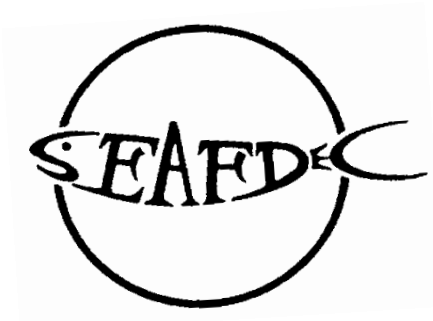


**REPORT OF
THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**Cebu City, Philippines
1-5 April 2013**



**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Report of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center was prepared by Secretariat of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, in collaboration with its Departments namely: the Training Department (TD), the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), the Aquaculture Department (AQD), and the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD). The document is distributed to the SEAFDEC Member Countries and its Departments.

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CONTENTS

	Paragraph No.
INTRODUCTION	1-2
INAUGURAL CEREMONY	3-9
I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
1.1 Opening of the Meeting	10
1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2013-2014	11-12
1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangement for the Meeting	13
II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	14-26
III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING	27-31
IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING	32-37
V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES	
5.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions Addressed at the CITES-CoP16	38-44
5.2 Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR): A Tool to Combat the IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region	45-52
5.3 Conceptual Note on Development of the ASEAN Catch Certification	53-61
5.4 Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Waters	62-71
5.5 Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade in the Southeast Asian Region and CTI-CFF Member Countries	72-76
VI. OTHER MATTERS	
6.1 Progress of the Establishment of a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia	77-84
6.2 ASEAN Fisheries Conference and ASEAN Seafood Exposition	85-91
6.3 ASIA Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth	92-93
VII. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS	
7.1 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	94
7.2 Mekong River Commission (MRC)	95
7.3 United States Coral Triangle Initiative (USCTI) Support Program	96
7.4 WorldFish Center	97
VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC	98
IX. THE THIRD SEAFDEC REVIEW	99-101

X.	MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER	
	10.1 Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)	102-107
	10.2 Proposed Revision of Plans of Operation (Functions) and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments	108-109
	10.3 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations	110-111
	10.4 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels	112-115
	10.5 Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC	116-120
XI.	FINANCIAL MATTERS	
	11.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2011	121
	11.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2012, and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2013	122-123
	11.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2014	124
	11.4 Other Financial Matters	125
XII.	CONCLUDING MATTERS	
	12.1 Adoption of the Meeting Report and Press Statement	126
	12.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	127-128
	12.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government	129
XIII.	CLOSING OF THE MEETING	130

ANNEXES

Annex		Page
1.	List of Participants	21
2.	Welcome Statement, by <i>Mr. Htun Win</i> , on behalf of <i>Mr. Khin Ko Lay</i> , Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2012-2013	33
3.	Opening Remarks, by <i>Mr. Salvador S. Salacup</i> , Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing and Fisheries of the Philippine Department of Agriculture	35
4.	Welcome Address, by <i>Atty. Asis G. Perez</i> , Director of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and SEAFDEC Council Director for the Philippines	37
5.	Agenda	39
6.	Executive Summary of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee	41
7.	Executive Summary of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	47
8.	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions Addressed at the CITES-CoP16	51
9.	Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR): A Tool to Combat the IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region	77
10.	Conceptual Note on Development of the ASEAN Catch Certification	81
11.	Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Waters	89
12.	Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade in the Southeast Asian Region and CTI-CFF Member Countries	95
13.	Progress of the Establishment of Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia	101
14.	ASEAN Fisheries Conference and ASEAN Seafood Exposition	107
15.	Asia Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth	109
16.	Statement, by <i>Mr. Weimin Miao</i> , Aquaculture Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP)	113
17.	Statement, by <i>Dr. So Nam</i> , Fisheries Programme Coordinator, Mekong River Commission (MRC)	115

18.	Statement, by <i>Mr. Rene Acosta</i> , Regional Environment Program Specialist, United States Coral Triangle Initiative (USCTI) Support Program	117
19.	Report of the Third SEAFDEC Review	119
20.	Progress for the Adjustment of the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)	151
21.	Proposed Revision of Plans of Operation (Functions) and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments	161
22.	Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations	177
23a.	Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels	181
23b.	Adopted Revised Guidelines on the Cost Sharing Policy for the Operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2	189
24.	Proposal on the Revision of the Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC	191
25.	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Abridged Consolidated Financial Statement (December 31, 2011 and 2010)	215
26.	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Consolidated Balance Sheets (December 31, 2012 and 2011)	221
27.	Propose Budgetary Requirement of the Center for the Year 2014	227
28.	Adopted Press Statement	231



The SEAFDEC Council and Alternate Council Directors, together with the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General at the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

**THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
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REPORT OF THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Forty-fifth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was convened in Cebu City, Philippines from 1 to 5 April 2013, at the invitation of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippine Department of Agriculture.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam together with their respective delegations, as well as the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and the senior officials of SEAFDEC. The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP); the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Fisheries Programme; the United States Coral Triangle Initiative (USCTI) Support Program; and the WorldFish Center. While the Council Director for Malaysia expressed his regrets for not being able to attend the Meeting, he reflected his recommendations and interventions on specific agenda of the Meeting by electronic means through the SEAFDEC Secretariat for consideration of the Meeting. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

3. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 1 April 2013, and officiated by the Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing and Fisheries of the Department of Agriculture, *Mr. Salvador S. Salacup* on behalf of the Secretary of the Philippine Department of Agriculture, *Mr. Proceso Alcala*.
4. The SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Myanmar, *Mr. Htun Win* on behalf of *Mr. Khin Ko Lay* in his capacity as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2012-2013, welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He expressed the appreciation of the SEAFDEC Council to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for hosting the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, and also his sincere gratitude to the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and to SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) for the warm hospitality and arrangements of this Meeting.
5. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Meeting that after the adoption of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 in June 2011, regional cooperation in the fisheries sector has been gaining much momentum in the Southeast Asian region. He therefore, extolled the initiatives of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries for elaborating and promoting the provisions of the Resolution and Plan of Action towards advancing the sustainable development of fisheries in the region.
6. While expressing confidence in the capability of SEAFDEC in terms of the technical aspects of fisheries development and management, the Council Director for Myanmar encouraged SEAFDEC to strengthen its function as the technical arm of the ASEAN so that through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, the benefits that could be reaped by the countries from such partnership would be enhanced, and added that the activities of SEAFDEC could be aggressively promoted through the ASEAN mechanism. With such strengthened collaboration in fisheries development, SEAFDEC and the Member Countries could contribute significantly to the regional



economic integration which the ASEAN hopes to achieve by 2015. His Welcome Statement appears as **Annex 2**.

7. The Council Director for the Philippines and Director of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, *Atty. Asis G. Perez*, welcomed the SEAFDEC Council Directors and their delegations as well as other guests to Cebu City, and expressed the hope that their stay in Cebu City would be meaningful and memorable. He then introduced the Guest of Honor of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Honorable *Salvador S. Salacup*.

8. The Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing and Fisheries of the Philippine Department of Agriculture, *Mr. Salvador S. Salacup*, welcomed the participants to Cebu City. After citing the background of SEAFDEC and the signing of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC as well as the establishment of the SEAFDEC technical departments, he commended SEAFDEC for implementing programs and activities that continue to generate waves of innovations in fisheries development ranging from research on fishing gear technologies and practices, fishery resources surveys and exploration, fisheries management, post-harvest technology and food safety/quality, and aquaculture development.

9. Specifically, *Mr. Salvador S. Salacup* thanked SEAFDEC/AQD for the great help extended to the national technology centers in the Philippines for the development and dissemination of mature aquaculture technologies. He stressed that on this occasion of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Philippine Government through the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources renews the same commitment that Philippine past leaders guaranteed forty-six years ago for the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. After expressing the wish for SEAFDEC/AQD to continue enflaming the ardor of cooperation among the Member Countries and with relevant regional and international organizations, he declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appears as **Annex 3**.

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Opening of the Meeting

10. The SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Myanmar, *Mr. Htun Win* on behalf of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2012-2013, welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He reiterated his gratitude to SEAFDEC for the support extended to the Council Director for Myanmar, *Mr. Khin Ko Lay*, during the term of his chairmanship.

1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2013-2014

11. The Council Director for the Philippines, *Atty. Asis G. Perez* was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2013-2014, in accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC.

12. The Council Director for the Philippines welcomed the participants to the City of Cebu and expressed the urgent need for the Southeast Asian region to intensify the promotion of the countries' activities on the conservation and management of resources. He added that the development of standard valuation methodology is crucial and a priority concern as this could reveal the economic and ecological values of closed season for fishing and other fisheries management tools. In this regard, he cited that a common need is potential area for exploration study and SEAFDEC should look into this aspect through its research capacity. He suggested that the expected outcome could be in a form of a comprehensive and easy to use valuation method which can be useful to the Member Countries in coming up with more concrete basis and scientifically proven benefits of regulating resource utilization. He then expressed the hope that the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council would be come up with responsive and innovation strategies on the management and development of fisheries in the region. His Welcome Address appears as **Annex 4**.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangement for the Meeting

13. The Council adopted the Agenda of the Meeting, as amended, which appears as **Annex 5**.

II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC congratulated the Council Director for the Philippines *Atty. Asis G. Perez* for his election as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2013-2014. He also expressed his appreciation to *Mr. Khin Ko Lay*, represented at this Meeting by *Mr. Htun Win* on behalf of the Council Director for Myanmar, who served as the Chairperson of the Council in 2012-2013, for the guidance accorded to SEAFDEC in the implementation of programs that cater to the priorities and requirements of the Member Countries.

15. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC then presented to the Council the Draft SEAFDEC Annual Report for 2012, which focused on the highlights of the activities and major achievements in 2012, in accordance with the SEAFDEC mandate. He added that the formulation and development of programs and activities implemented by SEAFDEC in 2012 had been guided by the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 which was adopted in June 2011.

16. After being informed by the Secretary-General on other administrative matters, in accordance with the Article 10 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC, the Council noted the two-year appointment of *Dr. Felix Ayson* as Chief of AQD starting in June 2012, and concurred with the renewal of the nomination of *Dr. Teruo Azuma* and *Dr. Masaya Katoh* as Deputy Chief of AQD and MFRDMD, respectively, from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. The Council also concurred with the appointment of *Mr. Hajime Kawamura* as Deputy Secretary General starting from 1 April 2013.

17. The Council noted with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments in the implementation of several programs of activities in 2012 that contributed to sustainable development of fisheries in the Member Countries as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General.

18. The Council Director for Myanmar conveyed his country's appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing activities in 2012 as guided by the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action. He expressed his gratitude for the support extended by SEAFDEC/TD to Myanmar on the promotion of rights-based fisheries and co-management towards institutional building and participatory mechanism for coastal fisheries management in Myanmar. In light of the ASEAN Economic Community Building, which is expected to be achieved by 2015, he requested SEAFDEC to explore the ways and means of strengthening its activities, especially towards developing traceability system for aquaculture products as well as other activities that would enable the countries in the region to address trade requirements.

19. The Council Directors for Singapore and Vietnam expressed their appreciation to SEAFDEC for its achievements through a number of programs, projects and activities in 2012, which covered a broad range of fisheries aspects. While noting that there were big differences in the number of participants from the Member Countries attending the events organized by SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to aim for an optimum participation of all countries in its activities in the future. He also recommended that SEAFDEC should enhance close collaboration with other organizations, particularly donor agencies to explore other sources of funding support and enhance the visibility of SEAFDEC.

20. While commending SEAFDEC for the successful implementation of activities during the past year, the Council Director for Indonesia recommended that in the future SEAFDEC could put more effort in the development of measures on climate change adaptation.



21. The Council Director for Japan expressed his appreciation to the Philippines for hosting the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, and congratulated SEAFDEC for the activities that it had undertaken in 2012. While noting the various meetings, training and workshops organized by SEAFDEC in 2012 such as those that aimed to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, he recommended that SEAFDEC should consider reflecting the consequences and impacts of its activities especially in reporting the progress of its programs and activities.

22. The Council Director for Cambodia expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC/TD for implementing activities that highlighted on habitat conservation and resource enhancement as well as on rights-based fisheries and co-management, and sought the technical assistance of SEAFDEC in implementing similar activities in his country. He expressed the concern on the difficulties encountered by collecting information and statistics from small-scale fisheries in inland and marine areas, and requested SEAFDEC to also extend assistance to his country on this aspect. While reiterating the several trainings and workshops conducted by SEAFDEC, he expressed the need to also transfer relevant technologies to the communities at the grassroots level. He informed the Meeting that Cambodia has recently established its Marine Aquaculture Research and Development Center and requested SEAFDEC/AQD to consider extending support in terms of enhancing the capacity of the country's technical officers in seed production for the promotion of coastal and marine aquaculture.

23. The Council Director for Lao PDR, while commending SEAFDEC for its activities, emphasized the importance of freshwater fisheries for the socio-economic development of Lao PDR. In this regard, he requested SEAFDEC to consider incorporating freshwater fisheries development in its future activities.

24. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam congratulated SEAFDEC for the activities that had been undertaken during the past year and informed the Meeting that in view of the shortage in the number of staff, the Department of Fisheries of Brunei Darussalam could not participate in most SEAFDEC activities. He also expressed the need to enhance the collaboration between the ASEAN and SEAFDEC under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Mechanism, considering that during the last Meeting of AMAF in 2012, fisheries-related issues were not proposed for discussion. He then recommended that this concern should be raised to the high level fora of the ASEAN.

25. In a formal communication sent to the SEAFDEC Secretariat, the Council Director for Malaysia reiterated his country's commitment to continue supporting SEAFDEC in the implementation of activities that are relevant to the Southeast Asian region, and specifically recommended that SEAFDEC could consider conducting training courses on: 1) resource-friendly fishing gear technology for trainers; 2) fish health management; 3) Port State Measures; and 4) observers scheme on-board fishing vessels. He also recommended that activities under the management and conservation of sea turtles should be continued, and that SEAFDEC should continue to seek funding support from potential donors. He also encouraged SEAFDEC to strengthen collaboration with the private sector upon prior consultation with the SEAFDEC Council.

26. After providing their views and comments on the activities of SEAFDEC, the Council endorsed the Draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2012 for publication and dissemination to the Member Countries, relevant organizations and the public.

III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING

27. The Council took note of the results of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC (**Annex 6**) which was held from 26 to 28 November 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as presented by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairperson of the Program Committee.

28. The Council Director for Thailand recommended that SEAFDEC could consider expanding its activities to include strategies to address labor issues and the use of alternative energy not only in small-scale fisheries but also in commercial-scale fisheries.

29. The Council Director for Indonesia recommended that SEAFDEC should avoid the implementation of overlapping activities among the SEAFDEC Departments. In addition, the Council Director for Japan expressed the concern on the lack of overall strategy for activities conducted by SEAFDEC since several projects appear to have inter-related activities which could instead complement with each other. He therefore recommended that duplication of efforts should be minimized, while linkages among the SEAFDEC programs should also be clarified, so that the programs could be implemented in a more coherent and strategic manner. He cited that the efforts made by SEAFDEC in promoting rights-based fisheries would enhance compliance of stakeholders in fishing vessel registration as well as traceability requirements.

30. The Council Director for Vietnam informed the Meeting that due to financial constraints, his country's intention to use the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2013 for the conduct of population dynamics survey of pelagic fishery resources in Vietnam would be postponed to 2014. In addition, he informed the Meeting that the Government of Vietnam approved the establishment of the Fisheries Resources Surveillance Department under the Fisheries Administration and requested SEAFDEC to assist in the said Department's capacity building programs, especially on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS). He also expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for conducting training of trainers on resource survey to enhance the capacity of its government staff on the various aspects of resources survey, and cited that the necessary budget has been secured for its strategic project on statistics and data collection based on the SEAFDEC Framework. He recommended that SEAFDEC could consider enhancing the promotion of Port State Measures Agreement as means of combating IUU fishing.

31. After the discussion, the Council approved the progress of the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2012 and the proposed programs for 2013, as well as the recommendations of the SEAFDEC Program Committee. The Council then requested SEAFDEC to consider incorporating the recommendations of the Council at this Meeting in its future programs.

IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING

32. The Council noted and endorsed the results and recommendations of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) which was held from 29 to 30 November 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand (**Annex 7**) as presented by *Dr. Achmad Poernomo*, on behalf of the ASEAN Co-chair for the FCG/ASSP Meeting.

33. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Meeting that the Department of Fisheries of Thailand in cooperation with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia will co-organize the 4th Annual of Meeting the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) from 30 April to 1 May 2013 in Bogor, Indonesia, which will be hosted and financially supported by Indonesia, and that the Member Countries of SEAFDEC including the private sector will be invited to join the Meeting. In addition, Thailand will organize back-to-back the ASEAN Network on Aquatic Animal Health Center (ANAAHC) Meeting on 2 May 2013 to develop the work plan, activities and way forward. Issues on Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) and ethoxyquin will be included in the Agenda of the Meeting. In this regard, Member Countries were encouraged to nominate appropriate representatives specializing in shrimp culture and shrimp diseases to participate in order to maximize the outputs of the said Meetings.

34. In order to address the concern raised during the 15th Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP in November 2012 on the minimum attention given to the fisheries sector at the AMAF,



the Council Director for Indonesia informed the Meeting on the proposed establishment of an ASEAN Senior Officials on Fisheries (ASOFi) during the 20th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in June 2012, which could serve as link between SEAFDEC and the ASEAN. However, since the proposal did not obtain much support from the ASEAN Member States, the Council Director for Indonesia strongly recommended that extra efforts must be exercised by Member Countries so that issues on fisheries are appropriately addressed in AMAF meetings.

35. The Council Director for Myanmar mentioned that the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP Meeting is an appropriate venue to identify critical issues to be raised to ASEAN and SEAFDEC. The Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar therefore reiterated that the enhanced participation of SEAFDEC in ASWGFi Meetings is important for the implementation of ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative activities.

36. The Council Director for Japan expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for the conduct of activities under the programs of the FCG/ASSP. He recommended that SEAFDEC should increase its technical involvement in the ASEAN in order that fisheries issues could be properly reflected in ASEAN fora.

37. The Council Director for Malaysia provided updated information on the project on the Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* of South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand to be supported by UNEP/GEF. He mentioned that Malaysia has already issued the endorsement letter to formalize the country's intended participation in the project. At this juncture, Malaysia encouraged the other Member Countries to facilitate and expedite the process of obtaining the endorsement letters from agencies in charge of this concern in their respective countries.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

5.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions Addressed at the CITES-CoP16

38. The Council took note of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions Addressed at the CITES-CoP16 on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices and the proposed amendment of the rule of procedure on secret balloting, as well as the results of the CITES-CoP16 held from 3 to 14 March 2013 (**Annex 8**), as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

39. In conjunction with implementation at the CITES-CoP16 of the decisions on sharks and possible listing of other shark species in the forthcoming CoPs, the Council Director for Indonesia informed the Meeting that the National Symposium on Shark Conservation was organized in Jakarta, Indonesia on 19 March 2013. As matters related to CITES-CoP are the concern of the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia, he expressed the need to support Indonesia's capacity building for the establishment of the Indonesian Management Authority for aquatic flora and fauna.

40. The Council Director for Japan appreciated the efforts of SEAFDEC and SEAFDEC Member Countries on the preparatory works for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation on Common/Coordinated Position of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) at the CITES-CoP16, and informed the Meeting that Japan intends to continue its support to the Member Countries through workshops and consultations to be conducted by SEAFDEC, which would focus on shark resources and their conservation in order to obtain scientific evidence of the status of stocks of sharks. He added that when an aquatic species is listed in Appendix II, trading of such species would require scientific evidence to justify the quota as well as the development of non-detrimental findings (NDF), which is extremely difficult for developing countries to undertake. He also recommended that SEAFDEC should closely cooperate with FAO and relevant organizations in jointly addressing the CITES issues, and that FAO should consider not only in developing scientific advice but also raising

practical and general problems associated with CITES listings of aquatic species such as the NDF, and the inertial nature of CITES decisions, *i.e.* once listed will never be delisted.

41. The Council Director for Vietnam recommended that ASEAN and SEAFDEC should consider developing a mechanism for the establishment of only one ASEAN Common Position for the CITES-CoPs, and sustaining the platform for enhanced cooperation in the development of one ASEAN voice that could be raised during international fora. He added that Member Countries should heed to the period allotted to assess the issues and proposals, and develop common positions on respective issues, and subsequently obtain the approval of AMAF. In addition, as several shark species have already been listed in the Appendices of CITES, countries in the region with support from SEAFDEC should put in place their respective national plans for the conservation and management of sharks.

42. The Council Director of Japan echoed the importance of presenting a common position as unanimous ASEAN voice in CITES and also suggested the same approach could possibly be adopted for other international fora of common interests, such as tuna RFMOs.

43. The Council Director for Myanmar commended SEAFDEC for organizing the Regional Consultation on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions on the Proposed Listing of CEAS into the CITES Appendices, as it served as an avenue for enhancing the collaboration and strengthened coordination among the Member Countries. In this connection, he requested SEAFDEC to exert continued support for similar activities in the future.

44. The Council Director for Malaysia informed the Meeting that in the wake of the recent development at the CITES-CoP16, in particular the pledge of EU to provide funding for capacity building in activities related to the listing of marine species in the CITES Appendices, SEAFDEC should seize the opportunity to utilize the said funding for the benefit of the region. He added that such activities could focus on shark-related studies particularly on taxonomy, NDF and in updating the information on marketing of shark products in the region.

5.2 Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR): A Tool to Combat the IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region

45. The Council was informed by the SEAFDEC Training Department on the proposed establishment of Regional Record of Fishing Vessels 24 Meters in Length and Over in the Southeast Asian Region (**Annex 9**), which aims to support the efforts in combating IUU fishing within national jurisdictions. In this connection, the Member Countries were encouraged to share with SEAFDEC the minimum data requirements on fishing vessels for the establishment of a Regional Database of Fishing Vessels at SEAFDEC/TD.

46. While supporting in principle the development of Regional Record of Fishing Vessels 24 Meters in Length and Over in the Southeast Asian region as these would contribute to the regional efforts in combating IUU fishing, as well as the development of database on fishing vessels, the Council however expressed the following concerns:

- The requirements of RFVR to be established by SEAFDEC should be in line with those of the FAO Global Record (GR) of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, and should be simple enough to minimize the burden of Member Countries in providing the necessary information to SEAFDEC;
- Strategies should be promoted to encourage the registration of vessels since this will form basis for development of the vessel record, *e.g.* providing certain incentives for registration of fishing vessels;
- A clear rationale should be advocated on how the RFVR, once established, could be mobilized to support the efforts to combat IUU fishing, *e.g.* implementation in conjunction with other initiatives aimed at combating IUU fishing such as catch certification, and so on; and



- Measures to maintain confidentiality in sharing of information through the database should be carefully considered.

47. The Council Director for Indonesia expressed the concern on the measurement used for the RFVR considering that fishing vessels of Indonesia are measured in terms of “Gross Tonnage” and not in “Length Overall in Meters”. Just like in Vietnam where capacity building was conducted by SEAFDEC Training Department to convert vessel measurement in “Horse Power” into “Meters”, he therefore requested that SEAFDEC/TD could consider extending technical support to Indonesia for the conversion of vessel measurement from gross tonnage into meters.

48. The Council Director for Vietnam expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for extending technical support through the conduct of the On-site Training on Optimizing Energy and Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Vessels from 19 to 21 March 2013 in Da Nang, Vietnam, but raised the concern on the difficulty of applying the technologies on-board fishing vessels particularly at sea. While supporting the development of a database for fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over, he requested SEAFDEC to also consider in the future incorporating vessels less than 24 meters in length in the database and for SEAFDEC to develop a structure on how the database could contribute to the initiatives of the RPOA-IUU in combating IUU fishing in the region.

49. The Council Director for Vietnam also recommended that SEAFDEC should come up with a roadmap for the establishment of the RFVR, starting with fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over, and later on to include the compilation of other relevant data, *e.g.* production, as well as vessels smaller than 24 meters. The Council Director for Japan added that whatever unit of measurement used in the RFVR does not actually matter because what is important is for the fishing vessels to be legally recognized as means of combating IUU fishing, and should show the legitimate nature of the catches under traceability and certification requirements. He stated that RFVR over 24 meters should be considered as the first step for developing one element in the total framework to ensure the sustainability of fisheries in the ASEAN countries.

50. The Council Director for Malaysia supported the development of Regional Record of Fishing Vessel of 24 Meters in Length and Over in the ASEAN Region. Malaysia views that this regional approach is a step forward a long-term effort to combat IUU fishing in the region and that the Government of Malaysia is ready to share minimum requirement as data under the proposed mechanism. Notwithstanding that, the Council Director for Malaysia urged that the technicality part and confidentiality of data be adequately addressed before executing the project. At this juncture, Malaysia proposes that SEAFDEC could consider pursuing the matter to the ASWGFi and thereafter to higher ASEAN bodies (*i.e.* SOM-AMAF & AMAF) to attain high level endorsement.

51. The Council Directors for Thailand, Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia expressed concerns on their respective countries’ national structures since registration of fishing vessels is under the responsibility of other agencies or under another Ministry, which could result in difficulties for providing inputs into the data based on the minimum requirements of RFVR. The Council Director for Japan therefore recommended that the title of the database could be modified into “Regional Authorized Fishing Vessel Record” to facilitate compliance by respective national agencies responsible for fisheries in providing the necessary data. Meanwhile, the Council Director for Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to provide technical assistance for Myanmar to be able to provide the necessary information into the database especially with regards to the minimum requirements.

52. In conclusion, while endorsing in principle the development of the RFVR and database on fishing vessels in Southeast Asia, the Council recommended that the proposal should be conveyed to the higher authorities of the ASEAN through the ASWGFi and subsequently to the SOM-AMAF and AMAF for consideration and policy support.

5.3 Conceptual Note on Development of the ASEAN Catch Certification

53. The Council took note of the proposed Conceptual Note on the Development of the ASEAN Catch Certification (**Annex 10**) presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, based on the recommendations made during the Thirteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) on 3-4 December 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

54. While noting that the development of ASEAN Catch Certification scheme could facilitate intra-regional trade of fisheries products in the Southeast Asian region, the Council Members raised several concerns and suggestions that are expounded in the subsequent paragraphs.

55. The Council Director for Vietnam considered that the development of ASEAN Catch Certification is necessary not only for improving intra-regional trade but also for trading with other regions which requires compliance with relevant international and regional catch certification schemes. This is therefore the right and opportune time to put this issue forward considering that several free trade agreements in the region would be put into effect, *e.g.* the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) of which although still under negotiation includes the factor of the Country of Origin included in the fishery products, as one of the main concerns.

56. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Meeting that his country is now adopting a Catch Certification scheme to enable it to export fishery products to the EU Countries directly or indirectly. In this regard, he expressed the support for the development of an ASEAN Catch Certification to enhance the cooperation among the ASEAN Member States in intra-regional and international trade, and recommended that the scheme should be in line with the certification requirements of prospective importing countries, *e.g.* EU Countries. He also recommended that SEAFDEC could consider inviting representatives and relevant officials from importing countries in its future relevant discussions as this would be a more effective means of developing the regional certification scheme.

57. The Council Director for Cambodia cited that in order to export marine fishery products to the EU, the exporting countries must comply with its catch certification based on the EC Regulation 1005/2008. He recalled that this issue was raised in the previous meeting of SOM-AMAF and that several countries have already implemented the EC Catch Certification Scheme. He therefore encouraged the SEAFDEC Secretariat to discuss this proposal with relevant organizations that deals with catch certification in order to avoid duplication of efforts. In addition, the Council Director for Vietnam cited that this regional exercise needs more discussion with experts from within and outside the region, and recommended that this Concept Note may be considered as the first step in developing the ASEAN Catch Certification which should be acceptable by all parties.

58. The Council Director for Japan raised his concern on the credibility of the proposed regional certification as well as on the nature of the certificate which should be user-friendly in order that stakeholders including local fishers would be able to comply with easily. He therefore recommended that a balance between credibility with the world market and being a user-friendly certificate should be taken into account in the development of the ASEAN Catch Certificate.

59. While seeking clarification on whether the proposed catch certification for the ASEAN would be common for intra-regional trade or applicable for trading in other parts of the world, the Council Director for Indonesia raised the concern on the existence of several certificates which could lead to duplications. He then recommended that such ASEAN Catch Certificate should be made acceptable to importing countries both inside and outside the ASEAN.

60. Meanwhile, the Council Director for Malaysia expressed his support in principle, for the development of the ASEAN Catch Certification, and recommended that such initiative should be brought to the ASWGFi to obtain high level endorsement under the ASEAN mechanism.



61. While recognizing the concerns raised by Member Countries, the Council Director for Singapore emphasized the importance of timely development of a common catch certification system for the region. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Meeting that in developing a catch certification scheme, two main objectives should be taken into consideration, namely: 1) to export fishery products to the EU; and 2) to develop catch certification to combat IUU fishing. Since many countries in the region had been negotiating with the EU for approval of their respective national catch certification schemes as well as the authorized agencies to issue such national schemes, and in order to push this issue forward, ASEAN should consider convening consultations with the EU on this issue to discuss whether the proposed regional scheme would be acceptable to the EU in order that the development of the ASEAN Catch Certificate could move forward. Nevertheless, the Council was informed that the process for negotiations conducted by individual countries with the EU on catch certification was initiated before the EC regulations took into effect in January 2010 when development of a common Catch Certification for the ASEAN was still undergoing development processes.

5.4 Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Waters

62. The Council took note of the proposal on Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Waters (**Annex 11**) as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The Council also noted the status of tuna exploitation in the Southeast Asian Region from 2001-2010 based on the analysis undertaken by SEAFDEC and the proposed regional cooperation.

63. The Council Director for Indonesia, while expressing appreciation to the initiative for sustainable tuna fisheries management and considering that Indonesia is one of the largest tuna producers in the region, informed the Meeting that Indonesia had established a Tuna Observation Institute in Bali since 1990 for the Indian Ocean, while the establishment of another two centers in Bintung for the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea and in Padang for West Sumatra is still ongoing. He added that Indonesia is also a full member to two Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), namely: the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), while its membership to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is in the process of internal discussion for subsequent ratification, while the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission has already been approached for Indonesia to become a non-contracting party to the said Commission. He added that several requirements and information need to be reported to these RFMOs.

64. While supporting the collaboration among the ASEAN Member States on tuna fisheries management which is beneficial for the region, the Council Director for Indonesia expressed the view that the ASEAN Member States should continue working closely with existing RFMOs, rather than establishing another new fisheries management framework for the region. He also informed the Council that Indonesia has been undertaking a national tuna stock assessment program since early 2000s, and offered to share its expertise on tuna stock assessment with other countries in the region.

65. The Council Director for Vietnam informed the Meeting that Vietnam hosted the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Tuna Working Group Meeting in Nha Trang, from 28 to 30 August 2012 with the participation of representatives from the tuna fisheries associations, capture and processing sectors and exporters, but had limited participation from government offices. While noting that the meeting aimed to develop/promote the ASEAN ecolabel of tuna fisheries products, he expressed the concern that the said meeting should have involved not only the private sector but also government agencies responsible for fisheries. He supported in principle the proposal made by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, but emphasized on the need to conduct common surveys of tuna fishery resources in the region, which should be discussed whether such activities should be undertaken under the SEAFDEC framework.

66. The Council Director for Japan expressed the view that the management of oceanic tuna is already covered by RFMOs, and thus no extra benefit could be derived from having a new management framework for the oceanic tuna. However, regional cooperation could focus on neritic tunas which are commonly found in the Southeast Asian waters. In addition, as several countries in the region are large tuna producers (*e.g.* Indonesia and Philippines) and processors (*e.g.* Thailand), Japan recommended that regional cooperation among the Member Countries should be undertaken in coordination with WCPFC or under the WCPFC management framework. The Council Director for Japan also emphasized the importance of tuna stock assessment, and offered opportunities for scientists from countries in the region to be involved in the joint research works of Japan to enhance their capacity and expertise on this matter.

67. The Council Director for Thailand supported the proposal considering that this would signify the commitment of countries in the region to RFMOs and other importing countries, to promote conservation and management for sustainable tuna fisheries. He identified some activities that should be undertaken to demonstrate such strong commitment of the countries in the region, *e.g.* conduct of tuna stock assessment, adopt traceability and catch certification, and recommended that these should be packaged in a form of “Plan of Action” in order to come up with tangible results.

68. The Council Director for the Philippines, while expressing support to the proposal, informed the Council that the Philippines has established a Working Group on tuna stock assessment and has undertaken measures to comply with the requirements of WCPFC for exploiting the tuna stocks in the high seas Pocket 1 fishing area. He also informed the Meeting that Philippines is developing its National Plan of Action for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing that covers management measures such as catch certification and MCS. In this connection, he requested SEAFDEC to conduct capacity building activities, particularly in species identification of juvenile tunas especially yellowfin and bigeye tunas, as well as in improving fish handling techniques onboard tuna handline vessels. He also supported the planned joint research programs on tuna stock assessment to be implemented in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea.

69. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam recommended that SEAFDEC should also avoid duplicating the efforts of other tuna management working groups at national level such as in Indonesia and the Philippines.

70. The Council Director for Singapore while commending the initiatives of SEAFDEC considering their relevance to the region viewed that this project has very close linkage with the development of the ASEAN Catch Certification. He therefore recommended that the concept proposal on the catch certification with more detailed activities should be developed to focus first on tuna and to surface this to the ASWGFi and higher authorities of ASEAN for consideration and policy support.

71. After the discussion and deliberation, the Council supported the concept proposal with a note that the initiative would not lead to creation of new tuna management mechanism in the region. The Council also recommended that the SEAFDEC Secretariat should develop a draft plan of action under the regional collaboration, to include efforts in enhancing traceability, development of tuna catch certification scheme, conduct of joint stock assessment, and combating IUU fishing in tuna fisheries.

5.5 Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade in the Southeast Asian Region and CTI-CFF Member Countries

72. The Council took note of the outputs of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Inter-governmental Forum on Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade in the Southeast Asian Region and CTI-CFF Member Countries (**Annex 12**) organized from 31 January to 1 February 2013 in Bangkok, which particularly concerns Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines as CTI-CFF Member Countries as well as Vietnam. The Council also noted the



Resolution on Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) for the Southeast Asian Region and CTI-CFF Member Countries, which was developed during the meeting, and that SEAFDEC had been requested to serve as Interim Secretariat to implement the said Resolution.

73. While expressing support to the results of the said Inter-governmental Forum, the Council Director for Indonesia informed the Meeting that as a follow-up, a national meeting on live reef food fish trade was convened in Indonesia which was attended by central and local governments and live reef food fish traders, which agreed to establish a national forum on live reef food fish trade. He expressed the hope that the other Member Countries could consider conducting a similar forum.

74. The Council Director for Vietnam also supported the development of the Resolution on Sustainable LRFFT and the proposal to have SEAFDEC serve as Interim Secretariat to implement the Resolution of the said Forum. The Council Director for the Philippines also fully supported this initiative and for SEAFDEC to serve as Interim Secretariat for the LRFFT Regional Forum.

75. Although Thailand is not involved in the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Council Director for Thailand requested that lessons learned from this initiative should be shared with the other Member Countries, and fishing methods that could balance fisheries production and the need to sustain livelihoods in local fishing communities and food security should be promoted.

76. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the Resolution and authorized SEAFDEC to be the Interim Secretariat for the LRFFT Regional Forum, and for SEAFDEC to enter into collaborative arrangement with the CTI-CFF in order to formalize future cooperation.

VI. Other Matters

6.1 Progress of the Establishment of a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia

77. The Council took note of the progress on the establishment of Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia (**Annex 13**), which was undertaken in response to the directives given by the SEAFDEC Council during its 44th Meeting in 2012.

78. The Council was informed that the Government of Indonesia has officially named the said Regional Center as the “Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)” and that the Meeting of the Working Group on the Establishment of IFRDMD was organized by SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia in Palembang on 24-25 January 2013, to discuss the plan of operation, functions and program of work of IFRDMD. The Council was also informed that during the subsequent SEAFDEC Inter-departmental Meeting on 2 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand to discuss the plans of operation of the existing SEAFDEC Departments, the Draft Plan of Operation and Program of Work of the new Department was discussed to ensure demarcation of functions and responsibilities. Taking into consideration the discussion at these two meetings, Indonesia was requested to finalize the Draft Plan of Operation and Program of Work of IFRDMD for consideration by the Council during its 45th Meeting.

79. The Council Director for Cambodia expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC and Indonesia for the support extended for the establishment of the new SEAFDEC Department which will work specifically on inland fisheries, and looked forward to having more activities on inland fisheries to be implemented by SEAFDEC in the future. He recommended that the activities of the new Department should be conducted in close cooperation with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Fisheries Programme as well as with national agencies/institutions on inland fisheries in the respective Member Countries in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

80. The Council Directors for Lao PDR and Myanmar also expressed their support on the establishment of the new Department, and recommended that duplication of the activities to be implemented under this new Department and other organizations and institutions, should be avoided.

81. The Council Director for Thailand reiterated the importance of inland fisheries particularly its contribution to food security and livelihood of people in the region, and expressed the view that the new Department should undertake activities that address common issues in the regional perspective.

82. In response to the query of the Council Director for Thailand on the responsibility of the Government of Indonesia with respect to the establishment of IFRDMD, the Council Director for Indonesia clarified that similar to the set-up of other SEAFDEC Departments, the Government of Indonesia would be responsible for providing infrastructures and support to the operations and staff of the new Department. In addition, Indonesia is also in the process of sourcing financial support from potential donors for the implementation of the programs and projects of IFRDMD.

83. The Secretary-General explained that the Working Group Meeting which was held in January 2013 involved the Special Departmental Coordinators of respective SEAFDEC Departments, representatives from MRC Fisheries Programme and Living Aquatic Resources Research Center (LARReC) of Lao PDR as well as an expert in freshwater fisheries, who discussed the scope of work for the new Department ensuring that duplication of works with existing SEAFDEC Departments as well as with other organizations and institutions is avoided.

84. The Council Director for Japan informed the Meeting that the Government of Japan had already started efforts to increase funds to support the activities of the new Department through its Japanese Trust Fund. The Council Director for Vietnam also requested that efforts should be taken by SEAFDEC and the new Department to explore funding from other potential donors to ensure that sufficient resources would be available to support the activities of the new Department.

6.2 ASEAN Fisheries Conference and ASEAN Seafood Exposition

85. The representative from Thailand informed the Meeting on the planned organization of the ASEAN Fisheries Conference and ASEAN Seafood Exposition in March 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand with the objectives of: 1) sharing information and experiences on aquaculture among scientists/experts from all regions; 2) discussing research and development on best practices and technology; and 3) exchanging information on global fisheries markets. While the Exposition aims to promote the ASEAN fisheries products and advances of ASEAN fishery industries to buyers, importers and consumers, as well as to provide business matching program among exhibitors and importers to increase the foreign trade of the ASEAN Member States' fishery industry, it was proposed that SEAFDEC could serve as co-organizer of the Conference and Exposition. The proposed plan for the events appears as **Annex 14**.

86. Concerned about the adequate time needed for the preparation of the Conference, the Council Director for Vietnam recommended that Thailand should publicize the available information in the ASEAN and SEAFDEC websites. He also recommended that invitation should be extended to local fisheries associations in the Member Countries in order that small-scale fishers could raise their concerns during such events and that invitation should also be extended to African countries and other Asian countries where lessons learned could be exchanged. Invitation could also be extended to the European Union as a major importing region of fishery products from Southeast Asia.

87. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Meeting that this kind of Conference could be organized on a regular basis, *e.g.* every two or three years in conjunction with trade shows to encourage business sectors to attend such events, and could be hosted by other Member Countries. He also cited that in addition to marine products, freshwater fishery products would also be included in these events to showcase the region's readiness to be declared as the Major fisheries producer of the



world. He added that for the ASEAN side, the plan would be submitted to ASWGFi and subsequently to SOM-AMAF and AMAF for consideration. While noting the comments made by the Council Director for Vietnam, the Council Director for Thailand informed the Meeting that the Department of Fisheries of Thailand will work closely with SEAFDEC in order to avoid duplicating the essence that was put forward during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2011.

88. In this regard, the Council Director for Japan informed the Meeting that Japan is willing to take part in these events to promote its fishery products in foreign markets especially after the tsunami in March 2011, and regain the confidence of consumers on the safety of fishery products of Japan.

89. In addition, the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam recommended that Thailand and SEAFDEC should consider establishing a small working group to plan the activities in order to address the issues raised by the Council for the organization of such events. The Council Director for Vietnam recommended that a focus should not be given to fishery products solely, and that fishers should also be involved during the Conference.

90. The Council Director for Indonesia welcomed the initiative of Thailand and suggested that the name of the event could be changed to ASEAN Seafood Conference and Exposition.

91. While noting the comments made by the Council, the Meeting agreed that Thailand should submit this proposed plan to higher authorities of the ASEAN.

6.3 Asia Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth

92. The Council noted the conduct of the “Asia Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth” by the Government of Indonesia in cooperation with the Netherlands Government and the World Bank on 18-21 June 2013 at Grand Hyatt Bali (**Annex 15**). The Council also noted the objectives which are: to address the major challenges especially in regional Asia, the required concerted efforts through collaboration, innovation and partnerships and linking policy, investment, internationally fair trade and private contribution to blue economy approach, to sustainability and blue growth; and to determine effective strategies and draw up an Asian Roadmap to promote smart climate change adaptations in ensuring productivity, sustainability and resiliency of oceans-supported food supply as driver of sustainable economic development and blue growth.

93. While expressing support for the conduct of the said Asia Conference, the Council Director for Thailand inquired whether the outcomes of the Conference would be submitted to the Global Summit Conference either on behalf of ASEAN Member States or the Conference itself. The Council Director for Indonesia clarified that the results of the Conference would be made part of the Global Summit Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth to be organized on 9-13 September 2013 in the Hague in order that concern from the Asian countries could be raised through this forum. He added that the Council Directors for the SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as SEAFDEC would be invited to participate in the Asia Conference.

VII. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

94. The representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Mr. Weimin Miao* expressed his gratitude for the invitation extended to FAO, and to SEAFDEC for the continued support on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as the reduction of by-catch and discard program. He cited that the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) established by FAO expressed sincere gratitude to SEAFDEC for the involvement in its 32nd Session as well as the 4th Regional Consultative Forum convened in 2012 and thus he stressed that the strong cooperation between the two agencies should be continued. He added that FAO would look forward to collaborating with SEAFDEC on the areas of by-catch reduction, ecosystem approach to fisheries especially the training course on this aspect. He informed the Meeting

that FAO planned to organize the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries and invited SEAFDEC to take part in such event. He also informed the Meeting that information on greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, forestry and other land uses are available on FAOSTAT and that FAO is willing to cooperate with SEAFDEC in the conduct of regional greenhouse gas emission research study in fisheries (**Annex 16**).

95. The representative from the Fisheries Programme of the Mekong River Commission, *Dr. So Nam*, informed the Meeting that the Programme is working with and helping its four Riparian Countries, namely; Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, in implementing sustainable fisheries management and development at local, national and regional levels to improve food security and nutrition, and to reduce poverty in the Mekong region. Although Myanmar and China are not members of MRC, they are dialogue partners for data and information exchange. He cited that the SEAFDEC's 35 programmes implemented in 2012 and 30 programmes planned for 2013 do not focus on freshwater environments, therefore, MRC is willing to propose the possible future cooperation with SEAFDEC and its Member Countries in three key activities: (1) Value and valuation of inland fisheries resources; (2) Impact mitigation measures of water development projects, including hydropower dams and irrigation schemes, *e.g.* fish passage; and (3) Exchange of data, information and knowledge on inland fisheries research, development and management, especially with Indonesia which has already planned to establish the new department for inland fisheries under SEAFDEC umbrella. Finally, he thanked SEAFDEC for inviting the MRC Fisheries Programme to participate in the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. His statement appears as **Annex 17**.

96. The Representative from the United States Coral Triangle Initiative (USCTI) Support Program, *Mr. Rene Acosta* expressed his appreciation for the invitation extended by SEAFDEC, and to BFAR for the excellent arrangement and the hospitality during the Council Meeting in Cebu City, Philippines. He gave a brief overview of the USCTI representing the US Government's collective support to the Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF). The USCTI works at national level with fisheries and environment ministries of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines which are also ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. In addition to the recently concluded "Inter-governmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade" (LRFFT) co-hosted by the CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC Secretariats, the USCTI has an ongoing regional collaboration with SEAFDEC and FAO to develop the EAFM Training Curriculum with potential for replication in the ASEAN Member States. In this light, the USCTI is looking forward to addressing sustainability and management issues concerning LRFFT in the Southeast Asian and the Coral Triangle regions (**Annex 18**).

97. The representative from the WorldFish Center, *Dr. Enrique M. Avila* expressed his appreciation for the invitation extended by SEAFDEC, and to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Philippines. He informed the Meeting that the WorldFish Center started implementing new programs funded by Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) such as the Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural System which is dedicated to reducing rural poverty, increasing food security, improving human health and nutrition, and ensuring more sustainable management of natural resources. In 2013, the WorldFish Center started to implement new program activities in the Philippines, Cambodia and Solomon Islands. He reiterated that the collaboration between SEAFDEC and the WorldFish Center could be an opportunity for both organizations to discuss issues and considerations in the sustainable fisheries development as well as in developing and promoting responsible fisheries for poverty alleviation and food security, which will help uplift the living standards in fishing communities in the SEAFDEC Member Countries.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC

98. The Council raised the concern on the seemingly fragmented projects and activities implemented by SEAFDEC, and recommended that such projects and activities should be grouped into umbrella programs based on the approved SEAFDEC Program Thrusts in order that meaningful and concrete impacts could be achieved and reflected for each Program Thrust, and ensure that the



impacts led to the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. The Council added that the projects and activities under each Program Thrust should be prioritized taking into consideration the available resources in SEAFDEC. Moreover, SEAFDEC should continue to exert efforts to raise its visibility, as well as ensure that the programs of SEAFDEC serve the priorities and requirements of the ASEAN Member States specifically ensuring the sustainability of fisheries in the region. Furthermore, SEAFDEC should consider enhancing the capacity of its existing staff to enable them to catch up with the advances in fisheries management and the international collective efforts being undertaken for sustainable fisheries.

IX. THE THIRD SEAFDEC REVIEW

99. The Council took note of the report presented by the Chairperson of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee which appears as **Annex 19**. It was recalled that the Council at its 44th Meeting agreed in principle to conduct the Third SEAFDEC Review by an external entity. The Third SEAFDEC Review was therefore conducted in line with the Terms of Reference (TOR) as subsequently approved by the Council, through circulation.

100. After the deliberation, the Council agreed to bring back the Report of the Third Review to their respective countries for further scrutiny. The Council also requested SEAFDEC to organize a Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council by October 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss the recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review. The Council also recommended that SEAFDEC should provide information on the financial implications of the Review Committee's recommendations as well as their implications on the possibility of amending the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC and cost benefit analysis of the organization for further consideration and discussion during the said meeting. In this regard, SEAFDEC was requested to communicate with the Member Countries and confirm the date of the Meeting taking into consideration the schedule of related events such as those of IOTC, WCPFC, and AMAF among others, to ensure that the Council Directors are available to attend the Meeting.

101. The Council Director for Japan notified the Council of his intention to send questions and requests for information to the SEAFDEC Secretariat for seeking clarification of the financial situation and the program consequences so that a review of the recommendations would be conducted efficiently and constructively. The exchange of information in this regard will be circulated among all the Council Directors for review.

X. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER

10.1 Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)

102. The Council took note of the Member Countries' endorsement on the adjustment of the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) to SEAFDEC, including the responses of Member Countries with respect to the new MRC, which was presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat as shown in **Annex 20**.

103. The Council Director for the Philippines informed the Meeting that the country had already prepared the payment based on the new MRC. The Council Director for Cambodia also supported in principle the new MRC however there is still a need to justify the said increased MRC by 2014 with its internal agency responsible for budgetary allocations. The Council Director for Lao PDR also expressed support for the new MRC and informed the Council that Lao PDR is in the process of transferring the MRC to SEAFDEC.

104. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Meeting that his country has committed to adopt the new MRC starting in 2013. Since initial payment was already made based on the previous MRC, the remaining balance based on the new MRC would be paid later this year considering the country's budgetary fiscal year.

105. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the Meeting on the difficulties in negotiating with its Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the increased MRC to SEAFDEC since the country has been paying membership fees to international and regional organizations working on fisheries. He therefore recommended that SEAFDEC could consider providing assistance to justify the calculation for the increased MRC which was based on the GDP from fisheries so that the significance of fisheries sector would have more weight during the internal negotiations. As the new MRC would be applied for Indonesia in 2014, he requested SEAFDEC to also take into account the establishment of new department in Indonesia should be duly considered.

106. The Council Director for Vietnam informed the Meeting that due to the country's financial difficulties, negative response was received when working with the Ministry of Finance, with respect to the proposal on the new MRC. He also informed the Meeting that Vietnam had already paid its MRC to SEAFDEC based on the previous rate. However, he will convince the government and internally negotiate with the Ministry of Finance for the new MRC rate to put into effect in 2014.

107. The Council Director for Singapore reiterated the directives given by the Council during its annual meeting in 2010 that the adjustment of the MRC should be based on the principle and formula as previously agreed in 2007. On the observation made with regards to the table calculating the new proposed MRC which had an additional column on special adjustment factor which was absent in the 2007 formula, it was clarified that the special adjustment factor is necessary to come up with the new figures of MRC for all countries under the new MRC. While the Council noted that the column on special adjustment factor would be retained in the calculation table for future adjustment of the MRC, the Council Director for Singapore added that this was an issue of good corporate governance. He reminded the SEAFDEC Secretariat to seek the Council's endorsement for any changes to the MRC formula and to also include it in the Financial Regulations of SEAFDEC.

10.2 Proposed Revision of Plans of Operation (Functions) and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments

108. The Council was informed on the effort of SEAFDEC to update their respective Plans of Operation particularly on "Functions and Programs of Work" of SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat (**Annex 21**), which aim to provide guidance to SEAFDEC Secretariat and Department in the formulation and implementation of their respective programs of activities in response to the changing fisheries situation, taking into consideration the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, and in light of the establishment of the new SEAFDEC Department in Indonesia to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts among the Departments. The Council however recommended that discussion on this matter should be postponed, and requested the Secretariat and Departments to take into consideration the recommendations from the Third SEAFDEC Review in order to come up with revised functions and programs of work for discussion in the future.

109. However, the Council deemed it necessary to postpone the discussions on this matter due to pending final consideration of the Council on the recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review. Therefore, this aspect would be made part of the agenda for the Special Council Meeting in October 2013.

10.3 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations

110. The Council took note of the collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations between 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (**Annex 22**), and approved the collaboration with various organizations, namely: the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR); Century Marine Products SDN. BHD. (Malaysia); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Application (ISAAA); Institute National des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (INTECHMER, France); Philippines Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI);



Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN); Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); University of the Sunshine Coast; and with the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), which is still under negotiation.

111. While noting that SEAFDEC has recently been discussing and negotiating with several donors for possible collaboration in SEAFDEC activities, and that prospective donors have expressed their interests in the activities of SEAFDEC, the Council agreed to the proposal for the attendance of potential donors as observers in the annual Meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and Council.

10.4 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels

112. The Council was informed on the progress of the activities undertaken by the SEAFDEC Training Department with regards to the use of Research Vessels in 2012, and on the proposed plan for the year 2013 and onwards (**Annex 23a**). In addition, the Council was informed by the SEAFDEC Training Department on the proposed revision of the Cost-sharing Policy for the Use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

113. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the plan of operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the year 2013, and the Revised Guidelines on the Cost-sharing Policy for the Operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 (**Annex 23b**).

114. With regards to data sharing, the Council agreed that some basic data collected onboard during the survey should be shared with SEAFDEC/TD. The data to be shared should be finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey between the requesting country and SEAFDEC. Such basic data will be kept confidential and to be used only for the SEAFDEC regional database and for future regional analysis.

115. On the proposed modification of the cost-sharing policy for countries requesting for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the Council expressed apprehension that the Member Countries might not be able to shoulder the increased costs as proposed by SEAFDEC considering the difficulties in the internal negotiations with the respective national budget agencies of the countries.

10.5 Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC

116. It was recalled that during its 39th Meeting in 2007, the Council approved the proposal and endorsed the Post-harvest Technology Centre (PHTC) of Singapore as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC. In this regard, Singapore drafted the Guidelines for the establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC, and in 2007 requested SEAFDEC to circulate the draft Guidelines to the Member Countries and seek consideration and approval of the Council. Since there was no discussion on the guidelines until the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2012 when the issue was again raised by the Council Director for Singapore, the SEAFDEC Secretariat retrieved the aforesaid draft Guidelines for circulation to the Member Countries to seek their views on the Guidelines for discussion during the 35th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in November 2012.

117. In this connection, the Council took note of the views of the Member Countries and the Proposal on the Revision of the Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC which was presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat (**Annex 24**).

118. The Council Director for Indonesia reminded his country's concern which was expressed on Paragraph 13 of the first draft in 2007 developed by Singapore as well as the obligations and rights of the collaborating centers. He then re-emphasized that such concern should be properly addressed in the revised draft.

119. The Council Director for Singapore said it was important for the Council to understand the circumstances under which the Collaborating Centre was established in Singapore in 2007 to take over the activities of the MFRD. He said that following the withdrawal of the Deputy Chief and experts from Japan and also the cessation of funding from Japan to the MFRD in 2007, the MFRD could not continue to exist based on the SEAFDEC Agreement. It was an issue of respect for the SEAFDEC Agreement. Singapore thanked the Government of Japan's support to MFRD over the years and fully appreciated its constraints. In order to ensure no disruption to fisheries post-harvest programmes and activities committed under MFRD, Singapore had proposed for the Post-Harvest Centre of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore, as the Collaborating Centre to implement MFRD programmes and activities. This was endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council in 2007. Singapore had also drafted a set of guidelines in 2007 for the establishment of the collaborating centre. The Council Director for Singapore noted that at the PCM in November 2012 most of the Member Countries had no comments on the 2007 guidelines. There were some comments from Japan, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia which Singapore was agreeable to amend the 2007 Guidelines accordingly. However, Singapore was not comfortable with the new set of guidelines tabled by the Secretariat at the Council Meeting which included amendments not recommended by Member Countries at the PCM. These included reducing the collaborating centre to an observer role and for the collaborating centre to report to SEAFDEC through a SEAFDEC Department.

120. The Council agreed that the Post-Harvest Centre of Singapore, as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, could continue to operate under the umbrella of the draft Guidelines prepared by Singapore in 2007. The Council agreed to Singapore's proposal to amend paragraph 13 taking into consideration the comments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Japan comments, and circulate the amended Guidelines to the Council for approval by *ad referendum*. Moreover, the Council also agreed to take a closer look at the relevant recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee which could be used for the possible revision of the original draft Guidelines.

XI. FINANCIAL MATTERS

11.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2011

121. In accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 2 (ii) of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Council endorsed the audited consolidated financial statement of the Center for the year ended 31 December 2011 including that of the Secretariat and the three Departments for the Year 2011 (**Annex 25**) as audited by the official auditors of the Center, *Mr. Phongtorn Duangphanya* from P&A Audit Company Ltd.

11.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2012, and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2013

122. The Council took note of the Un-audited Consolidated Financial Report for the Year 2012, which comprised the Un-audited Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2012, the Un-audited Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year 2012, and the Un-audited Fund Balance as of 31 December 2012 as presented by the Finance Officer of SEAFDEC. The Council also noted the Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2013, which includes the MRC in 2013 from the Member Countries and contributions from the Fisheries Agency through the Japanese Trust Fund program and Sida fund as well as other international organizations (**Annex 26**).

123. In addition, the Finance Officer of SEAFDEC informed the Meeting on the audit firms and contact persons for the SEAFDEC Financial Statements, namely: SEAFDEC Consolidated Financial Statement, SEAFDEC Secretariat Financial Statement, and SEAFDEC/TD Financial Statement for 2011-2013 by P&A Audit Company Ltd. (Auditor's name: *Mr. Phongtorn Duangphanya*); SEAFDEC/AQD for 2011-2013 by Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (Auditor's name: *Ms. Jessie D. Cabaluna*); and SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Financial Statement for 2011-2013 by Adib Azhar Co. (AF 1446) (Auditor's name: *Mr. Mohd Badaruddin Bin Ismail*).



11.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2014

124. While expressing satisfaction with the manner of budgetary utilization by SEAFDEC, the Council approved the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the Year 2014 presented by the Finance Officer of SEAFDEC, as shown in **Annex 27**.

11.4 Other Financial Matters

125. The Council agreed that for this Meeting, there were no other financial matters that need discussion.

XII. CONCLUDING MATTERS

12.1 Adoption of the Meeting Report and Press Statement

126. The Council adopted the Report of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Press Statement on the results of the Meeting as shown in **Annex 28** on 5 April 2013.

