



Unlocking the Stories behind the CTI

INTERVIEWS WITH CHAMPIONS OF
THE CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE:

Matheus Eko Rudianto, Rili Djohani, and Ambassador Hasjim Djalal

ADB Knowledge Management Project
October 2011

Unlocking the Stories Behind the CTI

Interviews with Matheus Eko Rudianto, Rili Djohani,
and Ambassador Hasjim Djalal

ADB Knowledge Management Project

As a contribution to this section on the History of CTI, the ADB Knowledge Management Project was invited to prepare perspectives of different personalities who were involved in the CTI, most of them involved at the early stages of the initiative and even now active still, in varying degrees. The following interviews were conducted to elicit what in knowledge management is referred to as “tacit knowledge,” which is really “*undocumented knowledge, often individual, private, difficult to access by other people, and specific to particular work contexts*” (Talisayon, 2008)¹. It is also referred to as “*knowledge that comprises experience and work knowledge that resides only with the individual*” (Nonaka and Takeuchi, 1995)². It is knowledge that someone has gathered from experience which, when extracted or captured, is a treasure trove.

Such is what the ADB KM project wishes to elicit – what is largely unknown to the many who are now active movers in the CTI. We believe it is of great interest to others that these “histories” be written and shared as a matter of keeping the knowledge sharing tradition in the CTI robust.

Three key figures were interviewed by the ADB KM project: Ambassador Hasjim Djalal, Ms. Rili Djohani, and Mr. Eko Rudianto. All three resource persons are Indonesians in this instalment. In future publications, the project will contribute in profiling other CTI Champions from the region. The knowledge extracted from these interviewees is also intended to help the CTI Interim Regional Secretariat and the countries’ CTI National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) to better appreciate the hindering and facilitating factors to a multisector or a multi-country development initiative and apply that knowledge in their own efforts to move forward.

We chose the interview approach (both face to face and via phone) to elicit tacit knowledge, and the results are presented here in interview transcript format. The interviews were conducted by three members of the ADB KM Team,³ thus also showing some subtle differences in exposure to the CTI.

¹ Talisayon, S. (Ed.). (2008). *Knowledge management in Asia: experience and lessons*. Asian Productivity Organization. Tokyo, Japan.

² Nonaka, I., Takeuchi, H. (1995). *The Knowledge Creating Company: how Japanese companies create the dynamics of innovation*. Oxford University Press: New York.

³ Mr. Eko Rudianto was interviewed by Mr. Rollan Geronimo, Ms. Rili Djohani by Ms. Surie Alip, and Ambassador Hasjim Djalal by Ms. Annabelle Trinidad.

MATHEUS EKO RUDIANTO:

If you believe, you can make things happen.

Director, Marine, Coastal, and Small Islands Spatial Planning, Indonesia
First Secretary, CTI Interim Regional Secretariat

by Rollan C. Geronimo, 20 September 2011

Q: How did the Coral Triangle Initiative start?

A: Even before the APEC Meeting in 2007, we already knew and understood that the Coral Triangle is the center of marine biodiversity in the world. Experts and scientists have been collecting data and writing scientific articles but the network was not formalized then, so the information was just shared.

Eventually, the experts realized that they had to do more. They had to involve the leaders. Policies had to be formulated to support work towards the sustainable management of the area.

There were several meetings in June 2007 within the Government of Indonesia (GOI), which then culminated in a meeting with Indonesia's then Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Mr. Freddy Numberi. At that time, they decided to write a letter to the rest of the CT6 countries and to Australia and the USA to start something to sustainably manage the Coral Triangle area.

But before that, in 2006, the President of Indonesia sent a letter to the leaders of the Coral Triangle countries who were then attending the COP8 meeting of the Biodiversity Convention in Rio de Janeiro, asking them to work together to sustainably manage the area. The letter was signed by the President of Indonesia in July 2007 and sent out to the other countries.



