



**Report of the ARCMDG
2008-09**

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Prof. Jayant K Routray, Director
ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs



ARCMDG

ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on Millennium Development Goals



Klong Luang Pathumthani 12120, Thailand
Street Address: Km. 42 Paholyothin Highway, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand
Tel: (66-2) 524-5609, Fax: (66-2) 524-6431, <http://arcmdg.ait.asia>, E-mail: arcmdg@ait.asia

CONTENTS

Introduction	5
Mission	5
Objectives	6
Current Structure and Funding Support of the Center	6
ARCMDG Steering Committee	6
Advisory Board Members	7
Activities during 2008-09	7
Training	8
Upcoming Activities	8
UNIFEM Project	8
Annex 1 Declaration	9
Annex 2 Term of Reference for the Regional Center of Excellence at AIT	10
Annex 3 ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on Millennium Development Goals, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok	12
Annex 4 MDG Focal/Key Persons' Meeting Notes	14
Annex 5 Template for Developing the Training Course	15
Annex 6 UN-ECOSOC Meeting from 6-9 July, 2009 at Geneva	16

Introduction

Following the ASEAN Regional Roundtable on MDGs *“ECOSOC’s Promotion and Achievement of Millennium Development Goals through Education and Outreach”* during 24 and 25 March 2008 held at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok and through declaration made by the participants, **ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs** was created to promote, educate and train on MDGs throughout the region in close collaboration with actors in the field. This has been welcomed by the UN Secretary-General as the world’s first Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs for its establishment and functioning at AIT. The center was established and made functional since 1 May 2008 with the appointment of Dr. Jayant Kumar Routray, Professor of Regional and Rural Development Planning as Director to formalize the initial process and follow the activities as mandated through declaration (annexed).

The joint declaration of the Heads of the State in the 14th Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during 26 February to 1 March 2009 at Hua Hin in Thailand has reaffirmed the commitment for attaining the Millennium Development Goals by sharing information, experiences and best practices among the member states through relevant ASEAN bodies as well as through the ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs at AIT and other regional institutions.

AIT has been engaged during the last five decades in providing academic curricula focused on “Sustainable Development” cutting across three schools and extension/outreach units. AIT being a regional institute with international, multilingual, and cross-cultural attributes, always strives to contribute for meeting regional needs and beyond through planning, technological, developmental and management related education, research, training, outreach and networking activities. AIT focuses on interdisciplinary and applied education in line with the concept and principles of sustainable development, oriented and geared towards solving regional problems, prioritize on poverty, gender, livelihood, resource conservation and management, etc. following participatory and practice oriented education. The climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptations with disaster preparedness are currently emphasized to address potential threats and risks at national and regional levels. AIT and ARCMDG has synergy to work and cooperate together for contributing towards achievements of MDGs.

Mission

The mission of the ARNMDG is to contribute, catalyze and deliver for achieving MDGs in the ASEAN region and beyond through its capacity building, education, and research programs coupled with consulting and advisory services, networking and partnership building activities in close collaboration with national, regional and international organizations inclusive of civil societies and non-governmental organizations.

Objectives

In response to the declaration of the ASEAN Regional Roundtable and following the TOR of the center, the objectives are as follows:

1. To **popularize the** MDGs, by spreading, disseminating, and propagating information on MDGs, starting with 4 Goals: Goal 1, Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Goal 3, Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women; Goal 7, Ensuring Environmental Sustainability; and Goal 8, Global Partnership for Development, throughout the ASEAN Region.
2. To **develop** and offer pedagogical modules, educational materials and tools for MDGs training in government and academic institutions, civil society, NGOs and private sector, complementing similar initiatives by other Centers of Excellence on MDGs operating elsewhere in the world.
3. To **help** establish National Centers of Excellence, starting with the ASEAN Region and to exchange information and competencies on MDGs between the Centers of Excellence.
4. To **stress** the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women as a cross-cutting issue of all MDGs, viewed within the human rights perspective and linked to the MDGs.
5. To **establish** a bank of trainers and of networks of experts in MDGs and to train the trainers and professionals involved with MDGs.
6. To **conduct** research of psycho-pedagogical impact for the spread of MDGs.
7. To **collaborate** and cooperate with internal units of AIT and external institutions, countries and regional organizations, including UN, NGOs, civil societies engaged in MDGs focused activities.
8. To **document** research on related themes of the MDGs and to disseminate the impacts of MDGs.

