

Dear ITMEMS3 Participants,

Four months have passed since ITMEMS3 took place on the Island of Cozumel. We would now like to take this opportunity to initiate a quarterly newsletter by email, updating you on news and information relating to ITMEMS. We will keep it short, and welcome your views on the format.



1. ITMEMS3 Proceedings

Preparation of the Proceedings is progressing well.

If you would like to contribute a paper to be published as part of the Proceedings, based on a presentation or case study you presented during a workshop, please contact the ITMEMS Secretariat (nbarnard@icran.org) as soon as possible. Papers should be submitted in their final form no later than the **16 March 2007** to ensure inclusion in the proceedings. Details of the specific format requirements for thematic reports and papers are available from the ITMEMS website www.itmems.org. If you are not able to deliver a full paper, please ensure that the Secretariat or your session organisers have received a copy of your abstract and presentations.

2. Post ITMEMS3 Action

We are delighted to be able to highlight a number of initiatives that have developed since ITMEMS3 took place.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

- In line with the **SE Asia Caucus Statement**, efforts have been made to engage local government leaders and garner support for conservation in local constituencies. The ITMEMS 3 Local Government Leaders position statement was presented to the Provincial Technical Working Group - a national and local government, NGO and private sector partnership in the Tawi-Tawi Province, Philippines - to encourage the mainstreaming of environmental considerations into local policy.

- ITMEMS 3 SE Asia Caucus participants are working to build linkages between resource managers, scientists, regional programmes and country governments to establish a coordinated regional network and an action plan to protect marine and coastal resources.

- In the Philippines, a meeting of key partners from the universities, NGOs and local partners was called to create the Marine Protected Area Support Network - facilitating information exchange on; the orientation on MPAs; M&E and Performance Monitoring; Sharing of MPA Network initiatives across the Philippines; Identification of priority needs and, action planning.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- A colourful brief has been developed from the ITMEMS 3 Climate Change Statement to facilitate its wide dissemination and to communicate to higher policy levels what is needed to support reefs in responding to climate change.

- The Statement is currently being used to form the basis of a Climate Change resolution for presentation at the upcoming ICRI General Meeting in Tokyo, 23 - 24 April 2007.

3. ITMEMS at the ICRI GM

An ITMEMS related session will take place during the next ICRI General Meeting providing a valuable opportunity to follow the responses of ICRI to the ITMEMS Action Statement, to share information on progress, and to maintain momentum towards implementation of the Action Statement.

In order to keep track of other interesting stories, initiatives and partnerships that were triggered (directly or indirectly) by ITMEMS3, we would be very grateful if you could please write and let us know what activities you have been involved in to implement the ITMEMS3 recommendations. Whatever you can send would be gratefully received, including any images. This information will help to inform preparations for ITMEMS4, and enable the ITMEMS secretariat to report effectively on progress since ITMEMS3.

We look forward to hear from you.

ITMEMS Secretariat