12.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

127. In considering the date and venue of the Forty-sixth Meeting of the Council, the Council Director for Singapore informed the Council that the Government of Singapore would accept the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in 2014. He added that the venue and date of the Meeting would be discussed internally and would be subsequently conveyed to the Member Countries through the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

128. The Council expressed its appreciation to the offer of Singapore to host the next Council Meeting in Singapore, and requested the Secretary-General to discuss with the Council Director for Singapore to finalize the exact date and venue of the next meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

12.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

129. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam, on behalf of the Council Directors expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for hosting and for the arrangements of this Forty-fifth Meeting of the Council. He congratulated the Chairperson of the Meeting for the successful conduct of the Meeting and his excellent Chairmanship that led the Meeting through difficult agenda straightforwardly. He also expressed his confidence that the Chairperson of the Council would be able to sail through easily in his tenureship, and especially in enhancing the collaboration of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries for the conduct of activities in line with their priorities as well as the directives of the Council. He thanked the people behind the scenes, the SEAFDEC Secretariat staff, the central and local staff of BFAR and other support staff for making the stay of the Council Directors in Cebu City very comfortable, and especially the interesting events and tours arranged for the participants and guests, as well as the sumptuous food served during the Meeting. He ended his Vote of Thanks with the common Philippine acknowledgment by saying: *Maraming Salamat Po!*

XIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

130. The Chairperson expressed his sincere gratitude to his fellow Council of Directors for their valuable inputs during the discussions and for their suggestions that led to concrete conclusions of the various agenda of the Meeting. He also thanked the Secretariat of the Meeting for their hard work which led to the success of the Meeting. With that note, he declared the Forty-fifth Meeting of the Council closed.

Annex 1

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WELCOME STATEMENT

*By Mr. Htun Win
on behalf of Mr. Khin Ko Lay
Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2012-2013*

Your Excellency Attorney Salvador S. Salacup, the Assistant Secretary for Fisheries of the Philippine Department of Agriculture;
Attorney Asis G. Perez, Director of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and SEAFDEC Council Director for the Philippines and host of this 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council;
Distinguished Council Directors of SEAFDEC;
Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC;
Mr. Hajime Kawamura, Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC;
Distinguished Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries;
Representatives from International and Regional Organizations;
Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;
Good Morning! Mingalar Bar!

It is with deep regrets that Mr. Khin Ko Lay is not able to attend this momentous Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. As some of you must be aware of, our country is still undergoing massive re-organization with our government system, and this has affected the position of the Director General for Fisheries, which Mr. Khin Ko Lay held until mid of March 2013. However, life must go on, so they say. So, I am here to represent the SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar and our country in this 45th Meeting of the Council. Now, please allow me to deliver this Welcome Statement which Mr. Khin Ko Lay prepared for this Meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to wish you a very good morning and to welcome all of you to this Opening Ceremonies of the 45th Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, in this beautiful City of Cebu, here in the Philippines.

On behalf therefore of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Republic of the Philippines through its Department of Agriculture for hosting this very important Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC. I would also wish to thank the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and also the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department for the warm hospitality and arrangements of this Meeting.

I would also like to thank all the Distinguished Council Directors, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and his team, country representatives, and delegates from our collaborating partners for attending this Meeting. Your continued assistance and ardent support during my term as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council from April 2012 to March 2013, made my burden that came with the responsibility very light. I hope that the same support or even more, be accorded to the next Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

After the adoption of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 in June 2011, regional cooperation in the fisheries sector has been gaining much momentum in our region. These instruments have been used by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries as framework for the programs and activities planned for 2012 onwards. Under this new paradigm, I am happy to announce that much progress had been made by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries after only one year of intensified efforts. In this connection,

as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2012 to 2013, I would therefore like to extol the initiatives of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries for elaborating and promoting the provisions of the Resolution and Plan of Action in our endeavors towards advancing the sustainable development of fisheries in our region.

We all recognize the continued efforts of SEAFDEC to support the Member Countries through its programs and activities, and for that we are indeed very grateful. For example, during the past years, the countries had been provided with increased opportunities to take part in regional discussions on critical fisheries-related issues that seem to hinder the sustainability of our fisheries sector. With technical and financial assistance from our other collaborating partners, especially the Fisheries Agency of Japan through its Trust Fund, SEAFDEC and ASEAN countries have been able to convey to the whole world our intention to safeguard regional interests and reveal the real situation of fisheries in our region, especially small-scale fisheries. Moreover, the Member Countries are also able to magnify the promotion of sustainable fisheries management and adoption of countermeasures to address illegal, unreported and unregulated or IUU fishing considering that such operation continues to jeopardize responsible fisheries operations and forestall all attempts to protect the aquatic environment. Furthermore, the countries have also been able to address the issues and concerns related to the emerging requirements in fish trade, which create impacts on the economies of the countries and on the sustainability of small-scale fisheries in our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, while before, most of the programs and activities were mainly centered on marine fisheries, I am happy to inform you that efforts have been made to expand the structure of SEAFDEC to cover inland fisheries development and management. We all recognize the significant contribution of inland fisheries to food security of our people in our region especially those in the rural areas. Such contribution could be enhanced when proper management measures are in place, and that would be the main role of the proposed new SEAFDEC Department to be hosted by Indonesia.

We also believe in the capability of SEAFDEC in terms of the technical aspects of fisheries development and management. As such, we would encourage SEAFDEC to strengthen its function as the technical arm of the ASEAN so that through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, the benefits that can be reaped by the countries from such partnership could be enhanced, while the activities of SEAFDEC could be aggressively promoted through the ASEAN mechanism. With such strengthened collaboration in fisheries development, SEAFDEC and the Member Countries could contribute our significant parts to the regional economic integration which the ASEAN hopes to achieve by 2015.

Just like in past meetings of the SEAFDEC Council, this 45th Meeting will also consider the future programs and activities of SEAFDEC that are meant for the sustainable development and management of fisheries in the region in accordance with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action. The continued guidance and support from the SEAFDEC Council would therefore pave the way for the advancement of fisheries for food security in the Southeast Asian region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We also recognize the efforts of SEAFDEC in pursuing the aspirations of the Member Countries to achieve sustainable fisheries and attain food security. We are therefore very thankful to the officers and staff of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Technical Departments, for through their dedication, hard work and perseverance, much progress has been attained by SEAFDEC which have now been recognized not only in the region but in the international arena as well.

Last but not least, we would like to reiterate our sincere gratitude to the officers and staff of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources through the avid leadership and guidance of Director Asis Perez, for the arrangements of this Meeting here in Cebu City.

Thank you once again, and Good Day to you all!

OPENING REMARKS

*By Mr. Salvador S. Salacup
Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing and Fisheries
of the Philippine Department of Agriculture*

Mr. Khin Ko Lay, the Current Chairman of SEAFDEC Council,
Distinguished Council Directors of the 11 Member Countries,
Atty. Asis G. Perez, Council Director for the Philippines and our very own National Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the Philippines – the host of this meeting,
Distinguished Representatives from the FAO,
Distinguished Guests and Delegates,
Good Morning!

Today, I am honored to represent the Philippine Secretary of the Department Agriculture, Proceso Alcala to grace the Opening Ceremony of the 45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting. This gathering is once again a great opportunity for the Member Countries to re-affirm their commitment in the pursuit of SEAFDEC's development goals.

Forty-six years ago, a group of countries in the Southeast Asian region cooperated in achieving a common goal. The goal was to increase food supply through intensive fisheries development.

This group of countries envisioned a stronger, more vibrant yet sustainable fishery industry that is capable of Meeting the dietary protein requirement of their people in Southeast Asia and beyond. The group saw the magnitude of research, training and exchange of technical knowledge as substantial strategies to fulfill this vision.

From the group's common goals and clear vision, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center or SEAFDEC was born. In 1967, four out of the current 11 Member Countries of SEAFDEC formally entered into a regional agreement establishing the center to serve as cooperation instrument in pursuing the growth of fisheries in the region.

The signing of agreement was the start of the several milestones which took place after the formal cooperation. The Training Department was established in 1968 in Thailand for training on marine capture fisheries. The Marine Fisheries Research Department was established in Singapore in 1969 for undertaking resources exploration, which later on changed to fisheries post-harvest technologies. In 1973, the Aquaculture Department was established in the Philippines for aquaculture research and development while the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department was established in 1992 in Malaysia to conduct activities on marine fishery resources.

From then on, SEAFDEC continued to generate waves of innovation in fisheries development ranging from research on fishing gear technologies and practices, fishery resources surveys and exploration, fisheries management, post-harvest technology and food safety/quality, and aquaculture development.

Through actual trainings and the use of updated and state-of-the-art information, education and communication or IEC materials, the Center effectively facilitates the transfer of technologies to the Member Countries. The Philippines is fortunate to be the location of the Aquaculture Department. The SEAFDEC-AQD is a great help to our national technology centers which are tasked to develop and broadcast mature aquaculture technologies.



Behind the milestones SEAFDEC has achieved through the years, no can deny the fact that it was not an easy voyage for the center all the time. I am sure, the organization, in one way or another; experienced turbulent waters in facing challenges along the way.

As we all know, no organization is immune to changes. Most often than not, these changes are necessary for growth and may range from leadership to new operational policies. Managing people on how to accept new things that unfold is a challenge that every organization needs to overcome. SEAFDEC I believe went through the same experience.

Aside from management intricacies, new issues emerge which can dare the capability of the organization. The issue on climate change is there to challenge SEAFDEC in developing climate change resilient fishery technologies.

Meanwhile, the impact of trainings must be felt not only by the governments but more importantly, they must reach the economically-challenged rural fisherfolk communities. The need for a dynamic impact assessment tool is likewise a primary concern that needs constant and specific focus. And the list of tests goes on.

I strongly believe however, that with the council maneuvering the sail of the organization, no hurdle is difficult as long as their leadership is anchored on the unwavering fervor of bringing the organization to new frontiers. Moreover, the continuous commitment of the Member Countries' respective government will make the organization more steadfast in crossing the bay of complexities.

Today, on the 45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting, the Philippine government through the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources renews the same commitment our past leaders had guaranteed forty-six years ago.

As host of this Meeting, we are here to join you and say that we in the Philippine government have not forgotten our common dream of bringing abundant supply of fish to the table of our people. Let us continue to enflame the ardor of cooperation among ourselves and with relevant external organizations. We should bear in mind that only with clearer goals – the organization will never lose sight of its vision.

Enjoy your stay in Cebu City, Philippines. Sit back and relax but please don't forget the seriousness of our work. We assure you that the Philippines will be your gracious host.

And on that note, on behalf of the Philippine government through the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, I formally declare this Meeting open.

Thank you and Mabuhay!

WELCOME ADDRESS

*By Atty. Asis G. Perez
Director of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and
SEAFDEC Council Director for the Philippines*

On behalf of the Philippine delegation I would like to extend our warmest welcome and deep appreciation for your participation in the 45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting. I welcome you to our country, particularly here in Cebu City and hope that you will have a pleasure stay during the duration of the Meeting. As we forward to working with you in the review of the accomplishment of the organization and in setting new policy directions that would be mutually beneficial to the Member Countries.

Hosting a Meeting like this resembles the act of welcoming you as guests to our own home. And as we open our home, allow us to take advantage of your presence and sharing with you some recent “good housekeeping measures” we have put in the place insofar the conservation and management of our fisheries resources is concerned.

With the full cooperation of the commercial fishing operations and the local government units, we have successfully implemented the observance of closed season on the catching of sardines, herrings and mackerel in our selected major fishing grounds namely, Zamboanga Peninsular and the Visayan Sea. Recently the closed season declarations for these areas have been lifted and we now starting to receive documented reports saying that the said initiative resulted to improved fish catch. This positive feedback from the ground is an affirmation that our initiative leading to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated or IUU fishing is gradually paying off.

While we are elated about the claims on the improvement of fishery productivities due to the said effort, we are also aware that some of the reports are anecdotal and need to be validated by a more in-depth and scientific study in order to gauge the actual benefit vis-a-vis the cost which the government has incurred during the course of implementation.

I believe that the need for the development of standard valuation formula which would reveal both the actual economic and ecological impact of closed season for fishing and other fishery management tools, holds true not only to the Philippines but to its Asian neighbors as well. To my mind, this common need is a potential area for exploratory study, SEAFDEC may look into thought its research capacity. The possible outcome could be a comprehensive and easy-to-use valuation method which can be useful to the Member Countries in coming up with a more concrete basis and scientifically proven benefits of regulating resourced utilization. And ultimately, this will redound to a fuller and wider support of stakeholders advocating the sustainable use of the fishery resources.

As we sit down as council during the next few days, I fervently hope that our discussion will help us unearth other relevant matters to spring out more responsive and innovation strategies on the management and development of fisheries in the region. I am also optimistic that our shared enlightenment will bring us closer to our goals.

At the juncture we are privileged to be joined in by a government official representing the agriculture czar of the Philippines. He will be our keynote speaker and it is may honor to introduce him.

Our keynote speaker:

- Fished Agribusiness Management System at the University of the Philippines
- He worked for US-AIS from 1991-1999



- He joined the Department of Agriculture in November 1999 as Director of Agribusiness and Marketing assistant Service (AMAS)
- He was appointed in 2004 as Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness and Trade of the Department of Agriculture.
- The present Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Honorable Proceso J. Alcala appointed him as the Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing and Fisheries.
- Concurrent to his position as the Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing and Fisheries, he was also designated as Supervising Office of the Secretary to the National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC) and OIC-Director of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standard (BAFPS).

Ladies and Gentlemen, friends ... it is my honor to introduce to this body our very own Assistant Secretary for Agriculture for Agribusiness, Marketing and Fisheries... The Honorable Salvador S. Salacup.

AGENDA

Agenda 1: Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting
- 1.2 Election of Chairperson for the Year 2013-2014
- 1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements of the Meeting

Agenda 2: Report of the SEAFDEC Secretary-General

Agenda 3: Note of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Program Committee on the Results of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee

Agenda 4: Note of the Chairperson of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) on the Results of the Fifteenth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP

Agenda 5: Policy Consideration on Important Issues

- 5.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions Addressed at the CITES-CoP16
- 5.2 Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR): A Tool to Combat the IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region
- 5.3 Conceptual Note on Development of the “ASEAN Catch Certification”
- 5.4 Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Waters
- 5.5 Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade in the Southeast Asian Region and CTI-CFF Member Countries
- 5.6 Others

Agenda 6: Other Matters

- 6.1 Progress of the Establishment of a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia
- 6.2 ASEAN Fisheries Conference and ASEAN Seafood Exposition (DOF/Thailand)
- 6.3 ASIA Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth

Agenda 7: Cooperation with International/Regional Organizations and Non-member Governments

Agenda 8: *(Closed Session)* Future Direction Requested by the Council

Agenda 9: *(Closed Session)* The Third SEAFDEC Review

Agenda 10: *(Closed Session)* Management of the Center

- 10.1 Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)
- 10.2 Proposed Revision of Plans of Operation (Functions) and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments
- 10.3 Collaboration Arrangements Between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations
- 10.4 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels
- 10.5 Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC



Agenda 11: (Closed Session) Financial Matters

- 11.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2011
- 11.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2012, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2013
- 11.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirement of the Center for the Year 2014
- 11.4 Other Financial Matters

Agenda 12: Concluding Matters

- 12.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement
- 12.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-sixth Meeting of the Council
- 12.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

Agenda 13: Closing of the Meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Thirty-fifth Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 26 to 28 November 2012 and hosted by the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD). The Meeting reviewed the SEAFDEC programs implemented in 2012 and scrutinized the programs to be implemented in 2013, in order to ensure that these are formulated and implemented in line with the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. The Meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC in his capacity as the Chairperson of SEAFDEC Program Committee.

This year's review of the implementation of the SEAFDEC programs, started with the Programs under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Mechanism followed by Departmental Programs, Other Programs, and Pipeline Programs. Specifically, the Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism have been grouped accordingly under the Program Thrusts of the SEAFDEC Program Framework, which was adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2009.

The Meeting took note of the 35 programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2012, which has been classified into: 25 programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism; nine Departmental Programs; and one Other Program. Subsequently, the Meeting took note of the 30 programs proposed to be implemented in 2013, comprising 22 programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism and eight Departmental Programs.

Specifically for programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism, the Program Committee endorsed the 22 programs for the Year 2013, which comprise 16 programs that are continuing from 2012 and six new programs. The Program Committee also sought the assistance of SEAFDEC with regards to the following programs:

- 1. Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (Fishing in Harmony with Nature)**
 - i) Philippines requested that the Training Department (TD) explore the possibility of continuing the study on optimum light intensity and maximum wattage of light used for different fishing gear that target pelagic fishes such as purse seines, etc.;
 - ii) Thailand expressed the willingness of the country to join in the future studies on light fishing to facilitate dissemination of the results to fishers in Thailand; and
 - iii) Malaysia suggested TD to organize a technical workshop to share the results of the implementation of activities from this project among the Member Countries.

- 2. Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitat/Fishing Grounds for Resources Enhancement**
 - i) Vietnam requested TD to provide technical assistance and advice to coastal communities in monitoring/diagnosis of fishing grounds, considering that activities on fish *refugia* have been undertaken in eight provinces of Vietnam;
 - ii) Myanmar requested that information derived from this project be extended to Myanmar;
 - iii) Lao PDR requested TD to consider extending activities on mobile hatchery to also include nursery stage in order to improve the survival rate of fish after release in inland waters;
 - iv) Malaysia requested TD to share the information on the design and management of FEDs to enhance the tuna resources in the waters of Sabah, Malaysia; and
 - v) Philippines requested the assistance of Japan for the rehabilitation of habitats including breeding of commercially-important marine species for the restoration of the country's degraded natural resources.



- 3. Human Resources Development (HRD) Programs on Fisheries Management Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries**
 - i) Vietnam expressed the willingness to participate in this regional project in 2013 under a cost-sharing scheme, to support the implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in the coastal areas of Vietnam; and
 - ii) Malaysia and Myanmar expressed their support to this project and requested for the conduct of on-site trainings in their respective countries in 2013.

- 4. Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management (REBYC-II CTI)**
 - i) Myanmar expressed the willingness of the country to participate in the project activities on by-catch management and reduction of discards in trawl fisheries as well as in the Regional Training-cum-Workshop on Co-management to be conducted in July 2013.

- 5. Resource Enhancement of International Threatened and Over-exploited Species in Southeast Asia through Stock Release**
 - i) Thailand sought the possibility for SEAFDEC to conduct resource enhancement activities in the Andaman Sea; and
 - ii) Malaysia requested that this project be extended to other aquatic species such as lobsters if financial resource is available.

- 6. Promotion of Sustainable and Region-oriented Aquaculture Practices**
 - i) Myanmar requested SEAFDEC for technical assistance in addressing a problem on mass mortalities of paddy eels due to viral diseases that cause red spot on their skin.

- 7. Accelerating Awareness and Capacity-building in Fish Health Management in Southeast Asia**
 - i) Vietnam requested the Aquaculture Department (AQD) to compile information on activities related to monitoring and surveillance of diseases undertaken by the other Member Countries and that such information should be shared among the Member Countries;
 - ii) Thailand suggested that this project should support the establishment of a network among the countries in the region in the monitoring and surveillance of aquaculture diseases. However, this should be brought up with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), which has been playing the leading role on disease surveillance with AQD serving as its Lead Centre for the region; and
 - iii) Malaysia commented that AQD could consider conducting surveillance and training on fish-borne zoonotic parasites preferably in 2013; and requested AQD to consider assisting Malaysia in the surveillance of diseases and to determine the prevalence of diseases as well as conduct training on Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) for freshwater and marine fishes, Viral Nervous Necrosis (VNN) disease for marine fish, and other marine shrimp-listed diseases such as Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in shrimps.

- 8. Food Safety of Aquaculture Products in Southeast Asia**
 - i) Singapore requested AQD to consider including sea bass as priority species under this project in 2013; and
 - ii) Thailand requested to include giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) and white shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*) under this project.

- 9. Activities Related to Climate Change and Adaptation in Southeast Asia with Special Focus on the Andaman Sea**
 - i) Vietnam commended the conduct of the activities under this project especially on the establishment of cooperation in fisheries management at the sub-regional level and requested for the possibility of expanding the project to the South China Sea area, and that this project could be undertaken in collaboration with the upcoming UNEP-GEF SCS Project on fish *refugia*;

- ii) Malaysia suggested SEAFDEC to consider conducting a study to evaluate the impact of climate change in key marine habitats and on aquaculture species, and the results of such study should be shared with countries in the region. Malaysia also suggested that the activities to be undertaken under this project should not only focus on the conduct of meetings, consultations and on-site trainings, but also include the conduct of specific technical projects; and
- iii) Cambodia expressed the appreciation to Sida for supporting the implementation of this project in the Gulf of Thailand in 2013-2017, and requested that information on the financial aspects be made available to the participating countries, to enable the countries to prepare their respective counterpart budget for the implementation of the activities under a cost-sharing mechanism.

10. Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management

- i) Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to provide technical assistance in the area of capacity building on co-management and rights-based fisheries management; and expressed the willingness to participate in this project under a cost-sharing basis;
- ii) Cambodia suggested that the project should come up with recommendations to develop legal framework for supporting fishery communities in the participating countries to ensure the sustainable of the activities after the project completion; and
- iii) Myanmar requested for the extension of the activity to cover co-management in small- and medium-fishery communities in Myanmar.

11. Promotion of Fishing Licensing, Boats Registration and Port State Measures

- i) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) expressed their support to the development of a regional fishing vessels record for Southeast Asia; and
- ii) Cambodia suggested that the Southeast Asian countries could consider the development of regional guidelines to implement in Southeast Asia.

12. Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2

- i) Vietnam requested to reserve the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the conduct of population dynamics survey of pelagic fishery resources in Vietnam waters in 2013; and
- ii) Thailand requested SEAFDEC to consider organizing a training course on resource survey to enhance the capacity for the Fishery Biologists of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand.

13. Deep Sea Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia

- i) Indonesia requested TD to continue the production of information on deep-sea fisheries resources, *i.e.* specimens, guidebooks, posters, and leaflets, in layman's language, and to come up with sets of recommendations for future development of deep-sea fisheries in Southeast Asia;
- ii) Philippines requested TD to provide technical assistance for enhancing the capacity of BFAR staff on fish larvae identification specifically on tuna, sardines and other pelagic species; and
- iii) Thailand also requested TD to consider conducting training on deep-sea fisheries resources exploration and fisheries resource survey.

14. Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management

- i) Brunei Darussalam requested to be updated on the final revised schedule of the training in December 2012;
- ii) Myanmar reiterated that the training on the use of FishBio software for data collectors will go on as planned in January 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar; and
- iii) Indonesia requested SEAFDEC to continue sharing the information compiled through the regional database to the Member Countries.



- 15. Tagging Program for Economically-important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea**
 - i) The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) was requested to provide the countries with tags that are still available so that the activity could still be pursued by the countries through their respective national activities after the end of this project.
- 16. Research and Management of Sea Turtles in Foraging Habitats in the Southeast Asian Waters**
 - i) Philippines suggested TD to consider possibility to disseminate the results from activity on interaction of sea turtles and fishery to the Member Countries by the end of 2012.
- 17. Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade-related Issues**
 - i) Malaysia suggested that SEAFDEC should explore the possibility of being invited to attend the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) as several fisheries-related issues are discussed during such Meetings.

For the six new programs proposed under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism starting from 2013, namely: 1) Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia; 2) Optimizing Energy Use and Improving Safety of Fishing Activities; 3) Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region; 4) Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products; 5) Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region; and 6) Research and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Waters, the Program Committee provided suggestions on specific programs as follows:

- 1. Optimizing Energy Use and Improving Safety of Fishing Activities**
 - i) TD was requested to consider including students and trainers from the National Agriculture Training Council (NATC) of Malaysia in the activities to be conducted onboard fishing vessels in Malaysian waters;
 - ii) Thailand requested TD to pursue activities on alternative fuel especially with respect to the small-scale fisheries; and
 - iii) Philippines suggested the project to make use of the new agreement on fishing vessel safety, known as the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1993 Protocol Relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, as reference for the implementation of this project.
- 2. Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
 - i) Vietnam suggested TD to consider conducting the relevant project activities to support the Member Countries, also considering that Vietnam would upgrade its fisheries database starting in 2013 in accordance with international and regional requirements.
- 3. Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
 - i) Philippines suggested that the activities should consider purse seine fishing operations and their fishing ground; and also consider comparing the applicability on the use of total allowable catch (TAC) from tropical countries, where target species include *Rastrelliger* spp. and scads, with the TACs from those of the temperate countries.
- 4. Research and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Waters**
 - i) Indonesia suggested that sharks specimens from Indonesian water which were previously collected and preserved, should also be used for analysis.

The Program Committee also endorsed the Departmental Programs proposed for 2013 which comprise eight continuing programs from 2012, three of which would be implemented by TD, namely: 1) Tailor-made Training Programs; 2) Promotion and Enhancement Fisheries Information; and 3) Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing; and five by AQD, namely: 1) Adapting to Climate Change Impacts; 2) Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture; 3) Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture; 4) Meeting Socio-economic Challenges in Aquaculture; and 5) Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture, and made the following comments specifically for the program on:

1. Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing:

- i) Lao PDR requested TD to consider extending support to conclude activities on data collection on freshwater fishing gears and methods in Lao PDR as the previous activities on this had not been completed; and
- ii) Philippines suggested that the terminology on “destructive fishing gears and practices” might be changed to a more appropriate terminology.

The Program Committee took note of the existing four pipeline projects which are still under discussion and negotiation with potential donor agencies, namely: 1) Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management; 2) Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand; 3) Improving Methodologies and Capacity for the Collection of Capture Fishery Statistics in the Southeast Asian Region; and 4) Fisheries Resources Management on Important Pelagic Species for Sustainable Fisheries in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, and made the following comments:

1. Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

- i) Malaysia prefers to wait for updated information on the status of the approval of the project; and if the project involves soft loan term, Malaysia may reconsider its involvement in the project.

2. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand

- i) All participant countries should submit their respective endorsement letter by the end of December 2012 or January 2013.

3. Improving Methodologies and Capacity for the Collection of Capture Fishery Statistics in the Southeast Asian Region

- i) The five-year project had been proposed for funding support by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) but there has been no feedback from ADB until now.

4. Fisheries Resources Management on Important Pelagic Species for Sustainable Fisheries in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea

- i) This five-year project has been proposed for funding support by the ADB, but there has been no feedback from ADB until now; and
- ii) Malaysia expressed support to this proposal and offered to host the inception meeting of the project in Sabah, Malaysia.

The Program Committee suggested that in the formulation of future programs, efforts should be made to avoid repetition of activities as well as possible revival of already completed activities and also suggested that project titles should be more specific to reflect the actual scope of the projects and that the objectives should conform to the scope of the projects.

In response to the query on the availability of a mechanism within SEAFDEC for adjustments of projects in the course of their implementation to accommodate the requirements of the Member Countries, it was explained that this issue would be raised for discussion by the Third SEAFDEC



Review Committee. It was also clarified that the current planning process could be adjusted to enable the Member Countries to take part in the formulation of the projects and activities, and that the project proposals could be discussed with donors prior to submission to the Program Committee. In addition, the level of the total Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) to SEAFDEC should also allow SEAFDEC to accommodate emerging issues as requested by the Member Countries.

The Program Committee took note of the cooperation with non-member governments and international/regional organizations, *i.e.* the Bay of Bengal Programme-Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), and the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID Asia).

The Program Committee was informed that the Fisheries Agency of Japan planned to provide the Trust Fund VI to SEAFDEC, for the year 2013 and onward, in order to support the sustainable development of fisheries in the region.

The Program Committee also took note that SEAFDEC Secretariat is planning to co-organize the Inter-governmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade, tentatively scheduled from 31 January 2013 to 1 February 2013, in collaboration with the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and with funding support from the USAID-Asia. In addition, a workshop on Fish Passage would also be conducted in Khon Kaen Province, Thailand on 17-21 March 2013, with financial support from FAO and other sources that would be further explored.

On the Draft Guidelines for the establishment of SEAFDEC Collaborating Centres, the Program Committee supported in principle the Draft Guidelines. The Committee also requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to accommodate comments made by the Committee on the specific paragraphs of the Guidelines and come up with a revised Draft for circulation to the National Coordinators before submission to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

The Program Committee adopted the Report of the 35th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee to be further submitted to the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and to ASEAN through the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) for consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF
THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF
THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)**

The Fifteenth Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was held from 29 to 30 November 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Meeting was co-chaired by the representative from Indonesia on behalf of the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the SEAFDEC Secretary-General. The Meeting provided views and recommendations for the efficient and effective implementation of programs, projects and activities under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism.

The Meeting noted the follow-up actions carried out in response to the directives given at the Fourteenth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP held in November 2011, the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2012, as well as at the meetings of the ASEAN bodies that discussed issues related to fisheries. Specifically with regards to following-up activities implemented by the Member Countries with respect to the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, while noting that SEAFDEC was tasked to follow-up on the progress of activities every five years using template approved by the Council, the Meeting requested ASEAN Secretariat to communicate with SEAFDEC to harmonize the reporting of the progress under ASEAN and SEAFDEC sides. In addition, the Meeting expressed concern that there were limited fisheries-related issues discussed in the SOM-AMAF and AMAF meetings. In response, the Meeting suggested that SEAFDEC and the Member Countries could consider identifying the issues especially the outputs developed as results of SEAFDEC programs for discussion at the ASWGFi and further conveyed to the SOM-AMAF and subsequently to AMAF as appropriate. Such issues should be identified and discussed under the Agenda on Policy Consideration on Important Issues of future FCG/ASSP Meetings.

The Meeting endorsed the progress and achievements of the programs implemented in 2012 under the FCG/ASSP and the programs proposed for 2013, as previously discussed and endorsed by the 35th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee. The collaborative programs have been classified based on five SEAFDEC Program Thrusts adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2009.

The Meeting took note that the 16 out of 25 projects implemented under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism in 2012 would be continued in 2013, and that four out of 16 continuing projects have changed the titles. In addition to on-going projects, the Meeting also endorsed the six new projects to be implemented starting from 2013, namely: 1) Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia; 2) Optimizing Energy Use and Improving Safety in Fishing Activities; 3) Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region; 4) Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products; 5) Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region; and 6) Research and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Waters. It was noted that the ASEAN Lead Countries would be further identified at the forthcoming meeting of the ASWGFi.

While commending the extensive works carried out by SEAFDEC under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism, the Meeting requested SEAFDEC to share results of the research of fishmeal substitutes for feed formulation at reduced cost.

On the progress of proposals implemented under the ASSP, the Meeting noted the planned organization of the ASEAN Public-Private Dialogue on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Meeting Market Challenges, Adapting to Climate Change, and Improving Food Security in ASEAN scheduled on 6-7 December 2012 in Bangkok which is the activity under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework. The



Meeting also took note of the progress of the activities under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) as reported during the 4th AFCF Meeting on 4-5 June 2012 in Indonesia, as well as the progress of activities undertaken under the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) as reported by Thailand. On the ASA, the representative from Vietnam requested Thailand to consider the issues on Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in shrimp as well as ethoxyquin to be included in the agenda for the 4th Meeting of ASA in 2013.

On the activities under the “RTC on International Fisheries-related Issues”, the Meeting took note of the progress and issue regarding the commercially-exploited aquatic species, as well as the position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to the proposal for listing of aquatic species into the CITES Appendices as a result from the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries-related Issues held on 31 October-2 November 2012 in Thailand and the 9th Meeting of AEG-CITES held on 6-8 November 2012 in Cambodia. The Meeting further provided updated information on the common/coordinated position with regards to the specific proposals. Regarding the issue on Secret Balloting as the issue is not under the purview of fisheries, the Meeting suggested that agencies responsible for fisheries in respective countries could consult with agencies responsible for CITES in order to come up with the countries’ respective positions. This issue would be discussed at the high-level Regional Consultation (RC) to be conducted by SEAFDEC in January 2013.

On Regional Record of Fishing Vessels 24 Meters in Length and Over, the Meeting recommended that the concerned Member Countries should provide necessary updated data for the Regional Record. It was also noted that the Regional Record is in line with the Global Record, but will focus only on the basic requirements available in most Member Countries; and the database of the Regional Record could be shared among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. In supporting the development of the Regional Record, the representative from Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to provide the technical assistance in converting the unit used by the country into meters. Furthermore, as in many Member Countries, the fishing vessels registration and fishing licensing are under different responsible government agencies, the Meeting suggested that representatives of agencies responsible for transport including fishing vessels could be invited to meetings that discuss this issue in order that appropriate action could be undertaken.

Regarding the outputs of “ASEAN Tuna Working Group on Promotion of ASEAN Eco-label” the Meeting took note of the outputs of the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN National Focal Point of Tuna Working Group held in Nha Trang, Vietnam from 28 to 30 August 2012. The Meeting was also requested to consider the concept note and TOR, and provide feedback to Indonesia as the lead country of the ASEAN Tuna Working Group by 31 December 2012.

On Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Management of Tuna Resources, the Meeting supported the proposal considering that the species are economically-important for the region and several countries are members of relevant RFMOs. The Meeting also recommended areas to be considered under the initiative, *e.g.* the importation of raw materials for the processing industry, the study on stock assessment (including for neritic tunas), and spawning grounds of tunas.

With regards to the “Proposed Regional List of Protected Aquatic Species in Southeast Asia”, the Meeting noted that the species included in the list are the protected aquatic species based on the respective national laws of the ASEAN Member States. The representative from Vietnam, however, suggested SEAFDEC to make correction to the list of Vietnam to be based on its national law. As the list could contain sensitive information, it was suggested that the list should be for restricted circulation and the distribution should be confined within the relevant agencies of the Member Countries. In addition, SEAFDEC was requested to develop a database on protected species of the region indicating if the species are protected by national laws, CITES Appendices or IUCN red list; and also circulate the new draft regional list to all ASEAN Member States for updating and confirmation.

With regards to the expected outputs from ASEAN-SEAFDEC regional programs, SEAFDEC was suggested to compile the list of expected results from programs and initiatives under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP Mechanism that could be raised to the ASWGFi once available, for seeking policy support from ASEAN.

The Meeting was informed on the proposed date of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on 1-5 April 2013 in the Philippines, and the planned organization of the special meeting of AFCF tentatively on the last week of February 2013 in Indonesia.

The Report of the 15th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP was adopted on 30 November 2012.

ASEAN-SEAFDEC COMMON/COORDINATED POSITIONS ADDRESSED AT THE CITES-COP16

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Before the Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), better known as CITES-CoP16 was convened from 3 to 14 March 2013 in Bangkok, the ASEAN and SEAFDEC held several preparatory meetings with the objectives of reviewing the relevant proposals to be discussed during the CoP as well as developing Common/Coordinated Position on selected commercially-exploited aquatic species to be addressed during the CITES-CoP16. These meetings included:

- Regional Experts Meeting on Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species: Sharks, 29-30 Oct 2012, Bangkok, Thailand
- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries Related Issues, 31 Oct-2 Nov 2012, Bangkok, Thailand
- 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on CITES, 6-8 Nov 2012, Siem Reap, Cambodia;
- 15th Meeting of FCG/ASSP, 29-30 Nov 2012, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation on Common/Coordinated Position of CEAS at the CITES-CoP16, 22 Jan 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.

2. Experts in particular issues were invited to facilitate the discussions and provide their views and recommendations on the proposals to be discussed during the CITES-CoP16. The results were then submitted to policy making bodies of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for final decision of the respective selected proposals and finally the Common Positions of the issues were then adopted during the meeting of high level officials before the CITES-CoP16.

3. Concerning the proposals to include or transfer species between or among Appendices, seven were related to commercially-exploited aquatic species and two were on the improvement of transparency of voting and amendment of Rule 25 on Methods of Voting – Use of secret balloting. The proposals which were discussed during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC preparatory meetings included:

- **Proposal 42:** Listing of oceanic whitetip shark, (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 43:** Listing of scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran* and *Sphyrna zygaena*) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 44:** Listing of porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 45:** Transfer of freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) from Appendix II to Appendix I;
- **Proposal 46:** Listing of manta rays (*Manta* spp.) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 47:** Listing of ceja river stingray (*Paratrygon aiereba*) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 48:** Listing of ocellate river stingray and rosette river stingray (*Potamotrygon motoro* and *Potamotrygon schroederi*) in Appendix II;
- Proposal to improve transparency of voting during meetings of the CoPs; and
- Proposal to amend Rule 25 on *Methods of Voting* – Use of secret balloting



II. ASEAN-SEAFDEC COMMON/COORDINATED POSITIONS ON SELECTED COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES TO BE ADDRESSED AT CITES-COP16

- *Regional Experts Meeting on Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species: Sharks, 29-30 October 2012, Bangkok, Thailand*

4. During the Regional Experts Meeting on Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species: Sharks on 29-30 October 2012 in Bangkok, experts on sharks from SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand, and from the concerned SEAFDEC Departments were in attendance. The Meeting came up with technical recommendations with regards to the proposals to include three species of hammerhead sharks: scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), and smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*); oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*); porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*); *Manta* spp.; ocellate river stingray (*Potamotrygon motoro*), rosette river stingray (*Potamotrygon schroederi*); and ceja river stingray (*Paratrygon aiereba*) in Appendix II of CITES as well as the proposal to transfer of freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) from Appendix II to Appendix I.

- *ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries Related Issues, 31 Oct-2 November 2012, Bangkok, Thailand*

5. The results of the abovementioned October 2012 Regional Experts Meeting were then brought up for discussion as one of the main agenda during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries Related Issues held from 31 October to 2 November 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The main objectives of this RTC were to review and discuss the identified important international fisheries-related issues relevant to the region including the CITES-CoP16 issues, and the proposed development of a regional fishing vessels record (24 meters in length and over). The RTC also aimed to formulate policy recommendations and regional coordinated/common positions on the respective issues, and identify the necessary follow-up actions to be undertaken by the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries, the ASEAN Secretariat as well as the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments.

6. The RTC reviewed the proposals for listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS) to the CITES Appendices during the CoP16 on 3-14 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, *i.e.* freshwater sawfish, scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead shark, oceanic white tip shark, porbeagle shark, manta rays, and freshwater stingrays. Moreover, other CEAs, *i.e.* seahorse, sea cucumber, humphead wrasse, as well as the proposal to amend the rule 25 on methods of Voting using Secret Balloting also to be considered during the CITES-CoP16, were also discussed.

7. The RTC expressed the concern on the data and information available on the species proposed to be listed in the CITES Appendices, which are mainly based on production but not on the status of the species based on respective stock assessments. The RTC also noted that data from research and from studies on particular species may not reflect the overall status of the stocks of such species, and therefore these data could not be used as basis for the proposed listing of such species in the CITES Appendices. Nevertheless, the RTC also expressed the concern in collecting data and information on the production of the specific species due to the insufficient capacity of countries in the compilation of data at species-specific level, especially in identifying particular species (*e.g.* for sharks, rays) at landing sites.

8. The RTC considered that although international trade of the species could be regulated by CITES, such move would not warrant the sustainability of the stocks of such species as these could still be caught and traded within the countries. The RTC therefore was of the view that the existing conservation and management frameworks for several commercially-exploited aquatic species that

have been put in place should be fully recognized, *e.g.* those of the tuna RFMOs, NPOA on Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks), as well as national laws and legislations on protected species.

9. Specifically, the RTC also identified the consequences that could occur in the region from the listing of particular commercially-exploited aquatic species in the CITES Appendices could include: (1) most fishing activities are undertaken by small-scale fishers and are important in providing food security and sustaining their livelihoods while most of the fishing gears used are non-selective and several species under CITES concern are caught as by-catch making it difficult to avoid segregating such species from the whole catch; (2) international trading of aquatic products which may not be under the CITES Appendices could be affected as this is not usually done in full-body form (mostly in the forms of meat, guts, gills, fins while identification of the species of the traded products or the look-alike species could be difficult; and (3) setting-up of export quota for such species may no longer be possible while the cost for issuing the necessary export certificates of the species could be high.

10. The Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CoP16 adopted during the Regional Technical Consultation are shown in **Appendix 1**. The Views and Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposal to amend Rule 25 on Methods of Voting using Secret Balloting during the CITES-CoP16 also adopted during the Regional Technical Consultation, are shown in **Appendix 2**.

- *The 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group (AEG) on CITES, 6-8 November 2012, Siem Reap, Cambodia;*

11. The results of the abovementioned RTC on the Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CoP16 were discussed at the 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on CITES on 6-8 November 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Meeting noted the report presented by SEAFDEC on the progress of discussions on the issues regarding the commercially-exploited aquatic species as well as on the position of the ASEAN Member Countries to the proposed listing of aquatic species into the CITES Appendices. While commending SEAFDEC for undertaking activities pertaining to matters on endangered aquatic species, the Meeting supported the positions of the ASEAN Member States on the proposals for listing of aquatic species into the CITES Appendices arrived at and agreed during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC RTC on International Fisheries-related Issues. The positions to be used as inputs for CITES-CoP16, included the countries' oppositions to: former Proposal 14 (later changed to Proposal 43): Listing of *Sphyrna lewini* (scalloped hammerhead shark), *Sphyrna mokarran* (great hammerhead shark), and *Sphyrna zygaena* (smooth hammerhead shark) in Appendix II; former Proposal 19 (later changed to Proposal 42): Listing of *Carcharhinus longimanus* (oceanic whitetip shark) in Appendix II; and former Proposal 20 (later changed to Proposal 44): Listing of *Lamna nasus* (porbeagle shark) in Appendix II.

12. The results of the discussion at the 9th AEG-CITES Meeting on Secret Balloting suggested that the AEG-CITES was not able to come up with a common position on this matter for the CITES-CoP16.

- *15th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP), 29-30 November 2012, Chiang Mai, Thailand*

13. The 15th Meeting of FCG/ASSP in November 2012 also noted the results of the deliberations and the recommendations made during the November 2012 RTC. The Meeting was also informed on the updated common/coordinated positions with regards to the respective proposals for listing of aquatic species under CITES, as follows:



- Proposal 9 (Transfer of freshwater sawfish from Appendix II to Appendix I): All Member Countries opposed the proposal
- Proposal 14 (Listing of scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead shark in Appendix II): All Member Countries opposed the proposal
- Proposal 19 (Listing of oceanic whitetip shark in Appendix II): All Member Countries opposed the proposal
- Proposal 20 (Listing of porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix II): All Member Countries opposed the proposal
- Proposal 21 (Listing of Manta Rays in Appendix II): Philippines supported the proposal (in accordance with its national law) while other Member Countries opposed the proposal
- Proposal 27 (Listing ceja stingray in Appendix II): All Member Countries opposed the proposal
- Proposal 28 (Listing of ocellate river stingray and rosette river stingray in Appendix II): All Member Countries opposed the proposal

14. The ASEAN Secretariat agreed to submit the common/coordinated positions of the ASEAN Member States arrived at during the 9th AEG-CITES Meeting, to the ASWGFi for consideration and comments, before submitting these to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) by *ad referendum* for endorsement as the ASEAN Common Position to be used as joint inputs during the CITES-CoP16.

15. Meanwhile, the Meeting was informed that SEAFDEC through the Japanese Trust Fund will support the participation of one senior fisheries officer from each Member Country to attend in CITES-CoP16, in order to push forward the said common/coordinated position agreed by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

16. Since the discussion on the proposals related to secret balloting was not finalized, and in order to proceed with this matter although the issue on Secret Balloting is not under the purview of fisheries, the Meeting suggested that agencies responsible for fisheries in respective countries could consult with respective agencies responsible for CITES. Results of such consultations and discussions could serve as basis for the countries' respective positions to be conveyed to the Regional Consultation in January 2013.

- *ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation (RC) on Common/Coordinated Position of CEAS at the CITES-CoP16, 22 January 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.*

17. Based on the results of the number of meetings convened to discuss the selected proposals to be addressed at CITES-CoP16, the RC was convened to confirm and endorse the common/coordinated position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices during the CITES-CoP16. The RC also developed the common/coordinated position on the proposed amendment of Rule 25 on the methods of voting using Secret Balloting at the CITES-CoP.

18. The RC took note of the changes of the proposal numbers to be adopted during the CITES-CoP16, *viz:* **Proposal 19 to Proposal 42:** Listing of oceanic whitetip shark, (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in Appendix II; **Proposal 14 to Proposal 43:** Listing of scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran* and *Sphyrna zygaena*) in Appendix II; **Proposal 20 to Proposal 44:** Listing of porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix II; **Proposal 9 to Proposal 45:** Transfer of freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) from Appendix II to Appendix I; **Proposal 21 to Proposal 46:** Listing of Manta rays (*Manta* spp.) in Appendix II; **Proposal 27 to Proposal 47:** Listing of Ceja river stingray (*Paratrygon aiereba*) in

Appendix II; and **Proposal 28 to Proposal 48**: Listing of ocellate river stingray and rosette river stingray (*Potamotrygon motoro* and *Potamotrygon schroederi*) in Appendix II.

19. While considering the countries' positions on the proposals for listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species in the CITES Appendices as discussed in the previous fora, and taking into consideration the principles in confirming the respective countries' positions, the Member Countries attending the Regional Consultation, confirmed and adopted their respective countries' positions which appear in **Appendix 3**.

20. As for **Proposal 45** on the transfer of freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) from Appendix II to Appendix I, the Member Countries were of the view that a common position would not be necessary as this would depend on the individual country's decision, considering that this species had not been exploited commercially in the Southeast Asian region. For **Proposal 46** on the listing of manta rays (*Manta* spp.) in Appendix II, although most of the Member Countries opposed the proposal, the Philippines supported the said proposal in accordance with its national law.

21. After noting the views from the Member Countries, the Regional Consultation adopted the Common Position of the Countries on the Proposed Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Parties which appears as **Appendix 4**. In this connection, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC raised a concern on such position which came only from the fisheries point of view, and suggested that the countries should hold consultations and discussions with their respective CITES authorities on this matter.

III. RESULTS OF CITES-COP16

22. The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convened from 3 to 14 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, was attended by about 2,234 participants including Parties, observers, media, and visitors. The participants included one representative each from fisheries-related agencies of the ASEAN Member States who were supported by the Japanese Trust Fund of SEAFDEC.

23. After the deliberations on the selected proposals during the CITES-CoP16, five out of seven proposals relevant to commercially-exploited aquatic species were **accepted** by the CoP. These are: **Proposal 42***: Listing of oceanic whitetip shark, (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in Appendix II; **Proposal 43***: Listing of scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran* and *Sphyrna zygaena*) in Appendix II; **Proposal 44***: Listing of porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix II; **Proposal 45**: Transfer of freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) from Appendix II to Appendix I; **Proposal 46***: Listing of Manta rays (*Manta* spp.) in Appendix II. While the other two proposals were **rejected**: **Proposal 47**: Listing of ceja river stingray (*Paratrygon aiereba*) in Appendix II; and **Proposal 48**: Listing of ocellate river stingray and rosette river stingray (*Potamotrygon motoro* and *Potamotrygon schroederi*) in Appendix II. Meanwhile, the two proposals on the improvement of the transparency of voting and amendment of Rule 25 on Methods of Voting – Use of secret balloting, were also **rejected**. The detail deliberations and voting appear as **Appendix 5**.

IV. ISSUES OF CONCERN

24. It should be noted that the 18-month delay for the listing to come into effect would allow the implementation and enforcement measures to be put in place. In this regard, several issues should be considered for several aquatic species. For example at national level, the respective countries' administrative arrangements on such species should be enhanced or developed, including the capacity

^{1*}The entry into effect of the inclusion of these species in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve related technical and administrative issues.



of officers working on matters related to international trade of such species as well as regulations on enforcement which should be strengthened. Improvement of data collection to support the analysis of stock assessment should be also considered.

25. During the CoP16, the European Union had committed funds to support capacity building activities with respect to the listings of marine species in the CITES appendices. In this regard, the recommendations from the Regional Technical Consultation on Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (**Appendix 6**) which were endorsed by the Council in 2012 should be considered.

V. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

26. The Council is requested to take note of the Common/Coordinated Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CoP16, and the Views and Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposal to amend Rule 25 on Methods of Voting using Secret Balloting at CITES-CoP16.

27. The Council is also requested to take note of the results of the discussion on CEAS and related issues during the CITES-CoP16, and to provide comments and policy guidance on enhancing collaboration among ASEAN member states, ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC with respect to aforementioned concerns.



POSITIONS OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

On the Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CoP16 (As of 2 November 2012)

During the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries Related Issues organized from 31 October to 2 November 2012, the proposals for listing commercially-exploited aquatic species to the CITES Appendices and the Technical Recommendations from Regional Experts Meeting on Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species: Sharks (29-30 October 2012, Bangkok, Thailand) were reviewed and discussed. The RTC compiled the country's views and positions corresponding to the respective proposals as shown in the following table.

Listing Proposals	Technical Recommendations from the Regional Experts Meeting: Shark	Countries' views on the proposals	Positions of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
<p>Proposal 9: Transfer of freshwater sawfish (<i>Pristis microdon</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix I.</p> <p><i>(The proposal number changed to 45.)</i></p>	<p>i. The species appears to be no longer commercially exploited at present in the Southeast Asian region.</p> <p>ii. Management measures for this species at the national level are already undertaken in some countries (<i>i.e.</i> Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia) of the region.</p> <p>iii. This Regional Experts Meeting suggested that a more detailed population data should be provided by the proponent (Australia) considering that the increased landings of Pristidae from 2008 to 2010 as reported by FAO (Figure 2 of the Proposal) do not represent the actual population of the species.</p>	<p>i. Malaysia: Since sawfish is already protected under domestic laws, supports the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality for international fisheries-related issues.</p> <p>ii. Philippines: Under the Philippine Fisheries Code, all CITES listed species are protected regardless of the Appendix Number, thus supports the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality.</p> <p>iii. Myanmar: Very rare species in the country's waters, so species should remain under Appendix II</p> <p>iv. Lao PDR: species should remain under Appendix II.</p> <p>v. Japan: decides to support the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality.</p> <p>vi. Indonesia: species is protected under national regulations (Government Regulation # 7, 1999), does not support the proposed uplisting.</p> <p>vii. Cambodia: Species is under national conservation program, does not support proposed uplisting.</p> <p>viii. Thailand: since species already extinct, supports the proposal for reasons of conservation. However, the country supports the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality.</p> <p>ix. Brunei Darussalam: supports the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality.</p> <p>x. Vietnam: since species has been put under the country's red list, supports the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality.</p>	<p>Decisions on the proposal taking into consideration the countries' views:</p> <p>Support: Thailand*</p> <p>Oppose: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR</p> <p>Depend on consensus: Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, Myanmar</p> <p>Not Decide Yet: None</p> <p>*note: Thailand also agreed on the consensus</p>

Listing Proposals	Technical Recommendations from the Regional Experts Meeting: Shark	Countries' views on the proposals	Positions of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
<p>Proposal 14: Listing of scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead shark (<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>, <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> and <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>) in Appendix II</p> <p>(The proposal number changed to 45.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All 3 proposed hammerhead sharks are mostly found in the coastal areas of Southeast Asian countries and due to their habitats in the coastal areas, they are vulnerable to exploitation; ii. Many countries of Southeast Asia have been exerting efforts to enhance their respective shark resources in the coastal areas through the installation of artificial reefs, establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs), and implementation of trade monitoring schemes; iii. Several conservation measures and plans based on the Coral Triangle Initiative and National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks have already been implemented in the region; iv. Most of the evidences in the Proposal appear to be scientifically inadequate as it seems rather selective in the use of data that have not been standardized; v. The FAO Statistics for 2000 to 2010 (refer to Table 1 and Figure 2 of the Proposal) indicates that there has been an increase in the total shark landings; vi. Since hammerhead sharks are mainly distributed in coastal areas in the tropical and subtropical regions, these are mostly landed by small-scale fisheries in the developing countries, and at the same time, the process of issuing certification for international trade tends to be rather complicated; vii. If these species are listed to Appendix II, most small-scale coastal fisheries would lose the opportunities to sustain their livelihoods. This is because of the difficulty to avoid the shark bycatch from specific fishing gears; and viii. In addition, RFMOs such as ICCAT has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Malaysia: does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II consistent with the previous coordinated position for CoP15. ii. Thailand: Small-scale fishers will be affected by the proposed listing since their fishing grounds are the same as the habitats of sharks in the coastal areas. Hence, does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II. iii. Cambodia: most of marine capture landings come from trawl fisheries (livelihood of small scale fishers). Once listed in CITES Appendices, it will be difficult and entail long process to delist/downlist, and therefore should be covered national management measures. Hence, does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II. iv. Japan: CITES regulation is not flexible, species conservation should be managed by RFMOs rather than by CITES. No reason to change decisions made three years ago, hence does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II. v. Myanmar: Already have NPOA and does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II. vi. Lao PDR: Although no shark fisheries but proper management should be in place for the benefit of small fishers, and does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II. vii. Indonesia: Small-scale fishers may lose significant livelihoods, does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II. viii. Philippines: the country does not support the proposal for the listing of shark species in Appendix II for CoP16 since NPOA-Sharks is already in place. However, should there be a need for further management strategy for shark resources in the country, this will be based on the best available scientific and socio-economic data 	<p>Decisions on the proposal taking into consideration the countries' views:</p> <p>Support: None Oppose: All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries Depend on consensus: None Not Decide Yet: None</p>

Listing Proposals	Technical Recommendations from the Regional Experts Meeting: Shark	Countries' views on the proposals	Positions of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
	recently already come up with the appropriate management measures for these species.	<p>obtained from the research component of the NPOA and the regulation will be under the national law in the form of Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO).</p> <p>ix. Brunei Darussalam: although still developing the NPOA-Sharks for conservation purposes, does not support the proposed listing of the species in Appendix II.</p> <p>x. Vietnam: only two species (scalloped and great hammerhead sharks) are distributed in the country's waters. However, since more information is still needed in the proposal, does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II consistent with the previous coordinated position for CoP15.</p>	
<p>Proposal 19: Listing of oceanic whitetip shark, (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>) in Appendix II</p> <p><i>(The proposal number changed to 42.)</i></p>	<p>i. This species is tropical, oceanic-epipelagic having high trophic level predator. The proposal provided only catch data from coastal areas, therefore the information do not reflect the status of the whole population of the species;</p> <p>ii. One of the major sources of evidence that the stock is overfished in the Atlantic is from Baum and Myers (2004), indicating a decline of 99% over four generations for this species based on the analysis of CPUE of the USA tuna longline fisheries. The amount of catch of oceanic whitetip shark by USA is less than 8 tons based on the report by ICCAT, which is roughly corresponding to less than 1% of the total catch in the Atlantic estimated by Clarke <i>et al.</i> (2006). The CPUE of USA longline should not represent the trend of total stock in the Atlantic as this information is not sufficient to conclude that the oceanic whitetip stock in the Atlantic is overexploited;</p> <p>iii. Another major source of information is the</p>	<p>i. Malaysia: does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II consistent with the previous coordinated position for CoP15.</p> <p>ii. Philippines: not support the proposal to list this species in Appendix II.</p> <p>iii. Myanmar: not support the proposal to list this species in Appendix II as NPOA-Sharks already developed.</p> <p>iv. Lao PDR: does not support but proposes to promote stock enhancement of the species.</p> <p>v. Japan: Status of this species in the Indian Ocean is still abundant while in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, RFMOs already implement strict management measures to prohibit the retention of this species so does not support the proposal to list this species in Appendix II.</p> <p>vi. Indonesia: not support the proposal.</p> <p>vii. Cambodia: not support the proposal</p> <p>viii. Thailand: not support the proposal</p> <p>ix. Brunei Darussalam: even if species is not available in the country's waters, decides to be consistent with the previous coordinated position for CoP15.</p> <p>x. Vietnam: not support the proposal.</p>	<p>Decisions on the proposal taking into consideration the countries' views:</p> <p>Support: None Oppose: All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries Depend on consensus: None Not Decide Yet: None</p>

Listing Proposals	Technical Recommendations from the Regional Experts Meeting: Shark	Countries' views on the proposals	Positions of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
	<p>paper reported by Ward and Myers (2005), which compared CPUE of USA longline research and observed data in the designated area in the central Pacific in 1950s and in 1990s. The result indicated that the biomass of the oceanic whitetip shark stock in the Pacific showed 90% decline in two observed periods. At the same time, the result also indicates that the biomass of stocks of other tuna, billfish, and shark stocks such as albacore, yellowfin tuna, and blue shark decreased more or less in the same magnitude as the oceanic whitetip shark. In addition, WCPFC reported that status of stocks of albacore, yellowfin tuna and blue shark are not in serious overfished condition. Thus, the reliability of the results of the paper by Ward and Myers (2005) could not be sufficient enough as an evidence of the endangered situation of the oceanic whitetip shark stock in the Pacific;</p> <p>iv. In addition, several RFMOs have recently developed the management measures for this species such as the WCPFC, IATTC and ICCAT. In this connection, the analysis using the Japanese and Spanish tuna longline in the Indian Ocean indicated that the CPUE trends are stable and increasing, respectively.</p>		
<p>Proposal 20: Listing of porbeagle shark (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) in Appendix II (The proposal number changed to 44.)</p>	<p>i. This species is distributed in North Atlantic Ocean and in Southern Hemisphere from temperate to sub-arctic region, and it is epipelagic over the continental shelves and in the open ocean;</p> <p>ii. During the joint International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICCAT- ICES), Porbeagle stock assessment meeting in Copenhagen in June 2009 (ICCAT/ICES, 2009), an assessment of</p>	<p>i. Malaysia: does not support the proposal for listing of species in Appendix II consistent with the previous coordinated position for CoP15.</p> <p>ii. Philippines: decides to be consistent with the previous coordinated position for CoP15.</p> <p>iii. Myanmar: although species not found in waters of Myanmar, does not support the proposal</p> <p>iv. Laos PDR: species not present in country and does not support the proposal</p> <p>v. Japan: does not support the proposal as only the population in Northern Atlantic is diminishing but</p>	<p>Decisions on the proposal taking into consideration the countries' views:</p> <p>Support: None Oppose: All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries except Vietnam Depend on consensus: Vietnam Not Decide Yet: None</p>

Listing Proposals	Technical Recommendations from the Regional Experts Meeting: Shark	Countries' views on the proposals	Positions of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
	<p>the four Porbeagle stocks in the Atlantic Ocean was made and it was estimated that the current biomass of the Northwest, Northeast and Southwest areas were at levels below MSY, and the current total allowable catch (TAC) in the Northwest and Northeast could allow rebuilding the biomass to be MSY level in some decades.</p> <p>iii. The ICCAT-ICES also recommended that the fishing mortality should be kept below the current level. Thus, the rebuilding of this stock can be achieved only by the current management plan by ICCAT and ICES, and control by CITES should not be necessary. Although the Proposal suggests that listing of this species to the Appendix II should aid the activity of ICCAT and ICES, but this appears to be an uninvited support as most of the catch of porbeagle is obtained within the EEZs of the countries;</p> <p>iv. The result of the Japanese driftnet survey clearly indicated that the size of stocks in Southern Hemisphere is not that small and could be comparably bigger than the stock in the North Atlantic Ocean. Moreover, the CPUEs in the Southern Hemisphere have shown stable trend based on Japanese longline data during the last 15 years; and</p> <p>v. It was also noted that EU catch and trade regulations already include treatment for the management of this species.</p>	<p>not in the southern hemisphere, while in the northern hemisphere the policy on total allowable catch is already adopted.</p> <p>vi. Indonesia: Does not support the proposal</p> <p>vii. Cambodia: Does not support the proposal</p> <p>viii. Thailand: Does not support the proposal</p> <p>ix. Brunei Darussalam: although species is not available in the country, decides to be consistent with the previous coordinated position for CoP15</p> <p>x. Vietnam: Do not support the proposal</p>	
<p>Proposal 21: Listing of Manta rays (<i>Manta</i> spp.) in Appendix II</p> <p><i>(The proposal number changed to 46.)</i></p>	<p>i. Information provided in the Proposal seems to be insufficient since the data in the Proposal was based only on landings with inconsistent analysis but not based on stock assessment.</p> <p>ii. Sub-populations estimated in Tables 1 and 2 (Annex V) and in Table 1 of Annex VI of the Proposal are not based on scientific evidence</p>	<p>i. Malaysia: does not support the proposal due to concerns on look-alike species.</p> <p>ii. Philippines: supports the proposal as it is consistent with the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) # 193 series of 1998, FAO # 233 series of 2010, Republic Act # 9147 series of 2001, and Republic Act # 8550 series of 1998.</p>	<p>Decisions on the proposal taking into consideration the countries' views:</p> <p>Support: Philippines</p> <p>Oppose: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar,</p>

Listing Proposals	Technical Recommendations from the Regional Experts Meeting: Shark	Countries' views on the proposals	Positions of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
	(mostly personal communication) and thus need more clarification. For example, there is no record of Manta rays in Thai waters; and iii. Specifically for the Philippines, Manta rays (<i>Manta birostris</i>) are already protected under its Fisheries Administrative Order 193. Thus, official records on the capture of such species could no longer be obtained. Moreover, the Philippines already adopted DNA analysis to monitor the trade of said species.	iii. Myanmar: does not support the proposal. iv. Laos PDR: does not support the proposal. v. Japan: does not support the proposal. However, management measures should be considered. Proponents of this proposal are members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), in which they should raise the management issues before considering the proposal of listing these species in the CITES Appendices. vi. Indonesia: although there are no substantial data on Manta rays, does not support the proposal. vii. Cambodia: does not support the proposal but suggests that conservation of species under national programs should be promoted. viii. Thailand: Since no <i>Manta</i> spp. are found in Thai waters but only look-alike species (<i>Mobula</i> spp.), does not support the proposal ix. Brunei Darussalam: since this is new proposal, needs to consult first with the country's stakeholders and supports the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality. x. Vietnam: since data for stock assessment is insufficient but with data on distribution of <i>Manta birostris</i> available, does not support the proposal	Thailand, Vietnam, Japan Depend on consensus: Brunei Darussalam Not Decide Yet: -
<p>Proposal 27: Listing of Ceja river stingray (<i>Paratrygon aiereba</i>) and (The proposal number changed to 46.)</p> <p>Proposal 28: Ocellate river stingray and Rosette river stingray (<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i>) and</p>	i. These species are not commercially exploited in the region; ii. Look-alike species of freshwater stingrays are commonly used for aquarium trade in some countries in the region, including captive husbandry practiced in Thailand as exotic species of <i>Potamotrygon motoro</i> for export; iii. Additional information on the species is necessary to ensure that these are not invasive alien species in the region, considering that these species are known to inhabit in freshwater environments; and iv. Proposal should be available in English	i. Malaysia: needs to conduct consultation with national stakeholders. ii. Philippines: decides to adopt the common stand under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality. iii. Myanmar: not support the proposal. iv. Laos PDR: not support the proposal. v. Japan: since this species is not commercially-exploited aquatic species in the country, decides to support the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality. vi. Indonesia: not support the proposal. vii. Cambodia: not support the proposal. viii. Thailand: not support the proposal since captive	<p>Decisions on the proposal taking into consideration the countries' views:</p> <p>Support: None Oppose: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand Depend on consensus: Philippines, Japan, Brunei Darussalam</p> <p>Not Decide Yet: Malaysia, Vietnam</p>

Listing Proposals	Technical Recommendations from the Regional Experts Meeting: Shark	Countries' views on the proposals	Positions of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
<p><i>Potamotrygon schroederi</i>) in Appendix II</p> <p>(The proposal number changed to 46.)</p>	<p>version to facilitate review considering that all information is only available in the Spanish language.</p>	<p>breeding of <i>Potamotrygon motoro</i> already successful.</p> <p>ix. Brunei Darussalam: needs to conduct consultation with national stakeholders and supports the consensus under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC modality.</p> <p>x. Vietnam: species not common in Southeast Asian waters but could be found in other regions, so proposal should be thoroughly discussed to come up with appropriate decision.</p>	











VIEWS AND POSITIONS OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES
On the Proposal to amend the rule 25 on methods of voting using Secret Balloting at CITES-CoP16

During the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries Related Issues organized from 31 October to 2 November 2012, the proposals on (1) improvement of the transparency of voting during CoPs submitted by Denmark on behalf of the EU, and (2) amendment to Rule 25 on methods of voting using secret balloting submitted by Mexico at the CITES-CoP16 were introduced and discussed. The RTC compiled the country' views and positions corresponding to the respective proposals as shown in the following table:

- i. Japan raised the issue of secret balloting by informing the Meeting that EU and Mexico proposed for CoP16 the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Parties of CITES to restrict the requirement of secret balloting. Secret balloting is a very significant system to ensure the right of each party to make a vote based on their own decision eliminating pressures from other parties or NGOs. In this respect, Japan stressed the necessity to oppose the proposal by EU and Mexico, supported by some members. The Member Countries took note of the importance of this issue, and agreed that they continue to consider it.
- ii. Philippines: no position on this proposal at this moment, needs to discuss with the CITES Management authorities of the country.
- iii. Malaysia: needs to discuss the issue with CITES Management authorities in the country before making decision.
- iv. Lao PDR: needs to discuss this issue with authorities in the country.
- v. Indonesia: since this is an important mechanism, this should be discussed with authorities in the country before a stand could be made.
- vi. Brunei Darussalam: since this is not yet discussed in the country, needs to consult with CITES Management authorities on this issue.
- vii. Vietnam: as with the other countries, needs to discuss this issue in the country but will get back to SEAFDEC Secretariat in due course.
- viii. Thailand: still in the process of conducting a consultation, and will report the country's stand on this issue as soon as possible.
- ix. Cambodia: supports the conduct of secret balloting during the CoPs.
- x. Myanmar: secret balloting is a means of getting fair decisions, therefore supports the process of secret balloting during CoPs.
- xi. Japan: since countries still cannot decide on this issue as thorough consultation is necessary. It is therefore, important to get the final decision of the countries on this proposal, and Japan is planning to continue consulting with Member Countries through diplomatic channels.

