses found in Thailand, namely Project Seahorse. The project is an operation between Thailand and the University of British Columbia, Canada, and iSeahorse Workshop.

Vietnam

- Vietnam conducted a review of significant trade for *Macaca fascicularis* and the document has submitted to AC for consideration.
- Vietnam CITES Management Authority (MA) also prepared a report on conservation of and trade in *Hippocambus kuda*, which was provided for the Significant Trade Review.
- b) Periodic Review

Vietnam

- CITES MA and Scientific Authority (SA) in collaboration with expert from Turtle Working Group to develop a Periodic Review report for three turtle species distributing in Vietnam according to requirement by CITES Decision.
- c) Registration of operations that breed Appendix I animals in captivity for commercial purposes

There is no new registration.

d) Non-detriment findings

Japan

- The Ministry of the Environment (MOE), the Scientific Authority of Japan for terrestrial animals, recognized that the current trends of exportation is detrimental to the survival of the yellow pond turtle (*Mauremys mutica*) included in CITES Appendix II, considering increased export volume and estimated total population size of the species in Japan, and decided not to make its NDF in March 2015, until such situation is improved.
- The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ), the Scientific Authority of Japan for aquatic animals, established the non-detrimental findings (NDF) guideline for aquatic species and submitted it to the CITES Secretariat in March 2015.
- e) Other activities

China

- A program on investigation and assessment of sensitive species and species of significant trade has been carried out by the CITES Management Authority since 2011. By 2015, the investigation of 10 *Cuora* species has been finished.

Indonesia

- Indonesia in cooperation with Python Conservation Partnership (PCP) and Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP) under CITES Secretariat conducted Asian Snakes Study particularly *Python* spp. to achieve legal, traceable and sustainable trade.
- CITES MA and SA of Indonesia in collaboration with Python Conservation Partnership (IUCN/SSC BPSG, Kering/Gucci, ITC) (Daniel Natusch and Jessica Lyions) have conducted research on biology of python from September 2014.

Japan

- The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Management Authority of Japan, is considering to introduce in Japan a universal tagging system for the identification of crocodilian

skins based on Resolution Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15). For smooth and successful implementation of a new system, in January 2015 METI studied how other parties that have already introduced universal tagging systems maintain and implement their systems.

- METI and FAJ considered introducing in Japan a universal labelling system for caviar based on Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16). FAJ will establish a registration system for caviar processing plants, including aquaculture operations, and repackaging plants in September 2015.

Philippines

- Developed a program for CITES E-Permitting and Management Information System. The system is scheduled for pilot-testing this CY 2015.

Malaysia

- DNA Sampling for confiscated ivory (large seizures) was done in Sept 2014 and results were received in June 2015.
- Malaysia is preparing proposals to transfer *Crocodylus porosus* in Malaysia from Appendix I to Appendix II of CITES for wild harvest in the State of Sarawak, and to list *Lanthanotus borneensis* on Appendix I of CITES.

Singapore

- In November 2014, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), CITES Management and Scientific Authority of Singapore, implemented LicenceOne for issuance of water-marked CITES permits and certificates. The enhanced system included a 'stock card' module for tracking of imported, exported and re-exported CITES specimens. It also allows foreign CITES authorities to verify online the authenticity of CITES permits and certificates issued by Singapore.
- 14 In October 2014, AVA launched a shark surveillance program to monitor the import, re-export and transshipment of shark fins (fresh, unprocessed, raw, dried, salted, and chilled), targeting consignments of CITES-listed shark species. It involves sampling of targeted shark's fin shipments for DNA tests by AVA's lab for species identification. To engage the industry, AVA has had meetings with the traders and also issued circulars to seafood traders and declaring agents to inform them of the new CITES listing of sharks and rays and to comply with CITES permit requirements.

Thailand

- Started to use the e-Permit since October 2014 named "National Single Window: NSW". Six hundred and seventy-two CITES permits were issued.
- Implementing Thailand's National Ivory Action Plan in accordance to recommendation to the Standing Committee.

United Arab Emirates

- The Ministry of Environment and Water is currently developing a new CITES e-permitting system.

Vietnam

- Vietnam CITES MA on process to cooperate with SA and EU Commission to develop proposals to uplist two reptile species, *Shinisaurus crocodilurus* and *Cnemaspis psychedelica*.

International Cooperation

Indonesia

- CITES MA Signing MoU with Vietnam on information sharing on public awareness, capacity building and training, and enforcement cooperation.

