



# SEAFDEC NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

For the last quarter of 2013, various events facilitated the recasting of the role of SEAFDEC on the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. These included the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, which discussed important management issues in order to improve the operations of SEAFDEC. Several recommendations were raised for SEAFDEC to consider, particularly the need to minimize duplication of efforts among the Departments and enhance the participation of Member Countries in the future activities of SEAFDEC. The 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee was also convened back-to-back with the 16<sup>th</sup> FCG/ASSP Meeting where the implementation of SEAFDEC activities under the various program thrusts was reviewed to ensure that the activities address the priorities and needs of the Member Countries.

In addition, various regional meetings were conducted, e.g. the Regional

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## SEAFDEC convenes Special Council Meeting in Thailand

SEAFDEC convened the Special Meeting of the Council in Bangkok, Thailand on 3-4 October 2013 to discuss important management issues and provide directives for improving the operations of the Center, particularly on the recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review, the Plans of Operation of SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat, as well as other management issues.

The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Drusila Esther E. Bayate, the Alternate SEAFDEC Council Director for the Philippines, on behalf of the Council Director for the Philippines and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2013-2014. While recognizing the SEAFDEC activities, achievements,

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*SEAFDEC Council Directors and participants in the Special Council Meeting*

## SEAFDEC convenes Regional Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Cooperation

In an effort to ensure the sustainable neritic tuna fisheries resources in the Southeast Asian Region, and following up to the recommendation of the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in April 2013, SEAFDEC with funding support from Sweden convened the Consultative Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries in Southeast Asian Waters on 10-13 October 2013 in Songkhla Province, Thailand. The Meeting aimed to compile information on the status and trends of neritic tuna in the ASEAN countries and also raise attention and commitment of the Member Countries and concerned international organizations and fisheries stakeholders to undertake necessary



*Group discussion on the way forward to manage neritic tuna resources in the region*

steps to manage neritic tuna resources in the region, to sustain its stock and to ascertain its international trade in the future. The consultative forum successfully congregated fisheries

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## EDITORIAL

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Consultation Meeting on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries, which aimed to compile information on the status and trends of neritic tunas in the ASEAN countries in order to establish cooperation for the management of neritic tuna resources in the region; the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region for the development of sub-regional cooperation for enhancing small pelagic fisheries (mackerels and neritic tunas) through the integration of fisheries and ecosystem management approach. The fisheries resources and environmental survey recently conducted by SEAFDEC in the Central Gulf of Thailand also concluded its initial findings, which was presented by researchers involved in the activities at the Conference held during this quarter.

Several on-site training courses were conducted by SEAFDEC, including those that promoted the wide range of fisheries and aquaculture technologies in the Southeast Asian region, especially in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. Meanwhile, training courses and capacity building were also organized at the SEAFDEC Departments to introduce the technologies developed by SEAFDEC. Through the various collaborations that SEAFDEC had established, several SEAFDEC staff availed of HRD-sponsored activities, e.g. on the effect of climate change on zooplanktons, genetic study of seahorse for stock enhancement, fish species identification and population, and environment-friendly aquaculture and stock enhancement, thus enhancing the capacity of SEAFDEC to provide better services to the Member Countries.



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## SEAFDEC convenes Special Council Meeting in Thailand

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and financial situation of SEAFDEC during 2003-2012, the Council emphasized the need for SEAFDEC to minimize possible duplication of efforts among Departments, and enhance the participation of Member Countries in the future activities of SEAFDEC.

In addition, since prioritization of SEAFDEC activities is deemed necessary, it was suggested that this should be considered during the program review at the next Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee. It was also suggested that SEAFDEC should consider conducting regular performance assessment and cost-benefit analysis of its programs, subject to further discussion among the Member Countries.

On the Third SEAFDEC Review, it was recommended that SEAFDEC should take into consideration the appropriate recommendations of the Review Committee, particularly the strategic recommendations most of which are already in line with the existing practices of SEAFDEC, especially those without financial implications or implications for amending the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC. For the future operations of SEAFDEC, close coordination among the Departments and the Secretariat should be continued to avoid duplication of functions and works. In addition, once the countries have already identified their respective priorities, these should also be considered by SEAFDEC in the formulation and implementation of its future programs.



## Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia Project Joint Seminar

The Joint Seminar of the Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia Project in Thailand was organized by the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD), the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), the Faculty of Fisheries of Kasetsart University (KU), the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), and the Eastern Marine Fisheries Development Center (EMDEC) from 11 to 13 November 2013 in Bangkok and Rayong Province, Thailand. Seventy-five participants from

Thailand, Philippines and Japan joined this seminar to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences on the aspects of: 1) fishing gears and operations; 2) biodiversity; 3) environments; 4) society and livelihoods; 5) acoustic technology; 6) set net fishery; 7) stock enhancement; 8) rural development in Japan; and 9) coordination and integration. The outputs and recommendations from the seminar will be used to develop and adjust the project activities to be implemented in the succeeding year.



*The Joint Seminar of the Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia Project*

## AQD courses: fish health, sandfish, mud crab, mangroves, freshwater aquaculture and shrimp

AQD stepped up its training program by conducting six courses in the last quarter of 2013. The courses also showed the wide range of aquaculture technologies that AQD has developed in its 40 years of research-and-development.

**Fish Health:** The course graduated 25 veterinarians from the regional and central offices of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for the course on “Fish Health Management in Aquaculture”. The course ran from 11 to 15 November with lectures and practical sessions covering topics such as sustainable aquaculture, major diseases of marine fishes & crustaceans, diseases prevention & control, and techniques in disease diagnosis. “*Thank you to SEAFDEC for giving us the opportunity to learn more*”, said Dr. Elaine Vera Belvis of BFAR-Davao at the course’s closing ceremony.