Common Position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on Proposed listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) for CITES-CoP16*

Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) for CITES-CoP16		Common Positions of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation on CEAS at the CITES-CoP16
<p>Proposal 42: Listing of oceanic whitetip shark, (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>) in Appendix II</p>	 <i>Carcharhinus Longimanus</i>	All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries opposed Proposal 42
<p>Proposal 43: Listing of scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead shark (<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>, <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> and <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>) in Appendix II</p>	 <i>Sphyrna lewini</i>  <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>  <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries opposed Proposal 43
<p>Proposal 44: Listing of porbeagle shark (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) in Appendix II</p>	 <i>Lamna nasus</i>	All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries opposed Proposal 44
<p>Proposal 47: Listing of ceja river stingray (<i>Paratrygon aiereba</i>) in Appendix II</p>	 <i>Paratrygon aiereba</i>	All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries opposed Proposal 47
<p>Proposal 48: ocellate river stingray (<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i>) and rosette river stingray (<i>Potamotrygon schroederi</i>) in Appendix II</p>	 <i>Potamotrygon motoro</i>  <i>Potamotrygon schroederi</i>	All ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries opposed Proposal 48

* Adopted at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation (RC) on Common/Coordinated Position of CEAS at the CITES-CoP16, 22 Jan 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

**Common Position of the Countries on
Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties***

Country	Common Position of the countries on amendment of the rules of procedure of the conference of the parties
Brunei Darussalam	Opposed, but decision should be brought up by national CITES authority and not by fisheries representatives
Cambodia	Opposed
Indonesia	Opposed
Japan	Opposed
Lao PDR	Opposed
Malaysia	Opposed, following the modality of ASEAN Member States
Myanmar	Opposed
The Philippines	Opposed, as voting is a right that should be protected
Singapore	Opposed, following the consensus of the Consultation
Thailand	Opposed, but will conduct meeting with National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation Department and Department of Agriculture to bring up the country's position from the fisheries point of view
Vietnam	Opposed, pending confirmation by the Prime Minister

** Adopted at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation (RC) on Common/Coordinated Position of CEAS at the CITES-CoP16, 22 Jan 2013, Bangkok, Thailand*

RESULTS OF THE CITES-CoP16


The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was convened from 3 to 14 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. A total of about 2,234 participants including Parties, observers, media, and visitors attended the meeting.





Concerning the proposals to include or transfer species among or between the Appendices, seven proposals relevant to commercially-exploited aquatic species and two proposals to improve transparency of voting and to amend the Rule 25 on Methods of Voting – Use of secret balloting are discussed in this working paper. These proposals are include:



- **Proposal 42:** Listing of oceanic whitetip shark, (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 43:** Listing of scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran* and *Sphyrna zygaena*) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 44:** Listing of porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 45:** Transfer of freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) from Appendix II to Appendix I;
- **Proposal 46:** Listing of manta rays (*Manta* spp.) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 47:** Listing of cja river stingray (*Paratrygon aiereba*) in Appendix II;
- **Proposal 48:** Listing of ocellate river stingray and rosette river stingray (*Potamotrygon motoro* and *Potamotrygon schroederi*) in Appendix II;
- Proposal to improve transparency of voting during meetings of the CoPs; and
- Proposal to amend Rule 25 on *Methods of Voting* – Use of secret balloting




These proposals were discussed and the results showed that only one Proposal had reached the consensus, this is Proposal 45 on the transfer of freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) from Appendix II to Appendix I, while the other proposals that did not receive the consensus, were submitted to votation. The results of the votation on the selected proposals during the CoP16-CITES are shown in the following **Table 1**.

Table 1. Final decision on selected proposals discussed during the CITES-CoP16 (a proposal is accepted if a two-thirds majority is in favor of such proposal)

Proposals	Details of deliberations		Results
<p>Proposal 42*: Inclusion of oceanic whitetip shark, (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>) in Appendix II</p>  <p><i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i></p>	<p><i>Support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability of the species due to its low productivity; • Local fishing communities would not be affected by its inclusion in Appendix I; • Inclusion in Appendix II would complement existing management strategies for the species employed by RFMOs; and <p>Fins could be easily identified, but the 18-month delay for the listing to come into effect would allow implementation and enforcement measures to be put in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose: • Measures implemented by RFMOs to manage the species had considerably improved and these would be more effective in ensuring sustainable management than an Appendix II-listing; • Catch documentation schemes had proved difficult to implement in the past and that the proposed 18-month delay in implementation would not be sufficient to resolve enforcement issues; • Risks that the commodity value of the species would increase as a result of such listing; • Difficulties in identifying non-fin commodities and distinguishing fins in mixed shipments; and • Potential socio-economic impacts on small island developing states, thus, efforts should focus on the effective implementation of existing fisheries management measures. 	<p>The proposal was put to votation, and as a result, ninety-two Parties expressed support, 42 opposed and eight abstained. The proposal was therefore <u>accepted</u>.</p>
	<p>In general, it was observed that changes to fishing methods could be made in order to reduce bycatch. The European Union had committed funds to support capacity-building for the implementation of the listing of marine species. The CoP noted that the funds offered by the European Union would be used to assist Parties with issues related to trade and conduct of non-detriment findings. It was also noted Brazil planned to organize a capacity-building workshop for the Central and South America and Caribbean region, while Colombia stated that the 18-month period would allow the counties to identify capacity requirements adding that technical support could be offered to other regions.</p>		

Proposals	Details of deliberations		Results
<p>Proposal 43*: Inclusion of scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark and smooth hammerhead shark (<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>, <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> and <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>) in Appendix II</p>  <p><i>Sphyrna lewini</i></p>  <p><i>Sphyrna mokarran</i></p>  <p><i>Sphyrna zygaena</i></p>	<p><i>Support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific criteria for listing were met and inclusion in Appendix II was an appropriate mechanism by which to manage the species and such a listing is not tantamount to a ban on trade, and that livelihoods would not be adversely affected; • An Appendix II-listing would support regional and national management measures; and • RFMOs only regulated their members but not All CITES Parties. 	<p><i>Oppose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current scientific data still not adequate to support the proposal; • Stricter domestic measures already put in place although still with difficulties in distinguishing between hammerhead shark species; and • Appendix II-listing could become a de facto trade ban because of implementation difficulties while management of the species should be mediated through RFMOs 	<p>The proposal was put to votation, the result of which showed that ninety-one Parties voted in favor with 39 voted against and eight abstained. The proposal was therefore <u>accepted</u>.</p>
<p>Proposal 44*: Inclusion of porbeagle shark (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) in Appendix II</p>  <p><i>Lamna nasus</i></p>	<p><i>Support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new report which stated that southern hemisphere populations are substantially smaller than those in the northern hemisphere 	<p><i>Oppose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stricter measures taken by the European Union and North American countries are already having beneficial effects, while nations and RFMOs are the best instruments to regulate trade of this species; and • Insufficient scientific data on the southern hemisphere population, but once data would be available this could point to more abundant stock than previously thought 	<p>The proposal was put to votation. Ninety-three Parties were in favor, 39 were against and eight abstained. The proposal was therefore <u>accepted</u>.</p>

Proposals	Details of deliberations		Results
<p>Proposal 45: Transfer of freshwater sawfish (<i>Pristis microdon</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix I</p>  <p><i>Pristis microdon</i></p>	<p>Australia as a proponent, cited that despite a zero export quota since June 2011, Appendix I-listing would reinforce its domestic export ban and send a message to traders who might continue to harvest the species in anticipation of trade. The country acknowledged the support of other range States for the proposal. It was averred that the species met the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I, and is already protected under domestic legislation in many countries.</p>		<p>The proposal was <u>accepted</u> by a consensus.</p>
<p>Proposal 46*: Inclusion of manta rays (<i>Manta spp.</i>) in Appendix II</p>  <p><i>Manta Spp.</i></p>	<p><i>Support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manta rays have very low fecundity and their highly fragmented and isolated sub-populations prevent recruitment and recovery; • Tendency to aggregate made them vulnerable to excessive harvest and the high value of gill plates and demand for skins and cartilages was believed to be driving unsustainable trade, with significant population reported to be decreasing; and • Landing of manta rays (since 2012) had been prohibited by any vessels registered to Member States of the EU and several countries drew attention to the significant value of manta rays for tourism 	<p><i>Oppose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for inclusion in Appendix II are not met; • Manta rays should be raised in other fisheries fora as the best place to address the issues and that by-catch rather than trade should be the primary issues to be addressed; and • Paucity of reliable information on population sizes and trends 	<p>The proposal was put to votation. Ninety-six Parties were in favor, 23 were against and seven abstained. The proposal was therefore <u>accepted</u>.</p>

Proposals	Details of deliberations		Results
<p>Proposal 47*: Inclusion of ceja river stingray (<i>Paratrygon aiereba</i>) in Appendix II</p>  <p><i>Paratrygon aiereba</i></p>	<p><i>Support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species is of commercial interest and inclusion in Appendix II would ensure its sustainable exploitation and utilization 	<p><i>Oppose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing in Appendix III would provide the data needed to assess whether the species warranted inclusion in Appendix II; and Insufficiency of information does not warrant conclusion as to whether the species met the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II and thus, national management and regulations could be more appropriate 	<p>The proposal was put to votation, after which fifty-one were in favor, 51 voted against and 19 abstained. The proposal was therefore <u>rejected</u>.</p>
<p>Proposal 48*: Inclusion ocellate river stingray (<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i>) and rosette river stingray (<i>Potamotrygon schroederi</i>) in Appendix II</p>  <p><i>Potamotrygon motoro</i></p>  <p><i>Potamotrygon schroederi</i></p>	<p><i>Support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All range States for one or both of these species expressed support for the proposal 	<p><i>Oppose;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More appropriate to list these species in Appendix III; and Insufficient information does not warrant conclusion that the species met the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II 	<p>The proposal was put to votation, the result of which showed that fifty-five Parties voted for the proposal, 52 voted against and 25 abstained. The proposal was therefore <u>rejected</u>.</p>
<p>Proposal to improve transparency of voting during meetings of the CoPs (CoP16 Doc. 4.2 (Rev.1))</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As proposed, a simple majority would be required to decide whether voting on matters other than the election of officers or prospective host countries, should be by secret balloting; Indonesia cited that in 1994, when the current rules regarding secret balloting were adopted, 10 Parties represented eight percent of the total number of Parties, and that a similar proportion would still be present, <i>i.e.</i> 14 Parties; and Colombia proposed amending the proposal which require that any request for a secret balloting should have the support of 40 Parties (this was put to votation and was finally rejected) 		<p>The proposal was put to votation. Sixty-two votes were in favor, 62were against and five abstained. The proposal was thus <u>rejected</u>.</p>

Proposals	Details of deliberations	Results
<p>Proposal to amend Rule 25 on <i>Methods of voting</i> – Use of secret ballots (CoP16 Doc. 4.3 (Rev.1))</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secret balloting would be triggered if at least one-third of the Representatives are present and support the motion to have secret balloting. The proposed amendment of Rule 25 indicates that the motion for secret balloting may not be conducted through secret balloting; • Thus, a simple majority is required to change the Rule of Procedure; • Japan cited that a two-thirds majority is required to amend the Rules of Procedure; • an informal working group was established, but was unable to reach consensus on the proposal in documents CoP16 Doc. 4.2 (Rev. 1) and CoP16 Doc. 4.3 (Rev.1), or on the majority required to change the Rule of Procedure; • Japan’s appeal was put to votation and was accepted; • USA proposed to change “one-third” to “25” and to delete the proposed additional sentence “the vote on the motion for a secret ballot shall not proceed through secret ballot” (this was put to votation but was rejected); • Mexico proposed to replace “10 representatives” by “one-third of the representatives” (this was put to votation but was rejected); and • Mexico also proposed to specify that the vote on whether to take a decision by secret balloting may not itself be taken by secret balloting (this was put to votation but was rejected). 	<p>The proposed amendments were <u>rejected</u>.</p>

Notes: * The entry into effect of the inclusion will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues.

Key Issues and Recommendations for Future Regional Collaboration

Regional Technical Consultation on Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species 18-20 October 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

1. INTRODUCTION

Issues on the sustainable fishery management of commercially-exploited aquatic species have been discussed at SEAFDEC Meetings for many years, and at the 43rd Meeting of the Council Directors of SEAFDEC in April 2011, “SEAFDEC was requested to identify the technical problems on CITES faced by all Member Countries and provide the information to the CITES Secretariat to make them aware of the situation and concerns of the Member Countries before the next CoP16-CITES in 2013”. Responding to such directive, SEAFDEC organized the Regional Technical Consultation on Addressing of Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species in October 2011 with the main objective of identifying the technical problems encountered by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on commercially-exploited aquatic species related to CITES issues.

Specifically, the status and trends of the selected commercially-exploited aquatic species such as sharks-rays, sea cucumber, seahorse, humphead wrasse, including some inland aquatic species such as the Irrawaddy dolphin were discussed during the Consultation. The following concerns on the fisheries management and conservation of the selected commercially-exploited aquatic species were raised during the Consultation, which needs to be addressed:

1.1 Insufficiency of data and information to support decision-making on proper management measures

- Species under international concerns are sometimes caught as by-catch and being caught in small quantity, which cannot be segregated from total catch
- Difficulty in identifying species and recording of catch landing by species due to inadequate human resource capacity
- Data and information available on catch landing may not be reliable as many fishers are unable to provide the necessary information because of capacity problem and also due to illegal fishing practices
- Limited capacity and methodologies for stock assessment, especially for the multi-species nature of fisheries in the region

1.2 Trade

- Species in CITES Appendices are usually traded in small quantities (mixed with other species) and inspection of specimens by custom officers is usually done at random, which makes implementation of CITES rules not practical
- Unavailability of tagging methodologies for certain species (*e.g.* seahorse, corals) that are imported and re-exported
- Application for farm registration and certification for cultured species under CITES Appendices (*e.g.* Arowana farms) need long process for approval by the CITES Secretariat, stimulating continued illegal trade of many restricted species (*e.g.* juvenile golden Arowana mistaken as silver Arowana).

1.3 CITES-related issues

- Possibility of listing certain species in CITES Appendices, which are not endangered with extinction, or likely to become so, including (but not limited to) look-alike species
- Difficulty of down-listing or de-listing of species even if the resources could have already recovered

- Impacts of the CITES system for management of aquatic species under CITES, which could possibly bring about various adverse effects to the regional/local fisheries communities

2. KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE REGIONAL COLLABORATION

In order to support decision-making on the proper management of commercially-exploited aquatic species or/and endangered species listed in the CITES Appendices, the key issues and recommendations for future regional collaboration including HRD requirements are as follows:

Key Issues/ Concerns	Recommendations	Priority of Action	HRD Requirements
Collection of scientific data on status and trends of selected commercially-exploited aquatic species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile historical data from relevant agencies on trends of national catch and production (within and outside EEZ) 2. Develop fishing data collection system from fishers and markets, if necessary 3. Identify critically important commercially-exploited aquatic species (at appropriate species level and other data items) 4. Harmonize and improve national statistics systems and capacity for the collection data on catch including endangered species or selected commercially-exploited aquatic species 5. Conduct periodic biological data collection 6. Develop national and regional database for long term assessment and prediction of fisheries trends 7. Identify and define the origin of catch/production by species 	Immediate and long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on species identification (based on selected commercially-exploited aquatic species) • Training on biological data collection • Fishing Logbook, Catch documentation schemes
Inadequate stock/catch assessment of selected commercially-exploited species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the conduct national stock/catch assessment for selected target species (such as tuna, identified sharks) in order to support the regional stock assessment managed by RFMOs 2. Establish the Regional Working Group on Stock Assessment (tuna, identified sharks) 3. Implement Ecosystem Approach to fisheries 	Immediate and long term	
Development of coordinating mechanism between fisheries sector and agencies involved in CITES-related issues at country level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the gap of communication/coordination 2. Clarify the list of focal point of both agencies 3. Enhance coordination 4. Enhance the role/function of fisheries authority in the CITES venues 	Immediate and Medium-term actions	
Involvement of representatives for fisheries sector in CITES discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the participation of countries' fisheries authorities in CITES-related meetings (CoP-CITES, CITES Animals and Standing Committees, Committees' on-line inter-sessional discussions) 	Immediate and long term	
Technical problems within CITES system itself	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement appropriate fisheries management measures on important species so that CITES regulations may no longer be necessary 2. Examine whether proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species in CITES Appendices is really justified and necessary 3. Share information on unjustified proposals among SEAFDEC Member Countries for 	Immediate and long term	

Key Issues/ Concerns	Recommendations	Priority of Action	HRD Requirements
	collaborative action 4. Ensure that scientific evidences such as biomass level for MSY are adequately evaluated in the proposals 5. Evaluate the application of look-alike provisions in the CITES regulations 6. Assess the interpretation of criteria for inclusion of species in CITES Appendices which should be appropriate and clear		
Various adverse impacts of CITES listings to regional/local communities	1. Evaluate the impacts of the proposed listings at the proposal stage and share the results of the evaluation among Countries concerned 2. Develop and improve data collection and analysis systems to ensure appropriate implementation of CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDF)	Medium and long term action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on NDF
Promotion of conservation/management measures	1. Review status and trends, and conduct assessment of fish stocks 2. Define the appropriate fisheries management measures based on the results of stock assessment 3. Enhance national policies and legal framework to support the enforcement and implementation of the various measures 4. Adjust national legislations accordingly, if necessary	Medium and long term action	
Stock enhancement	1. Focus on identified priority species when initiating stock assessment activities 2. Share experiences among the ASEAN countries on successful aquaculture and stock enhancement technologies (<i>e.g.</i> artificial breeding) of giant catfish, Arowana, seahorse, giant clams, corals, sea cucumbers, and others 3. Promote the conservation of ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSA) such as nursery areas through the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) and/or other measures 4. Implement rehabilitation programs in EBSA such as critical fishing grounds and habitats	Medium and long term action	
Participation of SEAFDEC in CITES-related fora	1. Issue official communications (from SEAFDEC to CITES Secretariat) to enable SEAFDEC to take part in CITES Animals and Standing Committees discussions as well as during the Committees' on-line inter-sessional discussions	Medium and long term action	

REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD (RFVR): A TOOL TO COMBAT THE IUU FISHING IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION

I. INTRODUCTION

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and related fishing activities continue to be a major problem, *inter alia*, jeopardizing responsible and sustainable fisheries and frustrating attempts to protect the marine environment. All regions of the world and most fisheries are confronting the difficulties and adverse effects associated with and aggravated by IUU fishing. In this regard, the Southeast Asian countries have focused their efforts towards promoting sustainable fisheries management and adopting countermeasures to address IUU fishing, which also concur with a provision in the Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Responsible Fisheries Management, which stipulates that: “*States should identify steps needed to limit access (rights-based fisheries) when over-capacity exists, by implementing an improved system of national and local registration of fishing vessels*”. Moreover, the aforesaid activity is also meant to address a concern in the 2011 Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, specifically on the need to “*strengthen regional and national policy and legislation to implement measures and activities to combat IUU fishing, including the development and implementation of national plans of action to combat IUU fishing, and promote the awareness and understanding of international and regional instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns*”.

Since 2011, SEAFDEC has been promoting the improvement of the region’s systems of fishing licensing, boats registration and port state measures as means of combating IUU fishing in the region. Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF), a particular activity is being implemented with the objective of compiling information that could be used as basis for the development of a Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Southeast Asia.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD (RFVR)

SEAFDEC has been implementing since 2011 the project on Promotion of Fishing License, Boats Registration and Port State Measures with the collaboration of the SEAFDEC Member Countries. Under this project are relevant activities that aim to reduce IUU fishing activities which are being carried out through a series of regional meetings such as *the Regional Core Experts Meeting on Fishing License, Boats Registration and Information Gathering on Export of Fisheries Products in Southeast Asia in 2011*, and *the Experts Group Meeting on Fishing Licensing and Boats Registration in Southeast Asia in 2012*. These activities were used as platform for compiling inputs from the Southeast Asian countries during and after the meetings that could be used by SEAFDEC in the development of the RFVR, starting with fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over.

Considering that the procedures for fishing licensing differ from those of vessels registration, where in some countries these tasks are undertaken by different national agencies, the roles of the various national agencies in vessels registration as well as those in fishing licensing were clarified during the Experts Group Meeting. Moreover, since fishing vessels in the region have varying classifications, *i.e.* either based on size (length) or gross tonnage or engine power in horsepower, it was agreed that henceforth, measurements of vessels would be expressed into length to enable SEAFDEC to analyze and harmonize the procedures and systems of issuing fishing licenses and registering fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over, and subsequently come up with the regional record for this group of fishing vessels as an initial step. Nonetheless, the Experts Group Meeting was able to compile the basic requirements for Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) in Southeast Asia which are shown as follows:

• Name of vessel	• Serial number of engine
• Type of fishing method/gear	• Hull material
• Port of registry	• Date of registration
• Gross tonnage (G.T.)	• Area (country) of fishing operation
• Length (L)	• Nationality of vessel (flag)
• Breadth (B)	• Previous name (if any)
• Depth (D)	• Previous flag (if any)
• Engine Power	• Name of captain/ master
• Shipyard	• Nationality of captain/master
• Date of launching	• Number of crew (maximum/minimum)
• International Radio Call Sign	• Nationality of crew
• Engine Brand	

In the case of Cambodia and Lao PDR where fishing vessels that measure 24 meters in length and over are not existing, their respective procedures and systems of fishing licensing and recording of vessels which are lower than 24 meters would be considered part of the regional system that could be adopted in coming up with the regional record of fishing vessels. Furthermore, in an effort to develop the initial database of fishing vessels in the region using as inputs the existing data and information on the respective countries' compilation systems, the national data compilation systems for recording vessels of fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over are shown as follows:

Country	Format	Remarks
Brunei Darussalam	Microsoft Excel Format	Available in electronic and hard copy
Cambodia	Microsoft Excel Format	Registration with MPWT Licensing with FiA
Indonesia	Central office: database	Database on Directorate General of Capture Fisheries
Lao PDR	Microsoft Excel Format	Collaborate with NTPC database sector
Malaysia	Database	Centralized and updated on-line
Myanmar	Manual recording	Assistance needed to develop electronic files
Philippines	Database (MARINA) Logbook or excel format (BFAR)	Registration: MARINA; Licensing: BFAR Decentralized recording of data by region
Thailand	Database	Marine Department Database for fishing license by DOF
Vietnam	Database and Excel format	Each month submitted to ministerial level

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD

In 2012, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries Related Issues discussed and considered the establishment of RFVR. The conclusions and recommendations on this issue are as follows:

- An in-depth review of RFVR should be conducted by the respective countries in order to provide the necessary data;
- Through coordination and integration with other initiatives, the RFVR should have close linkage particularly with the FAO Global Record, and the development of IUU vessel list under the RPOA;
- Since the development of database and provision of inputs from countries had been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC could consider enhancing the capacity of the Member Countries, *e.g.* in providing up-to-date data and information, as well as sharing of information among the countries to support the urgent need of combating IUU fishing in the region;
- In the development of RFVR, some technical issues (*e.g.* minimum requirements, data entry, etc.) should be reviewed before sharing the information with the countries in the region; and

- The RTC endorsed the aforementioned recommendations for policy consideration during the forthcoming Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2013.

Furthermore, the proposed establishment of RFVR was also discussed and considered during the Fifteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) in 2012. The conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

- Concerned Member Countries should provide the necessary updated data for the development of the RFVR;
- Although the RFVR is in line with the Global Record, it will focus only on the basic requirements available in most Member Countries, while the database of the RFVR could be shared among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries;
- SEAFDEC could consider providing technical assistance to Vietnam in converting the unit used by the country which is in horse power into meters;
- Since fishing vessels registration in Thailand is under the responsibility of the Marine Department, the Department of Fisheries of Thailand will consult with the Marine Department on its system of vessel registration, and inform SEAFDEC on the result of the said consultation;
- In many Member Countries, since fishing vessels registration and fishing licensing are under different responsible government agencies, representatives of agencies responsible for transport including fishing vessels could be invited to meetings that discuss this issue in order that appropriate action could be undertaken; and
- The Fifteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) supported the proposed development of a RFVR and agreed to submit the outputs of the Meeting to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to:

1. Take note of the initiatives undertaken by SEAFDEC on sustainable and responsible fisheries in support of combating IUU fishing in the ASEAN region;
2. Consider and endorse the establishment of a database for the development of Regional Fishing Vessels Record for 24 meters in length and over which could serve as a tool to combat the IUU fishing in Southeast Asia;
3. Support the initiative of the Member Countries in providing the updated basic requirements to SEAFDEC for development of the database for Regional Fishing Vessels Record in Southeast Asia; and
4. Support development of database for Regional Fishing Vessels Record in Southeast Asia, with the Member Countries sharing the information from such database.

CONCEPTUAL NOTE ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN CATCH CERTIFICATION

I. INTRODUCTION

Considering that the global fishery resources have declined due to over-exploitation and uncontrolled fishing operations whether within national jurisdictions, sub-regional/regional areas or in the high seas. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing which has been identified as one of the causes of the declining fishery resources, can take place in all aspects of capture fisheries and in all sea areas. Initiatives to conserve and manage fish stocks have been undermined by IUU fishing, the result of which could lead to total collapse of capture fisheries seriously hampering all attempts to rebuild the stocks that may have already been overfished. This situation could also lead to losses of both short and long-term social and economic opportunities and thus, could have negative impacts on food security.

One of the important international voluntary-based measures developed by FAO is the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) which serves as a guide to ensure the sustainable development of fisheries. The CCRF includes several provisions covering all fisheries aspects, including fisheries management, fishing operations, sustainable aquaculture, and post-harvest technology, among others. Moreover, specific sub-issues such as International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (**IPOA-IUU**), legal binding of Port State Measures (PSM), flag state control, market driven measures, and others are also included in the CCRF.

In Southeast Asian region, SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member Countries are aware of the issues, through the efforts of SEAFDEC working together with the Member Countries to regionalize the CCRF, and came up with a series of guidelines that result from the Regionalization of the CCRF (RCCRF). These RCCRF guidelines have been translated into national languages of respective countries for implementation starting early 2000s through the various programs of SEAFDEC. Nevertheless, from the global and regional points of view, IUU fishing has remained active around the world while over-exploitation of the fishery resources continues due to increasing demand of fish and fishery products in the world.

On 29 September 2008, the European Union (EU) adopted a market-driven measure known as the “**EC Regulation 1005/2008**” to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries, taking into consideration the urgency of promoting sustainable fisheries and combating IUU fishing in exporting countries to the EU. The regulation requires a **Catch Certificate** for all imports and landings of fish and fishery products into the EU by third countries (*i.e.* countries that are not members of the EU). Considered as one of the main tools of the EC Regulation, the catch certification scheme is aimed at bringing to an end the export of IUU fishery products into the EU. The scheme places strong emphasis on checking, inspection and verification ‘to be carried out according to common criteria governed by risk management and assessment’, and as a matter of priority, regulates targeted trade flows to the EU.

On the other hand, some regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) and arrangements have also moved to develop **Catch Documentation Schemes** as means of discouraging IUU fishing in the RFMOs’ areas and/or high seas with the objective of tracking fish catch being traded in their management areas and minimizing opportunities for products taken by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing from reaching the markets.

This implies that those countries exporting their fish and fishery products to the EU are required to implement the EC Regulation 1005/2008 which was made effective since January 2010. While

countries Party to the RFMOs such as WCPFC, IOTC, etc, have to implement the RFMOs' Catch Documentation Schemes to be able to import and export fish and fishery products.

In this connection, the Thirteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) on 3-4 December 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand, expressed their support on development of common catch documentation scheme as this could facilitate intra-regional trade of fish and fishery products in the Southeast Asian region. However, such catch documentation scheme should conform to and align with those of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the EU Catch Documentation, in order to comply with the requirements of the RFMOs and the EU (Para 8). At the onset therefore, SEAFDEC conducted several workshops and meetings to carry out an impact assessment of the EC Regulation to the region's fisheries sector including small-scale fisheries, and determine the ways and means of improving the implementation process to meet the requirements of the measures. Based on the inputs from Member Countries and the outputs from the workshops and meetings, the SEAFDEC Secretariat therefore proposes the Concept of the Development of an "ASEAN Catch Certification" for consideration at the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

II. "CATCH CERTIFICATION" AND "CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME"

2.1 EC-Catch Certification Scheme

Establishment of a certification scheme is one of main tools of the EC Regulation to halt the import of IUU fishery products into the EU. According to one EU representative, the scheme places strong emphasis on checking, inspection and verification activities, 'to be carried out according to common criteria governed by risk management and assessment'. This would allow targeted trade flows to be controlled as a matter of priority.

For processed products imported into the EU, the importers will have to submit a statement issued by the processing company of the exporting country providing information establishing the link between the processed products and the fish used as raw materials. In this regard, raw materials should be accompanied by catch certificates and validated by the flag state of the fishing vessel. The number of the health certificates and the approval number of the processing plant will be mentioned on the statement to ensure a link with the implementation of the health legislation.

The catch certificate that **must accompany any imports of fish and fish products caught by third country fishing vessels is a central element of the regulation**. The certificate is issued by the flag State of the vessel that originally caught the fish. Catch certificates of a given flag State will only be accepted once that State has confirmed to the European Union that 'it has in place national arrangements for the implementation, control and enforcement of laws, regulations and conservation and management measures'. Trade sanctions can also be imposed on fish caught by vessels found to have engaged in IUU fishing. EU Member States can ban imports as an immediate enforcement measure if a vessel has been caught fishing illegally. The European Union can also add a vessel engaged in IUU fishing to an IUU vessel list if the flag State has failed to take action. Imports of fish and fish products from listed vessels to the EU are prohibited.

Refer to the EC Regulation 1008/2005, the catch certificate is appeared in the Article 12 (Appendix 1).

2.2 RFMOs Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

Schemes known variously as statistical document schemes and trade information/documentation schemes, are used increasingly by regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). While the details of these schemes vary, their use is driven by the need to validate catch data for regional stock assessment, and to minimize opportunities for products taken by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing from reaching the markets. The Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) covers all target

fish species from the point of first capture by a flag State, through international trade routes (*i.e.* transferring, caging, processing, importing, exporting, and re-exporting) to the State of final destination, thus, in the process of CDS involves statistics document program. The CDS appears as Appendix 2. The RFMOs catch documentation mostly focuses only on target tuna species such as skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, and southern bluefin tunas. At present, the Southeast Asian countries concerned with the RFMOs Catch Documentation Scheme are Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

III. EFFECTS OF EC-CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME

The experiences of the Southeast Asian countries on the implementation of the EU-catch certification scheme, as discussed at the SEAFDEC Workshop on Assessment of the Impacts of IUUF fishing and EC Regulation 1005/2008 to Small-scale Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region on 17-19 October 2012 in Nha Trang, Vietnam, have been compiled as shown in Appendix 3, which also indicates status of implementation and the problems encountered by the countries during the implementation of certification scheme. The impacts of the EC Regulation to the countries that send their products to EU through intra-regional trade of fish and fishery products, even though such countries do not export their fish directly to the EU but to neighboring countries but still need catch certificates, were also compiled. In addition, the required catch certificate for re-exporting products to the EU which some countries in the region are not ready to provide, had affected directly the importing countries that currently face shortage of raw fish materials for their processing plants.

Table 1. Certifications for fish trade from Southeast Asian countries

Certifications for fish trade from Southeast Asian countries	Implementation requirements for the countries			
	EC-Catch Certification	RFMOs-CDS	Other Certificates	Remarks
1) Fish/fishery products for the EU	Y			
- Raw fish from commercial fisheries in the EEZ	Y			
- Raw fish from small-scale fisheries in the EEZ	?			Simplified catch certificate
2) Re-exporting fish products to EU	Y			
- Raw fish from other ASEAN countries	Y		?	Include neritic tunas
- Raw fish from foreign vessels	Y		?	
3) Export fish from non EU-exporting ASEAN countries				
- To EU-exporting country	Y		?	
- To other ASEAN countries			?	
4) Importing raw tuna from RFMOs area		Y		
- from foreign fishing vessels		Y		
- from other ASEAN countries		?	?	
5) Exporting of tuna products	Y	Y		
- To EU	Y	Y		
- To other regions		Y		
6) Import-export fish among ASEAN country			?	
- from commercial fishing boat			?	
- from small fishing boat			?	

Table 1 also shows some issues related to trading of fish from the Southeast Asian region indicating the required certification schemes of catch, including simplified catch certification for the small-scale fisheries.

IV. REGIONAL CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME

In the meantime, many countries in the Southeast Asian region have to comply with the EC Regulation 1005/2008 or EC-Catch Certification while some tuna exploitation countries have to implement the RFMO-Catch Documentation Scheme for the import and export of fish and fisheries product, but still several issues/concerns on catch certification have been experienced by the countries as shown in Table 1. In accordance with the requirements of other catch certification schemes, countries could develop their respective catch certificates taking into account intra-regional trade in which the certificate would be based on the requirements of importing countries. Therefore, it could be of advantage to the countries if a regional catch certification is developed taking into consideration the same format and information requirements in the abovementioned set of catch certification schemes.

The said regional catch certification could be known as the ASEAN-Catch Certification, depending on the requirements of ASEAN Member Countries. The Regional Catch Certification Scheme would require harmonization of all relevant schemes adopted in the region, and modified from the RFMO-CDS and/or EC-Catch Certification. This would ensure that the developed regional certification would in line with both existing schemes. In addition, the establishment of the Regional Catch Certification could facilitate enhanced cooperation among the ASEAN Member Countries, and also support the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015.

V. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE SEAFDEC COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note of the concept idea on the development of “ASEAN/Regional catch certification” taking into account the other catch certification requirement for intra-regional trade. The council is also invited to consider whether the region require for regional catch certification, and to provide guidance and policy directives on the ways of proceeding with the development of the ASEAN Certification/Documentation Scheme taking into consideration the suggestions made during the Thirteenth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in December 2010.

Excerpts from the EC-Certification Scheme

Article 12: Catch certificates

1. The importation into the Community of fishery products obtained from IUU fishing shall be prohibited.
2. To ensure the effectiveness of the prohibition established in paragraph 1, fishery products shall only be imported into the Community when accompanied by a catch certificate in conformity with this Regulation.
3. The catch certificate referred to in paragraph 2 shall be validated by the flag State of the fishing vessel or fishing vessels which made the catches from which the fishery products have been obtained. It shall be used to certify that such catches have been made in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and international conservation and management measures.
4. The catch certificate shall contain all the information specified in the specimen shown in Appendix I (Annex II of the EC Regulation 1005/2008.), and shall be validated by a public authority of the flag State with the necessary powers to attest the accuracy of the information. In agreement with flag States, within the framework of the cooperation set out in Article 20(4), the catch certificate may be established, validated or submitted by electronic means or be replaced by electronic traceability systems ensuring the same level of control by authorities.
5. The list in Annex I of the products excluded from the scope of implementation of the catch certificate may be reviewed each year on the basis of the results of the information gathered under Chapters II, III, IV, V, VIII, X and XII, and amended in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 54(2).

Excerpts from RFMOs CDS

Attachment A – WCPFC Catch Documentation Scheme Guiding Principles

In establishing the CWG, the group should be guided by the following principles.

The objectives of a WCPFC CDS need to be clearly defined and address the following at a minimum:

- Traceability to final market destination;
- Catch verification and validation; and
- Provision of scientific and fisheries management information.

CDS should not be viewed as a system in its own right, but rather as a component of an overall fisheries monitoring system.

A WCPFC CDS shall take into account the legitimate roles of all appropriate stakeholders, within the framework of existing international law.

A WCPFC CDS needs to integrate and build on existing systems with the role of the Commission in CDS clearly defined and cost effective.

The WCPFC CDS will take into account existing monitoring and reporting systems such as national and sub-regional catch tracking programs including those implemented and being developed by WCPFC members.

The WCPFC CDS should cater for a range of responses to market requirements and include comprehensive verification of catches in the WCPO.

The development of a CDS system needs to take account specific characteristics of the fisheries within the Pacific Islands region, and the special requirements of developing states, particularly small island developing states, in whose waters most of the fishing takes place.

A phased approach to CDS introduction, with provision for prioritizing system testing, operational trials and review and an initial focus on key species, should be considered.

Status and views of ASEAN countries on the implementation of the EC-Regulation

Country	Status of implementation of EC-Regulation	Countries' views
Cambodia	(No) At present, there is no regulation directly implementing the EC Regulation as Cambodia is not exporting fish and fishery products to EU	However, EU is indirectly requiring Catch Certificates in case of potential export of fish products to neighboring countries such as Thailand and Vietnam
Indonesia	(Yes) MMAF Regulation No. 13/2012 supports national and international efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing	Agreed to simplify the certification of small-scale fishers' vessels (small-scale fisheries business), although small-scale fishing vessels are not obligated to obtain catch certificates, nevertheless, their related UPI (Fish Processing Unit)/ Exporter shall provide the notification
Lao PDR	(No) Not exporting products to EU	Development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Lao PDR should focus on the aquaculture certification
Myanmar	(Yes) However, the requirements of the EU Regulation 1005/2008 is difficult to implement especially for inshore fisheries	Catch certification is required for exporting products to neighboring countries such as Thailand
Philippines	(Yes) Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 238 defines the Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of EC-Regulation on the Catch Certification Scheme	However, operations of municipal fishing boats are not under the purview of the national government through BFAR as their operations are under the responsibility of Local Government Units
Singapore	(Yes) Four processing plants (3 for frozen fish and 1 for processed fish) that export their fish products to EU, since the raw materials used come from Indonesia, Taiwan, India, Vietnam, and Thailand	Shortage of raw materials for the processing plants since some suppliers of raw materials could not comply with the EC Regulation
Thailand	(Yes) Two types of catch certification are adopted, namely: (1) for fishing boats 20 GRT and over, and (2) simplified catch certification used for less than 20 GRT fishing vessels (small-scale)	Simplified catch certificate for small-scale fisheries in which vessels should submit logbooks at district/provincial fishery offices located in any province or landing site, but issues are raised on how to effectively validate the data entered in logbook as certified by captains of fishing vessels
Vietnam	(Yes) D-Fish issued more than 150 legal documents to guide relevant stakeholders, convened workshops and training courses for related agencies and fishers on how to comply with EU Regulations	Insufficient MCS system, insufficient logistics and infrastructures, and inadequate capacity of relevant agencies are the key issues that impede effective implementation of the EC-Regulation

REGIONAL COOPERATION ON SUSTAINABLE TUNA FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATERS

I. INTRODUCTION

The global demand for tunas has been dramatically growing in recent years reflecting a shift of consumer preference to food fish as protein source. The world tuna markets have substantially expanded and been diversified into tuna sashimi and canned tuna. During the last several decades, Japan had been almost the only market for sashimi tuna. Nowadays, people in many countries of the world also prefer to eat tuna sashimi. The status of tuna stocks of the world are dependent on the regions/areas as well as the species. However, some species are over exploited while production of the other species is continuously stable despite the conservation and management efforts by Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (tuna RFMOs). For instance, the trend of skipjack production in the Western Central Pacific Area (WCPA) had been increasing from 200,000 metric tons (mt) in 1970 to 1,300,000 mt in 2005, but the stocks of bluefin tuna in the southern oceans decreased from 65,000 mt in 1970 to only 15,000 mt in 2005 (FAO-FIGIS, 2006).

In the Southeast Asian region, tunas are commercially-important fishery resources, providing tuna products for export as well as for domestic consumption. The total tuna production in the Southeast Asian waters increased from 0.87 million mt in 2001 to 1.94 million mt in 2008, mostly coming from five major oceanic tuna species, namely: bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack, albacore, and bluefin tuna, as well as from the other four neritic species, such as bullet tuna, frigate tuna, eastern little tuna, and longtail tuna. It has always been claimed that tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian waters as a sub-regional area, should be placed under the guidance of tuna RFMOs from the regional perspective, such as the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). However, since the stock structure of tunas distributed in the Southeast Asian region is presently unclear, it would be difficult to develop appropriate tuna management at the national and sub-regional levels, hampering the efforts of both RFMOs to carry out effective regional stock assessment. Taking into consideration such a situation, an ASEAN-SEAFDEC project on “Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in the Southeast Asian Waters” which received funding from the Government of Japan Trust Fund, examined the trend of tuna exploitations in the Southeast Asian waters from 2008 to 2011. With the main objectives of clarifying and assessing the status of tuna exploitation in the Southeast Asian waters through various methods of information gathering, the project was conducted in close collaboration with the major tuna exploiting countries in the region, such as Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia. The analysis of tuna exploitation focused on oceanic and neritic tunas that are exploited in the EEZ of the SEAFDEC Member Countries. Data and information for the analysis were sourced from national fishery statistics data, data samplings at selected landing sites, and consultations with national tuna focal points. The origin and species composition were examined and analyzed to warrant the status of tuna exploitation in specific sea areas, such as South China Sea, Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea, Andaman Sea, Eastern Indian Ocean, Western Pacific Ocean, Banda Sea, Gulf of Thailand, and so on.

Oceanic tunas are highly migratory and most of the neritic tuna stocks are shared among SEAFDEC Member Countries, therefore, management of tunas under the jurisdiction of a single country would not be sufficient. It could be called to mind that the SEAFDEC Council at its 44th Meeting in April 2012 and the 15th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in November 2012, requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to develop a concept for regional cooperation on sustainable tuna fisheries management in the Southeast Asian region for consideration and endorsement by the SEAFDEC Council during its 45th Meeting. However, in order to proceed with such regional cooperation, it has become necessary for the countries to develop their respective policies that would support the regional cooperation for the sustainable utilization of both oceanic and neritic tuna fisheries in the sub-regional and/or regional areas of the Southeast Asian waters. It is expected that the recommendations under such Regional

Cooperation would be developed in accordance with the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action while the 2009 SEAFDEC Program Framework could be used to guide for the ASEAN Member Countries and SEAFDEC for the promotion of sustainable utilization of tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian waters. It should be considered that the outputs/outcomes of such regional cooperation would be beneficial not only to the countries in the region but also to relevant tuna RFMOs.

II. STATUS OF TUNA EXPLOITATION IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATERS

The trend of tuna exploitations in the Southeast Asian countries has been well documented, especially in Indonesia and the Philippines, although this is not well organized in other countries such as, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, and Cambodia. The fishery statistical data shows that total tuna exploitation in Southeast Asian waters was about 1.94 million mt in 2008 increasing from 0.87 million mt in 2001 (Figure 1). During the peak in 2008, the total marine capture production in the region was 13.8 million mt (SEAFDEC, 2010), implying that tuna exploitation represented about 14% of the total production in the Southeast Asian region. In addition, comparing the catch among the Southeast Asian countries, it could be gleaned that in 2010 about 56% and 36% of the total tuna exploitation in the region were represented by Indonesia and Philippines, respectively, subsequently making Indonesia the biggest fresh and frozen tuna supplier to the U.S. contributing about 36% (or about 9,000 mt) of total U.S. fresh and frozen tuna imports in 2007 (Globefish, 2008), followed by the Philippines (23%). Moreover, Indonesia is also the number one supplier of principally yellowfin and bigeye to the sashimi market in Japan, air-shipping 15,000 mt of sashimi-grade tuna per year (Infofish, 2007). Nevertheless, the total tuna exploitation in the region had slightly declined from 1.94 million mt in 2008 to 1.60 million mt in 2010 due to the declining trend of tuna exploitation especially in Indonesia and the Philippines while those of other countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam¹ also indicated certain fluctuations.

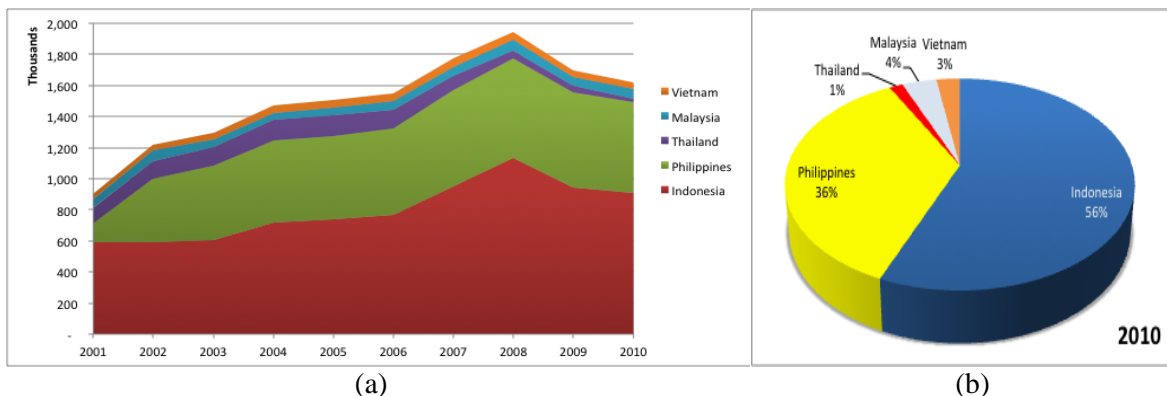


Figure 1. Total exploitation of tunas in 2001-2010 in the Southeast Asian waters (a) and percentage of catch by country in 2010 (b)

The composition of tuna stocks in the Southeast Asian waters depend on the sea areas and sub-regional areas. However, in an overview of the tuna resources in the region, skipjack is a dominant species representing 36% of all tuna exploitations followed by frigate tuna, yellowfin, eastern little tuna, and long tail tuna representing 18%, 17%, 14% and 9%, respectively. The other tuna species such as bigeye, bullet tuna, albacore, and southern bluefin tuna account for less than 7% of the total exploitation. Although tuna fisheries in the region could be grouped based on species, in general these could also be classified by main fishing gears used for both oceanic and neritic tunas such as purse seine (including ring nets) associated with fish aggregating devices (FADs) called *payaos* in the Philippines or *rumpons* in Indonesia, long-line, vertical hand-line, and gill net. Juveniles of yellowfin, and bigeye, as well as adult skipjack and most of neritic species are the major species

¹ It should be noted that total tuna catch landing in Vietnam is estimated only for oceanic tuna not including neritic tuna due to lack of statistical data by species

caught by purse seine and ring nets. Adult bigeye and yellowfin are also popularly caught in nearby FADs by vertical hand-line in the Philippines and Indonesia, a method which has been recently transferred to Sabah State of Malaysia. This led to increased total landing of oceanic tuna especially yellowfin and bigeye in Sabah State. The yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and southern bluefin tuna in the Western Pacific within the EEZ of the Philippines and Indonesia and some sea areas such as Banda Sea, South China Sea are also caught by long-lines. Pole-and-line fishery for skipjack is also operated in the Sulawesi Sea by the Indonesian fishers.

The result of a study on fishing ground identification for tuna exploitation in the region indicated that the important tuna fishing grounds which could provide yields higher than one hundred thousand metric tons are Maluku-Papua, North Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, North Java, Mindanao Sea, and Sulu Sea as shown in Figure 2. The figure also clearly shows that tuna resources are very important and shared by two or three countries especially the Sulu-Sulawesi sub-regional area (Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea). The South China Sea and Andaman Sea are the other areas where tuna resources are shared. The study also shows that in addition to oceanic tunas (*i.e.* bigeye and yellowfin tuna), neritic tunas (*i.e.* frigate tuna, longtail tuna and eastern little tuna) are also abundant and important resources in the aforementioned sub-regional sea areas.

III. TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT

In principle, tuna resources in the Southeast Asian region are managed under the framework of tuna RFMOs such as the WCPFC and IOTC, which also support the regular conduct of tuna stock assessment in the WCPA and the Indian Ocean, respectively. However, stock assessment conducted by tuna RFMOs focuses mainly on oceanic tuna species such as skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and bluefin tuna based on an assessment model that requires time-series data inputs and other relevant parameters/data from the parties concerned. Taking into account the geographic feature of the Southeast Asian region as a part of WCPA, it should be noted that stock assessment that mainly uses time-series data from developed countries' fishing activities in the high seas and in some EEZs of the Pacific Island countries may not reflect the real status of tuna stocks of the Southeast Asian region. This is because of the complex data at the sub-regional areas such as those in the South China Sea, Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea, Banda Sea, etc. Furthermore, it should also be noted that tuna stock assessments conducted by tuna RFMOs does not cover the neritic tuna species.



