

## **A Knowledge Management Model for Natural Resources Management in Southeast Asia**

A. G. Flor and Narong Sompong

This study analyzes the feasibility of the community of practice (CoP) concept as a knowledge management (KM) model for natural resources management (NRM). At the theoretical level, it tests the CoP as a capacity development platform specifically in the design of a learning program. Can a CoP transcend institutional, geographical, disciplinary and language barriers to design new curricula? The study aimed: 1) to analyze a KM model for NRM in Southeast Asia; 2) to test a system appropriate to the KM model; and 3) to determine the feasibility of designing a post-baccalaureate program on NRM Knowledge Management for Southeast Asian professionals employing the above model and system. This applied research study employed the design, development and testing model. It adopted a four-pronged methodology: KM modeling; KM system development; CoP consensus building; and instructional program design using the constructivist approach. It was implemented from Kasetsart University in Bangkok and the UP Open University in Los Baños, with the latter hosting the KM system and administering the online platform. However, it involved a CoP that came from Thailand, Philippines, Lao PDR, and Indonesia.

The study found that the community of practice model may be used for natural resources knowledge management. Furthermore, web-based learning management systems such as IVLE and Moodle can adequately serve as the KM system for such a CoP. However, it is recommended that the following factors be borne in mind in the conduct of online discussion forums: the language barrier; the schedule and availability of expert participants; the cultural sensitivities of Southeast Asian participants; connectivity; and non-material incentives for participants. Furthermore, the researchers recommend that a Graduate Program on Natural Resources Knowledge Management be developed and implemented by a consortium of universities in the Southeast Asian Region.

**Keywords:** knowledge management, community of practice, natural resources management