- CITES MA Signing MoU with USA on conserving wildlife and combating wildlife trafficking Cooperation to strengthen capacity for wildlife conservation and management in Indonesia, and cooperate regionally and globally.
- CITES MA Signing MoU with MA China on CITES Implementation Facilitation on verification processes and transparencies, exchange of and communication on information of wildlife trade and conservation; strengthened the enforcement to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (UU) trading including exchange of information on disposal and confiscated specimens.

Japan

- The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) joined the Core Expert Meeting on Sharks and Rays in Southeast Asian Waters convened by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in March 2015. Participants discussed the data collection and trade of sharks and rays including the implementation of CITES regulations. The Japan's NDF guideline for aquatic species and its implementation were discussed in the meeting.
- Japan has provided voluntary extra budgetary contribution for the amount of USD 60,000 in 2013, USD 50,000 in 2014 and USD 51,000 in 2015 (in the process) with the projects for New Party briefing mission and National legislative support.

Philippine

 The DENR and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources entered into a MoU with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-U.S. Department of Interior on 07 May 2014 in Washington, DC. The MoU serves as an instrument in allowing both agencies to use the facility/forensic laboratory of USFWS for DNA procedures.

Singapore

- On 20 January 2015, AVA hosted a visit by officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC) to discuss the CITES Universal Tagging System (UTS) for identification of crocodilian skins under CITES Res. Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15).
- On 25 February 2015, AVA hosted a visit by a Senior Researcher from JWRC to discuss the marking, tracking and trade regulation of the Asian arowana (*Scleropages formosus*) or Dragon fish in Singapore.

Thailand

- The bilateral meeting with Lao PDR to strengthen cooperation in intelligence sharing, wildlife protection, law enforcement including ivory issues in order to enhance effectiveness in preventing illegal wildlife trade along Thai-Lao PDR, 21-24 January 2015, Chiangrai Province.
- The 1st bilateral meeting with Cambodia to strengthen law implementation between two countries, 18-19 December 2014, Ubonrachathani, Thailand

Vietnam

- Delegation from CITES MA, Police, Ministry of Justice, People's Procurancy, People's Court, Forest Protection Department with support from NGOs to organize meetings and field visits with partners in South Africa, Mozambique and Kenya in June 2015, as the result Vietnam plan to sign MoU with Mozambique in the term of wildlife trade control and biodiversity conservation.
- CITES MA also sent experts to attend the workshop on development of Guidelines on methods and Procedures for Ivory Sampling and Laboratory Analysis, which was hosted by UNODC.
- Representative from CITES MA and Environment Police attend the Control Delivery measurement applied to detect wildlife crime, which was held by Interpol in April 2015 at Praha, Czech Republic.

- Vietnam has signed MOU with South Africa, Lao PDR and Indonesia in the field of wildlife trade control cooperation and going to sign related MOU with China, Czech Republic and Mozambique in September to December 2015.

International and Regional CITES meetings or events in the region

Brunei Darussalam

- 10th Meeting of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), 5-6 May 2015, Brunei Darussalam.
- 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group on CITES Meeting (AEG-CITES), 7-8 May 2015, Brunei Darussalam.

Cambodia

- The first East and South East Regional Meeting of the IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, 25-29 May 2015, Siam Reap, Cambodia.

China

- Regional Consultative Workshop on Capacity Assessments for the Implementation of New CITES Listings of Sharks and Manta Rays, 13-15 May 2014, Xiamen, Fujian Province, China.
- Training Seminar on Asia CITES Implementation and Wildlife Conservation, 8-28 June 2015, China

Indonesia

- Workshop to Combat Wildlife Trafficking on 20-22 May 2015 in Manado, Indonesia

Malaysia

- GRAPS Regional Meeting South East Asia, 27-28 July 2015, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.
- Intergovernmental Regional Workshop to Develop Measures Implement & Enforce New Shark & Manta Rays Listing on Appendix II, CITES (DoF, Malaysia and DOFS)
- ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species, 9-12 March 2015, Malaysia.

Myanmar

- MIKE CITES Sub-regional Steering Committee for Southeast Asia Meeting, 3-4 November 2014, Myanmar.
- Regional Capacity Building Workshop on CITES Appendix II listing of Sharks and Manta Rays for Bay of Bengal Countries (DoF Malaysia and DOFs).

Nepal

- "Towards Zero Poaching Symposium", 2-6 February 2015, Nepal. The aims of this symposium are to exchange experiences and make understanding about protection of Asian elephants and other threatened species in the region.

