This quarterly publication is aimed at keeping stakeholders up-to-date with developments in the STREAM Initiative. A quarterly journal is also published by the STREAM Initiative (Vol 2 No 1 has come out), with brief articles representing the issues around which STREAM is promoting learning and communications. You can download copies of the STREAM Update and the STREAM Journal at www.streaminitiative.org. AusAID, APEC, DFID, FAO and VSO support the NACA STREAM Initiative.

**2nd STREAM Regional Conference**

The Second STREAM Regional Conference was held in Tagaytay City, Philippines, from 8-10 June 2003 with the participation of colleagues from Australia, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan (China).

Following a regional overview of STREAM's themes, country partners, donors and funding, and activities, participants visited four “stations” on the themes of livelihoods, institutions, policy development, and communications, working in groups representing National Coordinators, Communications Hub Managers, and Partners. They engaged in discussions with a “station leader” and each other to learn about and comment on objectives, activities, outcomes and outputs.

Participants wrote Significant Change stories based on their experiences of working with STREAM.

Each group reviewed the issues raised and proposed how these might be followed up at regional and country levels. Key follow-up actions include:

- Getting the STREAM M&E System up and running
- Reviewing Regional Office support to Country Offices around various activities
- Following up livelihoods analyses (and revising them periodically) with activities with communities
- Becoming better at and more focused in information exchange, within STREAM and with stakeholders
- Reaching communities
- Considering opportunities for engaging in mass media communications activities
- Learning more about “Do No Harm” analysis, rights-based development approaches, and opportunities to inform donor policy and to advocate for policy change
- Taking the livelihoods and languages process further
- Enacting workplans upon “completion” of a Country Strategy Papers
- Scheduling a process for reviewing the CSP process and revising the CSP Planning Kit
- Writing “briefs” on, for example, policy change
- Improving STREAM’s visibility
- Seeking opportunities to publish in other media
- Resolving issues of translation
- Reconciling the STREAM website with NACA’s

To evaluate the Conference, participants wrote statements about how it had (or had not) followed STREAM’s Guiding Principles.

**Quick reference guide to STREAM**

A quick reference guide to current STREAM Initiative activities is tabulated below. Other recent STREAM activities are highlighted in the previous issue of the STREAM Update.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>What?</th>
<th>Find out more?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Asia Pacific governments receive FAO TCP support to join STREAM Initiative</td>
<td>See press release; visit <a href="http://www.streaminitiative.org">www.streaminitiative.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second STREAM Regional Conference held in Tagaytay City, Philippines</td>
<td>See opposite visit <a href="http://www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library">www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STREAM and SPARK co-host 2nd Livelihoods and Languages Workshop</td>
<td>See Institutions section or <a href="http://www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library">www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STREAM supports development of nested-Logframes for NACA programs and STREAM Initiative for Technical Advisory Committee</td>
<td>See Institutions section here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STREAM visits KAA and aboriginal communities for discussions on support to Indigenous Aquaculture Program</td>
<td>See Communications section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STRE-AM Journal 2(1) now published</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Simple database of community fisheries published and shared with ADB, FAO and other stakeholders</td>
<td>See virtual library Cambodia section, visit <a href="http://www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library">www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STREAM to share information about new sub-decree on community fisheries based on Information Access Survey</td>
<td>See Communications section here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Stakeholders met to discuss CSP in Hanoi in June</td>
<td>See Vietnam section in virtual library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government of Vietnam to fund proposals based on STREAM livelihood studies in Thai Nguyen, Quang Tri and Long An,</td>
<td>See Livelihoods section here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>STREAM and BFAR co-host regional workshop in Tagaytay City with FAO TCP support</td>
<td>See opposite; visit <a href="http://www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library">www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STREAM conducts Information Access Survey in Philippines</td>
<td>visit <a href="http://www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library">www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>STREAM concludes NRSP Policy research</td>
<td>visit India page and <a href="http://www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library">www.streaminitiative.org/library/virtual_library</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NRSP ranks STREAM project best in India portfolio</td>
<td>See Policy Development here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communications Hub established with GVT and ICAR in Ranchi</td>
<td>Visit India page <a href="http://www.streaminitiative.org">www.streaminitiative.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NRSP to fund STREAM follow on project till end 2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Partnership Agreement signed with DOF and AICC</td>
<td>See News and Events section on index page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>Partnership Agreement signed with DLF in Vietnate</td>
<td>See News and Events section on index page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yunnan</td>
<td>Partnership Agreement signed with Provincial Dept of Agriculture</td>
<td>See News and Events section on index page</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The four themes within STREAM are Livelihoods, Institutions, Policy Development and Communications which form the section headings for the STREAM Update.

