



# SEAFDEC NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

The second quarter of 2015 ushered in several significant events, one of which was the SEAFDEC Council Chair's visit to SEAFDEC Training Department to discuss the progress of works undertaken by SEAFDEC in relation to the operations of TD and the Secretariat. During such visit, discussion was also made on the possible areas where SEAFDEC could support Thailand. Another notable event was the visit to TD of the U.S. Ambassador to the ASEAN, where the Ambassador expressed support to the efforts of SEAFDEC in the sustainable utilization of fishery resources, particularly in combating IUU fishing, and enhancing the application of traceability system for fish and fishery products in the Southeast Asian region.

The efforts of SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member States in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia became very prominent during the quarter when more activities were carried out. This included the

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## SEAFDEC Council Chair visits the Training Department

The Director-General of the DOF Thailand and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2015-2016, *Dr. Joompol Sanguansin*, paid a courtesy visit to SEAFDEC Training Department on 20 June 2015 to observe and discuss the progress of works undertaken by SEAFDEC in relation to the operation of TD and the Secretariat. The discussion between Dr. Joompol and SEAFDEC senior officials led



by SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri also touched upon the planned conduct of the High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community, and the involvement of SEAFDEC in the ASEAN Seafood Exposition and Conference, both are to be hosted by the DOF Thailand in 2016. Furthermore, the possible areas where TD could work with DOF Thailand were also explored, *e.g.* regional initiatives in combating IUU fishing, joint resources and environmental surveys in the Gulf of Thailand, and other joint research programs. After the discussion, Dr. Joompol visited the facilities of TD including the fishing gear and marine engineering workshops and the research vessels of TD.



## SEAFDEC bids farewell to Hajah Mahyam bt Mohd Isa and welcomes Mr. Ahmad Adnan bin Nuruddin as MFRDMD Chief

The staff of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD bid their much beloved Chief, Mdm. Hajah Mahyam bt Mohd Isa farewell in a simple ceremony organized in June 2015. Mdm Hajah Mahyam who retires from the service on 5 July 2015 after 35 years of illustrious and hard work, has been an integral part of MFRDMD. She began her career as Fisheries Officer with the Department of Fisheries Malaysia in 1980 after graduating from Universiti Sains Malaysia with B.Sc. (Hons) Science. In 2002, Hajah Mahyam was transferred to MFRDMD from the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Batu Maung, Penang and began working as a Research Officer. Five years later, she was appointed as Chief of MFRDMD and thus, marks the beginning of her



*Mdm. Hajah Mahyam bt Mohd Isa receiving a token of appreciation from Mr. Raja Bidin bin Raja Hassan during her last staff assembly at MFRDMD*

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## EDITORIAL

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conduct of several consultative meetings to address the issues and concerns on IUU fishing, e.g. drafting of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme, wrapping up the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR), and international related issues, e.g. shark and rays, neritic tunas. The project of MFRD on Cold Chain Management for Seafood was also launched through an Inception Meeting which assessed the status of the resources and practices on seafood cold chain management in Southeast Asia and established the plans for future activities.

SEAFDEC sustained the conduct of several training courses in the ASEAN countries including those that promote the Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (E-EAFM) for responsible and sustainable fisheries management. The SEAFDEC Departments also pursued various human resource development programs to transfer the developed technologies and promote exchange and sharing of information on the technical aspects of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

Another memorable event during the quarter is the assumption of the new Chief of the SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Mr. Ahmad Adnan bin Nuruddin succeeding Hajah Mahyam bt Mohd Isa who retired from the service effective 5 July 2015. While SEAFDEC bids the outgoing Chief of MFRDMD farewell and expresses utmost gratitude for her great contribution and hard work that has benefited the Center and the Member Countries, SEAFDEC welcomes the incoming Chief of MFRDMD and looks forward to putting his expertise on stock assessment, population dynamics and fishery management into optimum use for the benefit of the Member Countries.



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## SEAFDEC/MFRDMD bids farewell to Hajah Mahyam bt Mohd Isa and welcomes Mr. Ahmad Adnan bin Nuruddin

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8-year tenure as Department Chief. According to the MFRDMD staff, the contributions of Hajah Mahyam will always be valued and remembered while her hard work, commitment and dedication which is second to none, would serve as a true inspiration to all of them. They added that Hajah Mahyam will be deeply missed but they can only feel happy for her after many years of service. The staff of MFRDMD also extended their best wishes to Mdm. Hajah Mahyam in her future endeavours.

Her successor, Mr. Ahmad Adnan bin Nuruddin who will begin his term of office as MFRDMD Chief on 7 July 2015, is a highly esteemed officer from the Department of Fisheries Malaysia. Mr. Nan, as he is fondly called, began his career in 1981, after graduating from the Universiti Malaya with B.Sc. (Hons) Genetics. Previously, he worked as Head of Fishery Resources Management Advisory Section with MFRDMD from



Mr. Ahmad Adnan bin Nuruddin,  
the newly-appointed Chief of MFRDMD

2008 until 2010 and then as the Director of FRI Kg Acheh, Perak from 2010 to 2015. He listed stock assessment, population dynamics and fishery management as his research interest and expertise. With 34 years of experience in the field, MFRDMD staff strongly believes that MFRDMD is in good hands and warmly welcomes Mr. Nan!



