**REPORT OF THE  19TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY (19TH GB)**

**24 – 25 JULY 2017, MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Lonkham Atsanavong, Acting Director-General, Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR and vice chaired by Mr. Demetrio L. Ignacio, Jr., Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. The adopted report is in **Annex 1.**

Brunei Darussalam was represented by:

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| **No** | **Name** | **Designation** | **Department / Ministry** |
| 1 | Aliman Hj Ahmad | Senior Landscape Officer | Department of Environment Parks and Recreation, Ministry of Development |
| 2 | Hj Md Alamul Huda DP Hj Adnan | Landscape Architect | Department of Environment Parks and Recreation, Ministry of Development |

**2.0 AIMS OF THE MEETING**

* To review the updates on the 12th ACB Work Plan and Budget;
* To review the proposed 13th Annual Work Plan and Budget of ACB for 2018;
* To review and agree on the newly nominated AHP sites;
* To review the updates on ACB Institutional Review;
* To review the Succession Plan of the Executive Director of ACB;
* To review the Programs and Projects of ACB;

**3.0 BRUNEI DARUSSALAM’S POSITION IN ATTENDING THE MEETING**

* Brunei Darussalam participated in:
	+ Updating the meeting on nominations for ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes;
	+ Updating the meeting on current status ASEAN Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) for Biodiversity;
	+ Requesting ACB to provide another capacity-building workshop of CHM in Brunei Darussalam”

**4.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING**

**4.1 PROPOSED 13TH ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET OF ACB FOR 2018**

* The Meeting requested ACB:
	+ To provide quantitative targets for each component;
	+ To develop some targets vis a vis the action plan on nature conservation and biodiversity in the draft ASEAN Strategic Plan on the Environment (ASPEN) for the consideration of the 28th Meeting of AWGNCB; and
	+ To provide clarification on the Institutional Review on the proposed internal Institutional Review (2017) and external Institutional Review (2018).

**4.2 NOMINATIONS OF NEW AHP SITES**

* The Meeting noted and agreed the following AHP Sites for endorsement to ASOEN:
	+ Wakatobi National Park; and
	+ Kepulauan Seribu National Park.

**4.3 UPDATES ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES**

* The Meeting approved the proposed resource mobilization strategies on the One Dollar for ASEAN Biodiversity and ACB Benefactors’ Wall.

**4.4** **UPDATES ON THE ACB INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW**

* The Meeting requested ACB to define the target completion date of the Institutional Review.
* The Meeting approved the request of ACB to defer the conduct of the Institutional Review, pending the finalization of the draft ASPEN and the ACB to take into account the above suggestions from AMS on the Institutional Review.

**4.5 SUCCESSION PLAN OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ACB**

* The Meeting noted Singapore’s concern that the timeline for the succession plan is inadequate to accommodate advertising the position, considering the different time requirements to post advertisements in broad sheets.
* The Meeting noted that the publication duration would be for a period of one month, from 1 - 31 August 2017 and that the newspaper publication is only one mode of disseminating the call for applicants noting that other means of publication would include the online publication on the ACB website, on the ASEAN Secretariat website, and other online recruitment sites.
* The Meeting agreed to advertise the position of Executive Director through online facilities: the ACB website and the ASEAN Secretariat website, and further noted that when the position is posted online, to inform the AMS so that they could in turn post it in their respective websites. The Meeting agreed to disseminate the posting through their relevant websites and networks.
* The Meeting agreed to the proposal to have three (3) shortlisted candidates and to have at least three GB members as a quorum to conduct the interview namely, the GB chair, the host country and one other AMS.
* The Meeting noted the concerns of the Philippines on the potential gap in leadership should the selection process be delayed and further noted the proposal of the Philippines to extend the Executive Director.
* The Meeting noted Singapore’s suggestion that the service contract of the Executive Director be extended to no longer than six (6) months considering the existing ASEAN policy on retirement.
* The Meeting requested ACB to facilitate the hiring of the ACB Executive Director. The Meeting agreed that in the event of a delay in recruitment the contract of the Executive Director can be extended until a new Executive Director is appointed but not more than six months.