Current Structure and Funding Support of the Center

Currently the activities and affairs of the center are managed by one Director (part time) and one full time Program Officer under the supervision of the President of AIT. Vice President (Development and Resources) of AIT will supervise the activities of the center. AIT has contributed financial support generously to start the center and undertake few activities so far.

ARCMDG Steering Committee

For managing the affairs of this center a steering committee has been formed involving 7 members including the Director of the center, represented by all Schools and concerned units of AIT. The members are:

Prof. J. K. Routray, Director, ARCMDG

Dr. Babel Mukand Singh, Associate Professor (Water Engineering and Management), School of Engineering and Technology

Dr. Oleg V. Shipin, Associate Professor (Environmental Engineering and Management), School of Environment, Resources and Development

Dr. Bernadette P. Resurreccion, Associate Professor (Gender and Development Studies), School of Environment, Resources and Development

Dr. Winai Wongsurawat, Assistant Professor, School of Management

Dr. Pritam K Shrestha, Head, External Relations and Communications Office (ERCO)
Mr. Voravate Chonlasin, AIT Extension

Advisory Board Members

Mr. Apichai Sunchindah, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Bangkok
Dato' Dr. Ahamad bin Sipon, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation, Bangkok
Dr. Donald Tambunan, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia
Dr. Francois Lorient, International Association of MDGs Trainers (AIFOMD), New York
Dr. Gotham Arya, National Economic and Social Advisory Council, Bangkok
Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, Permanent representative to the United Nations and UNECOSOC
Dr. Jean D'Cunha, UN Development Fund for Women, Bangkok
Mr. Minar Pimple, United Nations Millennium Campaign Asia, Bangkok
Mr. Niko Barita, UNITAR, Jakarta
Dr. Piniti Ratananukul, ASEAN University Network, Bangkok

Activities during 2008-09

Undertaken

1. Compiled and edited the MDG Round Table Report, March 2008 by Prof. Jayant Kumar Routray, Ms. Tamkare Thitithamtada and Mr. Camille Karbassi-Zadeh.
2. President of AIT and Director of the center had participated in the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council and Annual Ministerial Review 2008 Meeting on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals (including the MDGs) and commitments in regard to sustainable development" during 30 June to 3 July 2008 at New York.
3. First Steering Committee meeting was held on 11 June 2008. Various issues were discussed how to strengthen the activities of the center at AIT.
4. A meeting was held on 16 September 2008 involving the MDG Key Resource Persons of AIT to work on the template for developing the training modules on four assigned goals (1, 3, 7 and 8).
5. Organized a research colloquium and prepared a document on the theme "Role of NGOs and Academia in Achieving the MDGs in Asia" jointly with the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisation in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) on 25 Feb 2009.
6. The web site of the ARCMDG was designed <<http://arcmdg.ait.asia>> and now put in place.
7. Brochure of the center has been finalized in consultation with the MCU of AIT, which will be printed soon for circulation.

8. Prof. Routray attended and participated in different sessions of the UN-ECOSOC Meeting at Geneva focused on the theme “Global Public Health and MDGs”.

Training

9. Training cum Study Visits program on “Project Management for Sustainable Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply” during 11-22 May 2009, jointly organized by Geoinformatics Center and ARCMDG. This was supported by the Ministry of Local Government of Bangladesh.
10. Senior Executive Training & Study Visits on “ Information Technology for Development Planning, Management & Governance” for Government of India Officials, during 30 November – 11 December 2009, jointly Organized by Geoinformatics Center and ARCMDG, AIT.