## TD exhibition at Thailand's National Fair

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) joined the Thai Department of Fisheries in staging a fisheries exhibition at the annual national fair "Pramong Nomklao" organized this year at the Future Park Department Store in Pathumthani Province, just north of Bangkok. At the 10-day exhibition beginning 26 June 2015, TD presented fisheries activities under the theme "IUU Fishing and Vessel Monitoring System". With the distribution of various



technical publications, brochures, and fishery-related souvenirs to the audience, SEAFDEC visibility was promoted. All incomes collected from the fair will be donated to the famous Chulabhorn Research Institute for cancer research.





## SEAFDEC facilitates technical exchange on hilsa between Myanmar and Thailand

With support from the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project of FAO and partially from SEAFDEC, the technical exchange between fisheries scientists from Thailand and Myanmar to develop mainly the capacity of scientists from Myanmar and improve their understanding of the biology and life history stages of hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*) was conducted during January to June 2015. SEAFDEC had accomplished the tasks in facilitating the technical exchange which included sending fisheries scientists from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand and SEAFDEC to Myanmar, to work with Myanmar counterparts in undertaking field work to investigate the biology and life cycle of hilsa. At a later date, Myanmar scientists visited Thailand research facilities to continue their work.

The first activity was conducted from 1 to 6 March 2015 with three experts from the DOF Thailand making a pre-survey of hilsa in the protected area of Yangon River, observing the catch landing, and interviewing middlemen at



*Collection of hilsa juveniles*

two landing sites. The second activity was the study trip of four Myanmar scientists to Thailand during 11-15 May 2015 to visit several places and observe the collection of live pelagic fishes, live feeds, marine and inland aquaculture production facilities and techniques. The third activity was for the collection of hilsa juveniles in Myanmar and transportation of juveniles to Thailand. The collection of hilsa juveniles was conducted in Pan Hlaing, a branch of Yangon River in Twantay Township, and the juveniles were then transported to the Twantay Hatchery Station. After four days collection, the juveniles were transported to Hlaw Ga Fisheries Station (10 km North of Yangon) before packing and shipment to Thailand.

Through the conduct of hands-on operations, the knowledge and experience of scientists from Myanmar and Thailand had been shared. One of the most important achievements on the part of Myanmar scientists is enhancement of their knowledge on the biology of hilsa, as well as improvement of their skills on the collection and transportation of live fish. They could now plan for modified techniques to suit their available resources and facilities. They have also become aware of the importance of their role in the conservation of the resources; and with their technical knowledge on aquaculture, they would be able to start activities that lead to the development of a whole system of hilsa production and conservation. ❖

## SEAFDEC takes part in ASEAN Meetings

SEAFDEC Team comprising Senior Advisor Dr. Magnus Torell and Policy and Program Coordinator Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) convened by the Government of Myanmar on 8-9 June 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw. During the Meeting, the commitment of SEAFDEC to continue supporting ASEAN cooperation in fisheries and in areas of common interest was expressed. The main discussion focused on combating IUU fishing and promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region. In this regard, SEAFDEC also maintained its stand to support the efforts of individual SEAFDEC Member Countries.

Following the AFCF Meeting on 10-12 June 2015, SEAFDEC led by the Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri,

and Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Hajime Kawamura attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) also hosted by the Government of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. During the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> Meeting, the initiatives undertaken by SEAFDEC, particularly those aimed at combating IUU fishing and enhancing regional cooperation to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the ASEAN region, were considered. Specifically, the “ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain” was considered for further endorsement by the SOM-AMAF, while the “RPOA-Neritic Tunas” was also endorsed for SOM-AMAF notification.

In addition, the “Regional Policy Recommendations on Conservation and

Management of Eel Resources” and the “Regional Policy Recommendations for Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients in Aquaculture Feed Formulations” were also noted by the ASWGF<sub>i</sub>. The Meeting subsequently discussed the way forward and provided directives in developing the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the region, and the on-going development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS). While endorsing the on-going ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative projects (2014-2015) and the new collaborative projects to be implemented starting 2015, the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> identified the respective ASEAN lead countries for each new project, namely: 1) Reinforcement and Optimization of Fish Health Management

*(Continued on Page 15)*

# DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

## IFRDMD starts off preliminary survey on utilization of inland fisheries

For better understanding of the utilization of inland fishery resources in Southeast Asia, a research supported by the Japanese Trust Fund has been initiated in April 2015 in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. Inland waters in Central Kalimantan include a river and floodplain swamp with high biodiversity. There are about 300 fish species that can be grouped into white fish and black fish. Some of the economic fish species found in Kalimantan include the Asian bonytongue (*Scleropages formosus*), Indonesian snakehead (*Channa micropeltes*), giant featherback (*Chitala lopis*), Hoven's carp (*Leptobarbus hoeveni*), clown loach (*Botia macracanthus*), and tricolor sharkminnow (*Balantiocheilos melanopterus*).