Figure 2. Fishing grounds for tuna exploitation in the sub-regional areas, *e.g.* Sulawesi Sea, Celebes Sea, Sulu Sea, Pacific Ocean (east coast of the Philippines), South China Sea, Java Sea, Andaman Sea, West Sumatra, West Java

In many Southeast Asian countries, attempts have been made to assess tuna stocks in their respective EEZs and national waters with support from regional/international organization such as SEAFDEC, FAO, RFMOs, among others. However, Chee (1994) pointed out that the inadequacy of information

on the distribution and migration of the several tuna species as well as on stock structure, even though biological information is being collected independently by many countries, in most instances the information is inadequate for proper assessment of tuna stocks. In addition, many countries in the region conducted several workshops in order to assess the stocks of tuna, for example Indonesia (SFP, 2009) to determine the stocks of tunas in its waters. Nonetheless, insufficient accurate statistical data (that meet the data requirements for scientific stock assessments) still prevails up to now, therefore, there has been no scientific stock assessments relating to tunas in many countries of the region, *e.g.* Indonesia. Tuna experts have come to an agreement that since the reasonable stock size of Indonesian tunas could not be estimated to date, and since it is very important to assess its stock size, indicators that could predict the condition of Indonesian tuna fisheries could be established rather than actual estimation of the tuna stock size *per se*.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR TUNA FISHERY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

It seems that the exploitation of tuna at particular time, age, and size by one country will definitely affect the catch of other neighboring countries since tunas are shared stocks. In order to address this concern, a concerted effort of all parties involved in tuna fisheries in the region is deemed necessary. Specifically, a coordinated regional approach is crucial in order to gather appropriate data and carry out analyses and interpretations that could lead to effective management. The important geographic features and large marine ecosystems in the region include spawning grounds of important tuna species as could be gleaned from the total tuna production of the Southeast Asian region and in the RFMO areas. In this connection, the development of sustainable management for tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian region should be considered at national and regional levels although this should not be isolated from that of the RFMOs, in fact, such regional management scheme should support each other. Nevertheless, relevant data are still no sufficient for effective tuna stock assessment at national, sub-regional and regional levels. Therefore, it is suggested that a regional working group be established to work on stock assessment of each tuna species, in order to support the development of than fishery policies and effective management for sustainable tuna fisheries in the region.

V. KEY ISSUES AND WAY FORWARD FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

Taking into accounts the important of tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian region and tuna highly migratory behavior as well as shared stock among countries in the region, it is therefore require regional cooperation policy for fishery management at national level in order to promote sustainable tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. In this connection, SEAFDEC proposes key issues facing by SEAFDEC Member Countries and Way Forward for Regional Cooperation as follows:

- Stock Assessment at National and Sub-regional Areas
 - Establishment of working group(s) on tuna stock assessment ;
 - Improvement of national data collection systems;
 - Support routine biological and resources surveys
 - Separate high seas production from domestic tuna production
 - Promote collaborative/joint research surveys in the EEZs and sub-regional areas.
- Impacts on Environment, Biodiversity and Tuna Stock
 - Fishing Gear Selectivity;
 - Reduction of the by-catch of endangered aquatic species such as marine turtles, dolphin, sharks and rays, etc. from long-line fisheries
 - Reduction of juvenile tuna by-catch (*e.g.* yellowfin and bigeye tuna) in purse seine fishing
 - Fish Aggregating Devices (fixed or drifting);
 - Proper management of FADs through control and monitoring
 - R&D on the use the appropriate FADs in terms of low impact to environment;
 - Establishment of the fish *refugia* to protect spawning and nursery grounds.

- Effective Fisheries Management
 - Fishing Fleet Management: consider maintaining or reducing fishing capacity to strike a balance of existing tuna stocks; and
 - Tuna fisheries management within the EEZs and sub-regional areas: consider appropriate input-output control practices
- IUU Fishing
 - Develop and promote an appropriate regional catch documentation schemes or RFMOs catch documentation schemes
 - Strengthen MCS through sub-regional cooperation to prevent the IUU fishing practices by foreign vessels.
- Socio-economics
 - Enhance intra-regional trade of tuna raw materials and tuna products in the region;
 - Promote appropriate fish-handling technology and practices at sea; and
 - Support the proposed eco-labeling of tuna fishery products within the ASEAN.
- Human Resources/Capacity Building
 - Identification of tuna species particularly juveniles of yellowfin and bigeye tuna;
 - Life history of tuna focusing on the larval stages;
 - Improvement of data collection systems including database at national and regional levels; and
 - Stock assessment using appropriate assessment model(s).

VI. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The 45th Meeting of the Council is requested to take note of the status of tuna exploitation in the Southeast Asian Region based on the SEAFDEC analysis from 2001-2010. The Council is also requested to consider developing fishery policy framework to support tuna management at national and sub-regional areas where transboundary issues exist such as in Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea, South China Sea, Andaman Sea, etc. In this connection, the Council is requested to endorse the concept for Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Waters. Finally, the Council is further requested to comment and provide advice on the way forward for relevant tuna countries to move together towards sustainable management of tuna fisheries in the region.

SUSTAINABLE LIVE REEF FOOD FISH TRADE IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION AND CTI-CFF MEMBER COUNTRIES

I. INTRODUCTION

Considered as the global center of marine biodiversity, the Coral Triangle embraces an area of 6 million km² that spans from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, to the Solomon Islands. This nursery of the seas is host to 76% of the world's coral species, 6 of the world's 7 marine turtle species, and at least 2,228 reef fish species with the latter considered as the most highly valuable natural asset in the Coral Triangle.

Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) involves the capture of reef fishes which are kept alive for sale and consumption mainly in Hong Kong and mainland China, with smaller markets in Malaysia and Singapore. Even though live fish have long been traded around Southeast Asia as a luxury food item, in recent decades trading of fish captured on coral reefs has expanded rapidly. As a consequence, LRFFT has become a major threat to coral reef ecosystems and marine biodiversity throughout the Coral Triangle for various reasons, including the impacts from overfishing; capture of juveniles for grow-out and spawning aggregations; use of destructive fishing practices such as cyanide and other destructive gears; Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; and under-valuation of resources. The relentless demand for live reef fish is driving massive over-exploitation of target species like the coral trout also known as leopard coral grouper. In fact, in some parts of the Coral Triangle where stocks of this particular species have been locally wiped out, trading is no longer economically viable. Thus, trade in live reef fish could leave many coastal communities socio-economically vulnerable.

The **Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)** was established in December 2007 to promote regional cooperation, sharing of lessons, and facilitate learning across the six Coral Triangle countries. The CTI Regional Plan of Action which was subsequently adopted targets among others, the promotion of more effective management and more sustainable trade in live reef food fish in the member countries of CTI-CFF.

II. INVOLVEMENT OF SEAFDEC IN THE CTI-CFF INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM

For more than four decades SEAFDEC has been assisting the Member Countries to move towards the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security in the Southeast Asian region. SEAFDEC has established cooperation with many international and regional organizations as well as management bodies including the ASEAN to enhance its capability to assist the Member Countries in addressing issues that impede the sustainable development of fisheries. One of the major issues is the trading of live reef fish not only in the main CTI countries such as Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia but also in other SEAFDEC Member Countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore.

The continuous demand for live reef fish and the widening geographic scope of the LRFFT have been creating tremendous pressures on the resources and habitats. The use of destructive fishing methods and haphazard rearing practices of reef fishes as well as the substantial gap on scientific data and information are the major concerns for the effective management of the fishery and its trade within the Southeast Asian and CTI-CFF member countries. Representatives from the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia (SEAFDEC and CTI member countries) together with those from key government fisheries agencies within the Coral Triangle and Vietnam attended the CTI-CFF Intergovernmental Forum on 31 January – 1 February 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The forum was aimed at discussing the strategies and identifying pragmatic solutions to the flourishing LRFFT industry in the region. Issues that hamper the development of a future management regime for

LRFFT, as well as limiting the harvest of reef fish species from the wild and subsequent export of live reef fish, and the establishment of a Stakeholders Forum to support program implementation were also discussed. The Resolution on Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade for the Southeast Asian and CTI-CFF Member Countries (**Appendix 1**) was endorsed by the country delegates representing the fisheries agencies of the CTI-CFF countries and Vietnam. Referring to the LRFFT Resolution, the Forum agreed to designate SEAFDEC as Interim Secretariat with support from CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat and the US CTI Support Program, based on the support demonstrated by the SEAFDEC Member Countries represented at the Forum, namely: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The 45th Meeting of the Council is requested to take note of the collaboration between SEAFDEC and the CTI-CFF for Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade for the Southeast Asian and CTI-CFF member countries, which was supported by the SEAFDEC Council Directors for Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam. The Council is also requested to consider the Resolution on Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade for the Southeast Asian and CTI-CFF Member Countries as well as the designation of SEAFDEC as the Interim Secretariat with support from CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat and the US CTI Support Program. Finally, the Council is further requested to comment and provide policy advice on the course of action for the aforementioned cooperation with the CTI-CFF.



**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY



RESOLUTION

on Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade for the Southeast Asian and CTI-CFF Member Countries

We, country delegates from the fisheries ministries of the member states of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reef, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) who participated in the Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) Inter-Governmental Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand on 31 January and 1 February 2013

Guided by the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action:

Acknowledging the importance of LRFFT as a significant economic activity with huge impacts on the region's valuable reef ecosystems and the food security of people who depend on fisheries for livelihood;

Recognizing that most major LRFFT species have been categorized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as near-threatened, vulnerable or endangered;

Noting that LRFFT continues to spread across the region, largely in response to declining supply, and that supply cannot keep up with demand;

Conceding that supply and demand problems cannot be solved simply by mariculture and aquaculture because mariculture/aquaculture and capture fisheries are highly interrelated and interlinked;

Understanding the complexity of the trade and its trans-boundary nature;

In response to the challenges to sustaining the trade and its resource base and the opportunities for achieving sustainability in the long term;

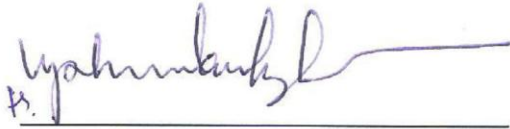
DO HEREBY RESOLVE, without prejudice to the sovereign rights, obligations and responsibilities of the countries under relevant international laws and agreements, to:

1. Establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that may involve the following actions in support of LRFF:
 - Identification of spawning aggregation areas and other trans-boundary ecosystems that may be included in the Coral Triangle Marine Protected Area System (CTMPAS);
 - Establishment of fish *refugia* to protect LRFF species both inside and outside MPAs.
2. Develop Accreditation System that includes incentives/disincentives designed to encourage LRFF suppliers/traders to follow sustainable and fair trade practices. To complement the system, each country may:
 - Establish a network of cyanide testing laboratories to detect violations and promote compliance;
 - Identify and collaborate with independent bodies to monitor and check LRFF exports and to complement the government's regulatory system;
 - Designate export hubs for shipment of LRFF to simplify trade and streamline regulation;
 - Consider, among others, the following conditions for accreditation: a) Proof that export commodity comes from sustainable sources; b) Proof of sustainable management of reef ecosystem; c) Certificate of compliance issued by an independent body designated to monitor and check LRFF; d) Permit to export from designated shipment hubs.
3. Consider developing and establishing necessary and appropriate reporting system to promote consistency in data collection, reporting processes and traceability. The basic information may include species, date caught, size, fishing area, and others as may be required.
4. Address IUU issues related to LRFF¹ in respective countries and extend cooperation to prevent trans-boundary IUU fishing and illegal trading practices.
5. Promote collaboration among participating countries through a regional forum modeled after the Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) and encourage each country to develop and establish appropriate local and national fora to promote information exchange, collaboration and continuous dialogue among all stakeholders.

The parties likewise agreed to designate SEAFDEC as the Interim Secretariat with support from CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat and the US CTI Support Program.

¹ Consistent with parties' obligations under RPQA-IUU

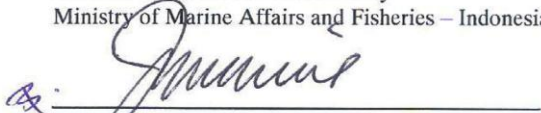
Done this 1st Day of February 2013 at Centrepoint Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



Victor P. H. Nikijulw
Executive Secretary of CTI-CFF Indonesia
Minister's Advisor on Public Policy
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries – Indonesia



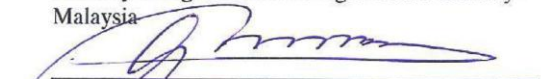
Alex Mendo Meloty
CFO (Aquaculture)
Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources- Solomon Islands



Ismail Abu Hassan
Deputy Director General of Fisheries
Department of Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry-
Malaysia



Julio Da Cruz
Chief of Aquaculture Department, NDFA-MAF
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries



Asis Perez
National Director
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources,
Department of Agriculture - Philippines

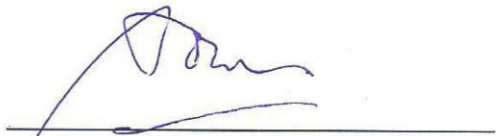


Pham Anh Tuan
Director-General Fisheries Administration
SEAFDEC Council Director for Vietnam

Witnesses:



Chumnarn Pongsri
Secretary General
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center



Matheus Eko Rudianto
CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat
Ministry of Marine Affairs - Indonesia

PROGRESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL CENTER FOR INLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT IN INDONESIA

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Indonesia

I. BACKGROUND

While recognizing the importance of inland fisheries has been well reflected at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 organized in June 2011, the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia proposed to establish a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development as part of SEAFDEC organization. The proposal was supported in principle by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries during the 14th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in November 2011, and the SEAFDEC Council during its 44th Meeting in 2012. The SEAFDEC Council however, requested Indonesia to coordinate with SEAFDEC Secretariat on issues that need to be settled, *i.e.* whether the Regional Center should be established as a collaborating center for SEAFDEC or as a SEAFDEC Department, as well as the official name of the Center, the staff required, facilities and operations which should be financially sustained, and in ensuring that duplication of efforts with existing SEAFDEC Departments is avoided.

II. PROGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT

In order to support establishing the new Department under SEAFDEC, the Secretariat set up a working group, all special departmental coordinator from each SEAFDEC Department and relevant officers from MMAF, Indonesia in coordination with SEAFDEC Secretariat are represented. The working group met on 24-25 January 2013, at the Meeting of the Working Group on the Establishment of the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) organized by SEAFDEC in collaboration with MMAF in Palembang, Indonesia to discuss on the plan of operation, functions and work plan.

Mr. Duto Nugroho, Director of Research Center for Fisheries Management and Conservation (RCFMC), Indonesia informed on the rationale for establishment of IFRDMD that Indonesia has considerable high proportion of inland waters and inland fisheries profile; and the country has three national agencies that undertake activities on inland fisheries, *i.e.* 1) Research Institute for Inland Fisheries (RIIF); 2) Research Institute for Fisheries Enhancement and Conservation (RIFEC); and 3) Research Centre for Marine and Fisheries Socio-economic. Regarding this establishment of a new Department under SEAFDEC will make use of its' existing Indonesian Institutions to promote inland fisheries under SEAFDEC framework. While noting the existing of the Research Institute for Inland Fisheries (RIIF), the Government of Indonesia also plans to donate land (~20,000 m²) and new building and research facilities for this new Department.

To finalize a draft plan of operation, functions and its work plan for the IFRDMD and ensuring that duplication of efforts among all SEAFDEC Departments including new department is avoided, SEAFDEC organized the Interdepartmental Meeting on 2 March 2013, whereas all chief, deputy department chief and the working group for establishment of new Department joined. Indonesia could come up with a draft of plan of operation, function and work program of IFRDMD as appears in **Appendix 1**.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note on the progress on the establishment and to provide comments and policy directives on the draft of Plan of Operation of the new Department.

Draft Plan of Operation of IFRDMD

I. THE PLAN OF OPERATION OF IFRDMD

- 1.1 The Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department has the following functions:
- a) To act as a centre for providing guidelines for the proper development and management of inland fishery resources of Member Countries. The inland waters are permanent water bodies inland from the coastal zone and areas whose properties and use are dominated by the permanent, seasonal, or intermittent occurrence of flooded conditions. Inland waters include rivers, lakes, floodplains, reservoirs, wetlands, and inland saline systems;
 - b) To establish partnership with other organizations, such as Mekong River Commission, to mobilize research results and extend to other Member Countries;
 - c) To develop guidelines of basic data collection of basic for routine monitoring activities of different types of habitat;
 - d) To provide the tools for assessment and management that can be applied in the region;
 - e) To monitor the state of inland fishery resources and exploitation of the resources;
 - f) To provide scientific basis for proper development and management of the inland fishery resources of Member Countries;
 - g) To serve as a regional forum for cooperation and consultation on research, conservation and management of inland fishery resources among Member Countries;
 - h) To coordinate and implement programs to improve the capability of Member Countries in the development, management and conservation of the inland fishery resources; and
 - i) To develop master plan that covers all programs of activities that will be undertaken for sustainable inland fisheries.
- 1.2 The Government of Indonesia provides the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Centre, with the following:
- a) Services of the following professional staff:
 - (i) A Department Chief
 - (ii) Professional and service staff
 - b) Adequate infrastructure facilities for inland fishery resources research and development, training and information dissemination programs of the Department including office building and laboratories; and
 - c) Appropriate funds towards operational expenses of the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department.
- 1.3 The Government of Japan provides the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Centre, with the following (This part, SEAFDEC secretariat will consult internally with FA/Japan before any decisions):
- a) Services of the following professional staff;
 - (i) A Deputy Department Chief
 - (ii) An appropriate number of professional staff to implement the Department's programs.
 - b) Appropriate grants and amount of money in US\$ for the purchase of research equipment for scientists from Member Countries to conduct research at the IFRDMD and to upgrade the professional and technical expertise of the Department's staff.

- 1.4 In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement Establishing the Centre, the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in consultation with the SEAFDEC Secretariat may seek financial and technical assistance from potential donor governments and agencies to enable it to fulfill its functions.
- 1.5 All assets procured by the Government of Indonesia shall remain the properties of the Government of Indonesia.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE IFRDMD

With the functions indicated in the Plan of Operation, the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department will implement research, training and information dissemination activities as approved by the Council of the Centre. These activities will serve to promote sustainable development and innovative management of inland fishery resources in Southeast Asia.

A. Research Program

The research activities of the Department cover the following areas:

- Assessment of the inland fishery resources of Member Country to provide information on the status and potential yield of these resources at all types of inland water habitats including natural lake, man-made lake, river and flood plain, and estuary;
- Inland water habitats, migratory of aquatic species across the habitats, as well as seasonal variation in fisheries and water profiles;
- Assessment of shared inland fish resources for their proper development and management;
- Mapping of water profiles at all types of inland waters habitat during wet and dry seasons;
- Monitoring of catches and analysis of catch effort data from commercial fishing gears;
- Research on fishing gear and method aimed at improving management and conservation of the inland fishery resources;
- Fishery limnology studies to determine the relationship between physico-chemical parameter of the inland waters and the fishery resources;
- The linkages and impacts from other sectors to inland fisheries, especially on fisheries ecosystem conservation caused by the high competitiveness and influence from non-fisheries sector such as from other water resource users;
- Protection of inland fishery resources, *e.g.* technologies and mitigating measures to ensure habitat inter-connectivity;
- Aquaculture in parallel with inland fisheries management such as Culture Base Fisheries (CBF); and
- Economic viability studies on fishing activities of Member Countries;

B. Training Program

The Department will conduct training through:

- Training of researchers from National Institutions of the Member Countries by conducting collaborative resources research and surveys;
- On-the-job training for researchers and administrators of the Department; and
- Seminars and workshops.

C. Information Program

The Department will disseminate and exchange information on inland fishery resources development and management through:

- Publishing periodicals and reports;
- Distributing information to Member Countries and other international agencies/organizations;
- Library services

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MFRDMD

The Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department consists of a Chief, a Deputy Chief and Department staff.

The Chief is responsible for the administration and operation of the Department. Under the Chief are the following Divisions and Sections:

3.1 Administration and Finance Section

This division will be responsible for providing administrative support to the Department including general services and maintenance of the Department buildings and research facilities. It will also be responsible for all the financial administration of the Department. The Administrative and Finance Division shall comprise the General Affairs Section and the Finance Section.

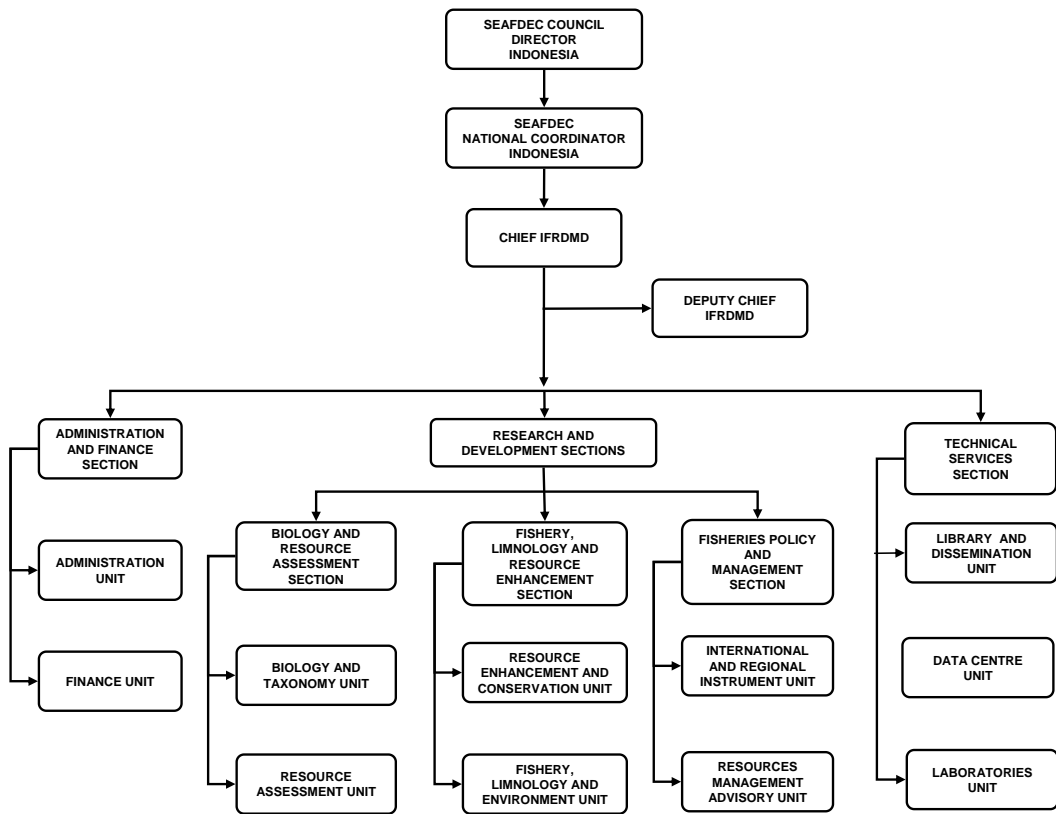
3.2 Research and Development Section

Research and Development sections will be responsible for the implementation of research and development activities on inland fishery resources. The activities include inland fishery biological studies, fishery limnology studies; fish stock assessment and resources exploration as well as fishing gear selectivity studies. Shared stocks of fish resources and conservation of endangered species; research on fisheries policy and management are also conducted by the department. The Research Sections comprises the Biology and Resource Assessment; Fishery, Limnology and Resource Enhancement and Fisheries Policy and Management.

3.3 Technical Services Section

This section will be responsible for library and dissemination, data centre and laboratories operation including research programs conducted in the laboratory. The Laboratories comprises Chemical Laboratory, Hydrology Laboratory and Fish Biology Laboratory. Moreover, this section will be responsible for the compilation, collation and dissemination of information and provide management advice on the exploitation, management and conservation of the inland fishery resources of Member Countries.

ORGANIZATION CHART SEAFDEC/IFRDMD



ASEAN FISHERIES CONFERENCE AND ASEAN SEAFOOD EXPOSITION

Department of Fisheries, Thailand

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is the goal of regional economic integration among ten ASEAN Member States to be achieved by 31st December 2015. The AEC will establish ASEAN as a single market and production base making ASEAN more dynamic and competitive in the world market. Fisheries Sector is one of 12 priority sectors which ASEAN Leaders agreed to accelerate economic integration since 2007. Moreover, most of ASEAN Member States is the major exporters of fisheries products to the world market. Therefore, promoting and building good images of ASEAN fishery products to the world market is required comprehensive actions at national and regional levels. Organizing the ASEAN Seafood Exposition is important strategy of ASEAN Member States, major producer and exporter, to build awareness of the consumer and importer on best practices through the supply chain of fishery products.

With regard to the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020”, was endorsed by the ASEAN Ministers for Fisheries during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in June 2011. Therefore, Thailand will hold the ASEAN Fisheries Conference and ASEAN Seafood Exposition 2015 to provide platform for regional and international experts/scientists to share and exchange information/experiences on fisheries which would contribute to sustainable development and management of fisheries resources in the region. Furthermore, new technologies and techniques for sustainable aquaculture will be exchanged which would create new innovation as well as motivation to AMSs to develop their aquaculture sector to ensure enough supply for processing industry.

II. GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

2.1 Objectives

Objectives of the Conference are:

1. To share information and experiences on aquaculture among scientists/experts from all regions including regional and international organizations;
2. To discuss on research and development on best practices, technology as well as marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products in the region; and
3. To exchange the information on global fisheries markets, especially based on the ASEAN Region.

Objectives of the Exposition are:

1. To promote ASEAN fisheries products and the progress in the ASEAN fishery industries to buyers, importers and consumers; and
2. To provide business matching program among exhibitors and importers including a valuable chance to increase foreign trade of the AMS' fishery industry

2.2 Title of the Conference and Exposition

The proposed title of the Conference and Exposition is “ASEAN Fisheries Conference and Exposition 2015”. This title; however, will be discussed and further agreed in consultation with ASEAN Member States.

2.3 Expected outcomes

The following outcomes are anticipated through the successful organization of this event:

1. Emerging threats for ASEAN aquaculture development will be addressed and collective measures are developed for further implementation by ASEAN Member States;
2. Enhance connection and experiences sharing among experts/scientists from ASEAN Member States and from other regions; and
3. Promote the ASEAN fishery product and increase export value of ASEAN fishery products in the world market.

2.4 Timing of the Conference and Exposition

It is proposed that the Conference and Exposition would be organized in March 2015. The Conference and Exposition will be organized for 3 days inconsecutively.

2.5 Organization of the Conference and Exposition

The Conference will be hosted by the Government of Thailand and jointly organized by SEAFDEC which ASEAN Member States are expected to participate. All preparatory arrangements in line with their standpoint are requested. Moreover, Thailand would like to invite SEAFDEC and AMS to exhibit their respective fisheries products and/or related advanced technology in the exposition.

2.6 Venue of the Conference and Exposition

Bangkok, Thailand

2.7 Expected Participants

1. The Conference will be participated by various officials, researchers, policy-makers, industrial persons from ASEAN Member States and regional/international organizations. Invited scientists/experts from ASEAN Member States and other regions will attend the conference as speakers; and
2. The Exposition will be participated by exhibitors, producers, traders, government and private organization, regional and international organization, etc. around the world.

III. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

The Conference and Exposition would be co-organized by ASEAN Member States and SEAFDEC. The Government of Thailand will partly provide financial support to the participants and extend special offers for ASEAN Member States as follows:

1. Meeting packages and registration fee for the Conference;
2. International travel expenses and DSA for invited speakers and 2 representatives from each ASEAN Member States;
3. 2 booths for each ASEAN Member States, SEAFDEC.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE SEAFDEC COUNCIL

The Council is requested to endorse SEAFDEC to co-organize the Conference and Exposition and provide policy directives for SEAFDEC on organization of the ASEAN Fisheries Conference and ASEAN Seafood Exposition.

ASIA CONFERENCE ON OCEANS, FOOD SECURITY AND BLUE GROWTH

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia

Preparatory Note*
**ASIA CONFERENCE ON OCEANS, FOOD SECURITY AND
 CLIMATE CHANGE- BLUE GROWTH**
GRAND HYATT BALI, 18-21 JUNE 2013



The Government of Indonesia
 in Cooperation with the Netherland Government
 and the World Bank

* As per 25 March 2013
 Presented to the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council
 Cebu City-The Philippines, 1-5 April 2013

Introduction

1. The Oceans cover some 71 percent of the Earth's surface, and are both an engine for global economic growth and a key source of our food security.
2. Ocean fisheries and aquaculture alone support some 250 million livelihoods around the world and produce seafood with a first sale value of more than US\$ 190 billion,
3. Asia is the world's largest continent region bounded by Indian and Pacific oceans is home to the richest fisheries resources and coral reefs;
4. Oceans-supported fisheries products in Asia (including Pacific region) generate significant revenue to most Asia coastal states.

Global and Regional Challenges

1. overfishing (85 percent of the world's ocean fisheries are fully exploited, over-exploited or depleted, causing annual global efficiency losses);
2. pollution (excess nitrogen runoff from fertilizers);
3. habitat loss or conversion (an estimated 35 percent of global mangrove area has been lost or converted);
4. food insecurity as FAO estimates that 925 million people in the world go hungry every day;
5. Asia is also facing the difficulty feeding its people as demand for food expands rapidly but the earth's condition affects by climate change.

Asia Conference Objectives

1. To address the major challenges especially in regional Asia, requires concerted efforts through collaboration, innovation and partnerships through linking policy, investment, internationally fair trade and private contribution willing to commit blue economy approach to sustainability and blue growth;
2. To determine effective strategies and to draw up Asia Roadmap to promote smart climate change in ensuring productivity, sustainability and resiliency of oceans-supported food supply as a driver of sustainable economic development and blue growth

Participants

The conference will be co-organized by the Governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands, in close collaboration with the World Bank

Participants: Selected Asian Ministers and Senior Officers, practitioners, scientists, civil society, National Council for Climate Change, NGO's and private sectors. The expected participants will be around 300 participants.

Invited at Policy Level:

1. Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries – Indonesia
2. Minister of Economic Affairs – the Netherlands
3. Minister of Agriculture – China
4. Minister of Agriculture – India
5. Minister of Agriculture – Morocco

Organizing of the Conference

DAY 1 (18 June 2013) : Joint Session

Opening Ceremony and Stimulation of Business and Investment for Way Forward in Promoting Oceans role in Food Security and adaptive Smart Climate Change in Asia

Day I is planned to have a half day joint session:

- a. Asia Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Climate-Change Blue Growth;
- b. Marine and Fisheries Business Forum; (ASEAN Fisheries Conference?)
- c. Indian Ocean and Pacific Conference 2013 (IOPAC-2013)

Organizing of the Conference

DAY 2 (19 June 2013)

Identification of Key Issues and Sharing Experiences and Knowledge:

1. Oceans Roles for Food Supply and Smart Climate Change to Food Insecurity Alleviation,
2. Seafood Price Volatility,
3. Future Fisheries Production and Demands,
4. Climate Change Threats, Coast and Islands Vulnerability, Communities and Public Involvement Responses,
5. Policy Gap and Investment and Financial Support Linkage.

Organizing of the Conference

DAY 3 (20 June 2013)

Oceans, Food Security, and Climate Change Blue Growth: Alignment and Asian Roadmap for Recommendation

DAY 4 (21 June 2013)

One Day Field Trip (08.00 am – 06.00 pm)

- Batubulan (Barong and Keris Dance)
- Celuk (Silver Smith Jewelry)
- Laka Lake Restaurant (Lunch)
- Antonio Blanco Museum (Painting)
- Semar Kuning Art Gallery (Traditional Shopping Center)

WAY FOWARD

Asia Roadmap -- Main outcomes of the conference will feed the Global Summit Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Climate Change in the Hague on 9-13 September 2013.

The highlighted outcomes of the conference will also be shared to APEC SOM and Leader Summit 2013 in Indonesia for further consideration.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ASIA CONFERENCE ON OCEANS, FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE- BLUE GROWTH GRAND HYATT BALI, 18-21 JUNE 2013

Hour	Session	PIC
Day 1 - 18 June 2013		
Opening Ceremony and Stimulation of Business and Investment for Way Forward in Promoting Oceans Role in Food Security and adaptive Smart Climate Change in Asia		
Session 1 9.00 - 10.30 am	Opening Plenary Opening Speech by: 1. Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia 2. Minister for Economic Affairs, The Netherlands 3. World Bank Representative Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ir. Saut Hutagalung, M.Sc, DG Fisheries Product Processing and Marketing, Indonesia • Prof. Dr. Hans Hoogeveen, MPA, Director General Agro, The Netherlands
Session 2 10.30 - 11.30 am	Keynote Speeches – Ocean Policy Directive Linkage with Investment Guidance Towards Food Security 2020 1. Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China 2. Minister of Agriculture India 3. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Marocco	
11.30 - 12.00 am	Introduction to the Work Program of the Conference (delivering WOC as a background)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ir. Saut Hutagalung, M.Sc DG Fisheries Product Processing and Marketing, Indonesia • Prof. Dr. Hans Hoogeveen, MPA, Director General Agro, The Netherlands
12.00 - 1.30 pm	Lunch/Side events/exhibition	

Hour	Session	PIC
Day 1 - 18 June 2013		
Session 3 1.30 - 3.30 pm	Provoking Issues on Oceans, Food Security and Climate Change 1. Building Marine and Fisheries Sector through Blue Economy Paradigm 2. Food Insecurity in the Asian and Pacific Region 3. The Fate of Ocean Based Products in Food Security Policies of Asian Countries	Prof. Gunther Pauli, Worldfish Center, FAO
3.30 - 3.45 pm	Tea break	
3.45 - 5.00 pm	Food Security in a Changing Ocean Environment 1. Evolution Ocean Exploitation and Management Practices, links with Blue Economy and Experiences in National Implementation 2. Industry Policies on Zero Waste in Changing Environment 3. Fisheries Communities' Response to Climate Change	
7.00 - 9.00 pm	Reception Dinner	
Day 2 - 19 June 2013		
9.00 - 9.30 am	Identification of Key Issues by Sharing Experiences and Knowledge in Formulating Asia Roadmap Initiatives Delivering Day 1 Resume	Facilitators
Session 4 09.30 - 12.00 pm	Plenary Session: 1. Ocean and Ocean-based Resources Management 2. Capacity Building for Fisheries Communities: preparing for Climate Change Impacts 3. Securing Ocean-Based Food Supply in a Changing Climate 4. Blue Economy: A Smart Approach to Save the Ocean while Securing Food Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Session for World Bank & ADB on PPP topics *Session for NGO (CI & WWF) *Session for 2 private sectors (aquafarm & Amova) *Session for marine tourism *Session for Mekong River Commission (MRC)
12.00 - 1.00 pm	Lunch/Side events/exhibition	

Hour	Session	PIC
Session 5 1.00 - 3.00 pm	Plenary Session: 1. Ocean, Aquaculture and Their Linkages 2. Climate Change and Food Security: Bangladesh Perspective 3. Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in Small Scale Tropical Marine Fisheries 4. Sustainable Fisheries Management and Climate Change Adaptive Fisheries	SEAFDEC
3.00 - 3.30 pm	Tea Break	
Session 6 3.30 - 5.00 pm	Plenary Session: 1. The Role of Capital in Sustainable Fisheries Investment 2. The Role of Private-Local Fishermen Partnership in Promoting Sustainable Fisheries: Indonesia Best Practices 3. Food Security and Seafood Volatility in Markets	
Day 3 - 20 June, 2013		
9.00 - 9.30 am	Oceans, Food Security, and Climate Change: Alignment and Asian Roadmap for Recommendation Delivering Day 2 Resume	Facilitator
Session 7 9.30 - 12.00 am	Plenary Session: 1. Diversification and Sustainable Intensification of Fisheries Products 2. Accelerating Adaptation: Today's Priorities for Preparedness in 2030 3. Future Food Systems: Policies and Program to Assure for the Poorest under Climate Change 4. The Blue Economy - Understanding the Oceans Role in the Nations Future	

Hour	Session	PIC
Day 3 – 20 June, 2013		
Oceans, Food Security, and Climate Change: Alignment and Asian Roadmap for Recommendation		
12.00 – 1.00 pm	Lunch/Side events/exhibition	
1.00 – 1.30 pm	Conclusion	Facilitators
1.30 – 3.30 pm	Plenary Discussion	Facilitators
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Tea Break	
4.00 – 4.30 pm	Recommendation and Official Closing	
04.30 – 5.00 pm	Pers Conference	
Day 4 – 21 June, 2013		
08.00 – 05.00 pm	Field Trip	

LIST OF ASIA COUNTRY DELEGATES (COVERED)

NO	COUNTRY	MINISTER	SENIOR OFFICIAL	PRIVATE/ NGO	OTHER INSTITUTIONS	TOTAL
1	Indonesia	V	V	V	V	100
2	Philippines	-	V	V	-	2
3	Vietnam	-	V	V	-	2
4	Thailand	-	V	V	-	2
5	Malaysia	-	V	V	-	2
6	Singapura	-	V	V	-	2
7	Brunei Darussalam	-	V	V	-	2
8	Kamboja	-	V	V	-	2
9	Laos	-	V	V	-	2
10	Myanmar	-	V	V	-	2
11	Japan	V	V	V	V (JICA)	4
12	China	V	V	V	V (SOA)	4
13	South Korea	-	V	V	V (KOICA)	3
14	Taiwan	-	-	-	-	-
15	Hongkong	-	V	V	-	2

NO	COUNTRY	MINISTER	SENIOR OFFICIAL	PRIVATE/ NGO	OTHER INSTITUTION	TOTAL
16	Bangladesh	-	V	V	-	2
17	India	-	V	V	-	2
18	Pakistan	-	V	V	-	2
19	Sri Lanka	-	V	V	-	2
20	Nepal	-	-	-	-	-
21	Bhutan	-	-	-	-	-
22	Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-
23	Iran	-	V	V	-	2
24	Irak	-	-	-	-	-
25	Arab Saudi	-	V	V	-	2
26	Yordania	-	V	V	-	2
27	Maldives	-	V	V	-	2
28	Suriyah	-	V	V	-	2
29	Israel	-	-	-	-	-
30	Turki	-	V	V	-	2

NO	COUNTRY	MINISTER	SENIOR OFFICIAL	PRIVATE/ NGO	OTHER INSTITUTION	TOTAL
31	Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-
32	Yaman	-	V	V	-	2
33	Uni Emirat Arab	-	V	V	-	2
34	Oman	-	V	V	-	2
35	Qatar	-	V	V	-	2
36	Morocco	V	V	V	-	3
37	Mongolia	-	-	-	-	-
38	Kazakstan	-	-	-	-	-
39	Kirgiztan	-	-	-	-	-
40	Tajikista	-	-	-	-	-
41	Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-
42	Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-
43	Papua New Guinea	-	V	V	-	2
44	Solomon Islands	-	V	V	-	2
45	Timor Leste	-	V	V	-	2
46	Republik Palau Republic	-	V	V	-	2
47	Australia	-	V	V	-	2
48	New Zealand	-	V	V	-	2
						174

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (COVERED)

NO	NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION	TOTAL
1	IOTC	1
2	WCPFC	1
3	CCSBT	1
4	ASEAN	1
5	ASEAN FOUNDATION	1
6	SEAFDEC	1
7	IOB	1
8	WORLD BANK	1
9	ADB	1
10	WORLD FISH	1
11	IOR-ARC	1
12	FAO	1
13	WFP	1
14	JICA	1
15	KOICA	1
16	WWF	1
17	TNC	1
18	CI	1
19	GREEN PEACE	1
20	IMFSEARN	1
21	EEAPSEA	1
22	Delaware University	1
23	United Nation World Food Programme	1
24	WHO	1
25	Committee on World Food Security	1

NO	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION	TOTAL
26	World Economic Forum	1
27	UN Framework Convention on CC	1
28	APFIC	1
29	UNESCO	1
30	ASF	1
31	TFFA	1
32	AINRD	1
33	ASEAN-Republic of Korea Network on CC	1
34	ASWGF	1
35	Research Institute for Marine Fisheries	1
36	BAKOSURTANAL	1
37	LUPI	1
38	CCR	1
39	TIT	1
40	Susi Air	1
41	BMKG	1
42	JORG/JAMSTEC	1
43	Gubernur Babel	1
44	BPPP	1
45	FPIK UNDIP	1
46	PT. Garam	1
47	Phuket Marine Biological	1
48	IOC-UNESCO	1
49	Dept of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand	1
50	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam	1
51	University Malaysia Terengganu	1
52	NCSA	1
53	Dewan Nasional Perubahan Iklim	1
54	Komnas Kajiskan	1
		54

STATEMENT

*By Mr. Weimin Miao
Aquaculture Officer,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP)*

Honourable Chairperson of the 45th Council of SEAFDEC, Mr. Asis Perez,
Secretary General of SEAFDEC, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri,
Distinguished council directors and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning!

First of all, on behalf of FAO, I wish to thank SEAFDEC for inviting FAO as an observer to participate in its 45th council meeting. I also like to extend our sincere thanks to the government of Philippines, the host country for the warm hospitality and the perfect meeting arrangement.

FAO warmly congratulates the great achievements of SEAFDEC in 2012 presented by Secretary-General to the council yesterday, which greatly contributed to the sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development in the region.

As the long time partners, FAO and SEAFDEC have had various fruitful cooperative activities during 2012. A very important cooperation between FAO and SEAFDEC in 2012 is on the implementation of a GEF supported project “Reduction of By-Catch Phase II”, which has a strong relevance to the fisheries of SE Asia and address a core problem in responsible trawl fishing and the use of by-catch generated form that. It has implications for both the fishing and aquaculture sectors of the region. FAO is very pleased with the progress of the project and warmly thanks SEAFDEC for its cooperation and execution of the project activities.

In relation to this, the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission will convene an expert workshop in September 2013 on developing regional guidance for trawl fishery management in Thailand. APFIC would like to invite SEAFDEC Reduction of by-catch experts to participate in this workshop.

FAO would like to thank SEAFDEC for its positive cooperation with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project. This project is extending for another year to end in 2015, we wish to see further deepening of this cooperation, in particular with respect to the mutual member countries and the activities relating to transboundary management, development of national plans of action for shark management.

The Asia-Pacific fishery commission would also like to thank SEAFDEC for active collaboration on a number of its regional activities in the past year, most notably the participation in and the contributions to the 4th APFIC Regional Forum Meeting, the 32nd Session of APFIC and a number of regional consultations and workshops, such as the Regional consultation on sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific.

Looking into the future, FAO envisages and looks forward to more extensive and stronger collaboration with SEAFDEC and its member countries. In addition to the continuing cooperation on the implementation of “Reduction of By-Catch Phase II” and “Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem” projects, FAO will launch a number of new initiatives promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region, which will open new platforms for wider collaboration between FAO and SEAFDEC. The new initiatives include:

BOBLME/APFIC/USAID CTI (Coral Triangle Initiative) have developed the Regional Training Course for Ecosystem approach to fisheries management and are interested in developing trainers for

this course to act as a regional resource base. It is foreseen that training may be required in Thailand, Vietnam and several other member countries. In this regard, SEAFDEC training center could benefit from the training as well as become competent to provide training courses to the members in the future.

FAO will implementing TCP Projects on marine aquaculture development in PNG and Tonga. FAO looks forward to possible collaboration between SEAFDEC/AQD and FAO in the project implementation.

FAO is currently working with the government of Indonesia on a potential GEF funded project through the Palembang Inland fisheries Center, the project is to be aimed at strengthening its capacity in inland fisheries management and hopefully this would also have benefits to other SEAFDEC members.

FAO is planning a global conference in inland fisheries in 2014 and would like to welcome SEAFDEC to be part of that initiative.

FAO Regional Office and the headquarter Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is working jointly on initiatives to promote sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region. We welcome SEAFDEC AQD to be an important part in the process.

On the other hand, FAO is willing to provide its ad hoc support to SEAFDEC in implementing its Regional Programme activities and important projects. For instance, FAO is implementing work on mitigation of the effects of GHG in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, in particular the Expert workshops on GHG Emissions-Strategies and Methods in Seafood, which can provide valuable inputs to the preparation of SEAFDEC's Regional Green House Gas (GHG) and Safety at Sea Project. FAO is very willing to strengthen the cooperation with SEAFDEC in the areas requested by the council directors, such as the CITES related issues. FAO will provide technical assistance to the efforts of Indonesia government in establishing a regional centre for inland fisheries development.

Mr. Chairperson of the Council and Mr. Secretary-General and the delegates,

In conclusion, FAO would like to congratulate SEAFDEC on its broad programme of work in the region and particularly in its readiness to cooperate with FAO in the mutual interests of our member countries and a number of new initiatives proposed to the council. FAO considers SEAFDEC as an important regional capacity building and policy development organization for ASEAN and in this regard would like to work closely with SEAFDEC to strengthen ASEAN linkages for fishery management and sustainable aquaculture development in particular. The great synergy built between SEAFDEC and FAO's work programme activities will greatly benefit the member countries contributing to food security, nutrition and rural livelihood development in the region.

Finally, I wish the 45th meeting of SEAFDEC council a complete success and fruitful results.

Thank you all.

STATEMENT

*By Dr. So Nam
Fisheries Programme Coordinator,
Mekong River Commission (MRC)*

Mr. Chairman, SEAFDEC SG,
Council Directors and Delegates of SEAFDEC,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon!

MRC Fisheries Programme is working with and helping its four Member Countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam in implementing sustainable fisheries management and development at local, national and regional levels to improve food security and nutrition, and to reduce poverty in the Mekong region, especially in rural areas. Currently, Myanmar and China are not MRC member countries, but they are dialogue partners for data and information exchange. Myanmar is willing to join MRC, and Myanmar's accession to MRC is under discussions among the 12 programmes of MRC and between MRC and Myanmar.

To contribute to the above goal, the Fisheries Programme has prepared its five-year plan the so called Fisheries Programme Implementation Plan 2011-2015 (F-PIP 2011-2015), which has been endorsed by its Steering Committee members and is being implemented by the Fisheries Programme and its member countries, with the key financial support from the three main development partners DANIDA, SIDA and USAID. The F-PIP 2011-2015 has four main outcomes: (1) Riparian fisheries decision makers have a good science-based understanding of the situation of fisheries and aquaculture in the LMB; (2) Riparian fisheries agencies monitor the status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture; (3) Key stakeholders maintain a high level of regional and national dialogue on basin-wide IWRM for fisheries sustainability; and (4) National and local agencies and fishing communities have the capacity necessary for improving fisheries management and development.

Mr. Chairman, SG, SEAFDEC Council Directors, ladies and gentlemen!

Although SEAFDEC's 35 programmes implemented in 2012 and 30 programmes planned for 2013 do not focus on freshwater environments, on behalf of the MRC Secretariat through its Fisheries Programme, I would like to propose the possible future cooperation with SEAFDEC and its member countries in three key activities: (1) Value and valuation of inland fisheries resources; (2) Impact mitigation measures of water development projects, including hydropower dams and irrigation schemes, e.g. fish passage; and (3) Exchange of data, information and knowledge on inland fisheries research, development and management, especially with Indonesia who already has planned for the establishment of Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development.

Last but not least MRC FP would like to thank SEAFDEC to invite the MRC Fisheries Programme to participate in the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. I would also like to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Department of Agriculture of the Philippines through BFAR for the excellent organization and hospitality. I wish the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council a fruitful and successful meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention!

STATEMENT

*By Mr. Rene Acosta
Regional Environment Program Specialist,
United States Coral Triangle Initiative (USCTI)*

Honorable Chairperson of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, esteemed Heads and Members of the Country Delegations, distinguished SEAFDEC Secretary General and our dear colleagues from the development partners community, Good Afternoon.

The USCTI Support Program is honored by the invitation to participate as an observer in your 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

The USCTI represents the US Government's collective support to the Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF). USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia based in Bangkok coordinates the USCTI support from the U.S. Department of State and USAID bilateral missions in Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor- Leste, and the Pacific. The USCTI is implemented through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a Program Integrator, and the Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) a consortium of NGOs composed of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Conservation International (CI).

Guided by the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA), the USCTI works at national level with fisheries and environment ministries in ASEAN/SEAFDEC countries of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. In addition to the recently concluded "Intergovernmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade" (LRFFT), co-hosted by the CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC Secretariats, the USCTI has an ongoing regional collaboration with SEAFDEC and FAO to develop the EAFM Training Curriculum with potential for replication across the ASEAN region.

With these truly exciting regional actions and with the policy directives and advise on LRFFT provided today by this esteemed Council, the USCTI is looking forward to work with you, within the USCTI project timeframe, in addressing sustainability and management issues concerning LRFFT in the Southeast Asia and the Coral Triangle regions.

Thank you.

REPORT OF THE THIRD SEAFDEC REVIEW

Executive Summary of the Third SEAFDEC Review

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Third SEAFDEC Review Committee convened its Second Meeting on 6-8 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand to discuss the progress of activities in accordance with its Terms of Reference (TOR) which was approved at the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2012. The Second Meeting also aimed to come up with recommendations on the future direction of SEAFDEC taking into consideration the unfolding fisheries issues in Southeast Asia. These recommendations will be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration at its 45th Meeting in April 2013.

2. The Committee also discussed the recommendations during its First Meeting which was conducted on 23-25 July 2012, as well as those that emanate from the results of the missions to the countries that host SEAFDEC Departments and other similar activities which were organized from July 2012 to March 2013.

3. While reviewing the status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region, the Committee also made focus on the organization, structure and working mechanism of SEAFDEC in order to assess the relevance of the Center to the sustainable development of fisheries in the ASEAN region. In addition, the Committee examined the financial situation of SEAFDEC taking into account the diminishing financial support from the Government of Japan and the possibility of some additional contributions from the Member Countries for the operations of SEAFDEC. The enhanced involvement of the Member Countries in SEAFDEC through their increased Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) was put forward as means of boosting the countries' sense of ownership of the Center.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Based on the foregoing considerations, the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee adopted the following *recommendations*, taking into consideration the changing fisheries situation of the Southeast Asian region and its Terms of Reference as set forth by the SEAFDEC Council.

Continued relevance of SEAFDEC with respect to the changing situations of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, taking into consideration the Views of the Member Countries on the Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC

Recommendation 1: *The Role of SEAFDEC should be shifted from “development of technologies to increase fishery production” to “improving management and enhancing sustainable utilization of fishery resources, including management of shared stocks”, and regularly reviewed take into consideration the changing fisheries situation in the region.*

Recommendation 2: *The Vision and Mandate of SEAFDEC should be modified as follows:*

Vision: *Sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region*

Mandate: *To promote concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainable contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to the economies, social well-being and food security of the countries of Southeast Asia*

Recommendation 3: *SEAFDEC should develop its Strategic Plan, taking into account the issues elaborated in the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, covering short-, medium-, and long-term plans to facilitate sourcing of financial support from donors to fund its planned activities.*

Recommendation 4: *The Functions of SEAFDEC should focus on: i) research, development and verification of relevant technologies to attain sustainability of fisheries; ii) transfer of technologies*

through training and human resources development (HRD) activities; and iii) providing forum for regional discussion and collaboration for the development of common coordinated positions, regional standards, among others.

Recommendation 5: SEAFDEC should undertake activities aimed at raising the awareness of stakeholders on fisheries management by generating information packages and toolkits for dissemination, as well as enhancing coordination and networking with other regional/international organizations.

Plans of Operation and activities of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, taking into consideration their respective short-, medium- and long-term operations

Recommendation 6: SEAFDEC should concentrate its effort in strengthening fisheries management through development of appropriate guidelines as well as in intensifying capacity building activities and extending support to the Member Countries to strengthen their capacity in delegating management responsibilities to the local communities through participatory approaches.

Recommendation 7: Issues under the scopes of fisheries management, fishing technologies and practices, post-harvest and trade-related issues, aquaculture, human resources development (HRD), and fisheries information and statistics should be included in the Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments.

Recommendation 8: The Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments should be regularly updated to be able to address the emerging issues and requirements of the region, and that clear demarcation of functions among the Departments should be in place to reduce possible duplication of efforts.

Financial management of SEAFDEC, taking into account the diminishing funding from external sources and to avoid increasing substantially the Minimum Regular Contribution of the Member Countries vis-à-vis the operations of SEAFDEC

Recommendation 9: SEAFDEC should be more proactive in sourcing funds and relevant support from non-traditional sources including the private sector, and that the Member Countries in collaboration with SEAFDEC are encouraged to exert efforts in developing project proposals that are eligible for external financial support.

Recommendation 10: Under the guidance of the Council, the Secretariat should be provided certain flexibility in the disbursements of funds from various sources for the implementation of regional programs in order to accommodate activities that are priority of the region while also taking into account the specific objectives and priorities of particular donors as well as the directives of the Council.

Recommendation 11: Member Countries should enhance their sense of ownership and support to SEAFDEC so that the capacity of SEAFDEC in coping with the increasing requirements of the region could be strengthened.

Recommendation 12: The Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) should be used for the operations of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and not for supporting the operations or activities of any particular Departments.

Recommendation 13: Alternative means of sourcing funds to cover the maintenance cost of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be explored while certain amount of funds from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) should be reserved and to be disbursed by the Secretariat for contingency purposes.

Ways and means of improving the working mechanism and management of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to ensure continued cost effectiveness, including exploring possible alternate structures to the Departmental set up

Recommendation 14: The uniqueness of SEAFDEC, having a Secretariat and technical Departments supported by host governments of different Member Countries, should be maintained as this helps in enhancing relationships and networking between SEAFDEC and the host countries.

a) **Improvement of working mechanism and management of SEAFDEC**

i. **SEAFDEC Secretariat**

Recommendation 15: *The possibility of putting into effect the independence of the Secretariat from the Training Department should be explored as this would allow the Secretary-General to work more efficiently with his designated functions at the SEAFDEC Secretariat and to concentrate on the overall welfare of the Center. The costs that could incur from such an independent Secretariat should be shared among the Member Countries.*

Recommendation 16: *Article 8 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC should be amended in order that the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General would not be required to hold concurrent positions with any Department, and that the term of office of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General should be for a period of four years but may be recommended for re-appointment.*

Recommendation 17: *The roles and functions of the Secretariat should be focused on enhancing coordination between the Departments and the Member Countries, overseeing the activities of the Center in response to the directives given by the SEAFDEC Council, and sourcing of funds to support the planned activities of SEAFDEC, while the Secretariat should be granted certain authority over the administrative aspects of the Departments.*

Recommendation 18: *The Secretariat should not be involved in the implementation of technical projects except on activities related to fisheries statistics and information, particularly in the compilation of fishery statistics as a routine activity of the Secretariat, and on matters relating to international treaties and legal instruments. An ad-hoc office to support the implementation of interdisciplinary projects by concerned Departments could be established at the Secretariat on a temporary basis, to ensure that funding for such projects is properly coordinated.*

Recommendation 19: *Contingency funds should be allocated to the SEAFDEC Secretariat to enable it to respond to the emerging requirements of the Member Countries.*

Recommendation 20: *The services of a legal expert in the Secretariat should be availed of to properly delineate the roles of the Secretariat in performing administrative coordination and implementing projects in light of the officially agreed provisions in the Basic Documents of the Center.*

ii. **SEAFDEC Departments**

Recommendation 21: *Member Countries should explore the ways and means of enhancing the utilization on cost-sharing basis, of useful expertise and facilities available at the Departments which are not fully utilized due to financial constraints.*

Recommendation 22: *SEAFDEC should explore the possibility of seeking financial support from donor agencies to enable its research staff to conduct studies using the expertise and facilities described in Recommendation 21, or allowing the private sector and academic institutions of other Member Countries to make use of such expertise and facilities on a cost-sharing basis.*

Recommendation 23: *SEAFDEC should seek clarification from Singapore of its views on the official status of the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) with respect to the overall organization of SEAFDEC.*

b) **Improving Program Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation Mechanism**

Recommendation 24: *The involvement of Member Countries in program formulation should be considered prior to the Program Committee Meeting (PCM), especially in technical consultations on specific subject matters as well as during the scrutiny of the overall programs at the PCM.*

Recommendation 25: *Member Countries should ensure that their respective National Coordinators (NCs) are appropriately selected and that the roles and duties of NCs should be clearly spelled out in their Terms of Reference.*

Recommendation 26: *Instead of convening the SEAFDEC Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management (RAC), the development of technical/scientific advice to address particular aspects of fisheries management should be carried out by ad-hoc working groups when issues arise or when responding to special agenda assigned by the SEAFDEC Council, and that SEAFDEC should also seek clarification from the Council on whether or not RAC should still be maintained as its subsidiary body.*

c) Strengthening human capacity in SEAFDEC

Recommendation 27: *The capacity of existing SEAFDEC staff should be enhanced to diversify the expertise and catch up with the advances in fisheries management and the unfolding scenario in fisheries through the establishment of a mechanism that promotes staff exchange/attachment programs as well as forging linkages with institutions and the academe for advanced degree programs, and the possibility of inviting external expertise should also be explored to promote exchange of expertise.*

Recommendation 28: *Short-term experts from external sources may be tapped to work on specific emerging issues while allowing the counterpart departmental staff to enhance their knowledge and skills, and that an “expert pool” could be established through linkage with other national/regional institutions for future mobilization and possible recruitment as and when necessary to support the activities of SEAFDEC, particularly where the expertise within SEAFDEC is insufficient.*

Recommendation 29: *Staff benefits and remunerations should be improved by developing attractive salary scales while incentive systems should be developed and/or improved, and an appropriate welfare system is put in place to secure the long-term well-being of the staff.*

d) Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility

Recommendation 30: *SEAFDEC should continue to enhance its visibility and profile through various media, including the conduct of and/or involvement in promotional events to foster the image of SEAFDEC to the public, and SEAFDEC should package results of its R&D activities for dissemination to the Member Countries while results of research conducted by SEAFDEC should be presented in the international/regional scientific fora or published in refereed scientific journals.*

e) Enhancing Collaboration and Partnership

Recommendation 31: *SEAFDEC should continue to strengthen its collaboration with other organizations in order to enhance and/or attain synergy in sharing and exchanging information while avoiding possible duplication of efforts.*

Recommendation 32: *Under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) mechanism, SEAFDEC should explore the ways and means of enhancing the benefits that SEAFDEC and the Member Countries can gain from such mechanism, especially in obtaining political support from the ASEAN mechanism in the promotion of SEAFDEC activities, advocating the activities of SEAFDEC to wider audience, and acquiring funding support from the ASEAN channel and dialogue partners.*

Recommendation 33: *SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries should continue to raise the profile of fisheries and aquaculture in the ASEAN, in order to obtain strong support and possible funding from the ASEAN mechanism.*

Recommendation 34: *SEAFDEC should explore the ways and means of contributing to the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) targeted in 2015, by developing minimum guidelines for the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the region, and supporting capacity building for the people involved in the sector.*

Recommendation 35: *The “Guidelines for Collaborative Arrangements” and proposed “Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC” should be streamlined into a single set of guidelines that cover all forms of collaboration, in order to avoid confusion that may arise in the implementation of activities by SEAFDEC Departments and the Collaborating Centers, and that there should be a clear distinction between SEAFDEC Departments and Collaborating Centers.*

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE SEAFDEC COUNCIL

5. The Committee agreed that the recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review would be reported by the Chairperson of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee to the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (1-5 April 2013 in Cebu City, Philippines) for consideration and further directives.

