

Preface

Underway since 2012, “The coastal area capability enhancement in Southeast Asia” project, directed by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) system, will continue through 2017. Its purpose is to realize “area capability” and to generate a new approach toward rural development evaluation based on the harmonization between ecosystem health conservation and improvement of local people’s quality of life. Because rural people’s lives are invested in the capital involving goods and services that ecosystems provide, we believe that strengthening the link between natural capital and local people is key for the sustainable development of rural areas. Thus far, however, the benefits of natural capital and services have not been fully recognized. As part of the RIHN project, we conduct a detailed field survey of environmental, biological, social, and economic aspects through a holistic joint approach to grasp the actual situation regarding ecosystem health, the livelihoods of local people, and the connection between the two.

The original *Fish Collection Building and Procedures Manual* was published by Kagoshima University Museum and edited by Prof. Motomura. We are pleased that the publication of this English edition marks one of RIHN’s most

memorable achievements. We are certain that it will contribute to the understanding of biodiversity and the variety of natural capital through the establishment of a sophisticated fish collection at museums and research institutes. Though Southeast Asian coastal fauna and flora hold high biodiversity, taxonomic studies and food web analyses, including population studies, have not been thoroughly investigated. We hope that this manual will promote biodiversity studies in the Southeast Asian coastal area and provide people with a unique opportunity to improve their research skills.

The RIHN project is based on the joint research efforts of Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Faculty of Fisheries of Kasetsart University, the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), and Japanese researchers who are members of the RIHN project. Aklan State University and Eastern Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center of Department Fishery, Thailand, are active participants as well. Through this collaboration, we share the same vision for future biodiversity studies.

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