It was a good time because of the preparations for the APEC meeting that was to be held in September 2007. However, it was not a simple task because the APEC Leaders' Declaration originally did not mention anything about marine ecosystems. The focus of the original declaration was on climate change and related activities to support climate change initiatives like those in forestry.

The Indonesian Proposal on the CTI was supported by Papua New Guinea (PNG) and then later by the Philippines. The Indonesian and Philippine delegations worked very hard to insert the paragraph on the Coral Triangle in the APEC Leaders' Declaration, which was eventually passed.

It was at that point when the APEC leaders approved the Declaration that the Coral Triangle Initiative evolved from the 'expert level' into 'multilateral cooperation.' It was then that the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security was born.

After that, the Indonesian MMAF formed a small group chaired by Mr. Indroyono Susilo and Syamsul Maarif composed of NGOs, namely, TNC, WWF, and CI. We started drafting a very rough draft of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA).

But the most important thing that happened right after the APEC meeting was that some high official in MMAF decided that we should hold the first Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) in December 2007 to take advantage of the momentum.

At the time, there was a UN Climate Change Conference in Indonesia. That is why we decided to hold the 1st SOM in December 2007. Since then, I have been tied to, and driven by, CTI.

During the APEC meeting and the 1st SOM, we also agreed to hold a CTI Summit back to back with the World Ocean Conference (WOC) that was to be held in May 2009. Mr. Sheldon Cohen then later supported by Mr. Darmawan helped write the documents (take out concept) for (take out the CTI Leaders Summit) based on the discussions on CCC and SOM.

Q: What was your role in the CTI?

A: It's actually "helping out." I worked at the operational level based on the direction of my Boss Mr. Yaya Mulyana doing almost everything – preparing programs, organizing meetings, writing invitation, and talking to the boss.

Q: How did you get involved in the CTI?

A: By accident. At that time, I was the project manager of the Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project (COREMAP). Because of the name, Coral Triangle Initiative, my boss assigned me to follow up on the work. My first involvement was drafting the letter for the President. After that, I could not run away from it anymore. At that time, I was still Deputy Director of the Directorate of Conservation Area and Species, under Directorate General of MCSI.

Q: What keeps you motivated to work on CTI?

A: I like new challenges. I like doing new things. I'm happy seeing how 'nothing becomes something'... besides being assigned to it by my boss. At the time I was appointed to the CTI Interim Regional Secretariat, I was Director of Spatial Planning at MMAF, and my original scope of work did not have anything to do with CTI or the Coral Triangle. Now, the CTI has become like the small creature you see in swamps – a leech. It has stuck with me.

Q: Have you worked with other multinational cooperation programs before?

A: Yes, I have. When I was in my old job, one of my tasks was to coordinate with international agencies. But prior to that, I didn't have any experience in multilateral cooperation.

Q: What do you think is unique about the CTI compared to other programs?

A: First, cooperation between Asia and Pacific is quite rare except in APEC. CTI brings together Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Second, CTI is mainly involves cooperation in bringing about the sustainable

management of the marine environment. Third, it involves cooperation among less developed countries. Fourth, by participating in the CTI, the six countries can raise their voice regarding their ecosystem, their interests. One good example is tuna - several multilateral cooperation programs revolve around tuna.

Some CTI countries are voiceless. But together, maybe they can raise their voices and propose something that can help their countries in managing their resources.

Q: How did the interim Secretariat evolve?

A: The Secretariat started in December 2007 when the countries agreed to appoint Indonesia to lead in pursuing the CTI after SOM1 and to host an interim secretariat. In every SOM and in every Ministerial Meeting (MM), the mandate was reinforced. As an interim organization, we were really not prepared for this, but we have achieved so many things. We helped in facilitating the preparation of the RPOA and the six country national plans of action (NPOAs).

“It is like seeing the light in a dark room. Because since the signing of the APEC Leaders’ Declaration until the 1st SOM, the biggest capital we had consisted of the spirit and support from many people. At that time, we didn’t have a single cent to run the SOM. We believed that God will help us. The second one is the CTI Summit. Even I cried at that time.”