Upcoming Activities

- Seminar cum Study Tour Program on “Project Monitoring and Evaluation with Focus on Poverty Reduction and MDGs”, 25– 30 Jan 2010. Supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) of Bangladesh. To be conducted jointly by AIT Extension and ARCMDG.
- A number of training courses relating to four goals (Goals 1, 3, 7 & 8) are under preparation for submission to the UNITAR.

UNIFEM Project

Training Workshop and Thematic Research on Gender Mainstreaming and Economic Empowerment

1. Development of the training modules on gender mainstreaming and equality and pilot testing using existing research including UNIFEM materials (expected to be held in May/June 2010).
2. A workshop on “MDGs analysis and operational indicators for gender mainstreaming and equality” to be held on 28-29 Jan 2010.
3. Thematic Research on “Livelihood Assets and Economic Empowerments of the Home based Women Workers” is in progress in five countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Annex 1

Declaration

ASEAN Region Roundtable on MDGs “ECOSOC’s Promotion and Achievement of Millennium Development Goals through Education and Outreach”

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok
25 March 2008

We, the participants of the ASEAN Region Roundtable held on the 24 and 25 March 2008 at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), **commit ourselves to assist in achieving all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015.**

Having considered the Millennium Declaration signed in 2000 with its 2001 Roadmap to achieve the UN MDGs, and their importance in Capacity-building, Education and Training, and taking into consideration ECOSOC’s new features of the Development Cooperation Forum and of the Annual Ministerial Review, including its 2008 theme of *“Implementing the internationally-agreed Goals and commitments, in regard to sustainable development”* aiming for a full and timely implementation of the goals and targets of the major United Nations Conferences and Summits, we have adopted the following:

1. We support the creation of the ASEAN Regional Centre of Excellence on MDGs at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok that will promote, educate and train on MDGs throughout the region. In close collaboration with actors in the field, the Centre will develop pedagogic modules, educational materials and tools for MDG training in government and academic institutions, civil society, and NGOs complementing similar initiatives by other Centres of Excellence on MDGs operating elsewhere in the world.
2. We recognize the achievements of the ASEAN region in economic and social development, and the diversity in development levels of countries in the region, and we reaffirm our commitment leading to substantial progress towards reducing poverty and hunger to support ASEAN countries needing assistance in achieving the MDGs.
3. We stress promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women as a cross-cutting issue throughout all MDGs, viewed within the human rights perspective and linked to the Millennium Declaration. It is interconnected and inter-related with other documents such as Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform For Action (BPFA), the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, and other international commitments.
4. We acknowledge the importance of environment as a foundation for sustainable development and equitable human progress as being promoted by all the MDGs.
5. We reiterate the importance of MDG provisions for global partnership for development, including the 2007 Ministerial declaration of the High-level segment of ECOSOC, and we resolve to enhance partnerships at international, regional and sub-regional levels throughout the ASEAN region

- across a broad range of stakeholders for effective MDG advocacy and implementation, including through corporate social responsibility (CSR).
6. We emphasize the importance of offering relevant and innovative pedagogical approaches adapted to the MDGs in partnership with governments, NGOs, civil society, private sector, and international agencies. In this regard, we commend the dialogue that took place at the Roundtable on the Syllabus and Module development for full-fledged teaching and training materials on the MDGs to be evaluated for accreditation by UNITAR and offered by the ASEAN Regional Centre of Excellence on MDGs.
 7. We are grateful to the UN Secretary-General for supporting this initiative. We also salute the efforts of UN-NGO-IRENE, Asian Chapter of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO), and AIT for making possible the cooperation and implementation of this pioneering initiative.

