

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

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Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Reports

Reports of regional representatives

ASIA

The attached report for Asia been submitted by China and Japan. As it was received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith only in the language in which it was submitted.

## ***Regional Report (Asia)***

### **1. Introduction**

This report summarized the activities of Parties between 54<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meeting (October 2006, Geneva) and 57<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meeting (July 2008, Geneva) except when indicated otherwise.

Japan represents Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam for 57<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meeting. China represents Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. Islamic Republic of Iran represents other parties in Asia. This report has been prepared with the contribution from China, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

### **2. Participation in CITES meeting**

#### **China**

China participated in the CoP14. China submitted the document regarding CITES and Livelihoods as a cosponsor. China also participated the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee and 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee as well as the joint session as an observer.

#### **Indonesia**

Indonesia attended CITES CoP14 in the Hague, Netherlands.

#### **Japan**

Japan participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (June 2007, the Hague). At CoP14, Japan submitted some proposals and advocated "sustainable use" and efficient and appropriate implementation of CITES and supported by many Parties. During the session, Dr. Nobuo Ishii was re-elected as an alternate representative of Animals Committee for Asian region.

Japan also participated in 54<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meetings as a representative for Asian region. In its 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> sessions, Japan was approved as a trading partner of ivory trade originated from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12).

Dr. Ishii contributed to the Animals Committee as its alternate member of Asia. The delegates of Japan also participated in its 21<sup>st</sup> session as an observer.

#### **Philippines**

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group (AEG) on CITES on November 28-29, 2006, Manila, Philippines attended by representatives from the CITES Management

Authorities of the Philippines (Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); and the CITES Scientific Authorities of the Philippines (Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), University of the Philippines Los Baños-Institute of Biological Sciences(UPLB-IBS) and the National Museum of the Philippines). The Meeting was also attended by the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities of other ASEAN countries;

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group (AEG) on CITES on May 9-11, 2007, Singapore attended by Assistant Director Manuel A. Bravo, Dr. Antonio C. Manila and Ms. Ma. Luz B. Corpuz, all from PAWB. Mr. Nolito Jardinel of Birds International Inc. (BII) also attended as observer;

ASEAN Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (ASEAN – WEN) Regional Meeting on May 22-23, 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia attended by Assistant Director Manuel A. Bravo, PAWB; Major Nicomedes Enad, Bureau of Customs and Supervising Agent Irvin Garcia, National Bureau of Investigation;

14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES - Conference of Parties, June 2007 at The Hague, Netherlands attended by the Philippine delegation composed of Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim; Dr. Antonio Manila, both from PAWB; and Regional Executive Director Corazon C. Davis, DENR-National Capital Region. Mr. Nolito Jardinel of BII, attended as observer; and

ASEAN-WEN Second Workshop on Task Force and Working Groups Development on January 28-30, 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia attended by representatives from PAWB, Bureau of Customs and the National Bureau of Investigation.

## **Singapore**

Singapore also participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to CITES CoP14, on June 3-15, 2007, the Hague (the Netherlands).

## **Thailand**

The staff of CITES MAs of Thailand participated in and attended at the following meetings or events, such as:

### **(1) National**

Since SC54 the staff of CITES MA of Thailand organized or participated in several meetings and events. Below are some examples:

(a) January 30, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Meeting on Control of Illegal Wildlife Trade at Suvarnabhumi International Airport.

(b) January 31, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Meeting on Trade Control of Exotic Species in Thailand.

(c) March 8, 2007, at the Ministry of Commerce: Meeting on Ivory Trade Inspection and Control.

(d) April 22-24, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Meeting of Technician Mission on CITES and GRASP Great Ape.

- (e) April 26, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Meeting on Thailand Wildlife Enforcement Network.
- (f) May 23, 2007, at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment: Thailand CITES Committee meeting.
- (g) August 17, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Meeting on Regulations on Elephant Exportation under CITES Conditions.
- (h) September 4-7, 2007, at Kangkrachan National Park: CITES annual meeting.
- (i) February 13, 2008, at the Ministry of Commerce: Meeting on Ivory Trade Inspection and Control.
- (j) April 4, 2008, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: CITES Committee meeting.
- (k) April 10, 2008, at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment: Thailand CITES Committee meeting.
- (l) April 22, 2008, at the Department of Livestock Development: Meeting on Ivory Trade Control.
- (m) April 10, 2008, at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment: Ivory Sub-Committee meeting.

## **(2) Regional and International Meetings**

Over a year and a half the staff of CITES MAs of Thailand have been involved in and participated in many CITES meetings both regionally and internationally:

- (a) October 2-6, 2006, Geneva Switzerland: 54<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting.
- (b) November 14-17, 2006, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Experts group meeting on Agarwood: Capacity-building workshop for improving implementation and enforcement of the CITES listing of *Aquilaria malaccensis* and other Agarwood-producing species.
- (c) November 21-23, 2006, Hong Kong S.A.R.: CITES Law Enforcement Seminar: Learning from each other (Wildlife crime issues in Asia & promoting ethics in wildlife law enforcement).
- (d) November 20-21, 2006, London, England: Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) meeting.
- (e) November 22-24, 2006, Sydney, Australia: The 3rd Australia Environmental Law Enforcement and Regular Network (AELER) Annual meeting.
- (f) November 28-30, 2006, Manila, the Philippines: the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (AEG- CITES).
- (g) January 5, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Meeting on Repatriation of Confiscated Animals to Madagascar.
- (h) February 5-6, 2007, Australian National University, Canberra Australia: Meeting on Transnational Environmental Crime and Illegal Resource Activity in the Asia Pacific.
- (i) February 5-9, 2007, Cebu, the Philippines: ASEAN- WEN Workshop on Task Force Development and Cross-border Cooperation.
- (j) April 19, 2007, Brussels, Belgium: the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Commission CITES Enforcement Group.
- (k) May 9-11, 2007, Singapore: the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (AEG-CITES).
- (l) May 21-23, 2007, Bogor, Indonesia: the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN – WEN meeting.
- (m) June 2, 2007, Hague, the Netherlands: 55<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting.
- (n) June 3-15, 2007, Hague, the Netherlands: CITES CoP14.
- (o) June 15, 2007, Hague, the Netherlands: 56<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting.

(p) July 2-7, 2007, China: International Workshop on Strategy for Tiger Conservation in China.

(q) July 16-19, 2007, Chonburi, Thailand: Wildlife Enforcement Network Bilateral Meeting between Thai-Malaysia.

