

**REPORT OF  
THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP  
OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)**

**Singapore, 6-7 November 2008**



**THE SECRETARIAT**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

1. The Eleventh Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was held from 6 to 7 November 2008 in Singapore with the main objective of discussing the programs and activities under the ASSP-FCG fisheries collaborative mechanism, the progress and activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, as well as policy considerations on important issues.

### **FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE MEETINGS OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL AND ASEAN BODIES RELATED TO FISHERIES**

2. The Meeting was informed on the follow-up actions to the directives given at the Tenth ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Meeting in December 2007, the Fortieth SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2008, and the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries specifically the directives given by the ASWGFi and SOM-AMAF in 2008 on issues of common interest to the ASEAN and SEAFDEC.

3. The Meeting was updated on the progress of the ASEAN Community in Integration process, particularly the ratification of the ASEAN Charter and the implementation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints focusing on the economic and socio-cultural aspects as well as the key ASEAN challenges in fisheries as basis for future ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation, which include: 1) Economic Community Integration through trade facilitation and implementation of sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures; 2) Socio-Cultural Community Integration by enhancing contribution of fisheries to poverty alleviation, livelihoods, environmental conservation, and food security; and 3) Cross-cutting issues, i.e. illegal fishing, impacts of climate change to fisheries, etc.

4. The Meeting was informed that some possibilities of funding support to activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC program framework could be through the dialogue partners. Along this line, the ASEAN Secretariat was requested to raise the issue during the next Meeting of ASWGFi for consideration and guidance.

### **ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009**

5. The Meeting endorsed the progress and achievements of the activities implemented under the ASSP-FCG Mechanism in 2008 and the proposed programs for 2009. A new program on “Human Resource Development (HRD) for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region” was also endorsed.

6. The Meeting supported that Indonesia as the ASEAN Lead Country in consultation with SEAFDEC, should prepare the preliminary project proposal on *Community Fisheries – Strengthening Organization of Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods in Coastal Areas* using the ASEAN format for submission to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) through the ASEAN Secretariat. In addition, the elements relevant to enhancing coastal community resilience in the non-funded projects on Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource

Enhancement, and the Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region should also be incorporated into such a proposal.

7. The Meeting suggested that SEAFDEC MFRD to submit a proposal incorporating Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries to the ASEAN-Australian Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) for funding. This project could in part enhance the national residual control plan of respective Member Countries to enable them to continue exporting products to the EU through a training program.

## **PROGRESS OF THE PROPOSALS IMPLEMENTED UNDER ASSP**

8. With regard to *ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector*, the Meeting took note of the proposed establishment of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector which was supported by the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASWGFi and endorsed by the Special SOM-29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting. In this regard, SEAFDEC would consider finding ways to provide the necessary support to organize the Meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group in 2009. However, in case financial support could not be provided by SEAFDEC, the ASEAN Member Countries should also secure their own funding support to be able to participate in the *Ad hoc* Working Group Meeting.

9. The Meeting was also informed on the renaming of the *ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism* (ARFMM) to the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) as agreed at the SOM-30<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting (20-21 October 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam), as well as the background, functions and responsibilities, mechanism, area of competence, and organization of the AFCF. Moreover, within the framework of the ASWGFi, the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum Body (AFCFB) would be established. A preparatory meeting of the AFCF will be organized by Thailand as an Interim Secretariat of the AFCF in early 2009 in order to discuss the management and outline work plan of the AFCF. Once developed, the AFCF work plan will be submitted to the ASWGFi for consideration and endorsement.

10. The Meeting supported the proposal made by the representative from Thailand for the organization of the *ASEAN Shrimp Alliance* (ASA) Annual Meeting in early 2009 prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting, in order to discuss and consider the issues, activities and programs initiated by ASA as well as to find ways and means to guide the ASA to attain its objectives and goals. In addition, the Meeting was also informed that the ASA Seminar on Shrimp Standard would also be organized in 2009.

11. With regards to the establishment of ASSP Portal Website as recommended by the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting, the Meeting noted that ASSP Portal the Website shall be established to enhance the visibility of activities undertaken under the ASSP framework and would serve as a Portal Website that links to the SEAFDEC and ASEAN websites. In addition, the Meeting agreed that the ASA Website to be linked with the ASSP Portal Website. The ASSP Portal Website could be officially launched upon endorsement by the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi.

## **POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES**

- **Climate Change and Its Impact on Fisheries and Aquaculture**

12. As the outcomes from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Emerging Regional Fisheries Policy organized from 15 to 16 July 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Meeting took note of the “Required Adaptive Measures to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change to be undertaken by SEAFDEC and the National Agencies Responsible for Fisheries in the Member Countries”. The Meeting was also informed on the proposal developed by Indonesia on “ASEAN Strategy in Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, which has already been submitted to and agreed in principle by the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AMAF. Based on these two initiatives, the Meeting suggested SEAFDEC to further explore the possibility of initiating the conduct of scientific conference to identify and collect relevant scientific information that could be used for the refinement and finalization of the proposed Required Adaptive Measures; and further coordinate with Indonesia as the ASEAN Lead Country and other ASEAN Countries.

- **Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in Southeast Asia**

13. The Meeting suggested that the Member Countries should make full use of the Regional Guidelines on the CCRF in Southeast Asia as a guiding principle, and for the countries to continue promoting the implementation of the CCRF at the national level.

- **Fish Trade Related Issues**

14. The Meeting took note of the recently imposed market driven measures including the US Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA) and the EU regulation to control IUU fishing by preventing the IUU products from being sold in the EU market. In this regard, the Meeting reiterated the concerns on such market driven measures which have been expanded from product quality and safety to sustainability of fisheries.

- **EU Catch Documentation**

15. The Meeting underlined the EU regulation on the requirement for a Catch Document for importing fishery products outside the EU, which has become very serious, and took note that the regulation will take effect on 1 January 2010. The Meeting suggested that SEAFDEC should provide assistance to the Member Countries to be able to comply with the EU requirement for a catch document and to conduct an in-depth study and organize a Regional Technical Consultation on the issue.

16. The Meeting also suggested that countries that are affected by the EU Catch Document requirement should consult with the Trade-related Agencies in their respective countries to find the best option to address the issue.

- **Fisheries Subsidies**

17. The Meeting noted that a number of proposals are being submitted to the Chair, the revised draft consolidated Chair's text of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures may not yet be ready for the next round of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules.

- **Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification**

18. The Meeting suggested that a Joint Statement of the Southeast Asian countries to support the adoption of the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification may be developed to serve as the collective position of the region on the Guidelines. In addition, the representative from Thailand agreed to develop the Joint Statement for consideration by all Southeast Asian countries.

- **Poaching of Sea Turtles**

19. With refers to the report on poaching of sea turtles in the Southeast Asian waters and recommendations at the Third Regional Technical Consultation Meeting on Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles, the Meeting strongly agreed that actions should be undertaken as the poaching of sea turtles has undermined the commitment of the ASEAN Member Countries to implement the ASEAN MoU on Sea Turtle Conservation and Protection (1997) and the effort of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in the conservation and management of the sea turtles. The issue on poaching of sea turtles should be raised by SEAFEC at the next meetings of SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi for consideration and to bring up the matter to the AMAF and AMAF+3. In addition, awareness building should also be enhanced and attention should also be sought from the trade-related sectors to address/solve the problem.

20. The Meeting also suggested that SEAFDEC should also formulate a regional program to address the issue, such as the collection of information on the status of the poaching of sea turtles in the region.

- **Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries**

21. The Meeting supported the development of a Global Program on Small-scale Fisheries within the umbrella of FAO, and the establishment of the FAO Sub-Committee on Small-Scale Fisheries. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that a Joint Statement from the Southeast Asian countries could be formulated expressing support to the establishment of the Sub-Committee. The Meeting also requested that as soon as the approval of the joint statement is confirmed by all countries, Thailand *in collaboration with Vietnam* should develop the draft Joint Statement and circulate such draft to the Southeast Asian countries for final consideration and endorsement in order to present this Joint Statement at the FAO/COFI Meeting.

22. Considering the importance of the issue on small-scale fisheries in the region, the Meeting agreed that small-scale fisheries be included as an area of cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC under the ASSP Program. The ASEAN Secretariat suggested that such program should not be too comprehensive and too broad, and should clearly specify the scopes and nature, in order to be linked to possible funding sources.

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**REPORT OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP  
OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)**

**Singapore, 6-7 November 2008**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Eleventh Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was held from 6 to 7 November 2008 in Singapore with the main objective of discussing the programs and activities under the ASSP-FCG fisheries collaborative mechanism, the progress and activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, as well as policy considerations on important issues. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, and Mr. Sanchai Tandavanitj, on behalf of the current Chairman of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>).

3. The Co-chair from SEAFDEC welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He reiterated that the signing of the LOU of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership by the ASEAN and SEAFDEC during the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AMAF in November 2007, led to the ASSP-FCG arrangement starting from this year. He emphasized the importance of the ASSP-FCG Meeting in following-up actions to the directives given at the Meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN Bodies related to fisheries; deliberating on the ASSP-FCG programs for the year 2008 and 2009; and discussing policy considerations on important issues that require regional proactive action and follow-up by SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member Countries as well as several important issues of the region. He also reiterated that the outcomes from the discussion at this Meeting would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meetings for consideration and endorsement, and declared the Meeting open. His opening speech appears as **Annex 2**.

4. The Agenda which appears as **Annex 3** was adopted.

**2. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE  
MEETINGS OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL AND ASEAN BODIES RELATED TO  
FISHERIES**

**2.1 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SEAFDEC FCG  
and the 40<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meetings**

5. The Meeting was informed on the follow-up actions to the directives given at the Tenth ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Meeting in December 2007 and the Fortieth SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2008, which appears as **Annex 4**.

6. The Meeting recalled that the objective of this Agenda is to discuss and provide an overview of the follow-up actions in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council. The more detailed information on the follow-up actions is being covered under the later Agenda on Programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC ASSP-FCG Mechanism.

7. With regards to the recommendation on the implementation of activities to remove the off-flavor from freshwater and brackishwater fish flesh, and that MFRD should take lead in addressing the problem, the Chief of MFRD suggested that since this problem could be solved by practicing appropriate aquaculture practices and management, such concern could be better addressed by AQD. In response, the AQD Chief informed the Meeting that AQD had already conducted internal discussion on this matter and would find ways to address the concern.

## **2.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries**

8. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat presented the “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries”, and updated the Meeting on the progress of the ASEAN Community in Integration process, particularly the ratification of the ASEAN Charter and the implementation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints focusing on the economic and socio-cultural aspects. He underlined key ASEAN challenges in fisheries as basis for future ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation, which include: 1) Economic Community Integration through trade facilitation and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures; 2) Socio-Cultural Community Integration by enhancing contribution of fisheries to poverty alleviation, livelihoods, environmental conservation, and food security; and 3) Cross-cutting issues, i.e. illegal fishing, impacts of climate change to fisheries, etc.

9. In addition, he also made a brief presentation on the major decisions and directives given by the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> and SOM-AMAF in 2008 on issues of common interest to the ASEAN and SEAFDEC. Such issues include the implementation of ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector, establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM), ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), ASSP Portal Website, small-scale fisheries related issues, and impacts of climate change. He also conveyed the appreciation of the ASEAN Member States to SEAFDEC for its contribution to the ASEAN Cooperation in fisheries. His report appears as **Annex 5**.

10. Considering the limited funding support to activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC program framework, the representative from Thailand sought the view of the ASEAN Secretariat with regards to seeking financial support from the ASEAN side, aside from the ASEAN-Australian Development Cooperation Program (AADCP). In response, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that some possibilities of funding support could be through the dialogue partners, which would be informed to the parties concerned when any funding support become available. Along this line, the representative from Thailand requested ASEAN Secretariat to raise the issue during the next Meeting of ASWGF<sub>i</sub> for consideration and guidance.

## **3. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009**

11. The Meeting endorsed the progress and achievements of the activities implemented under the ASSP-FCG Mechanism in 2008 and the proposed programs for 2009 which appears as **Annex 6**.

12. The Meeting supported the recommendations made during the 31<sup>st</sup> SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting on the project on *Community Fisheries – Strengthening Organization of Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods in Coastal Areas* that Indonesia as the ASEAN Lead Country in consultation with SEAFDEC, should prepare the preliminary project proposal using the ASEAN format for submission to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) through the ASEAN Secretariat. In addition, the elements relevant to enhancing coastal community resilience in the non-funded projects on *Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement*, and *the Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region* should also be incorporated into such a proposal.

13. The Meeting also supported the recommendation of the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee for MFRD to submit a proposal incorporating Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries to the ASEAN-Australian Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) for funding. This project could in part enhance the national residual control plan of respective Member Countries to enable them to continue exporting products to the EU. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that MFRD should consider implementing a training program to build the capacity of the Member Countries and that engagement with the EU in the capacity building activities should also be explored. In response, the Chief of MFRD would consider incorporating laboratory capacity building on the tests required by importing countries, into the project proposal.

#### **4. PROGRESS OF THE PROPOSALS IMPLEMENTED UNDER ASSP**

##### **4.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector**

14. The Meeting took note of the progress of ASEAN-SEAFDEC in the Implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector (**Annex 7**). Highlight of the progress was made to the Meeting on the recommendations from the Regional Workshop on Implementing the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector (16-18 January 2008, Bangkok, Thailand), particularly the proposed establishment of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector in order to expedite the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap. The proposed establishment was supported by the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASWGFi and endorsed by the Special SOM-29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting (5-7 August, 2008, Chiangmai, Thailand), and that the Meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group should be organized in 2009.

15. In this regard, the representative from Thailand sought continued cooperation of SEAFDEC to consider providing technical and financial support for the conduct of the *Ad hoc* Working Group Meeting in early 2009. In response, SEAFDEC informed the Meeting that SEAFDEC would consider finding ways to provide the necessary support, e.g. through the SEAFDEC-Sida project. However, in case financial support could not be provided by SEAFDEC, the Meeting suggested that the ASEAN Member Countries should also secure their own funding support to be able to participate in the *Ad hoc* Working Group Meeting.

##### **4.2 Establishment of ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM)**

16. The Meeting noted the progress of the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM) (**Annex 8**), and the recommendations made during the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting on the adjustment of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the

ASWGF<sub>i</sub> to include “*To promote appropriate ASEAN regional fisheries management policies/programs/activities through the establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM) for sustainable fisheries development*”. The progress on the establishment of the ARFMM and the revised TOR was reported to the Special SOM-29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting (5-8 August 2008, Chiang Mai, Thailand), where the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Working Group was recommended to develop the functions, scope of work and activities of the ARFMM. In this regard, the *Ad hoc* Working Group Meeting of the ARFMM was convened in September 2008 in Thailand with support from the SEAFDEC-Sida project .

17. The Meeting was also informed on the renaming of the ARFMM to the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) as agreed at the SOM-30<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting (20-21 October 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam), as well as the background, functions and responsibilities, mechanism, area of competence, and organization of the AFCF. Moreover, within the framework of the ASWGF<sub>i</sub>, the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum Body (AFCFB) would be established and be responsible for carrying out the functions and responsibilities as set out in the AFCF Framework. The TOR for ASWGF<sub>i</sub> and the Framework of the AFCF appear as *Appendix 2 of Annex 8*.

18. The Meeting suggested that Thailand, as being the lead country of the initiative on AFCF, should communicate with the other ASEAN Member Countries on the establishment of AFCF and the revised TOR of the ASWGF<sub>i</sub>, and request the Member Countries for the nomination of their respective focal points for the AFCF. The Meeting was also informed that Thailand as an Interim Secretariat of the AFCF will organize a preparatory meeting of the AFCF in early 2009 in order to discuss the management and outline work plan of the AFCF. Once developed, the AFCF work plan will be submitted to the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> for consideration and endorsement. Since SEAFDEC is planning to organize the SEAFDEC-Sida Workshop for discussing issues related to fishing vessel record and inventory on the first week of February 2009, the Meeting suggested that the Preparatory Meeting of the AFCF could be organized back-to-back with the SEAFDEC-Sida Workshop.

