

RESOLUTION AND PLAN OF ACTION

on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium



“FISH FOR THE PEOPLE”





Toward Sustainability of ASEAN Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium

Fisheries in National Development

The contributions of fisheries sector to food security, social and economic development are recognized worldwide. The rapid growth in demand for fish production as being a low cost animal protein has increased manifold for the past decades. This has substantially contributed to the vast expansion of fisheries industries around the world particularly in the Southeast Asian region. The increased fish production is currently threatening the sustainability of fisheries and well being of the environment due to the focus on management that has been given to the short-term objectives rather than the long-term sustainability. The decline in fish production and degradation of the aquatic environment is therefore becoming of grave concern to the Southeast Asian region and at the global level. This has called for a need to investigate the current status of fisheries as well as ways and means to cope up with its sustainability and contribution to national development and food security for the generations to come.



ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on “Fish for the People”

In order to analyze fisheries problems and identify directions and actions to be undertaken in ensuring sustainable fisheries production in the Southeast Asia, *the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People”* was initiated in 2000.

After two-years of preparation, the Conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2001 by *the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)* and *the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)* in collaboration with *the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)* and *the Department of Fisheries, Thailand*. Attended by over 800 people from countries as well as international/regional organizations, the Conference provided a forum for various stakeholders including fisheries policy makers, managers, academes, researchers and scientists as well as private sectors to discuss and exchange views of current status of fisheries in view of paving an integrated approach toward sustainable development for fisheries.

In addition, the Conference also established a network of collaboration among ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and international/regional organizations to avoid duplication of efforts as well as to facilitate future fisheries cooperation in the region.

As the results, the Conference concluded *the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region*, considered as a regional policy and implementation guidelines to be used as a framework to develop national policies and actions for the promotion of sustainable fisheries in the region.

Taking steps toward Sustainability of Fisheries

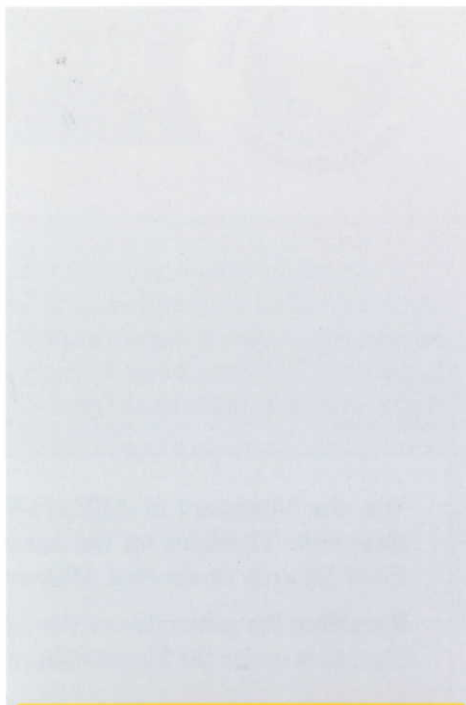
To assist ASEAN Member Countries in the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action in view of achieving sustainable fisheries in the region, SEAFDEC as being the technical competent agencies in fisheries in Southeast Asia, is developing follow-up activities under *the Special 5-year Program on Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region*.

The program will be promoted through collaborative cost-sharing mechanism among SEAFDEC, the ASEAN Member Countries and interested international/regional organizations, emphasizing support to the least developed countries in the region to minimize disparities and to achieve coordinated efforts toward sustainable fisheries.

Using the Resolution and Plan of Action as the basis, the follow-up activities focus on the areas related to fisheries management, aquaculture and utilization of fish and fishery products. Topics in focus are decentralization of fisheries management, rights-based fisheries, fishery statistics and indicators for sustainable fisheries, responsible fishing technologies and practices, resource enhancement, inland capture fisheries management, aquaculture for rural development, production of quality seeds for aquaculture, maximizing the utilization of fish catch, and fish quality and safety management systems.

Establishment of Collaborative and Integrated Efforts

SEAFDEC is extending invitation for collaboration to interested international/regional organizations, universities, research institutes to join these collaborative and integrated activities in achieving sustainability of fisheries for future generations.



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RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR THE ASEAN REGION

As being an outcome of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference: “Fish for the People” organized from 19 to 24 November 2001 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region was supported and adopted by ministers responsible for fisheries from eleven ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The Resolution is regarded as the foundation for the formulation of national and regional fisheries policies to move towards the goal of achieving sustainable fisheries for food security for the region.

