

## Executive Summary

The WESTPAC Workshop on Research and Monitoring of the Ecological Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Coral Reef Ecosystems took place in Phuket, Thailand, 19-21 January 2015 with kind host of the Phuket Marine Biological Center, Thailand. A total of 42 participants attended the workshop, respectively from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam.



The workshop exchanged information on existing and proposed ocean acidification monitoring and research approaches, methods, and techniques at global, regional and national level; established an ocean acidification monitoring and research network in the Western Pacific and its adjacent region by bringing together regional experts who have been making efforts on the research and monitoring of ocean acidification.

In view of the pressing need to draw attention of high-level policy makers and relevant stakeholders in the region to ocean acidification, the workshop established a task force to start formulating, with technical assistance of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program, an outreach flyer on ocean acidification and its social-economic impacts in the region.

With the case study on the US NOAA National Coral Reef Monitoring Program, particularly its Pacific Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program, the workshop recognized great challenges and gaps in monitoring ecological impact of ocean acidification on coral reef ecosystems in the region. Given the limited understanding on the ecosystem responses to ocean acidification against a critical need to develop meaningful projections on future impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystem, especially on coral reefs in the region to enable resource and fisheries managers, and policy makers to develop effective long-term mitigation and adaptation strategies for the people of the region, the workshop stressed the importance of the development, building

on existing coral reef monitoring initiatives, of a joint long-term monitoring program on the impacts of ocean acidification on coral reefs in the region.

To this end, the workshop selected several pilot sites, as a starting point for developing the regional monitoring program, upon the strong interests and recommendations received from participants. A table for monitoring capacity analysis was also developed and will be distributed to participants willing to join the program development, with a view to analyzing the current monitoring capacity, identifying common monitoring methods, and further considering to develop a consistent, comparable and cost-effective "Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)" for all pilot sites.

All participants expressed their great appreciation for the technical assistance of NOAA provided in the organization of this event. The second workshop was tentatively scheduled for late August or early September 2015.