Report of the Third SEAFDEC Review

I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1. Since the establishment of SEAFDEC in 1967, a number of review exercises had been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of SEAFDEC in terms of its mandate and activities in promoting fisheries development in Southeast Asia. In addition to the First SEAFDEC Review Committee in 1986 and the Second in 1991, the organization structure and plans of operation of SEAFDEC and its Departments had also been occasionally reviewed and adjusted in accordance with the changing situation of fisheries in the region and the related requirements.

2. During the past decade however, the fisheries situation had continuously undergone changes that led to challenges, which could tremendously impact the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. It was therefore decided that another review exercise is deemed timely to enhance the role of SEAFDEC in efficiently and effectively supporting the Member Countries with their continuing efforts towards achieving sustainable fisheries and attaining food security. The Third SEAFDEC Review was also intended to provide recommendations for SEAFDEC to pursue future direction taking into consideration the unfolding fisheries issues that confront the region. Thus, at the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011, the conduct of the Third SEAFDEC Review was proposed by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General at the Meeting's closed session. While agreeing to have the Third Review on the roles and functions of SEAFDEC, the Council requested the Secretary-General to collaborate with the National Coordinators of the respective countries for the compilation of information on the countries' views with respect to the activities of SEAFDEC. In addition, the Council requested SEAFDEC to incorporate other relevant documents and information about SEAFDEC in its compiled report.

3. In response to the above directives, the SEAFDEC Secretariat compiled the Member Countries' views on the expected roles, functions and activities of SEAFDEC, the Report of which was submitted to the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2012. While taking note of the said Report, the SEAFDEC Council approved the conduct of the Third SEAFDEC Review, and subsequently also approved the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Composition of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee as shown in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**, respectively.

4. As specified in the TOR, the Third SEAFDEC Review aimed to:

- 1) Assess the continued relevance of SEAFDEC with respect to the changing situations of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, considering the views of the Member Countries on the roles, functions and activities of SEAFDEC;
- 2) Examine and review the Plans of Operation and activities of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, taking into consideration their respective short-, medium- and long-term operations;
- 3) Review the financial management of SEAFDEC, taking into account the diminishing funding from external sources and to avoid increase substantially the Minimum Regular Contribution of the Member Countries vis-à-vis the operations of SEAFDEC; and
- 4) Recommend ways and means to improve the working mechanism and management of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to ensure continued cost effectiveness, including exploring possible alternate structures to the Departmental set up.

II. REVIEW PROCESS

5. While adhering to the approved Terms of Reference, the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee carried out the following activities to accomplish its tasks, taking into consideration the organization, structure and working mechanism of SEAFDEC in order to assess the relevance of SEAFDEC to the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. The Committee also examined the financial situation of SEAFDEC considering the decreasing financial support from the Government of Japan

which necessitates increasing the contributions from the Member Countries for the operations of SEAFDEC. It was anticipated that the enhanced involvement of the Member Countries in SEAFDEC through their increased Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) would boost their sense of ownership of the Center.

(1) First Meeting of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee (23-25 July 2012):

The Meeting unanimously supported the nomination of *Dr. Purwito Martosubroto* to serve as Chairperson of the Committee. At the onset, the Meeting reviewed the current fisheries situation in Southeast Asia and took note of their possible implications on the future of SEAFDEC, and the ways and means whereby SEAFDEC could effectively respond to such challenges. In order to cut on costs for the Review, the Meeting agreed to send small missions comprising few members of the Review Committee to the countries that host the SEAFDEC Departments. Such missions were aimed at obtaining the views and recommendations of appropriate authorities in host countries and from key officers of the respective SEAFDEC Departments on the future of SEAFDEC. The Meeting also supported the proposal to send a mission to Indonesia to compile information on the progress of the proposed establishment of a new SEAFDEC department on inland fisheries resources development and management, and to the ASEAN Secretariat to explore the ways and means whereby the collaboration between the ASEAN and SEAFDEC could be strengthened.

(2) Mission to the Philippines (17-22 September 2012):

The Mission comprising two Review Committee members, namely: *Dr. Le Thanh Luu* and *Mr. Hla Win* visited the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to discuss with the BFAR Director and SEAFDEC Council Director for the Philippines as well as with key officers of BFAR, and obtain their views on SEAFDEC as well as on the ways and means of enhancing the functions, operations and management of SEAFDEC. The Mission also visited the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) at its Tigbauan Main Station (TMS) in Iloilo, Binangonan Freshwater Station (BFS) near Metro Manila, Dumangas Brackishwater Station (DBS) also in Iloilo, and Igang Marine Station (IMS) in Guimaras Island, and discussed various issues and concerns relevant to aquaculture and AQD's operations, with the Department Chief, Deputy Chief and key officers assigned in the respective stations. The Mission also obtained the views of former AQD Chiefs on the manner by which the operations of AQD could be improved.

(3) Mission to Singapore (19-21 September 2012):

The Mission comprising two Review Committee members, namely: *Dr. Purwito Martosubroto* and *Prof. Junichiro Okamoto* visited the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA), discussed with the Alternate SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore, other key officers of the AVA and the Chief of SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), and obtained their views on SEAFDEC, especially on enhancing the functions, operations and management of SEAFDEC. Discussion was also made on the establishment of the Post-harvest Technology Centre (PHTC) of AVA as Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC to implement the MFRD programs.

(4) Mission to Indonesia (29 October-1 November 2012):

The Mission comprising two Review Committee members, namely: *Dr. Rolando Platon* and *Dato' Junaidi bin Che Ayub* visited the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia to discuss with its key officers and obtain their views on SEAFDEC as well as the ways and means of enhancing its functions, operations and management. Discussion was also made on the proposal of Indonesia to establish a new department under the SEAFDEC structure to undertake activities on inland fisheries development and management. The mission also visited the ASEAN Secretariat to discuss with relevant officers and obtain their views on the ways by which the cooperation between the ASEAN and SEAFDEC could be strengthened.

(5) Mission to discuss relevant issues with SEAFDEC National Coordinators during the 35th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (28 November 2012):

A Special Meeting was arranged to facilitate discussion between the Review Committee members, namely: *Dr. Purwito Martosubroto*, *Dato' Junaidi bin Che Ayub*, *Dr. Le Thanh Luu* and *Mr. Hla*

Win, and the SEAFDEC National Coordinators (NCs) to obtain their views particularly on the ways and means of enhancing the roles of the NCs in the SEAFDEC mechanism in improving the programs of SEAFDEC. The discussion centered on the formulation and implementation of SEAFDEC programs, as well as on the current structure of SEAFDEC.

(6) Mission to Malaysia (7-10 January 2013):

The Mission comprising two Review Committee members, namely: *Dr. Purwito Martosubroto* and *Dr. Deb Menasveta* visited the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and discussed with the SEAFDEC Council Director and Alternate Council Director for Malaysia as well as other key officers to obtain their views on SEAFDEC as well as on the ways by which the functions, operations and management of SEAFDEC could be enhanced. The Mission also visited the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) and discussed with its Department Chief, Deputy Chief and senior officers the important issues that need to be urgently addressed.

(7) Mission to Thailand (4-5 March 2013):

The Mission comprising two Review Committee members, namely: *Prof. Junichiro Okamoto* and *Dr. Rolando Platon* visited the Department of Fisheries of Thailand and discussed with the SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand and SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Thailand to obtain their views on SEAFDEC as well as on the ways and means of enhancing the functions, operations and management of SEAFDEC. The Mission also visited the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) and discussed with its Department Chief, Deputy Chief and senior officers the manner by which the operations of TD could be strengthened.

(8) The Second Meeting of the Third Review Committee (6-8 March 2013):

The Meeting was attended by the members of the Review Committee as well as the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC as the Secretary to the Committee. The Meeting reviewed the views and recommendations arising from the Review Committee's First Meeting together with those obtained from the aforementioned missions and consultations. This led to the compilation of the Review Committee's views and recommendations on the future of SEAFDEC. Such compiled information had been incorporated into this Report of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee which will be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration during its 45th Meeting in April 2013.

III. ANALYSIS

3.1 Fisheries Situation in the Southeast Asian Region

6. While reviewing the status and trend of fisheries in the region, the Committee observed that the total fishery production of the region had risen from approximately 17 million tons in 2000 to around 31 million tons in 2010. From such total, the production from *marine capture fisheries* in 2010 accounted for approximately 47 percent of the total fisheries production while *inland capture fisheries* contributed about eight (8) percent and *aquaculture* 45 percent.

7. The Committee however noted that production from **marine capture fisheries** had declined. From a percentage contribution of 70 percent to the total fisheries production in 2000 to only 47 percent in 2010, production from marine capture fisheries decreased at an average rate of two percent annually. This trend seemed to indicate that a number of marine fish stocks, both pelagic and demersal, had been declining and an appreciable increase in the production from these stocks would be unlikely to take place. The Committee also noted that in the Gulf of Thailand and adjacent waters, and in the Andaman Sea there might be more than 30 stocks of *shared marine fishery resources* currently exploited by more than one country. This requires more attention by the countries concerned in terms of responsible fishing of the shared stocks, to ensure rational exploitation and management of these resources. Also, with respect to marine capture fisheries, the Committee was of the opinion that *continued open access to marine fishery resources* in exclusive economic zones and adjacent areas is still permitted by several countries in the region. This perception and practice should be superseded by policies and mechanisms to effectively control the access and reduce fishing efforts

to commensurate with the capacity of the resources to replenish on a sustainable manner. The Committee therefore agreed that community-based management and co-management arrangements, which had proved to be feasible in some countries in the region, should be seriously considered and implemented more widely in the region in the future. While noting that there are reportedly some demersal fishery resources beyond the 100-meter depth of the continental shelf, especially those off the Philippines and Indonesia, which might supplement future fisheries production, the Committee felt that, at present, there is no sufficient information on the status of these deep-sea fish stocks to warrant possible additional catches.

8. Specifically for **inland capture fisheries**, the Committee further noted that while this sector accounted for only about eight percent of the total production in 2010, it played an important role in food security by providing protein sources to rural populations of the countries of Southeast Asia. However, the inadequacy of reliable information and statistics on the production and on the amounts consumed by local populations might have distorted the real picture of the status of inland capture fisheries and thus, should be urgently addressed. The Committee was of the view that because of the steady increase of population growth in the region and the brisk development process of industrialization, competition for land and water use is increasing, resulting in environmental degradation which eventually affects the natural habitat and well-being of aquatic fauna and flora in the inland waters. Other factors limiting inland capture fisheries production include long-term climate change and man-made changes such as construction of dams, barrages or aquaculture structures in natural waterways.

9. The Committee recognized that **aquaculture** in Southeast Asia had developed rapidly during the past three decades with its contribution rising from 22 percent of the total regional fish production in 2000 to 45 percent in 2010. Aquaculture production in 2009 came from mariculture (marine plants and mollusks, 52 percent), brackishwater culture (marine fish and crustaceans, 21 percent), and freshwater culture (mainly catfishes, cyprinids tilapia and gouramis, 27 percent). While observing the steadily increasing contribution of aquaculture to the annual total fish production of the region during the past decade, the Committee took note of the various issues that could impact on the future production from aquaculture, including long-term climate change, environmental pollution, and policies and technologies being promoted to enhance aquaculture production. In addition, the Committee substantiated that the most important issue that requires particular attention is the utilization of trash fish and low-value fish either as direct feed or to produce fishmeal for aquaculture, which is expected to create pressures to the fishery resources as a whole, and also impact on the livelihood and food security of people who are dependent on the bounties of the natural resources.

10. On the development of **fish utilization and processing technologies** in the region, the Committee noted that a number of issues need to be urgently addressed, including improvement of on-board and on-shore processing technologies, reduction and use of wastes from fish processing, and the conversion of low-value fish for human consumption. The Committee was however, of the opinion that food safety and control systems employed by the processing industry for fish and fishery products destined for the export market, had been fairly well-established in compliance with the requirements of the importing countries. Nevertheless, the Committee also acknowledged the need to enhance food safety for local consumption.

11. While looking at the **Southeast Asian population growth vis-à-vis fish supplies**, the Committee perceived that the total population of the Southeast Asian countries estimated at approximately 590 million in 2009 is expected to increase to almost 800 million in 2050. If the average per capita food fish consumption is maintained at 27 kilograms/man/year (trend in 2009), the total amount of food fish required for regional consumption would be in the order of 22 million tons or at least six million tons more than in 2009. This figure might increase because as the economy improves, more people consume fish and fishery products resulting in higher demand and as a consequence, increasing the prices thereof. This would affect the fish consumption of the poorer sector of society which could not afford to pay the high prices of fish. Therefore, the Committee believed that the steadily increasing population growth of the region and long-term climate change

would eventually affect the pattern of utilization of the natural resources and environmental quality, adversely affecting food security of the region.

12. On the issues related to **international fish trade** and considering that several members of SEAFDEC are exporters of fish and fishery products to global markets, the Committee was of the view that in recent years many importing countries have imposed more stringent requirements for exported products, which could be either a trade barrier or in conjunction with the implementation of catch certification adopted by the global community. These requirements include traceability of catch, fisheries subsidies or the welfare of small-scale fishers. The Committee also noted that treaties such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), are designed to regulate international fish trade of rare or nearly extinct species of animals and plants, and thus, could have implications on the trade of fish and fishery products of exporting countries including those in Southeast Asia. The Committee believed that these issues would continue to challenge fisheries-related agencies and regional bodies such as SEAFDEC in the future.

13. Finally, the Committee recognized that fisheries in the ASEAN region, contributed not only to food security of the countries therein by providing staple protein supply to the ever-expanding populations, but also played a significant role in **international agricultural commodity** trade, contributing to the betterment of the region's economy. The Committee also noted with satisfaction, the escalating export value of fish and fishery products from the region, from US\$ 8.8 billion in 2000 to US\$ 20.5 billion in 2010 or an increase of more than double in the last decade. The Committee therefore believed that the contribution of fisheries to the economies of the region could still be raised if fisheries will be accorded higher priority in the countries' future economic and social development plans and programs.

14. Furthermore, the Committee emphasized that in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), focus is made on the rational exploitation and conservation of living resources in territorial seas and adjacent waters as well as in semi-enclosed seas of the Member States and in the high seas. In addition, the Convention encouraged the Member States to cooperate and/or settle their disputes through appropriate regional organizations whenever possible. Nevertheless, since the ratification of UNCLOS in 1982, there had been a rapid development of fisheries, resulting in the spectacular increase of annual fish production.

15. Likewise, in the last three decades, aquaculture has significantly increased its annual contribution to global fish production. Unfortunately, such rapid developments have created a negative impact on the well-being of global living aquatic resources and the environment, which has now become quite apparent. Concerned with this undesirable impact, the global community has adopted a number of declarations, legal instruments and plans of action aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of living aquatic resources and environmental protection. These include the 1992 Declaration of Cancun on Responsible Fishing and its subsequent outcome, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the plan of action known as *Agenda 21* adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Compliance Agreement), the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement), the 1995 Kyoto Declaration on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security, and the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 adopted recently by the 2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020.

16. While keeping track of the number of major **organizations concerned with fisheries and related matters in Southeast Asia**, both within and outside the United Nations system such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), WorldFish Center, Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical

Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH), and the Network for Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), the Committee noted that apart from SEAFDEC, the main role of most of these organizations is advisory or serving as forum for exchanging of views and recommendations rather than as management body. Although these organizations have different objectives and geographical coverage, their main focus is on specific facets of the fisheries industry. Nevertheless, the Committee had the opinion that SEAFDEC is the only regional center which has fully equipped itself with physical facilities for research and development in the various aspects of fisheries.

3.2 SEAFDEC Organization and Structure

17. The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an autonomous inter-governmental body established in 1967. The mandate of SEAFDEC which was endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council during its 41st Meeting in 2009 is “*to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety to the people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities*”. Currently, SEAFDEC comprises 11 Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Center is operated through the Secretariat located in Thailand and has four Technical Departments, namely: the Training Department in Thailand, Marine Fisheries Research Department in Singapore, Aquaculture Department in the Philippines, and the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department in Malaysia.

18. SEAFDEC was established through an Agreement Establishing the Center, which was signed in Bangkok, Thailand on 28 December 1967. This was amended later on by the Protocols Amending the Agreement in January 1968 and in November 2004. SEAFDEC which comprises the Secretariat and the aforementioned four Technical Departments have specific functions described briefly below, providing the Committee with better understanding of the operations, functions and responsibilities of SEAFDEC.

a) The Secretariat

19. Since the establishment of SEAFDEC, the Secretariat has been attached to the Training Department (TD) as a Liaison Office. In 1997, the Secretariat set up a permanent office in its new premises within the Department of Fisheries compound at Kasetsart University Campus. The SEAFDEC Secretariat is mandated to coordinate and oversee the general policy and planning of the Center, and acts as the focal point for channeling and implementing the decisions and resolutions of the SEAFDEC Council of Directors. In addition, the Secretariat also organizes regular SEAFDEC meetings and consultations to obtain directives and guidance from the Member Countries on the operation of the organization, as well as regional technical consultations to discuss urgent issues as recommended by the Member Countries.

b) Training Department

20. The Training Department (TD) was established in Thailand in 1968, and is hosted by the Government of Thailand through its Department of Fisheries. TD has been focusing its efforts on the development of modern fishery techniques to assist the fisheries industry of the region in a more sustainable approach through the promotion of responsible fishing technologies and practices, exploration of fishery resources, and advancement of the coastal fisheries management approach. Under its Strategic Plan which was endorsed in 2006, the structure and activities of TD had been adjusted to give more emphasis on the promotion of coastal fisheries management to ensure responsible resource utilization and sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities, and the promotion of off-shore fisheries through the development of best fishing practices and energy optimization technology to ensure stable supply of food fish and reduce fishing pressure in coastal areas.

c) *Marine Fisheries Research Department*

21. The Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) was set up in Singapore in 1969. Hosted by the Government of Singapore through the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), and was initially tasked to conduct marine fisheries research in the fishing grounds of the EEZs of the Member Countries. Since developing fisheries post-harvest technology was also considered very vital in strengthening sustainable fisheries development in the region and especially in placing the region's fishery products in the world market, MFRD had taken such paradigm as its key direction since the late 1970s. Henceforth, MFRD had assumed the responsibility of promoting, undertaking and co-coordinating research in fisheries post-harvest technology, and furthering the development of the fish processing industry in the region. Besides Research and Development (R&D), MFRD has transferred the technologies it had developed to the region through training programs and dissemination of information through its regional library services. In April 2007, the SEAFDEC Council approved and endorsed the proposal for the Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC) of AVA to serve as the SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre for MFRD Programs.

d) *Aquaculture Department*

22. The Aquaculture Department (AQD) was established in 1973 in the Philippines, and is hosted by the Philippine Government through its Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR). AQD is responsible for conducting R&D on the generation and improvement of aquaculture technologies, covering the aspects of broodstock development, hatchery management, nursery and grow-out operations, feed development, fish nutrition, disease management, and socio-economics. The aquaculture commodities covered by AQD include fishes, shrimps, mud crabs, mollusks, and seaweeds. In addition, AQD also promotes good aquaculture practices and effective management of aquatic resources to support rural development and to alleviate poverty, as well as disseminates information through training, extension and other outreach activities, and works closely with various partners in manpower and expertise development.

e) *Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department*

23. The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) was established in Malaysia in 1992 to conduct activities on marine fishery resources focusing on biological studies of commercially important fish species, resource assessment and management, and conservation and management of aquatic species under international concerns, *e.g.* sharks and marine turtles. MFRDMD also implements activities that support the Member Countries in the compilation of information on inland capture fisheries, and development of indicators to be used in the sustainable development and management of fisheries.

f) *New SEAFDEC Department*

24. In addition to the four existing Departments, the Government of Indonesia proposed the establishment a new department under the SEAFDEC structure, to undertake activities on development of sustainable inland fisheries. This new SEAFDEC Department is tentatively known as the "Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department" or IFRDMD for short.

3.3 *Working Mechanisms of SEAFDEC*

25. The SEAFDEC Council, which is the supreme organ of the Center, comprises the Directors for Fisheries from respective Member Countries. The Council has the power, among others, to decide on the Plans of Operation and Working Programs of the Center; adopt the annual programs and financial reports of the Center; approve the annual reports of the Center; admit new members; appoint the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Department Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs; and

approve arrangements for SEAFDEC to cooperate with other organizations. The annual meeting of the SEAFDEC Council is organized in early April of each year.

26. In order to support the efforts of the Council in endorsing the SEAFDEC programs, and ensuring that the programs and activities of SEAFDEC respond to the needs and priorities of the Member Countries, the following mechanisms were established within the SEAFDEC structure:

a) *SEAFDEC Program Committee*

27. As a subsidiary body of the SEAFDEC Council, the SEAFDEC Program Committee was established in 1977 with the following objectives:

- i. To review and evaluate the activities of the Departments to make sure that there is complementation and not duplication among the Departments themselves, and between SEAFDEC and other organizations, whether national, regional or international, working in the same region, and that the activities carried out by the Departments should conform to those approved by the Council;
- ii. To assist the Departments in program formulation by advising on the needs and problems of Member Countries in the various fisheries fields, so that these needs can be considered in their programs of activity;
- iii. To help SEAFDEC in drawing up long-term plans for the development of the Departments and the implementation of the objectives of SEAFDEC so that funding assistance can be properly planned; and
- iv. To examine the proposed programs of activity and financial allocations of the various Departments of SEAFDEC with the objective of ensuring that the needs of all Member Countries are justly reflected in them.

28. The Annual Meeting of the Program Committee is organized around November-December every year. The SEAFDEC Program Framework comprising five program thrusts, namely: (i) Developing and promoting responsible fisheries for poverty alleviation and food security; (ii) Enhancing capacity and competitiveness to facilitate international and intra-regional trade; (iii) Improving management concepts and approaches for sustainable fisheries; (iv) Providing policy and advisory services for planning and executing management of fisheries; and (iv) Addressing international fisheries related issues from a regional perspective, are currently used in examining and analyzing the programs and activities of SEAFDEC.

b) *SEAFDEC National Coordinators*

29. National Coordinator (NC) is a single representative of a Member Country with respect to the technical coordination work with SEAFDEC. The NC has the following Terms of Reference:

- a. The NC is eligible to coordinate among various technical sections within government agencies. Under the immediate supervision of the SEAFDEC Council Director or Alternate Council Director, the NC will:
 - i. Communicate with SEAFDEC through the Policy and Program Coordinator (PPC) of the Secretariat on the coordination of program formulation and overall monitoring of the implementation of the SEAFDEC program, especially the Special 5-year Program;
 - ii. Coordinate among technical staff within the government agency through all the phases from program formulation to implementation. Although concerned SEAFDEC Departments may directly communicate with the concerned technical staff in the

government agency for effective implementation of the Program, overall coordination among the technical staff who will be involved in the SEAFDEC Program will be conducted by the NC;

- iii. Communicate with SEAFDEC Special Department Coordinators of the concerned Department and the Secretariat on the effective implementation of the individual projects of the Program. However, a copy of these communications should also be provided to the PPC of the Secretariat for his/her overall coordination;
 - iv. Maintain close consultation with immediate supervisors on the issues to be proposed by NC on behalf of the government;
 - v. Be responsible for initiation and promotion of all required national actions including financial arrangements for the implementation of the Program; and
 - vi. Provide wide range of advice to the Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP)¹.
- b. National Coordinators should be members of the SEAFDEC Program Committee.
- c) *Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia*

30. SEAFDEC established the Regional Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RAC) in 2008, to become another subsidiary body of the SEAFDEC Council. RAC has the main role of providing technical and scientific advice to the SEAFDEC Council for the improvement of fisheries management in Southeast Asia. The Terms of Reference of RAC include:

- i. To review and assess the current status of the fishery resources in particular transboundary fish stocks, the status of fishing industries, and fisheries management measures and administrations in the region;
- ii. To provide advice on priority fisheries management issues including policy considerations, coordinated fisheries management actions, and human and institutional capacity building, in order to formulate recommendations for improved fisheries management;
- iii. To facilitate addressing the identified issues, including assessment and in-depth studies, possibly through ad-hoc technical working group(s); and
- iv. To collaborate with international/regional organizations, programs or projects concerned with fisheries management and sustainable use of fisheries resources in formulating advice.

d) *Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN)*

31. In 1998, SEAFDEC established the Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP) with the main objective of strengthening the regional function of SEAFDEC. The members of the WGRFP were seconded by the Member Countries from their junior and middle-level government officers. However, due to financial constraints, the WGRFP was converted in 2006 into the SEAFDEC Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN), where members could either be assigned at the SEAFDEC Secretariat taking into consideration the availability of funds or appointed as virtual members and based in their respective countries. The enhanced tasks of RFPN include providing views and inputs on various issues, e.g. international fisheries-related issues as well as other regional

¹ Now known as the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN)

priority and policy issues, as well as assistance in the implementation of SEAFDEC regional programs.

3.4 Financial Situation of SEAFDEC

32. Since its establishment in 1967, SEAFDEC relies on three important sources of funds for its operations as stipulated in the Agreement Establishing the Center and in the respective Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments. These sources are:

- i. Contributions from governments hosting Departments in the form of appropriate area of land, buildings and facilities, equipment, staff, and annual cash contributions to defray the operational expenses of respective Departments;
- ii. Contributions from the Government of Japan (through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs) for the purchase of training and research instruments and equipment (including training and research vessels) and conduct of activities for the Member Countries (training and special fellowships), and the annual cash contributions for the operational expenses of the Departments; and
- iii. Other incomes received from various sources including those from Member Countries not hosting any Department, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia (until 2012), Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam in the form of membership fees (known later as the country's Minimum Regular Contribution or MRC), which are mainly used for the operating costs of the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

33. The regular contribution from the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) was discontinued starting in 1998. Henceforth, the Government through its Fisheries Agency (FA) provided financial support to SEAFDEC in the form of "Japanese Trust Fund" for the implementation of regional programs and activities particularly those under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism. In view of the financial crisis in Japan in early 2000s and the emergence of other issues that require priority support from the Government especially those that affect the Japan-ASEAN collaboration, the annual contribution of Japan to SEAFDEC had been substantially reduced starting in 2003. Nevertheless, the Government of Japan also committed to continue its funding support to SEAFDEC for the implementation of regional programs and activities allocated under the Japanese Trust Fund and its MRC through the Fisheries Agency.

34. Anticipating that such a situation would continue to occur and could create severe impacts on the sustainable operation of the Center, the SEAFDEC Council at its 38th Meeting in 2006 agreed to the proposal that all Member Countries have to provide their respective Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) to SEAFDEC. Thus, the MRC was put into effect starting in 2007, the total of which was fixed at US\$ 400,000, an amount considered sufficient enough for the sustainable operation of the Center at the barest minimum level at that time. Moreover, it was also in 2007 that the Government of Japan formally informed SEAFDEC on its decision that the financial support to SEAFDEC channeled through its MOFA would no longer be sustained.

35. During the subsequent 40th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2008, the Council agreed to the proposal that the level of MRC should be reviewed every 5 years in order that appropriate adjustments could be made to appropriately respond to the needs of the current time, and in order that the relevance of MRC with regards to the sustainability of the existence of the Center could be assured. Therefore, the SEAFDEC Secretariat proposed during the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011 that the total amount of MRC should be increased to US\$ 500,000. Although the Council during its 44th Meeting agreed in principle that the proposed increased MRC would be adopted in 2013, individual Member Countries were also encouraged to proceed with their respective internal processes as soon as possible in order that the new MRC could be administered as proposed.

36. In addition to the contributions from governments hosting the Departments and the MRC to sustain the operations of the Departments and Secretariat, respectively, SEAFDEC also receives funding assistance from other sources for the implementation of its programs and activities.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

37. Through the series of consultations and discussions, particularly during the missions conducted by the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee to host Member Countries and SEAFDEC Departments as well as during the discussion with the SEAFDEC National Coordinators, the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee came up with and unanimously agreed on the following recommendations, taking into consideration the changing fisheries situation of the Southeast Asian region and its Terms of Reference as set forth by the SEAFDEC Council.

4.1 *Assess the continued relevance of SEAFDEC with respect to the changing situations of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, taking into consideration the Views of the Member Countries on the Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC*

38. The Committee recognized that the Member Countries have throughout the past decades, gained benefits from the activities of SEAFDEC and unanimously agreed that SEAFDEC is relevant for the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. While adhering to the trend of development of fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Southeast Asian region, and taking into consideration the changing fisheries situation in the Southeast Asian region, the Committee recommended that the *Role* of SEAFDEC should be shifted from “development of technologies to increase fishery production” to “improving management and enhancing sustainable utilization of fishery resources, including management of shared stocks”, and reviewed regularly to take into consideration the changing fisheries situation in the Southeast Asian region.

<i>Recommendation 1</i>
The Role of SEAFDEC should be shifted from “development of technologies to increase fishery production” to “improving management and enhancing sustainable utilization of fishery resources, including management of shared stocks”, and regularly reviewed to take into consideration the changing fisheries situation in the Southeast Asian region.

39. Under such scenario, the Committee also recommended that the Vision and Mandate of SEAFDEC should be modified accordingly, as follows:

Vision: *Sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region*

Mandate: *To promote concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainable contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to the economies, social well-being and food security of the countries of Southeast Asia*

<i>Recommendation 2</i>
The Vision and Mandate of SEAFDEC should be modified as follows:
Vision: <i>Sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region</i>
Mandate: <i>To promote concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainable contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to the economies, social well-being and food security of the countries of Southeast Asia</i>

40. In accordance with the above Vision and Mandate, the Committee recommended that SEAFDEC should develop its Strategic Plan taking into account the issues elaborated in the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, covering short-, medium-, and long-term plans to pave the way for sourcing of financial support from donors to fund its planned activities.

Recommendation 3

SEAFDEC should develop its Strategic Plan taking into account the issues elaborated in the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, covering short-, medium-, and long-term plans to facilitate sourcing of financial support from donors to fund its planned activities.

41. Based on the analysis of the Member Countries' Views on the Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC, the Committee concurred with the necessity for the *Functions* of SEAFDEC to focus on: i) research, development and verification of relevant technologies to attain sustainability of fisheries; ii) transfer of technologies through training and human resources development (HRD) activities; and iii) providing forum for regional discussion and collaboration for the development of common coordinated positions, regional standards, among others. In addition, SEAFDEC should also undertake activities aimed at raising the awareness of stakeholders on fisheries management by generating information packages and toolkits for dissemination, as well as enhancing coordination and networking with other regional/international organizations.

Recommendation 4

The *Functions* of SEAFDEC should focus on: i) research, development and verification of relevant technologies to attain sustainability of fisheries; ii) transfer of technologies through training and human resources development (HRD) activities; and iii) providing forum for regional discussion and collaboration for the development of common coordinated positions, regional standards, among others.

Recommendation 5

SEAFDEC should undertake activities aimed at raising the awareness of stakeholders on fisheries management by generating information packages and toolkits for dissemination, as well as enhancing coordination and networking with other regional/international organizations.

4.2 Examine and review the Plans of Operation and activities of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, taking into consideration their respective short-, medium- and long-term operations

42. Since in the past fisheries development in the region has seemingly led to the decline of fishery resources, the Committee recommended that SEAFDEC should concentrate its effort in strengthening fisheries management through the development of appropriate guidelines as well as in intensifying capacity building activities. Moreover, in view of the large number of fishers in the region, the Committee also recommended that SEAFDEC should extend support to the Member Countries to strengthen their capacity in delegating management responsibilities to local communities through participatory approaches, *e.g.* co-management, community-based management.

Recommendation 6

SEAFDEC should concentrate its effort in strengthening fisheries management through development of appropriate guidelines as well as in intensifying capacity building activities and extending support to the Member Countries to strengthen their capacity in delegating management responsibilities to the local communities through participatory approaches.

43. While taking into consideration the Plan of Operation and activities developed by the Secretariat and Departments, and the "Member Countries' Views on the Expected Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC" endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council in 2012, the Committee recommended that issues under the scopes of fisheries management, fishing technologies and practices, post-harvest and trade-related issues, aquaculture, human resources development (HRD), and fisheries information and statistics are important and should be included in the *Plans of Operation* of the relevant Departments of SEAFDEC. The list of issues appears as **Appendix 3**.

Recommendation 7

Issues under the scopes of fisheries management, fishing technologies and practices, post-harvest and trade-related issues, aquaculture, human resources development (HRD), and fisheries information and statistics should be included in the *Plans of Operation* of the SEAFDEC Departments.

44. Moreover, the Committee also recommended that the Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments should be regularly updated to be able to address the emerging issues and requirements of the region, and that there should be clear demarcation of functions among the Departments to reduce possible duplication of efforts. However, while noting that the scopes of activities that should be undertaken by SEAFDEC are very diverse, the Committee recognized that there could be activities that fall under the responsibility of more than one Department, and recommended that close coordination between concerned Departments should be sustained.

Recommendation 8

The Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments should be regularly updated to be able to address the emerging issues and requirements of the region, and that clear demarcation of functions among the Departments should be in place to reduce possible duplication of efforts.

4.3 Review the financial management of SEAFDEC, taking into account the diminishing funding from external sources and to avoid increasing substantially the Minimum Regular Contribution of the Member Countries vis-à-vis the operations of SEAFDEC

45. While noting that the current sources of financial support to SEAFDEC come from: the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) to support the operations of SEAFDEC Secretariat; regular contribution from host governments to respective SEAFDEC Departments; and other funding support from donor agencies and organizations, and considering the tight financial situation of SEAFDEC, the Committee recommended that SEAFDEC should be more proactive in sourcing funds and relevant support from non-traditional sources including the private sector. These could include donor agencies (*e.g.* UNDP, GEF, NORAD, Sida, USAID, the Netherlands, etc.), private sector, local government units (LGUs), among others. Funding support from the “FAO/Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC)” should also be explored to fund activities that are aimed at enhancing human resources in fisheries for the Member Countries, *e.g.* the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN). In addition, the Member Countries in collaboration with SEAFDEC are encouraged to exert efforts in developing project proposals that are eligible for external financial support.

Recommendation 9

SEAFDEC should be more proactive in sourcing funds and relevant support from non-traditional sources including the private sector and that the Member Countries in collaboration with SEAFDEC are encouraged to exert efforts in developing project proposals that are eligible for external financial support.

46. On the allocation of funds granted to SEAFDEC from various sources for the implementation of regional programs, the Committee recommended that certain flexibility should be provided to the Secretariat under the guidance of the Council, in the disbursements of such funds to accommodate activities that are considered priorities of the region while taking into account the specific objectives and concerns of particular donors as well as the directives of the Council.

Recommendation 10

Under the guidance of the Council, the Secretariat should be provided with certain flexibility in the disbursements of funds from various sources for the implementation of regional programs in order to accommodate activities that are priority of the region while also taking into account the specific objectives and priorities of particular donors as well as the directives of the Council.

47. Considering that the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) of Member Countries to SEAFDEC is rather limited (except that of Japan), the Committee recommended that Member Countries should enhance their sense of ownership and support to SEAFDEC so that the capacity of SEAFDEC in coping with the increasing requirements of the region could be strengthened. Moreover, the Committee also recommended that the MRC should be used for the operations of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and not for supporting the operations or activities of any particular Departments.

Recommendation 11
Member Countries should enhance their sense of ownership and support to SEAFDEC so that the capacity of SEAFDEC in coping with the increasing requirements of the region could be strengthened.

Recommendation 12
The Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) should be used for the operations of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and not for supporting the operations or activities of any particular Departments.

48. The Committee noted the high maintenance cost of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which currently makes use of an annual budget of about 150,000 USD from the MRC. As the MRC should be utilized mainly for the operations of the Secretariat, the Committee viewed that additional alternative means should be explored to cover the maintenance of the vessel, e.g. revision of cost-sharing scheme where countries requesting for the use of the vessel should pay not only for the fuel costs, but also some portions of the maintenance costs.

49. The Committee also recommended that certain amount of funds should be reserved from the MRC to be used by the Secretariat for contingency purposes, e.g. conduct of regional consultations on important emerging issues.

Recommendation 13
Alternative means of sourcing funds to cover the maintenance cost of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be explored while certain amount of funds from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) should be reserved and to be disbursed by the Secretariat for contingency purposes.

4.4 Recommend ways and means to improve the working mechanism and management of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to ensure continued cost effectiveness, including exploring possible alternate structures to the Departmental set up

a) SEAFDEC Structure

50. The Committee recognized the unique characteristics of SEAFDEC, such as having its technical Departments in the region equipped with physical facilities for research and development in both capture and culture fisheries, and that the SEAFDEC Departments have different set-up to fulfill the activities required by the Member Countries, such as independent Departments (e.g. TD and AQD) and Departments established under the structure of governmental offices (e.g. MFRD and MFRDMD). Additionally, since such set up has facilitated the exchange of expertise and information between SEAFDEC and the host countries, the Committee therefore recommended that the uniqueness of SEAFDEC, having a Secretariat and technical Departments supported by host governments of different Member Countries, should be maintained as this helps in enhancing relationships and networking between SEAFDEC and the host countries.

Recommendation 14
The uniqueness of SEAFDEC, having a Secretariat and technical Departments supported by host governments of different Member Countries, should be maintained as this helps in enhancing relationships and networking between SEAFDEC and the host countries.

b) Improvement of working mechanism and management of SEAFDEC

i. SEAFDEC Secretariat

51. While the SEAFDEC Secretariat is being supported financially by the Government of Thailand through its annual contribution for the Training Department (TD), the Committee sought the possibility of putting into effect the independence of the Secretariat from TD which should be explored as this would allow the Secretary-General to work more efficiently with his designated functions at the SEAFDEC Secretariat and to concentrate on the overall welfare of the Center. In this regard, the Committee also recognized that certain costs incurred from such an independent Secretariat, should be shared among the Member Countries.

Recommendation 15

The possibility of putting into effect the independence of the Secretariat from the Training Department should be explored as this would allow the Secretary-General to work more efficiently with his designated functions at the SEAFDEC Secretariat and to concentrate on the overall welfare of the Center. The costs that could incur from such an independent Secretariat should be shared among the Member Countries.

52. The Committee was of the view that having a Secretariat independent from TD would be beneficial to SEAFDEC as it would allow SEAFDEC to recruit qualified officer to serve as Secretary-General, while providing also the opportunities for officers from other Member Countries to apply for the position of the Secretary-General. However, in order to put this into effect, there is a need to amend Article 8 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC, which stipulates that the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General are concurrently the Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs, respectively, of one of the Departments. Such amended provision would not require the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General to hold concurrent positions with any Department. In addition, the term of office of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General should be extended for a period of four years and may be recommended for re-appointment.

Recommendation 16

Article 8 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC should be amended in order that the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General would not be required to hold concurrent positions with any Department, and that the term of office of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General should be for a period of four years but may be recommended for re-appointment.

53. While noting the improved structure of SEAFDEC comprising technical departments located in different countries, the Committee recommended that the roles and functions of the Secretariat should be focused in enhancing coordination between the Departments and the Member Countries, overseeing the activities of the Center in response to the directives given by the SEAFDEC Council, and sourcing of funds to support the planned activities of SEAFDEC. Nevertheless, considering the difficulties that the Secretariat would face in intervening with the internal operations and management of the Departments, the Committee recognized the role of the Secretary-General as chief administrator of the Center, and recommended that the Secretariat should be granted certain authority to intervene over some administrative aspects of the Departments.

Recommendation 17

The roles and functions of the Secretariat should be focused on enhancing coordination between the Departments and the Member Countries, overseeing the activities of the Center in response to the directives given by the SEAFDEC Council, and sourcing of funds to support the planned activities of SEAFDEC, while the Secretariat should be granted certain authority over the administrative aspects of the Departments.

54. Moreover, the Committee also recommended that the SEAFDEC Secretariat should be involved in the implementation of certain technical projects such as fisheries statistics and information, particularly in the compilation of fishery statistics as a routine activity of the Secretariat and on matters relating to international treaties and legal instruments. In cases where external donors provide funds to SEAFDEC (through the Secretariat) for the implementation of inter-disciplinary projects, the Secretariat should coordinate the allocation of funds to relevant Departments in the implementation of such projects. If necessary, an *ad-hoc* office could be established at the Secretariat on a temporary basis, to support the implementation of such projects and to ensure that funding of such projects is properly coordinated.

Recommendation 18

The Secretariat should not be involved in the implementation of technical projects except on activities related to fisheries statistics and information, particularly in the compilation of fishery statistics as a routine activity of the Secretariat, and on matters relating to international treaties and legal instruments. An *ad-hoc* office to support the implementation of interdisciplinary projects by concerned Departments could be established at the Secretariat on a temporary basis, to ensure that funding for such projects is properly coordinated.

55. The structure of the Secretariat may comprise the coordination offices, legal advisor, information and statistics unit, and may also have ad-hoc offices for specific project(s), subject to the availability of funds). Contingency funds should also be allocated to the SEAFDEC Secretariat to enable it to respond to emerging requirements of the Member Countries. In order to accentuate the mandate of SEAFDEC Secretariat to perform administrative coordination of SEAFDEC activities and not to implement projects, the Committee recommended that the services of a legal expert should be availed of to properly delineate the roles of the Secretariat in light of the officially agreed provisions in the Basic Documents of the Center.

Recommendation 19

Contingency funds should be allocated to the SEAFDEC Secretariat to enable it to respond to the emerging requirements of the Member Countries.

Recommendation 20

The services of a legal expert in the Secretariat should be availed of to properly delineate the roles of the Secretariat in performing administrative coordination and implementing projects in light of the officially agreed provisions in the Basic Documents of the Center.

ii. SEAFDEC Departments

56. The Committee recognized the major roles that the SEAFDEC Departments have been playing to support the Member Countries in achieving long-term fisheries development objectives. However, the Committee also noted that various useful expertise and facilities are available in the SEAFDEC Departments but are not fully utilized due to financial constraints, such as the fishing engineering workshop of TD, bio-technology laboratory at AQD, among others. The Committee therefore recommended that the Member Countries should explore the ways and means of enhancing the utilization of such expertise and facilities on cost-sharing basis. SEAFDEC should also explore the possibility of seeking financial support from donor agencies to enable its research staff to conduct studies using such expertise and facilities or allowing the private sector and academic institutions of other Member Countries to make use of such expertise and facilities on a cost-sharing basis.

Recommendation 21

Member Countries should explore the ways and means of enhancing the utilization on cost-sharing basis, of the useful expertise and facilities available at the Departments which are not fully utilized due to financial constraints.

Recommendation 22

SEAFDEC should explore the possibility of seeking financial support from donor agencies to enable its research staff to conduct studies using the expertise and facilities described in Recommendation 21 or allowing the private sector and academic institutions of other Member Countries to make use of such expertise and facilities on a cost-sharing basis.

57. While recognizing the proposal made by Singapore designating the Post-harvest Technology Center of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) as SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre to implement MFRD programs, the Committee was of the view that such situation may not allow MFRD to fully undertake its function of extending activities on fishery post-harvest and food safety to the Member Countries. This also necessitates the adoption by SEAFDEC of a new mode of program operation and financial transaction, adding to the already heavy burden of the Secretariat. In light of this situation, the Committee expressed the concern on the lack of clarity on the position of MFRD in SEAFDEC, and on the promotion the future activities of SEAFDEC on post-harvest and food safety which are very crucial for the development of fisheries in the region. The Committee therefore recommended that SEAFDEC should seek clarification from Singapore of its view on the official status of MFRD with respect to the overall organization of SEAFDEC.

Recommendation 23

SEAFDEC should seek clarification from Singapore of its views on the official status of the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) with respect to the overall organization of SEAFDEC.

c) *Improving Program Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation Mechanism*

58. Since the involvement of the Member Countries in the current program formulation process seems limited because the SEAFDEC programs for scrutiny at the Program Committee Meetings (PCM) are formulated by SEAFDEC, the Committee recommended that the involvement of Member Countries in program formulation should be considered prior to the PCM, *e.g.* in the technical consultations on specific subject matters (by technical staff of the Member Countries) as well as during the scrutiny of the overall programs at the PCM.

Recommendation 24

The involvement of Member Countries in program formulation should be considered prior to the Program Committee Meeting (PCM), especially in technical consultations on specific subject matters as well as during the scrutiny of the overall programs at the PCM.

59. The Committee also recognized the important roles of the National Coordinators (NCs) in coordinating with relevant national agencies vis-à-vis the implementation of SEAFDEC activities to ensure timely actions and effective implementation of the activities of SEAFDEC, and recommended that Member Countries should ensure that NCs are appropriately selected and that the roles and duties of NCs should be clearly spelled out in their Terms of Reference (TOR).

Recommendation 25

Member Countries should ensure that their respective National Coordinators (NCs) are appropriately selected and that the roles and duties of NCs should be clearly spelled out in their Terms of Reference.

60. While noting that the SEAFDEC Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management (RAC) which was established as a subsidiary body of the SEAFDEC Council, has played the main role of providing technical and scientific advice to the Council for the improvement of fisheries management in Southeast Asia, the Committee viewed that the current mechanism of RAC may not be able to efficiently serve its objectives. The Committee therefore recommended that instead of convening the RAC, development of technical/scientific advice for the Council to address particular

aspects of fisheries management, should be carried out by *ad-hoc* working groups when issues arise or when responding to special agenda assigned by the SEAFDEC Council. In addition, SEAFDEC should seek clarification from the Council on whether or not RAC should still be maintained as its subsidiary body.

Recommendation 26

Instead of convening the SEAFDEC Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management (RAC), the development of technical/scientific advice to address particular aspects of fisheries management should be carried out by *ad-hoc* working groups when issues arise or when responding to special agenda assigned by the SEAFDEC Council, and that SEAFDEC should also seek clarification from the Council on whether or not RAC should still be maintained as its subsidiary body.

d) Strengthening human capacity in SEAFDEC

61. The Committee recommended that SEAFDEC activities related to human capacity building should be enhanced to diversify the expertise and cope with emerging requirements of the Member Countries, as well as to catch up with the advances in fisheries management and the unfolding scenario in fisheries. This could be done through the establishment of appropriate capacity building mechanism, as well as short-, medium and long-term plans, *e.g.* through staff exchange/attachment programs and forging linkage with institutions and the academe for advanced degree programs while the possibility of inviting external expertise should also be explored to promote exchange of expertise.

Recommendation 27

The capacity of existing SEAFDEC staff should be enhanced to diversify the expertise and catch up with the advances in fisheries management and the unfolding scenario in fisheries through the establishment of a mechanism that promotes staff exchange/attachment programs as well as forging linkages with institutions and the academe for advanced degree programs, and the possibility of inviting external expertise should also be explored to promote exchange of expertise.

62. In order to avail of expertise from external sources, the Committee recommended that short-term experts may be tapped to work on specific emerging issues while allowing the counterpart departmental staff to enhance their knowledge and skills. In addition, an “expert pool” could be established through linkage with other national/regional institutions for future mobilization and possible recruitment as and when necessary to support the activities of SEAFDEC, particularly where the expertise within SEAFDEC is insufficient.

Recommendation 28

Short-term experts from external sources may be tapped to work on specific emerging issues while allowing the counterpart departmental staff to enhance their knowledge and skills, and that an “expert pool” could be established through linkage with other national/regional institutions for future mobilization and possible recruitment as and when necessary to support the activities of SEAFDEC, particularly where the expertise within SEAFDEC is insufficient.

63. To ensure that the long-term availability or longevity of expertise in the Departments is sustained, the Committee recommended that benefits and remunerations of Departmental staff should be improved, *e.g.* salary scale should be made attractive to sustain expertise in the Departments, while incentive systems could also be developed and/or improved. In addition, appropriate welfare system should also be put in place to secure the long-term well-being of the staff.

Recommendation 29

Staff benefits and remunerations should be improved by developing attractive salary scales while incentive systems should be developed and/or improved, and an appropriate welfare system is put in place to secure the long-term well-being of the staff.

e) **Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility**

64. SEAFDEC should continue to enhance its visibility and profile through the production of regular publications and other information materials for the various media, including the conduct of and/or involvement in promotional events to foster the image of SEAFDEC to the public. In addition, SEAFDEC should also package results of its R&D activities for dissemination to the Member Countries while results of research conducted by SEAFDEC should be presented in the international/regional scientific fora or published in refereed scientific journals. The Committee also noted the initiative of SEAFDEC in developing the publication on “Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012” and expressed the view that since the publication is very useful, the initiative should be regularly promoted in the future.

Recommendation 30

SEAFDEC should continue to enhance its visibility and profile through various media, including the conduct of and/or involvement in promotional events to foster the image of SEAFDEC to the public, and SEAFDEC should package results of its R&D activities for dissemination to the Member Countries while results of research conducted by SEAFDEC should be presented in the international/regional scientific fora or published in refereed scientific journals.

f) **Enhancing Collaboration and Partnership**

65. While noting that SEAFDEC has established collaboration with several organizations in the implementation of activities of mutual interest, the Committee recommended that SEAFDEC should continue to strengthen its collaboration with other organizations in order to enhance and/or attain synergy in sharing and exchanging information while avoiding possible duplication of efforts.

Recommendation 31

SEAFDEC should continue to strengthen its collaboration with other organizations in order to enhance and/or attain synergy in sharing and exchanging information while avoiding possible duplication of efforts.

66. On the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) mechanism, and while recognizing that SEAFDEC has been serving as technical arm in fisheries for the ASEAN, the Committee recommended that such collaboration should be continued and strengthened. The Committee also recommended that SEAFDEC should explore the ways and means of enhancing the benefits that SEAFDEC and the Member Countries can gain from such mechanism, *e.g.* in obtaining political support from the ASEAN mechanism in the promotion SEAFDEC activities, advocating the activities of SEAFDEC to wider audience, and acquiring funding support from the ASEAN channel and dialogue partners.

Recommendation 32

Under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) mechanism, SEAFDEC should explore the ways and means of enhancing the benefits that SEAFDEC and the Member Countries can gain from such mechanism, especially in obtaining political support from the ASEAN mechanism in the promotion of SEAFDEC activities, advocating the activities of SEAFDEC to wider audience, and acquiring funding support from the ASEAN channel and dialogue partners.

67. Considering the importance of fisheries to food security and economic development of the countries in the region, and while the recognition and support from the ASEAN to SEAFDEC has been observed to be rather limited, the Committee recommended that SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries, should continue to raise the profile of fisheries in the ASEAN, in order to obtain strong support and possible funding from the ASEAN mechanism, *e.g.* ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Foundation.

Recommendation 33

SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries should continue to raise the profile of fisheries and aquaculture in the ASEAN, in order to obtain strong support and possible funding from the ASEAN mechanism.

68. The Committee also recommended that SEAFDEC should explore the ways and means of contributing to the realization of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) targeted in 2015, *e.g.* developing minimum guidelines for the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the region, supporting capacity building for people involved in the sector.

Recommendation 34

SEAFDEC should explore the ways and means of contributing to the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) targeted in 2015, by developing minimum guidelines for the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the region, and supporting capacity building for the people involved in the sector.

69. While recognizing that the SEAFDEC Council has already endorsed the “Guidelines for Collaborative Arrangements” as broad collaborative framework of SEAFDEC, the Committee took note of the recent development of the “Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC” as proposed by Singapore. The Committee then recommended that these two guidelines should be streamlined into a single set of guidelines that cover all forms of collaboration, in order to avoid confusion that may arise on the profile of SEAFDEC and in the implementation of activities by SEAFDEC Departments and the Collaborating Centers, and also to have clear distinction between SEAFDEC Departments and Collaborating Centers. Moreover, the issue of incorporating the Collaborative Centers into the SEAFDEC organizational structure should be reflected in the SEAFDEC Basic Documents. Until such time that the Basic Documents will have been duly amended to incorporate the involvement of Collaborating Centers in SEAFDEC activities, such Collaborating Centers should be treated as organizations external to SEAFDEC.

Recommendation 35

The “Guidelines for Collaborative Arrangements” and proposed “Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC” should be streamlined into a single set of guidelines that cover all forms of collaboration, in order to avoid confusion that may arise in the implementation of activities by SEAFDEC Departments and the Collaborating Centers, and that there should be a clear distinction between SEAFDEC Departments and Collaborating Centers.

V. WAY FORWARD

70. The Third SEAFDEC Review Committee agreed that the Report of the Third SEAFDEC Review will be submitted for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council at its 45th Meeting in April 2013 by the Chairperson of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee. The Committee also agreed to request the SEAFDEC Council to provide directives for SEAFDEC to undertake appropriate actions to enhance the contribution of fisheries to food security in the region as well as to the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE THIRD SEAFDEC REVIEW

(endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council by *ad referendum*, July 2012)

BACKGROUND

Since its establishment in 1967, SEAFDEC has undergone two major review exercises where its operations had been assessed in accordance with its role and functions as mandated by the SEAFDEC Council. Conducted by external Review Committees, the first review in 1986 assessed the accomplishments and activities of SEAFDEC during the 18 years of its existence, and discussed the ways and means of improving the management of the Center and setting its future direction taking into consideration the proposed establishment of the ASEAN Fisheries Development Centre. The second review in 1991 evaluated the performance of SEAFDEC from 1986 to 1990, and reviewed the financial management of SEAFDEC taking into consideration the financial system of the Member Countries.

While the mandate and operations of SEAFDEC had been adjusted in accordance with the recommendations made by the Review Committees in 1986 and 1991, the fisheries situation over the past decades had experienced changes bringing about great challenges that could tremendously impact on the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. Specifically, emerging issues and challenges have come to light, including the more stringent requirements for sustainable utilization of fishery resources, quality and safety of fish and fishery products, and on the need to enhance the contribution of fisheries to food security and the well being of people, as well as relevant binding international instruments, more particularly the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

During the same period, SEAFDEC also underwent transformations in terms of its functions and operations, particularly its collaboration with the ASEAN after the establishment of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) and the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP). It is also envisaged that other aspects could emanate under the circumstances when the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) would be established by 2015. Recent developments also arose including the adoption of the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region” by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” in 2011, and the eventual establishment of a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development under the umbrella of SEAFDEC. Under such situations, another review of the activities, operations and management of SEAFDEC is therefore deemed necessary to enable the organization to properly respond to the emerging challenges that confront the fisheries sector of the region and assist the Member Countries in their continuing efforts towards achieving sustainable fisheries development for food security.

THIRD REVIEW OF SEAFDEC OPERATIONS, FUNCTIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Considering the exigency of the matter, the SEAFDEC Council during its 43rd Meeting in April 2011 in Malacca, Malaysia supported the proposal to conduct the Third SEAFDEC Review, and requested SEAFDEC to compile the views of the Member Countries on the roles, functions and activities of SEAFDEC which could serve as inputs for the said Review. Based on the compiled views of the Member Countries, the SEAFDEC Council through *ad referendum* raised the following concerns which SEAFDEC should take into consideration in conjunction with the Third SEAFDEC Review:

- The existing and new programs of SEAFDEC should be efficiently prioritized and effectively re-organized in order to deal with the various issues that could emanate from the results of the Third Review Exercise;
- The Third Review of SEAFDEC should be done in conjunction with the review of the Plans of Operation of the Departments; and
- Review of the roles and functions of SEAFDEC should be conducted by an independent entity/neutral third party and come up with recommendations/suggestions for the improvement of the organization.

During the subsequent 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2012 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, the Council agreed to conduct the Third SEAFDEC Review using the existing budget from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC), and provided the following directives:

- The review should be conducted by external/independent entity and the members of the review team should be from the Asian region, although one member could be from outside the region as deemed appropriate and necessary;
- The review team should have expertise in (but not limited to) aquaculture, capture fisheries, inland fisheries, organization management, policy and legal, post-harvest, processing and trade, and financial management;
- The review team should be familiar with SEAFDEC and SEAFDEC activities, and have experience working in international arena and no conflict of interest with SEAFDEC;
- The Terms of Reference (TOR) should be developed by SEAFDEC which should also initially identify the potential review team members based on the aforementioned criteria;
- The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC would serve as *ex officio* member of the review team;
- The draft TOR and composition of the Third SEAFDEC Review Team should be circulated to the SEAFDEC Council of Directors for consideration by *ad referendum*; and
- SEAFDEC should compile the comments, and adjust and revise the TOR accordingly for submission to the Council for approval by *ad referendum*.

Objectives of the Third SEAFDEC Review

Based on the aforementioned considerations, the Third SEAFDEC Review should examine the operations, functions and management of SEAFDEC, and recommend the ways and means that would enable SEAFDEC to appropriately respond to the emerging challenges that confront the fisheries sector of the region and assist the Member Countries in their continuing efforts towards achieving sustainable fisheries development for food security.

