ASEAN Chief Justices’ Roundtable on Environment

Matthew Baird, B.A, LL.B.
Visiting Scholar Vermont Law School
Environmental Law Advisor, Vishnu Law Group (Cambodia)
environmentalcounsel.asia
ecasia01@gmail.com
ASEAN Charter – December 2008

• The ASEAN Charter included one of its purposes:

  – To promote sustainable development so as to ensure the protection of the region’s environment, the sustainability of its natural resources, the presentation of its cultural heritage and the high quality of life of its people. (Emphasis added.)

ASEAN Charter Article 1(9)
• *Sustainable development* is “development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends”.
The ASEAN HRD included one of its ESC Rights:

28. Every person has the right to an adequate standard of living for himself or herself and his or her family including:

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e. The right to safe drinking water and sanitation;
f. The right to a safe, clean and sustainable environment.
Revisiting the Common Challenges for ASEAN and the environment:
The consequences of failing to protect the environment – the PRC tragedy
ASEAN Environmental Law Challenge 1: Climate Change and Disaster Management
ASEAN Environmental Law Challenge 2: Deforestation and Illegal Logging
ASEAN Environmental Law Challenge 3: Biodiversity and Illegal Wildlife Trade
Legend:
- (Brown) – Reptiles
- (Blue) – Marine
- (Red) – Mammals and birds
- (Grey) - Ivory
- (Green) – Timber and plants

Source: ASEAN-WEN Major Enforcement Actions Database 2008-2011
ASEAN Environmental Challenges:
Oceans, Illegal Fishing, and Marine Pollution
ASEAN Environmental Challenges 4: Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment

National Roads Authority
Environmental Impact Assessment of National Road Schemes – A Practical Guide

Revision 1, 20 November 2008
ASEAN Environmental Challenge 5:
Water Pollution and Access to Clean Water
ASEAN Environmental Challenge 6: Urbanization and Air Pollution
Common Challenges for Justices in Deciding Environmental Cases
Common Challenges for ASEAN Justices: Law and Evidence

- Standing for Environmental Defenders
- Burden of Proof and Precautionary Principle
- Expert and Scientific Evidence
- Damages, Remedies, Penalties and Sanctions
- Court Docket and Rules of Procedures
- Judicial Enforcement
Judicial Roles: Judicial Reforms to Respond to Environmental Challenges

• Green Benches and Green Courts
• Judicial Certification on environment for trial and appellate courts.
• Training on environmental law
  • Principles of environmental law
  • Penalty calculations for environmental offences
  • Expert evidence for environmental matters
• Special procedures for environmental cases
• Selection and publication of environmental decisions to assist in developing ASEAN environmental law jurisprudence
25% of arable land in PRC is polluted. Cadmium (Cd), Nickel (Ni), Arsenic (Ar)
Contaminated land produces “cancer villages”
Waste from a factory in Yinzhou is pumped into a lake between the quiet hours of three and five in the morning.
River in Goa, India
Stream flowing in to Manila Bay.
Judicial Training in ASEAN, April 2014.
Lower Mekong Countries

Common Issues and Common Needs

PACT 2015 Report – highlights the similarities with the EIA procedures in the Lower Mekong. Also identifies some key areas of difference.

ASEAN Economic Community requires regional integration and common approaches.

Mekong Partnership for the Environment

MEKONG EIA BRIEFING:
Environmental Impact Assessment Comparative Analysis In Lower Mekong Countries
Regional Technical Working Group on EIA Goal and Objectives

Goal: Strengthen regional cooperation on EIA to contribute to sustainable development in the Mekong Region countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam- and the broader ASEAN region.

Objectives:

• Develop regional guidelines for effective public participation in EIA;

• Promote information sharing on EIA best practices; and

• Promote mainstreaming of regional guidelines and best practices into EIA processes of the Mekong countries
Members of the RTWG on EIA