Annex 2 Term of Reference for the Regional Center of Excellence at AIT

1. To popularize MDGs, and spread, disseminate, and propagate information on MDGs, to start with particularly Goals 1 (eradication of extreme poverty and hunger), 3 (promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women), 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability), and 8 (global partnership for development) throughout the ASEAN Region.
2. To mobilize educational environments for spreading, teaching and learning about MDGs.
3. To develop and offer pedagogical modules, educational materials and tools for MDG training in government and academic institutions, civil society, NGOs and private sector complementing similar initiatives by other Centers of Excellence on MDGs operating elsewhere in the world.
4. To help establish National Centers of Excellence starting with the ASEAN Region.
5. To exchange information and competencies on MDGs between the Centers of Excellence.
6. To stress on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women as a cross-cutting issue throughout all MDGs, viewed within the human rights perspective and linked to the MDGs.
7. To have the training modules accredited by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).
8. To establish a bank of trainers and of networks of experts in MDGs.
9. To conduct *training of trainers* in professions connected to the MDGs, to start with particularly Goals 1, 3, 7 and 8.
10. To conduct research/analyses of psycho-pedagogical impact for the spread of MDGs.
11. To interact with NGOs, CSOs and MDG-oriented community organizations.
12. To cooperate with specialized agencies of the UN, BM, MDG country teams.
13. To organize seminars of experts and to make publications, press relations on MDGs.
14. To harmonize the internal AIT initiatives on Gender, MDGs and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
15. To coordinate and cooperate with Schools, Fields of Study, and AIT Extension for the integration of MDGs into the core curricula.

Annex 3

ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on Millennium Development Goals
Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok

First Steering Committee Meeting Notes, E109, 11 June 2008

Members Present: Prof. Iikka, Dr. Babel, Mr. Voravate, Prof. Routray, and Dr. Doneys (Invitee)

Appologoies: Dr. Shipin, Dr. Babet, Dr. Pritam, Prof. Chongrak and Dr. M. M. Ahmad

1. Following the Declaration made in the ASEAN Region Roundtable on MDGs held on 24 and 25 March 2008, ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on Millennium Development Goals was created and established at AIT. This is recognition of AIT for its focused education and research activities on sustainable development with MDG goals over last two decades. Prof. Routray was appointed as Interim Director from May to Dec 2008.
2. A joint meeting of the Steering Committee with focal persons of four MDGs was held in E 109 on 11 June 2008 (9.00-11.00), attended by the members and Dr. Doneys as a focal person.
3. Prof. Routray welcomed the members and thanked them for their kind acceptance to serve as members of the Steering Committee. He distributed the copies of the Declaration, TOR of the Center, and proposed activities to be undertaken. He provided the background information of the center and explained the targets and expected outputs during the interim period.
4. Some members observed that the proposed activities seem to be heavy and accomplishing them within a short time period may become difficult.
5. Some of the important observations and remarks made in the meeting are:
 - a. Goal and objectives of the centre is very noble for the mankind as those are based on practical approach. It is in the right direction. The center provides great opportunity with lots of challenges also for AIT, particularly raising funds to nurture it.
 - b. Some board members could be from funding agencies. Eleven members representing regional and international institutions are currently invited for Advisory Board membership. It is not desirable to expand further. UNDP and some funding agencies should be contacted for raising funds and seeking assistance to support center's activities.
 - c. It was suggested to prepare a business plan with a time horizon with cash flow analysis.
 - d. Assessing training needs and identification of potential clients is the key for designing the training modules for "Training of Trainers". This has been done partially in the Roundtable but needs further intensification.
 - e. In addition to AIT's internal resources, additional experts and resource persons must be involved in order to ensure high quality.
 - f. UNITAR may be contacted for the pedagogical guidelines for developing training modules for easy accreditation. Apart from UNITAR, AIFOMD (Dr. Lorient) should be contacted for guidelines and advice on developing the training modules.
 - g. A brochure is required to promote the activities of the center.
6. Training modules: Four training modules will be developed in the initial phase, one under each goal (Goal 1: Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, Goal 3: Gender equality and women empowerment, Goal 7: Environmental sustainability, Goal 8: Global partnership for development). It