Now, we are almost finished with the establishment of a permanent secretariat. We helped draft the organization charter and terms of reference (TOR). At the time we had the RPOA, we realized we could not implement it, so we settled on producing priority actions instead. We have seen an increase in our activities, but as our organization is ‘temporary’, there are things that we could not do, like we don’t have the authority to sign contracts with other parties.

Q: What do you think are the challenges that the CTI will face in the future?

A: The future? We have been able to make good progress through the support of our original partners – Australia, USA, and the three NGOs. There is no new pledge coming in. So, honestly, I am worried. If we don’t get new support, new partners, and a bigger program, the CTI will not move forward. This is because the members of the CTI still have their own domestic problems.

To put it this way, the Coral Triangle area is the center of marine biodiversity of the world. Through their tuna and other fish species, the CT countries are actually feeding the world. For tuna, for example, it has been proven that the spawning grounds of tuna are within this area.

So, if the six countries do not care, just do whatever they like, the world will suffer...we might not have tuna in the future. The ones who benefit most from tuna are not really the CT6. The CT6 catch only the small tunas.



The ones who harvest most tunas are actually from outside the CT6. There should be a way to ‘force’ the other countries of the world to give something back to this area.

For CTI to be sustained, there is a need to have sustainable financing – maybe set up a trust fund. If we will depend solely on project or program support, it will be difficult to continue. The six countries so far have agreed to fund the Secretariat’s operational costs. But that’s not enough.

Q: What is the most fulfilling aspect of your work in CTI?

A: It is like seeing the light in a dark room. Because since the signing of the APEC Leaders’ Declaration until the 1st SOM, the biggest capital we had consisted of the spirit and support from many people. At that time, we didn’t have a single cent to run the SOM. We believed that God will help us. The second one is the CTI Summit. Even I cried at that time.

Q: Why did you cry?

A: Maybe it was because we were able to stage the Summit in spite of the many difficulties we encountered. Until three weeks before the Summit, we were not sure that the President of the Philippines and the Prime Minister of Malaysia would attend the Summit.

Because of the hard work of the Philippine focal point for the CTI, President Arroyo was able to come. In the case of Malaysia, it was fortunate that three weeks before the summit, Malaysia Prime Minister come to Indonesia to meet with Indonesia President. After that meeting, we were very happy to hear that Prime Minister Malaysia positively confirmed to attend the CTI Summit.

Some CTI countries are voiceless. But together, maybe they can raise their voices and propose something that can help their countries in managing their resources.

Sometimes we had meetings until 12 midnight. I remember one meeting with high officials, which dragged until 2:00 pm while the MM was scheduled at 4:00 pm. We decided to move the MM to 7:00 pm, and as the SOM lasted until 2:00 pm, we only had from 3:00 to 6:00 pm to revise the documents for the MM. There was also one instance when our computer, where the documents were stored, was destroyed by a fire.

During the preparations for the CTI Summit, we were so busy that it was 2:00 am when we realized that we forgot all about the pens that the Leaders were to use for signing the CTI Leaders' Declaration. I don't know what my staff did, but in the morning, we had six pens. If you watched closely, the pens were just on the table, which was not proper – the pens should have been placed in pen holders.

People say that when I chair a meeting, it is very entertaining. I make it as informal as possible because if not, you will be stressed as our meetings are always very long. Our meetings usually last for two days. In my experience, it is difficult to extend the meeting beyond that.

Now we are one big CTI family.

The ones who are very consistent in attending the SOMs are Mr. Gerochi of the Philippines, Mr. Narmoko of Indonesia, Prof. Nor Aieni of Malaysia, Ms. Kay Kalim of PNG, Ms. Agnetha of Solomons. They are the country champions of CTI.

Q: What message would you like to give the readers?

