

Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium

June 18 – 24, 2006, 2006, The Chinese University of Hong Kong,
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION FORM

Abstract

NATURAL RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION EFFORTS OF TSUNAMI DAMAGED CORAL REEFS

Yeemin, T.

Marine Biodiversity Research Group, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science,
Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok 10240, Thailand

The tsunamis following the earthquakes on 26th December 2004 resulted in localized damage to some coral reefs in the Indian Ocean countries, especially in Indonesia, Thailand, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Sri Lanka. The type of damage to corals included turning over of coral colonies, breaking of branches or portions of coral colonies caused by the waves or heavy drifting objects or debris washed off the land, smothering of coral surfaces or sand completely burying corals caused by sand-sliding along the reef slope or heavy erosion of shallow sandy seabeds. A study on natural recovery of the tsunami damaged coral reefs at Mu Koh Surin National Park, Thailand showed that there was much variation of coral recruitment rates from the settlement plate experiments and direct field observations. It is estimated that most damaged coral reefs will recover naturally and relatively rapidly as there are large areas of healthy corals for larval supply. Major protective measures and rehabilitation efforts were: 1) reef areas which had suffered high impacts have been closed to tourism to assist natural recovery without human interference; 2) repositioning some overturned corals, sea fans and scattering live coral fragments; 3) cleaning up debris on affected coral reefs; 4) installation of mooring buoys for boats; 5) conducting detail study of the high impact reef areas; 6) long-term monitoring of coral reefs; 7) rehabilitation of coral reefs with appropriate technique for the areas; 8) installation of artificial reefs for SCUBA diving to reduce pressure on natural reefs; 9) providing snorkeling trails; 10) initiating integrated capacity building programs, which include marine protected area management; 11) establishing better coordination and cooperation between stakeholders via Integrated Coastal Management; 12) introducing sustainable fishing practices and economic incentives to ensure that illegal methods are no longer practiced to assist in livelihood recovery within fishing communities; 13) developing data management systems of coral reef information for national and regional access; and 14) increasing public awareness and education programs. Stronger conservation and protection of coral reefs are urgently needed for sustainable provision of goods and services and also for enhancing resistance and resilience against natural disturbances.

Your abstract is for Mini-sympo, Oral Presentation
 Poster Student Competition
(Please indicate accordingly).

