

## **Comments on the Developments and Obstacles in the Implementation of the Current Strategic Plan by BCRC for South-East Asia in Jakarta, Indonesia**

It is noted in the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention (to 2010) that the operational BCRCs will be one of the key delivery mechanisms to implement the Strategic Plan at the regional level.

One of the strategies is also to disseminate and make information easily accessible through the Internet and other electronic and printed materials on the transfer of know-how, in particular through the BCRCs;

Furthermore, The full work programme (10-year period) is expected to take place in a series of phases, including regionally based activities, in particular through BCRCs.

Therefore, in the current Strategic Plan, the BCRCs have an important role in carrying out the activities at the regional level.

However, in implementing the Strategic Plan, the BCRCs's major obstacles is lack of funding to carry out these activities. Many of the planned activities in the Business Plan have to be re-scheduled or cancelled due to financial matters. In most cases, the BCRCs carried out other activities / projects not initially planned in the Business Plan, depending on the donor's request to carry out a certain activity, although still very much related to the functions of the BCRCs. The BCRCs' daily operations relied solely on their host countries' support, and is not sufficient to conduct regional base projects without contribution from donors or other member countries served by BCRC, which also contribute to the issue on the BCRCs' sustainability.

In this regard, a mechanism to increase capacity and ensure the sustainability of the BCRCs should be inserted in the section on the development of the BCRCs in the new Strategic Plan. The mechanism could be in the form of financial mechanism or capacity building of the BCRCs, especially developing BCRCs and BCRCs with economies in transition, on resources mobilization to obtain the resources required in order to facilitate their important role in conducting the activities in the Strategic Plan. It is also important to point out that more positive and active cooperation of the parties served by a BCRC in business plan development and implementation will help reduce the BCRC's load in fund raising. In addition, good communication and close cooperation between BCRCs and their host countries are key success factors in sustaining the BCRCs. Another important factor that may strengthen the host country support to a BCRC is also good communication and

cooperation between the national focal point and the other relevant government agencies, including the ministry of foreign affairs or diplomatic missions.