A Tale of Four PEER Projects
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Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Science
Developing 4 PEER projects

- Partnerships based on existing collaboration: NSF project initiated in 2007
  - Actually dates back much longer...
- Coral Triangle Partnerships for International Research and Education
- PIRE & PEER programs related
PIRE model: build long-term collaborative research programs

• Initiate and foster long-term collaborative ties

• A team of post-docs, graduate students and REUs (research opportunities for undergraduates) living in the CT countries
Participants in CT-PIRE

Also visiting, junior scientists, post-doctoral researchers, and senior scientists, from partner institutions of U.S., the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand
CT Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) project

Biodiversity & Resource Conservation & Management Pre-adapted for PEER projects!!
PEER projects complement PIRE research

• Test hypotheses generated from initial PIRE results
  – Refining usefulness for resource management
PEER projects complement PIRE research methods

• From ‘cave man’ to Next Generation Genomics
  – NSF supported Pan-Pacific Advanced Study Institute “Genomic Applications to Marine Science and Resource Management in South East Asia”
PEER projects complement PIRE research

• Expand geographically
  – NSF supported partnership-development grant to Vietnam & Thailand
PEER projects complement PIRE research

- Expand hypothesis testing and conservation/management capability from marine to freshwater
- Mekong Delta
Challenges Juggling 4 PEER projects

• Impossible without strong collaborations
  – Paul Barber research in Indonesia

• Philippine network (DLSU, UPMSI, NFRDI, SU, UPD) strengthened through NSF supported PIRE & PACASI projects

• Main challenge: adapting research protocol to advanced genomic techniques
  – Met by expanded US partners through NSF PIRE project
  – Training ongoing (venue based on budgets)
    • in Philippines next year (many participants)
    • Hosting 1-2 Vietnamese students next year
Partner Communication

- Usual email & skype conference calls
- Frequent visits to the Philippines
- Seminars
PEER Partner Expectations

- Close collaboration while post-doc resident in the Philippines
- Passing more of the reins from PIRE to PEER allows partners to ‘show their stuff’
- Indonesian partners making excellent progress
- Mekong Delta project ahead of expectations
Advice to Cycle 2 PIs

• Constant communication with US partners (email & skype)
• Invite for seminars, trainings, guest lectures
• Leverage PEER funding for National & International support to strengthen/expand
  – Integrate partner in new activities
• Stay in touch with USAID program officers
  – Build on existing, and adapt to changing priorities
• Communicate your results for development impact
Thank you...