#### **4.3 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)**

19. The Meeting took note of the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) as shown in **Annex 9**. Specifically, the 1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting of ASA was organized on 8 April 2008 in Bali, Indonesia to discuss the common issues among the countries, the report of which was submitted to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASWGF<sub>i</sub> (21 to 23 May 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand). The ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting recommended that the active participation of the private sector in the ASA activities should be sought, and requested ASA to provide the details of the ASEAN shrimp standards, the ASEAN certification body, and the organization of the shrimp seminar/conference during the next meeting of ASWGF<sub>i</sub>.

20. The Meeting supported the proposal made by the representative from Thailand for the organization of the ASA Annual Meeting in early 2009 prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting, in order to discuss and consider the issues, activities and programs initiated by ASA as well as to find ways and means to guide the ASA to attain its objectives and goals. In addition, the Meeting was also informed that the ASA Seminar on Shrimp Standard would also be organized in 2009 to update the ASEAN Member Countries and relevant regional organization, i.e. FAO, NACA, on shrimp production standards. The participation of the private sector would be sought in order to promote the sharing of related information and experiences. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that in addition to the aforementioned issues, Measures 48 and 49 of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector should also be discussed during the ASA Seminar.

21. With regards to the development of the ASA Website, the Meeting was informed that the contents of the website would be further improved, and that additional relevant information, e.g. ASEAN shrimp production, list of ASEAN shrimp producers and farmers, etc., would also be uploaded. In this regard, the Member Countries were requested to be actively involved in the website by regularly providing information on the status of shrimp production in their respective countries which could be uploaded in the website.

#### **4.4 ASSP Portal Website**

22. The Meeting took note of the recommendation made during the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting that an ASSP Portal Website should be established to enhance the visibility of activities undertaken under the ASSP framework. The website would serve as a Portal Website that links to the SEAFDEC and ASEAN websites. In response to the request for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC publications to be uploaded in the ASSP Portal Website, SEAFDEC reiterated that all the detailed information on the programs, activities as well as information materials published under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative programs could be accessed from SEAFDEC Website.

23. The Meeting was also informed on the plan of the ASEAN Secretariat to update the ASEAN Website by the end of 2008, and the Website relevant to fisheries would also be reconstructed. Although the ASEAN Website could not cover the activities under the ASSP, it will provide link to the ASSP Portal Website. In addition, the Meeting agreed on the request made by the representative from Thailand for the ASA Website to be linked with the ASSP Portal Website.

24. The Meeting agreed that the progress on the development of the ASSP Portal Website by SEAFDEC taking into consideration the relevant suggestions at this Meeting should be reported to the 41<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASWGFi for consideration and endorsement. In this regard, the Meeting was informed that upon endorsement by the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi, the ASSP Portal Website could be officially launched.

### **5. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES**

#### **5.1 Climate Change and Its Impact on Fisheries and Aquaculture**

25. The Meeting took note of the “Required Adaptive Measures to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change to be undertaken by SEAFDEC and the National Agencies Responsible for Fisheries in the Member Countries” (**Annex 10**) as recommended by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Emerging Regional Fisheries Policy organized from 15 to 16 July 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was also informed on the proposal developed by Indonesia on “ASEAN Strategy in Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, which has already been submitted to and agreed in principle by the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AMAF.

26. The Meeting, while noting that the current scientific information on the possible impact from fisheries and aquaculture to climate change and *vice versa*, might still be insufficient to support the development of such Required Adaptive Measures, suggested that SEAFDEC should further explore the possibility of initiating the conduct of scientific conference to identify and collect relevant scientific information that could be used for the refinement and finalization of the proposed Required Adaptive Measures. In this regard, the

Meeting also requested SEAFDEC to coordinate with Indonesia as the ASEAN Lead Country and other ASEAN Countries, for the refinement of the Required Adaptive Measures for submission to the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi Meetings for information and guidance.

27. The Meeting also suggested that SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member Countries should consider promoting knowledge network to better understand the impact of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture, and sharing experiences and technologies that could help mitigate the impact from fisheries and aquaculture to climate change, e.g. adoption of green practices, use of wind energy (sailboat, windmill), maximizing solar energy and renewable energy, use of duckweed and other plant sources in aquaculture feeds, etc.

## **5.2 Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in Southeast Asia**

28. The Meeting took note of the progress of the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in Southeast Asia, particularly in addressing fisheries management in support of the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector as well as promoting responsible fishing practices (**Annex 11**).

29. While recalling the original framework of the program on *Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia* which covers the components on 1) mainstreaming the Regional Guidelines, and 2) capacity building for the implementation of the CCRF in the Region, the Meeting suggested that the Member Countries should make full use of the Regional Guidelines on the CCRF in Southeast Asia as a guiding principle, and for the countries to continue promoting the implementation of the CCRF at the national level.

## **5.3 Fish Trade Related Issues**

30. The Meeting took note of the current movements in importing countries in relation to the issues related to fisheries subsidies and the recently imposed market driven measures at the international level including the US Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA) and the EU regulation to control IUU fishing by preventing the IUU products from being sold in the EU market. In this regard, the Meeting reiterated the concerns on such market driven measures which have been expanded from product quality and safety to sustainability of fisheries.

## **EU Catch Documentation**

31. The Meeting underlined the EU regulation on the requirement for a Catch Document for importing fishery products outside the EU, which has become very serious, and took note that the regulation will take effect on 1 January 2010. The representative from Thailand also informed the Meeting that in preparing the readiness of the countries for the implementation of the Catch Documentation, EU planned to conduct Case Studies in eight countries including two ASEAN Member Countries, namely Thailand and Indonesia, starting in January 2009. In addition, EU also planned to organize a Regional Seminar on the Implementation of Catch Documentation in March 2009, of which the DOF Thailand has been proposed to serve as the host for such Seminar.

32. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that SEAFDEC should provide assistance to the Member Countries to be able to comply with the EU requirement for a catch document. In

particular, the Meeting requested SEAFDEC to conduct an in-depth study and organize a regional technical consultation (RTC) on the issue, which could be undertaken under the program on *Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues*. During the RTC, the expertise of the countries on the issue could be fully mobilized and that focus should be placed on the identification of problem areas (e.g. unfair trade, etc.), and formulation of recommendations on appropriate policy options or measures to be undertaken.

33. Considering that the RTC could also be a good opportunity for the ASEAN Member Countries to prepare collective regional inputs for the Regional Seminar to be organized by EU, the Meeting suggested that SEAFDEC should discuss the details of the RTC with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand. In addition, the Meeting also suggested that the RTC may be organized back-to-back with the Regional Seminar.

34. The Meeting supported the suggestion of Thailand to invite the Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of EC to come to Thailand to conduct a dialogue on the Catch Documentation issue. In this regard, Thailand also extended the invitation to SEAFDEC as well as the other interested countries to also take part in the dialogue. The Meeting also suggested that countries that are affected by the EU Catch Document requirement should consult with the Trade-related Agencies in their respective countries to find the best option to address the issue.

### **Fisheries Subsidies**

35. With regards to fisheries subsidies, particularly the proposal on “Need for Effective Special & Differential Treatment for Developing Country Members in the Proposed Fisheries Subsidies Text” submitted by India, Indonesia and China to the Chairman of the Negotiating Group on Rules of WTO, the Meeting was informed that the revised Chair’s draft text on Rules will be circulated to the Trade Negotiation Committee in early December 2008. However, since a number of proposals is being submitted to the Chair, the revised draft consolidated Chair’s text of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures may not yet be ready for the next round of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules.

### **5.4 Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification**

36. The representative from Thailand informed the Meeting on the background of the development of the draft FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification, which was circulated for information of the Meeting. Thailand then encouraged the Southeast Asian countries to support the adoption of the Guidelines during the forthcoming meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries to be held in March 2009. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that a Joint Statement of the Southeast Asian countries may be developed to serve as the collective position of the region on the Guidelines. In addition, the representative from Thailand agreed to develop the Joint Statement for consideration by all Southeast Asian countries.

37. The Meeting also suggested that Thailand should communicate with the Southeast Asian countries, through the SEAFDEC National Coordinators, to seek confirmation and agreement on the development of such Joint Statement by the third week of November 2008. A brief paper, outlining the background of the development of the Guidelines, the implication to the countries, the reasons why the current version of the Guidelines was not approved at the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Sub-committee on Aquaculture held in Chile from 6-10 October 2008, and the key elements of the Joint Statement to be developed by Thailand,

would be attached with the communication to facilitate consideration by the Southeast Asian countries. Once the development of the Joint Statement is agreed upon, Thailand would formulate the draft Joint Statement for circulation to all Southeast Asian countries for further consideration and endorsement before presenting it on behalf of the Southeast Asian countries at the forthcoming meeting of FAO/COFI.

## **5.5 Poaching of Sea Turtles**

38. The Meeting took note of the report on poaching of sea turtles in the Southeast Asian waters as recommended during the Third Regional Technical Consultation Meeting on Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles. The Meeting strongly agreed that actions should be undertaken as the poaching of sea turtles has undermined the commitment of the ASEAN Member Countries to implement the ASEAN MoU on Sea Turtle Conservation and Protection (1997) and the effort of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in the conservation and management of the sea turtles.

39. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that the issue on poaching of sea turtles should be raised by SEAFDEC for discussion and consideration at the forthcoming Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. In addition, the issue should be raised at the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> for consideration to bring up the matter to the AMAF and AMAF+3 in order to seek the support/agreement by the high level authorities of the Member Countries, e.g. ministerial and political levels. In addition, awareness building should also be enhanced and attention should also be sought from the trade-related sectors to address/solve the problem.

40. The Meeting also suggested that SEAFDEC should also formulate a regional program to address the issue, such as the collection of information on the status of the poaching of sea turtles in the region.

## **5.6 Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries**

41. The Meeting took note of the outcomes from the Global Conference on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development organized by FAO and hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand from 13-17 October 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.

42. Specifically, the Meeting supported the development of a Global Program on Small-scale Fisheries within the umbrella of FAO, and the establishment of the FAO Sub-Committee on Small-Scale Fisheries. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that a Joint Statement from the Southeast Asian countries could be formulated expressing support to the establishment of the Sub-Committee. Considering that the agreement on the formulation of the Joint Statement should be considered by the Member Countries through their respective National Coordinators, the Meeting suggested that the National Coordinators should provide their respective countries' views on the formulation of the Joint Statement, to Thailand as soon as possible. The Meeting also requested that as soon as the approval of the joint statement is confirmed by all countries, Thailand *in collaboration with Vietnam* should develop the draft Joint Statement and circulate such draft to the Southeast Asian countries for final consideration and endorsement in order to present this Joint Statement at the FAO/COFI Meeting.

43. Considering the importance of the issue on small-scale fisheries in the region, the Meeting agreed that small-scale fisheries be included as an area of cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC under the ASSP Program.



44. The representative from Thailand sought the support of the ASEAN Secretariat on the possibility of developing and incorporating the small-scale fisheries as an area under ASSP, which is in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint to enhancing contribution of fisheries to poverty alleviation, livelihoods of the region, under the ASEAN framework. In response, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat suggested that such program should not be too comprehensive and too broad, and should clearly specify the scopes and nature, in order to be linked to possible funding sources.

## **6. OTHER MATTERS**

45. The report of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP was adopted on 7 November 2008. The Meeting agreed that the report would be submitted to the 41<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) for consideration and endorsement.

## **7. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

46. The Co-chair for ASEAN thanked the cooperation of the Member Countries and his SEAFDEC Co-chair during the Meeting. He also expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC and all the ASEAN Member Countries in the implementation of several programs and initiatives during the past years, of which the outcomes would be further reported to the forthcoming SEAFDEC Council and the ASWGFi Meetings. He also expressed his appreciation to Singapore for hosting the Meeting, and then declared the Meeting closed. His Speech appears as **Annex 12**.



**Annex 1**

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## SECRETARIAT OF THE MEETING

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**OPENING STATEMENT**

*By Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, Secretary-General, SEAFDEC*

My ASEAN Co-Chair,  
Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat,  
SEAFDEC Senior Officials,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning to all of you

It is my great pleasure and on behalf of my Co-chair of the Meeting, to welcome you all to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership or FCG-ASSP.

After signing the LOU of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership by the ASEAN and SEAFDEC during the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AMAF in November 2007, this is the first time that we conduct this FCG Meeting under the FCG-ASSP arrangement. This is consistent with the recommendations of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG and endorsed by the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries in May 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Under the ASSP-FCG collaborative mechanism, we shall review during this 2-day Meeting the follow-up actions to the directives given at the Meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN Bodies related to fisheries. These will be presented by the SEAFDEC and ASEAN sides. In addition, we shall also deliberate on the ASSP-FCG programs for the year 2008 and 2009, which have just been concluded by the SEAFDEC Program Committee yesterday.

Ladies and gentlemen, quite a number of activities have been initiated to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC under the ASSP framework. These are mainly intended to complement achieving the various goals on sustainable fisheries in the ASEAN region. Such initiatives include the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector, Establishment of ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM), activities related to ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), and establishment of ASSP Portal Website. We would like to ensure that these initiatives are leading to the right direction and exemplifying the regional interests.

Another important role of this meeting is to discuss policy considerations on important issues that require regional proactive action and follow-up by SEAFDEC and the national governments. Relevant regional issues including other issues that emanate from actions imposed by external sources could also be brought up at this Meeting. We are therefore expected to contribute our opinions and recommendations to address such issues and concerns. The outcomes of our deliberation will be further synthesized in order to come up with proposals for submission and consideration during the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGF meetings.

Although the schedule ahead of us will be very hectic, I hope we will all actively participate in the discussions for the success of this FCG-ASSP Meeting.

On behalf of my Co-Chair of the Meeting, I now declare the Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership open. Thank you and good day!