**Sandfish:** Six trainees successfully finished the two-week course on “Sandfish Seed Production, Nursery and Management” held on 2-17 October at AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station. They got lectures (20%) which describes the theories behind the techniques and practicals (80%) to gain the actual experience. At the closing ceremony, the trainees said good words for AQD. “*What I like about the training is that you don’t*

*have to be an aquaculturist to understand the lectures because they are very basic. I am very confident now and I think I can produce sandfish successfully*”, said Mr. Ali Shafeeg of Maldives. Meanwhile, AQD Associate Scientist Dr. Jon Altamirano, the technical lead person of the sandfish course, noted that relationship between AQD and its trainees goes beyond the time they spent training at the Department. AQD was requested by Mr. Keith Ng, a former sandfish training participant from Century Marine Products (Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia) to assess their hatchery facilities and recommend improvements in their operations. Century is into sandfish farming and processing, and has been relying on natural sandfish juvenile stocks. Dr. Altamirano, who was sent in Kota Kinabalu by AQD in 5-7 November 2012, said that the Tanjung Badak multi-species hatchery research complex showed high prospects for expansion of sea cucumber production.

**Mud crab:** Fourteen trainees – from the Philippines (7), Madagascar (5), France (1) and Japan (1) – finished the international training course on “Mud Crab Nursery and Grow-out Operations” conducted on 20-29 November in Iloilo. The training is a combination of lectures and practical exercises to help



*Transfer of sandfish broodstock to spawning tank*

the participants understand the process of starting and managing a mud crab hatchery. “*I am confident that I will be able to set up a profitable and sustainable mud crab aquaculture business in my country*”, said Mr. Vincent Bernier, one of the trainees from Madagascar.

Moreover, a special course on “Mud Crab Hatchery and Nursery” was conducted by AQD also in Iloilo from 23 September to 9 October with

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### SEAFDEC convenes Regional Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Cooperation

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stakeholders including government officers of respective Member Countries, regional initiatives, FAO, private sectors; and discussed the current issues, problems, constraints on neritic tuna fisheries and the necessary activities to be conducted in the near future to improve the management of neritic tuna fisheries in the region. The meeting came up with plan for the development of Regional Plan of Action on Neritic Tuna; the establishment of Scientific

Working Group on neritic tuna in specific areas such as Sulu Sulawesi Seas, South China Sea, Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand; and most importantly, the Capacity Building Programs for Member Countries to create skillful, knowledgeable and trained human resources in the field of neritic tuna fisheries management. Nevertheless, this Meeting was only the first step to build-up regional cooperation in order to sustain the neritic tuna resources in the region.



### New AQD Calendar



**2014 SEAFDEC/AQD Calendar.** It is also a planner, carrying information on AQD’s thematic R&D areas; accomplishments in tiger shrimp, milkfish, mangrove crab, tropical abalone and other aquaculture technology development work.



# DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

## 14<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Information Staff Program (ISP) Meeting

On 30 October to 1 November 2013, SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Training Department (TD) organized the Fourteenth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Information Staff Program (ISP) in Thailand. The Meeting was attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and information-related officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD, AQD and

MFRDMD, as well as intern students from Kasetsart University as observers. The Meeting aimed to review the progress in the implementation of information activities by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments in 2013, as well as discuss problems and identify ways and means of improving future activities in conveying outputs from SEAFDEC activities to target audiences;

and enhancing SEAFDEC visibility to the public in the future. ☒



Participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC ISP Meeting



ISP participants observing the M.V. SEAFDEC facilities (top), and models of commercial fishing gears (above)

## Human capacity building for university students

The Training Course on Coastal Ecosystems and the Utilization of Fishery Resources was organized by the Training Department (TD) from 21 to 30 October 2013 at the TD premises in Samut Prakan Province for 36 university students, while the shipboard training was conducted in Rayong Province. Focusing on coastal fisheries and responsible fishing, the training course brought together the oceanographic features in the Gulf of Thailand that have shaped the coastal fishery as well as the various types of fishing gears and methods used in the area. The students also underwent a shipboard training and oceanographic surveys. Visits to fishing communities had enabled them to appreciate firsthand the local realities and fishers' opinions on their occupations.

Group dynamics and some novel training techniques were used during the training with six Japanese students



and other trainees from various Thai universities. Verbal presentation by each trainee at the end of the training course was conducted as means of evaluating the effectiveness of the training course. It is hoped that such an intervention should not only raise awareness among university students, but also enhance information exchange and generate greater synergy between the two countries leading to sustainable coastal fisheries in the future. ☒

## Five AQD staff on study tours in Japan

(Continued from Page 5)

Meanwhile, technical assistant Ms. Ma. Irene Cabanilla, who is also pursuing a master's degree in Fisheries at the University of the Philippines Visayas, worked on DNA/RNA ratio and otolith growth as a measure of the nutritional condition of Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) larvae at Kagoshima University. As one of the recipients of the student exchange program from 9 July to 8 November, Ms. Cabanilla was supervised by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tomonari Kotani. With her fellow participants, she visited eel farms and the hatchery of the Kagoshima Creative Abundant Sea Association which raises amberjack, red seabream, flounder, yellowtail, and abalone. They also attended the seminars on high-value fish aquaculture and sushi making from high-value fish sponsored by the World Aquaculture Society. ☒

## AQD hosts JIRCAS workshop on aquaculture

AQD hosted the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) workshop on 9 October 2013 in Iloilo, Philippines. The workshop had about 30 participants from AQD, Fisheries Research Institute – Malaysia (FRI), Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF), King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang in Thailand (KMITL), Fisheries Research Agency of Japan (FRA) and JIRCAS. The workshop discussed



After the workshop, Dr. Masayoshi Saito cut the ribbon of the new mini wet laboratory co-funded by JIRCAS and AQD

the studies under JIRCAS's research project on "Development of Aquaculture Technologies for Sustainable and Equitable Production of Aquatic Products in Tropical Coastal Areas". These studies with topics on integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, fishery management for blood cockles, and co-culture system of giant tiger prawns were done in collaboration with AQD, FRI and KMITL, respectively.

*"It is AQD's hope that this joint undertaking (AQD and JIRCAS) will continue to become stronger as we work together towards the development of technologies for sustainable production of aquatic products that benefits the different sectors equitably"*, was AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson's message.