Sri Lanka

- South Asia CITES Workshop on Shark Listing on CITES Appendix II, 30-31 July 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Thailand

- ASEAN-SOMTC Technical Workshop on Environmental Crime, 23-24 April 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 16th meeting of Asian Regional Partner's Forum on Combating Environment Crime, 15 January, 2015, Bangkok.
- Workshop on "Controlled Deliveries of Illegally Traded Wildlife Products" from 26-28 January, 2015, Bangkok, co-hosted with WCO. Participants came from African and Asian countries which are also related to illegal wildlife trade issues.

United Arab Emirates

- Sub-regional Seminar for the Arabian Gulf Countries titled "Countering Illicit Trade - A Legal Perspective", 20-23 October 2014.

Vietnam

- The 9th Meeting of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), 28-29 May 2014, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- The 10th Meeting of the ASEAN-Experts Group on CITES (AEG-CITES), 30-31 May 2014, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Capacity Building Workshop for Reduction of Demand for Illegally Traded Wildlife on 21-23 October 2014 in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- The 1st Pangolin Range States Meeting, 24-26 June 2015, Da Nang, Vietnam. December 2015. The meeting came to consensus that it would be feasible to uplist all pangolin species to Appendix I, and Vietnam is on process to be the lead country to develop the proposal to include 2 species distribute in Vietnam to Appendix I of CITES.

Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES

Philippines

The Philippine Red List Committee for Wild Fauna was created through a Special Order No. 2015-62 issued by the DENR Secretary on 22 January 2015. This Committee handles the review and updating of the national list of threatened fauna species initially established in 2004 through DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-15. Like the national threatened flora list, the national threatened fauna list includes CITES-listed species. The Committee with the assistance of its several Technical Working Groups, has started the species assessment and status review process.

Capacity building activities

Indonesia

- Training Workshop on CITES Implementation at Ternate, Maluku Province.
- Training Workshop on Review Significant Trade at Bogor, West Java.
- Training Workshop on Protected Species and CITES Appendix II Species Identification.
- Training Workshop on Registration of Captive breeding Operation.

Malaysia

- Workshop on Ivory Sampling and Marking Techniques (DWNP).

- National Occupational Standard Skill (NOSS) Development Workshop in Elephant Conservation (DWNP).
- National Occupational Standard Skill (NOSS) Development Workshop in Avian Conservation (DWNP).
- Species Identification for Sharks and Manta Rays under CITES Course (DoFS).
- Workshop on Import and Export Inspection Procedures (SWD).
- Introduction to Species Identification For Endangered Species under CITES (FDS).
- Wildlife Trade Regulations Workshop (Custom Malaysia).
- Regional Capacity Building Workshop on CITES Appendix II listing of Sharks and Manta Rays for Bay of Bengal Countries (DoF Malaysia and DOFs).

Myanmer

- Taxonomic Capacity Building Training Workshop on January 2013, in collaboration with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.
- Training for Media in reporting wildlife crimes on 26-28 November 2014 in collaboration with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.
- Capacity building training course on CITES implementation and combating wildlife crimes in Myanmar, 4-5 August 2015 in collaboration with WWF Myanmar Office and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

Philippine

- Orientation-Training on Wildlife Law Enforcement for Valenzuela Police Force, 22-23 January 2014 at Valenzuela City Police Station Headquarters.
- One-day Orientation-Seminar on Republic Act 9147 and its Enforcement, 28 June 2014 for members of non-government organizations who are willing to assist the government in curbing illegal wildlife trade and other environmental crimes.
- Training on Ivory Identification and Marking Techniques in collaboration with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia on 12-14 and 17-19 November 2014. It was aimed at providing key government personnel/officials particularly those manning international airports and seaports and/or involved in the verification of wildlife shipments with necessary knowledge and skills in ivory identification and marking in aid of wildlife law enforcement.
- The 4th Training of Trainers (ToT4) on the application of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations-The training was conducted in partnership with the US-Department of the Interior (USDOI) and Tanggol Kalikasan on 24-28 November 2014. This training aimed, among others, to:
 i) enhance capacity of Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) and partners from various agencies/organizations in the enforcement of Republic Act 9147; and, ii) develop a pool of trainers who can assist in building wildlife enforcement capacities at the local and national levels. From 2011-2014, a total of 162 government officers and private partners had completed this training program

Thailand

- February 16th, 2015, Bangkok, a workshop held for officers to improve understanding on implementation of the Elephant Ivory Act 2015 with 70 participants with the ivory traders and DNP officials.
- March 10th, 2015, Bangkok, DNP held a meeting for increasing understanding about registration of African elephant ivory. 50 DNP officers attended.