(r) February 18-19, 2008, Mokdahan (Thai) – Suvannakhet (Lao) Border: Triangle meeting between Thai – Lao – ADB for a preparation to implement GMS Cross Border Transport Agreement: GMS CBTA of Greater Mekong Sub-region.

(s) April 15-18, 2008, Geneva, Switzerland: 17<sup>th</sup> Plant Committee meeting.

(t) April 21-24, 2008, Geneva, Switzerland: 23<sup>rd</sup> Animals Committee meeting.

## **Vietnam**

Representatives of Vietnam CITES Management Authority and Scientific Authorities participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties, June 3-15, 2007, the Hague (the Netherlands).

The delegate of Vietnam also attended the Workshops on Review of Wildlife Trade Policies in February 2007 and April 2008, in Geneva, and CITES Law Enforcement in November 2007, Hong Kong.

### **3. Cooperation with the Parties and others**

## **China**

China hosted the Himalayan Sub-regional CITES Workshop in May, 2007. Representatives from the CITES Management Authority and Custom Bureau of China, India and Nepal participated the meeting.

Northeast Asia CITES Workshop was held in September 2007. Participants from the CITES Management Authorities, Custom Bureaus and some NGOs from China, Mongolia and Russia Federation attended the meeting.

## **Indonesia**

Workshop on Wildlife crime on CITES was held on January 30-31, 2007 in Jakarta. The meeting developed and adopt ASEAN Regional Action Plan as an ASEAN's collective effort to curb the problems of illegal trade in wild fauna and flora across border, and to work together towards effective implementation of CITES and help member countries to better manage their rich biological diversity in sustainable manner.

Indonesia attended 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Tri National Ramin Task Force in on May 7-8 and 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASESAN Expert Group on CITES on May 9-11 in Singapore.

Indonesia hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network on May 21-24, 2007 in Bogor-Cisarua.

A workshop on preliminary discussion on the Indonesian position on the species listing proposals to be considered at CoP14 was held in March and April 2007. The workshop discussed the proposals which were of direct relevant to Indonesia and provided

preliminary position of the Republic of Indonesia. The workshop were involved a wide range of stakeholders, including the governments, wildlife industry and NGOs in order to obtained a more transparent position to the public.

Indonesia participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Task Force and Working Groups Development on January 28-30, 2008 in Kuala Lumpur.

## **Japan**

Japan participated in a regional technical consultation on international fisheries related issues which reviewed listed proposals on marine species as well as shark and sea cucumber issues to be discussed at CITES CoP14 co-organized by ASEAN and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (CEAFDEC) in February in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Japan participated in a fishery consultative group meeting which reviewed the results of CITES CoP14 on marine species and discussed necessary follow-up activities, co-organized by ASEAN and SEAFDEC organized in November 2007 in Iloilo City the Philippines.

## **Myanmar**

Myanmar is an ASEAN Member countries as well as in party to the CITES. Myanmar has been participating ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) founded in 2005. Director General of Forest Department is the focal to ASEAN-WEN and has attended to the seminars, workshops and meetings, together with Police Force, Customs and Prosecuting Department, held under the umbrella of ASEAN-WEN.

A National Task Force has been formed to control the illegal wildlife trade in Myanmar with officials representing concerned departments. CITES-related authorities in Myanmar have been trying to coordinate with Program Coordination Unit (PCU) of the Secretariat of ASEAN-WEN so as to exchange information and data pertaining to ASEAN-WEN with other counterparts within ASEAN.

## **Singapore**

### **(1) Tri-national Ramin Taskforce**

Indonesia and Malaysia, Singapore are members of the Tri-national Task Force for ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), which was set up in 2004 to share information, exchange intelligence relating to illegal ramin trade and to establish long-term cooperative actions to stop the illegal ramin trade in the region. The taskforce has been discussing an Action Plan to address specific issues relating to illegal trade of ramin in the region and also possible cooperation in areas of repatriation and disposal of confiscated ramin among the three countries.

On May 7-8, 2007, Singapore hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Tri-national Ramin Task Force. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, Center for Forest and Nature Conservation and Forestry Industry Revitalization

Body (BRIK), Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Malaysian Timber Council, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Klang Port Authority, Johor Port Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Malaysia and AVA. Two non-government organizations (NGOs), TRAFFIC and TELEPAK also participated in the open sessions of the meeting. The meeting discussed the development of closer cooperation, communication and understanding on the trade in ramin between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The meeting also agreed to the exchanging of information on ramin transshipment, visit to the port for training program and discuss the disposal of confiscated ramin.

## (2) ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and related workshops/meetings

Singapore is also a member of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), which was launched in December 2005 by the ASEAN ministers responsible for CITES. The ASEAN-WEN aims to promote networking among enforcement agencies (e.g. CITES authorities, Customs, police, etc.), facilitate sharing of information and intelligence relating to illegal wildlife trade and undertake activities (e.g. training, public awareness programmes) to promote effective enforcement of national laws and CITES and improve collaboration and cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, in Bangkok in May 2006, formalized the operation of ASEAN-WEN and turned it from a political concept to an operational reality. The CITES and ASEAN Secretariats facilitated the meeting which was attended by senior officials from the CITES MA, police, Customs, United States' embassy officials, INTERPOL and representatives of the CITES Management Authority of China to address issues relating to wildlife smuggling in the ASEAN region.

On February 5-9, 2007, Singapore attended the ASEAN-WEN Workshop, Cebu, Philippines. The objectives of the workshop included reviewing the respective ASEAN member countries regional progress under the ASEAN-WEN, discuss issues on cross-border networking and to identify a plan to address national and regional capacity building needs in order to strengthen cooperation, coordination and communication within and between countries to combat illicit trade in wildlife.

On May 21-24, 2007, Singapore participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-WEN meeting held in Bogor, Indonesia. The meeting, comprising of CITES, Customs and Police officers from respective ASEAN member countries, together with donor agencies and representatives from other partner organizations such as Interpol and ASEAN-WEN Support Programme. The meeting discussed and deliberated, among others, on the development of specialized ASEAN-WEN working groups, the progress on the ASEAN-WEN Program Coordinating Unit and the formalization of the Rules and Procedures of the ASEAN-WEN.