**4.6 PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT FOR THE COP14**

* The Philippines inform ed the meeting that the SBSTTA 21 Meeting will cover, among others, biodiversity and human health, sustainable wildlife management, mainstreaming biodiversity, GBO 5, and new and emerging issues. The Philippines emphasized the importance of having a common understanding among AMS on these various issue s and present a sub - regional position in SBSTTA 21 and SBSTTA 22 Meetings.
* Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim expressed her gratitude to the other AMS for their support to the Philippines for her selection as chair of the SBSTTA Bureau for 2017 - 2018, and noted that it is an opportune time for AMS to have a more active participation in the SBSTTA meetings, and invited ACB for closer and timely coordination. Dr. Lim further informed the meeting that she will be pleased to share information with the AMS and ACB, and through Indonesia as AWGNCB chair on the preparations for CBD Meetings.
* The Meeting agreed to establish a drafting group for the ASEAN Joint Statement to CBD COP 14 composed of members from AWGNCB. The meeting nominated the Philippines as the lead country in preparing the ASEAN Statement for COP 14. The Philippines accepted the nomination to take the lead and assist the AMS to come up with the statement reflecting common understanding, and requested ACB to facilitate the process.
* The meeting agreed to hold the ASEAN Preparatory Meeting for SBSTTA 21 back to back with the Inception Meeting of the EU - BCAMP Project in November 2017 and the ASEAN Preparatory Meeting for S BSTTA 22 back - to - back with the 2 8th AWGNCB Meeting in Cambodia noting that the 6th AHP Committee Meeting will be held also back to back with the 28th AWGNCB Meeting.
* The Meeting requested ACB to coordinate closely with Cambodia and ASEAN Secretariat on the conduct of the ASEAN Preparatory Meeting for SBSTTA 22 and the 6th AHP Committee Meeting, back to back with the 28th AWGNCB. The Meeting further requested ACB to cover from ACB projects the costs of the ASEAN Preparatory Meeting for SBSTTA 22 and the 6th AHP Committee Meeting.

**4.7 ASEAN BIODIVERSITY HEROES**

* The Meeting noted that the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes is an award program intended to recognize 10 outstanding individuals who are doing valiant actions for the environment in their respective countries and the ASEAN region. The ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes commenced its selection process by the AMS on 30 April 2017 to 15 July 2017.
* The Meeting further noted the two separate programs to recognize the heroes, as follows: (1) ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes Award Ceremony and Forum on 07 August 2017 at the Grand Ballroom, New World Manila Bay Hotel, Manila, Philippines, and (2) Grand Celebration on the Golden Anniversary of ASEAN on 8 August 2017 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila Philippines.
* The Meeting expressed appreciation to all AMS for submitting the nomination of the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes in time and to ACB and ASEAN Secretariat for facilitating the process.

**4.8 EXIT REPORT OF THE ACB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

* The Meeting expressed gratitude to Atty. Roberto V. Oliva as the Executive Director of ACB for his excellent leadership and unparalleled achievements at ACB for the past four years. The Meeting hoped that Atty. Oliva will continue his advocacy on biodiversity conservation beyond his service to ACB. Atty. Oliva acknowledged the appreciation provided by the 10 AMS and ex tended gratitude for the kind words and best wishes expressed by the AMS and the ASEAN Secretariat.
* The Meeting also expressed its gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Demetrio D. Ignacio, Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines for his unrelenting support and service to ACB and as ASOEN - Chair Philippines for over a decade. Undersecretary Ignacio likewise thanked the Governing Board and ACB Executive Director, Atty. Roberto Oliva, for their efforts in pursuing biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region.

**5.0 DATE AND VENUE OF THE 20TH MEETING OF ACB GB**

* As mentioned in the meeting, the next meeting is scheduled to be held tentatively in Singapore back to back with the 29th Meeting of ASOEN in 2018.

**6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

 **Follow up actions:**

* Brunei Darussalam to prepare Mr Samhan Nyawa for the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes.
* Brunei Darussalam to liaise with CHM stakeholders on the schedule for next CHM capacity-building workshop in 2018.

Prepared by:

NFP GB

Department of Environment Parks and Recreation

Ministry of Development

Brunei Darussalam