- March 19th 20th, 2015, Department of Provincial Administration held a meeting for making understanding on registration under the Beasts of Burden Act with 80 DoPA participants. DNP representatives served as resource person and performed a presentation regarding ivory trade control to participants.
- March 27th, 2015, Royal Thai Police held a training course for 200 police officers in order to enhance the efficiency in investigation and provide contexts of new legislation. DNP served as resource person.
- Held "The training of effectively use CITES permit for aquaculture products trade under the CITES Convention" (28 29 May 2014) Chonburi, Thailand.
- Held the Workshop on e-Permit using though Fisheries Single Window" (1 5 September 2014) Department of Fisheries Technology Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Held a reinforced meeting about requirements on ETIS report with participants from key enforcement agencies including Royal Thai Police, Customs and DNP. Mr. Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC's head of elephant and rhino program accepted the invitation as resource person and performed his presentation to participants.
- More than 10 meetings/trainings held in 2015 to improve understanding law implementation and strengthen cooperation among relevant enforcement authorities.
- Developed guidelines, identification guide and provided the necessary equipment for officers to order to enhance the efficiency of law enforcement.

United Arab Emirates

- Training workshop on Combating illegal trade on sharks and marine life in cooperation with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), 17-19 February 2014.
- CITES Training workshops for Dubai customs with IFAW, 11-13 March 2014.
- CITES Training workshops for agriculture engineers and veterinary doctors at the Ministry of Environment and Water, 8 February-30 May 2015.
- CITES Training workshops for customs authorities in the UAE with IFAW, 17-21 May 2015. Regional Training Workshop on Prevention of Wildlife Trafficking Regional Training Workshop hosted by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) in partnership with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), 17-21 November 2014.

Vietnam

- In the process of implementing the wildlife and forest crime toolkit, through several methodologies, Vietnam has identified one of the weaknesses in wildlife law enforcement to be the low capacity of the enforcement officers. The Vietnam CITES MA considers capacity building its primary activity to combat illegal wildlife trades. Since CoP16 (March 2013) the CITES MA in cooperation with TRAFFIC, WCS, WWF, ASEAN-WEN PCU, conducted a number of training courses to improve the capacity of forest rangers, customs, police, market control force, border army officials, focusing on several key provinces which were major transit route of wild animals. We are also working with the private sector, such as airline service companies at international airports. We conducted a training course for 1,000 workers on wildlife protection. With the permission from the CITES Secretariat, the Vietnam CITES MA used the training course materials provided to adapt with national regulations and real situations.
- Vietnam CITES MA working closely with CITES SA in term of species identification, capacity building. During 2013-2014 with support from TRAFFIC network, a number of capacity buildings for scientists and law enforcement officers were conducted in the content of forensic techniques.

a) Cooperation with stakeholders, NGOs and Private Sector

Philippine

- The DENR in partnership with the University of the Philippines-Diliman had embarked on the DNA Barcoding Project aimed at creating a database on DNA barcodes of native fauna and flora and for taxonomic identification of each species at the molecular level. The DNA barcodes would be useful in enforcement, especially in pursuing criminal cases involving Philippine wildlife and ascertaining the particular origin of wildlife in illegal trade, among other valuable uses.

United Arab Emirates

- The Ministry of Environment and Water in collaboration with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) participated in a training workshop for Oman authorities on combating illegal trade and implementation of CITES, 15-20 February 2015.

Activities for Promotion of CITES

China

- May 2015, State Forestry administration of China and the General Administration of Customs of China destroyed 662.4286kg of illegal ivory items in Beijing, to demonstrate the country's determination to discourage illegal ivory trade, protect wildlife and raise public awareness.

Indonesia

- Published "Guidance for Amphibian Identification of West Java.
- Published "Pocket Book for Identification of Species on Trade: Reptile, Humphead wrasse, *Tridacna* spp, *Hippocampus* spp. (Seahorse), and Coral."

Japan

- On 3 March 2015 as World Wildlife Day, METI and MOE held an exhibition and a symposium on wildlife trade with the cooperation of Tokyo Customs, e-commerce companies and a NGO, TRAFFIC EAST ASIA-JAPAN.
- MOE and METI ran public awareness campaigns on regulations of wildlife trade, including posting announcements on the websites of MOE and major e-commerce, and distributing leaflets.