A: If you believe, you can make things happen.

Another important point is that each country has its own process. And before the officials come to our regional meetings, they would have had prior internal discussions to defend the concept. So, it's not very easy for them. For example, some boundary issues in the CT6 countries have not yet been solved.

RILI DJOHANI:

The challenge was to make the case and galvanize the action.

Executive Director, Coral Triangle Center, Indonesia

by Surie Alip, 29 September 2011

Q: How did you get involved in the CTI?

A: *Within the Nature Conservancy at that time, we looked at opportunities to replicate the experience in the Micronesian Challenge. This has been an initiative among the Micronesian states in the Pacific to galvanize multi-country support for conservation.*

It was very successful. In a smaller group, we started to discuss how we can leverage that experience for the Coral

Triangle because, in terms of its magnitude of biodiversity and global importance for coral reef conservation, it was quite an interesting geography for us to look at.

We looked at mechanisms for how we could actually initiate high-level political support that will be required when you think of something like that. We looked at other geographies in the world, like the Amazon and the Congo Basin where, on the forestry side, multinational initiatives have been successful. We looked at lessons learned and how we could initiate, launch, and roll out a process to do so.

From my perspective, I think what happened was that we asked the leader of the Micronesian Challenge, who at that time was the President of Palau, to suggest to our President in Indonesia to look at an initiative that would include the six



countries that have the highest coral diversity. At that time, we had good contacts with the Presidential Office. I worked closely with one of our TNC advisers, Pak Hasjim Djalal, to see how we can actually start to look into this.

The first thing we did was to have our President announce a “call to action” to focus on how to protect the Coral Triangle, which was such an important geography, in one of the global biodiversity conferences held in Brazil in 2006.

So I helped to make sure that the Indonesian delegation could announce such a thing on behalf of the President of Indonesia in Brazil. At the same time, the TNC team helped facilitate a letter from the President of Palau to suggest to the President of Indonesia, suggesting a similar process for the Coral Triangle Initiative. He really responded positively.

His suggestion was also accepted at the APEC meeting in Sydney in 2007, and that meant that 21 countries associated with APEC agreed to adopt the Coral Triangle Initiative, to support it from a food security angle for the sole interest of preserving coral reefs and associated habitats for fisheries and for tourism - really for the economies of the six countries that have been identified and rightly recognized by scientists and governments.

At that time, it was Gerald Miles of TNC and Sheldon

Cohen who helped work on the road map, to conceptualize what the Coral Triangle Initiative could be, and how it would look like. They helped mobilize support early on to launch the Initiative at the Global Climate Change Conference held in Bali in December 2007.

That was where the first official launch was held with the six countries' delegations and with the partners at that time, which included the NGOs, USAID, ADB, and Australia. From then on, the Interim Secretariat was formed, the six-country National CTI Coordinating Committees (NCCs) were created, and national and regional coordination meetings, SOMs and Ministerial Meetings were held, which led to the Coral Triangle Initiative Summit in Manado in 2009.

It was Pak Hasjim's advice early on to link the launch of CTI with the World Ocean Conference (WOC) in Manado in 2009. In those 1-1/2 years, I was personally involved in organizing a team that would help our government in Indonesia to continue to set up the road map towards the Summit and engage in discussions to conceptualize it up to the Summit.

After that also, in terms of the SOMs, I was involved in thinking through what kinds of programs we could implement. By setting up the Coral Triangle Center shortly after, as an independent organization, we are in a position to focus support on training and learning, hence, also support the regional learning networks. In terms of CTI, for us in TNC, it started around 2006 and it was built on the notion of how important it is to have the six countries work together on this as one force.

Q: What did it take to organize that team that developed the road map in the early stages of the CTI?

A: Our best step forward was to recruit Sheldon Cohen. He was really the champion in rolling out and coordinating with all the parties involved, including the Government of Indonesia, in particular, and in drafting the decision-making documents and all the next steps leading towards the CTI Summit. The key step forward was to recruit a

person who could really dedicate 100 percent of his time to set up the road map with the involvement of the government and the partners.

