

## **CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH IN THAILAND**

**HANSA CHANSANG**

Coral reef management has gained high priority recently due to increasing uses as well as degradation of coral reef resources. Most recent efforts are on management for recreational uses of reefs especially in protected areas such as marine parks. Management of reefs outside protected areas for sustainable uses by communities are also a challenging task. Tools for reef management are generally known. To apply these tools properly require some understanding regarding political and cultural backgrounds of communities, however. Integration of local uses and participation of local communities to management scheme are needed.

Concern on reef degradation has led to interest on reef rehabilitation. To be successful, research on reef dynamic, diversity, long term natural variability of reef condition and possible effect due to climate change should be carried out together with research on rehabilitation.