On September 10-14, 2007, an AVA (The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority, MA of Singapore) officer participated in an ASEAN-WEN Staff Exchange Program hosted by the China CITES Management Authority (MA) and China Customs in Guangdong, China. Representatives from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines visited Customs port facilities at Huangpu and its warehouse for confiscated wildlife specimens as well as Customs HQ at Shenzhen airport. Participants also visited a huge livestock market and a Zoo. China Customs gave presentations of its organization structure, showcased its achievements and shared with the participants its challenges and constraints faced in combating wildlife smuggling. The program offered representatives from ASEAN + China a platform where communication channels, personal contacts and friendship could be established or enhanced to effectively combat the illegal wildlife trade.

## Thailand

### (1) Communication with CITES Parties

To implement CITES, the CITES MAs of Thailand contacted with the Secretariat in relation to the issues and notifications. Thai authorities also made contacts with CITES parties to confirm permits and cooperate with the parties on meetings, trainings and enforcement issues. Import-Export information were included in the annual reports, and the results of the implementation were included in the biennial report.

### (2) Reports

(a) Annual and Biennial reports: reports submitted by CITES MAs of Thailand to the Secretariat.

(b) CITES Law Enforcement: a report submitted by CITES MAs of Thailand to the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14).

(c) Conservation of and trade in tiger and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species: a report submitted by CITES MAs of Thailand to CoP14.

(d) Ivory questionnaire: the questionnaire submitted by CITES MAs of Thailand to the Secretariat (December 28, 2007).

(e) Conservation of and trade in tiger and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species: a report submitted by CITES MAs of Thailand to the Secretariat (March 31, 2008).

### (3) Repatriation

(a) Orangutan Repatriation: On November 22, 2006, CITES MAs of Thailand repatriated 48 orangutans back to Indonesia.

(b) Great Ape Mission: On April 22-24, 2007, CITES MAs of Thailand organized the meetings and site visits for the representatives of CITES Secretariat on the CITES and GRASP Great Ape Technician Mission.

(c) Repatriation of confiscated animals to the country of origin: On January 5, 2007, CITES MAs of Thailand repatriated confiscated animals (*Geochelone radiata* & *Chamaeleonidae* spp.) to Madagascar.

(d) Oragutan Repatriation: On December 16, 2007, CITES MAs of Thailand repatriated 4 oragutans back to Indonesia.

### (4) CITES Projects

#### (a) MIKE (Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants)

As a member of elephant range states, Thailand has implemented the MIKE project in two pilot sites: Salak Pra Wildlife Sanctuary and Kuiburi national Parks. Information collected from two sites were reported to the head quarter at the MIKE Central Office, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department.

#### (b) Project in the region led by Thailand

##### The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)

ASEAN-WEN is the world largest wildlife law enforcement network, comprising of enforcement officers from 10 countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao



People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). The United States and China are also cooperating with the ASEAN-WEN. The network has also developed links to the CITES Secretariat, Interpol, World Customs Organization and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Wildlife Alliance (formerly known as WildAid) and TRAFFIC, via a cooperative partnership with USAID. The network has also provided technical assistance to the governmental agencies that are implementing ASEAN-WEN. ASEAN-WEN operates on two levels: national and regional. On the national level, each country is setting up an inter-agency task force comprised of police, custom and environmental officers. Once this step has been completed, task force from the backbone of a regional network dedicated to battling transnational wildlife crime. Focal points from each agency can share intelligence with each other across the region. The Program Coordination Unit (PCU) of ASEAN-WEN was officially approved to be permanently set up in Thailand. The functions of PCU include facilitating and coordinating technical support for ASEAN-WEN at the national and regional levels, e.g., organizing ASEAN-WEN meetings, seminars, workshops, exchanges information and training programs. In 2007 many activities were carried out as follows:

(a) Cambodia Nature Crime Investigation Course, January 15-25, 2007

Wildlife Alliance and TRAFFIC utilized USAID funding to deliver a training course in Cambodia. The California Department of Fish & Game provided both planning assistance and training personnel to the event.

Observers at the event included officials from Thailand and China. Police Major Gen. Boonmee Sumsuk; Lieutenant Col. Thanayod Kengkasikij of Thailand's Environmental Crime Division; and Dr. Shwan Tunhikom, advisor to the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department attended. On the Chinese side, Dr. Li Zhang of the office of the Life Science Academy, Beijing Normal University; Mr. Zhong Hai of the Division of Law Enforcement and Training, CITES Management Authority of China, State Forestry Administration; and Mr. Geng Yongping of the Division of Criminal Investigation, Forest Police Bureau, State Forestry Administration attended. Mr. Geng Yongping also gave an overview of China Forestry Police activities in suppressing Wildlife Crime; The interaction between Cambodian, Thai, and Chinese officials was significant step toward increased transnational cooperation.

(b) Regional Workshop on Task Force Networking and Cross-Border Cooperation, February 5-9, 2007, Cebu, Philippines.

During the first ASEAN-WEN meeting in May 2006, the network laid out "Terms of Reference" and called on each country to designate focal points to coordinate the information of National Committees, or "Task Forces" to combat wildlife crime. To follow-up on this, Wildlife Alliance and TRAFFIC utilized USAID funding to support a workshop on the development of national task forces. Because the illegal wildlife trade crosses boundaries within the region, the workshop was structured as an opportunity to discuss strategies and mechanisms on cross-border cooperation. Five objectives of the workshop were:

- i) To facilitate the sharing of information among ASEAN-WEN members on their progress and challenges in developing National Committees or Task Forces;
- ii) To provide a platform to announce and explain the capacity building opportunities for government agencies involved in combating wildlife crimes (e.g., training program, cross-border exchange program);

iii) To familiarize one another with contacts in each country who are actively involved in suppressing wildlife crimes and to provide a venue where cooperation and complementation activities may be discussed;

iv) To provide inputs to the government of Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat on the roles and responsibilities of the ASEAN-WEN Program Coordinating Unit; and

v) To provide inputs to the government of Indonesia for the 2nd Regional ASEAN-WEN meeting to be held in Jakarta in the middle of 2007.

(c) The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-WEN Meeting in Indonesia, May 21-23, 2007

The 2nd Regional ASEAN-WEN Meeting was held in Bogor, Indonesia, on May 21-23, 2007. All 10 ASEAN countries were represented, as well as observers from China, the US, Interpol, UNODC, ASEAN Secretariat, and US Department of Justice. Five years ASEAN-WEN Strategic Plan (2007-2012) was tabled and approved, with the member countries agreeing to implement the activities under the Plan to further develop ASEAN-WEN. Key components of the plan included a schedule for future meetings, and formal acknowledgement of the ASEAN-WEN Support Program's contributing role to the network. This acknowledgement gives Wildlife Alliance and TRAFFIC an official mandate for work with ASEAN-WEN.