*beje* is located in the middle of a swamp. During rainy season (October – April), the water level in the river increases and creates flooding in the swamp and covers the whole area, including *beje*. In contrary, during dry season (May – September) the water level decreases causing the fish to move into the *beje*. When the fish are crowded in *beje*, it is easy to harvest either totally or partially. The advantages of using *beje* in fisheries are: 1) the fisheries resources are sustained; 2) fish farming activities of some indigenous species are developed; 3) fisheries reserves are created; and 4) better management of fisheries resources is promoted. *Beje* consists of

two important parts, one is main pool and another part called *hinjap*. Most of *beje* are connected to small canal, used to block and direct fish. The main pool and canal have soil embankment in one side to hold water and allow fish migration into the river. Fishers place tree branches and twigs into the pool to attract fish to live inside the *beje*. For harvesting, the fishers use specific tool called *rempa*, made out of polyethylene nylon. Air-breathing fish will move to the surface at the outer side of *rempa* for breathing and then jump into the inner side of the *rempa*. To harvest, fishers lift the *rempa* for 2 - 6 hours, depending on fish abundance. ☒

Central Kalimantan has high potential for fishery. Its fishing activities generally use traditional fishing gears, one of which is called *beje* - local wisdom-based pond, constructed in swamp areas for collecting and catching fish. *Beje* has been used by the Dayak tribe, the largest tribe in Central Kalimantan. Usually,

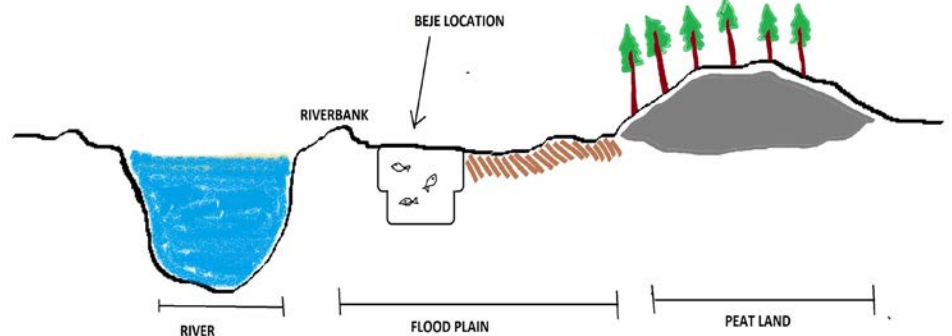


Diagram on *beje* construction

## Human capacity building on fisheries management for fisheries managers in Lao PDR

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) with support from the Japanese Trust Fund organized “the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Facilitating

Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Co-management and Community-based Fisheries Management: Effective Implementation

and Extension of the Co-management and CBFM” in Lao PDR from 27 to 30 April 2015 at Khammouane Province, Lao PDR.



The training course was attended by 34 fisheries managers who normally provide information to decision makers for policy formulation and transform policies into management planning. The course focused on practices that help the participants in acquiring and analyzing information from several pilot projects for policy formulation, and also in designing inland fishery management plans that suit local conditions. ☒



## AQD provides regional training on shrimp good aquaculture practices

SEAFDEC/AQD in collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Philippines held a “Training of Trainers on ASEAN Shrimp Good Aquaculture Practices for Shrimp Farmers” of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines - the East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) from 25 May to 5 June 2015 at AQD’s Main Station in Tigbauan, Iloilo.

The course which was funded by BFAR covered four modules, namely: 1) food safety and quality; 2) animal health welfare; 3) environmental integrity; and 4) socio-economic aspects. It included lectures on the concepts of sustainable aquaculture; management of shrimp broodstock, hatchery & grow-out; site

selection; feeds & feeding; physical, biological, & chemical hazards; microbial contamination & sanitation practices; and responsible use of chemicals, antibacterial agents & the withdrawal periods of these chemicals. The trainees also visited shrimp ponds and hatcheries in Iloilo, Aklan and Negros Occidental. The 22 participants who completed the course are from Brunei Darussalam (2), Indonesia (6), Malaysia (1), and the Philippines (consisting of 13 BFAR technical staff). The activity aimed to strengthen the capacity of shrimp farmers of BIMP-EAGA on good aquaculture practices or GAP. The ASEAN Shrimp GAP was developed in support of greater ASEAN harmonization of the aquaculture production sector, shrimp

farming in particular, within the ASEAN region.

“I learned a lot of things from this course,” said Mr. Tiburcio C. Donaire of BFAR region 7 and class chairman. He also expressed his gratitude to AQD for the full support to the program.



Training participants visit a shrimp pond in Negros Occidental



(top) Trainees interviewing a hatchery owner in Makato, Aklan; and (down) Evaluating the output of their surveys of shrimp pond and hatcheries

## Training of Trainers on Fisheries Management in Viet Nam

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Training of Trainers (TOT) on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Co-management and Community-

based Fisheries Management: Role and Function of Fishers Organizations in the Implementation of CBFM” in Viet Nam from 12 to 14 May 2015 at Nha Trang City, Viet Nam. Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, this training course



Participants in TOT on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Co-management and Community-based Fisheries Management



was aimed at imparting knowledge of legal aspects on operation of fishers’ organizations to 40 fisheries staff from national and provincial levels. After the training, the participants could now serve as trainers for the implementation of CBFM and impart knowledge on this topic to fishers in their country.





## AQD trainee shares knowledge on aquaponics

Mr. Ernest Chiam, a trainee of SEAFDEC/AQD's sandfish course, discussed with fellow sandfish trainees, AQD research staff, and on-the-job trainees (from various fisheries schools in the Philippines) on the concept and benefits of aquaponics on 4 May 2015 at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station.

Aquaponics, as described by Mr. Chiam, is the combination of aquaculture and hydroponics. It is a semi-closed system, where water flows between a fish tank and a plant growing bed. In this system, the fish waste suspended in the water is used to supply nutrients to the plants. In return, the plants and the microorganisms absorb and degrade the harmful fish metabolites thereby cleaning the water that then goes back to the fish tank. Hence, according to Mr. Chiam, this provides a mutual beneficial environment for both the fish and the plants, and results in two crops (fish and plants).

