

MINUTES OF THE 13TH NCB ASOCON MEETING

Written by Administrator

Thursday, 23 December 2010 09:09 - Last Updated Wednesday, 20 June 2012 06:31

21 – 23 October 2008, Bogor - Indonesia

Minute 1

The 13th Network Consultative Board welcomed Dr. Silver Hutabarat the new RC replacing Dr. Harry Santoso. The Board also welcomed Mr. Yuji Niino, the new Representative of FAO RAP, Bangkok, in the NCB meeting; Prof. Lu Shunguang - Deputy Director Monitoring Center for Soil and Water Conservation, Dept. of Water and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Water Resources China; Prof. Irsal Las, Director of the Indonesian Center for Agriculture Land Resources Research and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, as the new NC for Indonesia; Mr. Mustafa Kamal Baharuddin - Director Soil Management Division, Department of Agriculture- as the new NC for Malaysia replacing Dr. Z. Kamaruzzaman; Engr. Arnulfo B. Gesite represented Dr. Silvino Tejada – Director of Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM) – the new NC for the Philippines replacing Mr. Jose D. Rondal; Mr. Sakda Sukviboon – Head of Soil and Water Conservation Research and Development Section, Land Development Department of Thailand – as the acting NC for Thailand replacing Mr. P. Piyasirananda; Dr. Ho Quang Duc - Vice Director of National Institute for Soils and Fertilizers – as the new NC for Vietnam replacing Mr. Bui Huy Hien. In this NCB meeting Mr. Francis Daink - Deputy Secretary (PATS) Department of Agriculture and Livestock - as the NC for Papua New Guinea replacing Mr. Anton Benjamin, was not able to come.

The Board also welcomed observers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar represented by Mr. Prak Cheattho, Mr. Oloth Sengtaheuanghoung and Mr. Kyaw Yee respectively.

It is hoped that the new RC and all the new NCs would continue to maintain and improve the support to strengthen the ASOCON Network as has been carried out by their predecessors.

Minute 2

The Board has agreed that the ASOCON Coordination Unit remained in Indonesia for the next 3 years and due for review again in the year 2011.

Minute 3

The Board has agreed that the RC as the Head of CU send invitations to the governments of Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR to join the ASOCON network and request the appointment of respective NC.

Minute 4

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The NC of Malaysia will consult the Government of Malaysia with regard to the approval of the JMOU.

Minute 5

The newsletter CONTOUR would continue to be published 2 times per year. Each ASOCON NC would be responsible to invite any technical article, research paper or news. It was also suggested that the country reports should be revised into good articles and appropriate for publications and can be included in future issues of CONTOUR.

Minute 6

The procedure in the production of CONTOUR is outlined as follows: First, the material for publication in the CONTOUR has to be submitted to the CU in Jakarta. Those selected for publication would be edited and compiled into a draft copy. Next, the whole draft copy of CONTOUR would be submitted to the FAO/RAP office in Bangkok for the final editing. The final edited draft copy of CONTOUR is then forwarded to the Department of Land Development of Thailand for printing. All the printed copies of CONTOUR are then brought to the FAO office in Bangkok for distribution to all the NCs in the various member countries. NC of Thailand will consult the Department of Land Development.

Minute 7

It was decided that the CU make an official request to Mr. Yuji Niino from the FAO/RAP office in Bangkok to seek assistance in the final editing of the CONTOUR newsletter as had been carried out in the past by Mr. FJ. Dent.

Minute 8

It was decided that all member countries should try to get advertiser to place paid advertisement in future edition of CONTOUR based on the prevailing advertisement rate in their respective countries. The criteria to be used in the selection of advertiser are that the business of the advertiser should not be in conflict with the mission of ASOCON. We should put extra efforts to get advertisers.

Minute 9

Interest in the newsletter remains high with almost 1,800 copies being distributed to 65 countries worldwide. To reduce the cost of printing and mailing of CONTOUR, it was decided to reduce the number of hard copy of the newsletter by 50 % via the various measures to be undertaken by the CU beginning with CONTOUR Vol. XII No.2, 2000. The first measure is to stop mailing the newsletter to libraries in the developed countries because all articles in the CONTOUR would be put in the website and the newsletter can now be accessed via the Internet. The second measure is to shorten the mailing list. In the mailing of the CONTOUR Vol. XII, No.1, 2000 to libraries, institutions and individuals in the other countries, a survey slip would be included in the newsletter. The objective of the survey form is to obtain feedback and reassess the usefulness of the newsletter to these organizations and individuals. Those that do not reply within the stipulated time would be dropped from the mailing list. Based on the feedback for those that have responded, a selection would be carried out by the CU to prepare the final mailing list for the CONTOUR Vol. XII, No.2, 2000 and also future issues.

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Minute 10

The Board agreed to the offer of FAO RAP to hire professionals to improve the style and design of CONTOUR, to make it more attractive. The final decision from the NCB will be made through electronic communication/e-mail.

Minute 11

Since the contribution from member countries has never been received by the CU after July 2000, but on the other hand the cost for running the Secretariat has to be paid (website, printing, fax, photo copy services, etc.), the balance of ASOCON account up to 20 October 2008 is USD 3,865.59 and Rp 15,766,113.00.

Minute 12

The Board agreed that Malaysia and Indonesia NCs are to draft a proposal for database development system for ASOCON.

Minute 13

The FAO HQ representative (in the 11 th NCB Meeting) estimated that ASOCON is still the only non-commercial country network of its kind. The greater emphasis on food security has meant that choices had to be made in supporting earlier on going activities. Some of these activities, including ASOCON, are receiving a smaller slice of the pie as a consequence. Collaboration has been agreed with the FAO Forest Department for a series of studies on upstream - downstream effects and dependencies in watersheds. Preparation has commenced, although funding was not foreseen before 2000.

There are opportunities for ASOCON participation in this exercise. In the FAO HQ, an advanced draft of the old Better Farming Series concerning soils, has been circulated for comments and is now being rewritten. This should be useful for training of lower level technicians. Some member countries have participated in several WOCAT activities. Further WOCAT collaboration is expected in future. An update of the mapping component will be useful for Asia and ASOCON.

Minute 14

The Board has agreed the FAO/RAP offer to redesign and to reformat the ASOCON website: www.asocon.org. Close electronic communications between CUs and each NC should be maintained to finish the job.

Minute 15

The Board has agreed that the training on WOCAT is very important for ASOCON; every NC is suggested to find external donors to fund the regional training activities. Training at the national level will be under the responsibility of respective countries.

Minute 16

With regard to the venue and dates of the 14th ASOCON NCB meeting at the end of 2009; it was agreed that China will host the meeting.

Bogor, 23 October 2008

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Regional Coordinator

Silver Hutabarat

National Coordinator for China

Represented by :

Lu Shunguang

National Coordinator for Indonesia

Represented by :

Achmad Rachman

National Coordinator for Malaysia

Mustafa Kamal Baharuddin

National Coordinator for Papua New Guinea Not present

Mr. Fraincis Daink

National Coordinator for the Philippines

Represented by :

Arnulfo B. Gesite

National Coordinator for Thailand

Acting NC

Sakda Sukviboon

National Coordinator for Vietnam

Ho Quang Duc