At the meeting, TRAFFIC also presented EU-TWIX (EU Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange), a system for enforcement database and a mailing list. The system currently connects 305 EU law enforcement officials across 27 EU Member States, which allows for the quick sharing of information on illegal wildlife trade between EU countries. The ASEAN-WEN members were enthusiastic about using TWIX model as its regional enforcement database and agreed to explore further on this possibility.

(d) Thailand Wildlife Crime Investigation Course Validation, Bangkok, Thailand, June 30–July12, 2007

As a follow-up to the training conducted in the fiscal year 2006, members of the Thai ASEAN-WEN Task Force hosted two special agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for joint the training and observation exercises relating to anti-wildlife crime operations. The Thai Task Force included the Royal Thai Police, Customs, and the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department. The joint exercise followed a joint training course held between the US and Thai agencies in Cha-am, Petchaburi Province, in August 2006. Officers from each agency exchanged information on wildlife crime and current strategies used to suppress it. Their dialogue focused on smuggling situations occurring both within countries and across borders.

(e) ASEAN-WEN Bilateral Meeting: Cross Border Cooperation Meeting between Malaysia and Thailand, Chonburi, Thailand, July 17-19, 2007

The Support Program utilized supplemental USAID funding to facilitate a bilateral exchange between Malaysia and Thailand. This event took place and organized in Chonburi, Thailand. Delegates from Thailand and Malaysia's Police, Customs and CITES departments discussed ways to further enhance collaboration between the two countries in wildlife-related law enforcement. The Support Program assisted in facilitating the discussions, and provided necessary information and assistance to the Malaysian delegates in their preparations for the meeting.

(f) ASEAN-WEN Multilateral Meeting: Cross Border Cooperation Meeting between ASEAN and China Guangzhou, China, September 10–14, 2007

The Support Program utilized supplemental funding to support a multilateral exchange between ASEAN and China. During this event, law enforcement officials from Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore traveled and met with their counterparts in Guangzhou, China, where the meeting discussed on ways and means for improving transborder cooperation on wildlife law enforcement issues.

#### ASEAN-WEN Achievements

ASEAN-WEN press release (Bangkok, March 19, 2008) reported that five major seizures in recent weeks were on evidence of heightened wildlife law enforcement in Southeast Asia and has put wildlife smugglers on notice – illegal exploitation of ASEAN's natural resources and biodiversity will not be tolerated. The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) recognized and supported these important actions.

The increasing number of major seizures in Southeast Asia reflects heightened enforcement capacity and vigilance. ASEAN-WEN has been organizing trainings and seminars to increase the knowledge and capacity of customs and police throughout the region.

Illegal wildlife trade is one of the most lucrative criminal activities in Southeast Asia, robbing nations of their precious natural resources and biodiversity. ASEAN-WEN is addressing this problem by helping member countries establish national wildlife crime task forces, increase enforcement capacity against wildlife crime, and boost inter-agency and international cooperation to stop the illegal cross-border trade.

#### **Vietnam**

Vietnam cooperated with the Parties and others the following activities:

- work with China CITES Authorities on law enforcement and wildlife trade control along border area;
- collaborate with Crocodile Specialist Group, IUCN/SSC to review crocodile management and trade activities in Vietnam;
- work with CITES Secretariat, Centre for Natural Resources and Environment and specialists in Vietnam to review wildlife trade policies in Vietnam; and
- collaborate with TRAFFIC South East Asia to develop a data base on endangered wildlife trade.

#### **4. Implementation of CITES including legislation and law enforcement activities**

#### **China**

Pan-Southwest CITES Enforcement Seminar was held in Kunming, Yunnan Province of China, November 2007. Representatives from CITES Branch Offices, Custom Bureaus and Forestry Public Security Bureaus of Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Guangdong, Tibet and Qinghai Province (Autonomous Region) attended the meeting.

In April 2008, the Eighth Committee Meeting of China CITES Scientific Authority was held in Beijing, attended by the committee members, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China CITES Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and the other relevant organizations. The issues of strengthening scientific advisory, monitoring, assessment and evaluation of the utilization of and trade in wildlife are discussed with a view to better implementation of CITES and domestic laws.

In October 2007, the Aquatic Wild Fauna and Flora Administrative Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Eel Industry Committee under China Fisheries Association co-sponsored a workshop on *Anguilla anguilla*, attended by China CITES Management Authority, local fishery/ocean affairs departments and the members of Eel Associations in Xiamen, China.

Two Information Exchange and Cooperation Meetings on CITES implementation was held from 18-20 October 2006 and 9-12 October 2007 respectively. Participants from CITES Management Authority of China, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of Hong Kong SAR, and Economic Bureau of Macao SAR attended the meetings.

In 21-23 November 2006, CITES Law Enforcement Seminar, "Learning from Each Other", co-organized by CITES Secretariat and CITES Management Authority of Hong Kong SAR was attended by 23 participants from wildlife law enforcement agencies in Asian region, representatives from CITES Secretariat, Interpol and UK Department of Justice.

A 5-day training course on CITES implementation for officials from Headquarter Office and Branch Offices of China CITES Management Authority was held in Hong Kong, 5-7 November 2007.

Pilot projects on re-introduction of *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*, *Paphiopedilum malipoense* were carried out in 2006.

Project on re-introduction of *Cycas debaoensis* were successfully carried out in 2007.

## **Indonesia**

### (1) Significant Trade Review

Indonesia submitted procedure to make non-detriment findings for trade in *Cyathea contaminans* in Indonesia in accordance with the Significant Trade Review Process.

### (2) CITES Projects

#### a. Annual and Biennial report

The Indonesian CITES Management Authority has submitted Annual and Biennial report.

b. Conservation Strategy on Orangutan, Rhino, Sumatran Tiger and Sumatran elephant has been adopted in 2007.

### (3) Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes:

32 companies are registered in the CITES Secretariat as an operations of *Scleropages formosus* that breed Appendix-I species in captivity for commercial purpose in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13), and two companies are still in application to include in the registered company.

## Japan

The Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES) regulates domestically the transfer of ownership and/or the transfer of possession (for instance breeding loans), and regulates display for sales and distribution of species listed in CITES Appendix I.

The cabinet order for the implementation of LCES was amended in September 2007 in accordance with the amendment of Appendices of CITES at CoP14.

