

# POST COURSE REPORT

on

## ‘FOREST CRIME INVESTIGATION’ (Short Course)

October 7 – 8, 2009

Phnom Penh, Cambodia



**Instructor Manny Medina with Translator Chin Kethya and class on first day.**



**Instructor Brad Coulter with translator and class on first day.**

## **I. Summary Introduction:**

This course was requested by the Forestry Administration of the Royal Government of Cambodia through ITTO under Project PD 493/07 Rev. 1 (F) “Strengthening Capacity of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Cambodia”. As a result of the request which was received under a very short time frame, the Consultant, Menelio (Manny) G. Medina, who works as a Law Enforcement Advisor for the ASEAN-WEN Support Program run by Freeland Foundation in Bangkok, Thailand, worked with counterparts in Bangkok to develop and execute the two day investigative course on October 7 and 8, 2009. The course was conducted at the Forestry Administration training facility in Phnom Penh.

The course was attended by 26 Forestry Administration supervisory officers including the Directors of all four Inspectorates and the Chiefs of all 15 Cantonments. Course material was presented by Freeland Foundation Operations Officer Brad Coulter and Freeland Foundation Law Enforcement Advisor Manny Medina.

The course was comprised of one day of classroom instruction and one day of practical exercises aimed at instructing the students in specific law enforcement techniques universally used in combating nature crime. This course was specifically tailored to address illegal forest and timber activities.

## **II. Synopsis of Course Content:**

The course was designed to provide the maximum training benefit to the students under the very limited time frame of two days. The normal investigative course conducted throughout ASEAN by the ASEAN-WEN Support Program is a two week course titled “Nature Crime Investigation Course”, NCIC, and is much more extensive.

Day One activities included classroom instruction covering the following topics:

1. The “Six Phases of a Major Investigation” – This module of instruction covers the usual, chronological steps undertaken by law enforcement when conducting any criminal investigation. They consist of:

- A. The Intelligence Gathering Phase
- B. The Planning Phase
- C. The Investigation Phase
- D. The Takedown Phase
- E. The Legal Phase
- F. The Wrap Up Phase

2. “Sources of Information” – This module of instruction covers guidance on where and from whom the resourceful law enforcement officer can seek and gain useful information on criminal activity in his area.

3. “Informants” – This module of instruction covers the recruitment, handling and effective use of law enforcement informants.

4. “Interviewing Techniques” – This module of instruction is aimed at providing the law enforcement student with the basic techniques he will need in order to conduct effective, investigative interviews.

5. “Planning and Implementing a Major Investigation” – This module directs the student’s attention to the processes involved in the actual planning and implementation of criminal investigations once information has been received.

Day Two activities included dividing the class into two teams and running them through a day long practical exercise in which each team conducted a small, mock forest crime investigation. Each team was provided with a set of facts from which to begin that included the names of four suspects/witnesses (role players) whom they would have to interview, analyze the information obtained, and make determinations as to next steps to take.



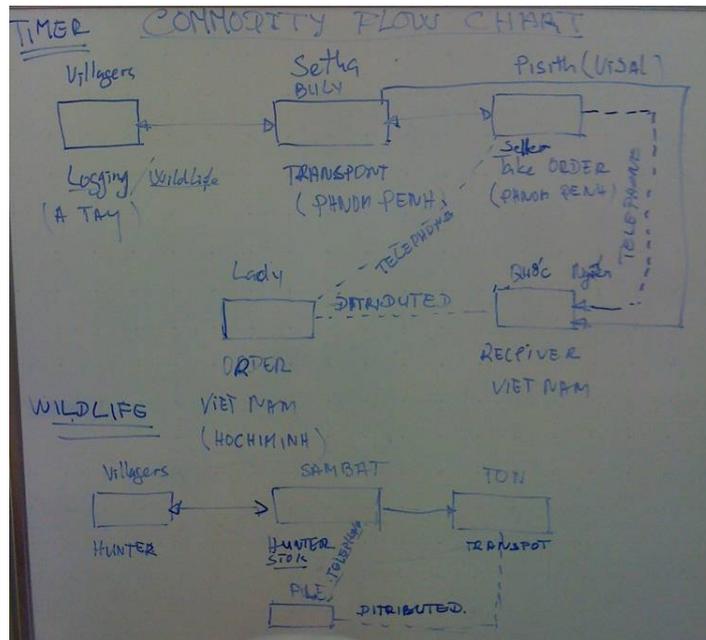
**Student team conducting interview of suspect (role player) on second day.**

At the conclusion of the exercise, each team was required to prepare a brief presentation to the whole class on their findings and recommendations. Prior to commencing the preparation of this brief, Brad Coulter provided instruction to the participants on basic principles of the intelligence cycle, specifically highlighting how to complete 'Commodity Flow Charts and Link Charts'.