I don't think we could have had a better person than Sheldon. At the same time, the Government of Indonesia (GOI) appointed Eko Rudianto who, early on, has been the driving force in the GOI/MMAF in moving CTI forward.

At the same time, we discussed the recruitment of people who could strengthen the Secretariat because we looked at capacity of the government. It was a new initiative and always of the Secretariat until now. So Sheldon and I looked at people, and we recruited Darmawan to be placed at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) to start coordinating things on behalf of the Secretariat.

We engaged the TNC team in Indonesia with Abdul Halim (TNC Marine Indonesia program) to give strategic and back-up support, e.g. when meetings needed to be organized, to help with the logistics, basic communication support so that we can move things along. At the very early stages, I think we did a lot of mobilizing support to make this happen. Along the way, up to the Summit, more and more partners joined.

Q: What were some other challenges that you met at the early stages and what kept you motivated?

A: At first, not many people saw the leverage opportunity of this initiative. There was a little bit of wariness like, "Oh no, not another initiative on top of all the other things that were going on." It took a while before we were able to galvanize support not only within TNC but also externally.

As we started to talk to Government and the partners about it, not everyone saw the opportunity. The challenge was to make the case and galvanize action and, once we did, thanks to the leading role of our President, we could actually get traction very quickly.

It actually allowed us to work with a lot of people who were all committed to marine conservation. Along the way, we realized that this initiative could help coordinate people and organizations working in marine conservation, make a difference together, and we can help firm it up in some coherent way as we have now in the form of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA).

The belief is that we could really make a difference with this, and I still think we can. It just takes a little longer to realize our vision. To me, it is still a great step forward in connecting people and the marine environment. I'm still very excited about it all and hope we can keep the momentum with the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat.

I think we will be able to institutionalize it in the long term, with the NCCs and with the support of all the partners and ADB's knowledge

management project. We are really looking at the sustainability of this - set up mechanisms and systems that can last. I remain optimistic, three years after the Summit and five years after our first intervention in this initiative. I think we have gone a long way.

Q. How different is the CTI from other international cooperation programs that you have been a part of? What makes it unique?

A: To me, CTI is unique in that it is the first presidential summit on (a) marine issues and (b) conservation. It is unique in that I don't think there has ever been a summit with a focus on marine conservation and highlighting the importance of coral reefs in the context of the economies of major countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, and the other countries. To me, that is very different from any other summit, which is usually held in the context of trade or specific sectors like fisheries or energy, but not for conservation.

Secondly, I think it is a highly focused initiative – the signing of the CTI Leaders' Declaration and the Action Plan and all the systems that are now being set in place. I think the initiative goes much deeper in terms of thinking through the relational structures and knowledge that we would like to generate and store and the capacity that we would like to develop.

I also think, thanks to the partners, that we can really set up a framework for this initiative so that it can succeed and last. Often, with other initiatives, you would have a launch and then things fizzle out. With CTI, I think we will make a major impact once systems are set-up properly.



"I also think, thanks to the partners, that we can really set up a framework for this initiative so that it can succeed and last. Often, with other initiatives, you would have a launch and then things fizzle out. With CTI, I think we will make a major impact once systems are set up properly."

Q: In your opinion, how has the CTI Interim Regional Secretariat evolved since the CTI was conceived?

A: The Regional Secretariat has grown stronger in terms of its ability to coordinate and

“We can have all the science in the world, all the money in the world, but if we are not able to share these effectively among those people who need the information and have the ability to update it, it would be such a waste.”

to help schedule and plan the SOMs and MMs. We are longing for the final sign-off on the structure of the Permanent Secretariat and to its staffing with people representing the six countries, who are dedicated to the CTI, and with sufficient mandate and resources. “

The Interim Secretariat was crucial in trying to institutionalize the initiative to the point that it could implement and sustain things. Kudos to Eko, Darmawan, and his team and, more recently, with Pak Suseno joining as Vice Chair, the Interim Secretariat has been able to keep and create a new momentum for CTI this year with a focus on establishing the Permanent Secretariat.