Livelihoods

STREAM and SPARK co-host 2nd Livelihoods and Languages Workshop

The SPARK-STREAM Learning and Communications Process on Livelihoods and Languages has involved two three-day workshops at the beginning and culmination of a two-month between-workshops period. The aims of this SPARK-STREAM process are to:

- Build understandings of participatory livelihoods concepts and approaches and their meanings in languages of regional countries
- Generate awareness of issues related to language, participation and power

The purpose of the first workshop (Bangkok, April 2003) was to build shared understandings of participatory livelihoods concepts and approaches, with emphases on the approaches as “ways of thinking and working”, and on learning from concrete examples from the experiences of STREAM in Cambodia and Vietnam, and SPARK in the Philippines. One outcome from the first workshop, was that – between the two workshops – participants would carry out follow-up tasks appropriate to their context.

The Second SPARK-STREAM Workshop on Livelihoods and Languages took place in Tagaytay City, Philippines, from 12-14 June 2003. Outputs were intended to be:

- Drafts of language-specific “Guide to Learning and Communicating about Livelihoods”
- Drafts of articles for STREAM Journal and SPARK Newsletter
- Priorities and practical follow-up for capacity-building in carrying out participatory livelihoods analysis
- Follow-up plans

Presentations were given by three SPARK (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand) and a STREAM team about their activities during the between-workshops period, followed by discussion of issues raised, as a way of defining more specifically what the outputs of the workshop should be. Important issues included:

- The importance of sharing understandings and processes for doing this, for example, through “conversation groups”
- Questions related to multiple understandings
- How the work of the Thai group had helped in understanding the relationship between a “guide for learning and communicating about livelihoods” and a “manual for livelihoods analysis”
- Relationships between power and the use of language. What people feel they can say and when they can speak in any given group has an impact on what they do say.

For a copy of the report, please visit: www.streaminitiative.org/Library/Livelihoods/livelihoods.html

STREAM visits KAAC and aboriginal communities for discussions on support to Indigenous Aquaculture

The STREAM Initiative has been working with issues relating to livelihoods, policy and institutional development and communications throughout Asia-Pacific. Recently this has included work in India with indigenous communities supporting people to have a voice in policy making processes. There appear to be some parallels between this work and the objectives of Kimberley Aquaculture Aboriginal Corporation (KAAC) and also the Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA) Indigenous Aquaculture Unit (IAU), National Aquaculture Development Strategy for Indigenous Communities in Australia.

Following discussions in Bangkok with Jacyntha Fong, Charla Clements and Neville Poelina of KAAC, Chan Lee formerly with Department of Fisheries Government of Western Australia and Richard Mason of AFFA, Graham Haylor of the STREAM Initiative visited Kimberley from 26-30.5.03. The objective was to meet with community members around Kimberley, visit the KAAC Multi-species hatchery in Broome and some examples of on-going aquaculture activities within communities. Richard Mason and Dennis Ahkee planned a visit to coincide with the STREAM visit in order to consider co-ordinated and possibly joint actions relating to indigenous aquaculture support in the Kimberley and elsewhere.

Graham Haylor requested Malene Felsing currently with DoF WA to join the visit and to discuss future linkages with the STREAM Initiative.