**AGENDA**

- Agenda 1**      Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda 2**      Adoption of the Agenda
- Agenda 3**      Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Meetings of SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries
- 3.1 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASWGFi
- 3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries
- Agenda 4**      ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2008-2009
- Agenda 5**      Progress of the Proposals Implemented under ASSP
- 5.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector
- 5.2 Establishment of ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM)
- 5.3 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)
- 5.4 ASSP Portal Website
- Agenda 6**      Policy Consideration on Important Issues
- 6.1 Climate Change and Its Impact on Fisheries and Aquaculture
- 6.2 Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia
- 6.3 Others Issues
- Agenda 7**      Adoption of Recommendations and Report of the Meeting
- Agenda 8**      Closing of the Meeting





**Annex 4**

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE TENTH  
ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG AND THE FORTIETH SEAFDEC COUNCIL  
MEETINGS**

**Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Tenth ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG and the Fortieth SEAFDEC Council Meetings**

Recommendations	Refer to Para. No.	Action by	Progress
<b>Program Matters</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council also suggested that in addition to the programs scrutinized by the Program Committee, other emerging challenges should also be addressed by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries, i.e. finding alternative technologies/approaches that would reduce the impact of the increasing prices of several commodities such as fuel and feeds for aquaculture, and the US dollar depreciation in the operations of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, monitoring of the effect of climate change to fisheries, etc.</li> </ul>	40CM Para 14.	SEC and Departments	Secretariat organized the RTC on Emerging Regional Fisheries Policy in Southeast Asian Region from 15 to 16 July 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand. Discussion issues included climate change and its impact to fisheries and aquaculture, and market driven measure and food security through the promotion of fish trade.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAFDEC to implement more activities on inland fisheries including promote and transfer appropriate freshwater aquaculture technologies in the rural community areas.</li> </ul>	40CM Para. 15	SEC and Departments	Secretariat developed the new project on “Promotion of Inland Small-scale Fisheries Management through Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Approaches” to be implemented in two selected member countries namely Lao PDR and Myanmar used funding from 2008-2010 using the Unspent Japanese Contribution budget.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider sharing the successful experiences of JTEDs in the Philippines to fishermen groups in other Member Countries.</li> </ul>	40CM Para 17	TD	TD continued promotional activities related to JTEDs especially in transferring successful stories and experiences of the Philippines to other Member Countries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With regards to the development and promotion of on-board fish handling technologies, TD should investigate the use of appropriate technology for medium and commercial-scale fishing vessels as means of saving fuel costs and improving the quality of fish.</li> </ul>	40CM Para. 18	TD	TD continued to develop and promote the appropriate fish handling technology for high commercial valued fish such as squid and tuna to the Member Countries in 2008 and onward.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With regards to <i>Environmental Impact to Aquaculture</i>, the representative from the Philippines made observation that the issues have implication to fisheries due to the requirement of importing countries on good aquaculture practices. The Philippines offers to be the ASEAN Lead Country jointly with AQD and with support from other SEAFDEC Member Countries to pursue this as a regional collaborative program.</li> </ul>	<p>10FCG Para. 41</p>	<p>AQD</p>	<p>SEAFDEC/AQD has on-going Program aimed at investigating the effects of aquaculture interventions in the environment and in coming up with policy recommendations on sustainable ecosystem approaches and responsible fish farming operations. One of AQD's priorities in the next 4 years (2009-2012) is also to generate aquaculture technologies with least possible negative impact on the environment.</p> <p>The Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and its partners have completed a study on 'Mitigating the Impacts from Aquaculture in the Philippines'. One major output of this project was the development of a Joint Administrative Order by inter-agencies for implementation of a 'Guidebook' which defines and identifies the areas for cooperation and implement ways to mitigate the impacts of aquaculture activities on the environment</p> <p>Based on findings of the Philippine Government's inter-agency study, the Philippines and SEAFDEC/AQD could (subject to availability of funds) pursue a regional collaborative program on the subject.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The representative from the Philippines, in this regard, proposed a regional collaborative project on the application of a farm-based Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) in aquaculture emphasizing the value chain approach with the Philippines as the ASEAN Lead Country.</li> </ul>	<p>10FCG Para. 42</p>	<p>Philippines/AQD</p>	<p>Seminar/Orientation of HACCP in Aquaculture was organized by BFAR for its different Regional offices. However, a project proposal that will involve the participation of Member Countries and will be led by the Philippines (BFAR) has not yet been prepared.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AQD could collaborate with MFRD in the implementation of activities aimed at removing the off-flavor from freshwater and brackishwater fish flesh in order to improve the quality of fish for the export market.</li> </ul>	<p>40CM Para. 18.</p>	<p>AQD &amp; MFRD</p>	<p>AQD could include this area of research in its Priority Research Programs; however, AQD suggests that MFRD takes the lead in this activity.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council supported the proposal on the “Development of Eco-system-based Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Countries” prepared by the Secretariat for possible financial support from the unspent budget of the Global Environmental Facilities (GEF) under the agency responsible for environment of the Member Countries. The Council also suggested the Secretariat to finalize the proposal in close consultation with Member Countries, and suggested that the agencies responsible for fisheries in Member Countries should further communicate with their respective agencies responsible for environment to submit the proposal by June 2008 for funding support.</li> </ul>	40CM Para. 62	SEC	<p>The proposal was drafted and submitted to the UNEP-GEP-SCS for consideration and comments. In addition, there was another proposed proposal developed by Regional Working Group on Fisheries under the UNEP/GEP/SCS Project entitled: Managing Fish Habitat and Fish Stocks in the SCS (2009-2013) which was strongly supported by participating countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, where SEAFDEC is recognized to provide collaboration as A implementing agency. To avoid the confusion which requiring support from participating countries therefore SEAFDEC focus our collaboration to the RWG proposal.</p>
<b>ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council agreed that SEAFDEC would continue to work with ASEAN under the ASSP framework to assist ASEAN/ASWGF in: (a) formulating and establishing the ASEAN regional fisheries management mechanism; (b) developing common position/stands on international issues that will have impact on fisheries development in the ASEAN region; (c) assisting ASEAN in the integration of the fisheries sector (i.e. ASEAN Roadmap); and (d) continuing and expanding the existing collaborative and cooperation projects/activities under the ASSP-FCG mechanism that will enhance capacity building, information collection and exchange, human resource development, and provide support for important fisheries policy issues.</li> </ul>	40CM Para. 52	SEC	<p>The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASWGF took note of the progress made under the ASSP and agreed on the decision of the 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council for ASWGF to further enhance the ASSP cooperation.</p> <p>SEAFDEC supported to the organization of the Ad hoc Working Group Meeting of the ARFMM in Thailand, which was convened from 29 to September 2008.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy Considerations on Important Issues</b></li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>CCRF</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Meeting suggested that the Member Countries should copy the returned FAO Questionnaire evaluating the implementation of the CCRF on the biennial basis to SEAFDEC for consolidation. The consolidated report should be produced and circulated during the next SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting. The Meeting also requested SEAFDEC to provide the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to Member Countries in order to standardize the countries' evaluation exercise.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>10FCG Para. 24</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>No progress, however SEAFDEC will communicate to member countries again asking for the input.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEAFDEC consider organizing a consultation meeting on Fisheries Laws in the region under the CCRF program framework in order to facilitate the compilation and exchange of information on the development and improvement of laws/legislations to support responsible fisheries and combat IUU fishing. In response, SEAFDEC Secretariat would consider incorporating the suggestion in the SEAFDEC program subject to the availability of funds.</li> </ul>	<p>40CM Para. 25</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>There is no available funding support to the organization of a consultation meeting on Fisheries Laws in SEAFDEC, however, the issue will be accommodated in to the discussion of the Sub-regional Meeting on the Gulf of Thailand which will be organize in early of 2009, under the project supported by Sida.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>International Fisheries-related Issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As Japan has already established an inter-agency taskforce as well as an internal taskforce within the Fishery Agency to tackle labor issues onboard fishing vessels, the Meeting requested Japan to provide relevant information on the issues to SEAFDEC Secretariat to be further shared with the other Member Countries in order to ensure the readiness of other Member Countries on the issue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>10FCG Para. 27</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>Japan shared the information related to labor issues onboard fishing vessels at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC RTC on International Fisheries Related Issues held in February 2008, in Chiang Mai, Thailand.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEAFDEC should look into the issue (<i>welfare and safety of fishing crew and fisheries labour</i>) during the planned SEAFDEC-Sida Regional Technical Consultation on the implications of international conventions and their implementation as relevant to fisheries in the Member Countries, planned to be organized by SEAFDEC in 2008.</li> </ul>	10FCG Para. 28	SEC	SEAFDEC more focus on the Safety at sea, this is one of the activities implementing under the TD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Meeting requested Indonesia to present the Draft Legal Text to the next Meeting of ASWGF1 in order for Member Countries to understand better their proposals so that views and comments can be obtained.</li> </ul>	10FCG Para. 30		There was no presentation on the Draft Legal Text at the 16ASWGF1 Meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Meeting requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to coordinate with FAO to circulate the Draft Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures to Member Countries when the document is available. Sufficient time should also be given to Countries to investigate the document before the Workshop.</li> <li>- Singapore requested the other Member Countries attending this workshop to seek clarification from FAO on the definition of fishing vessels under the Measures, and the implication of these Measures to the Member Countries in the region.</li> </ul>	10FCG Para. 35 & 39	SEC	Secretariat has circulated the Draft Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures to the Member Countries as one of the outcomes of FAO Technical Consultation to Draft a Legally-Binding Instrument on Port State Measures to Prevent Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated held in Rome, Italy from 23 to 27 June 2008. However, the Draft will be further discussed again at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical Consultation to be convened from 26 to 30 January 2009.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the <i>Emerging Fish Diseases</i>, the Meeting requested AQD to provide SEAFDEC Secretariat the important information and recommendations from the planned International Workshop on Emerging Fish Diseases to be organized in December 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand, which may have linkages with international fisheries related issues.</li> </ul>	10FCG Para. 43	AQD	AQD had provided SEAFDEC Secretariat recommendations based on the outcomes of the International Workshop on Emerging Fish Diseases, however, there is no substantive issues that may have linkages with international fisheries related issues by the time that the Secretariat reviewed the international fisheries related issues for 2007-2008.

<p>- The Meeting requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to prioritize the issues as agreed at this Meeting and communicate with all Member Countries on their willingness to take the leading role on each of the issues. The Meeting requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to conduct in-depth review of the issues and prepare information papers, outlining proposed common/coordinated positions and policy recommendations on relevant issues for discussion. Along this line, the Meeting proposed that the RTC on International Fisheries-related Issues should be organized in February or the first week of March 2008 in order that the recommendations be submitted in time for the meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGF; for policy consideration and decision.</p>	<p>10FCG Para. 45</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>All recommended issues were prioritized and accommodated into discussions of various SEAFDEC Meetings e.g. RTC on International Fisheries Related Issues (February 2008), RTC on Small-scale Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region (May 2008). The outcomes were submitted to the 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGF respectively. The First Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (September 2008) was also discuss on the issue related to IUU fishing.</p>
<p>- On Traceability, Certification and Labelling, the Council Director for Thailand emphasized the importance of the establishment of certification body for aquaculture products in the region, and requested SEAFDEC to seek the possibility of collaborating with other regional organizations, such as NACA, in order to support the establishment of such certification body. SEAFDEC was also requested to consider conducting a program to support the development of traceability system particularly for capture fisheries which could be a basis for further development of a product certification scheme.</p>	<p>40CM Para. 30</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>There is no funding support at this moment.</p>
<p>- The Council requested SEAFDEC to consider organizing a consultation meeting on Fisheries Subsidies to provide opportunity for Member Countries in discussing such issue and coming up with regional common/coordinated position to be used as inputs to the WTO negotiations. In response, SEAFDEC would further explore the possibility of providing such discussion forum; however, the Council agreed that Member Countries should shoulder the costs for participation of their representatives in such forum.</p>	<p>40CM Para. 33</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>The Secretariat has communicated to the Member Countries on the intention to provide regional forum for discussion on the Draft Consolidated Chair Texts of the Anti Dumping and Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreements in May 2008, with the cost of participation should be bare by respective member countries. Since there was only few countries response to SEAFDEC, the Consultation was therefore convened yet.</p>

<p>- With regards to the Climate Change, the Council urged SEAFDEC to implement activities to gather information on the impact of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture activities as well as to the ecosystem and the environment; and provide assistance to the Member Countries to minimize such impact.</p>	<p>40CM Para.36</p>	<p>SEC/TD</p>	<p>SEAFDEC/SEC organized the Regional Expert Consultation on the Emerging Regional Fisheries Policy on 15-16 July 2008 funded by Japanese Trust Fund and Sida. The discussion included the impact of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture. In addition SEAFDEC/TD established a working group for in-depth study on the impact of the Climate change.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Region</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With regards to the involvement of SEAFDEC in the RPOA, the Council recommended that SEAFDEC should involve to provide advice to the Coordination Committee of the RPOA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>40CM Para. 45</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>SEAFDEC participated at the RPOA meetings and provided technical inputs. In addition to that SEAFDEC also accommodated some technical concerns, of which the RPOA Secretariat requested to the Member Countries, into existing SEAFEC regional programs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While noting the need for SEAFDEC to source funds to support the activities of the RPOA, the Council requested that under the existing SEAFDEC program framework, relevant activities such as the implementation of CCRF could be mobilized to implement activities to combat IUU fishing, and provide relevant technical inputs to the RPOA.</li> </ul>	<p>40CM Para. 46</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>The draft adjustment of SEAFDEC Program Framework has being developed and will be presented at the 31<sup>st</sup> PCM in 2008 for consideration and endorsement. The draft Program Framework will accommodate the identified issues.</p>



**PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM  
FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Program of activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism for the year 2008-2009 was reviewed by the Thirty-first Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) held in Singapore from 3 to 5 November 2008. The outcome of the program scrutiny and agreed recommendations are summarized and submitted to the Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) (11<sup>th</sup> FCG) for their consideration and endorsement.

**II. SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009 AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

2. For the programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism, progress and achievements made in the year 2008 and proposed activities for 2009, the new programs proposed for 2009, including non-funded programs in the year 2008 to 2009 appear as **Appendix 1**.

3. The programs of activity under ASSP-FCG Mechanism can be grouped into the following five categories: management for sustainable fisheries, post-harvest technology and safety of fish and fish products, aquaculture, addressing international fisheries issues, and food security and poverty alleviation. The followings are the progress and recommendations of these programs for the year 2008 and proposed activities in the year 2009.

**Programs Related to Management for Sustainable Fisheries**

4. There are 12 programs under this grouping:
- 1) Support to the Implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Secretariat)
  - 2) Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management (TD)
  - 3) Improvement of Fishery Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat)
  - 4) Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature) (TD)
  - 5) Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses (TD)
  - 6) Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty (TD)
  - 7) Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation of Affected Countries in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat)
  - 8) Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2 (TD)
  - 9) Deep Sea Fisheries Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asia (TD)

- 10) Tagging Program for Economically Important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea (MFRDMD)
- 11) Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asia Waters (TD)
- 12) Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management (TD)

5. In connection with the project on *Fishery Resources Survey Utilizing the M.V. SEAFDEC 2*, Indonesia and the Philippines proposed to use the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to conduct a research survey in 2009, while Myanmar informed the Meeting that the country's financial resources have been channeled to the rehabilitation of the areas affected by the Cyclone Nargis, thus, the proposed collaborative resources survey in Myanmar utilizing the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2009 was dropped.

6. Indonesia informed the Meeting that Indonesia is establishing a tuna observation center in Bitung, North Sulawesi in preparation for the country's forthcoming membership in the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). In this regard, the Meeting suggested that the activities undertaken by Indonesia could be coordinated with the program on *Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asia Waters*.

7. With regards to the program on *Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management*, it was suggested that the focal point persons assigned by the Member Countries for this program should take initiatives to sustain the implementation of the activities, therefore the organizers of the Workshop and Consultation should follow-up actions with the focal point persons and national coordinators. The outcomes from several workshops and consultations conducted on issues relevant to the programs should be followed-up by the respective Member Countries to ensure the sustainable management of fisheries in the region.

#### **Programs Related to Addressing International Fisheries Issues**

8. There are 4 programs under this grouping:
- 1) Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues (Secretariat)
  - 2) Environmental Related Tasks in Southeast Asia (Secretariat)
  - 3) Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement of Species under International Concerns (AQD)
  - 4) Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles (MFRDMD)

9. On the activities related to international trade issues, Thailand informed the Meeting on progress of the FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification that, FAO was requested to accommodate more views and conduct further technical consultation with the members and stakeholders. In this regard, Thailand initially sought the support of the other SEAFDEC Member Countries for this issue, which would be presented in details at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG-ASSP.

10. With regards on *Research and Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles*, the Meeting was informed on the evidence of poaching of sea turtles in the region's waters. The detailed information related to this issue would be presented for discussion at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG-ASSP.

#### **Programs Related to Post-harvest Technology and Safety of Fish and Fish Products**

11. There are 2 programs under this grouping:
- 1) Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN Member Countries (MFRD)

2) Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia (MFRD)

12. Under the MFRD program on *Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia*, the Meeting was informed that from 2009 to 2012 this program would focus on the analysis of biotoxins. In addition, if funding available, MFRD could invite Japanese experts to conduct the training courses on the analysis of pesticides particularly the organophosphate group.

**Programs Related to Aquaculture**

13. There are 2 programs under this grouping:
- 1) Development of Technologies and Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture (AQD)
  - 2) Establishment of Disease Surveillance System of Aquatic Animals (AQD)

**Programs Related to Food Security and Poverty Alleviation**

14. Under this new grouping, the programs aimed at strengthen human capacity through diverse fisheries and aquaculture related activities, of which taken into account of involvement of stakeholders and gender issue. The programs formulate to address food security, poverty alleviation, and sustainable livelihood through the conduct of meetings and consultations, hand-on trainings and technologies transfer either through government mechanism and direct human resources development activities at the community level.