- was felt too broad and suggested to focus by identifying issues or topics under each goal and develop them as training courses. Customized training programs are preferred with all details subject to availability of funding for preparation. It is equally important that the universities/civil societies in the ASEAN region be identified and invited to participate in the development of the training modules as well as to be the resource persons for the training program in the future. The participants of the Roundtable have given some initial thoughts and identified the topics. All these points will be considered while developing the training modules.
7. Fund raising: This is the most challenging task for AIT. AIT remains committed for mobilizing funding for graduate education and research. As this center will work with and for the national centers (in future) of the ASEAN countries, UNO should commit some core/seed funding to make it truly functional. Funding from regional sources will be explored gradually. Multilateral and Bilateral agencies may channelize some of their activities with funding to be implemented through this center such as documentation, joint research and training, evaluation of MDG programs in the region, and for providing technical resources and skills to national centers, etc.
 8. Government and private organizations have funds under Corporate Social Responsibility to address similar issues under the MDGs. This may be explored with selected potential agencies in Thailand first, such as Government Savings Bank (Mr.Visit Vongruamlarp, Director and Acting President and CEO, GSV, 470 Phaholyothin Road, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400), and Government Pension Fund of Thailand (Ms. Vachira Na Ranong, Deputy Secretary General, Administration Group, Government Pension Fund, 990 Rama IV Road, 4th Floor, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500).

J. K. Routray
12 June 2008

Annex 4

**E 109 (RRDP Seminar Room), SERD
16 September 2008**

ASEAN Regional Centre of Excellence on MDGs

MDG Focal/Key Persons' Meeting Notes

Members present: Jayant, Morshed and Thamarat

Apology: Doney

1. A meeting was held among the focal persons of MDGs at AIT for developing training courses in line with the discussions and outcomes of the 5th Roundtable Report.
2. Dr. Thamarat is the new focal person of the MDG 7 (Environmental Sustainability) replacing Prof. Chongrak.
3. Initially Jayant gave the background of the training courses to be developed and provided the updates of the center so far. Broad guidelines with topics are available in the Roundtable Report as outputs of four sessions devoted for four goals (MDGs) in order to facilitate for working out different training modules under each goal.
4. Jayant suggested for packaging our existing courses under selected MDG themes for offering certificate courses both in August and January Semesters with possible themes such as: Gender and Poverty Reduction, and Environment and Sustainable Development, etc.
5. Training Course: At least two training courses under each goal of a common topic should be attempted in the beginning phase with variation of time only. The duration may vary from one week to four weeks including field visits and class room sessions.
One week program (seven days): 24 hours (six hours per day) lecturing, group presentations and discussions followed by two days field visits and local interactions.
Four week training program: Three weeks class room sessions, discussions and presentations; and one week field visits.
The training course should be structured in the modular format with details about the contents. It should target the NGO professionals, Government officials, policy makers, donors and funding agencies, media professionals, and people in academics and research.
The cost per person per week will be charged following the AIT Extension rate.
6. Thamarat suggested for a core module on "Introduction of MDGs; and Status of MDGs in the context of ASEAN Region should commonly available in each training course.
7. Members suggested developing a template to unify the structure of the training courses. Jayant will develop and circulate it among the focal members.
8. All courses should be developed by mid October 2008.