In response, JIRCAS Program Director Dr. Masayoshi Saito said, *"I hope our cooperation is not only bilateral but*



Dr. Teruo Azuma (left) shared the views during the Workshop

*multilateral to get synergistic effects from our existing cooperation"*. AQD Deputy Chief Dr. Teruo Azuma shared the views of Dr. Saito where he said: *"We are highly pleased to strengthen our collaboration towards the future not only through bilateral but also multilateral relationship"*. Dr. Azuma also mentioned that JIRCAS, AQD, and Government of Japan Trust Fund programs have a common goal, that is, sustainable aquaculture; hence working hand in hand makes it easier in achieving the goal. ❖

## Five AQD staff on study tours in Japan

A three-month follow-up research fellowship sponsored by the Japanese Association of Student Services Organization (JASSO) was granted to AQD scientist Dr. Helen Marcial. From 20 August to 20 October 2013, Dr. Marcial conducted some parts of her study on the effects of climate change on zooplanktons at the Institute for East China Sea Research Center in Mie, Nagasaki. She likewise visited several laboratories including the Chlorella Company in Fukuoka where she was able to observe recent developments in microalgal mass culture and preservation.

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) gave a grant to AQD researcher Ms. Shelah Mae Buen-Ursua to study seahorse genetics at Hokkaido University, Japan. Specifically, Ms. Ursua worked on genetic studies of seahorses for stock enhancement: species identification and population structure from 7 October to 17 November under the supervision of Prof. Katsutoshi Arai. Ms. Ursua is on a JSPS Ronpaku PhD Dissertation Program which allows grantees to



AQD researcher Ms. Ursua with faculty and staff of Hokkaido University and AQD colleagues (left); and the conduct of laboratory works (right)

obtain their PhDs through a successfully defended research dissertation without the need for course work.

JSPS also funded the visit of two AQD senior technical assistants (Mr. Demy Catedral and Ms. Jilla Alcalde) to the Faculty of Fisheries Science, Hokkaido University from 6 October to 1 November. They were invited to engage in cooperative research on environment-friendly aquaculture and stock enhancement in Southeast Asia under the framework of the Asia-Africa Science Platform Program of the JSPS.



Mr. Catedral conducted his study on "Sequencing of 16s rRNA Gene of Bacteria Strains Isolated from the Biofilm of Abalone (*Haliotis asinina*) Larval Rearing Plates" under Prof. Tomoo Sawabe and Prof. Katsutoshi Arai. Ms. Alcalde worked on her research on Fatty Acid Analysis of Abalone and Seahorse under the supervision of Prof. Yutaka Itabashi. Both visited the abalone hatchery of Hokkaido Aquaculture Promotion Corp. at Kumaishi, Hokkaido which culture temperate abalone (*Haliotis discus hannai*).

(Continued on Page 4)

## MFRDMD staff gains experience in Hokkaido, Japan

Mr. Osman bin Muda, researcher from MFRDMD, went to Hokkaido University, Japan from 20 October to 14 November 2013. Sponsored by Japan Society of the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

This program was attached with Hokkaido University and the researcher was supervised by Dr. Toshio Kawai to run a project on “Collection Building and Taxonomic Study of Fishes Collected



from Samui Island, Thailand”. The results of the study were presented during the International Seminar S-2 on Sustainable Production of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia on 2 December 2013 in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia. ✂



Activities conducted during the program on Collection Building and Taxonomic Study

## AQD in fairs and exhibits

AQD has been a regular participant to the annual “AgriLink-FoodLink-AquaLink” which for year 2013 was held on 10-12 October at the World Trade Center in Manila. More than 400 stakeholders visited the booth where AQD was offering technical consultation, and promoting its programs to entrepreneurs, students & other stakeholders, and selling books and extension manuals. On the last day of the Philippines’ largest agri fair, AQD Chief Dr. Felix Ayson and scientist Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa lectured on pompano and mud crab culture, respectively. In addition, AQD joined the “Agri-Biotech” exhibit at the House of Representatives, Quezon City held on



Agri-Biotech Exhibition in Quezon City



Visitors of AQD booth during the DOST Exhibition in Iloilo

21-24 October. Around 100 visitors from the government, academe, private sector, and media dropped by the AQD booth where AQD scientists Dr. Myrna Teruel and Dr. Maria Rowena Eguia provided free consultation on AQD’s aquaculture technologies and training programs.

Meanwhile, at the 2013 Visayas Cluster S&T Fair of the Department of Science and Technology (Philippines) held on 16-18 October in Iloilo City, the AQD booth featured the DOST-funded research programs on mud crab and shrimp. AQD has about a hundred visitors from the academe, the private sector, and the government. ✂

## Philippine government endorses AQD programs

As the first step in getting its activities and budget approved by the Philippine Government, AQD was called to the meeting of the Philippine Technical & Administrative Committee (PTAC) of SEAFDEC on 29 October 2013 in Quezon City. This year’s PTAC meeting was chaired by SEAFDEC Council Director for the Philippines and BFAR National Director Atty. Asis Perez. Overall, PTAC had a positive response and endorsed AQD’s proposed 2014-2015 activities.

Noting AQD’s many on-going and planned activities but limited operational budget, PTAC advised AQD to: 1) continue dialogue with BFAR on collaborative R&D on nationally-important commodities (e.g. seaweed *Caulerpa* and mangrove clam *Anodontia*); and 2) review its staffing pattern based on the 2004 organizational structure so that AQD can be “lean-and-mean”. ✂

## TD organizes Fisherman Run 2013

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “SEAFDEC Mini-marathon: Fisherman Run 2013” as part of the celebration of the 46<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Anniversary on 28 December 2013 at TD premises in Samut Prakan, Thailand. This activity aims to enhance and strengthen the health of staff and the public. Proceeds from the Mini-marathon were donated to 75 students from three primary schools around TD as scholarship grants. ✂



## AQD assists Timor Leste anew

Upon the request of Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance of the US Department of Agriculture (ACDI/VOCA), AQD sent its scientist Dr. Emilia Quintio to Vermasse, Baucau District of Timor Leste from 13 to 19 October 2013.