15. There is one program under this grouping:
- 1) Promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)” System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region (Secretariat)

**2009 New Proposed ASSP- FCG Programs**

16. There is one new proposed program for 2009 namely:
- 1) Human Resource Development (HRD) for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region (Secretariat)

17. With regards to the programs on FOVOP and HRD on Poverty Alleviation that contribute to livelihood, and poverty alleviation. SEAFDEC was requested to give more priority to the less developed countries (e.g. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) in implementing the activities.

**Non-Funded Programs**

18. The 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGF Meeting requested that the following Non-Funded Programs (2008 and 2009) should be retained in the program framework:

- 1) Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement
- 2) The Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region
- 3) Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries
- 4) Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries
- 5) Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries

19. The program on *Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement* will be implemented with the support by the Japanese Trust Fund starting in 2010.

20. With regards to the program on *Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries*, it was suggested that the ASEAN Lead Country in collaboration with SEAFDEC Lead Department should start preparing the necessary program proposal to seek funding support from the ASEAN-Australian Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) Phase II, through the ASEAN Secretariat.

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG MECHANISM**

21. Thailand informed the Meeting that there are no Inter-Laboratories Proficiency Testing agencies in the region and the participation in international programs is very costly, the Meeting therefore suggested that the issue should be presented for further discussion at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASWGF Meeting.

22. Thailand proposed to conduct the training program for Fluoroquinolone and Nitromidazole determination for all Member Countries and sought the possibility for SEAFDEC to provide financial support for international travel, accommodation, and DSA of the participants while the Department of Fisheries of Thailand would be responsible for the other expense incurred during the training.

23. As currently required by the EU, countries exporting products to the EU should establish their respective national residual control plans in order to be included in the list of permitted countries. The Meeting suggested that MFRD should consider implementing a program similar to the national residue control plan, and continue monitoring the antibiotic substances in aquaculture products from the region.

24. ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that since the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint is a priority of the ASEAN, there is the need to formulate guidelines on the use of chemicals in aquaculture and measures to eliminate the use of harmful chemicals. Such guidelines and measures could contribute to enhancing the competitiveness and ensure the safety of aquaculture products from the region. In this regard, the ASEAN Secretariat encouraged SEAFDEC to explore the possibility of compiling the outcomes and the information derived from the relevant projects implemented by AQD and MFRD related to the above issues.

25. While noting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ASEAN Secretariat and IDB has already been signed between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the President of IDB, the Meeting suggested that Indonesia as the project ASEAN Lead Country in consultation with SEAFDEC should prepare the preliminary project proposal on *Community Fisheries – Strengthening Organization of Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods in Coastal Areas* using the ASEAN format, and submit the proposal to the IDB through the ASEAN Secretariat.

### **IV. SUGGESTION BY THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP)**

26. The FCG mechanism is requested to consider and comment on the results of program implementation for the year 2008 and proposed programs for the year 2009. This also includes the recommendations made at the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee.

27. The FCG-ASSP is also invited to provide suggestions on areas of improvement for the program formulation and implementation to enhance impacts of the projects and benefits to the Member Countries in the future.

## Appendix 1 of Annex 5

**PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG)  
MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009**

**I. Existing Programs**

Existing On-going Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism	Lead ASEAN Country	Lead Department	2008	2009
1. Support to the Implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	Indonesia	SEC	X	X
2. Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues	Thailand	SEC	X	X
3. Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management	All Member Countries	TD	X	X
4. Improvement of Fishery Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	Thailand	SEC	X	X
5. Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature)	Thailand	TD	X	X
6. Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses	Thailand	TD	X	X
7. Development of Technologies and Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture	Philippines	AQD	X	X
8. Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN Member Countries	Singapore	MFRD	X	X
9. Environmental Related Tasks in Southeast Asia (in collaboration with the Departments)	Malaysia	SEC	X	X
10. Establishment of Disease Surveillance System of Aquatic Animals	Philippines	AQD	X	X
11. Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia <sup>1</sup>	Singapore	MFRD	X	X
12. Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement for Species under International Concerns	Philippines	AQD	X	X
13. Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles (in collaboration with TD)	Malaysia	MFRDMD	X	X
14. Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty	Thailand	TD	X	X

<sup>1</sup> Starting from 2009, a follow-up project on Biotoxins Monitoring in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia will be conducted

15. Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation of Affected Countries in the ASEAN Region	Thailand	SEC	X	X
16. Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	All Member Countries	TD	X	X
17. Deep Sea Fisheries Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asia (in collaboration with MFRDMD)	Thailand	TD	X	X
18. Tagging program for economically important pelagic species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea (in collaboration with TD)	Malaysia	MFRDMD	X	X
19. Promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)” System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region	Thailand	SEC	X	X
20. Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asia Waters	Philippines	TD	X	X
21. Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management	Malaysia	TD	X	X

## II. Proposed New Programs for 2009

Program Title	Lead country	Lead Department
1. Human Resource Development (HRD) for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region	TBD <sup>2</sup>	SEC

## III. Non-funded Programs

Non Funded Programs	Lead Country	Lead Department
1. Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement <sup>3</sup>	Thailand	TD
2. The Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	Malaysia	MFRDMD
3. Development of Integrated Inland Fisheries Management in ASEAN Countries	Malaysia	MFRDMD
4. Utilization of Freshwater Fish in ASEAN Member Countries	Singapore	MFRD
5. Good Laboratory Quality Management in ASEAN Member Countries	Singapore	MFRD

<sup>2</sup> TBD = To be determined

<sup>3</sup> Next phase of the program will be started in 2010

**Annex 6**

**ASSP STATUS AND PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FCG MEETING**

1. The 40<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting (7 – 10 April, 2008, Bali, Indonesia), and the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting (21-23 May 2008, Bangkok, Thailand) agreed that SEAFDEC and ASEAN will continue to cooperate in the following areas under the ASSP Program. The areas are:-

- (a) Work with ASEAN/ASWGFi to help ASEAN formulate and establish an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM).
- (b) Work with ASEAN/ASWGFi to develop common positions/stands on international issues that will have impact on fisheries development and management in the ASEAN region.
- (c) Work with ASEAN/ASWGFi to help ASEAN in the integration of the fisheries sector (i.e. ASEAN Roadmap).
- (d) Continue and expand the existing collaborative and cooperation projects/activities under the ASSP-FCG mechanism that will enhance capacity building, information collection and exchange, HR development, and provide support for important policy issues.

2. Much progress has been made in cooperation on the above areas. This is specially so for the on going and new programs/activities in areas : (b) work with ASEAN/ASWGFi to develop common positions/stands on international issues that will have impact on fisheries development and management in the ASEAN region, and (d) continue and expand the existing collaborative and cooperation projects/activities under the ASSP-FCG mechanism that will enhance capacity building, information collection and exchange, HR development, and provide support for important policy issues. The list of the programs/projects/activities is in the attached table *Appendix 1*. These programs/activities will be reported in greater detail under the ASSP/FCG mechanism, as presented and discussed at the SEAFDEC/PCM, as such they will not be duplicated in this Paper.

3. This Paper will focus on the progress and status on the other two areas of cooperation on ASEAN policy matters, namely: (a) work with ASEAN/ASWGFi to help ASEAN formulate and establish an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM), and (c) work with ASEAN/ASWGFi to help ASEAN in the integration of the fisheries sector (i.e. ASEAN Roadmap).

**(a) ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM)**

4. SEAFDEC cooperation with ASEAN was initiated with the organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC/Sida Project - “Regional Workshop on the Concept for the Establishment of an ASEAN Fisheries Development and Management Mechanism (ARFMM)”, Bangkok, 6 – 8 November, 2007, the outcome of which was presented and noted by the 40<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting and the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting. The 10<sup>th</sup> FCG Meeting also agreed that Thailand’s initiative to the 29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting for the establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM) be placed under ASSP Program.

5. With the approval of the Sp SOM-29<sup>th</sup> AMAF ( 5-7 Aug, 2008, Chiangmai, Thailand), Thailand ( DOF), ASEAN and SEAFDEC ( under the SEAFDEC -Sida Project ) jointly organized the Ad hoc Working Group Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM) Meeting, 29-30 Sept 2008, Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by representatives by ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC, FAO/RAP and MRC. The objectives of the Meeting were to assist ASEAN to finalize the revised TOR for the ASWGFi and to develop the function, scope of work and activities of the

ARFMM within the framework of ASWGF<sub>i</sub>. The Meeting fulfilled its objectives and was able to finalize the “Framework for the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM)” document. The Framework document will be submitted to AMAF, through SOM-AMAF, by ASWGF<sub>i</sub> for consideration and approval, before further follow-up action be taken by DOF (Thailand), ASEAN and SEAFDEC. On adoption of the Framework document by ASEAN, SEAFDEC will continue to work with ASEAN/ASWGF<sub>i</sub>, with inputs from relevant regional/international organizations (e.g. FAO/RAP), to help develop and establish the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM).

**(c) ASEAN Road Map for the integration of the of the ASEAN Fisheries Sector**

6. The outcome and recommendations of the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on Implementing the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector” (16-18 January 2008, Bangkok), was endorsed by the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting. The 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting agreed to the Workshop’s recommendations and also for the establishment of an Ad hoc Working Group on the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector and its Term of Reference (TOR). The Ad hoc Working Group will assist in expediting the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap.

7. In considering the Report of the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting, the Sp SOM-29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting (5-7 Aug, 2008, Chiangmai, Thailand), approved the establishment of the Ad hoc Working Group for the ASEAN Roadmap for the fisheries sector to be led by Thailand. DOF, Thailand will be organizing the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group in consultation with AMSs and in collaboration with SEAFDEC. SEAFDEC looks forward to working with Thailand, AMSs and the ASEAN Secretariat for the integration of the ASEAN fisheries sector as part of the AEC policy.



**LIST OF ASEAN-SEAFDEC PROGRAMS ACTIVITY UNDER FCG/ASSP FOR  
THE YEAR 2008-2009**

<b>Existing On-going Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead ASEAN Country</b>	<b>Lead SEAFDEC Department</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
1. Support to the Implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the ASEAN Region <u>Component I</u> : Mainstreaming Regional Guidelines <u>Component II</u> : Capacity Building for Implementation of the CCRF in the ASEAN Region	Indonesia	SEC	X	X
2. Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues	Thailand	SEC	X	X
3. Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management	All Member Countries	TD	X	X
4. Improvement of Fishery Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	Thailand	SEC	X	X
5. Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature)	Thailand	TD	X	X
6. Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post-harvest Losses	Thailand	TD	X	X
7. Development of Technologies and Human Capacity Building for Sustainable Aquaculture	Philippines	AQD	X	X
8. Quality Assurance Systems for Small and Medium-sized Fish Processing Establishments in ASEAN Member Countries	Singapore	MFRD	X	X
9. Environmental Related Tasks in Southeast Asia (in collaboration with the Departments)	Malaysia	SEC	X	X
10. Establishment of Disease Surveillance System of Aquatic Animals	Philippines	AQD	X	X
11. Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia	Singapore	MFRD	X	X
12. Research and Development (R&D) of Stock Enhancement for Species under International Concerns	Philippines	AQD	X	X
13. Research for Stock Enhancement of Sea Turtles (in collaboration with TD)	Malaysia	MFRDMD	X	X
14. Capacity Improvement of Fisheries Community for Fisheries Management and Alleviation of Poverty	Thailand	TD	X	X
15. Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation of Affected Countries in the ASEAN Region	Thailand	SEC	X	X

16. Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	All Member Countries	TD	X	X
17. Deep Sea Fisheries Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asia (in collaboration with MFRDMD)	Thailand	TD	X	X
18. Tagging program for economically important pelagic species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea (in collaboration with TD)	Malaysia	MFRDMD	X	X
19. Promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)” System to Improve the Livelihood for the Fisheries Communities in ASEAN Region	Thailand	SEC	X	X
20. Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asia Waters	Philippines	TD	X	X
21. Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management	Malaysia	TD	X	X

<b>Proposed New Program for 2009</b>	<b>Lead country</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>
1. Human Resource Development (HRD) for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention in the ASEAN Region (New)	TBD <sup>4</sup>	SEC

<b>ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Related Programs</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Lead Country</b>
1. ASEAN Shrimp Alliance program ( Led by Thailand)	SEC	Thailand
2. Development and establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM).	SEAFDEC - Sida project	Thailand
3. Implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for the integration of the Fisheries Sector. ( Ad hoc Working Group )	SEAFDEC- Sida project	Thailand

<sup>4</sup> TBD = To be identified by ASWGFi

## **THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTING THE ASEAN ROADMAP FOR INTEGRATION OF FISHERIES SECTOR**

**BANGKOK, THAILAND  
16-18 January 2008**

### **Background**

In making the Southeast Asian region a more dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain and the world economy, the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia in October 2003 adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II). Under the Declaration, ASEAN is committed to deepen and broaden its internal economic integration linkages, with the participation of the private sector, to realize an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). AEC will result in ASEAN becoming a single and competitive market and production base with free flow of good, service, investment, skilled labor and capital, turning the diversity that characterizes the region into opportunities and business complementation.

To further deepen and accelerate regional economic integration, the ASEAN Leaders, at their 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Vientiane in November 2004, signed the Framework Agreement for Integration of Priority Sectors, and 11 ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols for integration of 11 priority sectors, of which fisheries is among others. This signals and reaffirms the ASEAN's commitment to fast track the integration towards the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) that ASEAN Leaders agreed to realize by 2010.

Attached to each protocol is a roadmap that is intended to serve as the basis for economic integration of the respective priority sector. These roadmaps were prepared by the governments and with active involvement of the private sector. Each roadmap include specific measures that are of direct relevance to each sector, as well as common issues that cut across all priority integration section to be implemented with timelines from now on to the year 2010.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) held in December 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand requested SEAFDEC to work closely with the four lead ASEAN Member Countries (i.e. Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand which have been assigned responsibilities on specific key issues under the Roadmap), and the ASEAN Secretariat, in developing any project proposals related to the ASEAN Roadmap under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP).

At the invitation of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, the Regional workshop on implementing the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector was held from 16 to 18 January 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop was organized under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) in collaboration with FAO and NACA, with funding support from SEAFDEC-Sida collaborative project.

The Workshop was initiated to support the ASEAN Member Countries in the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2010 through the implementation of the Roadmap for Integration of the Priority Sectors, including fisheries, in order to further deepen and accelerate regional economic integration and enhance international competitiveness of ASEAN products.

The Workshop was held with the objectives to review progress and status in the implementation of the Roadmap for the fisheries sector; develop an ASEAN common framework for the specific key issues/measures of the Roadmap; and to clarify and formulate supporting mechanism and follow-up actions to facilitate future coordination and implementation of the Roadmap. The workshop was attended by 62 participants from the 10 ASEAN Member Countries, the ASEAN secretariat, FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC. The participants included experts from government agencies, international and regional organizations and observers from the private sector.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation of the Workshop**

The workshop participants adopted the final conclusions and recommendations. The recommendations were given under two headings namely general recommendations and measure specific recommendations. Details of conclusions and recommendations of the workshop appeared in *Appendix 1*. The meeting was suggested to set up a working group to facilitate and monitor the follow up from this workshop.

### **Progress**

The outcome and recommendations of the workshop has been submitted to 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGF meeting during 21-23 May 2008 in Bangkok. The Meeting agreed in principle the concept of forming an ad-hoc working group on ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector with the following Term of Reference (TOR):

- a) In consultation with the Lead ASEAN Member States, monitor and review the progress made on the various issues of the ASEAN Roadmap and to recommend necessary action to Member States for the implementation of the Roadmap;
- b) To fast track the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for the three identified priority fishery commodities i.e. Frozen shrimps and products, frozen fish and products and fish sauce; and
- c) To meet at least once a year and when necessary in order to expedite the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap.