Again, I think it took a bit longer than we all expected, but as long as we could sign off on all these at the end of October at the SOM and the MM, then we can move ahead.

Q: What are the key challenges facing the Regional Secretariat until 2020?

A: I think it is key for the Secretariat to keep the momentum for the initiative until 2020. Presidents will change - we have new presidents in some of the countries. Any change of President and Administration requires the Secretariat and everyone involved to bring the new Administration up to speed. There will be new initiatives coming

up and competing agendas of government (such as generating income and jobs), and to keep CTI as a priority for governments over the next decade will be a key challenge. The conservation agenda will not always be on top of the Government's agenda.

The role of the Secretariat will be to make sure that we keep the momentum, i.e., keep the countries coordinated and track our progress against our goals to keep it going. The Regional Secretariat has to be the engine in many ways in the next decade to make this happen.

Q: What is the most fulfilling aspect of your work?

A: I really enjoy seeing the improved relationships across the Coral Triangle between government officials, NGOs, communities, and corporate partners. There is a much stronger sense of community now in the Coral Triangle compared to the last ten years, and there is a large potential in the next ten years. I enjoy seeing the impact that we have made as a region and on a global scale to do something meaningful for our people who depend on the marine and coastal resources and to protect these resources on the global scale. Being in a position to work on these on a daily basis is quite rewarding.

Q: Is there anything else you want to share with the readers of this article other than those you have already mentioned?

A: To me, the work that all our governments and partners are doing in the field of knowledge management and capacity development and training is the most important aspect of this initiative. We can have all the science in the world, all the money in the world, but if we are not able to share these effectively among those people who need the information and have the ability to update it, it would be such a waste. I think it is a very difficult challenge, and it is a critical, if not the most critical, aspect that CTI has to deal with at this stage.

AMBASSADOR HASJIM DJALAL :

CTI is not about national boundaries, but ecological boundaries.

Retired Diplomat, Currently Ambassador-at-Large and Adviser to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia, and Board Member of the Coral Triangle Center, Bali

by Ms. Abbie Trinidad, Ms. Lydia Napitupulu, and
Ms. Lourdes Margarita Caballero, 4 October 2011



Sea conflict in the context of the CTI? (Abbie Trinidad, AT)

A: We are now caught in the middle between the idea of national interest and the idea of regional cooperation. How do you seek a middle ground? Pursue national interest within the context of regionalization, which is not an easy thing.

We are accustomed to putting national interest within the national sovereignty and within the context of national politics, which is mainly dictated by domestic politics. At the

Q: What can be learned from the South China

same time, we are also trying to pursue our own national interest within the context of regional harmony.

Q: Do you see this (conflict between national interest and regional cooperation) happening also in the CTI? (AT)

A: In a way, yes, it happened also here in Indonesia. When we started developing the idea of CTI, not all people were supportive. Some of them argued that it is all Indonesian territory, and the question was about how the Indonesian territory should be managed in a regional framework.

We responded by explaining that there is also Philippine territory in the CTI, and Timor Leste. But some people doubted that the CTI may, somehow, intrude upon the national ability to exercise sovereignty. There was a struggle to say this is not so – national sovereignty has a political boundary, but CTI has an ecological boundary. CTI is not about national boundaries. CTI is not about jurisdictional boundaries.

“CTI is perceived to compromise national sovereignty in the national territory or national archipelagic waters until you convince people that it does not and will not.”

Q: Did you have to understand all of the scientific papers to be able to argue for CTI? (AT)

A: Well, for some of them, you do, but for some, you have to think about them. You asked me if there were some problems in the beginning. These were not revealed to the public so much, but it is known within the bureaucracy. CTI is perceived to compromise national sovereignty in the national territory or national archipelagic waters until you convince people that it does not and will not.