Specifically, the Third SEAFDEC Review should aim to:

1. Assess the continued relevance of SEAFDEC with respect to the changing situations of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, taking into consideration the Views of the Member Countries on the Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC;
2. Examine and review the Plans of Operation and activities of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, taking into consideration their respective short-, medium- and long-term operations;
3. Review the financial management of SEAFDEC, taking into account the diminishing funding from external sources and to avoid increasing substantially the Minimum Regular Contribution of the Member Countries vis-à-vis the operations of SEAFDEC; and
4. Recommend ways and means to improve the working mechanism and management of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to ensure continued cost effectiveness, including exploring possible alternate structures to the Departmental set up.

SEAFDEC Activities with respect to the Third SEAFDEC Review

1. Propose the composition of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council through *ad referendum*;

2. Facilitate the conduct of meetings, consultations and discussions by the Review Committee; and
3. Assist the Review Committee in preparing their final Report and compiling their Recommendations for submission by the Committee Chairperson to the SEAFDEC Council during its forthcoming meeting in 2013.

Audience for the Review

More particularly, SEAFDEC will assist the Review Committee in compiling and submitting the results of the Third SEAFDEC Review and the Review Committee's recommendations for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council at its 2013 session. Henceforth, the decision and directives of the Council are expected to be implemented by SEAFDEC accordingly.

THIRD SEAFDEC REVIEW COMMITTEE

As directed by the SEAFDEC Council during its 44th Meeting in April 2012, the composition of the Third SEAFDEC Review Team would be established by SEAFDEC in consultation with the Member Countries taking into consideration the criteria for selection of the Team members. Initially, the members of the Review Committee shall comprise renowned experts representing Japan and the top six producing countries in the region, namely: Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC shall serve as *ex officio* member of the Review Committee.

Methodology

Once formally organized, the Review Committee will discuss the methodology that will be employed for the Third SEAFDEC Review. Whatever methodology that the Committee intends to take up would be described sufficiently in its final report.

Work Plan and Time Frame

Considering that the Third SEAFDEC Review would be carried out in a one-year period, the following provisional activities and corresponding time frame of the Review Committee are hereby proposed:

Work Plan	Tentative Time Frame	Action by
1. Circulation of the proposed members of the Review Committee and provisional TOR to the SEAFDEC Council for approval by <i>ad referendum</i>	May 2012	SEAFDEC Secretariat
2. Approval/comments on the proposal indicated in item 1 above	June 2012	SEAFDEC Council
3. First Meeting of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of the Chairperson • Discussion on methodology, work plan, roles and responsibilities 	July 2012	Review Committee in coordination with SEAFDEC
4. Conduct of the review in accordance with the objectives of the Third SEAFDEC Review and preparation of Review Report	July – December 2012	Review Committee with assistance from SEAFDEC
5. Conduct of Second Meeting of the Review Committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesize the recommendations • Finalize the Committee Report 	February 2013	Review Committee in coordination with SEAFDEC
6. Submission of Report and Recommendations by the Review Committee to the SEAFDEC Council	March-April 2013	Chairperson of the Review Committee

Terms of Reference

The roles and responsibilities of the Review Committee with respect to the Third SEAFDEC Review shall include but not limited to:

1. Participation in the First Meeting of the Third SEAFDEC Review, elect the Chairperson of the Review Committee, and come up with the methodology for the review process;
2. Undertaking of the review in accordance with the objectives of the Third SEAFDEC Review taking into consideration the agreed methodology;
3. Participation in the Second Meeting of the Third SEAFDEC Review;
4. Compilation of the Report and Recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review; and
5. Submission of the Report and Recommendations of the Third Review to the SEAFDEC Council by the Chairperson of the Review Committee.

COST AND BUDGET OF THE THIRD SEAFDEC REVIEW

As endorsed by the Council at its 44th Meeting, the cost involved during the conduct of the Third SEAFDEC Review will be borne by SEAFDEC using the existing budget from the MRC.

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THIRD SEAFDEC REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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List of Issues that Should be Considered/Undertaken by SEAFDEC

Fisheries Management:

- Conservation and management of fishery resources, taking into consideration tropical specificity of fisheries and applying precautionary approach;
- Providing recommendations for management of shared stocks, and resolving conflicts among countries in fisheries outside their respective EEZ;
- Management of fishing capacity, including shifting from open-access to limited-access;
- Combating IUU fishing, including encouraging cooperation in the implementation of MCS among countries;
- Enhancing good management practices, *e.g.* responsible fisheries, EAF; and development of guidelines for fisheries management;
- Promoting community-based fisheries management, co-management and empowering of fishers in fisheries management; and
- Harmonization of vessel registration and fishery licensing.

Fishing Technologies and Practices

- Promotion and awareness building on responsible fishing;
- Improving fish quality through on-board fish handling technologies and good practices for small-scale fisheries; and
- Developing and enhancing the use of automated and mechanized fishing gears and energy saving technologies.

Post-harvest and trade-related Issues

- Improving post-harvest technologies and safety/quality of products for export;
- Addressing emerging requirements for traceability/certification of fishery products for export;
- Preventing trade of IUU fishing products;
- Developing new technologies for fishery post-harvest, including value-added products and reduction of wastes; and
- Enhancing market access of products from small-scale fishers.

Aquaculture

- Advancing aquaculture technologies;
- Promoting best management practices in aquaculture;
- Minimizing impacts of aquaculture on the environment/biodiversity;
- Implementing regional guidelines for good aquaculture practices;
- Development of feeds to reduce dependence on fish meal and fish-based products;
- Undertaking R&D on aquaculture that are required for different objectives, *e.g.* for economic development, food security, livelihood improvement, resources enhancement, etc.; and
- Giving more emphasis on the roles of aquaculture for food security and poverty alleviation, especially using indigenous species, as well as technology verification and extension activities.

Human resources development

- Assessing human resources requirements of the Member Countries, and providing human resources development program, particularly in the areas where shortage could be envisaged in the future

Fisheries Information and Statistics

- Improving the harmonization and collection/compilation of fishery statistics and information;
- Enhancing the analysis, interpretation and analysis of available data and information to provide information on status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture, and support science-based policy planning and management of fisheries; and
- Improving database of fishery information and statistics to facilitate sharing/dissemination of data and information

Others

- Inland fisheries and aquaculture; and
- Food security, poverty alleviation and well-being of small-scale fishers and farmers

PROGRESS FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC)

I. BACKGROUND

In view of the unclear financial situation of SEAFDEC in 2006, the proposal for all Member Countries to provide Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) to SEAFDEC was raised during the 38th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The total amount of MRC proposed was US\$ 400,000 as prerequisites to ensure the sustainable operation of the Center, and allowing SEAFDEC operations to continue at the minimum level (specifically to fund the organization of SEAFDEC annual meetings, implementation of information programs, operation of SEAFDEC Secretariat, and operation and maintenance of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2). The allocation of MRC by individual countries was calculated based on the agreed criteria such as the country's GDP, total fisheries production, and other adjustment factors.

During the 39th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2007, all Member Countries agreed to provide their respective MRC to SEAFDEC starting from 2007. During the subsequent 40th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2008, the Council agreed that the level of MRC should be reviewed every 5 years and appropriately adjusted in order to ensure the sustainable operation of the Center.

In line with such directive from the Council, during the 42nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2010, SEAFDEC Secretariat raised the issue on the status of MRC, and proposed the adjustment of the MRC starting from 2012 and onwards to cover additional important areas that will allow SEAFDEC to better serve the Member Countries. These include enhancing sustainable operation and maximizing the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the sustainability of the SEAFDEC Special Publication "Fish for the People", and other priority areas/activities that may be identified by Member Countries in the future. It was also proposed that the criteria factors for calculation of the proportion of MRC from each Member Countries would be based on the previously agreed principle. During the said Meeting, the Council supported in principle the adjustment of the MRC, and requested the Secretariat to put up a more detailed proposal for Member Countries to visualize the scenario and prepare sufficient amount of budget for this purpose.

In response to the directives given by the Council, SEAFDEC Secretariat developed a draft proposal to increase the total amount of MRC from US\$ 400,000 to US\$ 500,000, and convened a Special Meeting of SEAFDEC National Coordinators in December 2010 to discuss such increase of the MRC. However, several countries expressed difficulties to agree with the increasing amount of their respective MRC. The Meeting therefore requested that the draft proposal and comment from the Special Meeting should be circulated to the Council Directors and further discussed during the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011.

During the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011, a proposal for the adjustment of the MRC prepared by the SEAFDEC Secretariat was tabled for discussion. In the proposal, the rationale for the increase of MRC was elaborated and the new MRC was proposed. While noting that the issue on adjustment of the MRC needs to be a consensus among all Council members; a consensus however could not be achieved during the said Meeting. Six Member Countries, *i.e.* Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand either supported or expressed no objection on the proposal. However, other countries, *i.e.* Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam, expressed difficulty in committing their respective MRC and requested the Secretary-General to pay courtesy visit to their respective concerned authorities and provide clarification and rationale of the proposal. In 2011 and early 2012, the Secretary-General visited Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam to provide clarification and seek support on the adjustment of the MRC.

At the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2012, the proposed adjustment of the MRC which was calculated in accordance with the formula agreed by the SEAFDEC Council in 2007 was again proposed. However, the Council Directors for Myanmar and Indonesia expressed difficulties in negotiating for the increased amount of the MRC with their respective governments. The Council therefore, requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to send official letters to the SEAFDEC Council Directors to explain the rationale for increasing the amount of the MRC in order to facilitate coordination and negotiation with the agencies concerned in respective countries.

II. PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT OF THE MRC

During the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011, SEAFDEC Secretariat proposed the adjustment of the MRC considering that the current level of MRC is sufficient only to cover the expenditures that allow SEAFDEC to continue its operations at the barest minimum level. Considering that there are priority areas that are important and need urgent attention, for the sustainable operation of SEAFDEC and which should also be funded using the MRC. Therefore, the proposed adjustment was deemed necessary. The amount of the current and proposed new MRC appears below:

Countries	Current MRC (2007-2011) (US\$)	Proposed New MRC (US\$)
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	6,000	11,000
Indonesia	26,000	58,000
Japan	280,000	280,000
Lao PDR	4,000	5,000
Malaysia	10,000	21,000
Myanmar	10,000	21,000
Philippines	15,000	25,000
Singapore	8,000	13,000
Thailand	20,000	33,000
Vietnam	14,000	26,000
Total	400,000	500,000

Note: Calculation of the proposed new MRC together with its explanatory note appears as *Appendix 1*.

III. UPDATE ON MEMBER COUNTRIES' POSITIONS ON THE ADJUSTMENT OF MRC

During its 44th Meeting in 2012, the SEAFDEC Council agreed in principle that the proposed adjustment of the MRC would be based on the formula for calculation of the MRC (2007), and that the new MRC will take effect starting in 2013. SEAFDEC then circulated the necessary official letters to the SEAFDEC Council Directors containing the detailed explanation and clarification of the rationale for the increasing amount of the MRC in order to facilitate discussion by the Council Directors with respective agencies concerned.

A summary of the Member Countries' positions in response to the proposal for the adjustment of the MRC is shown below:

(updated as of 26 March 2013)

Country	Views
Brunei Darussalam	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting (2011):</i> Brunei Darussalam supported the adjustment of MRC as proposed by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam to request consideration on the adjusted MRC but retaining the amount at 7,000 US\$, with detailed explanation. So far, comments have not yet been received with respect to such communication.</p> <p>On <i>6 March 2013</i>, the amount of 7,000 US\$ was transferred to SEAFDEC.</p>
Cambodia	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting:</i> Cambodia expressed difficulty in proceeding with the adjustment of MRC, and requested SEAFDEC Secretary-General to visit concerned authority to provide clarification and rationale on the proposal.</p> <p>On <i>14 February 2012</i>, the Secretary-General made a courtesy visit to the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia, where positive response was provided in principle, on the adjustment of the MRC. Cambodia however, requested for an official letter on this matter, to be sent to the country in order to proceed with the required processes.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 15 February 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Cambodia to provide further clarification on the MRC, and requested Cambodia to proceed with internal consultation processes in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44th Council Meeting.</p> <p><i>44th Council Meeting:</i> Cambodia stated that Cambodia by Fisheries Administration will submit the proposed MRC to the Government upon receiving the letter from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent from to the Council Director for Cambodia requesting for consideration on the adjusted New MRC, amounting to 11,000 US\$ with the detailed explanation. So far, no response has been received.</p>
Indonesia	<p><i>Special NC Meeting (2010):</i> Indonesia expressed concern on high increasing amount of MRC for Indonesia.</p> <p><i>43rd Council Meeting (2011):</i> Indonesia expressed concern that it is difficult to justify the high increasing amount of MRC to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). SEAFDEC Secretary-General was therefore requested to visit the concerned authority in Indonesia to provide clarification and rationale of the proposal.</p> <p>In <i>September 2011</i>, the Secretary-General made his courtesy visit to the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, where the intention of Indonesia to host the new SEAFDEC Department was also discussed. It was noted that the establishment of the new department could facilitate the allocation of the adjusted MRC, as in such case the budget would be provided directly from MMAF.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Indonesia to provide further clarification on the MRC, and request Indonesia to proceed with internal consultation processes in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44th Council Meeting.</p> <p><i>44th Council Meeting:</i> Indonesia expressed concern that it is difficult to negotiate with the concerned Ministries on the drastic increased amount of MRC.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Indonesia requesting for consideration on the adjusted New MRC, amounting to 58,000 US\$ with the detailed explanation. So far, no comment was received in response to such letter.</p>

Country	Views
Japan	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting (2011):</i> Japan supported the adjustment of MRC as proposed by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Japan with the detailed explanation and rationale of the adjusted New MRC. However, for Japan amount retained was in the total amount of 280,000 US\$.</p> <p>On <i>28 February 2013</i>, the amount of 280,000 US\$ was transferred to SEAFDEC.</p>
Lao PDR	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting (2011):</i> Lao PDR supported the proposal for adjustment of MRC as proposed by the Secretariat.</p> <p>On <i>22 December 2011</i>, the Secretary-General made his courtesy visit to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Lao PDR, where the country's support to the adjustment of MRC was concurred.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Lao PDR requesting consideration the adjusted New MRC, amounting to 5,000 US\$ with the detailed explanation. So far, no response has been received.</p>
Malaysia	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting (2011):</i> Although Malaysia had no objection on the proposal, SEAFDEC was requested to also consider minimizing certain budgetary items.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Malaysia to provide clarification on MRC, and requested Malaysia to proceed with internal consultation processes in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44th Council Meeting.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent again sent to the Council Director for Malaysia requesting the consideration on the adjusted New MRC, in the amount of 21,000 US\$ with detailed explanation. So far Malaysia has not yet responded to such letter.</p>
Myanmar	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting:</i> Myanmar expressed difficulty in proceeding with the adjustment of the MRC, and requested SEAFDEC Secretary-General to visit the concerned authority to provide clarification and rationale on the proposal.</p> <p>On <i>19 January 2012</i>, the Secretary-General made his courtesy visit and discussed with the Vice Minister for Livestock and Fisheries on the adjustment of the MRC, who indicated that the issue would be further conveyed to the Minister/Cabinet consideration/approval.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Myanmar to provide further clarification on MRC, and requested Myanmar to proceed with internal consultation processes in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44th Council Meeting.</p> <p><i>44th Council Meeting:</i> Myanmar expressed concern that it is difficult to negotiate with the concerned Ministries on the drastic increased amount of the MRC.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Myanmar requesting consideration on the adjusted New MRC, amounting to 21,000 US\$ with the detailed explanation. So far, no response has been received.</p>

Country	Views
Philippines	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting:</i> Philippines expressed difficulty in proceeding with adjustment of the MRC, and requested the Secretary-General to visit concerned authorities in order to provide clarification and rationale on the proposal.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for the Philippines to provide clarification on MRC, and requested the Philippines to proceed with internal consultation processes in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44th Council Meeting.</p> <p>On <i>29 February 2012</i>, the Secretary-General made his courtesy visit to the Director of BFAR to discuss on the adjustment of MRC; where positive response was indicated.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for the Philippines requesting consideration on the adjusted New MRC, amounting to 25,000 US\$ with the detailed explanation. In response, BFAR replied that coordination will be made with the Finance Division to transfer the amount for CY 2013.</p>
Singapore	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting (2011):</i> Singapore would follow the consensus of the Council.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for the Singapore requesting consideration the adjusted New MRC, amounting to 13,000 US\$ with the detailed explanation. In principle, Singapore expressed no objection on the said proposed amount.</p> <p>On <i>7 March 2013</i>, the amount of 13,000 US\$ was transferred to SEAFDEC.</p>
Thailand	<p><i>43rd Council Meeting (2011):</i> Thailand supported the proposal for adjustment of MRC considering the circumstance of high inflation rate and devaluation of the US Dollars.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for the Thailand requesting consideration on the adjusted New MRC, amounting to 33,000 US\$ with the detailed explanation.</p> <p>On <i>4 February 2013</i>, the amount of 20,000 US\$ was transferred to SEAFDEC. However, since such amount must have been based on the former calculation of the MRC, a request for an additional amount of 13,000 US\$ was made for the consideration of the Council Director for Thailand.</p>
Vietnam	<p><i>Special NC Meeting (2010):</i> Vietnam expressed concern on high increasing amount of MRC for Vietnam.</p> <p><i>43rd Council Meeting (2011):</i> Vietnam supported in principle the proposal for adjustment of MRC, but could not commit its concurrence at the Council Meeting. Vietnam therefore requested the Secretary-General to visit concerned authority to provide clarification and rationale on the proposal.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent to Vietnam to provide further clarification on MRC, and requested Vietnam to proceed with internal consultation processes in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44th Council Meeting.</p> <p>On <i>26 March 2011</i>, the Secretary-General made his courtesy visit to the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to discuss on the adjustment of MRC. In principle, Vietnam expressed no objection on the increased MRC. However, Vietnam would wait for the results of the 44th SEAFDEC Council Meeting, before proceeding with internal arrangements to secure budget for the required amount of MRC.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 12 April 2012</i>) was sent to the Council Director for Vietnam requesting consideration on the adjusted New MRC, amounting to 26,000 US\$ with the detailed explanation.</p> <p>In response, Vietnam informed SEAFDEC that the proposed increased of MRC to its new amount of 26,000 US\$ did not receive support from the Government, and that Vietnam would continue to negotiate and coordinate on this.</p> <p>On <i>25 March 2013</i>, Vietnam remitted MRC to SEAFDEC Secretariat for 2013, in the amount of 14,000 US\$.</p>

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERTION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note of the progress and countries' views on the increased amount of the MRC. The council is also requested to provide policy advice for action by the Secretariat and Member Countries.

CALCULATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC) FOR SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

(As proposed during the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011)

Country	GDP (US\$)	% of Membership Fee (A)	Total Fishery Production of All Fishing Areas (MT)	Adjustment Factors of % of MRC				Special Adjustment Factor** (F)	MRC after Adjustment		Round off Figure by Countries Grouping (I)
				Donor & Recipient Countries (B)	City or Urban State/Land-locked Countries (C)	Host/ Non-host Countries (D)	Fishery Production (E)		% (G)	US\$ (% of 500,000) (H)	
Brunei	14,417,000,000	0.23	2,400	2.37	-0.79	+0.52	-0.79	-0.14	1.40 *	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	10,344,342,200	0.16	471,500	2.37	+0.24	+0.52	-0.79	-0.36	2.14	10,700	11,000
Indonesia	510,504,000,000	7.97	9,052,127	2.37	+0.36	+0.52	+0.79	-0.36	11.65	58,250	58,000
Japan	4,886,970,000,000	76.31	5,541,171	-23.69	-	-	-	+3.38	56.00*	280,000	280,000
Lao PDR	5,474,535,050	0.01	145,687	2.37	-0.79	+0.52	-0.79	-0.36	0.96	4,800	5,000
Malaysia	221,161,000,000	3.45	1,753,310	2.37	+0.36	-0.79	-0.79	-0.36	4.24	21,200	21,000
Myanmar	31,367,000,000	0.49	3,168,630	2.37	+0.36	+0.52	+0.79	-0.36	4.17	20,850	21,000
Philippines	167,491,000,000	2.62	4,966,890	2.37	+0.36	-0.79	+0.79	-0.36	4.99	24,950	25,000
Singapore	193,332,000,000	3.02	5,141	2.37	-0.79	-0.79	-0.79	-0.36	2.66	13,300	13,000
Thailand	272,456,000,000	4.25	3,831,208	2.37	+0.36	-0.79	+0.79	-0.36	6.62	33,100	33,000
Vietnam	90,644,972,320	1.42	4,584,900	2.37	+0.36	+0.52	+0.79	-0.36	5.10	25,500	26,000
Total	6,404,161,849,570		33,522,964						99.93	499,650	500,000

Remarks:

GDP of ASEAN Member Countries for the year 2008 based on the data from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD>

GDP (Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar) based on the data from

<http://imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/weodata/weorept.aspx?sy=2007&ey=2009&scsm=1&ssd=1&sort=country&ds=&br=1&c=518%2C516&s=NGDPD&grp=0&a=&pr.x=42&pr.y=10>

* MRC of Japan and Brunei Darussalam should be retained

** Special Adjustment Factor when Japan and Brunei Darussalam retain the same amount of MRC

G=A+B+C+D+E+F

Explanatory Notes of Calculation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) for SEAFDEC Member Countries

(As proposed during the 43rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011)

Allocation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)

Considering sustainability issues of SEAFDEC, it becomes necessary to revise the non-host countries' regular contribution to SEAFDEC from the current flat rate of US\$400,000 to 500,000 US\$. The proposed revised scheme would require that the Member Countries share the financial responsibility for the sustainability of SEAFDEC. The principle of allocation of MRC is calculated based on certain criteria that include mainly the GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Thus, it can be justified that countries having high GDP should provide more beneficial contribution to the organization than those with low GDP.

Criteria and Factors used in the Calculation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)

The use of GDP as one of the main criteria for allocation of MRC is an appropriate indicator that has been widely applied in other regional fisheries organizations, for example the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA). However, considering the GDP rate only could not reflect the real beneficial contribution of the Member Countries to SEAFDEC, therefore, other relevant factors are also taken into consideration for the appropriate allocation of MRC. Accordingly, the other significant criteria and factors for the calculation of MRC for SEAFDEC take into account the Donor's Contribution, City State/Urban Government/Landlocked Countries, Host and Non-host Countries, and Total Fishery Production. The adjustment factors for the percentage of MRC as shown in the Table can be explained as follows:

- Donor Contribution: Based on percentage calculation from respective GDPs (**Column A**), the donor country should be responsible for 76.31% of the MRC. However, since Japan as a donor will receive less benefit than the recipient countries, the adjustment scale should consider decreasing the percentage of its membership fee by 23.69%. With this reason, it is proposed that the recipient countries shall share the responsibility of the equivalent reduced percentage, and each recipient country would increase its percentage contribution by 2.37% (**Column B**).
- City State/Urban Government/Landlocked Countries: It is understood that small states and/or landlocked countries could have certain disadvantage as far as delivery of services from the various projects of SEAFDEC is concerned. Thus, the percentage of MRC of Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR and Singapore should be decreased accordingly by 0.79% (**Column C**), which is equivalent to 1/3 of the percentage of MRC as recipient countries (1/3 of 2.37). In addition, since Cambodia has the Great Lake, it is projected that its membership fee should be increased by 0.24% or 10% of the percentage of its MRC as recipient country (10% of 2.37). Consequently, the other countries shall each share the responsibility of providing additional 0.36% as equivalent and to compensate for the remaining required percentage. (It should be noted that this factor is not applicable for Japan due to its position as donor.)
- Host/Non-host Countries: For the administrative operating costs of the Departments, most Departments receive operating cost as part of the regular contribution from the respective host countries. It can therefore be justified that the diminishing percentage of MRC could be applied, which is 0.79% for Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand (**Column D**). Consequently, the remaining countries shall share the responsibility for the remaining 0.52% as equivalent and to compensate for the remaining required percentage. (It should be noted that this factor is not applicable for Japan due to its position as donor.)

- Fishery Production: It is assumed that the country which has high total fishery production could gain more benefit from the organization than the others. Therefore, an increase of 0.79% of MRC is applied to five countries (**Column E**) with total fishery production which is ranked in the upper 50% of the region's total fishery production. (It should be noted that this is not applicable to Japan due to its position as donor.)
- A Special Adjustment factor is required when the MRC of Japan and Brunei Darussalam are fixed. Hence, decrease of 0.14 % and 0.36% will be applied to Brunei Darussalam and other countries respectively, except Japan (**Column F**). The required equivalent of 3.38% will added to the percentage of the membership fee of Japan in order to maintain the present level of its MRC.

Consequently, the percentage of the MRC after adjustment is calculated by adding all the adjustment factors of the percentage of MRC (**Column G**). Converting the percentage of MRC into US Dollars on the basis of the proposed minimum operating costs for the sustainability of SEAFDEC, the corresponding proposed new MRC is shown in **Columns H and I**.

PROPOSED REVISION OF PLANS OF OPERATION (FUNCTIONS) AND PROGRAMS OF WORK OF SEAFDEC DEPARTMENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

Since establishment of SEAFDEC in 1967 and in accordance with the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC, the Plans of Operation including functions and Programs of Work of the Center/Departments had been revised once in 1998 during the 30th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. In addition, SEAFDEC also adopted a Strategic Plan, after 30 years of its operations, to serve as a guide for the operations of the Center. The Center currently comprises the Secretariat, TD, MFRD, AQD and MFRDMD which are undertaking different functions to support the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Member Countries.

With the adoption of the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020” during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2011, the activities of SEAFDEC have since then been guided by the Resolution and Plan of Action. Also during the 2011 Conference, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia proposed the establishment of a new department for inland fisheries development in Indonesia as part of the SEAFDEC organization. The proposal for the establishment of such new department was subsequently presented by Indonesia and supported by the SEAFDEC Council at its 44th Meeting in 2012. In this regard, SEAFDEC established a Working Group to assist in drafting the Plan of Operation, functions, and Program of Work and Organization Structure of new inland fisheries department, with a view of avoiding possible duplication of functions and activities between the new department and the existing SEAFDEC Departments as well as other relevant organizations in the region. Taking advantage of such situation, the Departments and Secretariat also revised their respective functions and programs of work taking into consideration the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action as current policy framework, the SEAFDEC Program Framework adopted in 2009, and the international fisheries and fish trade related issues.

In order to provide forum for discussion among the SEAFDEC Departments, the SEAFDEC Secretariat convened the SEAFDEC Inter-departmental Meeting with a view of reviewing the plans of operation, functions, programs of work, and organization structures of the Departments as well as those of the Secretariat. Representatives from Indonesia involved with the establishment of the new department were invited to the Meeting as observers. The outputs of the said Meeting include the draft revisions of the Plan of Operation, Functions, Program of Work, and Department Structure for each Department.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE SEAFDEC COUNCIL:

The Council is requested to take note of the proposed revisions of the Plans of Operation (Functions) and Programs of Work of the SEAFDEC Departments and the Secretariat. The Council is also requested to provide recommendations and policy directives to the SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat on how to proceed with possible improvement/adjustment, as and when necessary.

PLAN OF OPERATION AND ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE TRAINING DEPARTMENT (TD)

I. PLAN OF OPERATION OF THE TRAINING DEPARTMENT

1. The Training Department has the following functions:
 - (i) To train fishery personnel of Member Countries and other countries in various aspects of sustainable capture fisheries, optimum utilization of fishery resources, resource enhancement, coastal and small-scale fishery management and emerging issues concerns, in order that available fishery resources would be effectively and rationally utilized;
 - (ii) To undertake research and development (R&D) on fishing grounds, fishing gear improvement, statistics and socio-economic aspects related to marine capture fisheries, to facilitate the management and sustainable utilization of fishery resources in the Southeast Asian region; and
 - (iii) To develop and promote regional fisheries information to the Member Countries for policy consideration at national level and sub-regional areas.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE TRAINING DEPARTMENT

In view of the functions described in the Plan of Operation, the Training Department will implement training, research, and information activities as approved by the Council of the Center. These activities will serve as means of promoting sustainable fisheries development and management in Southeast Asia.

A. Research and Development Program

The Research and Development Program of the Department covers the following major areas and activities:

1. Sustainable Capture Fisheries
 - a. Reduction of the impacts of fishing to marine fishery resources and the environment;
 - b. Promotion of selective fishing and environment-friendly fishing gears and practices, such as reduction of by-catch of non-target species, juvenile fishes, and endangered species, and reduction of impacts to sea bottom and benthic habitats, etc.;
 - c. Exploration of alternative fishery resources in Southeast Asian waters (assessment of mid-layer scattering species, exploration of deep sea fishery resources, fishery resources in un-trawlable fishing grounds, etc.); and
 - d. Improvement of fisheries data management systems (data for sustainable fisheries management, promotion of onboard fishing logbook, application of GIS for coastal fisheries resources mapping, etc.).
2. Optimum Utilization of Fishery Resources
 - a. Improvement of post-harvest fish handling onboard fishing vessels, *i.e.* for tuna, squid, small pelagic, demersal fish, etc.;
 - b. Improvement of hygiene onboard fishing vessels and fish handling technology; and
 - c. Promotion of the use of hauling devices, hydraulic engineering and auxiliary fishing devices.
3. Resource Enhancement
 - a. Rehabilitation of fishery resources and habitats/fishing grounds through resources enhancement;
 - b. Promotion of ecosystem approach through the concepts of marine protected areas (MPA) and fisheries *refugia* for coastal fishery resources enhancement; and

- c. Development of policy recommendations for management, conservation and rehabilitation of habitats and protective geographical features.
4. Fishing Community Resilience
 - a. Promotion of rights-based fisheries and co-management towards institutional building and participatory mechanism for coastal and inland small-scale fisheries;
 - b. Promotion of socio-economic activities in fishery communities for fisheries management and poverty alleviation;
 - c. Development of fisheries management plans based on ecosystem approach, as basis for fisheries conservation and management, and enhanced cooperation for sustainable utilization of fishery resources;
 - d. Ecosystem approach for coastal and small-scale fisheries management;
 - e. Promotion of fisheries with the function of supporting gender entering into alternative livelihoods; and
 - f. Enhancing fisheries good governance through transparent and participatory approach.
5. Emerging Issues
 - a. Optimizing energy use in capture fisheries, reduction of the use of fossil fuel and promoting the use of alternative energy;
 - b. Study and research on international fisheries-related issues affecting the development of sustainable fisheries in the region including those on by-catch; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; commercially-exploited aquatic species such as sharks and rays, seahorse, etc.

B. Training Program

The training program of the Department covers the following areas:

1. Regional training courses for fishery personnel of Member Countries, and other countries in various aspects related to the research and development program of the Department, which could include the following areas:
 - a. Sustainable Capture Fisheries
 - b. Optimum Utilization of Fishery Resources
 - c. Resource Enhancement
 - d. Coastal and Small-scale Fishery Management
 - e. Emerging issues
2. Tailor-made training courses for personnel of Member Countries and other countries that require specific activities that tailor to their requirements, to be conducted based on collaborative arrangements with training partners from concerned countries; and
3. Promotion of capability building and staff exchange activities with other SEAFDEC Departments and organizations.

C. Information Program

The Information Program of the Department covers the following areas:

1. Promotion and dissemination of fishing information systems that focus on the research and development activities of the Department through the establishment of a fisheries information hub in Southeast Asia;
2. Establishment of information coordinating partners in Southeast Asia and all over the world; and
3. Organization/coordination of information-related meetings/workshops/conferences related to the research and development program as well as training activities of the Department.

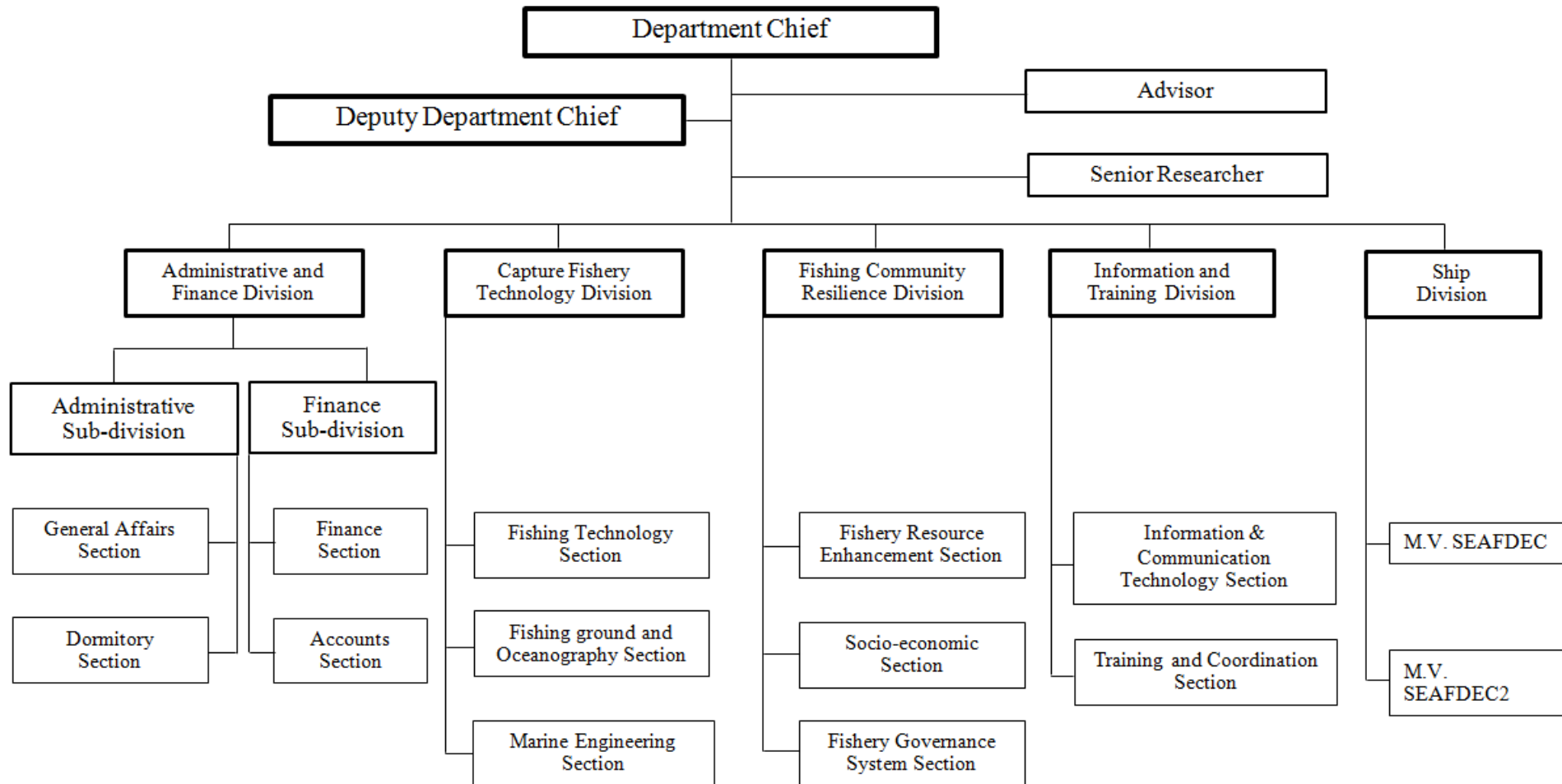


III. ORGANIZATION OF THE TRAINING DEPARTMENT

The Training Department Chief shall be responsible for the administration and operations of the Department. Under the Chief are the following Offices and Divisions.

1. Administrative and Finance Division, to be responsible for all administrative works including finance administration, and includes:
 - Administrative Sub-division to be responsible for all administrative works, personnel affairs, external affairs including general services and maintenance and procurement of equipment, arrangement of living quarters for trainees and staff, overall operation as regards coordination with experts and other Division Heads, supervision, administrative and technical works. The Administrative Division shall comprise the General Affairs and Dormitory Sections.
 - Finance Sub-division, to be responsible for the financial administration of the Department, and shall comprise the Finance and Accounting Sections.
2. Information and Training Division, to be responsible for the preparation and implementation of the information, extension and training programs of the Department, preparation and production of audio-visual and other materials for internal and external training purposes. The Information and Training Division shall comprise the Information & Communications Technology, and Training & Coordination Sections.
3. Capture Fishery Technology Division, to be responsible for planning and implementation of research projects and activities on capture fisheries of the Department, providing supportive technical information to the Department, and supporting researchers and other technical personnel. The Capture Fishery Technology Division shall comprise the Fishing Technology, Fishing Ground & Fishery Oceanography, and Fisheries Engineering Sections.
4. Coastal and Small-scale Fisheries Management Division, to be responsible for planning and conducting research projects and activities concerning coastal and small-scale fisheries management of the Department, and providing supportive technical information to the Department. The Coastal and Small-scale Fisheries Management Division shall comprise the Fishery Resources Enhancement, Socio-economic and Fishery Governance, and Management System Sections.
5. Ship Division, to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the research and training vessels of the Department including the activities for the training and research programs carried out onboard the vessels of the Department. The Ship Division shall comprise the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE TD



PLAN OF OPERATION, PROGRAM OF WORK AND ORGANIZATION FOR MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (MFRD) PROGRAMS

The Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) was set up in Singapore in 1969 with the initial task of developing fishing grounds. Developing fisheries post-harvest technology is vital in advancing fisheries development in ASEAN and placing ASEAN fisheries products in the world market. With this as the key direction, MFRD has since the late 1970's, assumed the responsibilities of promoting, under-taking and co-coordinating research in fisheries post-harvest technology and furthering the development of the fish processing industry in the ASEAN region. Besides R&D, MFRD has transferred technology developed to the region through training programmes and the dissemination of information through its regional library services.

With effect from April 2007, the Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC), Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) served as the SEAFDEC Collaborating Center for MFRD Programs

I. THE PLAN OF OPERATION - COLLABORATING CENTER FOR MFRD PROGRAMS

1. The Marine Fisheries Research Department has the following functions:
 - (i) To promote, undertake and coordinate research in post-harvest technology directed towards optimizing utilization of available fish resources and, improving the quality and safety of fish and fisheries products.
 - (ii) To further the development of the fish processing industry in the region particularly the traditional and, small and medium size enterprises.
 - (iii) To establish an effective system for the smooth transfer of post-harvest technology to the region through workshops, training programs, publications, etc; and
 - (iv) To undertake such other activities as may be determined by the Council.
2. At the 39th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC (Siem Reap, Cambodia, 3-7 April 2007), the Post-Harvest Division of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), Singapore was endorsed as a Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC to implement MFRD programs. With effect from 1 April 2010, the Post-Harvest Division was changed to the Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC). As a Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC, the responsibilities of PHTC are:
 - (i) To conduct matters pertaining to the Office of the Chief of MFRD Programs; and
 - (ii) To undertake the activities of MFRD under the SEAFDEC regional programs including those supported by the Japanese Trust Fund.
3. Programs and activities under the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) are thus referred to as MFRD Programs, and make up one of the programs under the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of AVA. The facilities and manpower are provided by the Government of Singapore through AVA. With effect from 1 January 2007, AVA maintains the facilities and equipment, and all operating and manpower costs, as a national entity under AVA.
4. At the 40th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC (Bali, Indonesia, 7-10 April 2008), the Council noted that as MFRD activities have been implemented by the PHTC of AVA, Singapore, as the Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC, Singapore's contributions will not be reflected under MFRD in the SEAFDEC financial reports.
5. At the 41st Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC (Fukuoka, Japan, 7-10 April 2009), the Council approved the request made by the Council Director for Singapore that the accumulated funds from bank interest, gain in exchange rates and miscellaneous incomes under MFRD other fund account, be transferred to the AVA's account in order to be audited under the normal auditing process of the AVA. This would save the unnecessary cost of a separate audit which is grossly disproportionate to the expenditure of MFRD. The Council

was also assured that such fund would be utilized for MFRD post-harvest programs under SEAFDEC. As a result, the financial report from MFRD will not appear in the SEAFDEC Consolidated Financial Report starting from the year 2009.

6. At the 42nd Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC (Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 5-9 April 2010), the Council took note of the request made by the Council Director for Singapore to transfer the assets of MFRD which includes post-harvest equipment and library materials, to AVA. This is to allow AVA to absorb the repair and maintenance costs for these equipment as well as the required accessories under the AVA budget. Furthermore, the Council was assured that although these assets are transferred to the AVA, the equipment and library materials would continue to be used for the activities of MFRD programs under SEAFDEC. The Council supported in-principle the transfer of the assets of MFRD to the AVA of Singapore. With effect from April 2011, all MFRD assets were officially transferred to PHTC/AVA, Singapore.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK

1. The purpose of MFRD Programs is to enhance the development of fisheries post-harvest technology in the region according to resources available at the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of AVA.
2. The MFRD Programs covers the following areas:
 - (i) Research and investigations on post-harvest technology directed towards optimizing utilization of available fish resources, including development of a wide range of products from under-utilized fish resources, with a view to sustainable post-harvest development;
 - (ii) Research and investigations on issues and concerns related to the handling, preservation, quality and safety of fish and fisheries products, with a view to recommending methods to reduce post-harvest losses and wastage for food security, and to implement programmes and activities to upgrade the quality and safety of fish and fisheries products in the region; and
 - (iii) Transfer of technology and dissemination of knowledge and information on post-harvest technology to the region through workshops, training programs, publications, etc.
3. The activities of the MFRD Programs are:
 - (a) Post-harvest Technology
 - (i) To develop a wide range of value added products acceptable to consumers in the region, including products from under-utilized fish resources (marine and freshwater) for human consumption;
 - (ii) To improve and upgrade the quality and safety of fish and fisheries products in the region by coordinating regional activities pertaining to:
 - the monitoring of chemical contaminants such as heavy metals, antibiotic and pesticide residues, marine biotoxins;
 - the application of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to fish processing establishment in the region; and
 - the promotion of traceability systems for aquaculture products;
 - (iii) To investigate issues and concerns related to fish handling and preservation in the region, and recommend measures to upgrade the quality and safety of fish;
 - (iv) To promote harmonization of analytical methods in the region through methods validation and proficiency testing; and
 - (v) To increase the credibility of key regional laboratories through good laboratory practices.



(b) Other Activities

In connection with the above, the MFRD Programs will also cover the following activities:

- (i) To provide information on its activities and results of research to Member Countries and interested organizations/agencies;
- (ii) To exchange information of mutual interest with research institutions, and hold symposia/expert meetings or workshops, and conduct cooperative researches;
- (iii) To receive trainees from Member Countries, and other countries as approved by the Council of SEAFDEC, for transfer of research skills and applied technology;
- (iv) To collaborate with Member Countries and non-Member Countries, regional and international organizations or agencies in activities of common interest.

III. ORGANIZATION FOR MFRD PROGRAMS

1. MFRD Programs are coordinated by the Chief of MFRD Programs.
2. As of April 2007, the Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC) of the Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), Singapore has been appointed as the Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC to implement the regional fisheries post-harvest programmes and activities of MFRD. Thereafter, this is referred to as MFRD Programs.
3. Resources for implementation of MFRD Programs will be deployed by the Director, Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC) according to capacity and resources available.
4. MFRD Programs comprise regional SEAFDEC projects and activities with project funds from SEAFDEC Member countries or SEAFDEC Donor organizations.

PLAN OF OPERATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT (AQD)

I. THE PLAN OF OPERATION

The Aquaculture Department has the following functions:

- (i) To promote and undertake aquaculture R & D that is relevant to and appropriate for the Southeast Asian region;
- (ii) To build the capacity of human and institutional resources for aquaculture development;
- (iii) To publish, disseminate and exchange information on aquaculture and responsible practices; and
- (iv) To serve as a regional forum for cooperation and consultation on aquaculture R&D among Member Countries.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK

With the functions indicated in the Plan of Operation, AQD will implement research, technology verification and demonstration, and training and information activities, as approved by the Council of the Center, in order to promote sustainable aquaculture development in Southeast Asia.

The Department's R&D activities will be based on priorities and needs of the SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member Countries and will focus on the following:

- (i) Development of responsible aquaculture technologies and practices;
- (ii) Responsible use of aquatic resources for the purpose of aquaculture;
- (iii) Adoption of measures to avoid environmental degradation; and
- (iv) Promotion of environmentally sound aquaculture methods and commodities

A. Research

The research activities of the Department will cover the following areas:

- (i) Broodstock development and seed production;
- (ii) Farming systems and aquatic ecology;
- (iii) Nutrition and feed development
- (iv) Fish health management; and
- (v) Socio-economics

B. Training and Information Dissemination

The Department will receive trainees from Member Countries and other countries for short-term training programs on specific aquaculture systems or techniques.

The Department will disseminate and exchange information on aquaculture research and technology among Member Countries and with other organizations through training programs, publications and other information materials (*e.g.* videos, CDs), symposia, seminars, workshops, and through the SEAFDEC webpage.

The Department will conduct regular review of its training programs and will ensure that such programs are upgraded and conform to the priorities and requirements of the aquaculture industry in the region. A tracer study of former AQD trainees will be included in the review to assess the extent of utilization of the knowledge they gained from the training courses conducted by AQD.

C. Technology Verification and Demonstration

The Department will enhance its services to the private sector and the fishery industry as a whole, through a more systematic packaging of research results into commercially viable aquaculture technologies and production systems.

The Department will hasten the utilization of newly developed technologies at AQD by scaling up these technologies, verifying their commercial viability; and applying, adopting and adapting any appropriate aquaculture technology that has been developed elsewhere.

The Department will demonstrate the tested aquaculture technologies through the national fisheries agencies of SEAFDEC Member Countries; and will provide technical assistance in starting up or in the adoption of new technologies.

The extent of utilization, in Member Countries, of technologies developed by the Department, will be evaluated regularly.

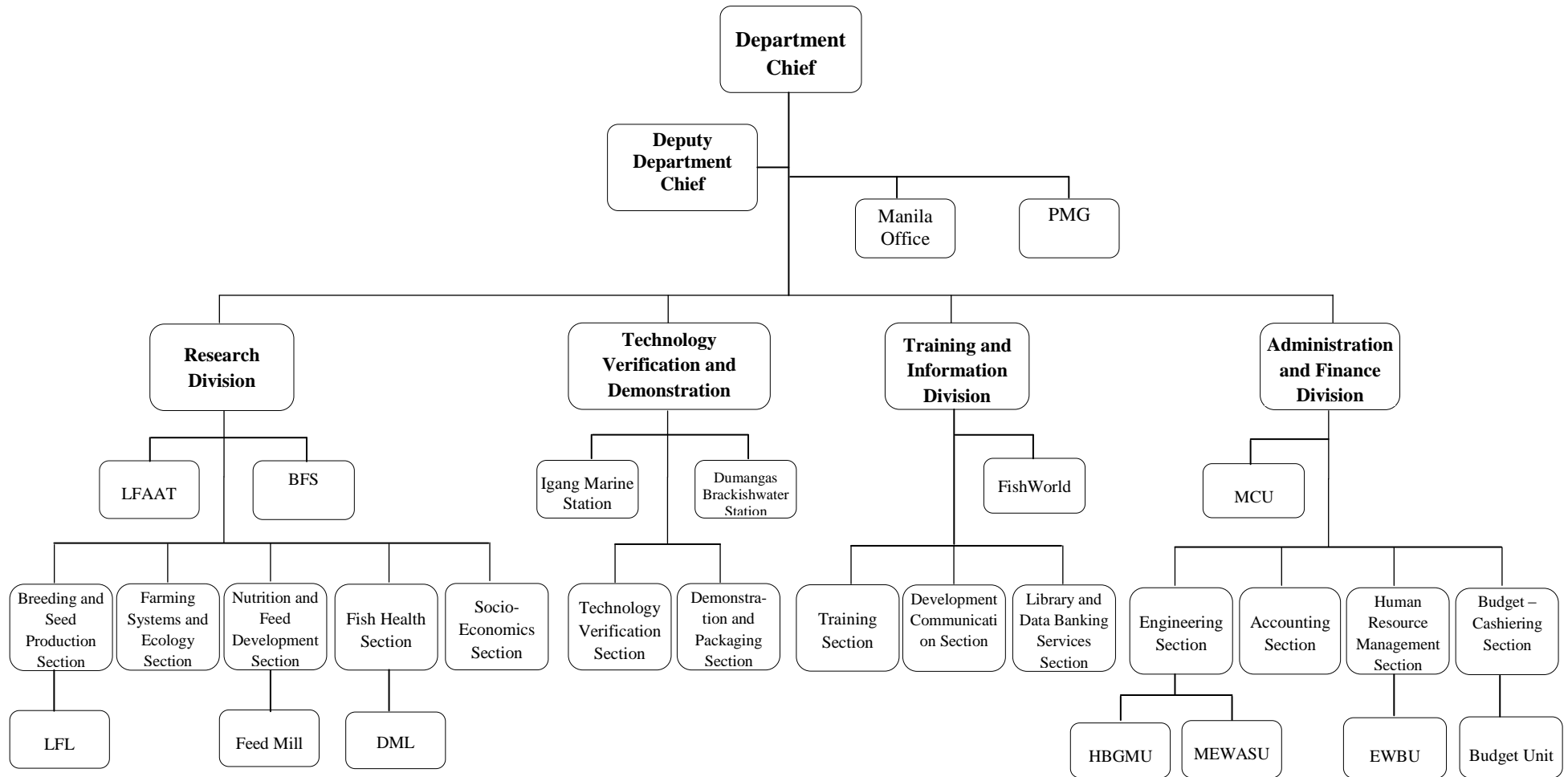
III. ORGANIZATION OF AQD

The Aquaculture Department consists of a Department Chief, a Deputy Department Chief and Department staff. The organizational chart of the Department is in Annex 1.

The Department Chief is responsible for the administration and overall operation of the Department. Under the Chief are the following offices and divisions:

- (i) **Office of Department Chief** comprises the Office the Deputy Chief, Performance Management Group, and the Manila Office.
- (ii) **Research Division** is responsible for the research activities of the Department. The Research Division comprises the five Sections: Breeding and Seed Production, Nutrition and Feed Development, Farming Systems and Ecology, Fish Health and Socio-Economics. The Division operates service laboratories and units; namely, Larval Food Laboratory, Centralized Analytical Laboratory, Fish Health Diagnostics Laboratory, and a Feed Preparation Laboratory and Feed Mill. The Division also operates the Laboratory Facilities for Advanced Aquaculture Technologies (LFAAT) and the Binangonan Freshwater Station.
- (iii) **Training and Information Division** is responsible for the capacity development of human and institutional resources and dissemination of information on aquaculture. The Training and Information Division comprises the Training, Development Communication, Library and Data banking Services Sections, and Fish world Museum.
- (iv) **Technology Verification and Demonstration Division** is responsible for testing the economic viability of various aquaculture technologies and packaging these into commercially viable production systems. The Technology Verification and Demonstration Division comprises the Technology Verification, and Demonstration and Packaging Sections. The Division operates the Dumangas Brackish water Station and Igang Marine Station.
- (v) **Administration and Finance Division** is responsible for providing administrative support to the programs and for the financial administration of the Department. It comprises the Human Resource Management, Engineering, Accounting, and Budget- Cashiering Sections and the Materials Control Unit.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF AQD



171

The Forty-Fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, 1-5 April 2013

- Legend:
- LFAAT - Laboratory for Advanced Aquaculture Technologies
 - BFS - Binangonan Freshwater Station
 - LFL - Larval Food Laboratory
 - DML - Diagnostic and Microtechnique Laboratory

- Legend:
- PMG - Performance Management Group
 - MCU - Materials Control Unit
 - HBGMU - Housing, Building, and Grounds Maintenance Unit
 - MEWASU - Mechanical, Electrical, Water, and Aeration Services Unit
 - EWBU - Employees' Welfare and Benefits Unit

**PLAN OF OPERATION AND ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:
MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT (MFRDMD)**

I. Revised Function of MFRDMD

- (i) To provide a regional forum for consultation and cooperation in research, conservation and management of marine fishery resources among Member Countries;
- (ii) To coordinate and implement research programmes to support sustainable development and management of marine fishery resources in Member Countries through:
 - Evaluating and review status of marine fishery resources and the exploitation of the resources.
 - Providing scientific basis and appropriate guidelines.
 - Providing advice on management of marine fishery resources.
- (iii) To provide expertise in the field of stock assessment and fishery management towards improving the capability of SEAFDEC Member Countries in sustainable development and management of marine fishery resource.
- (iv) To publish, disseminate and exchange information through:
 - Regional fora and consultations in research, conservation and management.
 - Intensification of publications
 - Dissemination of information.

II. Revised Program of Work of the MFRDMD

With the functions indicated in the Plan of Operation, the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department will implement research, training and information dissemination activities as approved by the Council of the Center, These activities will serve to promote sustainable development and management of fishery resources in Southeast Asia.

A. Research Program

The research activities of the Department cover the following areas:

- (i) Fishery biological studies of species groups to provide information for resource assessment;
- (ii) Assessment of shared resources for their proper development and management;
- (iii) Economic viability studies on fishing activities;
- (iv) Monitoring of catches and analysis of catch effort data from commercial fishing vessels;
- (v) Fishery oceanography studies to determine the relationship between physico-chemical parameter of the ocean water and the fishery resources;
- (vi) Assessment of coastal demersal fish and prawn resources to provide necessary information for the management of these fisheries to ensure maximum sustainable yield;
- (vii) Assessment of the status of the coastal marine habitats and development of strategies to rehabilitate habitats and enhancing the fishery resources; and
- (viii) Conservation of sea turtles.

B. Training Program

The Department conducts the following activities:

- (i) Training of researchers from National Institutions of the Member Countries by collaborative research on fish stock assessment, fisheries management and conservation of endangered, threatened and protected aquatic species;

- (ii) On-the-job training for researchers and administrators of the Department; and
- (iii) Seminars and workshops.

C. Information Program

The Department disseminates and exchange information on development and management of marine fishery resources through:

- (i) Publishing periodicals and reports;
- (ii) Dissemination of information to Member Countries and other international agencies/organizations;
- (iii) Library services; and
- (iv) Developing and maintaining department's homepage (<http://www.seafdec.org.my>).

III. Revised Organization Structure of the MFRDMD

The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department consists of a Chief, a Deputy Chief, Special Department Coordinator and Department staff.

The Chief is responsible for the administration and operation of the Department. Under the Chief are the following Sections:

1. **Administration and Finance Section** - to be responsible for providing administrative support to the Department including general services and maintenance of the Department buildings and research facilities as well as financial administration of the Department.

The Administrative and Finance Section comprises Finance Unit and Administrative Unit.

2. **Biology and Resource Assessment Section** - to be responsible for the implementation of research activities on marine fishery resources. The activities include marine fishery biological studies and genetics and fish stock assessment. Shared stocks of pelagic resources and conservation of sea turtles are conducted under this section.

The Biology and Resource Assessment Section comprises Biology and Genetic Unit and Resource Assessment Unit.

3. **Fishery Oceanography and Resource Enhancement Section** - to be responsible for the research programs on fishery oceanographic studies and resource enhancement.

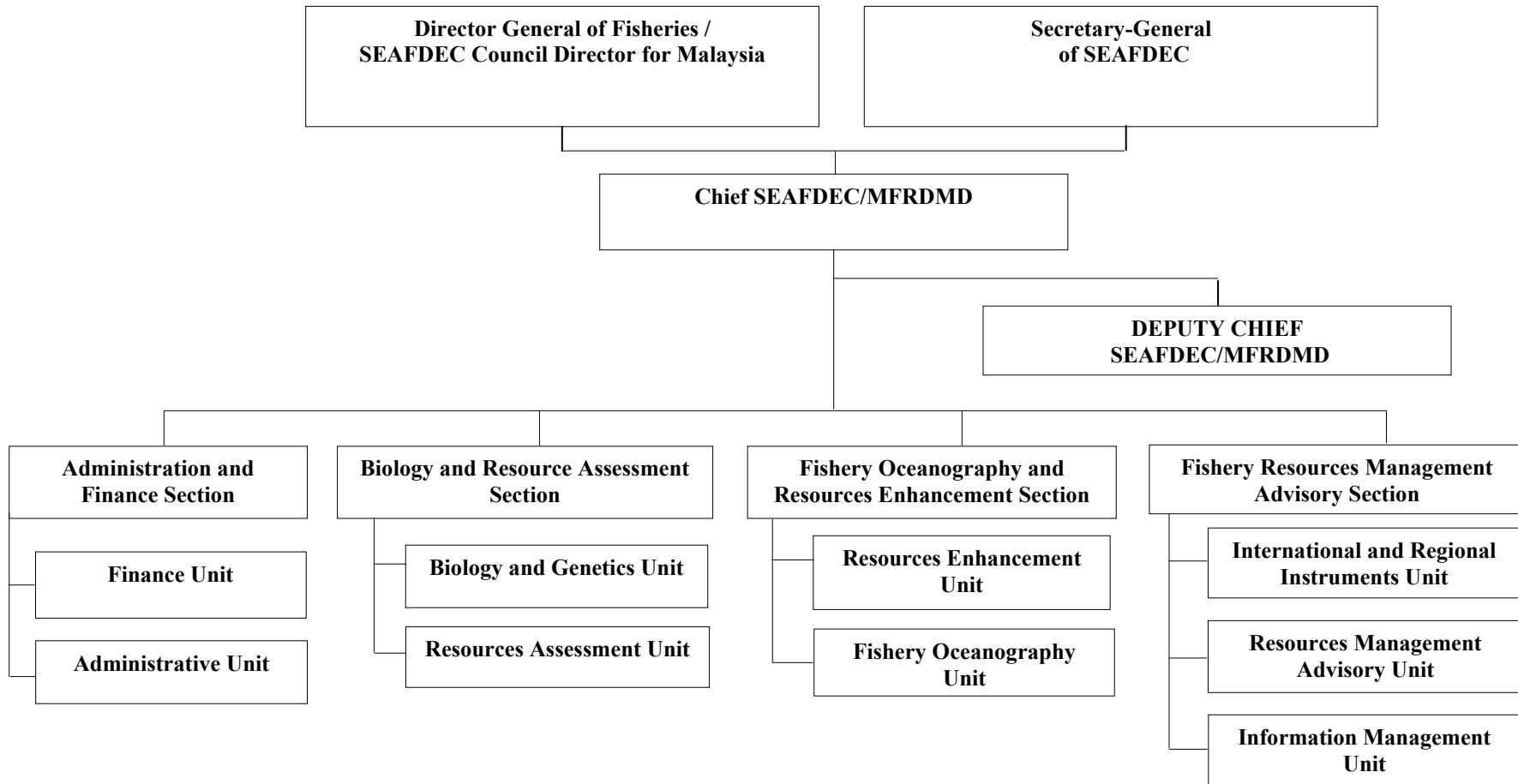
The Fishery Oceanography and Resource Enhancement Section comprises Resource Enhancement Unit and Fishery Oceanography Unit.