Another advantage that Mr. Chiam pointed out is that the aquaponics system




Mr. Ernest Chiam (left) during his talk on aquaponics at SEAFDEC/AQD

can be done in a small-scale or backyard set-up occupying an area of only about 16 square meters. A family can grow their own fish and vegetables in their backyard using this system. Suitable fishes for culture in an aquaponics system are catfish, tilapia and sea bass. On the other hand, vegetables produced in an aquaponics system include *kang kong* (water spinach or swamp cabbage), *pechay* (Chinese cabbage), tomatoes and chili.



A backyard aquaponics system

Mr. Chiam is a senior sustainable aquaculture officer at the World Wide

Fund for Nature in Melaka, Malaysia and has been working with the institution for about eight years. 


## TD in collaboration with DOF Thailand organizes E-EAFM Training Course for DOF staff

The SEAFDEC Training Department in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand organized the National Training Course on Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (E-EAFM) from 22 to 27 June 2015 in Songkhla Province, Thailand. Twenty-five trainees from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand participated in the course. The

participants comprised sixteen from the Gulf of Thailand provinces, eight from Andaman Sea provinces, and one from Central Office of DOF Thailand.

The course was designed to build human capacity in understanding E-EAFM in order to apply EAFM and influence decision-making processes on marine resources and fisheries



management. The key course objective is to understand the concept and need for EAFM, and acquire skills and knowledge to develop, implement and monitor an "EAFM plan" to better manage capture fisheries. Moreover, understanding the principles of co-management and how to foster cross-sector coordination was imparted to trainees through practice of the crucial skills of effective communication, facilitation and conflict management. 



## SEAFDEC-Sweden Project convenes its Annual Review Meeting

The Annual Review Meeting of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Collaborative Project was convened at the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand on 28 April 2015, where the progress of implementation of the Project's activities during its second year of implementation was presented. The Meeting was attended by Mr. Göran Haag of the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, Mr. Peter Fundgård from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM), and SEAFDEC officers led by SEAFDEC Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, and Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Hajime Kawamura. Members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) based at the SEAFDEC Secretariat Office in Bangkok also attended the Meeting.

The Annual Review Meeting highlighted on the achievements of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project in 2014 and provided information on the activities planned for the succeeding year. During the Meeting, valuable feedback and

recommendations were provided by the representative from the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok and also from the representative for SwAM.

The cooperation agreement between SEAFDEC and the Government of Sweden on "Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia", which now enters into its third year, aims to promote the responsible utilization of marine resources, enhance social well-being, and address the issues related to fisheries management in the

region. The Project's focus areas cover the countries bordering the Andaman Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, and the Mekong River Basin. Through sub-regional approach, the Project works to support the SEAFDEC Member Countries at various levels, from governments to local communities, for the development of sustainable fisheries management schemes by improving the fisheries management skills and capacities of government agencies as well as those of the rural and coastal fishing communities. ☒



## Capacity building on EAFM for young generation

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the "58<sup>th</sup> Short-term Training Course of University Students on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)" from 2 to 12 June 2015 with the objective of building up knowledge and raising awareness on responsible fishing for sustainable fisheries for the young generation.

Fifty- five students from eight universities in Thailand and five students

from Hokkaido University, Japan participated in the training course. The course was specifically designed for students to gain knowledge, practices and experience on EAFM, basic fishery oceanographic survey, small-scale fishing gear, etc. outside the universities. Besides, students also had the opportunity to conduct a survey on fishery communities. All these activities are intended to make the new generation to be empowered and developed in the future. ☒



*(above) Practical session on the EAFM concept and methodologies; and (right) observing the fishery community*



## Staff from the University of Tokyo visits TD



Two staff from Ocean Alliance, the University of Tokyo, Dr. Nobuyuki Yagi and Dr. Mitsuo Yamamoto visited SEAFDEC Training Department on 22 June, and subsequently the Secretariat on 23 June 2015. Discussion was made on the possibility of developing future internship program with the University of Tokyo. During their visit to TD, the visitors were guided to observe TD's training facilities, fishing and engineering workshops, as well as the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2. ☒

# SPECIAL REPORT

## Transboundary Fisheries and Habitat Management – Joint activities on data collection on transboundary fisheries in coastal waters of Thailand-Cambodia-Viet Nam

By

Dr. Worawit Wanchana, Ms. Chutima Pokhun, Ms. Chin Leakhena, and Mr. Nguyen Van Phuc  
SEAFDEC Secretariat

*Working towards sustainability, attempts are being made by fisheries and environment agencies to improve fisheries and habitat management. The most important steps in this direction is to effectively control active fishing efforts, both commercial and small-scale fishing, and reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as reduce the use of destructive fishing gear and practices. The very nature of fishing, migration of fish, mobility of people and vessels involved in fishing, imply that there is a need to have regional or sub-regional dialogues on measures to improve fisheries management and to conserve important coastal and marine habitats.*



*The First Bilateral Working Group Meeting between Viet Nam and Cambodia on Transboundary Species in Gulf of Thailand*

To address critical issues related to fishing capacity as well as IUU and destructive fishing, the integration of fisheries and habitat management has become essential especially in the Southeast Asian region. Along this premise, SEAFDEC and Sweden agreed to renew the collaborative arrangement completed in 2012 (SEAFDEC-Sida Program), for another five years from 2013 to 2017 to carry out the project on Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia (SEAFDEC-Sweden Project).