Thailand wishes to propose the consultation with other Lead ASEAN Member States in order to organize the ad-hoc working group meeting within next year. In this regard, Thailand would like to request SEAFDEC to support on this ad-hoc working group meeting both technically and financially.

## Workshop Conclusion and Recommendations

The workshop participants adopted the final conclusions and recommendations. The recommendations were given under two headings namely general recommendations and measure specific recommendations.

### 1. The general recommendations were:

- i) ASEAN standards must be aligned with international standards to gain recognition.
- ii) ASEAN Member Countries need to have national inter-agency working groups to implement measures.
- iii) National level to inform ASEAN regional level of implementation.
- iv) ASEAN Member Countries at national level need to commit funds and resources to build national human resources capacity, infrastructure *etc.* to support implementation of the roadmap.
- v) ASEAN Member Countries dependency on donors and sponsors for “projects” to support implementation of the roadmap is not a viable option.
- vi) For “quick” implementation of the roadmap, focus should be on up to three fishery commodities with economic impact. The meeting recommended: 1) Frozen shrimp; 2) Frozen fish and 3) Fish sauce.
- vii) It was also recommended that the roadmap measures and their action plans should be integrated along the following sectors: production, processing and post-harvest; and laboratory practices and control. The three should be further interlinked to enable traceability throughout the whole value chain.

### 2. The measure specific recommendations were:

**Measure 46** -Develop and apply fisheries quality management system that ensure food safety and support competitive position of ASEAN Fisheries products on world markets through the implementation, validation, verification of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based systems and improved laboratories practices, and adopting quality and safety management systems so that they may be applied to small enterprises in ASEAN.

It was noted that the system for implementation of HACCP has been established in ASEAN and all Member countries have implemented the measure. It was recommended that:

- National governments should commit sufficient national budget for training of stakeholders and implementation.

**Measure 47** - Implement the Codex Code of Practice of Good Animal Feeding and Recommended International Code of Practice for Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs and the Codex Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods in ASEAN in order to reduce potential hazards in terms of chemical contamination, mycotoxins and veterinary drugs.

- Three member countries have been implementing two code of practice and other member countries should complete their implementation.
- Implement the Codex Alimentarius:
  - Code of practice (COP) for good animal feeding.
  - The recommended International COP for the control of the use of veterinary drugs.
- AMC formulation of guidelines for the establishment of a regulatory programme for the control of veterinary drug residues in ASEAN should take into account:
  - National initiatives (Codes, certification schemes).
  - Results and recommendations of the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Development of Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture.
  - Work of the Codex task force on the development of antimicrobial resistance in foods.

**Measure 48** - Prioritize international standards related to fisheries that would be significant to trade value and those with potential for ASEAN trade in the future and set specific targets for harmonization in ASEAN.

- Select the minimum number of standards that specifically relate to trade under the approaches above, principally food safety and aquatic animal health. Report these responsibilities to ASEAN (indicating that no further elaboration will be made on “present” standards as they will be addressed under other Measures).
- Create mechanisms whereby ASEAN Member Countries can proactively contribute to the standard setting processes in the future.
- Define workable systems that would facilitate harmonisation of standards among ASEAN Member Country.

There are standards that may be relevant to trade in fisheries but which would be better dealt with in other ASEAN fora or mechanisms (e.g. the ASWGFi or the ASEAN/SEAFDEC Regional Management Mechanism).

- Identify those standards and conventions.
- Future reporting on Measure 48 should focus on international standards that might have future significance to the value of ASEAN trade (internationally and regionally). This will bear in mind the emerging importance of issues relating to social, labour, climate change and other aspects not directly linked to food safety, but linked to the production systems.

**Measure 49** - Formulate guidelines for the use of chemicals in aquaculture and measures to eliminate the use of harmful chemicals.

- Lead Country (Malaysia) to send out survey to AMC on current national guidelines and practices on the use of chemicals in aquaculture and list of banned and permitted substances with their limits and withdrawal periods. Collation of existing guidelines and documents.
- Regional Technical Consultation. Lead country to organize and conduct a Regional Technical Consultation to report on the survey, share the information collated, form a Working Committee (WC) to draft common regional guidelines (list of banned substances, limits, withdrawal periods), establish work schedule and timeframe.
- Strategy – Establish common guidelines by consensus; supported by scientific data; incorporate international and national guidelines where applicable.
- WC draft and circulate common guidelines for national consultation.
- WC Meeting to finalise common guidelines taking into consideration feedback from national consultations.
- Lead country to circulate final draft to AMC's for approval.
- Publish common guidelines.

**Measure 50** - Promotion of GAP, GMP/GHP and HACCP for the fishery industry, especially SME's.

- Harmonization should be initiated among AMC's on national shrimp GAP regulations/standards with the ASEAN guidelines for responsible shrimp farming.
- Active participation in development of FAO guidelines on aquaculture certification and harmonization of AMCs national scheme with the guidelines.
- Harmonization should be initiated of AMCs own GMP/ GHP and HACCP regulations/standards based on Codex and ASEAN guidelines.
- Development of Manuals on GMP/SSOP application for certain commodities under PPEs and TPEs.
- Training programme for SMEs on development and implementation of GMP/GHP or SSOP.
- Exchange experts within AMCs and from donor countries.
- The meeting recommended accepting Viet Nam's offer to take the lead on Measure 50.

**Measure 51-** Establishment of ASEAN Reference Testing Laboratories for fisheries products (Microbiology, mycotoxin, pesticide residues; Veterinary Drug Residues; Heavy Metals etc)

- The need for reference testing laboratories is continually changing as a result of the dynamic nature of the fisheries sector. In order to meet the changing requirements due to emerging food safety hazards national governments are strongly recommended to continue work on strengthening their designated ASEAN reference laboratory testing capabilities.

- Identify the groups of substances for which AFRL's are required.
- Criteria should be set up for the selection of fisheries laboratories as the AFRL.
- Evaluate the status and capacity of laboratories proposed as AFRL's
- Circulate the decision to all countries for agreement (in case of disagreement the lead country would organize a meeting for final decision).
- Assign additional countries in accordance with the established criteria to be AFRL for substance groups that are not included in the ARL.
- Appoint and AFRL according to Selection criteria (recognizing that only one country should be AFRL.
- All member countries should agree upon the country's purpose with scientifically basic. (Existing facilities, most appropriated Testing method using, activities to provide to the member countries and how do they develop Test method, equipments and facilities continuously).

**Measure 52** - Encourage recognition by ASEAN domestic regulators for test reports issues by ASEAN Reference Testing Laboratories and those already accredited by national accreditation bodies who are signatories to ILAC, APLAC MRA.

- Encourage the national regulators who issue test certificates to be accredited with ISO/IEC 17025.
- It is recommended that the responsible ARL/AFRL provide technical assistance upon request to support accreditation.

**Measure 53** - Identify and prioritize SPS and TBT measures related to fisheries products for harmonization in ASEAN.

and combined with

**Measure 54** - Harmonize identified SPS and TBT measures including harmonization of import and export, labeling requirements and marketing compliance

- Establish a working group to review the current constraints in regional trade and identify problems encountered in assuring quality and safety and take the necessary action.
- Secure sources of funding for improving inspection and lab capacity as well as harmonization activities.
- Acquire technical assistance from international agencies.
- Improve capacities including in risk assessment.
- Establish a consultative group to coordinate:
  - Contributions of ASEAN fisheries issues to relevant Codex committees and expert meetings.
  - With trade people to highlight fisheries trade issues at SPS/TBT committees.
  - With trade enquiry focal points.



- Initiate the development of special and differential treatment scheme for meeting common ASEAN standards and codes of practice
- Initiate the adoption/adaptation of Codex guidelines on import/export certification in fisheries and aquaculture
- Initiate the adoption/adaptation of the Codex Code on GAP to ASEAN aquaculture systems
- Contribute ASEAN issues to the development of international guidelines for aquaculture certification
- Initiate the adoption/adaptation of the Codex guidelines on labeling to fisheries and aquaculture in ASEAN

**Measure 55** - Development and implementation of MRAs in selected fishery products.

- Review of international trade on fish and fishery products
- Consult on costs and benefits for establishing an MRA
- Identify problems encountered in international trade and take action as needed.
- Identify parties interested in establishing an MRA (MRAs are developed by definition between trading partners (bilateral MRAs) or trading blocks).
- ASEAN countries that have been approved/harmonized for export to the EU should analyze how this can be turned into a multilateral MRA for specific commodities and/or horizontal issues. This will de facto lead to ASEAN harmonization.
- A multilateral MRA can originally start with the countries currently ready and evolve to include other countries as they become ready.
- ASEAN countries are encouraged to achieve bilateral MRAs as necessary.

The Guidelines for the Development of Equivalence Agreements regarding Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CAC/GL 34-1999) of Codex should guide the development of MRA's.

**Measure 60** - Establish an ASEAN Early Warning System on Hazards and Outbreaks

- Aquatic animal disease early warning system be further developed based on the existing NACA/OIE/FAO Asia regional system:
  - ASEAN should adopt/adapt global and regional reporting systems in view of the existing global (OIE) and regional QAAD reporting systems, and recognizing the value of information generated through reporting for the purpose of early warning.
  - Create a mechanism for providing inputs, that reflect ASEAN concerns, on aquatic animal diseases to OIE and NACA (e.g. proposal for listing/delisting of aquatic animal diseases for global and regional reporting)

- Support national surveillance systems through implementation of national aquatic animal health strategies, so that quality of disease reports and compliance to global and regional reporting can be upgraded in ASEAN
- Consider encouraging ASEAN organizations (e.g. SEAFDEC AQD, ANAAHC) to initiate mechanisms to develop early warning messages based on global (OIE) and regional reporting (QAAD, ARAHIS) systems and circulate to ASEAN Competent Authorities as appropriate.
- In considering an early warning system, ASWGFi should consult ASWGL whether aquatic animal could be included in the ASEAN Regional Animal Health Information System (ARAHIS).

The ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed initiative should be formally adopted by ASEAN and further enhanced to meet the needs of all the ASEAN member countries.

## **PROGRESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ASEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MECHANISM (ARFMM)**

### **I. BACKGROUND**

Since the ASEAN-SEAFDEC “Regional Technical Consultation on Management of Fishing Capacity and Human Resource Development in support of Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia” held in September 2006 in Phuket, Thailand, countries in the region has clearly been starting their wish to work in the direction of establishing a “Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism”. This initiative has been further emphasized during the 39th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in Cambodia 2007, the 15th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) held in Singapore 2007, and the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 28th meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-28thAMAF) held in Singapore 2007. To facilitate and establish the process, it was agreed that the suggested event to look into “the concepts for establishment of a regional management mechanism” should be organized.

The proposal on establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries management Mechanism (ARFMM) was made by Thailand based on the view that it is timely for ASWGF<sub>i</sub> to initiate discussion and explore the establishment of an appropriate collective mechanism for regional sustainable fisheries management and food security. Such proposal under the framework of ASWGF<sub>i</sub> was submitted to the SOM-29th AMAF held on 29-30 October 2007 in Bangkok. The SOM-29th AMAF endorsed in-principle the initiative proposed by Thailand for ASWGF<sub>i</sub> to review and expand its TOR and Scope of Work to include regional fisheries management mechanism. In supporting the proposal Member countries also requested that besides marine fisheries, management of inland fisheries and other fisheries sectors to be included in the mechanism. The technical assistance from SEAFDEC is needed in collaboration with Thailand as a lead country to further develop the proposal. The proposal, based on the mandate from SOM-AMAF, has been further discussed during the workshop on the Concept for the Establishment of an ARFMM held in Bangkok from 6-8 November 2007.

The 10th meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG during 29-30 November 2007 supported the further development of the Concept proposal to be submitted to the 16th meeting of ASWGF<sub>i</sub> for consideration and advice for future direction. The FCG meeting agreed to recommend that the Thailand initiative to the 29th AMAF be placed under the ASSP Program.

### **II. STATUS OF ARFMM**

In following up the endorsement by SOM-29th AMAF, the 16th ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting held from 21 to 23 May 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand suggested that the establishment of an ARFMM could be added to the existing TOR of ASWGF<sub>i</sub>. The ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting also suggested that existing TOR should be added with a clause as follows:

“To promote appropriate ASEAN regional fisheries management policies/programs/activities through the establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries management Mechanism (ARFMM) for sustainable fisheries development”

In addition, it was also recommended that an ad-hoc working group led by Thailand in consultation with the Member States and relevant international/regional organizations to develop functions, scope of work and activities for the ASEAN Fisheries Management Mechanism submission to the next meeting of the ASWGFi. Subsequently, the progress and revised TOR for ASWGFi was reported to the Special SOM-29th AMAF Meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 5 to 8 August 2008.

The special SOM meeting suggested that the additional TOR would need national inter-agency coordination and consultation before finalising such a proposal. To facilitate this process, the Meeting agreed to form an ad-hoc working group led by Thailand in consultation with the Member States and international/ regional organizations to develop functions, scope of work and activities for the ASEAN Fisheries Management Mechanism.

The Ad-hoc Working Group meeting on the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism was held from 29-30 September 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was organized in collaboration with SEAFDEC-Sida collaborative project. The meeting was attended by the delegates from ASEAN Member States, representatives from ASEAN Secretariat, FAO, MRC as well as some senior officials from SEAFDEC.

As directed by Special SOM-29th AMAF, this Ad Hoc Meeting was therefore convened to discuss and finalised the expanded TOR of ASWGFi, and the function, scope of work and activities for the ARFMM.

The Ad-hoc meeting reviewed the revised TOR of the ASWGFi as formulated by the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi and also discussed on the amendments of the Rules of Procedure of the ASWGFi as proposed by Indonesia. However, after discussion and with the agreement of Indonesia, the Meeting agreed that the concerns of Indonesia have already been addressed by the TOR as formulated at the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi, and the existing Rules of Procedures as appear in *Appendix 1*.

With regards to the development of the functions, scope of work and activities of the ARFMM, as requested by the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi meeting, the Ad-hoc meeting discussed and revised the draft framework developed by Thailand in consulting with SEAFDEC, FAO and Sida and the meeting agreed to the “Framework for the ARFMM” as appears in *Appendix 1* which are summarized as follows:

ARFMM shall promote and improve the sustainable utilization of the fisheries resources through the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Committee (ARFMC).

ARFMM will include functions and responsibilities on providing a scientific basis and means for fisheries management.

The ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Committee (ARFMC) will be established within the Framework for the purpose of carrying out the functions and responsibilities of ARFMM.

The ARFMC shall cover area of competence in the inland and marine waters under the jurisdiction of ASEAN Member States (AMSS).

The ARFMC shall include various activities in term of fisheries management capacity, IUU fishing, collaboration and coordination, scientific research, review and recommendations on initiatives/measures/ instruments.

The meeting also agreed to submit the TOR as formulated by the 16th ASWGFi Meeting and the revised draft framework of the ARFMM to the ASWGFi by ad referendum for consideration and endorsement prior further submission for approval by the SOM-AMAF.

After Thailand circulated the report of the Ad-hoc Working Group meeting together with all annexes to all ASWGFi for ad referendum endorsement, the ASWGFi had no objection which were resumed that they endorsed the report.

At the SOM-30thAMAF Meeting held from 20-21 October 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Meeting agreed to change the title of the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management (ARFMM) into ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF). The change also included the content of the framework, namely background, function and responsibilities, mechanism, area of competence , and organization of AFCF. Moreover, within the framework of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum Body (AFCFB) is established, replacing the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism, for the purpose of carrying out the functions and responsibilities as set out in this Framework. The agreed Term of Reference (TOR) and Framework for the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) appear in *Appendix 2*.

### **III. PROGRESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ARFMM**

After endorsement on establishment of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), ASWGFi will further develop detailed work plan and timeframe for implementation of the Framework of the AFCF. As the interim Secretariat of AFCFB, Thailand plans to convene an AFCFB Meeting back to back prior to the ASWGFi Meeting.