4. **Fishery Resources Management Advisory Section** - to be responsible for the compilation, collation and dissemination of information and provide management advice on the exploitation and management of the marine fishery resources and conservation of endangered, threaten and protected aquatic species in the EEZ of Member Countries. This Section is also responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Department's training activities for fishery resources research.

The Fishery Resources Management Advisory Section comprises the International and Regional Instruments Unit, Resource management Advisory Unit and Information Management Unit.

The Organization Chart is given in the **Attachment 1**.

Proposed New Organization Chart



FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE: SEAFDEC SECRETARIAT

SEAFDEC Secretariat

I. FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT

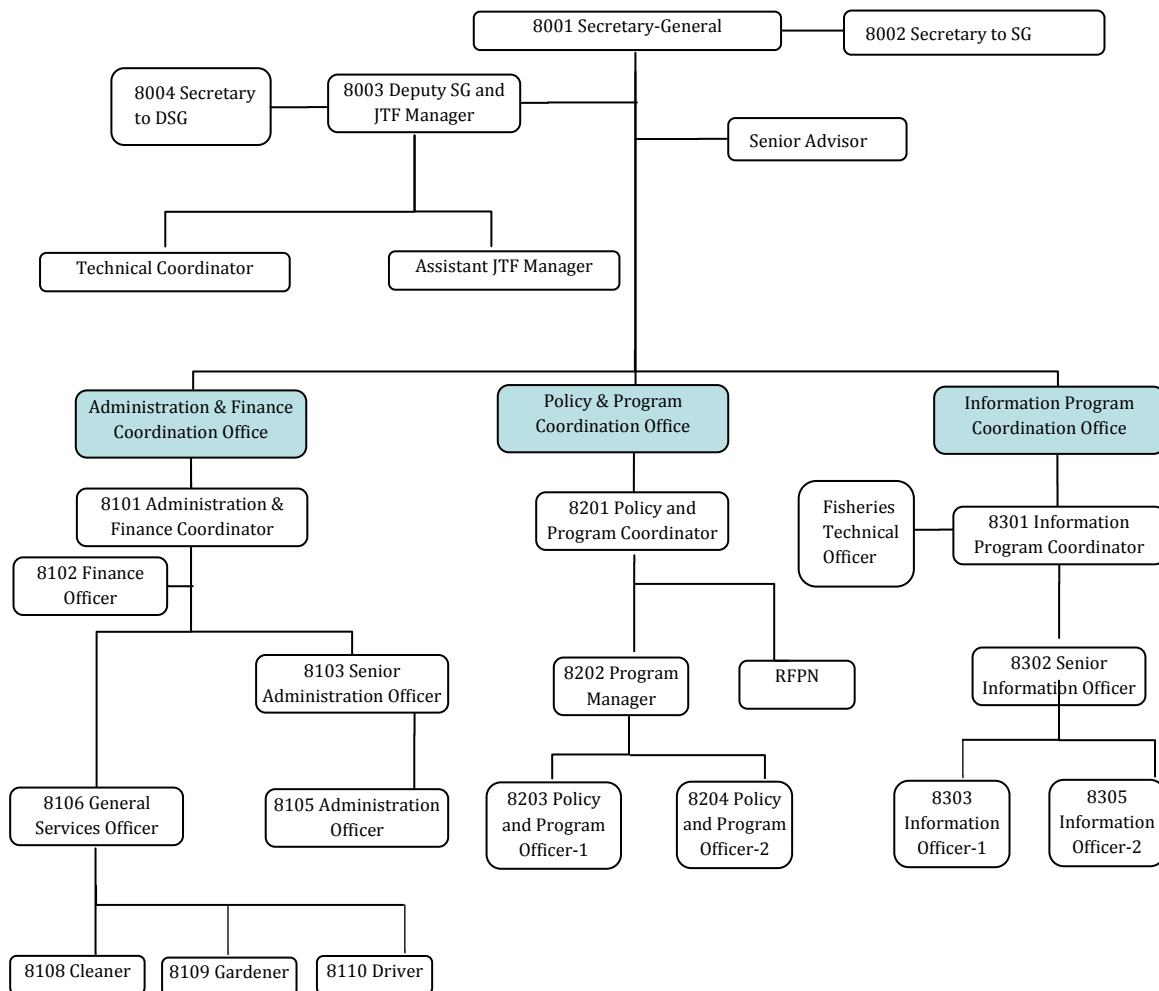
Since the establishment of SEAFDEC, the Secretariat was attached to the Training Department (TD) as a Liaison Office. The office was re-located from TD, Samut Prakan Province to Bangkok at Olympia Building in 1981 and to Chan Issara Tower in 1993. In 1997, the Secretariat was independently set up at its permanent office in the new premises within the Department of Fisheries compound in Kasetsart University Campus.

Taking into consideration the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC since 1967 and the directives given by the SEAFDEC Council since 1998 (*e.g.* adoption of the new SEAFDEC Strategic Plan, recommendations for strengthening of the SEAFDEC Secretariat, strengthening of collaboration with the ASEAN, establishment of Regional Advisory Committee in 2008 and adoption of the SEAFDEC Program Framework in 2009), the main functions of the Secretariat are as follows:

- Providing administrative services to facilitate the implementation of the overall activities of SEAFDEC including organizing the agreed Annual Meetings of the Council Directors, Program Committee, Fishery Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP);
- Serving as the focal point for channeling and implementing the decisions and resolutions of the SEAFDEC Council.
- Serving as the Secretariat for the Regional Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RAC);
- Coordinating with SEAFDEC Departments to monitor the progress of implementing activity and to support formulation of the regional policy based on outputs of the activity.
- Coordinating and implementing on multi-disciplinary programs that do not fall under the specific disciplines of any SEAFDEC Department;
- Generating the regional fishery policy concept for sustainable fisheries development, and coordinates the development and implementation of the strategic plan to guide the Departments towards the common goal;
- Providing a forum for discussion among the Member Countries to develop the common/coordinated position on the emerging issues, international fisheries-related issues, etc.;
- Strengthening the cooperation among the Member Countries, other international and regional organizations and collaborated NGOs;
- Hosting the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) with members appointed by the Member Countries to enhance coordination with the Member Countries;
- Preparing and submitting the budgetary requirements of the Center as well as the audited financial accounts of the Secretariat and of each Department and the audited consolidated account of the Center to the SEAFDEC Council;
- Exploring sources of funds and seeking financial support from potential donor governments and agencies to support the implementation of the activities of regional interest;
- Preparing the SEAFDEC Annual Reports, Reports of SEAFDEC Annual Meetings (and the Council meetings, PCM, FCG/ASSP, RAC) and SEAFDEC periodical newsletter, as well as other materials/tools to enhance the visibility of SEAFDEC;
- Compiling and promoting the regional fishery statistics such as Annual Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia (2008 onwards), and The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFiA) for every five years.

II. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The Secretariat consists of the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Secretariat staff. The current organization chart of the Secretariat appears as follow:



COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN SEAFDEC AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

SEAFDEC continues to exert efforts to establish more collaboration and cooperation with other organizations involved in the sustainable development of fisheries. Since 1994 SEAFDEC has established collaboration with a number of organizations and institutions that led to the development of practices and approaches for sustainable fisheries, while avoiding duplication of efforts. In the process, enhanced cooperation has been promoted in carrying out respective fisheries programs and activities for the benefit of the region. Moreover, SEAFDEC also continues to work with organizations in assisting the Member Countries to address emerging concerns that affect the fishers and fish farmers.

The collaborative arrangements established between SEAFDEC and other organizations since 2012 could be summarized as follows:

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

- *Expansion and Diversification of Production and management Systems for Sea Cucumbers in the Philippines, Vietnam and northern Australia*

SEAFDEC/AQD continued its collaboration with the Commonwealth of Australia through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) with the forging of another contract of agreement signed on 5 October 2012. The new Agreement which commenced in October 2012 and will be concluded in December 2013 involved AQD as a collaborating institution for the implementation of the project on “Expansion and Diversification of Production and Management Systems for Sea Cucumbers in the Philippines, Vietnam and northern Australia”.

- *Workshop on Fish Passage in Southeast Asia*

SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) also signed an agreement in March 2013, for ACIAR to provide financial support (partially) to the conduct of the Workshop on Fish Passage in Southeast Asia. Under this agreement, SEAFDEC is requested to support the participation of officers that involved in the project on fish passage in Lao PDR which was implemented with support of ACIAR. The financial support from ACIAR could also be used for other expenditures that incurred from the Workshop, as well as relevant activities after the Workshop. The workshop was successfully organized on 17-20 March 2013 in Khon Kaen Province, Thailand.

Century Marine Products SDN. BHD. (Malaysia)

SEAFDEC/AQD entered into a Letter of Agreement with Century Marine Products SDN. BHD in November 2012. Under such agreement, AQD provides technical expertise under its Agee-Build-Operate-Transfer (ABOT) AquaNegosyo scheme by assigning a Sandfish Expert to the company during the implementation of the ABOT AquaNegosyo project. The Expert is tasked to evaluate the proposed project site in terms of its suitability for sandfish hatchery and nursery operations, and submit the site assessment report and recommendations to Century Marine Products SDN. BHD, which is a privately owned company based in Malaysia.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- ***Aquaculture for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition (AFSPAN)***

SEAFDEC signed agreement with FAO on February 2013 for the SEAFDEC/AQD to implement the project on Aquaculture for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition (AFSPAN) with funding support from FAO. The project started on 15 January 2013 and will end on 31 December 2014, with objectives to better understand the current status of the contribution of aquaculture to food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation. In particular, the Project will: (a) review the current knowledge on the contribution of aquaculture to food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation; (b) develop methodologies for better assessment of the contribution; (c) disseminate widely the knowledge gained among countries, governments and civil society, the knowledge gained; and (d) elaborate strategies for improving the contribution of aquaculture to food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation.

- ***Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstract (ASFA)***

SEAFDEC Secretariat and FAO signed a “Partnership Agreement Providing for Cooperation in the Preparation and Publication of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) and for the Reconstitution of the Advisory Board” in February 2013. Under this Agreement, SEAFDEC shall serve as an international ASFA partner, and shall be responsible for the monitoring of all serials, monographs and other information emanating from its organization relevant to the scope of ASFA, and for preparing bibliographic citations, indexing and abstracts of relevant literature for input to ASFA. Under the Agreement, SEAFDEC shall also nominate one member of the ASFA Advisory Board to decide upon, and oversee the implementation of policy matters with respect to the ASFA service; and attend where possible in meetings of the Board as well as other editorial staff meetings to make recommendations to the Board.

- ***Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project***

The collaborative activities between SEAFDEC and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project were centered on the joint study of important critical habitats to fish and ecosystems for migratory fish stocks such as the *Rastrelliger* spp. and other relevant marine aquatic species in the Andaman Sea. In 2012, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD signed two Letters of Agreement with FAO for the involvement of MFRDMD in two activities of BOBLME Project, namely: 1) Genetic Study of the Indian Mackerel (samples obtained from Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, and South China Sea), and 2) Study on Shark Resources.

- ***FAO/Global Environment Facility (GEF)***

In the collaboration with FAO/Global Environment Facility (GEF), TD was designated as the Regional Facilitating Unit (RFU)/expecting partner for the implementation of the project on Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management or “REBYC-II CTP”, which would be implemented from 2013 to 2017. The said project is aimed at promoting responsible trawl fisheries for the sustainable development of the fishery resources, and maintaining healthy marine ecosystems in the Coral Triangle and Southeast Asian waters by reducing by-catch and discards as well as the impact of fishing on biodiversity and the environment. The participating countries for the project are Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam together with Papua New Guinea.

- ***Workshop on Fish Passage in Southeast Asia***

SEAFDEC and FAO signed a “Letter of Agreement for a Provision of Services to Conduct the Workshop on Fish Passage in Southeast Asia” in December 2012. Under this Agreement, SEAFDEC would be responsible for the preparation and conduct of a Workshop on Fish Passage in Southeast Asia, including inviting participants from the Southeast Asian countries, arrangement for scientific

excursion programs to fish passage facilities, and facilitate the conduct of the Workshop in order to come up with updated information on fish passages in the region, and recommendations/considerations for the future development of fish passage facilities. Under the Agreement, FAO agreed to support the participation of 20 participants from the Southeast Asian countries, and provided resource persons to share knowledge and experiences on biological and engineering aspects relevant to fish passages. The Workshop was successfully conducted on 17-20 March 2013 in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Application (ISAAA)

A Letter of Agreement was forged between SEAFDEC/AQD and ISAAA on 22 March 2012 for the conduct of the training course on biotechnology from 29 April to 3 May 2012. Under such Agreement, AQD provided the required services during the training course intended to capacitate the technical staff of the Philippine Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority based in the Visayas and Mindanao on the basics of the biotechnology tools and applications as well as the existing biotechnology regulations in the country. ISAAA is a non-profit international organization that shares the benefits of crop biotechnology to various stakeholders, particularly resource-poor farmers in developing countries.

Institute National des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (INTECHMER, France)

SEAFDEC/AQD signed an Agreement with INTECHMER last 14 February 2012 for the conduct of an internship training program on the “Comparison of the Performance of Penaeid Larvae Fed SEAFDEC-formulated Diets and Other Feeds used in Commercial Hatcheries in the Philippines”. Conducted from 27 February 2012 to 22 June 2012, the program enabled the intern from INTECHMER to acquire technical knowledge and skills in the operation and management of a shrimp hatchery system, learn the basic concepts of utilizing formulated feeds in hatcheries in the Philippines, and visit some commercial hatcheries in Panay Island, Philippines.

Philippines Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI)

A Letter of Agreement (LOA) was executed between SEAFDEC/AQD and PNRI setting out the need to foster cooperative research and development starting on 5 October 2012 until the completion of the research study on the “Potential Uses of Irradiated Low Molecular Weight Carrageenans in Aquaculture. This research comprises four projects, namely: 1) Use of irradiated seaweeds as potential growth promoter in the Donkey’s ear abalone, *Haliotis asinina*; 2) Use of irradiated seaweeds in growth enhancer in formulated diets for fingerlings of popular aquaculture species; 3) Screening for anti-dengue virus activity of irradiated carrageenan from Philippine seaweeds; and 4) Screening of anti-microbial activity of irradiated carrageenan from Philippines seaweeds.

A Philippine Government agency, PNRI is mandated to undertake research and development activities on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, institute regulations on the said uses and carry out the enforcement of said regulations to protect the health and safety of radiation workers and the general public.

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)

Under the Memorandum between SEAFDEC and the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) of Japan, TD is implementing a 5-year collaborative project on “Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia” from April 2012 to March 2017. The project comprises eight components, namely: 1) Capture capability survey for coastal fisheries; 2) Biological resource survey; 3) Environment assessments and ecosystem health survey; 4) Human capability survey for coastal area; 5) Development of acoustic survey equipment and systems for shallow waters; 6) Community-based set-net introduction for coastal management and HRD; 7) Community-based

fishery resource rehabilitation for coastal management and rural development; and 8) Database construction, workshops and wrap-up activities.

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

On 5 March 2013, SEAFDEC and Sida signed the new agreement for 5-year supports from Sida to the project entitled “Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia”, starting from 2013 until 31 December 2017. Activities to be undertaken through the new SEAFDEC-Sida cooperation would build upon the previous SEAFDEC-Sida Project, and would aim at enhancing the social well-being, including improved working conditions and alternative livelihoods for both men and women, emphasis would also be given to seek commitment from the Member Countries in following-up on the development and implementation of sub-regional and regional agreements, including those at the national level of concerned countries, with a special focus on four important sub-regions, namely the Gulf of Thailand, the Andaman Sea, the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea and the Mekong River Basin.

University of the Sunshine Coast

SEAFDEC/AQD and University of the Sunshine Coast (Australia) forged an Agreement on 26 September 2012 to jointly implement the project on “Preliminary Trials on Giant Grouper Maturation, Spawning and Juvenile Production in Vietnam, Philippines and Australia from 1 June 2012 until 31 May 2013. The University is a recipient of a grant Agreement with the ACIAR to conduct this particular research project.

Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)

Starting in late 2012, a new collaboration was initiated between SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF but this is in the negotiation process. The two organizations contemplated to establish an arrangement in fostering research and training in fisheries to promote sustainable fisheries management in the Coral Triangle. In this relation, the necessary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the proposed collaboration has been prepared and discussed for possible finalization. It is expected that the MOU would be signed in the first half of 2013.

OPERATION OF SEAFDEC TRAINING AND RESEARCH VESSELS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Current utilization of training and research vessels of SEAFDEC, including M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2, is reported in this document. During the past few years, M.V. SEAFDEC has been utilized for collaborative research survey of the Member Countries and regional/national institutes. Regarding M.V. SEAFDEC 2, she has been utilized mainly for assessment of national fishery resources in the EEZ waters of some of the Member Countries.

2. In case of M.V. SEAFDEC 2, it should be noted that her maintenance cost has recently in consistency with increasing number of service years. Therefore, it is timely to revisit and revise the cost-sharing policy to be appropriate for the current situation. Major revision of the cost-sharing policy proposed in this document include: (i) expenditure for DSA and food of the SEAFDEC staff onboard will be responsible by requesting countries; and (ii) all raw data collected onboard during the survey (*e.g.* resource survey data, oceanographic data, etc. collected onboard M.V. SEAFDEC 2 – subject to be discussed and finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey) should be kept by both parties (SEAFDEC/TD and requested country).

II. INTRODUCTION

3. Over the years, Government of Japan has supported various programs and activities through SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) for utilization of the regional research vessels, namely M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC2 stationed at SEAFDEC/TD. TD has provided technical assistance and facilities for research and training program onboard these two vessels for regional/national activities including: (i) cruise for fishery resources survey; and (ii) human resources capacity building program on fishing gear samplings, oceanography, and navigation.

Utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC

4. Back to February 1993, the Government of Japan delivered the M.V. SEAFDEC, a 1,178 GT steel purse seiner to SEAFDEC. Almost two decades, the M.V. SEAFDEC has been utilized by the Member Countries, national institutes, and SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) for research and training activities. By the end of 2012, a total of 1863 days (91 cruises) comprising of 84 fishing trials for fishery resource surveys and other relevant activities had been conducted using the M.V. SEAFDEC.

5. Starting in 1993, regular training programs conducted onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC was mainly on fishing technology, marine engineering, navigation and seamanship, and hydro-acoustic equipments. However, such onboard regular trainings were discontinued since the year 2002 due to the termination of the budgetary support from the Government of Japan. Over past few years, a series of collaborative research survey has started in collaboration with the Member Countries and regional/national institutes (*e.g.* Vietnam, Thailand, Timor Leste, BIMSTEC Members, IOTC, Phuket Marine Biological Center of Department of Marine and Coastal Resources of Thailand, etc.). The survey/operation areas cover Andaman Sea, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Timor Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Thailand. Currently, the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC is request-based activities, such as maintenance of tsunami warning system in Andaman Sea (DART-II system) in collaboration with the National Disaster Warning System of Thailand through the support from the NOAA; offshore fisheries development in the area of Andaman Sea and Indian Ocean in collaboration with Department of Fisheries Thailand; fishery resource survey in the Gulf of Thailand (planned in 2013), etc.

6. **Figure 1** shows the number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC during the past two decades. During the first 10 years, it was found that her service ranged from 100 to 200 days/year, which generally used for the regular regional training courses of TD. However, her total numbers of days/year reduced, being only from 25 to 100 days/year from 2002 to date.

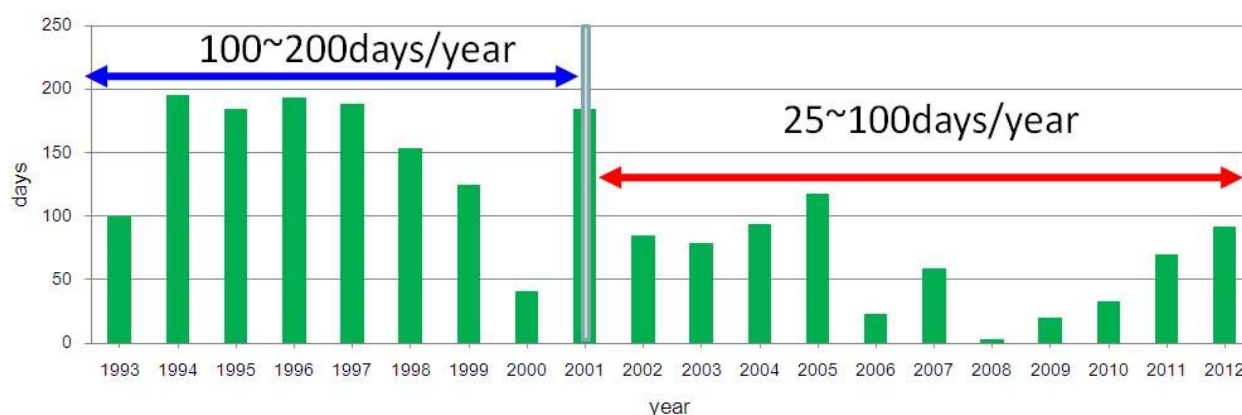


Figure 1 Total number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC during 1993 to 2012

Utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2

7. To fulfill the needs of the Member Countries on research survey for fishery stock status of near shore fisheries resources in their respective EEZ using standardized sampling gears and oceanographic equipments, the Government of Japan approved the construction of a new fishery research and training vessel for the survey/training. This was in response to resolutions passed at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference 2001 which highlighted the need for investigation of the potential of fisheries resources, and establishment and implementation of comprehensive policies for innovative fisheries management in the region. The construction of the vessel M.V. SEAFDEC 2, a 200 GT trawler, was completed in 2003 and was delivered to SEAFDEC/TD in March 2004.

8. M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been utilized to assess fishery resources by means of extensive scientific surveys of coastal resources. The vessel is also used to implement various fishery training programs with regard to promote utilization of fishery resources in deep-sea and un-trawlable grounds of the EEZ waters of the countries in the region. In a broader sense, the acquisition M.V. SEAFDEC 2 will help strengthen technical cooperation in the Southeast Asian region through enhancement of research and training capability. M.V. SEAFDEC 2 focuses on three major specific areas: (i) fishery research and training; (ii) oceanographic survey; and (iii) onboard navigation and engine training.

9. From 2004 to 2006, the annual plans for the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 used to be agreed upon the annual review/consultation meetings of the “*Eligible Countries Committee and Operations Committee under the Cost-sharing Policy of SEAFDEC*”. However, due to budgetary constraints in 2006, the Meeting of the Eligible Countries Committee and Operations Committee for the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was discontinued. Since then, the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the national fishery resources surveys has been carried out based on request of the Member Countries.

10. From 2007, the funding support for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been mainly sourced from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) of SEAFDEC. Such support has enabled SEAFDEC/TD to conduct a number of fishery resources surveys within the national waters of the Member Countries until now. At the 41st Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, the Council agreed that the countries that gain the benefit from the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be responsible for the cost incurred by the vessel. In addition, the Council agreed also to secure the budget for the additional cost of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Therefore, the cost sharing policy was modified. The major

change in the cost sharing policy of using M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was that *the requesting country will support the fuel supply for the entire duration of the research activity including cruising to and back from the requesting countries*. The Revised Guidelines made in 2010 on the cost sharing policy for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 appears as *Appendix 1*.

11. In addition, detail information on the number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC2 utilized by the Member Countries showed in **Table 1** and **Figure 2**. In summary, the total number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC2 was 953 days utilized since 2004, averaged approximately at 100 days/year during 2004 to 2012. It was also recorded that Brunei, Thailand, and Vietnam were countries that utilized M.V. SEAFDEC2 for totally about 200 days since 2004 until now.

Table 1 Number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 utilized by the Member Countries of SEAFDEC during 2004 to 2012 (unit = number of days)

Year	Brunei	Cambodia	Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam
2004	34						14	
2005	27	13		20		27	26	30
BIMP			20	22		19		
2006	29		22	29		23	40	30
2007					43	40	40	
2008	31						64	
2009			30					
2010	41			45				
2011	27						24	
2012								143
<i>sub-total</i>	189	13	72	116	43	109	208	203
<i>Utilization by the Countries</i>	20%	1%	8%	12%	5%	11%	22%	21%
	<i>Total</i>							953

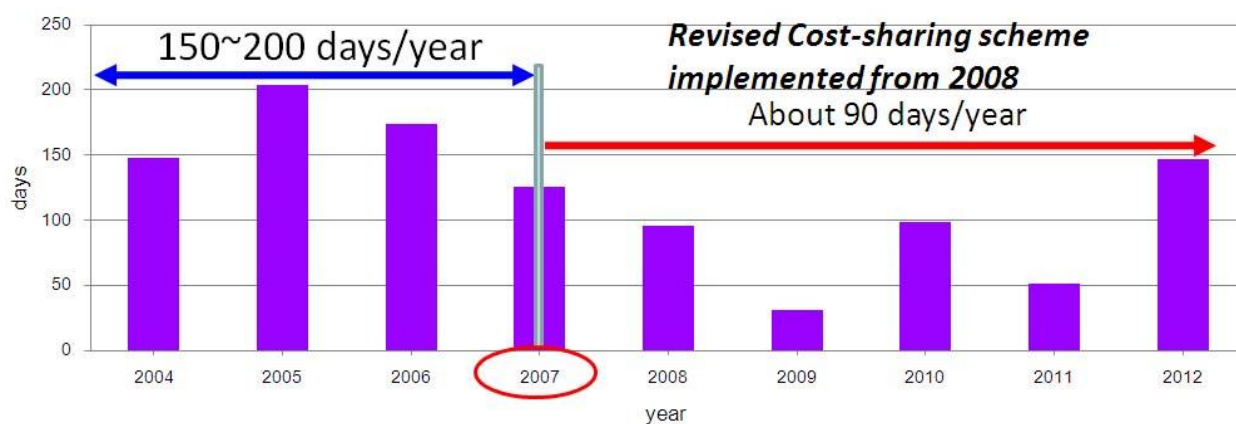


Figure 2 Total number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 during 2004 to 2012

12. It can be observed that total number of days of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 ranged from 150 to 200 days during 2004 to 2007. After the revision of the cost-sharing policy in 2007 as mentioned above, it was found that the total number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was about 90 days per year, which can be arranged into 2 to 3 cruises based upon the plan of onboard activities.

III. OBJECTIVES

13. In general, utilization of the research and training vessels M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is mainly for:

- Assisting Member Countries and requesting country/agency in conducting research survey¹; and
- Assisting Member Countries and requesting country/agency in building human resource capacity in various technical fields during the cruise survey based on their request and competency of SEAFDEC; and
- Providing technical support in order to analyze potential fishery resources.

IV. OPERATION OF THE TRAINING/RESEARCH VESSELS OF SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT IN 2013

14. The proposed annual plan in the year 2013 for utilizing the research and training vessels of SEAFDEC (M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and M.V. SEAFDEC) appears in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Program of activities of M.V. SEAFDEC2 and M.V. SEAFDEC in 2013

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
M.V. SEAFDEC2												
<i>Regional Training Course on Habitat Mapping (in the Gulf of Thailand), 3 days</i>												
<i>Fishery Resource Survey in Vietnam water, 70 days</i>												
M.V. SEAFDEC												
<i>Larvae Sampling Collection with Department of Marine and Coastal Resources of Thailand (Gulf of Thailand), 13 days each cruise</i>												
<i>Research Survey and Training on Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Middle of the Gulf of Thailand, 14 March to 12 April</i>												
<i>Monsoon Onset Monitoring and Its Social and Ecosystem Impacts in Bay of Bangal and Oceanographic Survey in Andaman Sea (in collaboration with Phuket Marine Biological Center), 34 days</i>												

V. ONLINE INFORMATION ON THE CRUISE SURVEYS CARRIED OUT BY M.V. SEAFDEC AND M.V. SEAFDEC 2

15. Information on the survey locations of the cruises of the training/research vessels of SEAFDEC TD is now available online (http://map.seafdec.org/cftd/survey_mv2/mvseafdec_2.php and http://map.seafdec.org/cftd/mv_seafdec/index.php)

VI. PROPOSED REVISION OF THE COST SHARING POLICY FOR UTILIZATION OF M.V. SEAFDEC 2

16. It is almost the decade that M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been utilized by the Member Countries since 2004, and her cost of operation and maintenance has been recently increased (Appendix 2 to Appendix 4). In this connection, it is timely to revisit the cost-sharing policy based on the current situation of utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

¹ Including, fishing trials and demonstrations using various fishing/sampling gears, hydro-acoustic surveys, oceanographic surveys, fish sampling and catch species identification, etc.

Proposed Revision/Amendment

17. The following amendments to the cost-sharing policy are proposed for consideration by the Council:

Item	Proposed Amendment
III. Outline of the Proposed Cost-sharing Policy	5) Necessary of DSA for SEAFDEC staff involved in the survey activities and their food allowance onboard should be borne by the Member Countries based on SEAFDEC's standard.
IV. Working scheme for the collaborating research with the Member Countries	(new) 5. Some basic data collected onboard during the survey should be shared with SEAFDEC/TD. Data to be shared should be finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey between the requesting country and SEAFDEC. Such basic data will be kept confidential and be used only for SEAFDEC regional database and for future regional analysis.

VII. CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

18. The Councils are requested to endorse the plan of activities for the use of M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 during the year 2013. In particular, views and comments of the Council for revision of the cost-sharing policy for utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 are also kindly requested.

(Existing) Guidelines on the Cost Sharing Policy for the Operation of the “M.V. SEAFDEC 2”

I. Introduction

With favorable understanding of the Government of Japan about the function of SEAFDEC to assist in the sustainable development of fisheries of the Member Countries, the Government of Japan agreed to provide a new research vessel, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 under the Japanese Grant Aid Program to SEAFDEC.

Through a series of consultations with the Government of Japan, SEAFDEC and Japan reached to the agreement that the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be secured for the benefit of the countries which are eligible to the Japanese Grant Aid Program. On the other hand, it was also agreed among the SEAFDEC Member Countries that the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be based on cost-sharing policy taking into account both aspects, such as the benefits of the operation of the vessel to the Member Countries and the expected budgetary constraints of SEAFDEC in the future. The cost-sharing policy regarding the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has also been recognized as an important element to establish the ownership of research activities by the Member Countries and to promote sustainable research activities using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the region.

In exploring the research needs of the Member Countries, SEAFDEC established two mechanisms, namely: the Eligible Countries Committee where the eligible countries could provide or propose their own research needs or plans for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2; and the Operations Committee where the annual plan of operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 would be developed taking into account of needs of the SEAFDEC Member Countries other than the eligible countries as well.

During the 26th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee held in Manila in 2004, three categories of the expected operation using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 were presented. It was also recommended that all categories of collaborative operations that are related to the needs of the Member Countries and operation in the national waters would be under the cost-sharing policy except the operation by SEAFDEC to verify the application of standardized research methods using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which have been considered through the Technical Consultative Meeting in October 2003 and November 2004.

II. Objectives

This Guideline will provide the outline of the expected cost-sharing policy to be considered by the Member Countries, for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 based on the policy arrived at SEAFDEC in early March 2004.

III. Outline of the Proposed Cost-Sharing Policy

Regardless of whether it is in cash or in kind, the following financial items related to the operations cost should be borne as a matter of principle, by the Member Country requesting for the collaborative operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in her national waters in response to her needs and interests.

- 1) **Supply of fuel** for the entire duration of the research including cruising to and back to the requesting country;
- 2) **Supply of fresh water** that would be consumed by the vessel during the operation of research in the national waters;
- 3) **Salary and necessary DSA of the local or national participants** onboard, who are involved in the research activities should be borne by the Member Country based on its own national standard; and

- 4) **Agency fee and port clearance fee** should be borne by the Member Country when the vessel visits and stays at the port for implementation of the collaborative research program.

IV. Working scheme for the collaborative research with the Member Countries

- 1) Each Member Country is requested to prepare her research proposal, if any, taking into account of the short or medium-term activities. The proposal should be presented to the Eligible Countries Committee and/or Operations Committee to consider the cruise plans for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

As a matter of principle, the staying period for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the national waters could be limited to a maximum period of one month, taking into account of the availability also of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the other Member Countries;

- 2) Through consultation with the Operations Committee, each proposal from the Member Countries and Departments should be reviewed and finalized based on priority, practicability, readiness and financial background of the proposed research programs. The schedule of the research program of the country finalized by the Operations Committee could be adjusted to cater to the next priority country's needs or could be postponed until financial arrangements become ready by the requesting country;
- 3) Two months prior to the implementation of the individual research program, TD staff in charge of the operation will communicate through E-mail/or visit each beneficiary Member Country to discuss with the concerned staff on the detailed arrangements of the cruise and research program. The concerned members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) could be mobilized for effective communication with their respective countries, as the case may be; and
- 4) Preliminary cruise report including comments on the immediate impacts of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 as well as the results of the national research program should be submitted to SEAFDEC/TD within six months after the cruise.

Appendix 2 of Annex 23a

Overall Expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2012

1	MRC	177,863
2	TD	176,612
3	Member Country	394,030
	total	748,505

Appendix 3 of Annex 23a

Expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC 2: MRC

	Item	Available	Expenditure
1	Operational Cost	65,000	63,512
2	Maintenance	32,000	61,742
3	Ship Insurance	11,000	10,609
4	Periodic Maintenance	42,000	42,000
	total	150,000	177,863

Appendix 4 of Annex 23a

Expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2012: Member Country – Vietnam

	Item	Expenses	Remark
1	Cost-sharing	168,425	6 May to 15 June
	Install A.S.E (additional)	14,200	
2	Cost-sharing	179,405	2 Oct to 3 Dec
	Allowance (additional)	32,000	
	Sub-total	394,030	

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE COST SHARING POLICY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE M.V. SEAFDEC 2¹

I. Introduction

With favorable understanding of the Government of Japan about the function of SEAFDEC to assist in the sustainable development of fisheries of the Member Countries, the Government of Japan agreed to provide a new research vessel, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 under the Japanese Grant Aid Program to SEAFDEC.

Through a series of consultations with the Government of Japan, SEAFDEC and Japan reached to the agreement that the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be secured for the benefit of the countries which are eligible to the Japanese Grant Aid Program. On the other hand, it was also agreed among the SEAFDEC Member Countries that the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be based on cost-sharing policy taking into account both aspects, such as the benefits of the operation of the vessel to the Member Countries and the expected budgetary constraints of SEAFDEC in the future. The cost-sharing policy regarding the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has also been recognized as an important element to establish the ownership of research activities by the Member Countries and to promote sustainable research activities using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the region.

In exploring the research needs of the Member Countries, SEAFDEC established two mechanisms, namely: the Eligible Countries Committee where the eligible countries could provide or propose their own research needs or plans for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2; and the Operations Committee where the annual plan of operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 would be developed taking into account of needs of the SEAFDEC Member Countries other than the eligible countries as well.

During the 26th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee held in Manila in 2004, three categories of the expected operation using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 were presented. It was also recommended that all categories of collaborative operations that are related to the needs of the Member Countries and operation in the national waters would be under the cost-sharing policy except the operation by SEAFDEC to verify the application of standardized research methods using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which have been considered through the Technical Consultative Meeting in October 2003 and November 2004.

At the 45th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC held in CEBU, the Philippines in 2013, SEAFDEC/TD proposed revision of the Guidelines on the cost sharing policy for operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 particularly on the proposed modification of the cost-sharing policy for countries requesting for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the Council expressed apprehension that the Member Countries might not be able to shoulder the increased costs as proposed by SEAFDEC considering the difficulties in the internal negotiations with the respective national budget agencies of the countries. However, With regards to data sharing, the Council agreed that some basic data collected onboard during the survey should be shared with SEAFDEC/TD. The data to be shared should be finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey between the requesting country and SEAFDEC. Such basic data will be kept confidential and to be used only for the SEAFDEC regional database and for future regional analysis. (appears as a new para 4 of the Part IV of this document).

¹ The revised **Guidelines on the Cost Sharing Policy for the Operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2** was endorsed by the 45th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC held at CEBU, the Philippines from 1-4 April 2013 (refer to para 113-115 of the Report of 45th Council Meeting).

II. Objectives

This Guideline will provide the outline of the expected cost-sharing policy to be considered by the Member Countries, for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 based on the policy arrived at SEAFDEC in early March 2004.

III. Outline of the Proposed Cost-Sharing Policy

Regardless of whether it is in cash or in kind, the following financial items related to the operations cost should be borne as a matter of principle, by the Member Country requesting for the collaborative operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in her national waters in response to her needs and interests.

- 1) **Supply of fuel** for the entire duration of the research including cruising to and back to the requesting country;
- 2) **Supply of fresh water** that would be consumed by the vessel during the operation of research in the national waters;
- 3) **Salary and necessary DSA of the local or national participants** onboard, who are involved in the research activities should be borne by the Member Country based on its own national standard; and
- 4) **Agency fee and port clearance fee** should be borne by the Member Country when the vessel visits and stays at the port for implementation of the collaborative research program.

IV. Working Scheme for the Collaborative Research with the Member Countries

- 1) Each Member Country is requested to prepare her research proposal, if any, taking into account of the short or medium-term activities. The proposal should be presented to the Eligible Countries Committee and/or Operations Committee to consider the cruise plans for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. As a matter of principle, the staying period for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the national waters could be limited to a maximum period of one month, taking into account of the availability also of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the other Member Countries;
- 2) Through consultation with the Operations Committee, each proposal from the Member Countries and Departments should be reviewed and finalized based on priority, practicability, readiness and financial background of the proposed research programs. The schedule of the research program of the country finalized by the Operations Committee could be adjusted to cater to the next priority country's needs or could be postponed until financial arrangements become ready by the requesting country;
- 3) Two months prior to the implementation of the individual research program, TD staff in charge of the operation will communicate through E-mail/or visit each beneficiary Member Country to discuss with the concerned staff on the detailed arrangements of the cruise and research program. The concerned members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) could be mobilized for effective communication with their respective countries, as the case may be;
- 4) With regards to data sharing, Member Country agreed that some basic data collected onboard during the survey should be shared with SEAFDEC/TD. The data to be shared should be finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey between the requesting country and SEAFDEC. Such basic data will be kept confidential and to be used only for the SEAFDEC regional database and for future regional analysis; and
- 5) Preliminary cruise report including comments on the immediate impacts of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 as well as the results of the national research program should be submitted to SEAFDEC/TD within six months after the cruise.

PROPOSAL ON THE REVISION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATING CENTERS FOR SEAFDEC

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 29 March 2007, the SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore, *Dr. Chua Sin Bin* proposed to the SEAFDEC Council for the inclusion of six items under Agenda 8.1 (Following up on the Responsibility on Departments of the Host Countries and Minimum Regular Contribution) of the 39th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on 4-7 April 2007 in Cambodia. These items were:

- (1) Proposal on the Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC
- (2) Review of the Future Operation of SEAFDEC
 - Hosting of Departments
 - Minimum Regular Contribution
- (3) Review of the original Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC
- (4) Review of SEAFDEC Membership
- (5) Review of the role and Terms of Reference of the SEAFDEC Council
- (6) Review of the Terms of Reference of the Program Committee and the function of the Program Committee Meeting

2. In his proposal, Dr. Chua justified that this action was anchored on the letter from the SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan informing the SEAFDEC Council of Japan's decision to cease its annual regular contribution to SEAFDEC through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Singapore therefore saw that such a situation put SEAFDEC at a crossroad where it has become necessary to deliberate on how to further strengthen SEAFDEC and move it forward to meet the future challenges in fisheries development in Southeast Asia in light of global changes.

3. Together with the abovementioned proposal of the Council Director for Singapore was a copy of the "Proposal on the Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC", shown here as *Appendix 1*.

4. During the 39th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2007, only item (1) was discussed and the Council Director for Singapore explained that the proposed establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC is an additional mechanism to formalize linkages between SEAFDEC and institutions within and outside the SEAFDEC membership, and would complement the work of SEAFDEC and strengthen the scope and capabilities of SEAFDEC in the implementation of its mandate in tropical fisheries development. He added that the Collaborating Centres would operate independently both financially and operationally from SEAFDEC, although the Centres will implement projects and activities for SEAFDEC and the SEAFDEC Member Countries through the SEAFDEC regional program mechanism with funding from SEAFDEC and other sources (*Para 43, Report of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, 3-7 April 2007*).

5. The SEAFDEC Council during that Meeting approved the proposal and endorsed the Post-harvest Centre of Singapore as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, and noted that other institutes could also be considered as Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC in the future (*Para 44, Report of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, 3-7 April 2007*).

6. In this regard, the Council requested the Secretariat to develop the guidelines in consultation with Singapore, for the collaborative arrangement between SEAFDEC and the Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC. The guidelines would be circulated to all the National Coordinators, for discussion during the forthcoming Program Committee Meeting (*Para 45, Report of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, 3-7 April 2007*).

7. During the said Meeting in 2007, the SEAFDEC Council also endorsed the “Guidelines for SEAFDEC Collaborative Arrangements” (*Para 46, Report of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, 3-7 April 2007*).

8. However, there was no discussion on the issue until the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2012 in Myanmar when the Council requested for clarification on the establishment of the Collaborating Centre for Post-Harvest Technology in Singapore. In response, the Council Director for Singapore explained that during its 39th Meeting in 2007, the SEAFDEC Council approved to transform the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) of SEAFDEC into the Collaborating Centre for Post-Harvest Technology. As a Collaborating Centre, it has taken over the activities of MFRD and has been working independently both financially and operationally, especially that it being fully funded by the Government of Singapore (*Para 83, Report of the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, 2-6 April 2012*).

9. He also informed the Council that Singapore had developed the draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC, and communicated with the SEAFDEC Secretariat in 2007 to circulate the draft Guidelines and seek consideration and approval from the Council (*Para 83, Report of the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, 2-6 April 2012*).

II. ACTION BY SEAFDEC SECRETARIAT

10. While a turn-over of officers occurred at the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, the request for circulation of the said draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC prepared by Singapore to the Member Countries might have been overlooked due to communication constraints.

11. Therefore, immediately after the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2012, the SEAFDEC Secretariat tried to retrieve the aforesaid draft Guidelines (*Appendix 2*) which was drafted by Singapore on 4 November 2007, and circulated the said draft Guidelines to the Member Countries to seek their views on the Guidelines for discussion during the 35th Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC in November 2012. The views of the Member Countries appear in *Appendix 3*.

12. The suggestions of Brunei Darussalam and Japan on the abovementioned draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC as expressed in their views regarding the said draft Guidelines, were focused on the approved Guidelines for SEAFDEC Collaborative Arrangements (*Appendix 4*) which should be taken into consideration for possible incorporation into the revised draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC.

III. ACTION OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

13. While supporting in principle the draft Guidelines as elaborated by Singapore, the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its 35th Meeting in November 2012 agreed that certain areas where modifications could be made should be considered, taking into account the Guidelines for SEAFDEC Collaborative Arrangements. The modifications proposed by the Program Committee could include (*Para 118, Report of the 35th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 26-28 November 2012*):

- Para 13 “... Collaborating Centre would decide on which SEAFDEC programs it would be able to implement for the year, based on its financial and manpower resources, and may exercise the option of not executing all programs that have been decided by the Council of SEAFDEC for that particular Collaborating Centre.” To be modified taking into consideration certain commitment of the Collaborating Center in the implementation of SEAFDEC programs.
- Paragraph 14 ...(to be reconsidered)
- Paragraph 15 ...(to be reconsidered)

- Paragraph 18 Article 2 “...” To be reconsidered as this does not coincide with the existing TOR of the Program Committee, and there is no Expert Advisory Committee in the SEAFDEC mechanism.

14. In this regard, the Program Committee requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to accommodate the abovementioned comments and to come up with a revised draft for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council (*Para 119, Report of the 35th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 26-28 November 2012*).

15. Meanwhile, the main difference between the roles of “Collaborating Partners” in the Guidelines for SEAFDEC Collaborative Arrangements with those under the “SEAFDEC Collaborating Centres” was identified where the Program Committee was informed that when SEAFDEC enters into a formal arrangement with a certain organization as a collaborating partner, such organization does not get involved in the internal policy matters of SEAFDEC. However, as indicated in Item 9 of the Guidelines for Establishment of SEAFDEC Collaborating Centres, a SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre will “form part of an inter-institutional collaborative network of SEAFDEC to support its programme at the country, inter-country, regional, inter-regional and global levels, as appropriate, with the approval of the Council of SEAFDEC” (*Para 120, Report of the 35th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 26-28 November 2012*).

IV. PROPOSED DRAFT OF REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATING CENTER FOR SEAFDEC

16. The Proposed Draft Revised Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC was referred back to the SEAFDEC National Coordinators in January 2013. The summary of their comments are shown in **Table 1**.

17. The Draft Guidelines was also submitted to the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee (by *ad referendum*), to take heed of the view of the Government of Japan, viz: “*Japan suggests that SEAFDEC will address the draft Guidelines at the Next Council Meeting along with the result of the SEAFDEC review process, considering the current situation of the co-operative works with other organizations*”.

18. Taking into consideration the abovementioned issues and concerns, the SEAFDEC Secretariat is proposing the draft revised Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC as shown in **Table 2** and **Appendix 5**, for the consideration of the SEAFDEC Council. However, recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee are not included in the revised version of the draft Guidelines, as their comments are incorporated in the final Report of the Third SEAFDEC Review which was finalized during their Second Meeting on 6-8 March 2013.

V. REQUIRED CONSIDERTION BY THE COUNCIL

The council is requested to take note of the progress of the drafting of the revised Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC. Meanwhile, the Council is also requested to provide policy advise for further action by the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

Proposal on the Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Over the last 40 years, SEAFDEC has grown as an organization and has become recognized internationally for our contributions towards tropical fisheries development in Southeast Asia. Through capacity building and technology transfer from Japan, SEAFDEC member countries have also established technical expertise in the various fields of fisheries development.
- 1.2 SEAFDEC is at a crossroad with changes in the funding mechanism. We should approach the impending changes as an opportunity to reinvigorate ourselves as a strong regional fisheries organization. We should tap on our resident expertise in various fields of fisheries as well as those in developed countries outside SEAFDEC membership to further expand and strengthen our scope and capabilities.

2 COLLABORATING CENTRES

- 2.1 In this regard, Singapore is proposing that SEAFDEC identifies and establishes a mechanism to formalize linkages to institutions within and outside SEAFDEC membership, specializing in specific fields of fisheries to be designated as Collaborating Centres of SEAFDEC in those areas of expertise identified. This additional avenue for collaboration will go a long way to harness the expertise and experience of leading fisheries establishments to the betterment of SEAFDEC members. This will complement the work of SEAFDEC Departments.

3 TERMS OF REFERENCES OF COLLABORATING CENTRES

The Collaborating Centres should:

- 3.1 Be totally independent in its operations, both financially and operationally from SEAFDEC.
- 3.2 Be renown for the field of fisheries that they are being offered.
- 3.3 Have resident staff expertise in the specified field and supporting facilities to conduct projects for SEAFDEC in the specified field.
- 3.4 Offer to conduct or implement projects and activities in its field of expertise for SEAFDEC and SEAFDEC member countries through SEAFDEC's regional programmes based on funding from SEAFDEC or other funding sources.
- 3.5 All SEAFDEC members and institutions outside of SEAFDEC membership may offer their institutions to be designated as Collaborating Centres to SEAFDEC. Some examples of institutions specializing in various fisheries fields that could be considered as collaborating centres are given in the Appendix attached.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 With the expansion of the expertise through the involvement of various collaborating centres, the scope of expertise and the quality and depth could be widened and deepened to further strengthen and transform SEAFDEC to a truly world-class regional/international organization specializing in tropical fisheries and technology.

Country	Name of Institute	Areas of Expertise
Australia	Australian Maritime College	Seafood safety, on-board handling, fishing gear technology, training of fishermen, etc.
Canada	Canadian Institute of Fisheries Technology, DalTech, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia	Fish and food processing, food chemistry, food analysis, marine oils, seafood safety
Japan	Japan Food Research Laboratories, Tokyo or Osaka Branch	Testing capabilities in seafood safety parameters
	Japan Frozen Foods Inspection Corporation, 2-12-7 Shibadamon, Minato-ku, Tokyo (105)	Inspection and testing of frozen seafood
	National Food Research Institute, 2-1-2 Kannondai, Tsukuba 305-8642, Tsukuba City	Food packaging, food processing and preservation, food chemistry, marine biochemistry
	National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, 2-12-4 Fukuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 236	Market analysis, fisheries economy, marine biochemistry, food processing and preservation, food packaging
	Tokyo University of Fisheries, 4-5-7 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108	Food science and technology
Korea	Korea Food Research Institute, San46-1, Baekhyun-dong, Bundang-gu, Sungnam-si, Gyeonggi-do 463-746	Marine resource processing, product development, distribution, quality and safety control of fishery processed foods, quality improvement and technical research in traditional fishery foods
Malaysia	Government Department/Division responsible for turtle conservation	Turtle conservation
Singapore	Post-harvest Centre, AVA	Fisheries post-harvest technology
Thailand	Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Fisheries (DOF)	Inland fisheries development and management
	Fisheries Technology Development Division	Fish processing, traditional fish products processing
	Fish Inspection and Quality Control Division, DOF	Seafood testing capabilities

GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEAFDEC COLLABORATING CENTRES**I. BACKGROUND**

1. SEAFDEC was established in 1967, and operated with an organizational structure comprising a Secretariat and four technical Departments, namely Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Training Department (TD). Each Department specialised in various fields of fisheries development. The Departments are hosted by member countries, viz., AQD by Philippines, MFRD by Singapore, MFRDMD by Malaysia, and TD by Thailand. Over the years, these Departments have developed regional expertise in their specific fields – AQD in Aquaculture, MFRD in Fisheries Post-harvest Practices, MFRDMD in Fisheries Resource Development and Management, and TD in Fisheries Training on the Use of Modern Fisheries Technology. Until 31 December 2006, the operations of the Departments were based of funding from Japan and the hosting governments. Funding from Japan was in the form of annual contributions.

2. In May 2006, the SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan informed fellow SEAFDEC Council Directors that the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs would cease to provide the annual regular contribution to SEAFDEC from 1 January 2007, and requested that:

- (a) host countries assume full financial responsibility for its Department; and
- (b) each member country secures Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) similar to membership fees, to SEAFDEC for 2007 and beyond. The formula used and adopted by the Council was based mainly on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the member countries and other criteria such as the size of the fisheries, whether the member country is a host country, etc.

3. At the 39th Meeting of the Council Directors of SEAFDEC, the Council approved Singapore's proposal to allow the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) to be the SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre for implementing SEAFDEC programmes in fisheries post-harvest technology.

4. At the same meeting, the Council also requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat in consultation with Singapore to draft a Guidelines on the establishment of SEAFDEC Collaborating Centres.

5. This draft guideline was prepared by Singapore and submitted to SEAFDEC Secretariat in 2007. It identified and establishes a mechanism for formalizing and adopting institutions in and outside SEAFDEC membership, specializing in certain fields of Fisheries as Collaborating Centres of SEAFDEC.

6. This paper describes such a Guideline, elaborating on the scope of Collaborating Centres, Terms of Reference for such a Centre, criteria for selection, and mechanism for adopting centres as Collaborating Centres.

7. The first use of national institutions as collaborating centres started in 1947 as World health Organization (WHO) was established and National Laboratories were first designated as reference centres for specific purposes. These reference centres became WHO collaborating centres as early as 1949 when WHO laid down the policy "that research in the field of health is best advanced by assessing, coordinating and making use of activities of existing institutions." The OIE is another international organization that taps on the strength of their collaborating centres.

II. COLLABORATING CENTRES

Scope

8. Collaborating Centres are therefore centres of expertise in a specific designated sphere of competence relating to the management of a particular sector of industry, providing their expertise to an organization that the countries operating these centres are members of. In the case of Singapore's Collaborating Centre for SEAFDEC, the specific designated sphere of competence is Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology, the particular sector of industry is Fisheries in Southeast Asia, and the organization is SEAFDEC.

9. A SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre will therefore form part of an inter-institutional collaborative network of SEAFDEC to support its programme at the country, inter-country, regional, inter-regional and global levels, as appropriate, with the approval of the Council of SEAFDEC.

Terms of Reference

10. The following Terms of Reference (TOR) shall apply for a Collaborating Centre of SEAFDEC:

- To serve as a centre of research, expertise and dissemination of research and development programmes within its sphere of competence for member countries of SEAFDEC;
- To operate independently from SEAFDEC, both financially and administratively, and have such operations solely governed by the Government of the nominating country; and
- To propose or develop any research and development activities which will enhance sustainable tropical fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region for the consideration of the Council of SEAFDEC.

11. Serving as a centre of research and expertise, the Collaborating Centre would provide facilities to personnel of member countries of SEAFDEC for attachments to undertake studies on specific projects at the Collaborating Centre and advice member countries on issues related to the competence of the Collaborating Centre, with the cost of both services being borne by the member countries concerned.

12. The mechanism of dissemination of research and development programmes by the Collaborating Centre would include the following and whether the cost of such dissemination would be borne by the recipients would be decided by the Collaborating Centre on a case-by-case basis:

- Training of personnel from Member Countries of SEAFDEC;
- Publications of scientific findings and technologies developed;
- Workshops and seminars on specific topics which the Collaborating Centre has expertise in advice to Member Countries of SEAFDEC on the specified field of expertise.

13. Although operating independently from SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Centre would report its activities and plans at SEAFDEC's annual Program Committee Meetings and Council Directors Meetings and any other appropriate forums as organized by SEAFDEC. However, the Collaborating Centre would decide on which SEAFDEC programmes it would be able to implement for the year, based on its financial and manpower resources, and may exercise the option of not executing all programmes that have been decided by the Council of SEAFDEC for that particular Collaborating Centre.

14. In proposing or developing research and development activities for member countries of SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Centre would bear in mind the needs of the member countries in particular and the Southeast Asian region in general, so that the technologies resulting from such research and development studies would be applicable and practical to these countries.

15. The Government or its agency operating the Collaborating Centre and/or the Council of SEAFDEC may decide to withdraw the centre as a Collaborating Centre for SEAFDEC, and under such situation, the former must serve 3 months notice to the Council of SEAFDEC of such an intent, and vice-versa, whereby a formal acceptance and/or notification of the withdrawal would be issued by the Council of SEAFDEC.

Criteria for selection

16. As a rule, SEAFDEC Collaborating Centres must be selected from centres, which could be institutions, laboratories and establishments, that are renown and specialized in fields that are relevant and can contribute to the implementation of SEAFDEC programme activities. They must fulfil one or several essential functions in support of SEAFDEC programmes and key priorities, as identified by the Council of SEAFDEC. These centres need to be national centres operated by Governments of member countries of SEAFDEC or countries that are non-members of SEAFDEC, and the Government concerned or its agency must offer the centre to SEAFDEC as a Collaborating Centre under the TOR outlined above.

17. Within this context, the criteria to be applied in selecting a centre for designation as a SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre are:

- The scientific and technical standing of the centre concerned at the national and international levels, with preference to its recent record of achievements, its ongoing activities, expertise of its staff, and facilities available to SEAFDEC member countries;
- The financial standing of the centre vis-à-vis support to SEAFDEC and member countries, in terms of carrying out the programmes of SEAFDEC;
- The network which the centre has developed with other institutions in the country as well as at the inter-country, regional and global levels; and
- The technical and geographical relevance of the centre and its activities to SEAFDEC's mandate and program priorities.

Mechanism for adoption

18. The following internal rules are suggested for incorporation in SEAFDEC's operating guidelines for adoption of Collaborating Centres:

Article 1

Applications for a centre to be a Collaborating Centre of SEAFDEC shall be submitted to the Council of SEAFDEC through the Secretary General of SEAFDEC by the Council Director of a Member Country or Director General of Fisheries (or its equivalent) of a non-member Country to which the centre belongs. The Secretary General will in turn inform the applicant of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of a SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre.

Article 2

Applications received shall be presented to the Council of SEAFDEC, after consultation with the appropriate Expert Advisory Committee and/or Program Committee at its annual meetings. Applications shall be selected solely on the basis of scientific and technical competence of the candidate centre and its acceptance to meet the TOR outlined.

Article 3

After approval by the Council of SEAFDEC, the Secretary General of SEAFDEC shall notify the applicant through a letter of notification of the decision of the Council of SEAFDEC.