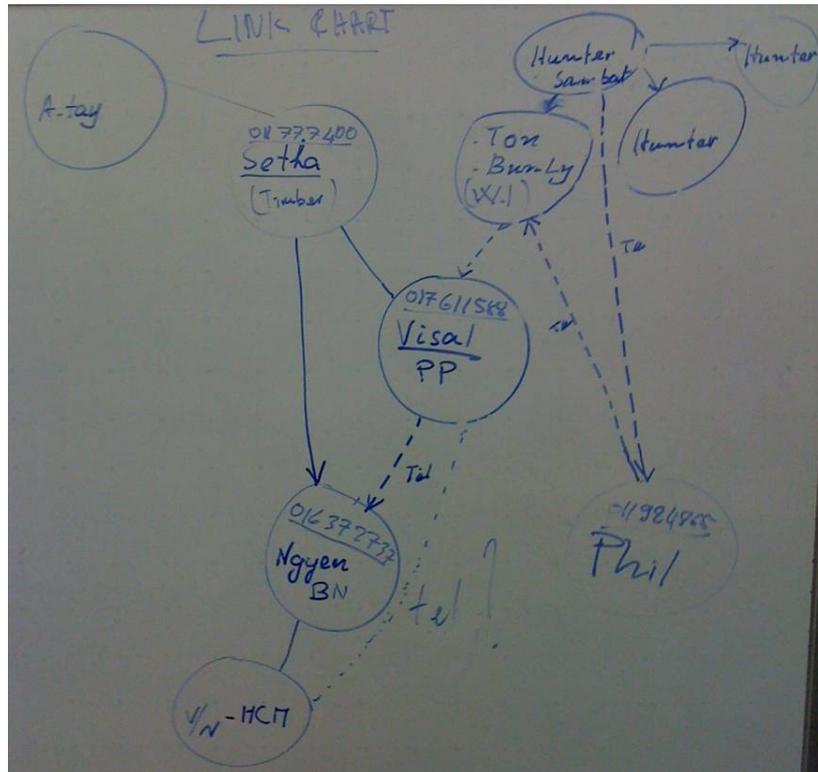


Students working on investigative flow charts following practical exercise on second day.

Each team then went and prepared a brief presentation for the whole class on their findings and recommendations. This included visual presentations utilizing a commodities flow chart and a link analysis chart showing the flow of illegal timber and the suspects involved.



Participants – 'Commodity Flow chart'



Participants 'Link Chart'

Each student was also provided with a course outline including the instructional materials used by the instructors, translated into Khmer.

### III. Conclusions:

Although this was only a two day course attempting to cover subject matter which is normally instructed over weeks or even months, it was able to engage the students in some of the basics of nature crime investigation and provided a forum for exchanging information. The course was very well received by most of the students as witnessed by their comments and many questions. Student involvement was very good throughout. The students also expressed interest in receiving further and more advanced instruction should the opportunity arise.

The facilities used for the course were good and are certainly recommended for future use. The Forestry Administration was most helpful throughout and their assistance was greatly appreciated by the instructors. The instructors also wish to thank Wildlife Alliance in Phnom Penh for their assistance and support.



Students during the final comment and question period on second day.

#### **IV. Attachments:**

1. List of student participants and assisting personnel from Forestry Administration.
2. English only version of the lessons taught (originals were in Khmer & English)

## **V. About the Instructors:**

Manny Medina is a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Supervisory Special Agent and has 28 years of wildlife law enforcement and training experience. He currently lives in Punta Gorda, Florida, U.S. Medina has trained and worked with wildlife and forestry law enforcement officials in the U.S., Central and South America, and Southeast Asia. He now works as an independent consultant and Law Enforcement Advisor currently under contract with Freeland Foundation out of Bangkok, Thailand.

Brad Coulter is the Operations Officer for the FREELAND Foundation, being responsible for coordination of Investigations for ASEAN-WEN support program and for Investigations teaching. He is an experienced Law Enforcement officer, having spent 17 yrs with the Australian Federal Police and the Victoria Police as a detective. He is specialist investigator, with extensive experience in managing Wildfires and Fire Investigation He currently lives in Bangkok, Thailand, having previously Project Managed the Royal Thai Police - Transnational Crime Coordination Network. He has spent the last six years in the ASIA-PACIFIC region, living in Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands and Thailand - having taught in numerous countries including China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand. He now works as an independent consultant and Law Enforcement Advisor currently under contract with Freeland Foundation out of Bangkok, Thailand.