



Newsletter

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August 14, 2013

The 3rd Meeting of the WNICBR

As many of us know, our network had the 3rd international meeting in Estonia on the 3rd to 6th days of last June. As many as 22 substantial articles were presented in the attendance of more than 40 participants. Outcome of this meeting shows that our network is now successfully on its growth track, though there's still a long way to go to its maturity. It also provided a chance for many members of our network to deepen their understanding of and empathy for the West Estonian Archipelago BR, composed of Hiiumaa and Saaremaa Islands together with a few more islets and the surrounding sea. Dr. Toomas Kokovkin with many Estonians did a great job with the logistic arrangement for the success of this meeting. Smooth and functional presiding of Miguel Glüsener-Godt could not escape our respect and gratitude.



22 articles were presented by Toomas Kokovkin(West-Estonian Archipelago, Estonia), Youngsoo Chun(Jeju Island, Republic of Korea), Sergi Mari Pons(Menorca, Spain), Antonio Abreu(Principe, Sao Tome & Principe), Romeo

B. Dorado(Palawan, Philippines), Takahiro Okano(Yakushima

Island, Japan), Houcai Cai et a.(Nanji Islands, China), Kim Kyung-Min(Mount Kuwol, DPR Korea), Jong Geel Je(Shinan Dadohae, Republic of Korea), Le Than Tuyen(Cat Ba, Vietnam), Mario E. Gálvez(Juan



Fernández Islands, Chile), Carlos Ramón Gordínez(BR of the Islands of the Gulf of California, Mexico), Antonio Maynard(St. Mary's BR, St. Kitts and Nevis), Clayton Ferreira Lino(Mata Atlantica, Brazil), Everton Hannam(Portland Bight, Jamaica), Martine Elizabeth(La Selle, Haiti), Katja Bonnevier(Archipelago Sea Area, Finland), Fabio Costa Pereira(Santana Madeira, Portugal), Juli Caujape(Gran Canaria, Spain), Antonio Marino(La Palma, Spain), Aguilino Miguélez López(Lanzarote, Spain), Micheel Angel Hernández(El Hierro, Spain). After more than one month since

our farewell, it seems a good time to remind the meaning of this event by reading the (attached) final report and enjoying the pictures which capture our memorable moments.

Special thanks must be offered to the presenters who must be busy now taking pains to make their articles more meaningful and shareable by providing full English descriptions by the end of July.

The 25th MAB ICC session

International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme held its 25th session in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France) 27-30 May 2013. For item 6 "Reports on actions undertaken by Member States / regional and thematic MAB Networks in the context of MAB", Mr Kilrim Ko from Jeju BR provided a succinct report on the activities of the World Network of Island and Coastal BRs. In this report, he summarized on the major outcomes produced by the first meeting of the Network in Menorca and the second one in Jeju, and then notified of the meeting in Estonia, then planned. Lastly, he briefed on the performances of the two Secretariat offices, as follows.

The budget of the Consell Insular of Menorca for 2013, includes € 40,000 as a contribution to the UNESCO for this Network. Also, they have an allocation of € 30,000 for expenditure on research and implementation of joint coordination projects.

In September 2012, Jeju signed an agreement with UNESCO to help fund the establishment of World Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves with a total of 500,000 USD for the five years from 2012 to 2016, and already provided 100,000 USD for the first year. This fund will be



used together with UNESCO for seminars, training programs, and expert group activities, and will be used to support research projects related to climate change in the world island and coastal biosphere reserves.

Korean BR Network Cooperation

The management teams of 5 biosphere reserves in Korea had a workshop, organized and sponsored by the Korean MAB national committee. It was held on 27 June in the Jeju Natural Heritage Center, the building which houses the Jeju BR team and the Jeju technical headquarters of our Network. All the participants had a good time on field trips the next day after a heated discussion on the issues of common interest.

The major discussion subjects of the workshop were;

- 1) Plan to comply with the decisions made in the 25th session of MAB ICC.
- 2) Pending management issues of Korean BRs.
- 3) Institutionalization of the Korean Network of BRs

First of all, the decisions made in the 25th session of MAB ICC was introduced by the Korean UNESCO committee. Exit strategy for the BRs which fail to satisfy the statutory framework of criteria as a BR, the hottest discussion topic in the 25th session, was elaborately explained. Then presentations were made by each BR. Unfortunately, the Mt. Sorak BR turned out a target of worried discussion. Let me briefly describe this BR for the readers.



Mt. Sorak is actually a cluster of mountains very popular among Koreans for the beauty created by the harmony of rocky peaks, clean valley streams and lush vegetation, both evergreen and deciduous

including abundance of maple trees. This place has been well preserved due to its remoteness in old days and then by being a national park.

It happily walked into the World Network of BRs in 1992, as a national park. Almost all the surface of this BR turned into the core area



or buffer zone, with little left for the transition area. There was no problem for it to become a model case of a BR because conservation was the only focus at that time. But time has changed unfavorable to this BR by the Seville Strategy which seeks for a good balance between conservation and (sustainable) development.

This year, at its 30th anniversary as a BR, it received a recommendation from the MAB ICC to sufficiently extend its transition area. This recommendation is just an euphemism of a command because failure to comply with it in due time may kick it out of the WNB. A model case became a rotten apple. To make things worse, this BR is surrounded by many municipalities including a moderate-size city. The management team of this BR are employed as administrators of the national park. They do not have the authority or advantage to convince neighboring municipalities.

Earnest and extended discussion could not lead us to a satisfactory conclusion. But many words of ideas and encouragements were given to them. The result of their endeavor to stay as a BR remains to be seen.

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