Dr. Quintio was able to: 1) demonstrate and supervise the operation of the newly constructed hatchery, in particular, setting-up the phycology

laboratory using green microalgae and rotifers brought from AQD; 2) conduct training on the hatchery management of mud crab (total trainees = 14); and



3) inspect and set-up the operation of the broodstock/larval rearing facilities and nursery ponds designed by AQD. For the phycology lab, she was assisted by technician Ms. Sharon Saracin who stayed in Timor Leste for a month. A meeting with entrepreneurs and potential investors was also arranged by ACDI/VOCA to discuss possible aqua-businesses in Timor Leste. ACDI/VOCA has engaged AQD for technical assistance in the mud crab project which started in 2010. ✖

## MFRDMD hosts International Seminar S-2: Sustainable Production of Fisheries Resources in SEA

On 2 December 2013, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD organized the “International Seminar S-2: Sustainable Production of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia” in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia. Besides four lecturers from Hokkaido University of Japan, the Chief, Deputy Chief, Special Departmental Coordinator and researchers from MFRDMD, and Fishery Officers from the Department of Fisheries Malaysia also attended the seminar. The objective of the seminar was to discuss the establishment of research and educational network for science

of sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asian marine community through collaboration between the Hokkaido University, Faculty of Fisheries Science

(HUFFS) and MFRDMD. Six papers were presented during the seminar, four of which were from HUFFS and two from MFRDMD. ✖



## SEAFDEC-FAO collaborative project on fishing vessel energy audit

The SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with FAO recently launched a Fishing Vessel Energy Audit Pilot Project. As an initial activity, a survey on the use of trawl nets was conducted in Chonburi Province from 13 to 15 November 2013.

The intention of the project is to identify fuel saving potentials through energy efficiency practices. Based on other examples of vessel energy audits and management plans, fishing vessels have the potential to reduce energy use through improved efficiency by 15-40%. Energy audits can provide the following outputs: a description of energy usage patterns for different operational phases and/or through a fishing season; potential

energy saving measures together with an expected payback period; and measures of performance against recognized energy audit parameters, such as catch quantity per liter of diesel-fuel, and fuel expense against catch revenue.

Such information is necessary for fishing companies to facilitate a rational change over to energy saving practices and technologies. Furthermore, government and non-government organizations and those concerned with the performance of this sector could avail of the techniques, not only in terms of energy efficiency and viability, but also reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to ascertain the industry’s carbon footprint. ✖

## Conference on collaborative research survey

SEAFDEC/TD organized a two-day Conference on the Collaborative Research Survey on Fisheries Resource and Marine Environment in the Central Gulf of Thailand from 11 to 12 December 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. Presented at the Conference were the results from the survey on fisheries resources and marine environment in the Central Gulf of Thailand conducted using the M.V. SEAFDEC from 14 March to 12 April 2013 as a cooperative work between SEAFDEC and researchers from several universities in Thailand. Analysis of the data collected from the fishery resources and environmental survey as well as training on marine sciences for a number graduate and undergraduate students were also conducted onboard the vessel. ✖

# SPECIAL REPORT

## Collaborative Research Survey on Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment of the Central Gulf of Thailand

By Penchan Laongmanee, SEAFDEC Training Department



The high cost of collecting field data had confined most of the past research studies of the Gulf of Thailand to the coastal areas. With the assistance of PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited which provided the cruise fuel, the 30-day M.V. SEAFDEC cruise was able to set off from 14 March 2013. The cruise focused on the cooperative work of researchers from the Department of Fisheries, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Pollution Control Department, educational institutes of Thailand, the private sector, and SEAFDEC on an extensive research program. The cruise also served as an avenue for training a number of students from many Thai universities in the field of marine science.

The survey was meant to understand the status of fishery resources and the environment in the central Gulf of Thailand during the post northeast monsoon season. For the survey, total of 45 stations were identified at every 30 nm grid (Fig. 1).

### Fisheries resources and marine environment survey

A total of 23 scientists from various universities, government offices, and SEAFDEC were involved in collecting field data for their respective research works. The data could be grouped into 33 topics in the fields of physical, chemical, and biological oceanography as well as fisheries resources and meteorology.

### On-the-job training

Forty four graduate and under-graduate students from various Thai universities were involved in the cruise, and were assigned as assistant researches. Every evening, researchers provided them lectures on the concepts, theories and information related to their research as well as on seamanship. The students also learned oceanographic data analysis under the guidance of the researchers during the cruise.

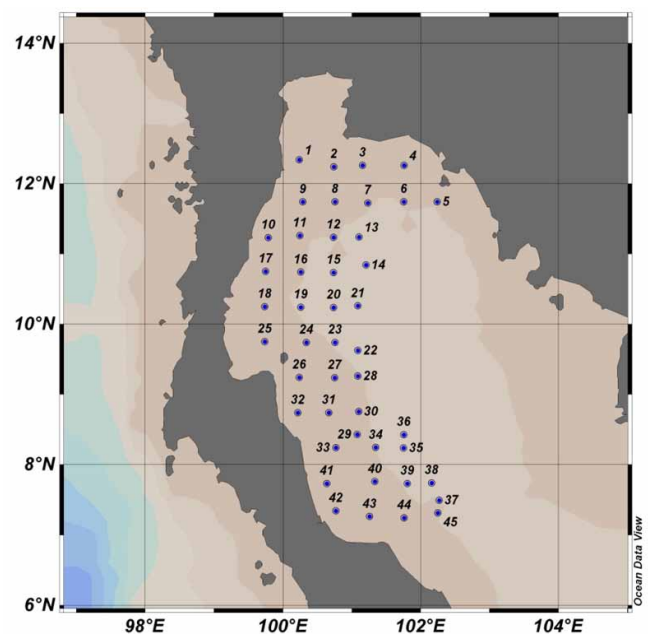
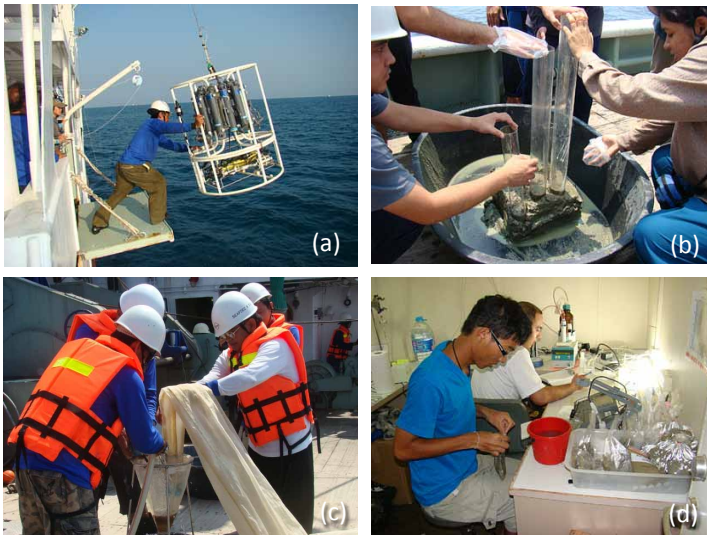