Myanmar

In collaboration with WWF Myanmar Office, Forest Department prepared educational materials to raise awareness about CITES such as in banners and leaflets. CITES banners were given to Custom Officers to display at domestic and international arrival/departure terminals of Yangon and Mandalay International Airports. CITES leaflets were prepared into five languages such as Myanmar, Shan, Karin, English and Chinese, and were distributed to Township Officers from Forest Department, Customs Department and Myanmar Police Force working at the border areas, as well as to officers from line departments from the places where illegal wildlife trades are mostly occurred.

Pakistan

- All important biodiversity related days like World Wildlife Day, World Biodiversity Day, World Wetlands Day, Earth Day etc. are celebrated at national level by involving scientific community, local community, academia and other stakeholders. Presentations on CITES and other relevant MEAs were delivered at the events.

Singapore

- To enhance public awareness about CITES sharks and compliance by the industry, an advisory notice on landing/import/sale of CITES sharks and rays by fishing vessel operators and fish traders was also circulated at the 2 AVA fishery ports.
- On 3 March 2014 (World Wildlife Day), AVA posted infographics on AVA Facebook to highlight AVA's efforts in combating illegal wildlife and timber trade and to raise awareness about wildlife.
- On 7 March 2015, AVA delivered a talk on tackling illegal wildlife trade and the role of AVA in wildlife enforcement in Singapore. The talk was conducted at the Singapore Zoo, in conjunction with the launch of their year-long 'You Buy, they die' campaign with TRAFFIC SE Asia, which aims to reduce consumer demand for wildlife products that drives illegal wildlife trade.
- On 26 June 2015, AVA delivered a presentation on Wildlife Enforcement in Singapore to Biological Sciences students at the National University of Singapore (NUS).
- In July 2015, AVA sent a circular to remind shipping and logistics companies, declaring agents to
 educate the relevant industry about CITES and remind the industry members to be careful when
 accepting jobs for import/transit shipments which may contain illegal wildlife and timber. The
 circular also served to seek the industry's cooperation to report any suspicious shipments to AVA
 for investigations.

Thailand

- Celebrated a Thai Elephant Day 2015 at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Chiangmai Airport, Phuket Airport and Thai Elephants Conservation Center in Lampang in order to reduce demand for ivory on March 13th, 2015.
- Joined the campaign organized by WWF Thailand "Chor Chang Chuay Chang" starting from January 12th, 2015 to engage the general public and raise awareness on the issue. The campaign aimed to stop buying ivory and ivory products.
- Launched Campaign on the implementation of ivory-related legislations, presided in the opening ceremony by Prime Ministry, on February 25th, 2015 at Central World, Bangkok.
- Launched campaign in the World Wildlife Day Celebration at Chatuchak Weekend Market and on March 3rd, 2015 at Phukiew Wildlife Sanctuary, Chayabhumi, on February 28th, 2015.
- Organized campaign on anti-illegal ivory trade nationwide during March-April 2015.

United Arab Emirates

- Exhibition for Falconry and Hunting in Abu Dhabi, September 2014.
- "Smuggling ivory leads to prosecution" campaign at Dubai Airports, June 2014.
- Published "An illustrated Guide to the sharks of the Arabian Gulf".
- Published "Sharks of the Arabian Seas an identification guide", 2015.
- Exhibition for Falconry and Hunting in Abu Dhabi, September 2015.
- "Smuggling ivory leads to prosecution" campaign at Abu Dhabi Airports, August 2015.

Vietnam

Following the rhino horn demand reduction campaign since 2013 that we mentioned in SC65 Doc. 43.2, Vietnam CITES MA collaborated with Human Society International to conduct more campaigns since July 2014 to raise awareness of the public to reduce demand for rhino horn in country. Vietnam worked with the Women Union, the Education and Training Department, the Businessmen Association, the Universities of Hanoi, Hai Phong, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City and

Can Tho province. Through various means of delivering the message on rhino protection, thousands of students, members of Women Union, and businessmen were exposed to information on rhino conservation, protection status, and the facts regarding the effect of rhino horn on human's health. A number of billboards were installed in Hanoi and in Noi International Airport to raise the awareness of the public on rhino protection and conservation. Thousands of posters, brochures, hats, T-shirt with rhino protection slogan have been delivered to governmental officials, students, workers etc. As a result, a survey in 2015 indicated that the demand for rhino's horn had decreased by 38% in Vietnam and by 77% in Hanoi.