As CITES Management Authority, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) issued approximately 3,800 export licenses in 2006 and 4,300 in 2007. It also issued 4,200 import licenses with CITES permits in 2006 and 5,100 in 2007 in accordance with Japanese trade regulation. In some cases, MA of Japan exchanged relevant information with the CITES Secretariat and Parties concerned to ensure appropriate implementation of relevant decisions of CITES.

METI takes care of illegally-imported live animals and plants confiscated by Japanese Customs and Police authorities, at rescue centers (mainly zoos and botanic garden). METI had a consultation with the exporting Party to send back seized CITES-listed specimens to the Party concerned.

For promoting information exchange and coordination within the Government, the inter-ministerial coordination committee to CITES was held several times a year among relevant ministries and agencies related to CITES issues.

## Myanmar

Myanmar has been implementing CITES activities by allowing private to establish the farming of plants and animals species listed in CITES Appendices. So far two private companies were given registration to grow CITES-Appendix listed orchids artificially.

Likewise a crocodile farm owned by Department of Fisheries (DoF) has been forwarded to the CITES Secretariat in order to be included in the registration. Now, DoF has sent two staffs who have a skill in tagging crocodile to fulfill the CITES requirement.

DoF has prepared a draft law amending to the existing Protection of Wild Plants, Wildlife and Protection of Natural Areas Law, after consultation with concerned department, pertaining CITES requirements.

Management Authority of CITES in Myanmar has been responding to CITES query raised by TRAFFIC particularly to *Aquilaria malaccensis*, and to *Rauvolfia serpentina* and *Taxus wallichina*.

## Philippines

(1) Review of the Appendices

A joint meeting of the CITES Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and National Wildlife Management Committee (NWMC) was held on May 28, 2007 at PAWB to review and draw Philippine positions to various proposals for upgrading/delisting of certain species from the CITES Appendices. The Philippine positions were raised during the CITES CoP14.

## (2) CITES project

The Philippines participated in the CITES Secretariat's Capacity Building Project through the organization of a CITES Implementation Training-Workshop in the Philippines held at Clark, Pampanga last May 16-18, 2007. Technical personnel from 16 regions of the country participated in this workshop. The CITES Secretariat sponsored the said activity.

The Philippines, through this Bureau, has signified its interest to participate in the CITES E-permitting System Project. Towards this end, this Bureau is already sourcing funds for the development of the e-permitting system in the Philippines; has sought the assistance of the CITES Secretariat in building our technical capacity on this concern; and, signified its interest to participate in the work and activities of the CITES Secretariat and the Working Group of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and Electronics System.

## (3) Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I Animal species for commercial purposes

Eight (8) proposals of Birds International Inc. for the registration of its commercial breeding operations for birds listed under Appendix I were submitted to the CITES Secretariat in 2006 and 2007. Said proposals were also discussed during the 5<sup>th</sup> AEG-CITES, CoP14 and the Meeting of Animals Committee.

The applications of Davao Crocodile Farm and J.K. Mercado and Sons (ala Pag-asa Farm) for the registration of their breeding operations for commercial purposes of *Crocodylus porosus* were likewise submitted to the CITES Secretariat in December, 2007.

## (4) Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES (e.g. priority species and taxa; research projects being carried out, new developments in identification methods, research needs; population management priorities; emerging issues; species listing needs)

New policies were formulated to strengthen the protection of Philippine wildlife species, these policies are as follows; (a) DENR Administrative Order No. 2007-01, establishing the national list of threatened Philippine plants and their categories, and the list of other wildlife species; and (b) DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2007-2, establishing the guidelines on the establishment and management of critical habitats.

Five (5) proposed policies in support to the implementation and enforcement of Republic Act 9147 (the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of the Philippines) are being finalized, as follows:

(a) DENR Administrative Order (DAO) establishing the list of economically important wildlife species for collection and direct trade purposes;

(b) DAO establishing the list of threatened wild fauna which may be collected and utilized for commercial breeding/propagation purposes;

- (c) DAO establishing the list of look-alike species of threatened wildlife for protection and conservation purposes;
- (d) Guidelines on the humane treatment, care and handling of wild fauna in captivity; and,
- (e) DAO establishing the wildlife marking and identification system and providing guidelines therefore.

Creation of the Task Force Kalikasan (TFK) per DENR Adm. Order 01, Series of 2008, which shall spearhead the enforcement of all environmental laws in the Philippines.

This Bureau has also spearheaded the development of the “Manual of Operation for Wildlife Law Enforcement” which aims to provide our enforcement officers nationwide with a set of standards and protocols in law enforcement. These include standard actions and documentary requirements to be complied by enforcers during trade surveillance, specimen confiscation, case prosecution and specimen disposal.

The Manual is now being finalized for approval by concerned government authorities.

## **Singapore**

### **(1) Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 2006**

AVA administers and enforces the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act [ESA], which was enacted in March 1989 to give effect to CITES in Singapore. The Schedules to the ESA list CITES Appendices I-III species. The ESA was reviewed and the new Act came into operation on March 1, 2006.

Under the Act, it is an offence to import and export any scheduled species without a CITES permit from AVA. The Act empowers AVA to investigate, take enforcement actions against offenders and seize illegal consignments of endangered species. The new Act now empowers AVA to investigate transshipment or transmit cases, search, inspect, detain and seize any illegal CITES-protected species found in such transshipments.

In the new ESA, the maximum penalty for unauthorized import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea, of endangered species is \$50,000 per scheduled species (not exceeding an aggregate of \$500,000) and/or 2 years' imprisonment.

On September 13, 2007, the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No.3) Notification 2007 came into operation. The revised Schedule included the changes to the CITES Appendices adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP14), June 3-15, 2007, the Hague (The Netherlands).

### **(2) Enforcement cases**

AVA works closely with the Immigration & Checkpoint Authority (ICA) and Police Coast Guard (PCG) and would exchange enforcement information with the two enforcement agencies. They provide assistance AVA in detection of wildlife smuggling at the designated entry/exit points and coastal waters. The following are some significant enforcement cases investigated between Oct. 2006 and Dec. 2007.

