



NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PROJECT (SEPP)

The SEPP objective is to control environmental load around Panglao Island which is caused by the increase in the number of tourists and residents with the construction of the new airport. The project implementing body includes the Provincial Government of Bohol and the Municipalities of Dauis and Panglao with the JICA Expert Team giving support and advice to their activities. The project started in May 2013 and will end in April 2015. The purpose and outputs of the project are as follows -

Project purpose: To protect environment of Panglao Island from increasing tourists estimated after completion of the new airport construction and improve effluent quality discharged from the on-site Sewage Treatment Facilities (STFs).

Output 1: Establishment of Panglao Island Executive Committee for consensus building

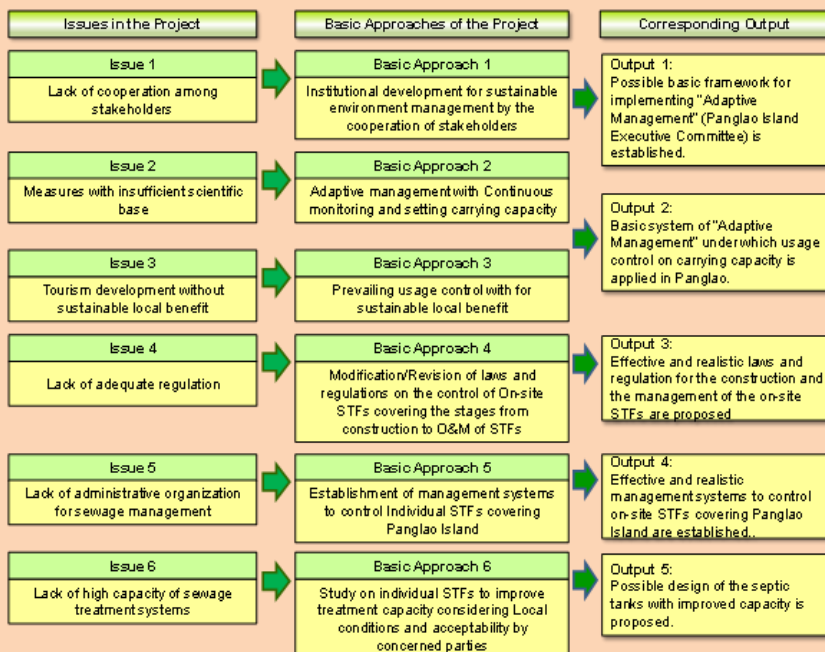
Output 2: Introduction of trial adaptive management

Output 3: Proposal of effective and realistic regulations for the construction and the management of the on-site STFs

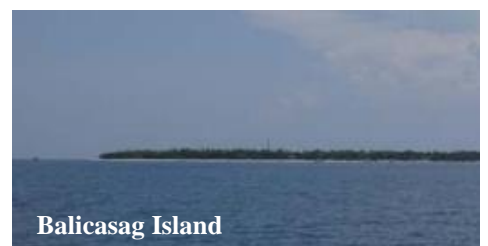
Output 4: Establishment of effective and realistic management system to control STFs

Output 5: Proposal of possible design of the septic tanks with improved capacity

Current Issues, Basic Approaches, and Corresponding Outputs



Project Target Areas



MESSAGE FROM PROJECT DIRECTOR AND JICA TEAM LEADER

Project Director - Atty. John Titus Vistal

My position as Project Director for the Sustainable Environment Protection Project (SEPP) is, of course, in representation of Gov. Edgar M. Chatto, Chief Executive of the Provincial Government of Bohol (PGBh). Over a year ago, the PGBh requested the Japanese Government, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), for technical assistance in the interest of environmental sustainability for the island of Panglao, in view of the forthcoming New Bohol Airport Project.

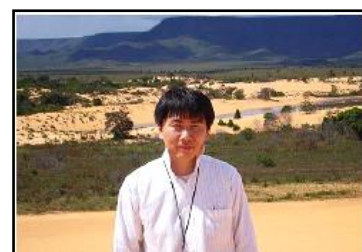


That request was granted, and we now find ourselves acting as the Philippine counterparts to the JICA Expert Team, with the end in view of putting in place structures and mechanisms to ensure that the environment of Panglao Island is not adversely affected by the increased tourist/visitor arrivals and residential occupation brought about by the new airport.

Environmental sustainability is always at the forefront of the PGBh Development Agenda, as emphasized in our sustainable development call, “Green Bohol!”, and the SEPP is another “contribution towards this overarching thrust.

JICA Expert Team Leader Shinichiro Tanimoto

Tourism is of great importance in Bohol. There are several tourist destinations including Panglao Island which is one of the most alluring places for divers and snorkelers. More than 20,000 divers enjoy popular dive sites with coral reefs annually. Panglao Island and surrounding area still maintain their rich natural resources, but they can rapidly be degraded if the environmental load exceeds the limitation of resilience. According to one study, the carrying capacity of coral reef is around 5,000 – 6,000 dives per dive site per year. In addition, both tourists and residents are increasing year by year, and they produce wastes which enter the sea. Such destruction contributes to the gradual decline of tourism, depletion of fish, and increase in poverty. In order to avoid this scenario, this project has started.



I am waiting for your participation to realize sustainable tourism in Panglao Island.






INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT MEMBER

Provincial Counterparts







Atty. John Titus Vistal PPDO Project Director		Ms. Ma. Socorro Trinidad BEMO Project Manager		Engr. Hermilo Arcaya PPDO Project Manager	
Ms. Esperanza Flores PHO Project Manager		Ms. Josephine Cabarrus BTO Project Manager		Engr. Arsenio Garcia PGSO Project Manager	
For. Samuel V. Racho BEMO Project Manager		Engr. Asuncion Odtohan PHO Deputy Project Manager		Engr. Charlie Torremocha PGSO Deputy Project Manager	
Atty. Teodoro Lagang PLO Counterpart		Ms. Jovencia Ganub BEMO Counterpart		Ms. Aida Evangelista PPDO Counterpart	
Mr. Artemio Alo PPDO Counterpart		Ms. Gina Kapirig BTO Counterpart		Mr. Senen Bojos BICTU Counterpart	

Mr. John Edward Cabagnot BICTO Counterpart		Ms. Hazel Vargas BICTU Counterpart		Mr. Julius Valenzona BICTU Counterpart	
Mr. Llorenz Lee Llera PHO Counterpart		Ms. Remedios Regacho OPA Counterpart		Ms. Adelfa Salutan BEMO Counterpart	
Mr. Jose P. Garcia BEMO Counterpart		Ms. Mildred Madronero PPDO Counterpart		Engr. Moises Cañete, Jr. BEMO Counterpart	
Engr. Edgardo Petallar BEMO Counterpart					




Dauis Municipal Counterparts

Ms. Ma. Mercedes Salinas MPDO Deputy Project Manager		Engr. Oscar B. Nistal MDPO Counterpart		Ms. Arlien Estaño MAO Counterpart	
Engr. Alexander P. Dolauta MEO Counterpart		Mr. Bryan Bongalos MEO Counterpart		Mr. Christopher Nistal TO Counterpart	
Dr. Joni L. Co MHO Counterpart		Mr. Lorenzo Panto MHO Counterpart		Hon. Yvonne Cainday SB Counterpart	

Panglao Municipal Counterparts

Ms. Jovencia S. Asilo MPDO Deputy Project Manager		Mr. Darwin Menorias TO Counterpart		Engr. Rogelio S. Bonao MEO Counterpart	
Mr. Jairus D. Fuderanan MPDO Counterpart		Dr. Julieta L. Cogo MHO Counterpart		Mr. Nestofil Balo MEO Counterpart	

Advisory Members

Atty. Abeleon Damalerio Sangguniang Panlalagiwan		Hon. Concepcion Cimafranca Sangguniang Bayan of Dauis		Hon. John Jasper Arcay Sangguniang Bayan of Panglao	
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JICA Expert Team

Mr. Shinichiro Tanimoto Team Leader Ecosystem Conservation		Mr. Kuniomi Hirano Deputy Team Leader Sustainable Tourism		Dr. Satoshi Nojima Coral Reef Monitoring	
Mr. Masatoshi Momose Organizational Management		Ms. Yoko Shimazu On-site System		Mr. Hisato Takeda On-site System	
Mr. Rex Cartera Admin. Assistant		Ms. Nice Luga Secretary		Engr. Kevin Bermido Data Base Collection	
Mr. Abner Bucol Carrying Capacity		Mr. Francisco Baltazar GIS			

ABOUT SEPP ACTIVITES

1st Work Shop

The 1st Work Shop was held on 20 June 2013 inviting stakeholders of our project such as owners/operators of hotels, restaurants, dive shop, etc. in Panglao Island. In the work shop, all participants share the aim of SEPP. In addition, current concerns about environment in Panglao Island and possible solutions which are realistic were discussed including urgent demand for the implementation of proposed measures.



Project Orientation Seminar

Project Orientation Seminar with Provincial Governor and New Mayors and Councilors of Dauis and Panglao Municipalities was held on 11 July 2013. Concerns about water environment pollutions which might threaten the tourism resources in Panglao Island were shared. Provincial Governor called for full support of SEPP activities to both new Mayors in Dauis and Panglao who promised to give their full commitment to the Project.



Baseline Survey of Tourism Resources

Baseline survey of tourism resources will be conducted by Silliman University (subcontract). The contract was made on July 10, 2013, and works will last till the middle of December 2013. Contents of the survey are coral reef survey, marine area survey, landscape survey, and sand beach survey. The report will be disclosed on the project website (under construction).



Existing Sewage Treatment Condition Survey

Existing condition of sewage treatment facilities in Panglao Island has been surveyed. It was found that most of septic tanks in the households were unlined leaching pit, meaning sewage is directly infiltrating into the underground. In response to the survey results, current issues will be summarized and countermeasures for improvement will be considered.



Lecture on Coral Reefs by Dr. Nojima, JICA Expert

Dr. Nojima who is JICA Expert and famous coral researcher in Japan provided a lecture at CP Garcia Hall in Provincial Capitol. Dr. Nojima explained the result of his field reconnaissance and emphasized the risk of Crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) which phagocytize corals. The starfish must be eliminated according to Dr. Nojima.



Lecture of Sewage Treatment by Mr. Momose, JICA Expert

Existing conditions of sewage treatment facility in Panglao Island and existing laws and regulations regarding sewage treatment/disposal in Philippines were reviewed in the lecture. Water environments of Panglao Island can be easily affected by domestic sewage because of their geological characteristics; which has very shallow soil surface so that natural biodegradation through the soil cannot be expected.