## **FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MECHANISM (ARFMM)**

### **I. Background**

1. ASEAN has embarked on its declared goal towards an integrated ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), including the integration of its fisheries sector as set out in its ASEAN Roadmap for integration of the fisheries sector.
2. The ASEAN Member States (AMSs) have established exclusive economic zones consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and customary international law, within which they exercise sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing living resources.
3. ASEAN subscribes to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) adopted by the 28th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 31 October 1995 and related instruments adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and is committed to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the Southeast Asia that includes safeguarding the marine and freshwater environment, conserving its aquatic biodiversity, minimizing the risk of long term or irreversible adverse effects of fishing activities, and taking account of the relationship between all components of the ecosystem.
5. In line with FAO CCRF, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) at its 27<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting in 2005 adopted the ASEAN Guidelines for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries for sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asia region.
6. The 15<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi had supported the establishment of an ASEAN development and management proposed by SEAFDEC to assist ASEAN under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP).
7. Under the SEAFDEC/Sida project, an “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on the Concept for the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Development and Management Mechanism (ARFMM)” was also conducted.
8. FAO/COFI has also encouraged countries to established regional fisheries management bodies/mechanism in order to support sustainable fisheries development in their region.
9. The Prep SOM-29<sup>th</sup>AMAF has considered and endorsed, in-principle, Thailand’s initiative for the ASWGFi to expand its function to include an ASEAN regional fisheries management mechanism.
10. AMSs are fully aware that effective conservation and management of these fishery resources should be based on the best available scientific advice and the precautionary approach.
11. AMSs recognized the economic and social benefits deriving from the long term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the ASEAN region and conscious of

the need for international cooperation and consultation with respect to those fishery resources through the establishment of a regional fisheries management framework, agree as follows ;

## **II. Purpose of the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM)**

Without prejudice to the sovereign rights of the ASEAN Member States, ARFMM shall promote and improve the sustainable utilization of the living aquatic resources by the proper management and development of the fisheries and fishing operations, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the AMSs through the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Committee (ARFMC).

## **III. Functions and responsibilities of the ARFMM**

Contributing to the purpose of the ARFMM, the ARFMM shall have the following functions and responsibilities;

1. Provide a sound scientific basis for ASEAN to develop regional and sub-regional fisheries management measures, including the setting of common rules/guidelines for fisheries management.
2. Provide a means for cooperation with regional scientific organizations such as SEAFDEC and other regional and international organizations, bodies and arrangements relevant to the fisheries of the region.
3. To keep under review the state of the fishery resources in the ASEAN region and the industries based on them;
4. Establish a long/medium/short term fisheries management vision for ASEAN.
5. Promote the harmonization and coordination of regional and international fisheries management measures.
6. Facilitate the integration of economic measures to ensure ASEAN fisheries sector remain competitive in global trade.
7. Coordinate the development of an ASEAN regional fisheries information system and the sharing of information.
8. To promote the collection, exchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine and inland fishery information.
9. Encourage and recommend means to support HR and institutional capacity building.
10. Provide a forum for discussion and resolution of regional fisheries issues/problems in the spirit of ASEAN cooperation and solidarity.
11. Seek funding and other resources to support the function of ARFMM.

#### **IV. Area of Competence**

1. ASEAN agree to establish within the framework of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Committee (the ARFMC) for the purpose of carrying out the functions and responsibilities as set out in this Framework.
2. Members of the ARFMC shall consist of ASEAN member states (AMSs).

#### **V. Area of Competence**

The ARFMC shall carry out the functions and responsibilities set forth in this Framework, in the inland and marine waters under the jurisdiction of AMSs.

#### **VI. Activities**

In the discharge of its function and responsibilities of ARFMM, the ARFMC will include in its activities the following areas;

1. The management of fishing/fisheries capacity, including harmonization of fishing capacity measurement, methods, and mobility of fishing capacity.
  - Harmonization of management controls (including VMS, MCS).
  - Harmonization and facilitate exchange information on vessel registration and licensing systems.
  - Harmonization and management of fisheries zoning measures.
2. Combating IUU fishing in the region including harmonization of measures, exchange of information, and implementation of port state responsibilities, promotion of effective flag state controls.
3. Collaboration and coordination in the management of marine and inland protected areas and habitats where relevance to fisheries (both national and trans-boundary).
4. Review and recommendations to cooperating parties on regional and multilateral initiatives, measures and instruments relevant to fisheries and how they may be addressed within the context of national legislation.
5. Recommend ways to implement standards and norms relating to labour and safety in fisheries in close coordinating with relevant agencies.
6. Identification scientific research; institutional and human resources development, requirements for the region in cooperation with fisheries international /regional/national organizations.
7. Aquaculture issues when related to fisheries management.

The ARFMC may revise and amend these activities at its annual meeting.



## **VII. Organization**

1. Each AMS shall be represented at meetings of the ARFMC by a single Committee Member (CM) who will be the senior officer of the AMSs' national fisheries agency, with the mandate to make recommendations to ASWGFi that will address fisheries management policy issues. The CM may be accompanied by an alternate CM, and by experts and advisers.
2. Decisions of the ARFMC shall follow the existing ASEAN practice of consensus, until such time when ASEAN revise this standing practice.
3. The ARFMC shall at each meeting of the Committee elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman who shall serve for two years of the Committee.
4. The ARFMC will have a Secretariat to be hosted by an AMS. The ARFMC Secretariat will provide support for meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary meetings. The ARFMC Secretariat will also provide support and coordination in between meetings. (Thailand, as Lead Country for this ASEAN regional fisheries management mechanism initiative to the 29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting, has offered to host and provide the Secretariat for the ARFMC).
5. The ARFMC shall meet at least once in every year. It is recommended that the ARFMC Meeting should be held back-to-back, prior to the ASWGFi Meeting. The venue and date of all meetings of the Committee shall be determined by the ARFMC in consultation with the Chairman of ASWGFi and the ASEAN Secretariat.
6. The ARFMC shall adopt the same existing Rules of Procedures of ASWGFi for its meeting.

## **VIII Cooperation with Regional and International Organizations, Bodies and Arrangements**

1. The ARFMC will cooperate with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) as described under the Letter of Understanding for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (LOU/ASSP) signed at the 29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting.
2. The ARFMC shall also cooperate closely with other regional and international organizations, bodies and arrangements in matters of mutual interest.

## **IX. Ad hoc Working Groups**

The ARFMC may establish ad hoc working groups to study and report on matters pertaining to the function and responsibilities of the ARFMC. These ad hoc working groups shall be convened at such times and places as are in accordance with the objectives for which they were established and shall be subject to the availability of necessary funds or commitment of AMSs to participate in them.

## **X. Reporting**

1. The ARFMC, after each meeting of the Committee, shall transmit to the Chairman of the ASWGFi, its Report embodying its views, decisions and recommendations.

2. In considering the ARFMC's report, ASWGFi may provide its views, comments and suggestions to ARFMC where it deems necessary.

#### **XI. Financial Arrangement**

1. Cost for participation at ARFMC meetings shall be borne by respective AMSs.
2. Resources to support the ARFMC Secretariat will be provided by the AMS hosting the Secretariat, until such time the ARFMC decides on alternative arrangement to provide support for the Secretariat.

#### **XII. Review of Framework**

The ARFMC may review and revise this Framework as and when necessary.

**THE TERM OF REFERENCE OF THE ASEAN  
SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES**

1. To conduct periodic reviews of the fisheries situation in the ASEAN region.
2. To promote appropriate ASEAN regional fisheries management policies/programs/activities through the establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM) for sustainable fisheries development.
3. To develop effective methods of exchange of information among ASEAN Member Countries pertaining to fisheries with the view to facilitating cooperative undertakings in this sector of economy, as well as the eventual coordination and harmonization of ASEAN fisheries policies.
4. To identify areas of cooperation among the ASEAN Member Countries as well as with third countries, groups of countries or international agencies, in order to promote the sound development of the sector in the ASEAN region.
5. To formulate project proposals for consideration and approval by SOM-AMAF and AMAF.
6. To monitor and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of approved projects and activities.
7. To submit to SOM-AMAF periodic reports on its program of work and on the progress made.
8. To maintain close cooperation with other related ASEAN bodies as well as with related extra-ASEAN national and international organizations and meetings.

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES**

### **Chapter I**

#### **MEETINGS**

##### **RULE 1**

The ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries shall meet twice a year. Additional meetings may be held whenever deemed necessary provided that these additional meetings are authorized or agreed to by SOM-AMAF.

##### **RULE 2**

The Working Group on Fisheries shall at each meeting recommend the date and venue of its next meeting.

### **Chapter II**

#### **AGENDA**

##### **RULE 3**

The provisional agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up by the Coordinator/Chairman of the Sectoral Working Group in consultation with the members.

##### **RULE 4**

The provisional agenda for any meeting shall include, among others;

- (a) Items arising from previous meetings of the Sectoral Working Group;
- (b) Items proposed by the members;
- (c) Items assigned by SOM-AMAF or AMAF to the Sectoral Working Group; and
- (d) Any other items which the Sectoral Working Groups sees fit to include after consultation with the members

##### **RULE 5**

Items proposed in the provisional agenda shall be supported by the necessary background information and details; copies of which shall be provided to all Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat in sufficient time before the meeting.

##### **RULE 6**

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside.

### **Chapter III**

#### **CHAIRMANSHIP**

##### **RULE 7**

The Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries shall be chaired by Member Countries in yearly (*previous two-yearly*) rotation in alphabetical order, with the next Member Country in rotation as the Vice-Chairman. Member Countries may be reelected and may also waive the right to serve as Coordinators/Chairmen.

### **Chapter IV**

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COORDINATOR/CHAIRMAN**

##### **RULE 8**

The Coordinator/Chairman shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. To convene the meetings of the Sectoral Working Group in consultation with the members;
- b. To oversee the organization and arrangements of meetings with the assistance and support of the host-countries of the meetings.
- c. To act as chairman of the meetings of the Sectoral Working Group;
- d. To consult with the members on matters requiring immediate attention in between meetings.
- e. To monitor and evaluate the implementation of projects undertaken; and
- f. To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Sectoral Working Group and SOM-AMAF.

### **Chapter V**

#### **SUPPORT STAFF**

##### **RULE 9**

The Coordinator/Chairman shall determine a support staff or establish an interim technical secretariat in his/her home office to assist him/her carrying out his duties and responsibilities.

## **Chapter VI**

### **REPORT**

#### **RULE 10**

The preparation of the report of the meetings shall be done by a drafting committee and shall be finalized and adopted by the meetings.

#### **RULE 11**

Reports of each meeting shall be submitted to SOM-AMAF for consideration and endorsement.

#### **RULE 12**

If any of the Member Countries is unable to be represented at a meeting, it should communicate its comments to other members not later than one month after receiving the report of a meeting.

Otherwise the report remains confirmed and adopted.

#### **RULE 13**

Such reports shall be treated as confidential documents.

## **Chapter VII**

### **REPRESENTATION**

#### **RULE 14**

The Coordinator/Chairman, in person or through his/her designated representative shall represent the Sectoral Working Group at meetings of SOM-AMAF to report on the progress of its work for the consideration of and endorsement by SOM-AMAF.

#### **RULE 15**

The Coordinator/Chairman, in person or through his/her designated representative, shall on such occasions seek from SOM-AMAF, instructions or guidance pertaining to the programme of work of the Working Group.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSIONS**

#### **RULE 16**

Any of these Rules of Procedure may be amended or suspended by the Sectoral Working Group, subject to the approval of SOM-AMAF.

## **FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASEAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (AFCF)**

### **I. Background**

1. ASEAN has embarked on its declared goal towards an integrated ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), including the integration of its fisheries sector as set out in its ASEAN Roadmap for integration of the fisheries sector.
2. The ASEAN Member States (AMSs) have established exclusive economic zones consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and customary international law, within which they exercise sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing living resources.
3. ASEAN subscribes to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) adopted by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 31 October 1995 and related instruments adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and is committed to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the Southeast Asia that includes safeguarding the marine and freshwater environment, conserving its aquatic biodiversity, minimizing the risk of long term or irreversible adverse effects of fishing activities, and taking account of the relationship between all components of the ecosystem.
5. In line with FAO CCRF, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) at its 27<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting in 2005 adopted the ASEAN Guidelines for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries for sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asia region.
9. The 15<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi had supported the establishment of an ASEAN development and management proposed by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) to assist ASEAN under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP). It is also recognised that SEAFDEC, as described under the Letter of Understanding for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (LOU/ASSP) signed at the 29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting, could also support such establishment.
10. Under the SEAFDEC/Sida project, an “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on the Concept for the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Development and Management Mechanism (ARFMM)” was also conducted.
11. FAO/COFI has also encouraged countries to establish regional fisheries management bodies/mechanisms in order to support sustainable fisheries development in their region.
9. The Preparatory SOM-29<sup>th</sup>AMAF has considered and endorsed, in-principle, Thailand’s initiative for the ASWGFi to expand its function to include an ASEAN regional fisheries management/ development.
10. AMSs are fully aware that effective conservation and management of these fishery resources should be based on the best available scientific advice and the precautionary approach.

11. AMSs recognized the economic and social benefits deriving from the long term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the ASEAN region and conscious of the need for international cooperation and consultation with respect to those fishery resources through the establishment of an ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), agree as follows:

## **II. Purpose of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)**

Without prejudice to the sovereign rights of the ASEAN Member States, AFCF shall promote and improve the sustainable utilization of the living aquatic resources by the proper management and development of the fisheries and fishing operations, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the AMSs through the establishment of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum Body (AFCFB).

## **III. Functions and responsibilities of the AFCF**

Contributing to the purpose of the AFCF, the AFCF shall have the following functions and responsibilities;

1. Establish policy on fisheries based on a sound scientific basis for ASEAN to develop regional and sub-regional fisheries management measures, including the setting of common rules/guidelines for fisheries management/ development.
2. Provide a means for cooperation with regional scientific organizations, and other regional/ international organizations, bodies and arrangements relevant to the fisheries of the region.
3. To keep under review the state of the fishery resources in the ASEAN region and the industries based on them;
4. Establish a long/medium/short term fisheries management vision for ASEAN.
5. Promote the harmonization and coordination of regional and international fisheries management measures.
6. Facilitate the integration of economic measures to ensure ASEAN fisheries sector remain competitive in global trade.
7. To promote the collection, exchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine and inland fishery information, and to coordinate the development of an ASEAN regional fisheries data and information system and the sharing of information.
8. Encourage and recommend means to support human resources development and institutional capacity building.
9. Provide a forum for discussion and resolution of regional fisheries issues/problems in the spirit of ASEAN cooperation and solidarity.
10. Seek funding and other resources to support the function of AFCF.



#### **IV. Mechanism**

1. ASEAN agree to establish within the framework of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum Body (AFCFB) for the purpose of carrying out the functions and responsibilities as set out in this Framework.
2. Members of the AFCFB shall consist of ASEAN Member States (AMSs).

#### **V. Area of Competence**

The AFCFB shall carry out the functions and responsibilities set forth in this Framework, in the inland and marine waters under the jurisdiction of AMSs.

#### **VI. Organization**

1. Each AMS shall be represented at meetings of the AFCFB by a single Member who will be the senior officer of the AMSs' national fisheries agency, with the mandate to make recommendations to ASWGF<sub>i</sub> that will address fisheries management/ development policy issues. The Member may be accompanied by an alternate Member, and by experts and advisers.
2. Decisions of the AFCFB shall follow the existing ASEAN practice of consensus, until such time when ASEAN revise this standing practice.
3. The AFCFB shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman who shall serve for two years of the Body.
4. Thailand, as Lead Country for this AFCF initiative to the 29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting, has offered to host and provide an interim Secretariat for the AFCFB.
5. The AFCFB shall meet at least once in every year. It is recommended that the AFCFB Meeting should be held back-to-back, prior to the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting. The venue and date of all meetings of the Body shall be determined by the AFCFB in consultation with the Chairman of ASWGF<sub>i</sub> and the ASEAN Secretariat.
6. The AFCFB shall adopt the same existing Rules of Procedures of ASWGF<sub>i</sub> for its meeting.

