

PREFACE

IPB University's Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies (CCMRS) collaborated with The Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase 2 (ATSEA-2) Project and Archipelagic & Island States (AIS) Forum in organizing The 4th International Conference on Integrated Coastal Management and Marine Biotechnology (ICMMBT) in Bali, Indonesia on 12-13 September 2023.

Carrying the theme “Good Practices and Innovations Toward Blue Economy”, ICMMBT4 aimed to provide an international platform to promote sharing of creative and innovative solutions, practical integrated approaches, and technical researches on coastal and ocean management and governance, and marine biotechnology in support of increasing commitments on sustainable blue economy and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference was participated by international speakers, researchers, students as well as representatives from national and local governments, NGOs, regional and international organizations.

The growing ocean economy plays a crucial role in overall development. Thus, in consonance with the objective of the Decade of Ocean Science, it is crucial to put in place responsible and sustainable approaches that are guided by sound science and backed by strong collaboration of various stakeholders for a sustainable blue economy to be realized. This recognition boosted scaling up of efforts on best integrated coastal and ocean management approaches, new technical studies and innovations and larger interest in the field of ocean science and governance. Sharing the same objective and commitment to support enhancement of knowledge in shaping the future of a better oceans, communities and economies, the CCMRS and ATSEA-2 hopes to enable consolidation and sharing of best practices in ICM, sustainable fisheries, biodiversity conservation, pollution management, marine biotechnology, and innovative ocean technologies, as well as contribute in setting a way forward for strategic collaboration through the 4th ICMMBT. As the world enters this mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, this coming of minds event therefore comes at an auspicious time.

The conference has also served as a significant platform to further elevate IPB University's status as a world-class organizer of international conferences and hosting of internationally-indexed publication of high-quality research articles indexed by reputable platforms such as Scopus and Web of Science. For ATSEA-2 Project, the conference provided a good opportunity to share to a wider audience key learnings, progress and achievements in the implementation of the current Strategic Action Program (SAP) and setting of future action/strategy through an updated SAP (2024-2033), as part of the preparation for the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) Ministerial Event in 2024 to adopt the new SAP and the regional governance mechanism to support its implementation. This international conference had significantly benefited society, researchers, practitioners, lecturers, students, and various stakeholders, as well as IPB University and the ATSEA-2 Project.

At this conference, various approaches, methodologies, and specialized tools that had been applied to address issues in coastal and marine areas are expected to be presented:

1. Fisheries - sustainable fisheries management, EAFM, IUU fishing,
2. Coastal and marine pollution – marine pollution reduction, oil spills, marine debris, Abandoned, Discarded and Lost Fishing Gears (ALDFG)

3. Biodiversity and Ecosystems– MPA management, MPA network, coastal ecosystem rehabilitation, ecosystem services and valuation, marine spatial planning, Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species, digital ecosystem for ICM
4. Climate change – coastal risk reduction and climate change impact and adaptation management, blue carbon policy, low carbon emission activity enhancement
5. Crosscutting – community livelihood enhancement, social-ecological system, governance

Concerning marine biotechnology, this conference discussed the latest developments in marine biotechnology, which include the following sub-themes (topics):

1. Marine bioprospecting (nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, cosmeceuticals, bioenergy)
2. Marine biomaterials
3. Marine nanotechnology
4. Blue food
5. Coastal and marine natural products
6. Marine environmental biotechnology and bioremediation

In addition, there were plenary sessions from the ATSEA-2 Project to share the good practices, lessons learned and innovations in updating the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and SAP for the ATS region. The plenary session focused on showcasing the scientific findings through the TDA and translating those into a strategic plan/policy for the ATS region through SAP. In this session, a way forward for the ATS region will also be discussed.

1. Special Session Arafura and Timor Sea Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) session
Facilitator: Dr. Handoko AS
2. Archipelagic and Islands States (AIS) Forum on Blue Economy Blue Economy Development Index
Facilitator: Prof. Luky Adrianto
3. DAAD Alumni-Forum for Marine Resources Studies (DAMARS)'s session
Facilitator: Prof. Ario Damar
4. Australia-Indonesia Center (AIC)'s session
Facilitator: Fadhilah Trya Wulandari, MA

We wished to pay tribute to the valuable preparatory work that had been undertaken by the CCRMS IPB University, the ATSEA-2 Project, and AIS Forum as the co-organizers of ICMMBT4. Special thanks to DAAD for the travel grant for the DAAD alumni for 67 alumni from 26 universities in Indonesia, as well as colleagues DAAD Alumni from Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines and all the participants from 16 countries. Finally, we would like to sincerely thank the PT. AMNT, PD Pasar Jaya, AFOB, Australia-Indonesia Center (AIC), PT Zoom Infotek Telesindo, PT BPRS Botani, PT Ijo Indonesia, PT Gesindo, SeaCera and Tembora. We also express our gratitude to co-organizers, sponsors and tireless ICMMBT4 committee who have supported and worked hard to ensure the success of this conference.

Best Regards,

The 4th ICMMBT Editorial Board

- Prof. Dr. Luky Adrianto (IPB University, Indonesia)
- Prof. Dr. Ario Damar (IPB University, Indonesia)
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