The collaborative arrangement takes up the concept of a sub-regional approach that aim to appropriately address relevant transboundary issues at sub-regional level through the cooperative efforts among countries concerned. The arrangement focuses on four important sub-regions in Southeast Asia, namely: Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, and Mekong River Basin. In the Gulf of Thailand sub-region, the countries involved are Thailand, Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Malaysia.

Among its initial steps to promote sub-regional cooperation, SEAFDEC in collaboration with Thailand and Cambodia organized the First Sub-regional Meeting on the Gulf of Thailand in Bangkok in March 2008, the Second Sub-regional Meeting on the Gulf of Thailand in Bangkok in February 2009, and the Third Sub-regional Meeting on the Gulf of Thailand in Siem Reap, Cambodia in September 2011. The common objective of the three events focused on reviewing the

background and compiling baseline information on common issues and concerns. The meetings also provided platform for the countries to discuss and come up with recommendations on matters relevant to fisheries and habitat management in the context of the Gulf of Thailand sub-region.

The discussions and decisions on key aspects made during those earlier meetings, paved the way for the possibility of conducting parallel consultations as and when requested by the countries to facilitate transboundary dialogues between or among neighboring countries. So far, the previous meetings have highlighted on the elements of transboundary issues and opportunities as specific to the Gulf of Thailand sub-region, including landing of catches across boundaries, *i.e.* Cambodia-Viet Nam; Thailand-Cambodia; and Malaysia-Thailand.



*National Workshop on Data Collection for Transboundary Fisheries and Habitat Management in the Gulf of Thailand*



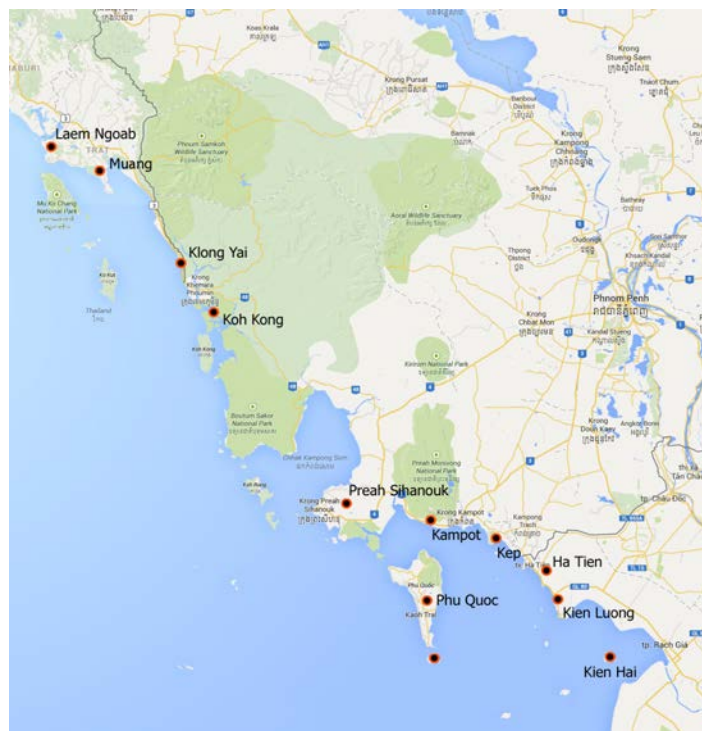
During the January 2015 Sub-regional Technical Meeting on Effective Fisheries Management between Cambodia and Thailand, the 2015 work plan for implementing joint activities concerning management and utilization of transboundary stocks was established, including: 1) data collection on catch landing; 2) research survey on habitat and environment; 3) food and livelihood security of small-scale fishers; and 4) promote and strengthen capacity of coastal community for transboundary coastal fisheries and resources sustainability. Based on such work plan, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for data collection were established while the 2015 work plan for Cambodia and Viet Nam was revised during the subsequent First Bilateral Meeting in February 2015.

For the collaborative effort on data collection of catch landings, the study areas in the three concerned countries had been identified. These are:

Participating countries and study areas
1. Cambodia (in the coastal areas of Cambodia, totally 7 sampling sites) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Koh Kong Province</li> <li>Preah Sihanouk Province</li> <li>Kampot Province, and</li> <li>Kep Province</li> </ol>
2. Thailand (Trat Province, totally 14 landing sites, including 8 for small-scale and 6 for large-scale fishing): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leam Ngoab</li> <li>Muang</li> <li>Klong Yai</li> </ol>
3. Viet Nam (Kien Giang, totally 4 landing sites): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ha Tien</li> <li>Phu Quoc: Duong Dong and Hon Thom</li> <li>Kien Long</li> <li>Kien Hai</li> </ol>
Target species of the data collection by the participating countries
1. Short-head anchovy ( <i>Encrasicholina heteroloba</i> ) 2. Short mackerel ( <i>Rastrelliger brachysoma</i> ) 3. Blue swimming crab ( <i>Portunus pelagicus</i> )

This pilot data collection activity aims to compile a harmonized data on catch landing and other necessary information for the development of a joint management plan for transboundary target species in the Gulf of Thailand.