Fig.1 Map of survey station





(a-c) Collection of physico-chemical data, and  
(d) data on biological oceanography

### Information dissemination

As a matter of principle, the scientists were committed to making their research findings accessible to the public. Therefore, on 11-12 December 2013, SEAFDEC organized the “Conference on the Results of Fishery Resources and Environmental Survey in the Gulf of Thailand”, where 26 topics from the survey results were reported by responsible researchers. Some of the research results will also be presented during the Thailand Marine Science Seminar in June 2014.



#### Box 1. Research topics presented during the Conference

##### **Atmospheric and physical aspects**

1. Aerosol Optical Thickness in the Central Gulf of Thailand by Hand-held Sun-photometer
2. Circulation Pattern of Current in the Gulf of Thailand during Dry Season
3. Tidal Characteristics in the Gulf of Thailand
4. The Estimation of Sea Surface Chlorophyll Concentration in the Gulf of Thailand by Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery
5. Surface Heat Fluxes at the Sea Surface in the Gulf of Thailand during March and April 2013
6. Water Column Conditions in the Gulf of Thailand during March and April 2013

##### **Chemical aspect**

7. Nutrients and Primary Productivity in the Gulf of Thailand
8. Mercury Contamination Level in Seawater of the Gulf of Thailand
9. Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Seawater of the Central Gulf of Thailand
10. Distribution of Water Content and Total Organic Matter in Sediments of the Central Gulf of Thailand
11. Sedimentological Characteristics and Mercury and Arsenic Contamination in the Gulf of Thailand Sediments

##### **Biological aspect**

12. Population Structure of bacteria in the Central Gulf of Thailand
13. Nanoplankton Groups and Distribution in the Gulf of Thailand
14. Study on Distribution of Phytoplankton in the Central Gulf of Thailand
15. Zooplankton Community Structure in the Gulf of Thailand
16. Composition and Distribution of Fish Larvae in the Gulf of Thailand
17. Distribution and Abundance of Cephalopod Paralarvae in the Gulf of Thailand
18. Species and Distribution of Cephalopods in the Central Gulf of Thailand
19. Preliminary Survey of Marine Mammals in the Gulf of Thailand
20. Diversity and Abundance of Bacteria and Genes Involved in Biodegradation of Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Sediment from Gulf of Thailand
21. Meiofauna on the Seafloor of the Gulf of Thailand
22. Diversity of Marine Macro-benthic Animals Collected by Dredging in the Gulf of Thailand
23. The Species Richness of Crabs and Their Distribution in the Gulf of Thailand

##### **Fishery resources aspect**

24. Seafloor Characteristic and Distribution of Epifauna in the Gulf of Thailand Using Under Water VDO Camera
25. Demersal Fishery Resources Survey and Sampling by Trap and Bottom Vertical Longline in the Central Gulf of Thailand
26. Visual Observation on Fishing Activities and Others in the Gulf of Thailand

More information on the survey results is available at [https://sites.google.com/a/seafdec.org/got-seeds\\_presentation/home](https://sites.google.com/a/seafdec.org/got-seeds_presentation/home).



# REGIONAL PROGRAMS

## TD and REBYC-II CTI co-organize regional training-cum-workshop

The Regional Training-cum-Workshop on Co-management and Trawl Selective Fishing Gears and Other Practices was organized by the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) from 7 to 11 October 2013 at TD in Samut Prakan Province, in collaboration with the project on Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management (REBYC-II CTI). The Training-cum-Workshop provided the participants with knowledge and experience on fisheries management measures focusing on co-management

and trawl selectivity. This “training of trainers” course was specifically designed for eleven REBYC-II CTI



technical officers and other national officers who are expected to work as trainers at the project sites. The course offered opportunities for participants to learn the theory and practice of co-management of trawl selective fishing gear from the resource persons in the study sites through discussions and interactions. ❖

*Participants sharing experiences during the training*

## REBYC-II CTI organizes stakeholder consultation in Chumphon, Thailand

The Training Department (TD) collaborative project on Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management (REBYC-II CTI) and the Central Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center (CMDEC), Department of

Fisheries of Thailand organized the First Stakeholder Consultation in Chumphon Province on 7 November 2013 to impart and introduce the project and seek cooperation among fishers on the need to enlarge the codend mesh size. The



Consultation was attended by 108 participants who are trawl fishers, representing Prachuap Khiri Khan and Chumphon Provinces, as well as the DOF officers.