On some occasions, we argued that Indonesia has accepted the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the Convention specifically obliges all states to protect the environment. CTI is within the context of protection for the environment, specifically, the marine environment. Therefore, in fact, the CTI is the implementation of our obligations to UNCLOS. In the end, I think you need to have a decision taken by the President, at the top government level, who is being able to understand that. The President apparently understood that environmental issues may scuttle all the territorial sovereignty arguments, and then, he became very supportive. I did not talk to the president about this, though.

Q: I assume there were people who were supporting the idea and others were cautioning the President. (AT)

A: Yes, there were those who expressed doubts, but what I know is that the President listened much more to the positive ideas; therefore the negative ideas did not get very

far. Like in any country, there is always a “Mr. No.” Everywhere you have that kind of people.

Q: Is the President happy now with what CTI has achieved? How about you? (AT)

A: We are happy with the acceptance and implementation of the idea. The truth is I have not been following the physical implementation of the Secretariat much, but I think the government of North Sulawesi is very supportive. They have provided land – so progress has been made.

I am part of the Coral Triangle Center in Bali with Rili serving as Executive Director, and George Tahija and myself established some kind of a foundation with the purpose of educating the CT countries – how to preserve the Coral Triangle, with focus on training programs. The foundation has been established in Bali, and is training people for that purpose. People from the provinces and districts come to Bali. We also developed programs for Solomons and PNG.

Q: Was your interest in marine conservation something that you nurtured a long time ago? (AT)

A: Yes, I am an old man, so that was a long time ago.

Q: Is that why you were drawn to the Law of the Sea? (AT)

A: Originally, it was not based on marine conservation but on territorial sovereignty. Originally, the thinking was to have control over a country’s own resources – how to maintain national unity.

Q: By putting up the fences first? (AT)

A: Yes, you probably don’t know that the discussions on the first archipelagic principle were done in Corregidor, in Manila Bay in 1971. That is a long, long story, but not so much motivated by the environment. International interest in the environment was first generated in 1965 by the Dover Strait accident, which caused massive pollution. Who was responsible for the mess? Before that, no one thought about the environment much. Do you want to hear this story?

In 1957, I was a student at the University of Virginia – there were lots of rebellion in Indonesia including in my province of West Sumatra. Why do we keep on fighting? At that time, regionalism was too strong, ethnicity was too strong. There was also demand for an Islamic status. Government should think about uniting the country by revisiting the Law of the Sea.

The Law of the Sea we inherited from the Dutch encompasses a three-mile territorial sea. That made the Java Sea not part of the territorial waters of Indonesia. For that reason, Indonesia announced, in December 1957, the archipelagic principle. The motivation was national unity, but the concept was later used for developing resources, and then much later, for the environment. After I finished my masters program, I wrote a dissertation on the Law of the Sea in 1959, which was the first dissertation on the LOS.

Q: What was the basis for the numbers, from 3 nautical miles, then 12 nautical miles, then 200 nautical miles? (AT)

A: We targeted a baseline that would unite the country.

Q: So was there also a geophysical explanation for the boundary delimitation?

A: Yes, we thought of how to make the sea connect and not separate the islands. And then the idea of 12 miles came up, but this did not come from us. It is not a new idea, we only tried to apply it, but the notion of an archipelagic state was new. When we first did it in 1957, the Japanese, who were fishing in Banda Sea, had to make new arrangements with us.

When we submitted our proposal to the UN Council of the Law of the Sea in Geneva, people didn't understand it, mainly because



“I don't think CTI should get into territorial issues – it should focus on environmental issues.