#### **VII Cooperation with Regional and International Organizations, Bodies and Arrangements**

The AFCFB shall cooperate closely with regional and international organizations, bodies and arrangements in matters of mutual interest.

#### **VIII. Ad hoc Working Groups**

The AFCFB may establish ad hoc working groups to study and report on matters pertaining to the function and responsibilities of the AFCFB. These ad hoc working groups shall be convened at such times and places as are in accordance with the objectives for which they were established and shall be subject to the availability of necessary funds or commitment of AMSs to participate in them.

## **IX. Reporting**

1. The AFCFB, after each meeting of the Body, shall transmit to the Chairman of the ASWGF<sup>i</sup>, its Report embodying its views, decisions and recommendations.
3. In considering the AFCFB's report, ASWGF<sup>i</sup> may provide its views, comments and suggestions to AFCFB where it deems necessary.

## **X. Financial Arrangement**

1. Cost for participation at AFCFB meetings shall be borne by respective AMSs.
2. Resources to support the interim Secretariat of AFCFB will be provided by Thailand, until such time the AFCFB decides on alternative arrangement to provide support for the Secretariat.

## **XI. Review of Framework**

The AFCFB may review and revise this Framework as and when necessary.

**THE TERM OF REFERENCE OF THE ASEAN  
SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES**

1. To conduct periodic reviews of the fisheries situation in the ASEAN region.
2. To promote appropriate ASEAN regional fisheries management policies/programs/activities through the establishment of an ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) for sustainable fisheries development/management.
3. To develop effective methods of exchange of information among ASEAN Member Countries pertaining to fisheries with the view to facilitating cooperative undertakings in this sector of economy, as well as the eventual coordination and harmonization of ASEAN fisheries policies.
4. To identify areas of cooperation among the ASEAN Member Countries as well as with third countries, groups of countries or international agencies, in order to promote the sound development of the sector in the ASEAN region.
5. To formulate project proposals for consideration and approval by SOM-AMAF and AMAF.
6. To monitor and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of approved projects and activities.
7. To submit to SOM-AMAF periodic reports on its program of work and on the progress made.
8. To maintain close cooperation with other related ASEAN bodies as well as with related extra-ASEAN national and international organizations and meetings.

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES**

### **Chapter I**

#### **MEETINGS**

##### **RULE 1**

The ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries shall meet twice a year. Additional meetings may be held whenever deemed necessary provided that these additional meetings are authorized or agreed to by SOM-AMAF.

##### **RULE 2**

The Working Group on Fisheries shall at each meeting recommend the date and venue of its next meeting.

### **Chapter II**

#### **AGENDA**

##### **RULE 3**

The provisional agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up by the Coordinator/Chairman of the Sectoral Working Group in consultation with the members.

##### **RULE 4**

The provisional agenda for any meeting shall include, among others;

- (a) Items arising from previous meetings of the Sectoral Working Group;
- (b) Items proposed by the members;
- (c) Items assigned by SOM-AMAF or AMAF to the Sectoral Working Group; and
- (d) Any other items which the Sectoral Working Groups sees fit to include after consultation with the members

##### **RULE 5**

Items proposed in the provisional agenda shall be supported by the necessary background information and details; copies of which shall be provided to all Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat in sufficient time before the meeting.

##### **RULE 6**

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside.

### **Chapter III**

#### **CHAIRMANSHIP**

##### **RULE 7**

The Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries shall be chaired by Member Countries in yearly (*previous two-yearly*) rotation in alphabetical order, with the next Member Country in rotation as the Vice-Chairman. Member Countries may be reelected and may also waive the right to serve as Coordinators/Chairmen.

### **Chapter IV**

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COORDINATOR/CHAIRMAN**

##### **RULE 8**

The Coordinator/Chairman shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. To convene the meetings of the Sectoral Working Group in consultation with the members;
- b. To oversee the organization and arrangements of meetings with the assistance and support of the host-countries of the meetings.
- c. To act as chairman of the meetings of the Sectoral Working Group;
- d. To consult with the members on matters requiring immediate attention in between meetings.
- e. To monitor and evaluate the implementation of projects undertaken; and
- f. To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Sectoral Working Group and SOM-AMAF.

### **Chapter V**

#### **SUPPORT STAFF**

##### **RULE 9**

The Coordinator/Chairman shall determine a support staff or establish an interim technical secretariat in his/her home office to assist him/her carrying out his duties and responsibilities.

## **Chapter VI**

### **REPORT**

#### **RULE 10**

The preparation of the report of the meetings shall be done by a drafting committee and shall be finalized and adopted by the meetings.

#### **RULE 11**

Reports of each meeting shall be submitted to SOM-AMAF for consideration and endorsement.

#### **RULE 12**

If any of the Member Countries is unable to be represented at a meeting, it should communicate its comments to other members not later than one month after receiving the report of a meeting.

Otherwise the report remains confirmed and adopted.

#### **RULE 13**

Such reports shall be treated as confidential documents.

## **Chapter VII**

### **REPRESENTATION**

#### **RULE 14**

The Coordinator/Chairman, in person or through his/her designated representative shall represent the Sectoral Working Group at meetings of SOM-AMAF to report on the progress of its work for the consideration of and endorsement by SOM-AMAF.

#### **RULE 15**

The Coordinator/Chairman, in person or through his/her designated representative, shall on such occasions seek from SOM-AMAF, instructions or guidance pertaining to the programme of work of the Working Group.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSIONS**

#### **RULE 16**

Any of these Rules of Procedure may be amended or suspended by the Sectoral Working Group, subject to the approval of SOM-AMAF.

## **PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE (ASA)**

### **Background**

As aquaculture particularly shrimp culture in Southeast Asia plays important role in terms of foreign exchange earnings and providing job opportunities as well as supply fish food production to meet the growing demand of food at the global level. Almost 80 percent of world shrimp culture comes from Asia and ASEAN countries. Currently most shrimp producing countries in the region faced the common concerns on issues affecting from production to exports, i.e. diseases, related international instruments, and trade issues. Therefore, there is a need for closer cooperation among ASEAN Member countries to tackle this issues and problems effectively.

The establishment of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) has been proposed and eventually agreed by the participating countries in the consultation in 2006. Term of Reference (TOR) and mechanism of ASA has been developed and further discussed at the 15<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting. Later, the SOM -29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting held in Bangkok, on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 has endorsed the establishment of ASA together with its TOR.

### **Status of ASA**

The principal objective of ASA is to establish a mechanism among member countries to enhance ASEAN's capability to response to challenges of international trade in shrimp and shrimp products. The scope of ASA involves two levels i.e. government and private sectors. The principal objective of the arrangement is to establish a mechanism among MCs to 1) share and exchange information, 2) formulate and /or harmonize shrimp production standard, 3) provide the platform for dialogues and consultation among experts and private sectors, 4) develop proposal and recommendations for action in relation to common concern issues and collaborative actions by the members, and 5) create strong mechanism among ASEAN to jointly prevent non-tariff trade barrier. The establishment of ASEAN Shrimp Standard is encouraged to be conducted via ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership Program (ASSP) and that need to have close collaboration among the ASEAN Member Countries and SEAFDEC. Thailand as the lead country serves as the ASA secretariat, while SEAFDEC serves as a collaborating partner to provide technical support and information technology for ASA website: [www.aseanshrimpalliance.net](http://www.aseanshrimpalliance.net). Each Member State has appointed a government official to serve as a national focal point. The focal point is responsible in coordination and collaboration with the ASA secretariat, provision of necessary information and participation in ASA meeting.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting of ASA was held on 8 April 2008 in Bali, Indonesia. The Member States discussed and identified common issues and the report has been submitted to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASWGFi held from 21 to 23 May 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The ASWGFi Meeting encouraged active participation of private sector in the ASA activities and requested ASA to furnish details on ASEAN shrimp standards, ASEAN certified body, and organization of shrimp seminar/conference at the next meeting of ASWGFi.

## **Progress of Implementation of ASA**

1. After the ASA was endorsed by the ASWGFi as well as the SOM-AMAF, the ASA Annual Meeting should be organized in 2009 prior to the ASWGFi Meeting. The Member Countries will discuss and consider concern issues, activities and programs initiated and also drive the ASA functions to reach its objectives and goal. The report of Annual Meeting will be submitted to the ASWGFi for consideration and approval.
2. To deliberate on standard, the ASA Seminar on Shrimp Standard proposed by the ASA secretariat is considered to organize for updating on shrimp production standards among the ASEAN Member Countries and related regional organization, i.e. FAO, NACA. Private sectors in shrimp industry as well as producers, exporters and potential buyers are strongly recommended to participate in the seminar to share their related information and experiences.
3. The existing website will be improved concerning information on ASEAN Shrimp production. List of ASEAN shrimp producer and farmer may be added if agreed by member countries.



## **PROPOSAL**

### **THE ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE (ASA) SEMINAR ON SHRIMP STANDARD**

#### **Background and rationale**

Aquaculture particularly shrimp culture in Southeast Asia plays important role in term of employment, foreign exchange earnings and supplying fish food to meet the growing demand of food at the global level particularly to substitute the decreasing trend of capture fisheries. The major markets of shrimp products are U.S.A, EU and Japan. Asian region is considered the major culture shrimp production in the world. Almost 85 percent of world shrimp culture comes from Asia and ASEAN. Most shrimp exporting countries in the region faced the common concerns affected from production to exports i.e. diseases, tariff barrier, non-tariff barrier etc. Over the past five years, the importers have set purchasing condition in term of standards certification and forced the exporters to unavoidably follow. To enhance the ASEAN's capability to response and challenges of international trade in shrimp and shrimp products, ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), therefore, has been established for closer cooperation to tackle these issues and problems effectively.

Based on the requirement to protect the consumer's health, many countries particularly NGOs have developed shrimp production guidelines/standards for shrimp industry. Those guidelines or standards may be different and similar in some aspects and being introduced to shrimp industry in producing countries like ASEAN. In this regard, shrimp farmers have primarily faced problems to change their production practices to comply with those standards and that has caused them more production cost. In order to tackle this problem, it is important that ASEAN should work closely in establishing ASEAN Shrimp Standards or Guidelines. In doing so, the ASA should consider to organize the ASA Seminar on Shrimp Standards/Guidelines. Shrimp production criteria/ guidelines or standards of each MCs should be preliminary discussed. The experts from relevant countries, international/ regional organizations and private sectors will be invited to present their standards development. The information would be compiled as a first step for ASEAN shrimp standard/ guidelines development. Moreover, ASA member countries would also be able to preliminary apply the shrimp production standard/guidelines or principles obtained from the seminar for their shrimp industry.

#### **Objectives**

Considering to the differences on national shrimp production standards/guidelines or principles among the ASEAN Member Countries (AMCs) as well as increasing requirements by the international standards or guidelines, the ASA Seminar on Shrimp Standard is proposed. In the view of implementing of harmonization of standards/ guidelines among the AMCs, the seminar is organized with the following objectives:

1. To update the shrimp production standards/guidelines/principles used in respective AMCs and compare with the international standards/guidelines.
2. To review and clarify the problems and constraints occurred in AMCs' shrimp production relevant to standards/guidelines application.
3. To recommend the necessary follow-up actions and collaboration with international/regional organization in the implementation of the ASA.

## **Participants**

It is proposed that the participants of the Seminar should be the following:

1. Representatives from AMCs which included the focal point from their governments and relevant private sectors.
2. Representatives from SEAFDEC as a collaborating partner.
3. Representatives from relevant NGOs, international/regional organizations i.e. GlobalGAP, GAA, World Wildlife Fund, NACA, FAO, INFOFISH to be the resource persons or speakers.
4. Representatives from ASEAN Secretariat.

## **Expected outputs**

After the end of Seminar, the following outputs are expected:

1. Updating information on shrimp production standards/guideline among the ASEAN Member Countries and international/regional organizations has developed shrimp standard/guideline to support the shrimp industry.
2. Recommendations on the way forward to harmonize or develop the ASEAN shrimp production standards which the Member Countries are able to apply for their shrimp production.

## **Workshop organization and Arrangement**

Thailand as the ASA Secretariat in collaboration with the SEAFDEC offers hosting the ASA Seminar. Regarding to the TOR of ASA, Thailand as the host country will shoulder the cost of hosting the Seminar. The cost of attending the Seminar shall be borne by each AMCs. Invitation of international/regional organizations, NGOs will be identified with consultation with the SEAFDEC, of which their participation cost will be borne by respective organizations. Thailand may, as necessary, seek financial support for meeting expenses and participation of some resources persons and speakers. Thailand Department of Fisheries and SEAFDEC secretariat will form a joint secretariat of the Seminar.

## **Date and Venue**

The Seminar is tentatively proposed to be convened in Bangkok, Thailand for two days in February 2009.

## **Provisional Agenda**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Agenda 1 | Opening of the Seminar   |
| Agenda 2 | Election of Chairman and adoption of Agenda/ arrangement of the Seminar  |
| Agenda 3 | Review of shrimp production standards/guideline/principles<br>3.1 Presentation of country report on the shrimp standards/guideline used for implementation together with problems occurred by AMCs<br>3.2 Presentation on the international standards or guidelines by invited speaker from regional/international organizations and NGOs. |
| Agenda 4 | Brain storming on harmonization of the standards/guideline of shrimp standard among the AMCs   |

- Agenda 5      Cooperation among AMCs and International/regional organization in the Implementation of ASA
- Agenda 6      Conclusion and Recommendation of the Seminar
- Agenda 7      Closing of the Seminar



## REGIONAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGES AND ITS IMPACT ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

### Introduction

In the past decades, there is drastically changed on global environment and weather condition, which apparently brought about the fluctuation of fishery resources production in many regions. Changing of sea-temperature, sea level-rise irregularly on coastal ecosystem could affects to the stock migration and fish behavior. This situation could effect to the development of fisheries more difficult in improving people livelihood and ensuring food security as well as addressing on fisheries management approach. The new challenged issue on “climate change<sup>5</sup>” and its impact to fisheries and aquaculture has been among others serious topics and progressively discussed at international arena.

The serious issue on climate change effect to fisheries in Southeast Asian region has been raised at the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee held in November 2007, the Member Countries requested SEAFDEC to compile and disseminate information related to impacts of climate change to fisheries, aquaculture, and ecology. Subsequently, SEAFDEC’s Council at its 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in April 2008, in Bali, Indonesia, urged SEAFDEC to implement activities to gather information on the impact of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture activities as well as to the ecosystem and the environment; and provide assistance to the Member Countries to minimize such impact.

The emerging interest to address climate change and fisheries among ASEAN Member States was also echoed at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries. The Meeting requested Indonesia with assistance from SEAFDEC and ASEAN Secretariat to explore possibility to formulate a project proposal to raise awareness on the issue for further discussion at the FCG/ASSP Meeting. Following up, Indonesia developed the proposal to the Special SOM 29<sup>th</sup> AMAF held from 5-7 August 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand on an “ASEAN Strategy in Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry”, which this initiative was welcomed by the Ministers to pursue regional approach and strategic plan of action in dealing with mitigation and adaptation to climate change on agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

### Required Adaptive Measures and Proposed Activities to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change

Along line with the policy directive given by SEAFDEC Council and serious concerns on such issue, SEAFDEC and DOF, Thailand has set up an Ad-hoc Working Group on Climate Change Impacts to Fisheries in order to gather information on existing initiatives and efforts at the international/regional and national levels to mitigate the possible adverse effect caused by climate change to the fisheries sector. In addition, SEAFDEC also convened the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Emerging Fisheries Policy from 15 to

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<sup>1</sup> Climate change in tropical zone, especially in Southeast Asia, is generally characterized by seasonal weather patterns associated with the two monsoons and the occurrence of tropical cyclones in the three core areas of cyclogenesis such as the Bay of Bengal, North Pacific Ocean, and South China Sea.