Thus, a set of data for catch and landing of the three transboundary target species could be gathered over a twelve-month data collection period. As expected, this joint



Landing sites in Thailand, Cambodia, and Viet Nam that are selected as study areas



Short-head anchovy (*Encrasicholina heteroloba*)



Short mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*)



Blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*)

Target species of the data collection

collaborative activity would provide the necessary information on fishing activities, total catch of the target species landed in the selected landing sites, including biological information of short mackerel, short-head anchovy, and blue swimming crab. Eventually, this activity could facilitate better understanding of transboundary species in the Gulf of Thailand.



# REGIONAL PROGRAMS

## SEAFDEC holds the Second Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment

With funding support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, SEAFDEC organized the “2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in Southeast Asian Waters” from 15 to 17 June 2015 at the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF) in Hai Phong, Viet Nam. Co-organized by the Directorate of Fisheries of Viet Nam (D-Fish), the Meeting was attended by the SWG-Neritic Tuna members from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam together with the respective countries’ experts/resource persons on stock assessment. Resource person from the National Fisheries Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRFSF) of Japan, Dr. Tsutomu Nishida also participated in the Meeting. Other participants included the senior officers and staff of SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department and MFRDMD, government officers from D-Fish and officers of RIMF.

With the overall objective of enhancing regional cooperation in managing neritic tuna resources within the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), the Meeting reviewed the workplan for data collection on catch and effort as well as the necessary indicators/parameters, finalized the budgetary requirements for genetic study and stock assessment, and identified the capacity building priorities to support AMSs in implementing the RPOA-Neritic Tunas. The Meeting

agreed to carry out two main activities, namely: 1) Genetic Study for Neritic Tunas to be conducted in 24 sampling sites covering the South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea; 2) and stock assessment for long-tail tuna and eastern little tuna/kawakawa using a production model. Further, the Meeting also agreed on the final Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Genetic Study and Data Collection of Neritic Tunas. ❖



## Regional technical consultation on the use and way forward of RFVR

TD organized the “Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR): Use and Way Forward of RFVR Database as a Management Tool to Reduce IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region” from 2 to 4 June 2015 at Pattaya, Thailand. Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, thirty-six representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries, SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD and the Regional Fisheries Policy Network participated in this RTC. The RTC came up with: 1) strategies and way forward for ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and SEAFDEC to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through utilization of RFVR; and 2) an agreement of AMSs on the management and updating of the RFVR for 24 meters in length and over. As for the possible inclusion of vessels less than 24 meters in length in the RFVR Database, the Consultation agreed that this could be done

at a later stage when the expected outcomes of the RFVR for 24 meters in length and over shall have already been realized.

The RFVR is a collaborative initiative of the AMSs intended to share information on fishing vessels identification and other relevant data/information. The purpose of this initiative is to provide AMSs with reliable and rapid tools to share information on vessels engaging in “International Fishing Operations” (fishing operations in foreign country’s EEZ or in high seas).



It is expected that RFVR will work as a practical tool for related authorities of AMSs in checking and taking corrective actions against inappropriate behavior of its fishing vessels, thereby supporting the elimination of IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. For example, AMSs can take appropriate actions against “Double-Flagging Vessels, IUU fishing vessels, and poaching” by sharing information and identifying problematic vessels through the RFVR database.

The RFVR can therefore be described as a “Shared Tools of AMSs to reduce IUU fishing”, because RFVR will help the AMSs to take coordinated countermeasures against IUU fishing. Furthermore, it is also expected that if AMSs could make full use of the RFVR database, reducing IUU fishing in the region would be successful. ❖



## SEAFDEC at the 5<sup>th</sup> EAFM Technical Working Group Meeting of CTI-CFF

Collaborating partners of the Coral Triangle Initiatives on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) including SEAFDEC led by the Secretary-General, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri attended the 5<sup>th</sup> EAFM Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting of the CTI-CFF on 1 June 2015 in Manado, Indonesia. The Meeting was attended by EAFM-TWG members from Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. Discussion was made on areas of priority to CTI-CFF, including combating IUU fishing, tuna management, live reef food fish trade, coastal fisheries livelihoods and food security, and development of EAFM indicators for monitoring activities undertaken by the respective countries.

The Meeting noted that the collaboration between SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF has recently been realized under the framework of the MOU signed in April 2015. Therefore, during this Meeting, the working cycle and mechanism for formulation, implementation and



monitoring/evaluation of SEAFDEC programs, as well as the important scopes of works where collaboration could be pursued, were introduced. Nevertheless, collaborative activities between CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC in the areas of mutual interest would still be discussed and agreed upon.

Back-to-back with the EAFM-TWG Meeting was the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape EAFM Workshop held on 2-5 June 2015 attended by representatives from Indonesia and Philippines, and

regional partners in the areas including SEAFDEC. The Workshop came up with Vision Statement that “By 2035, the Sulu-Sulawesi is a marine eco-region that is ecologically healthy and delivers ecosystem services that provide equitable socio-economic and cultural benefits through generations, by collaborative and sustainable fisheries management across all political and cultural boundaries”. The goals, objectives, indicators, and management actions were subsequently discussed and agreed upon by the Workshop. ❖

## SEAFDEC participates in the second regional meeting on the protection of migrant fishers

SEAFDEC staff Mr. Sutee Rajruchithong, Ship Division Head of SEAFDEC Training Department; Mr. Anurak Loogon, Chief Officer of the M.V. SEAFDEC; and Ms. Sawitree Chamsai, Policy and Program Officer of SEAFDEC Secretariat, participated in the Second Regional Meeting on the Protection of Migrant Fishers: ASEAN

Information Sharing on “Guidelines on Flag State Inspection of Working and Living Conditions Onboard Fishing Vessels”, on 28-29 April 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia and the

International Labour Organization (ILO)-ASEAN TRIANGLE Project, the Meeting was aimed at improving understanding and strengthening regional cooperation on the issues of work in fishing. The Meeting came up with the draft Guidelines on Flag State Inspection of Working and Living Conditions Onboard Fishing Vessels, recommendations identifying measures for national level capacity building, as well as bilateral and regional cooperation on the protection of migrant fishers.