- ❑ In June 2006, a turtle importer was caught smuggling 632 Asian soft-shelled turtles. He was subsequently prosecuted and fined \$10,000 for the offence. The turtles were confiscated and the surviving ones repatriated to Indonesia.
- ❑ In September 2006, an individual was convicted and sentenced to 4 months jail and fined \$10,000 for smuggling 11 bales of reptile skins (monitor lizard and python) from Indonesia. The skins were all forfeited.
- ❑ In November 2006, a man was compounded \$5,000 for and illegal export of 100 pieces of ivory scraps to Hong Kong. The ivory was seized by the Hong Kong authorities.
- ❑ In December 2006, AVA seized a consignment containing 470 kg of ivory tusks. The shipment had been exported from Africa and came from Hong Kong. It was meant to be re-exported to Laos PDR, via Singapore. As there was no evidence to prove that the forwarding agent in Singapore was aware of the unauthorized shipment, a warning was issued. The shipment of ivory had been shipped to the US Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory for forensics and DNA analyses.
- ❑ In February 2007, a health product company was compounded \$2,500 for an illegal import shipment of 443 bottles of Hoodia capsules from the US. The Hoodia shipment was not accompanied by any CITES permits and was confiscated.
- ❑ In February 2007, a traditional Chinese medicine shop was compounded \$5,000 for having in possession and selling 16 bottles of bear bile which had been illegally imported into Singapore from China. The products were seized as they were illegal.
- ❑ In May 2007, a seafood company was compounded \$3,500 for attempting to import 11 humphead wrasses from Malaysia without CITES permits. The fish were confiscated.
- ❑ In August 2007, 2 food turtle companies were investigated for importing excess Asian soft-shelled turtles in their consignments from Indonesia. They had permits for only 203 and 394 turtles respectively. Each company was compounded \$5,000 for the non-compliance with CITES regulations.
- ❑ In November 2007, a Chinese national was compounded \$2,500 for smuggling a laughing thrush or hwamei into Singapore from China. The bird was hidden in a tea leaves container and was not accompanied by any permits.

## **Thailand**

### **(1) Legislation and law enforcement activities**

Activities related to the legislation or regulations conducted by CITES MAs of Thailand are listed below:

- (a) Registered 3 crocodile farms;
- (b) Issued Ministerial Regulations according to Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act 1992 (B.E.2535);



(c) Listed species under the Ministerial Regulations (Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act 1992 (B.E.2535) and Plants Act 1992 (B.E.2535)) in accordance with species listed in effect after CoP14 (still on going at the ministerial level, as of April 30, 2008).

In addition, some examples of law enforcement in the country conducted by CITES MAs of Thailand are 6 cases of illegal CITES specimens seized and confiscated, including 9 heads of crocodile carcasses at Suvarnabhumi International Airport and 10 heads of Arowana fish at Phuket Internatioanl Airport.

Since Thailand set up the National Wildlife Law Enforcement Network Committee, which provides a significant stage for agencies to discuss and seek cooperation on CITES issues, the Royal Customs Department plays a significant role in supporting CITES wildlife enforcement. Some examples are:

(a) January 31, 2007, Pranburi Customs Checking Point, southern Thailand: Confiscated 1,422 turtles and 33 fishes.

(b) April 3, 2007, Mukdaharn Customs House in cooperation with DNP, Northeatern Thailand: Confiscated 240 pangolins.

(c) April 18, 2007, Padungbasar Customs House, southern Thailand: Confiscated 39 pangolins.

(d) June 2, 2007, Suvarnabhumi International Airport: Confiscated 110 reptiles.

(e) June 18, 2007, Suvarnabhumi International Airport: Confiscated 320 star tortoises.

(f) June 19, 2007, Mukdaharn Customs, Northeatern Thailand: Confiscated 3 crates of orchid.

(g) August 29, 2007, Sadao Customs House, Southern Thailand: Confiscated 48 pangolins.

Also, the Royal Thai Police as a major partner of the network plays a crucial role in supporting CITES enforcement. For example, from January to December 2007, the police seized 319 cases with 198 offenders, and confiscated 15, 937 animals.

To strengthen cooperation and effective work on CITES among governmental organizations, on January 22, 2008, the cabinet approved the CoP14 report which provided policy guidelines to all government sectors to curb illegal wildlife trade, including tigers (Resolution Conf. 12.5: conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-1 Asian big cat) and elephants (Resolution Conf. 101.0 (Rev. CoP14) and Decision 13.26).

## **Vietnam**

The Government Decree number 82/2006/ND-CP dated August 10, 2006 on management of export, import, re-export, introduction from the sea, transit, captive breeding, and ranching and artificial propagation of endangered, precious, rare species of wild fauna and flora came into effect. This Decree covers all provisions regulated by CITES.

Circular 16/2007/TT-BNN dated February 14, 2007 of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on management and utilization of export certificates for souvenirs under CITES Appendices.

Directive 1284/CT-KL-BNN dated April 11, 2007 of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on strengthening management of breeding, ranching and artificial propagation operations of wild fauna and flora.

## **5. Training/capacity Building and public awareness activities**

### **China**

Three people attended the regional Ramin Identification Workshop On October 3- November 2, 2007, which was co-hosted by AVA of Singapore and TRAFFIC.

An Identification Manual for Orchids Found in Trade in China is in preparing and will be published in 2008.

### **Indonesia**

#### (1) Cooperation with stakeholders and NGO's

##### a. Development of coordination with stakeholders

CITES MA in Indonesia in collaboration with CITES SA is developing a coordination with other stakeholders such as Customs, Police, Quarantine, Ministry of Marine Affairs etc. on the matters related to CITES implementation and wildlife trade monitoring in Indonesia. Memorandum of Understanding between CITES MA with Customs and Quarantine are in the progress.

#### (2) Capacity building activities

##### a. Training on CITES

Regular (annual) Training on CITES Law Enforcement for field enforcement officers such as Customs, Quarantine and Provincial Conservation Agencies is conducted annually. The training has been undertaken regularly since 1995 to enhance the skill and knowledge of the field officers on CITES in order to implement better control of trade in wild fauna and flora. The training materials include Introduction to Species Conservation, Introduction to CITES, Permit Systems and Procedures, Wildlife Crime and Law Enforcement Procedures, Customs Procedures, Quarantine Procedures and Species and Specimens Identification. In year 2007, Trainings on CITES were conducted in East Java and Riau Provinces.

##### b. Training on CITES listed identification

In year 2007, Regular annual training on the CITES listed identification were conducted in East Java and Riau Provinces. CITES MA and TRAFFIC SEA also conducted the training on the Reptil Identification in November in Jakarta.

##### c. Others

Workshop on the dissemination of the result of CITES CoP14 was held in August 2007 hosted by CITES Scientific Authority in Jakarta.