16 July 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand, in which one of the main discussions was climate change and its impact on fisheries and aquaculture.

As a result, the Consultation identified areas that need considerations and require adaptive measures, and came up with proposed activities to mitigate the impacts of climate change to be undertaken by SEAFDEC and the national agencies responsible for fisheries in the Member Countries, as follows:

*a) Strengthen capacity of fisheries sector in tackling with climate change*

- Clear organizational long-term policy on human resources development and capacity building in response to the emerging needs relevant to climate change (SEAFDEC and national agencies responsible for fisheries)
- Promote awareness program on climate change and its impact to fisheries and aquaculture to all stakeholders (Member Countries)
- Buildup the resilience of fisheries communities in response to the impact of climate change
- Establish simple meteorological information system and network for fisheries communities
- Mainstream policy on poverty alleviation and remedial actions for the people affected by the climate change

*b) Integrate climate change into fisheries policy framework*

- Review existing regional policy framework and priority actions to accommodate the issues on climate change and its impacts to fisheries/aquaculture (SEAFDEC)
- Conduct national seminar/workshop involving other relevant agencies and stakeholders to develop national fisheries policy and action plans on climate change and fisheries/aquaculture (Member Countries)
- Increase dialogue and discussion with other sectors on issues relevant to climate change (Member Countries)
- Ensure that due consideration be given to the contribution from fisheries and aquaculture as the main food production sector, when developing respective national policy action plans to minimize their impacts to climate change (Member Countries)
- Use the climate change as an opportunity for fisheries related agencies to pro-actively approach higher level authorities in assisting the affected sectors to get supportive measures from the government, e.g. appropriate subsidies, pricing policy, poverty alleviation program, etc. (Member Countries)

*c) Integrate climate change into existing fisheries program frameworks*

- Identify (Member Countries) and monitor vulnerable fishing communities that will be submerged by sea-level rise or affected by erosion, destruction of natural habitats, storms as well as those affected by fisheries and aquaculture activities (SEAFDEC and Member Countries )
- Identify and develop appropriate indicators for monitoring and assessing the impacts of climate change to fisheries resources and aquaculture, e.g.: water cycle, change in season and temperature, seawater intrusion, fisheries resources, indicator species, etc. (SEAFDEC and Member Countries )

*c-i) Marine Fisheries*

- Integrate climate change into existing marine fisheries program frameworks
- Identify (Member Countries) and monitor vulnerable fishing communities that will be submerged by sea-level rise or affected by erosion, destruction of natural habitats, storms as well as those affected by fisheries and aquaculture activities (SEAFDEC and Member Countries )
- Identify and develop appropriate indicators for monitoring and assessing the impacts of climate change to fisheries resources and aquaculture, e.g.: water cycle, change in season and temperature, seawater intrusion, fisheries resources, indicator species, etc. (SEAFDEC and Member Countries )

*c-ii) Inland Fisheries*

- Collaborate with relevant agencies (e.g. WorldFish Center and MRC) in conducting research activities and develop a model on the impact of climate change to flooding (SEAFDEC/Member Countries)
- Undertake program on management of inland fisheries during the dry season (establishment of refuge) in order to alleviate the impact of climate change on the rural people's livelihood (Member Countries)
- Undertake program on wetland management in the broader context (Member Countries)

*c-iii) Aquaculture*

- Investigate the possible impacts of climate change to aquaculture, e.g. stratification and eutrophication, freshwater shortage in dry season, flooding in rainy seasons, sea water intrusion, increasing feed requirement for aquaculture, change in availability of seed stocks, disease susceptibility, etc. (SEAFDEC and Member Countries)
- Adapt aquaculture technologies and practices in response to the impact of climate change (SEAFDEC and Member Countries), e.g.:
  - Recycling of nutrient water in shrimp ponds
  - Selective breeding of species to develop seedstocks with wider tolerance to environmental changes
  - Development of eco-friendly feeds
  - Development of alternate feed materials (e.g, worms, etc.)
  - Promotion of the culture of lower trophic level species with appropriate HRD programs

*d) Minimizing impacts from fisheries/aquaculture to climate change*

- Undertake energy saving measures, and promote the use of alternative sources of energy (SEAFDEC and Member Countries)
- Fully utilize low-economic value fish species (e.g. jellyfish) with value-added processes, for human consumption (Member Countries)

*e) Information Collection and inter-agency coordination*

- Compile information from local communities and stakeholders, e.g. through community networking (Member Countries)
- Encourage inter-agency coordination and sharing/mobilization of expertise (SEAFDEC and Member Countries)
- Facilitate sharing of information specifically on adaptive measures relevant to climate change and fisheries/aquaculture (SEAFDEC)

### **Suggested Action by the Meeting**

The Meeting is invited to endorse the required adaptive measures and proposed activities to mitigate the impacts of climate change and further provide suggestion on future follow-up actions by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries.



## **REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND EFFORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES**

### **Background and Introduction**

As recognized internationally by being given the Margarita Lizarraga Medal Award for the biennium 2006-2007, SEAFDEC has shown strong commitment towards sustainable fisheries in ASEAN Region by promoting the implementation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Region. To achieve the over-arching goal of sustainable fisheries, SEAFDEC initiated, in 1998, a program on the Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). Under the framework of the FAO initiated CCRF, a series of Regional Guidelines, with reference to the situation in Southeast Asia, was developed on each of the main chapters of the CCRF. The set of guidelines, and related activities and consultations were facilitated during 1998 to 2004 financial support by the Government of Japan through its Trust Fund. In follow up on the need for human resources development as a vital part of any program on the implementation of CCRF, funds were secured from the Government of Sweden through its Swedish Board of Fisheries from 2003 to 2006 (with extension up to the end of 2008). The support had a specific focus on Fisheries Management in general and the management of fishing capacity in line with the CCRF. Awareness building and training activities has been implemented by conducting a series of meetings, workshops and on-site training to address fisheries management and fishing capacity issues for achievement in sustainable fisheries in the region.

An important shift in national policies and institutional attitudes, since the end of 2006 (ASEAN/SEAFDEC/Sida RTC in Phuket September 2006), is the emerging calls for cooperation on fisheries management issues and the willingness to develop a regional fisheries management mechanism and, furthermore, to look into bi- and tri-lateral or sub-regional management arrangements to supplement broader region-wide approaches. In response to the recommendations within the CCRF on the development of fisheries management bodies in support of responsible fisheries management, SEAFDEC has been assisting the ASEAN Member Countries to embark on an initiative to establish a “Regional Fisheries Management Body” as suggested during the RTC in Phuket in September 2006 within ASEAN under the ASSP cooperation framework.

At a SEAFDEC organized Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) convened in October 2007, ASEAN Member countries showed their continued intentions to promote efforts for the implementation of CCRF, and incorporating CCRF principles in their National Policy and laws.

### **ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaboration in Addressing Fisheries Management**

At the request of the SEAFDEC Council (under the ASSP with SEAFDEC-Sida support) and in response to recommendations by the ASWGFi and SOM-AMAF, an expert consultation and regional workshop were convened in Bangkok, in November 2007, to work out the “Concepts” for the establishment of an “ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism” (ARFMM). At the onset the geographical scope to cover inland and marine waters under jurisdiction of ASEAN Member Countries was indicated by ASEAN. Given the wide geographical coverage and the diverse type of fishing areas, it was recommended to focus on “boats and people” rather than the fish stocks as such. Addressing fish and habitats

could be followed up at sub-regional level. A priority to address fishing capacity (including IUU), vessel registration, licensing, migration and mobility of boats and people and related social and environment aspects were indicated. Furthermore, it was recommended that SEAFDEC should continue to take a lead together with the Thai Department of Fisheries and ASEAN Secretariat and in consultation with FAO as also indicated by SEAFDEC Council (2007 and 2008).

Based on the concepts developed in 2007, a proposal on establishment of the ASEAN Regional Management Mechanism and the revision of ToR of the ASWGFi was proposed by Thailand as lead country. The PrepSOM-29<sup>th</sup> AMAF (October 2007) endorsed, in principle, the initiative proposed by Thailand. The issue is currently a part of the ASEAN policy dialogues. In follow up to the endorsement by the PrepSOM-29<sup>th</sup> AMAF, the 16<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi Meeting (May 2008) agreed on the expansion of the existing function and scope of work of ASWGFi to include ASEAN regional fisheries management. The suggestion was made to add the sentence *“to promote appropriate ASEAN regional fisheries management policies/programs/activities through the establishment of an ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism (ARFMM) for sustainable fisheries management”* to the existing ToR of ASWGFi.

Consequently, during the Special SOM 29<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting (August 2008), the meeting requested Thailand and ASWGFi to finalise the ToR for ASWGFi to provide for the establishment of an ARFMM, within the framework of ASWGFi. The Meeting also agreed that Thailand (in consultation with other AMCs) form and lead an ad hoc working group to develop the function, scope of work, and activities for the ARFMM. With support from the SEAFDEC-Sida Project “The Ad-hoc Working Group on the ASEAN Regional Fisheries Management Mechanism” met in Bangkok in September 2009. With participants from ASEAN Member Countries, SEAFDEC, ASEAN Secretariat, FAO/APFIC and MRC, the ad-hoc working group successfully agreed on recommended revise to the ToR of the ASWGFi and on a “framework” for ARFMM indicating the function, scope of work, and activities for the ARFMM. These recommendations will now go back to the ASWGFi and the SOM-AMAF for endorsement and decision.

### **ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaboration in Support of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector**

An important policy statement under ASEAN that need to be taken into consideration when planning for actions under the ASSP framework is the “Declaration on the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint” (November 2007) where it is spelt out, and signed by Heads of ASEAN Member States, that ASEAN Member Countries should “strengthen efforts to combat illegal fishing”.

In support of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries work to have the fisheries sector integrated into the ASEAN Economic Community, SEAFDEC in collaboration with DoF, Thailand organized the regional workshop on “Implementing the ASEAN Roadmap for the Integration of the Fishing Sector” (Bangkok, January 2008). The Workshop reviewed the timelines to be met in achieving the set of trade related measures that was listed in the Roadmap major policy implications to the Member Countries, particularly different standards (health, quality, environment, social, labour, etc.). Special concern is the increasing demand for product certification, both for domestic, regional, and (most of all) international markets. The discussion links to demands on traceability, further standard setting, certification schemes and various types of labels. These trade-related issues were also discussed at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC RTCs on “International Fisheries Related Issues 2008”

held in February 2008, in Chiang Mai, and the Emerging Regional Policy Issues held in July 2008, in Bangkok.

### **ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaboration in Combating IUU fishing**

Another initiative of relevance to the region, and the call by the ASEAN heads of state to combat illegal fishing, is the “Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region”. The initiative is not fully covering the ASEAN region as it does not include Andaman Sea. However, eight ASEAN Member States have signed up to the initiative together with Australia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. *The RPOA could be a supportive “tool” to back up ASEAN efforts to improve fisheries management and for the implementation of actions related to the combating of IUU fisheries. The RPOA is a voluntary instrument promoting responsible fishing practices, including promotion of MCS networks, improved vessel registration, application of Port State Measures/port monitoring, flag state responsibilities, etc.*

Past few years, SEAFDEC has involved in dialogues with the RPOA meetings and workshops. Following up the directive given by SEAFDEC Council at its 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting, SEAFDEC also participate in the Coordination Committee Meeting of RPOA, held in Manila, 28-30 April 2008 to “provide advise” to the Committee. The Committee Meeting praised SEAFDEC for the work being done on the Gulf of Thailand “sub-region” a, and confirmed a leading role of Thailand, with support of SEAFDEC-Sida project, in the Gulf of Thailand and adjacent waters.

Another Workshop, with policy implications, SEAFDEC co-hosted in the FAO/APFIC/SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on Port State Measure, in April 2008. There is still some uncertainty among the Member Countries as to the policy and implementation implication. The general understanding is there will be policy implications and without waiting for the port state measures to become binding (which might still be some years down the line), it has been strongly emphasized there is a need to have good Port Monitoring. This has been emphasized also in ARFMM discussions and in connection with the RPOA.

To promote cooperation in the Region as well as Sub-Regionally, SEAFDEC has been continually implementing and mutual understanding among ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, thereby paving the way for the ARFMM. A number of recommendations made in the First Sub Regional Meeting on the Gulf of Thailand, held in Bangkok, March 2008, revealed that *regional cooperation in order to get common understanding among countries should be developed*. A setting up of a MCS network was discussed, however, improving understanding on MCS and awareness-raising among involved institutions, action to be taken as suitable by various projects and programs as well as laws and regulation should be addressed. It was also suggested that bi-lateral or tri-lateral meeting should be organized at high political level to generate understanding at that level on actions needs. The holding of a consultative meeting on fisheries laws (suggested by Thailand during the SEAFDEC Council in 2008) could be initiated as a starting point at sub-regional level.

An Expert Meeting on Fishing Vessel Registration, held in Phuket in July 2008, aimed to review the existing registration systems in the Southeast Asia, discuss problems and benefits linked to these systems and follow up on the requirements for fishing vessel registration within respective country, and the region, in support of fisheries management and improvement of cooperation among responsible agencies. *A review, and revisions as needed, of laws and regulations, to link the fisheries authorities closer to the process of fishing vessel registration would put the fisheries authority in a better situation to control and manage fisheries appropriately*. Fishing vessel registration could be an area for regional cooperation,

while taking note that diversity and limitations of national structures would be something to address. A first step could be to find out common elements and information that is publicly available.

In conclusion, to follow up the recommendations of the above-mentioned meetings, SEAFDEC is attempting to provide a venue for countries at Sub-regional Level to discuss on the recommendation made in the regional concerned that have been raised such as fishing capacity, IUU fisheries, vessel registration, MCS Network, exchange of information of fishing laws and other matters, etc, and to work modalities for cooperation at the Sub regional Level. This would be another effort that will support the promotion of sustainable fisheries in the Region and the development of the ARFMM.

### **Suggested Actions by the Meeting**

- The Meeting is requested to take note of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaboration in addressing fisheries management and the support of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector.
- The Meeting is requested to endorse an achievement and progress of SEAFDEC in combating IUU fishing particularly promoting cooperation within the Region at sub-regional level.
- The Meeting is requested to provide comments and suggestions on the future follow-up activities to be implemented by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries in combating IUU fishing and improve fisheries management in general and the management of fishing capacity in line with the CCRF.

**CLOSING REMARK**

*By ASEAN Co-chair*

*Mr Sanchai Tantavanich, for chairman of ASWGFi*

Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, Secretary General of SEAFDEC  
Mr. Hideki Tsubata, Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,  
SEAFDEC Department Chiefs, Delegates from the Member Countries,  
SEAFDEC Advisors, SEAFDEC staffs, Ladies and Gentleman,

On behalf of the Co-chair of the FCG/ASSP, I wish to thank you for your cooperation during our one and a half day of the FCG/ASSP Meeting. Your efforts have made the meeting successful. I am happy that we are able to achieve our objective of discussing the ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries collaborative programs including the progress and activities under the ASSP.

It is important that we have discussed and agreed on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative programs and also the policy issues related to international fisheries which will further lead the fisheries development in the region to the sustainability.

I am glad to the Member Countries that they all have work hard in implementing the proposal under the ASSP framework including ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sectors and the establishment of ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum and ASEAN Shrimp Alliance.

The outcomes with recommendations from this meeting will be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi for their consideration on their forthcoming meeting in early next year. Once again I wish to thank you all for your cooperation and hard work. I hope to see you again in our future meetings.

For those who will leave for their respective countries including me, I wish all of us have a safe journey back home. Lastly, I wish to thank MFRD and all of the organizing staff for the excellent arrangements during the PCM and the FCG/ASSP meetings.

Now I declare the 11<sup>th</sup> Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership closed.