Besides supporting the attendance officers of SEAFDEC, the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project also supported the participation of fisheries officers from the ASEAN Member States in the said Meeting. ❖



Participants in the Second Regional Meeting on the Protection of Migrant Fishers



## SEAFDEC joins the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AEG-CITES

The Policy and Program Coordinator of SEAFDEC, Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) which was organized on 7 - 8 May 2015 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

Dr. Somboon informed the Meeting on the progress and status of the issues tackled by SEAFDEC with regard to endangered aquatic species as well as commercially exploited species of fish (Class Actinopterygii) and sharks (Class Elasmobranchii). SEAFDEC also raised the concern on the status of catadromous eels (*Anguilla* spp.) vis-à-vis the declining of American eel (*A. rostrata*) and European eel (*A. anguilla*)

due to habitat alterations and over exploitation. Specifically, the Meeting noted that possible trade restrictions for both European and American eel species could impact on the Asian eel species such as Japanese eel (*A. japonica*) and Indonesian short-fin eel (*A. bicolor*) in the near future.

For sharks, the Meeting was informed on the efforts of SEAFDEC to build the capacity of AMSs to improve catch data collection of sharks and rays since 2003. The Meeting was also briefed on several training programs on species identification, improvement of national statistics to include sharks and rays by species that have been conducted with the support from the Japanese Trust

Fund. In addition, SEAFDEC recently received small grants for one year (2015-2016) for data collection and testing of NDF for sharks and rays from the EU through the CITES Secretariat.

With regard to the preparatory work for the next CITES CoP-17, the Meeting was informed that SEAFDEC is planning to provide a regional platform to facilitate discussion on the proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species to the CITES Appendices, as well as to develop the ASEAN common position or coordinated position for endorsement by the SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN Expert Group (AEG) on CITES in 2016. ❖



Participants of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on CITES

## REBYC-II CTI Work Planning Workshop and Project Steering Committee Meeting

The SEAFDEC Training Department as the Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) of the Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management Project (REBYC-II CTI) in close collaboration with Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of

Philippines organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Work Plan Development Workshop from 15 to 16 May 2015 in Calbayog City, Philippines. Seventeen participants from REBYC-II CTI participating countries (Indonesia, Papua New Guinea,

Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam), FAO/HQ, FAO/RAP and SEAFDEC attended in the workshop. The Workshop aimed to facilitate the formulation of workplan for the remaining six months of 2015 by the REBYC-II CTI participating countries, as well as review the activities implemented since the last work-planning workshop in May 2014. The expected results included the final work plans for each REBYC-II CTI country and SEAFDEC RFU. The final work plans were discussed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting held on 18-19 May 2015 at Calbayog, Philippines. This PSC Meeting came up with recommendations for the final stage of the project through ways forward of regional trawl fisheries management. ❖





## SEAFDEC holds sharks and rays data collection meeting

Three-day Regional Technical Meeting on Sharks and Rays Data Collection was organized by the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) in collaboration with SEAFDEC Secretariat and MFRDMD on 26 May 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, with support from the Japanese Trust Fund. The Meeting was aimed at assisting countries that participate in the sharks and

rays data collection project (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) in planning for data collection in 2015-2016, as well as identifying problems in sharks and rays data collection. The Meeting also considered practical solutions, and shared knowledge and experiences among participating countries.

After the discussion, the Meeting came up with the agreement on project management and work plan in 2015-2016 based on the Standard Operational Procedures of sharks and rays data collection. Information and experiences from countries were subsequently shared on Non-detrimental Findings (NDF) for sharks and rays.



*Participants in the Regional Technical Meeting on Sharks and Rays Data Collection*

Subsequent to this Meeting, a series of National Workshops on Sharks and Rays Data Collection would be carried out for local enumerators of the respective participating countries, which would be followed by sharks data collection at 14 pilot sites in seven participating countries with funding support from the EU through the CITES Secretariat.



## Cold Chain Management for Seafood Project launched

The Project Planning and Inception Meeting for the Cold Chain Management for Seafood Project under the MFRD Programmes was successfully held in Singapore on 19-20 May 2015. This Meeting was organized by the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore as the Collaborating Centre of SEAFDEC for MFRD Programs.

Attended by 22 participants from both government and private sectors of the 10 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, the Meeting delivered the following outputs: 1) Understanding of the resources and practices for seafood cold chain management in the Member Countries; 2) Plans for the future activities of the 3-year project from 2015-2017, including a training workshop by Australian seafood experts at the end of 2015 and a one-year pilot trial on cold chain management for seafood

in Member Countries in 2016; and 3) Identification of Key Project Leader (KPL) and commercial co-operant of each Member Country. Two resource speakers from the local Singapore seafood industry were also invited to share their experiences, insights and challenges faced in implementing cold chain management in their companies.