We, the Ministers of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries who are responsible for fisheries, met in Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of *The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People”*, on 24 November, 2001,

Recalling the principles of the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the initiatives agreed upon by the ASEAN Member Countries under the Hanoi Plan of Action;

Recognizing the importance of sustainable fisheries for food security and the livelihoods and well-being of the ASEAN people;

Noting the provisions of international declarations and instruments on food security, fisheries, ocean governance, trade, and the aquatic environment;

Conscious of the growing demand for fish and fishery products and the need to secure sustainable fish supply for food security for each ASEAN Member Country;

Aware of the increasing pressures on ASEAN’s aquatic environment and fisheries resources from fisheries and non-fisheries activities, that may negatively impact on the livelihoods of the ASEAN people, in particular the poor and disadvantaged segments of society;

Considering the benefits of current and future fisheries cooperation among ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to promote sustainable fisheries in ASEAN Member Countries; and,

Deciding that the issues identified through the national and regional participatory processes in preparation for the above Conference and those identified at the Conference should be given priority;

DO HEREBY RESOLVE, without prejudice to the sovereign rights, obligations, and responsibilities of our countries under relevant international laws and arrangements, to:

1. Formulate regional guidelines to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, taking into account the specific social, economic, cultural, ecological and institutional contexts and diversity of ASEAN fisheries;
2. Cooperate to identify constraints and enhance collaboration among government agencies, which have responsibility for fisheries and fisheries-related issues, in order to harmonize policies, plans and activities which support sustainable fisheries at the national and regional levels;
3. Acknowledge the need for enhanced human resource capabilities at all levels and encourage greater involvement by stakeholders to facilitate consensus and compliance in achieving sustainable fisheries;

ASEAN Member Countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. SEAFDEC Member Countries include all ASEAN Member Countries, except Lao PDR and plus Japan.



4. Mobilize regional technical cooperation to reduce disparities and promote solidarity among ASEAN Member Countries;
5. Encourage effective management of fisheries through delegation of selected management functions to the local level;
6. Recognize the need to progressively replace “open access” to fisheries resources with “limited access regimes” through the introduction of rights-based fisheries which may also facilitate the management of fishing capacity and promote the use of responsible fishing gears and practices;
7. Strengthen national fishery statistical systems and maximize their use for fisheries planning and management and develop standard definitions and classifications to facilitate regional fishery statistics and information exchanges;
8. Emphasize the importance of inland fisheries and aquaculture in planning and policy formulation to improve food security and the livelihoods of rural people;
9. Work towards the conservation and rehabilitation of aquatic habitats essential to enhancing fisheries resources;
10. Mitigate the potential impacts on the environment and biodiversity, including the spreading of aquatic animal diseases, caused by the uncontrolled introduction and transfer of non-indigenous and exotic aquatic species;
11. Promote the maximum utilization of catch, including the reduction of discards and post-harvest losses to increase fish supply and improve economic returns;
12. Increase aquaculture production in a sustainable and environment-friendly manner by ensuring a stable supply of quality seeds and feeds, effectively controlling disease, promoting good farm management and transferring appropriate technology;
13. Promote aquaculture for rural development, which is compatible with the rational use of land and water resources, to increase fish supply and improve the livelihoods of rural people;
14. Improve post-harvest technologies to ensure fish quality assurance and safety management systems, which are appropriate for small and medium-sized enterprises in the region, taking into account the importance of traditional fish products and food security requirements;
15. Strengthen the joint ASEAN approaches and positions on international trade in fish and fishery products indigenous to the region by harmonizing standards, criteria and guidelines; and
16. Increase the participation and involvement of ASEAN Member Countries in international fora to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests;

AND DO HEREBY DECIDE that the Resolution be implemented as soon as possible and use the *Plan of Action* adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Senior Officials as a result of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People”, held November 19-24, 2001, in Bangkok, Thailand, as a guideline for formulating and implementing programs, projects, and activities through appropriate ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanisms.



PLAN OF ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR THE ASEAN REGION

The 'Plan of Action' raised at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference: "Fish for the People" organized from 19 to 24 November 2001 in Bangkok, Thailand, is expected to provide the support to the 'Resolution' for the implementation of programs/projects/activities on ASEAN sustainable fisheries development. These documents will be used to guide changes in national fisheries policies to move closer to the goal of achieving sustainable fisheries and food security as well as to formulate follow-up activities of the special 5-year program entitled "The Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region."

On the occasion of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: "Fish for the People", the Senior Officials of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries met in Bangkok, Thailand on 24 November 2001.

Guided by the Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region, and the need to formulate regional guidelines for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Senior Officials adopted the following Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region to be used as a guideline to develop programs, projects and activities for the implementation of the Resolution.

A. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. Establish and implement comprehensive policies for innovative fisheries management, such as the decentralization of selected fisheries management functions to the local level, the progressive introduction of rights-based fisheries management through licensing and community fishing rights, the improvement of vessel registration systems and the development of supporting legal and institutional frameworks.
2. Ensure local consensus building on innovative management measures through consultative processes and create close monitoring mechanisms to support and implement these measures.
3. Take measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate the use of illegal and destructive fishing gears and practices by building awareness of their adverse impacts, the development and promotion of responsible and selective fishing gears and practices, enforcing regulations and encouraging alternative means of livelihood.
4. Optimize the use of inshore waters through resource enhancement programs such as promoting the installation of artificial reefs and structures, encouraging coordinated and effective planning for coastal fisheries management programs, undertaking environmental impact assessment studies, restocking of commercially important fish species and developing human resources for the implementation of such programs.
5. Review the issue of excess fishing capacity at the national level and recommend where appropriate, measures to improve the registration of fishing vessels, the introduction of rights-based fisheries and the reduction in the number of fishing boats and level of fishing effort using government incentives.
6. Formulate guidelines to promote the use of practical and simple indicators for multi-species fisheries as a substitute for classical fisheries management models within the national fisheries management framework, with particular regard to facilitating timely local level fisheries management decisions.

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7. Investigate the potential of under-utilized fisheries resources and promote their exploitation in a precautionary manner based upon analysis of the best available scientific information under rights-based fisheries regimes.
8. Develop and maintain freshwater fisheries through inter-agency coordination of multiple-use water resources and trans-boundary inland fisheries management, promoting awareness of the importance of freshwater fisheries for local food security, rehabilitating and restoring habitats for migratory freshwater fish, restocking indigenous fish species to enhance productivity and encouraging culture-based freshwater fisheries where appropriate.
9. Coordinate and decentralize the collection and use of fisheries related statistical data between the national fisheries and other authorities including those responsible for food security, trade, vessel registration, aquaculture and rural development.
10. Maximize the use of national fisheries statistical systems by focusing on clear objectives and timely results directly related to fishery management decision-making and planning processes.
11. Apply, where appropriate, regionally standardized definitions and classifications for statistical data to facilitate regional compilation, analysis and data exchange.
12. Develop national statistical mechanisms on inland fisheries and aquaculture in order to provide a basis for their development and the exchange of statistical data and related information, with particular emphasis on the catchment approach in international river basins.

B. AQUACULTURE

1. Ensure that national policies and regulatory frameworks on aquaculture development are directed toward sustainability and avoidance of conflicts by incorporating consultations with stakeholder groups, implementing aquaculture zoning, considering social and environmental impact, and also regulating rights of access to, and use of, open water sites for mariculture.
2. Ensure production of high quality seeds on a consistent and sustainable basis by providing government support for public and private hatchery development and research, developing domesticated broodstocks and fish reproductive technologies, and promoting responsible collection and use of wild broodstock and seed.
3. Promote good farm management practices that reduce effluent pollution load and comply with relevant effluent standards through appropriate treatment.
4. Reduce the risks of negative environmental impacts, loss of biodiversity, and disease transfer by regulating the introduction and transfer of aquatic organisms in accordance with the Regional Guidelines on the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals and Plants.
5. Improve the efficient use of aquatic feeds by regulating the quality of manufactured feed and feed ingredients, providing guidelines on farm-level food conversion ratios and levels of aquaculture effluents, and supporting research into developing suitable alternative protein sources to reduce dependence on fish meal and other fish based products.
6. Improve capabilities in the diagnosis and control of fish diseases within the region by developing technology and techniques for disease identification, reliable field-side diagnostics and harmonized diagnostic procedures, and establishing regional and inter-regional referral systems, including designation of reference laboratories and timely access to disease control experts within the region.



7. Formulate guidelines for the use of chemicals in aquaculture, establish quality standards and take measures to reduce or eliminate the use of harmful chemicals.
8. Build human resource capabilities for environment-friendly, healthy, wholesome and sustainable aquaculture through closer public and private sector collaboration in research and development, paying particular attention to the emerging need for skills in biotechnology, and effectively implementing aquaculture education and extension services.
9. Promote aquaculture as an integrated rural development activity within multiple-use of land and water resources available through inter-agency coordination in policy formulation, project planning and implementation, stakeholder consultation, extension services and technology transfer.

C. SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

1. Introduce and provide support for the development of technologies to optimize the utilization of catch and reduce post-harvest losses, wastes and discards in industrial and small-scale fisheries and processing operations through improved processing facilities, on-board and on-shore handling, storage and distribution of fish and fishery products.
2. Promote the production and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products by assisting producers to secure stable supplies of quality raw materials, to meet food safety requirements and to improve product identity, nutritive value and marketing.
3. Encourage relevant control agencies to coordinate their activities at all levels in applying appropriate legislation regarding the quality and safety of fish and fishery products.
4. Develop and apply fish quality and safety management systems that ensure food safety and support the competitive position of ASEAN fish products on world markets through the implementation, validation and verification of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) based systems and improved laboratory practices, and adapting quality and safety management systems so that they may be applied to small and medium enterprises in the ASEAN region.
5. Promote and conduct training programs to upgrade the technical skills and competencies of personnel in the public sector and the fish processing industry in the ASEAN region.

D. FISH TRADE

1. Strengthen ASEAN trade policy on fish and fishery products through regional collaboration by harmonizing product standards and sanitary measures with international standards wherever appropriate, working towards harmonized guidelines for fish inspection and quality control systems among ASEAN Member Countries, strengthening fish inspection and quality control systems with regard to food safety and exchanging information on risk analysis.
2. In collaboration with international technical organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), assess the impact of government subsidies on fisheries, particularly on the needs of small-scale fisheries in the ASEAN region and sustainable fisheries.
3. Anticipate and address the potential impacts of eco-labelling of ASEAN fish and fishery products.



E. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY FORMULATION

1. Enhance regional collaboration by developing guidelines, criteria and standards on important fisheries issues to strengthen ASEAN policies and positions and harmonize them with international initiatives and arrangements.
2. Increase participation and involvement of ASEAN Member Countries in international fora and technical committees such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Codex, FAO, Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Regional Fisheries Bodies, and WTO to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests, recognizing that international fisheries policies are increasingly discussed and agreed upon at the global level.

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“FISH AND THE CULTURE” ASEAN SEAFDEC Drawing Contest



Painted by : Siti Normala Haji AWG. Damit
From : BRUNEI DARUSSALUM



Painted by : Khem Sambo, 17 years
From : CAMBODIA



Painted by : Yohanes Tenggara
From : INDONESIA

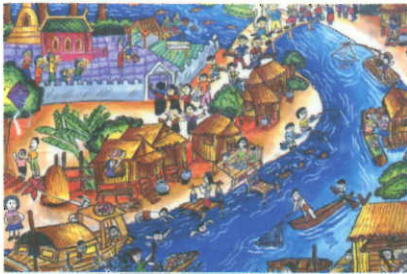


Painted by : Manami Kai, 9 years
From : JAPAN

One important objective of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium "Fish for the People" from 19 to 24 November 2001 is "to support sustainable fisheries and recognize its importance in food security for the ASEAN region". To promote sustainable fisheries in the region, both ASEAN and SEAFDEC recognize the significance of increasing awareness among the resource users and the people, as well as their essential role in promoting responsible fisheries. This includes the younger generation. With this in mind, ASEAN and SEAFDEC decided to organize an ASEAN-SEAFDEC Drawing Contest on "Fish and the Culture" for children under 18 years of age, as part of the Millennium Conference. All member countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have submitted the drawings by school children. The Drawing Contest was organized to promote public awareness as well as to enlighten the youth of the importance of sustainable fisheries to ensure food security. The contest also served as an avenue for the youth to present their talents and be rewarded in the contesting process. Prior to the Millennium Conference, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries independently conducted the Drawing Contests in their respective countries. The Ten best entries were selected by each country and submitted to the Conference Secretariat to be displayed at the Millennium Conference (corridor of the Vibhavadee Ballroom) between 19 and 20 November 2001 and at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Fisheries Exhibition (Bangkok Convention Centre: BCC) between 21 and 24 November 2001.



Painted by : Satoshi Okamoto, 11 years
From : JAPAN



Painted by : Poonyika Whangnibang, 10 years
From : THAILAND



Painted by : Vilayphone Balamy, 13 years
From : LAOS



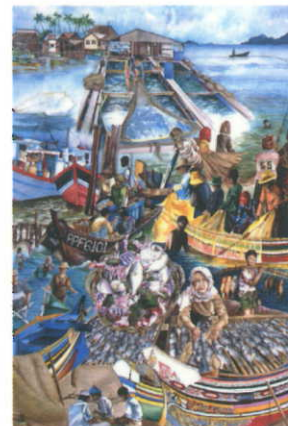
Painted by : Vo Thi Bich Ngoc, 9 years
From : VIETNAM



Painted by : Mg. Kyaw zay Lin @ Mg.
Kyaw Zay Hun, 14 years
From : MYANMAR



Painted by : Alex Ordoyo
From : THE PHILIPPINES



Painted by : Hua Kia Ling, 15 years
From : MALAYSIA



Painted by : Zhangxingru Cara, 14 years
From : SINGAPORE

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