

# The Coral Triangle Initiative Summit and World Ocean Conference, with Highlights on the Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Actions

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On May 15th 2009, a historical event took place in Manado, Indonesia where 6 Head of States signed the Leader's Declaration on Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI). The Leaders of these countries; Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Indonesia have committed to safeguard the precious marine resources in the coral triangle area. Preceded the CTI Summit, there was another historic event of the World Ocean Conference that took place from 11-14 May, 2009. In the presentation I would want to highlight results of these two important events.

Along with the CTI, there are also other programs such as the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion, Bismarck-Solomon Marine Ecoregion, the Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) that are viewed as sub-regional initiatives aim to protect the vast and highly abundant marine resources. These programs are related to the CTI. From the conservation point of view, although these programs are different geographically, but they provide the connection in a larger boundary scales, such as the large Marine Ecosystem. The substantive issues designed for these programs are also different, although there are some overlapping topics such as in fisheries management, marine biodiversity and conservation, etc. Several regional and international organizations are involved as executing agencies, such as UNDP, ADB, CGO consortium of WWF, Conservation International and the Nature Conservancy, tapping funds from the GEF and other donor agencies.

As the Regional Coordinator of the Arafura and Timor Seas expert Forum, and the interim coordination for the ATSEA, I will discuss the existence of a regional forum called ATSEF (Arafura and Timor Seas Expert Forum) and its associate project of ATSEA.



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