Training Workshop on Identification of Ramin and look a like species conducted by the Research Development Centre of Ministry of Forestry.

## **Japan**

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) published a leaflet for facilitating identification of shatoosh made from wool of Tibetan antelope and distributed them to enforcement authorities. Moreover, it also published three types of leaflets to raise awareness on the ban of illicit trade in Tibetan antelope's shatoosh and widely distributed them to tourists and general public in cooperation with travel agencies and media.

A manual consisting of identification of slow loris (*Nycticeus* spp.), measures for protection of human working with loris, and relevant domestic legislation was issued by the MoE and widely distributed to relevant departments including enforcement authorities. MoE also published a leaflet on slow loris. It provided information on biological facts, domestic regulation and other relevant matters related to slow loris. This leaflet is also widely distributed.

MoE participated in some orchid related association's meetings as well as a meeting of veterinary medical association and delivered a lecture on LCES and CITES.

In accordance with the Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP14), METI published a poster and leaflet to announce that no more than 125 grams per person is allowed for the personal effects exemption for caviar. This material was distributed to the Customs office across the country.

Moreover, METI altered the leaflet to take tourists on notice of CITES-listed species in accordance with the amendment of Appendices at CoP14.

METI organizes a training course of the International Trade Control including CITES annually, for regional officers of METI, Customs and Police officers for better understanding and implementation by the CITES administration and enforcement authorities.

## **Philippines**

### **Capacity building**

Wildlife Crime Investigation Course, on December 4-13, 2006 with support from the USAID, WildAid, TRAFFIC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

CITES Implementation Training Workshop in the Philippines, on May 16-18, 2007, with support from the CITES Secretariat.

Training on Taxidermy, on 25-27 July, 2007, with joint funding from the Philippine Government and the USAID.

## **Singapore**

An AVA officer participated in a 'CITES Law Enforcement Seminar' conducted in Hong Kong, SAR from November 21 to 23, 2006. The seminar was organized by the

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong CITES Management Authority and the CITES Secretariat. The objective of the seminar was to bring together wildlife law enforcement officials from countries in the ASEAN-WEN including China, Macao SAR and Hong Kong SAR to discuss and learn from each other's experience when dealing with wildlife crimes. The seminar also included a practical session on how to identify a fake CITES permit and presentations from the Interpol and the US Department of Justice on how technology could be used as a source of evidence and how to prepare cases for prosecution.

On March 21-22, 2007, AVA coordinated a CITES Enforcement Workshop conducted by TRAFFIC. Officers from AVA and the Singapore's Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) participated in the workshop which included talks and presentations by TRAFFIC. The trainers gave an overview of CITES implementation and enforcement, commonly traded species in SE Asia, smuggling methods used by traffickers and detection techniques. The workshop activities also included cases studies, group discussions on CITES enforcement and exercises on detecting fraudulent permits.

On October 3-5, 2007, officers from AVA, ICA and the Zoo attended a reptile species identification workshop conducted by a reptile specialist from TRAFFIC at the Singapore Zoo. The participants were taught how to identify common reptiles in trade, both in the live forms and parts. The workshop also included field trips to the Zoo reptile garden and quizzes to assess the participants' understanding of the subject matter.

On October 3-November 2, 2007, AVA co-hosted a regional Ramin Identification workshop with TRAFFIC. The workshop was initiated by the US Forest Service and supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The workshop, conducted by a botanist from the US Department of Agriculture, and 2 co-trainers from the Malaysian and Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and comprising of participants from the Customs, CITES Management Authorities and forestry officers of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, aimed to equip participants with basic skills on differentiating ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), from other look-alike species using a hand lens and a utility knife. A quiz and a practical exam were conducted during the workshop whereby participants were shown 52 samples of wood to ascertain if they were ramin or non-ramin wood.

## **Thailand**

### **(1) Training/ Capacity building**

From SC54 (October 2006) to April 2008, CITES MAs of Thailand conducted several trainings, seminars, and workshops as the following:

(a) December 6, 2006, Mahidol University: Shahtoosh Identification Training workshop.

(b) December 18-22, 2006, Kasetsart University, Bangkok: MIKE Database Arc GIS 9.1 Training workshop.

(c) March 12-23, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: English for CITES Staff, Training Course No.1.

(d) March 27-28, 2007, Chiang Mai International Airport Plant Quarantine station: CITES Training for Plant Inspectors.

(e) March 29-30, 2007, Chiang Rai International Airport Plant Quarantine station, Chiang Saen Plant Quarantine Station, Chiang Khong Plant Quarantine Station, and Mae Sai Plant Quarantine station: CITES Training for plant inspectors.

(f) April 23 – May 4, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: English for CITES Staff, Training Course No. 2.

(g) August 1-3, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Forensic for Wildlife Laws Enforcement, Training Course no.1.

(h) August 15-17, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Forensic for Wildlife Laws Enforcement, Training Course no.2.

(i) August 27-29, 2007, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Forensic for Wildlife Laws Enforcement, Training Course no.3.

(j) August 31, 2007 at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Slow Loris Conservation Training Workshop.

(k) September 16-21, 2007, Bang Pra Breeding Center, Chonburi Province: Training on CITES Species Identification.

(l) September 16-21, 2007, Quality Suit Hotel, Nonthaburi Province: Training on CITES Laws and Regulations.

(m) October 21, 2007, Bangkok; Thailand Annual Seminar on CITES Implementation for Flora 2007.

(n) January 7- 11, 2008, Bangkok: CITES Training for CITES Management Authority (Plant).

(o) February 27-29, 2008, Bangkok: Training on CITES Aquatic Species Identification.

(p) March 3-4, 2008: Nakhaburi Resort Hotel, Udon Thani Province: Cross Border Workshop on Wildlife Enforcement Network.

(q) March 11-12, 2008, Suvarnabhumi International Airport: CITES Training for Plants Inspectors.

(r) March 11-14, 2008, Greenery Resort Hotel, Nakhon Rachasima (Khao Yai): Judiciary Workshop on Wildlife Crime and Prosecution.

(s) March 19-20, 2008, Bangkok: CITES Training for Plant Inspectors (checking points between Thailand – Malaysia and Thailand – Myanmar).

(t) March 27-28, 2008, at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department: Training on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS).

