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### **8<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asia Biosphere Reserves Network Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Biosphere Reserves Networks Strategic Meeting and Asia Pacific Workshop on Strengthening Capacity for Management of Biosphere Reserves and Protected Areas**

15-19 December 2014

The 8<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Biosphere Reserve (SeaBRnet) meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Biosphere Reserves Networks (APBRN) Strategic Meeting and the Asia Pacific Workshop on Strengthening Capacity for Management of Biosphere Reserves and Protected Areas, will be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 15-19 December 2014. Recognizing the potential resources of Biosphere Reserves in the Southeast Asia region, Member States, experts and other participants to the meeting will discuss about how ecotourism and eco-labeling can be organized to enable local communities in and around Biosphere Reserves to have better access to tourists so that they can increase their livelihood through small ecotourism business development and employment. Participants will deliberate also another thematic area such as: "Biosphere Reserves as Models for Alleviating Poverty through Ecosystems Services".

The participants of the meeting will include representatives of UNESCO and the Biosphere Resource networks in the Asia and the Pacific region, such as South East Asian Biosphere Reserve (SeaBRnet), East Asian Biosphere Reserve (EABRN), Pacific Man and the Biosphere Network (PacMAB), and South and Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM).

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Bring the members of SeaBRnet together to share case studies knowledge and experience on Biosphere Reserves from the Southeast Asian Region focusing on how the communities use Biosphere Reserves for alternative livelihood through ecotourism and eco-labeling;
- Identify the supply and demand factors in the Biosphere Reserves that can support ecotourism and eco-labeling activities;
- Identify the costs and benefits of the environmental, economic and socio-cultural impacts of ecotourism;

- Discuss how Biosphere Reserves can serve as models to contribute to the implementation of Post 2015 Development Agenda and Post Map WNBR management needs;
- Link the specific SDG theme on Poverty Alleviation to Biosphere Reserves. Discuss how can Biosphere Reserves contribute to the greater aim of Poverty Alleviation through its Ecosystems Services;
- Discuss the future cooperation activities between Asia-Pacific Biosphere Reserves and MAB National.

Biosphere Reserves are recognized internationally for their role in harmonizing biodiversity conservation of biological and cultural diversity, economic and social development, through partnership between people and nature. Biosphere Reserves are established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme as sites of excellence to promote innovative approaches to sustainable development where scientific knowledge and governance modalities are combined to reduce biodiversity loss, improve livelihoods, and enhance social, economic and cultural conditions for environmental sustainability. Currently there are 621 BR sites in 117 countries worldwide. In the South East Asian region, there are 24 sites in 6 countries i.e. in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines Thailand and Vietnam.

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