J. K. Routray

Annex 5

Template for developing the training Course

1. Title of the Training Course:
2. Duration: (For Example: One week or four weeks)
3. Key Target Group: NGO professionals, Government officials, policy makers, donors and funding agencies, media professionals, and people in academics and research.
3. Rationale:
4. Catalogue Description:
5. Course Outline:
 - Module 1 with topics and lecture hours
 - Module 2
 - Module 3....
 - Etc.
6. Field visits
7. Pedagogy (Process and Expected Output):
 - a. Process: lectures, group discussions, individual and group presentations by the trainees (country paper relating to training theme, case studies, etc.), documenting field experiences, group learning, participatory and interactive, analytical and critical approaches).
 - b. Group activity: on assigned problems and topics for sharing experience and information with critical thinking and analytical framework.
 - c. Expected outputs: Building critical thinking, strengthening group learning, team and competence building, working out alternative solutions, scenario building, understanding for policy implications, development needs and institutional mechanism etc.
8. Examples for group activity and learning
9. Instructors/Resource Persons: AIT Faculty and AIT Extension Staff, Invited Guest Experts from GO, NGO and Private organizations, Professional from training and research organizations, UNO bodies, international agencies as applicable.
10. Operation and Management: ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs (ARCEMDG); School of Environment, Resources and Development of AIT; and AIT Extension.
11. Selected Text and Reference Materials

Annex 6 UN-ECOSOC Meeting from 6-9 July, 2009 at Geneva

Following the invitation of Her Excellency Ms. Sylvic Lucas, President of the Economic and Social Council of the UNO (UNO-ECOSOC), Prof. Jayant K. Routray, Director of the ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs (ARCMDG), attended on my behalf and represented AIT in the High Level Segment Annual Review Meeting at Geneva from 6-9 July 2009. The theme of the meeting was on “**Global Public Health and MDGs**”. The meeting was attended by member countries, other UNO bodies, international organizations, delegates, civil societies and similar institutions engaged directly and indirectly in economic and social development. AIT being a member of the UNO-NGO-IRENE, Prof. Routray also attended the session organized by the CONGO and some of its affiliates. Almost all sessions highlighted and reaffirmed commitments for achieving MDGs under the current scenario of Food, Fuel and Financial crises. Achieving gender equality and development appeared as one of the most important issues in almost all sessions.

A number of side events were organized on related sub-themes by different organizations, exhibitors, civil societies including the CONGO. Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, currently Permanent Representative to the UN and ECOSOC (former Chief of NGO Section of the UN ECOSOC) could able to facilitate Prof. Routray in meeting a number of important persons responsible for regional networks such as Mr. Sidi Cherif, Executive President and Coordinator, United Nations NGO IRENE Western Europe (www.worldforworld.org); Mr. Cui Jianjun, Secretary General of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (www.cnjie.org.cn); Mr. Nedim Kaya, CEO Islamic Countries Youth Entrepreneurship Network, Turkey (www.icyen.org); Dr. Janos Toth, President, Economic and Social Council of the Republic of Hungary; and Dr. Kendall Ho (www.u2health.org) of the University of British Columbia. They have high appreciation for ARCMDG and expressed desires for working jointly on issues of similar interest in near future. These contacts may be used for promoting AIT around the globe.

Prof. Routray also met Mr. A. Abramov, newly appointed Chief of NGO Section and discussed about the progress of the ARCMDG and expressed more interaction and cooperation for meeting the goals of the ARCMDG at AIT. A number of side event presentations discussed widely and highlighted on e-learning, e-knowledge, e-health, and e-development etc. Two presentations – RAFT Project in Africa (www.raft.hcu.ge.ch), and Community based health management project of Columbia University, demonstrated some simple ICT applications, which were highly appreciated by the participants. These experiences remind us to scale up our ICT Program as an interdisciplinary program with multiple areas of applications in ICT such as ICT for Development, ICT for Disaster Management, and ICT for Public Health etc through teaching and research.

Overall AIT’s participation in the UN-ECOSOC Meeting is very useful in building contacts, expanding networks and branding further through physical presence. Next year meeting will take place in New York on the theme “**Gender inequality and economic empowerment**”. ARCMDG and GDS Program may consider seriously taking this opportunity for making an impact through organizing a special side event in demonstrating AIT’s role in gender development and empowerment in the ASEAN Region.

Prof. J. K. Routray
13 July 2009