The REBYC-II CTI project intends to focus on multi-species bottom trawling, where by-catch issues are among the most serious, with potentially significant effects on ecosystems and livelihoods. With the aim to address these challenges, sustainable fishing practices and improved trawl management are being promoted. The project is expected to contribute to the more sustainable use of fisheries resources and healthier marine ecosystems in the Coral Triangle and Southeast Asian waters by reducing by-catch, discards and fishing impact by trawl fisheries. ❖

*Demonstration on how to enlarge the codend mesh size*

## Capacity building on offshore and high sea fisheries and reducing IUU fishing for Indonesia

SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia organized the On-site Training and Workshop on Offshore and High Sea Fisheries Management and Reducing IUU Fishing Activities from 10 to 12 December 2013 with support from the Japanese Trust Fund. Attended by 40 officers from the Directorate General of Surveillance and Directorate General of Capture Fisheries, the training aimed to promote capacity building on resource

management framework and its implementation on offshore and high sea fisheries, and improve knowledge on offshore and high sea resource management through international and regional activities, and on counter-measures for combating IUU fishing. ❖



## AQD conducts on-site training in Myanmar on fish health

Twelve staff of the Department of Fisheries and a fish farmer in Myanmar attended the “On-site Training on Freshwater Fish Health Management” with emphasis on detection of fish-borne zoonotic parasites conducted on 22-25 October 2013 by AQD in Yangon, Myanmar. The course was funded by the Japanese Trust Fund with AQD scientists Dr. Edgar Amar and Dr. Rolando Pakingking, and researcher Ms. Gregoria Pagador serving as resource persons. It should be noted that AQD conducted a similar course in Myanmar in 2010 and in Cambodia in 2012. ✦



## On-site training on offshore and high sea fisheries management in Vietnam

TD in collaboration with the Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish) of Vietnam organized the National Training Course on Offshore and High Sea Fisheries Management for 30 Vietnamese officers from the new Department of Fisheries Resources Surveillance from 15 to 18 October 2013 in Hai Phong, Vietnam with support from the Japanese Trust Fund. The training aimed to promote capacity building on resource management framework and its implementation on offshore and high sea fisheries, and improve knowledge on offshore and high sea resource management through international and regional activities and on countermeasures for combating IUU fishing. ✦



## 2<sup>nd</sup> On-site Training on Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region

The Post-Harvest Technology Department of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore as the SEAFDEC Collaborating Center for MFRD programs successfully organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> On-site Regional Training Workshop on Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region from 5-7 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, with support from the Japanese Trust Fund. This 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop was attended by representatives of 10 ASEAN Member Countries, a regional traceability expert, two staff from the Post-Harvest Technology Department, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Hajime Kawamura, and staff of the Japanese Trust Fund team.

The purpose of this Workshop was to provide a platform for sharing of information and experiences among ASEAN countries on the implementation



*Resource person, Mr Vincent Andre, and AVA project team guiding one of the groups during the breakout session*

of traceability systems for aquaculture products (focusing on shrimp), and enhance regional capability on the implementation of traceability systems for aquaculture products to promote their implementation. A regional traceability expert provided a series of lectures as well as guidance and facilitation during the discussion and breakout sessions. Field visit was subsequently arranged to the DOF office in Chacheongsao Province, Thailand to observe how traceability was implemented via proper documentation (Movement Document and Fry Movement Document), alongside with registration and certification of players along the value chain. Visits were also made to a shrimp farm and processing plant under the Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group, also in Chacheongsao Province. During the breakout sessions, participants discussed on a generic supply chain for aquaculture shrimp, and the issues and challenges faced during the implementation of traceability system. The Workshop reached a consensus on final generic supply chain flow for aquaculture shrimp in the region, with relevant information and data necessary for each link in the chain. This generic supply chain flow would be incorporated as an essential component for the subsequent development of the Guidelines on Implementation of Traceability for Aquaculture Products in the region. ✦

## SEAFDEC takes part in dialogue on labor, migration and fisheries management

The BOBLME and ICSF organized the Sub-regional Dialogue on Labour, Migration and Fisheries Management in Bangkok, Thailand on 11-13 December 2013, aiming to address the needs for improving labor standards in fishing and enhance the overall capacity to comply with fisheries management measures and obligations at the national, bilateral, regional, and international levels. The event was participated in by representatives from national and regional institutions concerned with

labor, migration and fisheries. During the Dialogue, Dr. Magnus Torell, Senior Advisor to SEAFDEC presented “Labor, Migration and Fisheries Management in the Context of Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in the ASEAN”. He pointed out that the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action emphasized on the need to improve the working conditions of people engaged in fisheries activities, and strengthen measures for the safety of fishing vessels taking into consideration

*(Continued on Page 15)*

## SEAFDEC holds the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region

SEAFDEC convened the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region in Bangkok, Thailand on 18-19 December 2013. Supported by the SEAFDEC-Sweden project, the Meeting discussed the suitable actions on issues which have been identified in earlier meetings especially on the mechanism to establish working groups/task forces on priority areas common to the sub-region's fisheries such as capacity and monitoring of fishing efforts; monitoring and capacity-building at ports and landing sites; and options for joint approaches to conserve the Indo-Pacific mackerel (*plato*) and related species. This is expected to pave the way for the process of continued work at the sub-regional level.

After the discussion, the Meeting agreed on the goal towards regional cooperation for enhancing small pelagic fisheries (mackerels and neritic tunas) in the Gulf of Thailand through the integration of fisheries and ecosystem management approaches. While considering that the SEAFDEC-Sweden project aims to also address ecosystem approach, it was agreed that regional collaboration in the Gulf of Thailand should focus not only on

the fisheries aspects but also on other habitat and management aspects as well as the wide range of stakeholders involved in the utilization of resources, e.g. small-scale fishers, commercial fishers, tourism activities. In order to strengthen institutional capacity and sub-regional cooperation on monitoring, surveillance and control of fishing efforts and landings of fisheries products in the Gulf of Thailand, the Meeting proposed actions that included the conduct of roundtable discussions between sets of two neighboring countries (*i.e.* Cambodia-Vietnam, Thailand-Malaysia, and Thailand-Cambodia). The Meeting suggested that the countries in the Gulf could pursue the RPOA framework as

a guide to tackle issues on IUU fishing vessels entering into their ports since the Gulf of Thailand is one of the identified sub-regions covered in the RPOA framework. The Meeting also suggested that SEAFDEC could consider reviewing some forms of IUU fishing activities in the sub-region and providing recommendations to the countries in order to address such aspects. In this regard, the Member Countries were urged to come up with their respective NPOA-IUU fishing as the first step to address IUU fishing at the national context and to allow partners to be involved in the process of combating IUU fishing. ✂