## (2) Public awareness

To build up public awareness, CITES MAs of Thailand has continuously carried out education and awareness campaigns. Below are some examples:

(a) Distributed the printed materials, brochures, and leaflets on the wildlife trade campaign at airports, tourist spots, local markets, and hotels, as well as at wildlife check points of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department and border check points of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Fisheries, the Royal Thai Police, and the Royal Customs Department.

(b) Installed signs, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Fisheries, to campaign illegal wildlife trade along the borders between Thai-Lao.

(c) Joined the wildlife conservation campaign at Fashion Island in Bangkok in October 2007 and Rose Garden in Nakhon Prathom Province in November 2007 to build awareness on wildlife illegal trade to the Thai public.

(d) Participated in the National Wildlife Preservation Day on December 26, 2007, to raise awareness and campaign to conserve wildlife.

(e) Encouraged farmers to develop captive breeding of wildlife species (Giant Cat Fish).

(f) Released Giant Cat Fish (*Pangasianodon gigas*) to natural, original reservoirs in order to increase productivity from natural stocks and create public awareness for conservation of Giant Cat Fish.

## **Vietnam**

Vietnam implemented the following training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

- drafted training materials on CITES implementation for customs officers and forest rangers;
- provided on-the-job training for two officers from the Southern CITES Representative Office; and
- CITES MA of Vietnam collaborated with a German conservation organization to complete a poster on slow loris protection.

## **6. Other CITES-related activities**

### **Japan**

For the purpose of support CITES activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of Japan provided voluntary contribution amount to 300,000 USD to some projects such as MIKE, national legislation and Rhino, African Elephant Range State Meeting. Moreover, Japan contributed to the ITTO projects related to CITES-listed tropical timber species (Ramin, Mahogany and Afrormosia). An official from the Government of Japan also participated in the ITTO/CITES regional workshop on the sustainable trade of *pericopsis elata* held in Cameroon, April 2008.

### **Philippines**

#### **(1) The Scientific community in the country**

Aside from the CITES Scientific Authorities, this Bureau taps the assistance of various scientist/experts in the review of applications covering wildlife use, including trade as well as in policy formulation and resolving wildlife-related issues. The involvement of local scientists/experts is formalized through their official membership in the National Wildlife Management Committee created by the DENR under Special Order No. 2006-967 dated November 16, 2006.

#### **(2) Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs**

The Philippines through this Office, made collaborative partnership with both local and international institutions/NGOs (e.g. Field Museum of Natural History, U.S.A, Conservation International Philippines, HARIBON Foundation, Katala Foundation, etc.) for research/studies on Philippine wildlife species.

Certain NGOs provide advice and recommendations to the CITES MA/SA regarding applications for the collection or use of wildlife for trade, bioprospecting, conservation breeding or propagation of threatened species, scientific researches, special uses or other purposes.

## **Singapore**

On November 28-29, 2006, Singapore was represented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group (AEG) for CITES in Manila, Philippines. ASEAN member countries presented country reports on their work programmes that were implemented to meet the objectives of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action (2005-2010) and the ASEAN Regional Action Plan.

On May 9-11, 2007, Singapore hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group (AEG) for CITES. The meeting was attended by representatives from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore (AVA) and Thailand, and facilitated by the ASEAN Secretariat. Representatives from Birds International (Philippines), TRAFFIC and Marine and Land Products Association of Singapore and SEAFDEC also participated in the open session. The AEG discussed issues and proposals which were to be considered at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP14), June 3-15, 2007, the Hague (the Netherlands).

## **Thailand**

### **(1) Significant Trade Reviews**

In 2007 Thailand carried out the study on wild populations and review significant trade of *Rauvolfia serpentina* (CITES App. II). In addition, strictly controls for international trade, especially the specimens collected from the wild for commercial purpose, were implemented.

### **(2) Nursery Registration**

According to the laws, those who artificially propagated plants listed in CITES Appendices for commercial purposes shall be registered with CITES Management Authority. With this requirement, 214 nurseries proposed 10 families with 2,827 species (e.g. *Aquilaria*, *Agave*, *Aloes*, *Cacti*, *Cycads*, *Euphorbias*, *Nepenthes* and *Orchids*) to be registered with the Department of Agriculture.

### **(3) Thailand and Wildlife Enforcement Network**

For effective cooperation among governmental agencies as well as increasing participation from local people to combat wildlife crime, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Fisheries, the Royal Thai Police, and the Royal Customs Department convened the cross border workshop on law enforcement networking along the border between Thai-Laos on March 3-4, 2008, at Nakhaburi Resort Hotel, Udon Thani Province in northeastern Thailand. Seventy three participants including the heads of 3 CITES Management Authorities an enforcement officers from the Customs Department, the Royal Thai Police (Natural Resources and Environment Crime Division, Petrol Border Police, Highway Police), enforcement staff from the provincial offices (Army, Provincial Governor Office) as well as staff from local governments attended this workshop.

Participants discussed illegal cross-border movement of wildlife specimens such as Asian big cat species, pangolin, wild orchids and ivory. Thailand hopes Thailand Wildlife

Enforcement Network (Thailand-WEN) is and will be a platform for anti-poaching and enforcement teams to work together by sharing information on illegal trade issues and smuggling routes as well as joint operations.

#### (4) Bilateral Cooperation

With concerning to the routes of illegal wildlife trade occurring along the borders, CITES MAs of Thailand started bilateral cooperation by working with neighbouring countries. On July 16-19, 2007, CITES MAs of Thailand convened the meeting with Malaysian counterpart at the Tide Resort Hotel, Chonburi Province, eastern Thailand. Also in 2007, CITES MAs of Thailand started bilateral projects with Lao and China. Thailand expects to organize mutual visits to discuss not only the issues on CITES, but also human resources development and strengthening cooperation to stop illegal wildlife trade.

#### (5) Cooperation with other networks

During CoP14 in the Hague, the Netherlands, Thai delegation participated in side events organized by USAID and CAWT.

### **Vietnam**

Vietnam attended 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-WEN Workshop, May 21-24, 2007 in Bogor (Indonesia) and also participated in a meeting of wildlife control in Asia.

Vietnam implemented a project on wildlife planning for conservation and development in implemented a project on wildlife planning for conservation and development in collaboration with the Institute of Forest Ecology and Environment.

Otherwise, Vietnam developed a Bear Rescue Centre in Tam Dao National Park funded by Animals Asia Foundation Phase I. With regard to the conservation of bear, Vietnam implemented a project on monitoring of captive bear rising and promotion awareness of bear protection with financial support from World Society for the Protection of Animal.