Article 4

Notification shall entitle the Centre to use the name of "SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre" and the use of SEAFDEC logo on all documents issued by the Centre in its official capacity in executing SEAFDEC programmes.

Article 5

The rights conferred by Article 4 shall require full compliance by the Collaborating Centre with its mandate, within the limits of facilities and manpower resources available, and provision of a brief annual report of its activities and plans at the end of each calendar year of its mandate at the Program Committee Meeting and SEAFDEC Council Meeting. This report will be distributed to all Member Countries.

Article 6

The designation “Collaborating Centre” shall be valid for four years, at the end of which the Secretary General may propose to the Council of SEAFDEC that it be renewed for the same or shorter periods, if warranted by programme requirements and results of evaluation. Either party may revoke this designation at any time, serving 3 months notice.

Article 7

The Director of the Collaborating Centre and his alternative will be members of SEAFDEC’s Program Committee and are to attend all Program Committee Meetings organized by SEAFDEC to discuss the research and development activities and plans of the Centre in relation to the programmes of SEAFDEC.

Article 8

The Director of the Collaborating Centre and his alternative shall attend all SEAFDEC Council Meetings representing its Collaborating Centre, and present the activities the Centre has conducted during the year and plans of future activities for the following year.

19. The Expert Advisory Committee and/or Program Committee shall provide the Council of SEAFDEC with its evaluation on the degree that the centre can meet the criteria outlined in Para. 17, and the following assessment:

- a. The impact of the service that the centre can make as a Collaborating Centre to SEAFDEC programmes and development, both immediate and in the long term;
- b. The political risk, if any, in adopting the centre as a Collaborating Centre; and
- c. The alternatives of not accepting the centre’s application to serve as a Collaborating Centre.

20. Designation must be by agreement with the administrative head of the centre after consultation with national authorities.

III. Conclusion

21. Singapore’s proposal to re-designate MFRD to a Collaborating Centre that is nationally operated has been approved by Council Directors at their 39th SEAFDEC Council Meetings. A guideline on the scope, Terms of Reference (TOR), selection criteria, and mechanism for adoption of Collaborating Centres has been drafted.

Date drafted: 4th November 2007

Drafted by: Singapore

VIEWS OF THE SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES ON THE DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATING CENTRES

With reference to paragraph 83 of the Report of the 44th Meeting of Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (44CM) held from 2-6 April 2012, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, the Council Director for Singapore informed the Council on the development of the draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC since 2007, and meantime asked the SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate the Guidelines to all Member Countries for comments. However, due to unforeseen circumstances brought about by the changing of responsible persons at the SEAFDEC Secretariat, the request then was not responded to. In this regard, the draft Guidelines had been circulated for comments of all SEAFDEC Member Countries after the 44CM. Eight countries out of ten excluding Singapore provided their feedbacks on the draft, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The following are the views of the Member Countries on the draft Guidelines:

Brunei Darussalam: The guidelines are only relevant for any institutions to collaborate with SEAFDEC. However if SEAFDEC will collaborate with any particular institution, paragraph 13 will be irrelevant and the paragraph had to be amended accordingly to support the collaboration.

Japan: SEAFDEC currently has some cooperative arrangements with other organizations in member/non-member countries (*e.g.* Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) and Hokkaido University etc., in Japan). These arrangements are quite useful for SEAFDEC, allowing the staff to participate in training programs, promoting academic exchange of information and other meaningful activities.

On the other hand, this draft Guidelines were prepared in 2007. In order to put this issue forward, it would be necessary for SEAFDEC to see any differences between the above-mentioned arrangements and “Collaborating Centre” and that the output from 3rd Review Committee, which is examining whole activities of SEAFDEC, is important to discuss on the idea of the Guidelines.

Therefore, Japan suggests that SEAFDEC will address the draft Guidelines at the next Council Meeting along with the result of SEAFDEC review process, considering the current situation of co-operative works with other organizations.

Lao PDR: No objection on the draft Guidelines

Malaysia: No comment on the proposed Guidelines

Myanmar: the conditions mentioned in the Guidelines are acceptable and no further comment.

The Philippines: Support the approval of the draft Guidelines

Thailand: Agreed with the draft Guidelines

Vietnam: Agreed with the draft Guidelines

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Committee is invited to discuss the terms of reference, criteria for selection and mechanism for adoption of the Collaborating Centres as mentioned in the draft Guidelines. The Committee is also requested to provide guidance on the ways and means of enhancing the efforts of SEAFDEC to explore more technical cooperation with relevant agencies ensuring that highest benefit could be obtained by the Member Countries. The agreed recommendations of the Committee will be, as appropriate, submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the Council for consideration and approval.

GUIDELINES FOR SEAFDEC COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) through the Training Department (TD) in Thailand, Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) in Singapore, Aquaculture Department (AQD) in the Philippines and Marine Fishery Resource Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) in Malaysia, for almost 40 years, has attained major accomplishments in fisheries development in the region. Since its establishment, SEAFDEC has contributed to the human resources development in fisheries and fishing industries as well as in food processing and aquaculture.

For the achievements it has attained, SEAFDEC acknowledged the technical and financial support coming mainly from the Government of Japan and from various donor governments, international and regional agencies and organizations, and other donors as well as its collaborators. Without their support and assistance, SEAFDEC may not have achieved its mandates in fisheries development.

At present, SEAFDEC is embarking on a very important task of developing technologies on sustainable and responsible fisheries following the Resolution and Plan of Action of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security: Fish for the People, held in November 2001.

As the direction of fisheries development in general and SEAFDEC in particular, has recently been refocused and in view of the reduction of SEAFDEC contributions from the Member Countries especially from the Government of Japan, the SEAFDEC Secretariat therefore proposes these guidelines for collaborative arrangements. It is envisioned that these guidelines will help SEAFDEC in facilitating negotiations with collaborating entities.

II. SEAFDEC COLLABORATION POLICIES

As indicated in the Agreement Establishing the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, SEAFDEC can cooperate with governments and organizations external to the Center as well as with other organizations. The Agreement also stipulated that SEAFDEC may receive assistance from governments and organizations, provided that no condition contrary to the purpose of the Center is attached to such assistance.

According to the Agreement, the approval of the Council should be sought before the Secretary-General enters into any terms of agreement or arrangements. In case of urgent need for the implementation of a collaborative project, the proposed formal arrangement should be circulated to the Council for consideration and approval.

At the Department level, the Administrative Regulations of SEAFDEC specifies that the Department Chiefs may enter into agreements or arrangements with governments and organizations external to the Center as well as with other international organizations for and on behalf of their respective Departments as authorized by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. The Administrative Regulations further specifies that the Department Chiefs may seek financial and technical support from donor governments and agencies for programs and activities of their respective Departments, in consultation with the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC.

Moreover, as the governing body of SEAFDEC, the SEAFDEC Council has always encouraged SEAFDEC to strengthen its linkage with agencies, universities and other organizations working on fisheries development in the region. For this purpose, the responsibilities of the SEAFDEC Secretariat have been revised to include “strengthening the relationships between the Center and non-

member governments and regional/international organizations interested in fisheries development in the region”.

Although there are general provisions in the Agreement as well as the Administrative Regulations allowing collaboration with external institutions and donor agencies, the criteria for choosing prospective collaboration are not very clear. However, there are directives of the Council that relate to prospective collaboration, such as the following:

The Council at its 37th Meeting indicated that: *“In establishing future collaborative arrangements, the Secretariat should ensure that a supporting work plan will be attached to ensure benefits to the programs of activities and the Member Countries, and also requested the Secretariat to report the results of the cooperation after their completion”.*

At the 38th Meeting of the Council, the Secretariat was requested to formulate the guidelines for enhancing technical cooperation and arrangements for non-traditional sources of funds taking into consideration the following:

- Priority and agenda of donors consistent or to coincide with the mandate, objectives and priorities of SEAFDEC;
- Close consultation between the Departments, the Member Countries and the Secretariat; and
- Inclusion of agency and personnel costs into the budget planning.

Therefore, these proposed working guidelines shall serve as reminders on the mode and process of collaboration and also facilitate in the negotiations.

III. OBJECTIVES

Collaborative arrangements should be strengthened and sustained in order to attain compatibility and complementary of activities in fisheries development. It is a means to minimize duplication of efforts, and optimizing the technical, manpower and financial resources of parties concerned. In order to promote productive collaboration in sustainable fisheries development, the Secretariat proposes some working guidelines for use within SEAFDEC.

This shall also serve as means to facilitate the process whereby the Secretariat and the Departments can enter into collaborative efforts with donors, other organizations and agencies, and other interested parties, whose objectives complement with those of SEAFDEC. The guidelines are also intended to facilitate cooperation in order for SEAFDEC to gear towards sustainable development for poverty alleviation, enhancing socio-economic well-being of the fishermen, and providing food security in the region.

IV. ESTABLISHING COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Based on SEAFDEC policies, the Secretariat and Departments shall enter into agreements or arrangements with donors, other organizations or agencies on the basis of effective complementation of resources. The proposed arrangement could initiate from either of the two parties. The proposal may be formulated by SEAFDEC (Secretariat/Departments) for submission to donors, other organizations or agencies, or vice versa.

Specifically, when the proposal is initiated by SEAFDEC, it should take into consideration the mandate and objective of the proposed donor organizations and agencies while keeping the donor organizations and agencies informed on the mandate and functions of SEAFDEC. In other words, the proposal should also satisfy the requirements of the donors and those of SEAFDEC. In case the proposal is submitted by collaborating agencies to SEAFDEC, it should be evaluated with respect to the needs, capability and resource availability of SEAFDEC (Secretariat/ Departments) and the requesting collaborating agency. In any case, the proposed arrangements should have the following guiding principles:

- 1) the mandate and functions of both parties should be taken into consideration in the preparation of the project proposal;
- 2) the objectives of the proposal should complement and not duplicate those of SEAFDEC's;
- 3) the cooperation shall be participatory in nature, with joint sharing of responsibilities and costs, with SEAFDEC bearing the counterpart non-cash costs in terms of buildings, structures, technology and expertise;
- 4) the expected output of the proposed cooperation should contribute to the effort of SEAFDEC in achieving its goals;
- 5) the program of activities of the cooperation should be within the priority areas of SEAFDEC's plans and programs; and
- 6) the implementation of the activities under the cooperation should recognize the political, socio-cultural, and institutional considerations of the parties concerned and also of the countries hosting such parties.

V. PROCEDURES FOR COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

This guidelines aim to encourage the Secretariat and Departments to seek funds and collaborations with donors agencies and other organizations, therefore the emphasis will placed on two types of collaborations :

- 1) Collaborative Arrangements or Agreements among the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments with donor organizations and agencies that have undergone pre-negotiations through formal communications; and
- 2) Collaborative Arrangements among the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments with non-member governments, other international and regional organizations that are exploratory in nature with prospective donor agencies;

For collaborative arrangements among the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments with donor organizations and agencies that have undergone pre-negotiation or communications, the following procedures, in their order, are recommended:

- 1) Submission of the proposed Collaborative Arrangement or Agreement with clearly indicating the scope and objective of the cooperation, responsibilities and accountabilities of the parties concerned as well as the work plan, to the SEAFDEC Council for their consideration at its annual meetings or circulation;
- 2) Upon approval, the Secretariat shall facilitate the signing of Collaborative Arrangement or Agreement by the parties concerned with the Secretary-General signing for and on behalf of SEAFDEC and the Department(s) concerned;
- 3) The Secretariat and Department(s) concerned coordinate and develop the details of the activities of the project and submit this to the Program Committee for review and possible endorsement to the SEAFDEC Council;
- 4) Submission of the program activities of the project for consideration of the Council;
- 5) Upon approval by the Council, the Secretariat takes note and makes sure that the Department(s) concerned coordinates the implementation of the project;
- 6) The Department(s) concerned monitors the progress of implementation of the project and reports problems encountered, whether technical or financial, to the Secretariat which shall then refer the matter to the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the SEAFDEC Council; and
- 7) The results of the project will be officially reported to the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the SEAFDEC Council by the Department(s) concerned.

For Proposed Collaborative Arrangements among the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments with non-member governments, other international and regional organizations that are exploratory in nature with prospective donor agencies, the following procedures, in their order, are recommended:

- 1) Submission of the proposed collaborative arrangement, clearly indicating the scope and objective of the cooperation, responsibilities and accountabilities of the parties concerned to the SEAFDEC Council for their consideration at its annual meetings or by circulation;

- 2) Upon approval by the Council, the SEAFDEC Secretariat or Departments concerned organize SEAFDEC consultation meeting(s) with collaborative partner to discuss the details of the project proposed under the collaboration, and to delineate responsibilities including financial arrangements;
- 3) Upon reaching certain agreements during the consultation meeting(s), the SEAFDEC Secretariat or Departments concerned and collaborative partner prepares the project proposal(s) in consultation with the prospective donor agencies, and submit the project proposal(s) with the presence of collaborative partner and donor agencies (if possible) to the Program Committee for review and possible endorsement to the SEAFDEC Council;
- 4) Submission of the proposed collaborative project for consideration of the Council ;
- 5) Upon approval by the Council, the Secretariat shall facilitate the signing of Collaborative Arrangement or Agreement by the parties concerned with the Secretary-General signing for and on behalf of SEAFDEC and the Department(s);
- 6) After signing by the Secretary-General, the Secretariat takes note of such project and makes sure that the Department(s) concerned coordinates the implementation of the project;
- 7) The Department(s) concerned monitors the progress of implementation of the project and reports problems encountered, whether technical or financial, to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the donor agencies concerned, which the Secretariat shall then refer the matter to the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the SEAFDEC Council; and
- 8) The results of the project will be officially reported to the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the SEAFDEC Council by the Department(s) concerned, as well as to the donor agencies.

VI. CONCLUSION

Collaborative Arrangements will serve as means for SEAFDEC to facilitate negotiations and entry into collaboration with other organizations. It is also a means to minimize duplication of efforts and optimizing technical and financial resources. The collaborative arrangements will not only harmonize the fisheries development activities in the region, but also enhance the capabilities of SEAFDEC personnel and fisheries officers in the region through a staff exchange program. Collaborative Arrangements are necessary for SEAFDEC as means to maximize restrictions resulting from the drastic reduction of the regular contributions from its Member Countries. These proposed guidelines will therefore serve as working mechanism for collaboration and facilitate the negotiations.

Table 1 of Annex 24

Comments from National Coordinators on the draft revised Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC (as of 25 March 2013)

Country/Reference	Comments	Proposed Revision by Secretariat
<p>Japan Letter of 8 February 2013</p>	<p>On Article 9: In case of allocating JTF to collaborating center, the annual plan and budget should be stipulated in the “Letter of Intent” between donor (SEAFDEC) and collaborating center year by year.</p>	<p>Article 9. Financial assistance could be provided by a donor to a Collaborating Center through the respective Lead SEAFDEC Department that coordinates the programs of the Collaborating Centers, for certain activities specified by the donors and the Collaborating Center. Such arrangement <u>including the annual plan and budget should be stipulated</u> in a separate Letter of Intent between the donor (SEAFDEC) through the concerned SEAFDEC Lead Department and the Collaborating Centers on a <u>year-by-year basis</u>.</p>
	<p>On Article 10: Insert the sentence: If part of the proposed programs is funded to support by donors in accordance with Article 9, the outlines of support should also be reported. Rationale: To keep transparency on collaborating centers’ programs and make the Member Countries aware of such collaboration.</p>	<p>Article 10. Reports on the progress of the R&D activities conducted by the Collaborating Centers during a specified calendar year as well as activities proposed for the following year should be reported to the SEAFDEC Program Committee or SEAFDEC Council during their respective annual meetings, by the concerned SEAFDEC Lead Department for and on behalf of specific Collaborating Center. <u>If part of the proposed programs is funded through support by donors in accordance with Article 9, the outlines of support should also be reported to SEAFDEC annual meetings.</u></p>
<p>Malaysia Letter Prk.ML.S. 09/19njLDS 57(7), 8 February 2013</p>	<p>On Para 4: clarification on “... at the country, inter-country, regional, sub-regional, inter-regional, and global levels ...”</p>	<p>4. A Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC would form part of the existing collaborative mechanism of SEAFDEC and capable of supporting the priority programs and activities of SEAFDEC at the country, inter-country, regional, sub-regional, and inter-regional levels, as appropriate, upon approval by the SEAFDEC Council.</p>
	<p>On Para 11: Proposed to drop this para as this can be elaborated in the appropriate Regulations of SEAFDEC for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC. The percentage (i.e. 10-12%) should be left open and subject to mutual agreement on case by case basis. Clarification on “as with the agencies ...”</p>	<p>11. <i>(if retained)</i> The Collaborating Center should understand and accept that its role in SEAFDEC is participatory in nature, and thus, should recognize the need for joint sharing of responsibilities and costs. As with other agencies <u>and organizations collaborating with SEAFDEC through collaborative arrangements, a pre-agreed amount in the total budget for R&D of the Collaborating Center, could be included and provided to SEAFDEC on case-by-case basis,</u> to cover the administrative costs for coordinating such Center.</p>

Country/Reference	Comments	Proposed Revision by Secretariat
<p>Malaysia Letter Prk.ML.S. 09/19njLDS 57(7), 8 February 2013</p>	<p>On Para 12: In order to allow flexibility, report be either reported to PCM or SEAFDEC Council (“and” change to “or” to make it in line with Article 10)</p> <p>On Para 17 Article 6: report should only be confined to activities and plans under the collaborative mechanism.</p>	<p>12. Although operating independently from SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Center should report its activities and plans during the annual meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee <u>or</u> the SEAFDEC Council, and in any appropriate fora organized by SEAFDEC. The status of the participation of representatives from Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC in such meetings should be considered as “observer” in which case the expenses incurred by the concerned representatives shall be borne by the said Collaborating Centers.</p> <p>Article 6. The Collaborating Center shall provide brief annual reports of its activities and plans <u>under the collaborative mechanism</u>, at the end of each calendar year to SEAFDEC for distribution to the SEAFDEC Member Countries during the annual meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and endorsement to the SEAFDEC Council.</p>
<p>Singapore AVA 09.10.001.0001 14 February 2013</p>	<p>The Programme Committee had in principle supported the Draft Guidelines as tabled for discussion and only requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to accommodate comments from Committee Members with regard to the four Paragraphs in the Draft Guidelines, namely Para 13, Para 14, Para 15, and Para 18 Article 2.</p>	
<p>Indonesia B.372/ST.F/KS.210/11/2012, 15 February 2013</p>	<p>The Draft Guidelines should also cover the definition of rights and obligations for Collaborating Centers compared to the operation of Departments of SEAFDEC. This is to clarify the differences between Collaborative-type and Department-type under the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC.</p>	
<p>Myanmar Ngala (1129) 18 February 2013</p>	<p>No specific comments</p>	
<p>Brunei Darussalam Ikan/60 28 February 2013</p>	<p>Para 14 and Para 15 has not been revised accordingly as highlighted in 35 PCM Meeting Report</p>	<p><i>Secretariat comments:</i> refer to the results of the benchmarking between the Provisions in Draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC prepared by Singapore on 4 November 2007 with that of the draft Revised Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC made by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in January 2013, as shown below:</p>
<p>Philippines Letter of 8 March 2013</p>	<p>Philippines concurred with the Draft Revised Guidelines.</p>	

Table 2 of Annex 24

Summary of Benchmarking of Draft Revised Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC

Provisions in Draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC prepared by Singapore on 4 November 2007	Provisions in draft Revised Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC by SEAFDEC Secretariat in January 2013	Remarks
<p>Para 13: Although operating independently from SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Centre would report its activities and plans at SEAFDEC's annual Program Committee Meetings and Council Directors Meetings and any other appropriate forums as organised by SEAFDEC. <i>However, the Collaborating Centre would decide on which SEAFDEC programmes it would be able to implement for the year, based on its financial and manpower resources, and may exercise the option of not executing all programmes that have been decided by the Council of SEAFDEC for that particular Collaborating Centre.</i></p>	<p>New Para 9. Based on the Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments, the Collaborating Center would decide on which SEAFDEC programs it would be able to implement in consultation with the SEAFDEC Secretariat, taking into consideration its available resources. In case the Collaborating Center is unable to execute the programs that have been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council, it should communicate immediately within 30 days, with the SEAFDEC Council through the SEAFDEC Secretariat.</p>	<p>Based on the approved Guidelines on SEAFDEC Collaborative Arrangements, and relevant SEAFDEC policy frameworks, Collaborating Center should respect the decision of the SEAFDEC Council</p>
<p>Para 14: In proposing or developing research and development activities for member countries of SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Centre would bear in mind the needs of the member countries in particular and the Southeast Asian region in general, so that the technologies resulting from such research and development studies would be applicable and practical to these countries.</p>	<p><i>Terms of Reference (bullet 5)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the planning of its R&D activities, a Collaborating Center shall take into consideration the mandate of SEAFDEC as well as the Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts with respect to their respective programs and activities. 	<p>Considering the approved Guidelines on SEAFDEC Collaborative Arrangements, and relevant SEAFDEC policy frameworks</p>
<p>Para 14: In proposing or developing research and development activities for member countries of SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Centre would bear in mind the needs of the member countries in particular and the Southeast Asian region in general, so that the technologies resulting from such research and development studies would be applicable and practical to these countries.</p>	<p>New Para 8. In proposing or developing R&D activities for the SEAFDEC Member Countries, the Collaborating Center should consult with the SEAFDEC Council through the SEAFDEC Secretariat to ensure that the needs of the Member Countries in particular and the Southeast Asian region in general, are taken into consideration so that the technologies resulting from such R&D activities would be relevant and useful to the Southeast Asian countries.</p>	<p>Considering the approved Guidelines on SEAFDEC Collaborative Arrangements, and relevant SEAFDEC policy frameworks</p>
<p>Para 15: The Government or its agency operating the Collaborating Centre and/or the Council of SEAFDEC may decide to withdraw the centre as a Collaborating Centre for SEAFDEC, and under such situation, the former must serve 3 months notice to the Council of SEAFDEC of such an intent, and vice-versa, whereby a formal acceptance and/or notification of the withdrawal would be issued by the Council of SEAFDEC.</p>	<p>New Para 14. The Government or the agency operating the Collaborating Center and/or the SEAFDEC Council may decide to withdraw the center as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, and under such situation, the former must serve three (3) months notice to the SEAFDEC Council of such intent, and vice-versa, whereby a formal acceptance and/or notification of the withdrawal would be issued by the SEAFDEC Council.</p>	<p>Considering the approved Guidelines on SEAFDEC Collaborative Arrangements, and relevant SEAFDEC policy frameworks.</p>

Provisions in Draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centres for SEAFDEC prepared by Singapore on 4 November 2007	Provisions in draft Revised Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC by SEAFDEC Secretariat in January 2013	Remarks
<p>Para 18: The following internal rules are suggested for incorporation in SEAFDEC's operating guidelines for adoption of Collaborating Centres:</p> <p>Article 2 Applications received shall be presented to the Council of SEAFDEC, after consultation with the appropriate Expert Advisory Committee and/or Program Committee at its annual meetings. Applications shall be selected solely on the basis of scientific and technical competence of the candidate centre and its acceptance to meet the TOR outlined.</p>	<p>New Para 17. The following procedures must be incorporated in the appropriate Regulations of SEAFDEC on the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC:</p> <p><u>New Article 2</u> Proposals received shall be submitted for review and scrutiny by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its annual meeting for endorsement to the SEAFDEC Council. Applications shall be selected solely on the basis of scientific and technical competence of the proposed center and its acceptance to meet the said TOR.</p>	<p>SEAFDEC does not have Expert Advisory Committee, thus, the review could be done by SEAFDEC Program Committee</p>

Draft Revised
(as of 28 February 2013)

GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATING CENTERS FOR SEAFDEC

Scope

1. Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC are centers of excellence in various spheres of competence relevant to the management of the fisheries and aquaculture industry of the Southeast Asian region, sharing their expertise to SEAFDEC to enhance its programs and activities, and to contribute to the effort of SEAFDEC in achieving its goals.
2. Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC could be institutions, national agencies, establishments, laboratories, and the like, hosted by SEAFDEC Member Countries or non-member countries, and offered by their respective concerned countries for such purpose to SEAFDEC.
3. A Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC would be coordinated by appropriate SEAFDEC Department considering its sphere of competence, upon the approval of the SEAFDEC Council of Directors or SEAFDEC Council for short. The concerned SEAFDEC Department could therefore serve as the Lead Department for a specific Collaborating Center.
4. A Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC would form part of the existing collaborative mechanism of SEAFDEC and capable of supporting the priority programs and activities of SEAFDEC at the country, inter-country, regional, sub-regional, and inter-regional levels, as appropriate, upon approval by the SEAFDEC Council.
5. As a center for research and development (R&D) activities, expertise and information with respect to its sphere of competence, a Collaborating Center shall provide its facilities to personnel of Member Countries for attachments, to enable them to undertake studies on specific projects in accordance with its sphere of competence, the involved fees of which would be on cost-sharing basis previously agreed upon by the parties concerned.
6. A Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC could offer the following services for the SEAFDEC Member Countries, on cost-sharing basis, duly agreed upon by the parties concerned:
 - Training of technical personnel from the SEAFDEC Member Countries;
 - Accessibility of its publications that emanate from scientific findings and technologies developed;
 - Workshops and seminars on topics which it has expertise in; and
 - Providing advice to Member Countries on issues and concerns corresponding to its specific field of expertise and requirements of the Member Countries.

Terms of Reference

7. The following Terms of Reference (TOR) shall apply to Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC:
 - A Collaborating Center shall serve as a center for R&D activities, expertise and information with respect to its sphere of competence, for the benefit of the Member Countries of SEAFDEC in particular, and the Southeast Asian region in general;
 - A Collaborating Center shall operate independently from SEAFDEC, both financially and administratively, and its operations shall be solely governed by the hosting Government, although the implementation of R&D activities relevant to being designated as Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, should be in accordance with the mandate of SEAFDEC;
 - A Collaborating Center could propose and develop R&D activities to enhance the capability of SEAFDEC and its role as the center for sustainable tropical fisheries development in the

Southeast Asian region, in accordance with the mandate of SEAFDEC, Plans of Operation of SEAFDEC Departments, and the Resolution and Plan of Action for Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region as a framework for project development, endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council;

- A SEAFDEC Department cannot be a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC but could serve as host of programs and activities implemented by a national agency serving as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, duly approved by the SEAFDEC Council; and
- For the planning of its R&D activities, a Collaborating Center shall take into consideration the mandate of SEAFDEC as well as the Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts with respect to their respective programs and activities;

8. In proposing or developing R&D activities for the SEAFDEC Member Countries, the Collaborating Center should consult with the SEAFDEC Council through the SEAFDEC Secretariat to ensure that the needs of the Member Countries in particular and the Southeast Asian region in general, are taken into consideration so that the technologies resulting from such R&D activities would be relevant and useful to the Southeast Asian countries.

9. Based on the Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments, the Collaborating Center would decide on which SEAFDEC programs it would be able to implement in consultation with the SEAFDEC Secretariat, taking into consideration its available resources. In case the Collaborating Center is unable to execute the programs that have been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council, it should communicate immediately within 30 days, with the SEAFDEC Council through the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

10. In the implementation of the R&D activities, the Collaborating Center should recognize the geo-political, socio-cultural, and institutional considerations of SEAFDEC and the country that hosts the Center.

11. The Collaborating Center should understand and accept that its role in SEAFDEC is participatory in nature, and thus, should recognize the need for joint sharing of responsibilities and costs. As with other agencies and organizations collaborating with SEAFDEC through collaborative arrangements, a pre-agreed amount in the total budget for R&D of the Collaborating Center, could be included and provided to SEAFDEC on case-by-case basis, to cover the administrative costs for coordinating such Center. (*Note: proposed contents is not deleted*)

12. Although operating independently from SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Center should report its activities and plans during the annual meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee or the SEAFDEC Council, and in any appropriate fora organized by SEAFDEC. The status of the participation of representatives from Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC in such meetings should be considered as “observer” in which case the expenses incurred by the concerned representatives shall be borne by the said Collaborating Centers.

13. The cooperation between SEAFDEC and the Collaborating Center should be guided by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as the case may be, as agreed upon by both parties.

14. The Government or the agency operating the Collaborating Center and/or the SEAFDEC Council may decide to withdraw the center as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, and under such situation, the former must serve three (3) months notice to the SEAFDEC Council of such intent, and vice-versa, whereby a formal acceptance and/or notification of the withdrawal would be issued by the SEAFDEC Council.

Criteria for Selection

15. Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC should be institutions, laboratories and establishments, that are renown and specialized in relevant fisheries-related fields, and should be able to enhance the implementation of the programs and activities of SEAFDEC, as identified, endorsed and approved by the SEAFDEC Council. Such institutions, laboratories and establishments that intend to serve as Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC must be operated by the Governments of SEAFDEC Member Countries or non-member Countries, where the Government concerned must propose to SEAFDEC its intention to commit the said institution, laboratory or establishment as Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, based on the aforementioned TOR. Based on its sphere of competence, a SEAFDEC Department may be designated as Lead Department for a specific Collaborating Center upon approval by the SEAFDEC Council.

16. The criteria for selecting the Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC from national institutions, laboratories and establishments, are as follows:

- Its good scientific and technical standing at the national, regional and international levels, with particular reference to its recent track record of achievements, its ongoing activities, expertise of its staff, and facilities that could be made available to the SEAFDEC Member Countries;
- Its financial standing and capability vis-à-vis its support to SEAFDEC and the Member Countries, in terms of carrying out the R&D activities of SEAFDEC as approved by the SEAFDEC Council;
- The network it has developed with other institutions in the country as well as at the inter-country, regional and global levels;
- The technical and geographical relevance of its R&D activities to the SEAFDEC mandate and priority programs, taking into consideration the Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments as well as the Resolution and Plan of Action for Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN region.

Mechanism for Adoption

17. The following provisions must be incorporated in the appropriate Regulations of SEAFDEC for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC:

Article 1

Proposals for a national institution, agency, laboratory or establishment to serve as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC shall be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council through the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC by the Council Director of the concerned Member Country or Director General of Fisheries (or its equivalent) of a non-member country. The Secretary-General will in turn inform the proponent of the TOR of a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC.

Article 2

Proposals received shall be submitted for review and scrutiny by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its annual meeting for endorsement to the SEAFDEC Council. Applications shall be selected solely on the basis of scientific and technical competence of the proposed center and its acceptance to meet the said TOR.

Article 3

Upon approval by the SEAFDEC Council, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General shall notify the proponent formally through a letter of notification, of the decision of the SEAFDEC Council.

Article 4

Such notification will authorize the Center to use the name of “Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC” and the use of SEAFDEC logo on all documents issued by the Center in its official capacity in executing the SEAFDEC programs approved by the SEAFDEC Council.

Article 5

The authority conferred through *Article 4* shall require full compliance of the Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC with the SEAFDEC mandate, within the limits of the facilities and manpower resources available at the said Center.

Article 6

The Collaborating Center shall provide brief annual reports of its activities and plans under the collaborative mechanism, at the end of each calendar year to SEAFDEC for distribution to the SEAFDEC Member Countries during the annual meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and endorsement to the SEAFDEC Council.

Article 7

The designation as “Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC” shall be valid for five (5) years, at the end of which the Secretary-General may propose to the SEAFDEC Council that it be renewed for the same or shorter periods, if warranted by the program requirements and results of evaluation by a SEAFDEC-designated team of reviewers. However, either party may revoke this designation at any time, serving three (3) months notice. This condition should be stipulated in the MOA or MOU.

Article 8

The MOA or MOU which specifies the designation of a center as “Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC” should be made by and between the administrative head of the proposed Collaborating Center after consultation with respective national authorities, and with the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC upon endorsement by the SEAFDEC Council.

Article 9

Financial assistance could be provided by a donor to a Collaborating Center through the respective Lead SEAFDEC Department that coordinates the programs of the Collaborating Centers, for certain activities specified by the donors and the Collaborating Center. Such arrangement including the annual plan and budget should be stipulated in a separate Letter of Intent between the donor (SEAFDEC) through the concerned SEAFDEC Lead Department and the Collaborating Centers on a year-by-year basis.

Article 10

Reports on the progress of the R&D activities conducted by the Collaborating Centers during a specified calendar year as well as activities proposed for the following year should be reported to the SEAFDEC Program Committee or SEAFDEC Council during their respective annual meetings, by the concerned SEAFDEC Lead Department for and on behalf of specific Collaborating Center. If part of the proposed programs is funded through support by donors in accordance with *Article 9*, the outlines of support should also be reported to SEAFDEC annual meetings.

Article 11

Although the Director of the Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC and his alternative could not be members of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in view of the stipulations in the TOR of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, they would be allowed to attend the annual meetings of the Program Committee and SEAFDEC Council as observers, to discuss the progress of the R&D activities conducted and planned to be conducted by the Collaborating Center in relation to the programs and activities of SEAFDEC.

Article 12

The SEAFDEC Program Committee shall provide the SEAFDEC Council with the result of the evaluation of the Collaborating Center by a SEAFDEC-designated team of reviewers based on the degree in which the Center meets the criteria in Para 14 of this Guidelines, and the following assessment criteria:

- The impacts of its services as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC with respect to the programs and activities of SEAFDEC, both immediate and in the long term;
- The political risk, if any, in adopting the designation as “Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC”;

- The alternatives of or issues and concerns for not being able to effectively serve as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC;
- Other aspects that the Program Committee might deem necessary to ensure that the mandate and functions of SEAFDEC are recognized during the implementation of relevant R&D activities by the Collaborating Center.

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This draft Guidelines was submitted to the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee (by *ad referendum*), to take heed of the view of the Government of Japan, viz: “*Japan suggests that SEAFDEC will address the draft Guidelines at the Next Council Meeting along with the result of the SEAFDEC review process, considering the current situation of the co-operative works with other organizations.*” The draft Guidelines was also circulated to the National Coordinators to obtain their comments prior to its submission for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council during its forthcoming Meeting in early April 2013.

Prepared in February 2013, this **Draft Revised Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC** is being submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration. However, it should be noted that the recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee are not included in this revised version, as their comments are incorporated in the final Report of the Third SEAFDEC Review which was finalized during their Second Meeting on 6-8 March 2013.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
ABRIDGED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

	In US\$	
	2011	2010
REVENUES		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	7,749,268	7,615,539
Other sources	1,007,369	1,023,516
Other income	787,691	551,930
TOTAL REVENUES	9,544,328	9,190,985
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	3,074,799	2,742,832
Training	1,045,954	890,856
Information	839,547	923,354
Collaborative	140,327	141,591
Others	414,960	157,735
Administrative	4,234,104	3,875,822
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,749,691	8,732,190
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(205,363)	458,795
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	4,969,560 (1)	4,657,243
FUND ADJUSTMENT	43,976	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	4,808,173	5,116,038 (1)
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,515,665	4,766,329
Other receivables	169,285	160,932
Advances and Deposits	87,509	295,644
Supplies inventory	66,357	57,903
Fuel oil for vessels	114,258	260,075
Prepayments	13,761	18,918
Total Current assets	4,966,835	5,559,801
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	68,599	42,000
Termination indemnity fund	1,888,776	1,928,340
Other assets-Net	622,515	209,255
Total Assets	7,546,725	7,739,396
Less : Liabilities		
Accrued payable	638,506	491,692
Funds held in trust	211,270	203,326
Provision for termination indemnity	1,888,776	1,928,340
Total Liabilities	2,738,552	2,623,358
TOTAL NET ASSETS	4,808,173	5,116,038

(1) The difference of US\$ 146,478 (US\$ 4,969,560 – US\$ 5,116,038) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
THE SECRETARIAT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

	In US\$	
	2011	2010
REVENUES		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	400,000	400,000
Other sources	45,019	53,066
Other income	61,378	(14,709)
TOTAL REVENUES	506,397	438,357
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Training	-	-
Information	48,876	61,623
Collaborative	140,327	141,591
Others	298,086	87,798
Administrative	164,975	192,614
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	652,264	483,626
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(145,867)	(45,269)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	403,219 (1)	467,503
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	257,352	422,234 (1)
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash and cash equivalents	250,810	434,386
Other receivables	18,205	8,694
Advances and Deposits	32,766	19,912
Prepayments	372	704
Total Current assets	302,153	463,696
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	68,599	42,000
Total Assets	370,752	505,696
Less : Liabilities		
Accrued payable	113,400	83,462
Total Liabilities	113,400	83,462
TOTAL NET ASSETS	257,352	422,234

(1) The difference of US\$ 19,015 (US\$ 403,219 – US\$ 422,234) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

	In US\$	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
REVENUES		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	2,544,427	2,566,288
Other sources	507,456	374,799
Other income	160,289	50,558
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>3,212,172</u>	<u>2,991,645</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	412,629	459,773
Training	809,653	727,627
Information	258,840	258,722
Others	116,874	69,937
Administrative	1,085,716	1,074,225
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>2,683,712</u>	<u>2,590,284</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	528,460	401,361
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	<u>2,702,948</u> (1)	<u>2,429,050</u>
FUND BALANCE, End of year	<u>3,231,408</u>	<u>2,830,411</u> (1)
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,175,737	2,531,017
Other receivables	22,127	77,971
Advances and Deposits	30,115	91,594
Fuel oil for vessels	114,258	260,075
Prepayments	13,389	18,214
Total Current assets	<u>3,355,626</u>	<u>2,978,871</u>
Termination indemnity fund	<u>1,888,776</u>	<u>1,928,340</u>
Total Assets	<u>5,244,402</u>	<u>4,907,211</u>
Less: Liabilities		
Accrued payable	124,218	148,460
Provision for termination indemnity	<u>1,888,776</u>	<u>1,928,340</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>2,012,994</u>	<u>2,076,800</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>3,231,408</u>	<u>2,830,411</u>

(1) The difference of US\$ 127,463 (US\$ 2,702,948 – US\$ 2,830,411) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

	In US\$	
	2011	2010
REVENUES		
Contributions from:-		
Member governments	3,877,737	3,421,533
Other sources	454,894	595,651
Other income	566,024	516,081
TOTAL REVENUES	4,898,655	4,533,265
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	2,662,170	2,283,059
Training	236,301	163,229
Information	531,831	603,009
Administrative	2,056,309	1,381,265
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,486,611	4,430,562
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(587,956)	102,703
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	1,863,393 (1)	1,760,690
FUND ADJUSTMENT	43,976	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	1,319,413	1,863,393 (1)
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,089,118	1,800,926
Receivables	119,724	59,269
Advances and Deposits	24,628	184,138
Supplies inventory	66,357	57,903
Other Current Assets	9,229	14,998
Total Current assets	1,309,056	2,117,234
Other assets-Net	622,515	209,255
Total Assets	1,931,571	2,326,489
Less: Liabilities		
Accrued payable	400,888	259,770
Funds held in trust	211,270	203,326
Total Liabilities	612,158	463,096
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,319,413	1,863,393

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MARINE FISHERIES RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

	In US\$	
	2011	2010
REVENUES		
Contributions from:-		
Member governments	927,104	1,227,718
TOTAL REVENUES	927,104	1,227,718
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Administrative	927,104	1,227,718
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	927,104	1,227,718
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	-	-
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	-	-
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	-	-
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-
Advances and Deposits	-	-
Total Current assets	-	-
Total Assets	-	-
Less: Liabilities		
Accrued payable	-	-
Total Liabilities	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	-	-

Annex 26

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

		In US\$	
		2012	2011
		(Un-audited)	(Audited)
ACCUMULATED FUND			
As at December 31		6,630,135	4,808,173
REPRESENTED BY:			
Current assets			
Cash in hand and at banks		6,170,246	4,515,665
Other receivables and Advances		461,163	247,565
Supplies inventory		121,405	66,357
Other current assets		110,959	9,229
Fuel oil for vessels		215,076	114,258
Prepayments		15,282	13,761
Total Current assets		7,094,131	4,966,835
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance		70,068	68,599
Termination indemnity fund		1,953,013	1,888,776
Other assets		803,714	622,515
Total Other assets		2,826,795	2,579,890
Total Assets		9,920,926	7,546,725
<u>Less:</u>	Liabilities		
	Accounts payable	301,236	638,506
	Contribution received in advance	760,373	
	Funds held in trust	276,169	211,270
	Provision for staff termination indemnity	1,953,013	1,888,776
Total Liabilities		3,290,791	2,738,552
NET		6,630,135	4,808,173

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	In US\$				Total	
	Operating Fund		Fellowship	Others	2012	2011
	Host Department	MRC	Fund	Fund	(Un-audited)	(Audited)
REVENUES						
Contributions from:-						
Government of Brunei Darussalam		7,000			7,000	7,000
Government of Cambodia		6,000			6,000	6,000
Government of Indonesia		26,000			26,000	26,000
Government of Japan		280,000			280,000	280,000
Government of Lao PDR		4,000			4,000	4,000
Government of Malaysia	1,043,205	10,000			1,053,205	937,104
Government of Myanmar		10,000			10,000	10,000
Government of Philippines	4,025,689	15,000			4,040,689	3,892,737
Government of Singapore		8,000			8,000	8,000
Government of Thailand	2,509,151	20,000	25,411		2,554,562	2,564,427
Government of Vietnam		14,000			14,000	14,000
Sub-total	7,578,045	400,000	25,411	0	8,003,456	7,749,268
Other sources	650,121	3,304	3,816	1,710,094	2,367,335	1,795,060
TOTAL REVENUES	8,228,166	403,304	29,227	1,710,094	10,370,791	9,544,328

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	In US\$				Total	
	Operating Fund		Fellowship	Others	2012	2011
	Host Department	MRC	Fund	Fund	(Un-audited)	(Audited)
EXPENDITURES						
Operating Expenditures						
Program of Activities:						
Research	2,351,234			589,311	2,940,545	3,074,799
Training	622,577		9,792	363,451	995,820	1,045,954
Information	637,849	56,106		96,936	790,891	839,547
Collaborative		177,863			177,863	140,327
Others				388,005	388,005	414,960
	<u>3,611,660</u>	<u>233,969</u>	<u>9,792</u>	<u>1,437,703</u>	<u>5,293,124</u>	<u>5,515,587</u>
Administrative & Capital expenditures	3,112,413	182,670		117,761	3,412,844	4,234,104
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>6,724,073</u>	<u>416,639</u>	<u>9,792</u>	<u>1,555,464</u>	<u>8,705,968</u>	<u>9,749,691</u>
SURPLUS(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>1,504,093</u>	<u>(13,335)</u>	<u>19,435</u>	<u>154,630</u>	<u>1,664,823</u>	<u>(205,363)</u>

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

In US\$

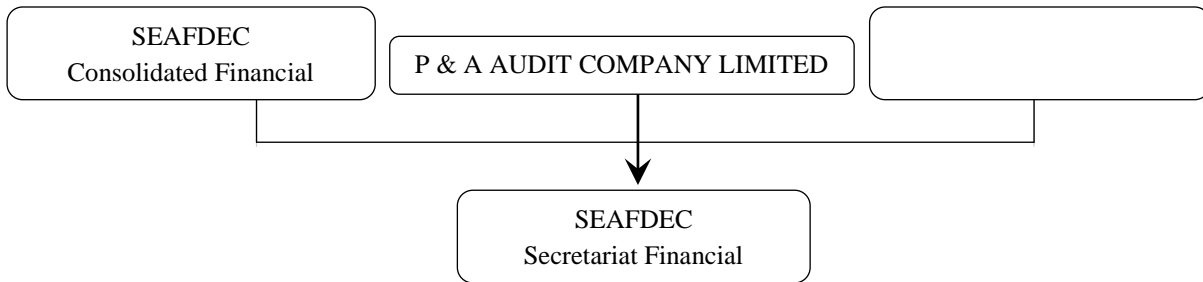
	Balance as at January 1, 2012	Adjustment of fund	Surplus (Deficit)	Balance December 31, 2012 (Un-audited)	Balance as at December 31, 2011 (Audited)
Operating fund	3,489,267		1,490,758	4,980,025	3,377,345
Fellowship fund	166,528		19,435	185,963	161,592
Others fund	1,309,517		154,630	1,464,147	1,269,236
Net	4,965,312	1/	1,664,823	6,630,135	4,808,173

(1) The difference of US\$ 157,139 (US\$ 4,965,312 – US\$ 4,808,173) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

**Contribution received from SEAFDEC Member Countries
as Annual Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) in 2013**

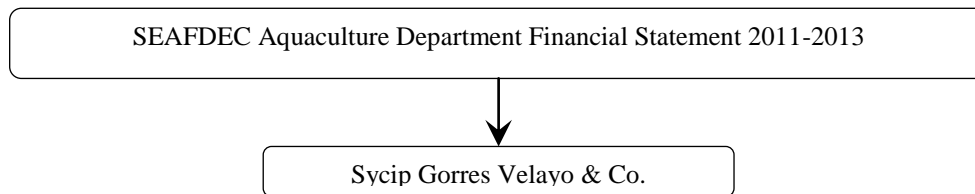
Countries	Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)	Amount Received (In US\$)
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	11,000	
Indonesia	58,000	
Japan	280,000	280,000
Lao P.D.R.	5,000	
Malaysia	21,000	
Myanmar	21,000	
Philippines	25,000	
Singapore	13,000	13,000
Thailand	33,000	20,000
Vietnam	26,000	14,000
TOTAL	500,000	334,000

CONTACT PERSON AND AUDIT FIRM



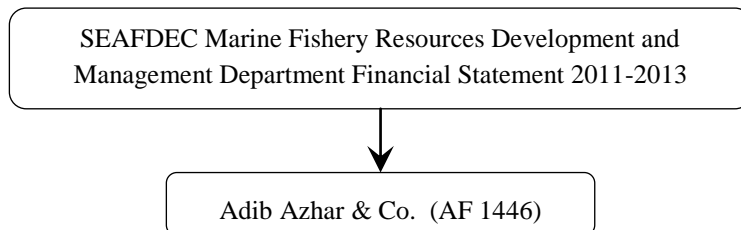
Auditor' name : Mr. Phongtorn Duangphanya
 Address : 645 2nd Floor 3P Building
 Navamin Road, Klongjan Bangkapi
 Bangkok 10240, Thailand
 Telephone : (662) 735-5711-2
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CONTACT PERSON AND AUDIT FIRM



Auditor' name : Ms.Jessie D. Cabaluna
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CONTACT PERSON AND AUDIT FIRM



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 Terengganu, Malaysia
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PROPOSE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENT OF THE CENTER FOR THE YEAR 2014

Table 1: Estimated Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other sources (in US Dollars) in fiscal Year 2013

Sources	Secretariat	Training Department	Marine Fisheries Research Department	Aquaculture Department	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department	Total	
						In US\$	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000					7,000	0.05
Cambodia	11,000					11,000	0.08
Indonesia	58,000					58,000	0.43
Japan	280,000					280,000	2.08
Lao P.D.R.	5,000					5,000	0.04
Malaysia	21,000				1,647,340 ^{g/}	1,668,340	12.40
Myanmar	21,000					21,000	0.16
Philippines	25,000			4,629,630 ^{f/}		4,654,630	34.58
Singapore	13,000		0 ^{e/}			13,000	0.10
Thailand	33,000	2,737,030 ^{d/}				2,770,030	20.58
Vietnam	26,000					26,000	0.19
Sub-total	500,000	2,737,030	0	4,629,630	1,647,340	9,514,000	70.69
Others ^{h/}	2,839,641 ^{b/}	309,200 ^{c/}		796,388		3,945,229	29.31
Total	3,339,641 ^{a/}	3,046,230	0	5,426,018	1,647,340	13,459,229	100%

^{a/} Including Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$500,000 (see Annex 1)

^{b/} Including extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,639,641 and Sida Fund = US\$1,200,000 (see Annex 1)

^{c/} Including extra-budgetary sources from FAO = US\$198,900, RIHN(Japan) = US\$80,300 and others (see Annex 2)

^{d/} Contribution in cash from Thailand (see Annex 2)

^{e/} No contribution from Singapore (see Annex 3)

^{f/} Contribution in cash from the Philippines (see Annex 4)

^{g/} Contribution in kind from Malaysia (see Annex 5)

^{h/} Including contributions from non-member governments, international organizations/agencies and miscellaneous receipts.

Table 2: Estimated Expenditures of the Center for 2013 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	Total	%
I Program of Activities							
1.1 Research Programs		555,400		2,792,049		3,347,449	24.87
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	885,250		552,664		1,442,914	10.72
1.3 Information Programs	71,000	356,980		540,787		968,767	7.20
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000 ^{6/}	92,400				242,400	1.80
1.5 Other Programs	2,917,641 ^{7/}	279,200 ^{8/}		391,294		3,588,135	26.66
Sub-total	3,143,641	2,169,230	0	4,276,794		9,589,665	71.25
II Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures							
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	877,000		1,002,079		2,067,579	15.36
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500			147,145		154,645	1.15
	196,000	877,000		1,149,224		2,222,224	16.51
2.3 In-kind Expenditures					1,647,340	1,647,340	12.24
Sub-total	196,000	877,000	0	1,149,224	1,647,340	3,869,564	28.75
TOTAL	3,339,641	3,046,230	0	5,426,018	1,647,340	13,459,229	100%

- Remarks:**
- ^{1/} Secretariat
 - ^{2/} Training Department: The Program of Activities are included administrative and others expenses which are directly related to the programs.
 - ^{3/} Marine Fisheries Research Department
 - ^{4/} Aquaculture Department: The Program of Activities are included administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.
 - ^{5/} Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
 - ^{6/} Included operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of M.V. SEAFDEC2
 - ^{7/} Included program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,639,641 and Sida Fund = US\$1,200,000.
 - ^{8/} Included program expenses from FAO = US\$198,900, RIHN (Japan) = US\$ 80,300 .

Table 3: Expected Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other sources (in US Dollars) in fiscal Year 2014

Sources	Secretariat	Training Department	Marine Fisheries Research Department	Aquaculture Department	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department	Total	
						In US\$	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000					7,000	0.05
Cambodia	11,000					11,000	0.08
Indonesia	58,000					58,000	0.40
Japan	280,000					280,000	1.92
Lao P.D.R.	5,000					5,000	0.03
Malaysia	21,000				1,729,707 ^{g/}	1,750,707	12.00
Myanmar	21,000					21,000	0.14
Philippines	25,000			5,569,620 ^{f/}		5,594,620	38.35
Singapore	13,000		0 ^{e/}			13,000	0.09
Thailand	33,000	2,876,130 ^{d/}				2,909,130	19.94
Vietnam	26,000					26,000	0.18
Sub-total	500,000	2,876,130	0	5,569,620	1,729,707	10,675,457	73.18
Others ^{h/}	2,914,682 ^{b/}	278,500 ^{c/}		721,556		3,914,738	26.82
Total	3,414,682 ^{a/}	3,154,630	0	6,291,176	1,729,707	14,590,195	100%

a/ Including Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$500,000 (see Annex 1)

b/ Including extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,414,682 and Sida Fund = US\$1,500,000 (see Annex 1)

c/ Including extra-budgetary sources from FAO = US\$168,200, RIHN (Japan) = US\$80,300 and Others (see Annex 2)

d/ Contribution in cash from Thailand (see Annex 2)

e/ No contribution from Singapore (see Annex 3)

f/ Contribution in cash from the Philippines (see Annex 4)

g/ Contribution in kind from Malaysia (see Annex 5)

h/ Including contributions from non-member governments, international organizations/agencies and miscellaneous receipts.

Table 4: Estimated Expenditures of the Center for 2014 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	Total	%
I Program of Activities							
1.1 Research Programs		587,100		3,334,829		3,921,929	26.88
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	908,400		630,799		1,544,199	10.58
1.3 Information Programs	71,000	383,000		557,377		1,011,377	6.93
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000 ^{6/}	92,400				239,400	1.66
1.5 Other Programs	2,992,682 ^{7/}	248,500 ^{8/}		536,066		3,777,248	25.90
Sub-total	3,218,682	2,219,400	0	5,059,071		10,497,153	71.95
II Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures							
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	935,230		1,088,534		2,212,264	15.16
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500			143,571		151,071	1.04
	196,000	935,230		1,232,105		2,363,335	16.20
2.3 In-kind Expenditures					1,729,707	1,729,707	11.85
Sub-total	196,000	935,230	0	1,232,105	1,729,707	4,093,042	28.05
TOTAL	3,414,682	3,154,630	0	6,291,176	1,729,707	14,590,195	100%

- Remarks:** ^{1/} Secretariat
^{2/} Training Department: The Program of Activities are included administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.
^{3/} Marine Fisheries Research Department
^{4/} Aquaculture Department: The Program of Activities are included administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.
^{5/} Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
^{6/} Included operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of M.V. SEAFDEC2
^{7/} Included program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,414,682 and Sida Fund = US\$1,500,000
^{8/} Included program expenses from FAO = US\$168,200, RIHN (Japan) = US\$80,300.

ADOPTED PRESS STATEMENT

1. At the kind invitation of the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines, the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held in the magnificent City of Cebu, the Philippines from 1 to 5 April 2013 and hosted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippines. Situated in the Western Pacific Ocean, the Philippines is enriched with diversified marine fishery resources, which has contributed to its economic development, food security and livelihood of people in the country.
2. In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and their delegations from 10 Member Countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam; Malaysia participated in the Meeting through electronic means. The Inaugural Ceremony of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 1 April and presided over by the Honorable Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing and Fisheries, Philippine Department of Agriculture, *Mr. Salvador S. Salacup*. The Meeting unanimously elected the Council Director for the Philippines, *Atty. Asis G. Perez* as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2013-2014, succeeding *Mr. Khin Ko Lay*, SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar who served as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the year 2012-2013.
3. The Council noted the good progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2012, and approved the proposed program of activities to be undertaken in 2013, which were formulated in response to the priority of the Member Countries, and taking into consideration the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers and Senior Official in June 2011. During the Meeting, the Council also discussed a range of issues that are important for the sustainable development fisheries in the region that requires greater attention and cooperation, particularly the listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices, the development of “Regional Fishing Vessels Record” as a tool to combat the IUU fishing, the development of ASEAN Catch Certification, the regional cooperation on sustainable tuna fisheries management in the Southeast Asian waters, and the initiative to ensure sustainable live reef food fish trade in the Southeast Asian region.
4. On the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated positions addressed at the CITES-CoP16, and while commending SEAFDEC for organizing a series of events to provide platform for coordination and discussion among the Member Countries and coming up with coordinated positions for several commercially-exploited aquatic species, the Council expressed the view that in the future the region should consider establishing mechanism to come up with one ASEAN voice that could be raised during international fora. The Council also recommended that SEAFDEC should continue to cooperate with FAO and relevant organizations in jointly addressing the CITES issues in the future.
5. The Council in principle supported the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Fishing Vessels 24 Meters in Length and Over in the Southeast Asian Region which was developed in line with the FAO Global Record (GR), as well as the development of database on fishing vessels, considering that these would contribute to the regional efforts in combating IUU fishing. Recommendation was further made that SEAFDEC should come up with a roadmap for the establishment of the RFVR, starting with fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over. Concerns was however expressed for some countries that registration of fishing vessels is under the responsibility of other agencies or under another Ministry that there could be difficulties in providing inputs for the database as required by SEAFDEC. Nevertheless, SEAFDEC was requested to provide technical assistance to Member Countries to enable them to provide the necessary information as required.

6. The Council recognized that this is an opportune time for the development of an “ASEAN Catch Certification” to facilitate not only intra-regional but also international trade. It was however suggested that this should be in line with certification requirements of important importing countries, including the EU. In addition, the scheme should also strive to achieve a balance between credibility with the world market and being a user-friendly certificate for fishers and other stakeholders.

7. While supporting the proposal on collaboration among the ASEAN Member Countries in tuna fisheries management which would signify the commitment of countries in the region towards better conservation and management for sustainable tuna fisheries, the Council ensured that this would not lead to the creation of new tuna management mechanism in the region, and thus countries should continue to work closely with the relevant RFMOs. The Council further agreed to develop a plan of action that could be undertaken under this collaboration, particularly on enhancing traceability, development of tuna catch certification scheme, conduct of joint stock assessment, and combating IUU fishing in tuna fisheries, etc. The plan of action should be elaborated in the proposal for consideration by the Member Countries before submission to ASWGFi and higher authorities of the ASEAN for consideration.

8. The Council also took note of the “Resolution on Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) in the Southeast Asian Region and CTI-CFF Member Countries”, which was originally signed by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Timor Leste, and Solomon Island. Considering the importance of LRFFT, the Council endorsed the Resolution to enhance its implementation in the Southeast Asian region, and authorized SEAFDEC to serve as Interim Secretariat for the LRFFT Regional Forum.

9. On the establishment of the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) as new SEAFDEC Department in Palembang, Indonesia, to be responsible for inland fisheries development, the Council took note of the proposed plan of operation and program of work of the Department. It is envisaged that this new Department would undertake regional activities in collaboration with other organizations, particularly the Mekong River Commission, and would eventually enhance the contribution from inland fisheries to food security and livelihood of people in the region.

10. The Council also noted the planned organization of the ASEAN Fisheries Conference and Seafood Exposition which was tentatively scheduled in March 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand; and the Asia Conference on Oceans, Food Security and Blue Growth which would be organized on 18-21 June 2013 at Grand Hyatt Bali, Indonesia.

11. The Council expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines for the excellent hosting of the Meeting and the warm hospitality accorded to them throughout the event, and announced that its 46th Meeting in 2014 would be hosted by Singapore.

For further information, please contact:

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