For Back-to-office-report, visit www.streaminitiative.org/Library/Regional

Government of Vietnam (GoV) to fund proposals based on STREAM livelihood studies

The Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI) in Hanoi has announced that it wishes to provide funds for the Sustainable Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) initiative, specifically to build on the work conducted by STREAM in Vietnam. This will involve the livelihoods teams trained by STREAM and comprising DOF and DARD staff at the provincial level and the provincial Vietnamese Women’s Union. The first stage of the GoV support will build on the livelihood analyses conducted with Dan Tien, Phuong Tien communes of Thai Nguyen province, Ta Long, A Tuc of Quang Tri and My Thanh Dong, Thuan Nghia Hoa of Long An and aims to develop proposals based on people's livelihood objectives.

STREAM and MOFI are seeking additional government and donor funds to carry this work forwards.
In this regard, with the support of FLD, VSO and STREAM, a database pilot project has enabled the CFDO to investigate an information collection system and a pilot Community Fisheries Monitoring and Evaluation Database. Although useful information was collected in undertaking this project it was the processes involved in collecting and storing relevant data that was investigated, not the information itself in this case.

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The pilot was conducted in 12 villages in Kratie, Kandal and Kampong Chhnang Provinces and identifies a practical process for:

- Identifying and recording the existence and location of community fisheries
- Monitoring activities and conflicts relating to co-management issues
- Assessing the maturity and operation of the fishery at the time of visiting
- Updating this information regularly on the database.

It includes the identification of financial, human and other resource required for each component.

Building on this work, Haiko Meelis a VSO volunteer database specialist, working with the CFDO, met with FAO and ADB who are very enthusiastic about becoming the main partners to start with the CFDO on database coordination. See www.streaminitiative.org/Library/Cambodia/cambodia.html

**Stakeholders met to discuss Vietnam Country Strategy in Hanoi**

The STREAM Vietnam National Stakeholder Workshop was held in Hanoi on the 18th and 19th of June 2003. The workshop was an integral component of the STREAM Vietnam planning process. The main objectives for the workshop were to familiarise stakeholders with the STREAM Initiative and its Country Strategy Paper (CSP) process; and to discuss with key stakeholders a draft list of priority areas and approaches for the CSP.

The workshop commenced with two overviews of STREAM's work: a STREAM Regional Overview, which outlined STREAM's main operations in the region; and a STREAM Vietnam Overview which outlined STREAM's operational focus in Vietnam. These overviews contextualised the workshop.

During the workshop, participants were presented with a set of Priority Areas and Approaches (PAAs) which have been developed as part of the STREAM Vietnam strategic planning process. Participants were invited to consider these PAAs in relation to their own areas of expertise, knowledge and experience and to offer feedback which would help STREAM Vietnam further develop the CSP.

The feedback gained from the national stakeholders in this workshop has been informative and constructive, and will help ensure that the work conducted by STREAM will complement work already being done by the Government of Vietnam and other local, national and international institutions and organisations to improve the lives of fishers and farmers.

See Vietnam section in virtual library, visit www.streaminitiative.org/Library/Vietnam/vietnam.html

**STREAM supports development of nested-Logframes for NACA programs and STREAM Initiative to present to intergovernmental Technical Advisory Committee**

The NACA Secretariat is preparing for the Technical Advisory Committee meeting of its sixteen member countries (which is held every two years).

In describing the work program, NACA needs to demonstrate the links and relationships between different areas of work, and to monitor and evaluate the work at the level of individuals, programmes, initiatives and the network as a whole. In order to do this the Secretariat has constructed a suite of nested-Logframes, building on the STREAM Framework which forms part of the initiatives monitoring and evaluation system. Expected outcomes are monitored using especially process related objectively verifiable indicators, and unanticipated changes are captured through the use of significant change stories.

The STREAM Initiative has been working with the other NACA programs to design the nested Logframes which will be presented to the intergovernmental organisation delegates for discussion during July.