The moment CTI goes into territorial issues, it will get stuck.”

we had very little time to explain the concept. So we withdrew the proposal. Our diplomatic idea was to withdraw rather than be rejected because rejection may connote some illegality – until we were better prepared. Arvid Pardo⁴, a diplomat and eminent professor from Malta, asked the UN General Assembly in November 1967 “who owned the resources of the ocean – both in the water and at the bottom of the ocean?” People are doing exploratory work at the bottom of the ocean. An example is the Global Challenger (this was an American expedition in search of mineral resources at the bottom of the Pacific).

Up to now, the American position is that it belongs to anyone who can take it. Up to now, the Americans have not ratified the Law of the Sea. The developing countries then concluded that the resources belong to the countries

⁴ Pardo proposed that the seabed constitutes part of the “common heritage of mankind”, a phrase that appears in Article 136 of UNCLOS and asked that some of the sea's wealth be used to bankroll a fund that would help close the gap between rich and poor nations.

with the technology. The idea for the 3rd conference in 1967 came up, and then a special committee (the UN Seabed Committee) was established, of which Indonesia has been a member since 1970.

In the meeting of the Seabed Committee, we had a meeting in New York for the would-be members of the archipelagic states. We talked about agreements, principles, basis – and then it was decided to have a meeting in Manila – that was in 1971/72. The meeting was held in Corregidor, and on the road back, we formulated the Manila Principle.

Q: Was the Philippines also using the archipelagic doctrine to unite the islands? (AT)

A: Yes, very much.

Q: Do you think the CTI could be used as a platform to start conversation on the South China Sea?

A: I don't think CTI should get into territorial issues – it should focus on environmental issues. The moment CTI goes into territorial issues, it will get stuck.

Q: Can we try to tweak the issue in the SCS to be an environment issue? (AT)

A: We tried to do that. In the South China Sea workshop process, we agreed to do marine protected areas (MPAs). People are keen to talk about this, but when we start talking about “where,” people start saying “this is mine.” There is a lot of MPAs in the Spratlys and Paracels, but the issue of ownership always comes into play.

A joint marine biodiversity expedition conducted in “non-disputed areas” of the Anambas Sea resulted in a publication by the Raffles Museum of Singapore that highlights

the discovery of 80 new marine species. After that we agreed to do three more expeditions. Anambas was southwest; we planned to do it also in the southeast, northwest, and northeast, and we decided to do the second in the southeast, near the Palawan Island.

That did not push through due to some changes in the Philippines’ position regarding the informal and scientific/academic nature of the expedition as opposed to its being a formal undertaking.

Q: Were you introduced to the CTI concept by TNC? (AT)

A: In a way, TNC played a major role. I was also advising TNC. To me, they had a strong views on the CTI concept. In Indonesia, there are three major environmental groups – WWF, CI, and TNC. But TNC is the most supportive. The other two are also very supportive, but TNC drafted studies, did research.

Q: And they had already cultivated partners in the MMAF at that time?

A: Sort of. TNC was also in contact with some Ministry of Fisheries officials and I also serve as adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries. I retired as a diplomat in 1994. TNC provided the technical background, they proposed ideas, and we supported them, to find out the right way to do this which is acceptable to the Government of Indonesia and the other CTI countries.

Q: Do you feel that CTI has been a success? (AT)

A: The President has been very supportive. He may be too busy with domestic politics now, but he remains very positive. Now, it's all up to us, to the six countries, to implement.

The ADB Knowledge Management Project (RETA 7307) supports ongoing CTI efforts via knowledge management in the preparation of the State of the Coral Triangle Report (SCTR), sustainable financing, and environmental economics and payment of ecosystem services.

Visit the Knowledge Hub at www.coraltriangleinitiative.net to know more about the project. For questions, contact Ms. Abbie Trinidad, RETA 7307 Team Leader, at km4cti@gmail.com.

Unlocking the Stories Behind the CTI

October 2011

Editor: Ms. Elvira Ablaza, President and CEO, PRIMEX

Cover design and layout: Ms. Lourdes Margarita Caballero, Documentation Specialist

Project Assistant: Ms. Joy Ortiz