Participants in the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region

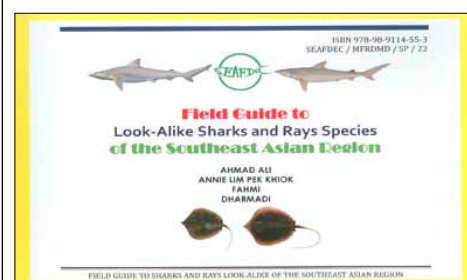
## TD organizes regional training course in the Philippines

SEAFDEC/TD organized the Regional Training Course on Improvement of Tuna Handling from 11 to 13 December 2013 at the Fisheries Development Authority Complex of General Santos City, Philippines with support from the Japanese Trust Fund. Representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the training course. The training aimed to improve tuna handling and preservation techniques from sea to table by transferring knowledge/techniques on handling based on the

experiences of the instructors in the field; reduce post-harvest losses in the Southeast Asian region through engineering application of post-harvest technology for storage such as chilling and refrigeration freezing system; and promote traditional/modern technology for environmental- and user-friendly fish handling and food safety. ✂



## New MFRDMD Publication



“Field Guide to Look-Alike Sharks and Rays Species of the Southeast Asian Region” is a 107-page guide written by Ahmad Ali, Annie Lim Pek Khiok, Fahmi and Dharmadi. This book will help researchers, taxonomists, biologists and those who are involved in this field to identify sharks and rays species with proper observation for accurate identification. ✂

## On-site training for Lao PDR on fisheries information gathering

With the collaboration of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries of Lao PDR, the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized a 5-day training course on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering Through Introduction of Community-based Fisheries Management from 28 October to 1 November 2013 in Champasak Province with support from the Japanese Trust Fund.

Attended by 30 fishery managers who are normally providing information to decision makers for policy formulation and transforming policy into management planning, the training was set to impart knowledge and practice in acquiring and analyzing information from several pilot projects, and also to design inland fishery management plans that suit the local conditions. ❖



## AQD courses: fish health, sandfish, mud crab, mangroves, freshwater aquaculture and shrimp

(Continued from Page 3)

funding from the Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The first batch was attended by eight participants from Cavite State University, Aklan State University, Davao del Norte State College and Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tagum City. “From this course we have learned that we need to update our research facilities in our respective places. This training becomes a good venue for us to tackle issues and to address the needs of our stakeholders”, said Mr. Astrolome Maningo of LGU Tagum.

**Mangroves:** Twenty-two trainees successfully completed the course on “Mangrove Conservation, Management and Rehabilitation” held on 7-22 November at AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station. The trainees had undergone a series of lectures that covers the vast subjects on mangroves from its biology & taxonomy to community’s roles in its conservation & rehabilitation. There were practical exercises such as species identification & outplanting and site visits. The trainees were mainly from local government units (LGUs), provincial environmental management offices (PEMOs) and people’s organizations (POs) who, at the end of the course, assured the resource persons that they will replicate the techniques of initiating a mangrove plantation in their respective places. The course is part of the agreement between AQD and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to pool resources and technical expertise to



*Demonstration on induced spawning of carp (left); and Observing the production of natural food for shrimp larvae (right)*

attain the vision of conserving mangroves through community-based groups. It was funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a German development organization.

**Freshwater Aquaculture:** Nine trainees from Cambodia, Egypt, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam completed the course on “Community-based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Areas of Southeast Asia” held from 4 November to 4 December. The lectures and practicals included the overview of freshwater aquaculture in Southeast Asia; hatchery, broodstock management & grow-out of commercially-important freshwater species like tilapia, bighead carp, catfish, and freshwater prawn; aquatic ecology; design & construction of tanks, cages, pens, and ponds; preparation of feeds; major diseases; and sustainable management of small-scale farms. Participants also visited BFAR – National Fisheries Biological Center in Batangas and a catfish farm in Bulacan. The training was initiated



through the Government of Japan Trust Fund to help Southeast Asian countries adopt freshwater aquaculture.

**Shrimp:** Completing the two-week course on “Shrimp Hatchery Operation and Management” on 19 November were three trainees from Cambodia (Mr. Em Thearith), Egypt (Dr. Mona Azzan Hassan Abdat), and the Philippines (Ms. Nori Abegail Acebes). The trainees were thankful that the AQD resource persons unselfishly shared their knowledge and skills. “I found that everything in AQD is up-to-date, from knowledge to experience, and now I am sure I can start my hatchery in a scientific way”, said Dr. Abdat. The course had lectures and practical sessions on larval rearing, eyestalk ablation, natural food production, feed preparation, shrimp disease monitoring, shrimp grow-out management and others. The trainees also visited the AQD stations in Dumangas, Iloilo and Igang, Guimaras which, according to Ms. Acebes, would help in planning for her own hatchery and grow-out facilities. ❖

# FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
<b>2014</b>			
20-30 January	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Essential Ecosystem Approaches for Fisheries Management (EAFM) and Training of Trainers for EAFM	TD
28-30 January	Indonesia	On-site Training on Optimizing Energy and Safety at Sea for Fishing Vessel	TD
3-7 February	Rome, Italy	Resumed Session of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries	FAO
4-6 February	Perlis, Malaysia	On-site Training Workshop on Offshore and High Sea Fisheries Management and Reducing IUU Fishing Activities	TD
12-13 February	Iloilo, Philippines	GOJ-TF5 Annual Progress Meeting	AQD
17-21 February	Binangonan, Philippines	Training Course on Freshwater Prawn Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
18-21 February	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	ASEAN Regional Workshop for Facilitating Community-based Resource Management in Coastal and Inland Fisheries	TD
18-21 February	Vientiane, Lao PDR	25 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics	APFIC
24-28 February	Bergen, Norway	14 <sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade	FAO
25-26 February	Bangkok, Thailand	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Programs Review for Japanese Trust Fund-V and Priority of SEAFDEC Regional Programs	Secretariat
27 February	Bangkok, Thailand	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Regional Technical Meeting on Data/Information Gathering for Eel Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Southeast Asian Region	Secretariat
3-4 March	Hanoi, Vietnam	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture	ASEAN
4-6 March	Yangon, Myanmar	On-site Training Workshop on Offshore and High Sea Fisheries Management and Reducing IUU Fishing Activities	TD
5-7 March	Iloilo, Philippines	RESA 2014: International Workshop on Resource Enhancement and Sustainable Aquaculture Practices in Southeast Asia	AQD
10-14 March	Binangonan, Philippines	Training Course on Tilapia Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
10-14 March	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	32 <sup>nd</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific	FAO/RAP
11-14 March	Vientiane, Lao PDR	ASEAN Regional Workshop for Enhancement of National Support Officer System to Improvement of Autonomous Resources Management and Fisheries Communities	TD
17-21 March	Vietnam	Training Course and Sample Survey on GT Measurement for Small-scale Fishing Vessels in Vietnam	TD
1-4 April	Singapore	46 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC & Singapore
21-25 April	Binangonan, Philippines	Training on Carp Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
22 April-6 May	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Sandfish ( <i>Holothuria scabra</i> ) Seed Production, Nursery and Management	AQD
27-30 April (Tentative)	To be decided	Regional Validation Workshop for the Preparatory Phase of the UNEP/GEF <i>Refugia</i> Project	SEAFDEC & UNEP/GEF
5-9 May	Binangonan, Philippines	Training Course on Freshwater Prawn Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
7-27 May	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Abalone Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
27 May-18 June	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Mud Crab Hatchery, Nursery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
2-6 June	Binangonan, Philippines	Training Course on Tilapia Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
2-6 June	Singapore	Regional Training Course in Biotoxins Analyses (ASP, AZA and BTX)	MFRD
9-13 June	Rome, Italy	31 <sup>st</sup> Session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI)	FAO
18 June-25 July	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Marine Fish Hatchery	AQD

## SEAFDEC takes part in dialogue on labor, migration and fisheries management

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regional specificity; while there are a number of developments in the region that are taking shape, e.g. the Good Labor Practices (GLP), Guidelines for the Thai Fishing Sector, based on national and international labor instruments.

As Thailand is considered one of the largest hubs of fisheries migrant labor, with approximately one million workers in the whole seafood supply chain, several issues were discussed using Thailand as a case at hand, e.g. on the Ministerial Regulation No. 10 on Sea Fishery Worker Protection under the Law Protection Act B.E. 2541 which covers fishing labor (including migrants) working in fishing vessels with more than 20 workers and operate offshore in less than one year only. Therefore, several vessels that operate in the high seas or neighboring countries more than one year are excluded in the employment protection regulations.

The Dialogues also discussed issues on limited capacity of labor inspection onboard fishing vessels, the remuneration for labor force which depends on the catch with unclear deduction, insufficient language interpreters, inability of migrant labors to engage in labor union, etc. This Dialogue also improved awareness on poorly recognized linkages between fisheries conservation and management and social protection of fishers. After the deliberations, it was agreed that stakeholders related to migrant workers in the fisheries sector of Thailand would continue the tasks based on their respective mandates, but using more integrated approach towards addressing emerging issues. The Dialogue was also informed on the on-going development of ASEAN labor standards, which would also include the aspect on fishery labor, the draft of which would be circulated for comments once available. To support the work along this line, SEAFDEC would also continue its support especially on capacity building of fishery workers on safety at sea as well as facilitate the discussion among countries concerning migrant fishing labor (both sending/receiving countries) to ensure the constitutional and livelihood rights of fishers and migrant workers on fishing vessels and in processing industries. ✕

## SEAFDEC convenes the 36<sup>th</sup> PCM and 16<sup>th</sup> FCG/ASSP Meeting

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implemented by SEAFDEC in 2013 and proposed for 2014 under the FCG/ASSP endorsed by the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC, the progress of the proposals under the ASSP Framework, and issues of importance to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, were also discussed. The results and recommendations of the 16<sup>th</sup> FCG/ASSP Meeting would be submitted to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) for endorsement to subsequent meetings of the ASEAN for consideration and policy support. ✕

### Note for contributors

The SEAFDEC Newsletter publishes quarterly news on all aspects of fisheries in Southeast Asia. The Editors reserve the right to accept and/or abridge articles based on available space. Anyone wishing to submit an article to the SEAFDEC Newsletter is requested to send it to the Editor in Chief or Editors at the given addresses.

Information in this Newsletter may be quoted only if reference is made to SEAFDEC.

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## SEAFDEC convenes the 36<sup>th</sup> PCM and 16<sup>th</sup> FCG/ASSP Meeting in Penang, Malaysia

More than 50 participants gathered in Penang, Malaysia last 25-29 November 2013 for the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC and the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group/ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP). The participants comprised delegates from 11 Member Countries of SEAFDEC (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam); senior officials from SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat; and representatives from collaborating partners (regional and international organizations) of SEAFDEC. This year's meetings were hosted by the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD).

The Program Committee reviewed the implementation of SEAFDEC activities under various Program Thrusts, the



proposed new Programs, and the status of Japanese Trust Fund for 2014 and onwards. The Committee also discussed the inputs of the Member Countries on the regional priorities for future program formulation. The results of the review process as well as the recommendations of the Program Committee would be submitted for endorsement to the higher authorities of the ASEAN through the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership

(FCG/ASSP) and to the forthcoming 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council for consideration and approval.

Meanwhile, discussions during the 16<sup>th</sup> FCG/ASSP Meeting focused on the follow-up actions to the directives given at the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and other meetings of SEAFDEC and ASEAN bodies related to fisheries. The status of programs and activities

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## The Regional Core Expert Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD organized the “Regional Core Expert Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification

for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products” at Quality Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7 to 9 October 2013. The meeting was attended by the representatives from Brunei

Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam as well as the Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, representatives from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, and the Chief, Deputy Chief and officials from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD.

During the 3 day-meeting which was supported by the Japanese Trust Fund VI, the topics discussed include the existing fishing and trading practices in small-scale fisheries in Southeast Asia; impacts of the implementation of the EC Regulation 1005/2008 to SEAFDEC Member Countries; and draft of the Regional Guidelines to Prevent Landing, Import and Export of IUU Fish and Fisheries Products. Discussion on the basic requirements for the development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation System was also initiated. ❏



*Participants in the Regional Core Expert Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region*