**Policy development**

**STREAM concludes NRSP Policy research project**

The 15 month project Investigating improved policy on aquaculture service provision to poor people (R8100) identified, tested and promoted mechanisms for the delivery of improved rural services critical to the development of rural livelihoods with emphasis on services in support of aquaculture that take account of the objectives, strengths and constraints of marginalized groups and their complex diverse livelihoods.

The understanding developed amongst project participants of the current context of rural aquaculture service provision for specific groups of poor people has highlighted constraints to the delivery of services essential to the livelihoods of poor people. The inclusive process and building of relationships between
farmers and fishers, state and national-level government and NGO actors has given poor people a voice in policy processes that affect their lives. The facilitation of a diversity of voices and the mediating of policy review and debate amongst stakeholder groups through carefully selected and developed media (film and live drama) and processes such as semi-anonymous, iterative consensus-building have been successful tools for understanding contexts and engagement in policy change. For copies of all documents see www.streaminitiative.org/Library/India/india.html

NRSP ranks STREAM project best in India portfolio

In the ‘India uptake node’ of DFID’s Natural Resources Systems Program, the suite of projects R6759 which tested and promoted low-input aquaculture options including the use of seasonal ponds for aquaculture in eastern India and R8100 (see above) was ranked 1, and is considered a key candidate for contributing to attainment of the NRSP policy-related OVI at purpose level.

Communications

The STREAM Initiative's communications strategy aims to promote learning by linking networks of stakeholders on the ground with a virtual regional network of Communications Hubs. Lesson sharing is encouraged through workshops, meetings, Netmeetings, the Internet (including the STREAM Initiative website and Virtual Library), reports, CDs, video documentaries, photo storyboards, street-plays, the STREAM Journal, STREAM Update and Media Monitoring Reports.

STREAM to share with communities, information about new Cambodian Sub-decree on Community Fisheries

Following the publication of an Information Access Survey for Cambodia, the STREAM Initiative is identifying the best communications strategy for sharing with communities an understanding of the new Sub-decree on Community Fisheries due to be finalised in August.

STREAM conducts Information Access Survey in Philippines

Bebet Gonzales and Malene Felsing with support from Erwin Pador have completed an Information Access Survey for the Philippines. It focuses on Region VI of the Philippines and aims to provide a profile of the main stakeholders within the aquatic resources and fisheries sectors, describes their access to information, communication within and between organisations and with communities. The report can be downloaded from www.streaminitiative.org/Library/Philippines/index.html

Communications and the development of new Hubs

Communications Hubs are now being established in India, Yunnan (China), Lao PDR and Nepal, to link with Cambodia, Vietnam the Philippines and the Regional Office in Thailand. Structured regular contact between line agencies and partner NGOs across Asia-Pacific is a major milestone in regional learning and communications. The Hubs link semi-monthly through the Internet for facilitated one-hour Netmeetings to discuss common issues. The next meetings will focus on action planning and build on the face-to-face discussions about

STREAM implementation which took place at the 2nd STREAM Regional Conference.

Website Update

Regular visitors to the NACA and STREAM websites will have noticed that these sites have been more closely integrated with improved navigation directing users to appropriate parts of each site. The virtual library with large numbers of free downloads has been further expanded and increasingly includes outputs of other organisations who also communicate through the STREAM site. An attractive feature of the site is that it is updated daily. For more information contact <paul.bulcock@enaca.org>.

STREAM Journal

We are happy to publish SJ2(1) (now in its new color) with a mix of articles from Philippines, India, Nigeria and Vietnam, once again representing a range of issues around which the STREAM Initiative promotes learning and communicating about the livelihoods of fishers and farmers. The first two articles from Philippines relate to community participation and learning, there is an article about tribal Self-help Groups from India and a contribution from Africa about the realities of water use and reuse. The final two articles from Vietnam follow from the special participatory livelihoods number of SJ1(4). (See www.streaminitiative.org/Library/streamjournal/streamjournal.html).

For more information

The STREAM Initiative responds to national requests for support where it can contribute to ongoing efforts to reduce poverty, with countries prepared to share their experiences.

For more information about the STREAM Initiative, contact:

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