



SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

22-25 November 2008, Ranong, Southern Thailand

The Symposium

The *Scientific and Technical Symposium on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystem Management* is co-hosted and organized by the Department of Marine & Coastal Resources (DMCR), Thailand and Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), centerTER (University of Aarhus), Good Governance for Social Development and the Environmental Institute (GSEI), International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), and Wetlands International (WI).

The Symposium will address the sustainable management issues affecting mangrove ecosystems throughout the Indian Ocean Region, and how local communities can be better informed and involved in sustainable mangrove management as a way to protect their traditional livelihoods.

The objective of the Symposium is to improve the ability and national capacity of Thailand and the other MFF focal and dialogue countries

to share information and experiences on how to apply knowledge more effectively to support management in a way that is both sustainable and beneficial to local people. This encompasses knowledge derived both through scientific research, and from traditional/local knowledge.

The Symposium will also provide a showcase to highlight the knowledge gained by Thai and international scientists from 25 years of research at the Ranong Mangrove Forest Research Centre; management and community experiences gained from the Ranong Mangrove Biosphere Reserve created in 1997; and experiences from the many organizations and projects which assisted with reconstruction and rehabilitation of coastal areas and coastal community livelihoods after the 2004 Tsunami.

The Programme

The Symposium will feature [contributed papers](#) in sessions dealing with a) Country experiences in mangrove ecosystem management and the

application of scientific and local knowledge; b) involving local communities in sustainable management, including NGO experiences - both before and after the tsunami; c) using the Ranong Mangrove Ecosystem as a case study of sustainable management; and d) future research and management needs, including climate change and other emerging issues.

There will be two parallel workshops during the first day:
1: "Using Local Knowledge to Better Support Mangrove Ecosystem Management – experiences & opportunities in southern Thailand"
2: "Using Scientific Knowledge to better support Mangrove Ecosystem Management – experiences & opportunities from the Asian Region". Discussions on the two workshops will follow in plenary.

Symposium participants will be split into several working groups during the final day. Each group will discuss a subject area and key issues regarding mangrove ecosystem management in the

Asian region, and discussion outcomes will be present at the final Plenary Session.

Working Groups Themes:

- Valuing mangroves ecosystems to support sustainable management
- Mangrove ecotourism – potential and constraints
- Post-tsunami and other disaster preparedness issues
- Transboundary Protected Areas involving mangrove ecosystems
- "Reef to ridge" management approaches
- Future mangrove research needs

The Venue

The Symposium will be held at the Tinidee Hotel (formerly Ranong Princess Hotel) on 22-25 November, 2008. Tinidee Hotel is a business and health spa hotel located in the center of commercial district of Ranong.



Registration

Symposium spaces are limited and pre-registration is necessary to reserve your place. Please fill out the [Pre-registration form](#) and send it marked "pre-registration" to

symposium@mangrovesforthefuture.org by **22 August, 2008**.

Field visits

A field visit to the Ranong Mangrove Ecosystem, including the Mangrove Forest research Centre, the Biosphere Reserve and traditional coastal fishing villages, will be scheduled as part



of the Symposium programme. In addition, for international participants and those returning home via Phuket, there will also be an opportunity on 25th afternoon to also visit some post-tsunami projects between Ranong and Phan Nga.

Getting there

AirAsia flies directly to Ranong from Bangkok and Ranong-Bangkok on Friday, Sunday and Tuesday. As an alternative route, there are also several daily flights Bangkok-Phuket and Phuket-Bangkok. Ranong is about 30 minutes drive from Ranong Airport, and 3 hours from Phuket Airport and about 8 hours drive from Bangkok. It can also be reached via flights from Bangkok to Surat Thani.

The Area

Ranong is famous for its natural hot springs and mineral water, as well as beautiful tourist attractions



such as nature reserves and parks. The seaport town on the West Coast of Thailand, 568 km South of Bangkok on the border with Union of Myanmar is heavily dependent on Burmese labour to support the fishing and agricultural sectors, which are the mainstay of the local economy, along with trading and tourism.

Ranong is a coastal province and undoubtedly is one of the most beautiful provinces in Thailand, as well as the wettest. November, however, is the start of the cool and dry "winter" season. Lush forest cover spectacular mountains occupy 86% of the total land area of Ranong Province, while the coastal plain forms 14% of the land area and is protected by the largest remaining area of mangrove forest in Thailand.