The Meeting included presentations of country reports by each Member

Country detailing the current cold chain management practices for seafood in their respective countries. Each Member Country also identified the target seafood commodities for the pilot trials on implementation of cold chain management. The list of commodities will be forwarded to the Australian seafood experts for information and consideration during the preparation of the contents of the upcoming training.



# FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
<b>2015</b>			
7-9 July	Iloilo, Philippines	42 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department	AQD
13-17 July	Bangkok, Thailand	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) LEAD Material Writeshop	TD/REBYC-II CTI Project
19-20 July	Yangon, Myanmar	National Workshop on Sharks and Rays Data Collection in Myanmar	TD, MFRDMD and Secretariat
22-23 July	Ranong Province, Thailand	National Workshop on Sharks and Rays Data Collection in Thailand	TD, MFRDMD and Secretariat
21-24 July	Rome, Italy	Expert Consultation on Establishing Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes to improve the Traceability of Fisheries Products	FAO
27-30 July	Pattaya, Thailand	Symposium on Strategy for Fisheries Resources Enhancement in the Southeast Asian Region	TD & AQD
31 July	Pattaya, Thailand	Project Inception Workshop: Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia	TD
4-5 August	Sandakan, Malaysia	National Workshop on Sharks and Rays Data Collection in Malaysia	TD, MFRDMD and Secretariat
4-8 August	Trat, Thailand and Koh Kong, Cambodia	Field Survey to Review Available Mechanism for Cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
5-6 August	Singapore	Japanese Trust Fund VI: Regional Technical Consultation on Harmful Algal Blooms in the ASEAN Region	MFRD
13-14 August	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	SEAFDEC Initiative on Combating IUU Fishing	MFRDMD
17-18 August	Cilacap, Indonesia	National Workshop on Sharks and Rays Data Collection in Indonesia	TD, MFRDMD and Secretariat
17-21 August	Philippines	Training Course on Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
19-21 August	Songkhla, Thailand	Expert Group Meeting on Drafting the RPOA-Capacity	Secretariat
23-28 August	Stockholm, Sweden	World Water Week	Sweden
24-27 August	Trat, Thailand and Koh Kong, Cambodia	Field Survey to Review Available Mechanism for Cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
24-27 August	Bali, Indonesia	Southeast Asia Regional Consultation Workshop on the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication	Indonesia
25-27 August	Davao, Philippines	2 <sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meeting for the Joint Program on Tuna Research in the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas	TD
26-27 August	Singapore	Japanese Trust Fund V: End-of-Project Meeting on Traceability Systems For Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region	MFRD
27-29 August	Bali, Indonesia	4 <sup>th</sup> CTI-CFF Regional Business Forum	CTI-CFF
3-4 September	General Santos, Philippines	17 <sup>th</sup> National Tuna Congress	Philippines
6-8 September	P. Sihanouk, Cambodia	National Workshop on Sharks and Rays Data Collection	TD, MFRDMD and Secretariat
8 September - 22 February 2016	On-line course	Distance Learning Course: Basic Principles of Health Management in Aquaculture	AQD
10-11 September	Vung Tau, Viet Nam	National Workshop on Sharks and Rays Data Collection in Viet Nam	TD, MFRDMD and Secretariat
13-15 September	Semarang, Indonesia	2 <sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Aquatic Products Processing and Health 2015 (ISAPPROSH)	Indonesia
14-18 September	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	29 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia	OIE
15-16 September	Bangkok, Thailand	Inception Workshop for the Oceans and Fisheries Partnership Project	USAID/Ocean Project



## Collaboration of SEAFDEC and FRA



Dr. Masahito Hirota

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) of Japan and SEAFDEC, Dr. Masahito Hirota from the Japanese National Research Institute of Fisheries Science joins the SEAFDEC Training Department as a visiting scientist from 1 June to 30 November 2015.

During his stint at TD, Dr. Hirota will conduct social field survey in cooperation with TD staff for the development of the “Fisheries Management Evaluation Model” Southeast Asian version, which can

evaluate the fisheries targeting wide variety of species and the complicated commodity chain of tropical water zone. In this regard, TD staff will have the opportunity to develop their skills through the practical experience that they would gain in carrying out social surveys for model development.



## SEAFDEC takes part in ASEAN Meetings

(Continued from Page 3)

and Effective Dissemination in the Southeast Asian Region (Philippines); 2) Environment-Friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources (Myanmar); 3) Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region (Malaysia); 4) Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia (Thailand); 5) Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia (Indonesia); 6) Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia (Thailand); and 7) Cold Chain Management of Seafood (Singapore). The SEAFDEC proposal for the conduct of a “High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community” with the theme of combating IUU fishing and enhancing the competitiveness of ASEAN fish and fishery products was well-accepted by the ASWGF which also recommended that the Consultation should be held back-to-back with the “ASEAN Fisheries Conference and ASEAN Seafood Exposition” scheduled in Bangkok, Thailand on 4-6 August 2016.

During the inaugural session of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASWGF Meeting, Dr. Chumnarn also reaffirmed with the Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development of Myanmar U Khin Maung Aye the continued commitment of SEAFDEC to support the activities that respond to the priority fisheries issues of Myanmar.



### 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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## The U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN pays courtesy visit to TD



*H.E. Nina Hachigian*

On 24 June 2015, *H.E. Nina Hachigian*, U.S. Ambassador to the ASEAN visited the SEAFDEC Training Department, and was met by the senior management officials of TD and the Secretariat. While noting that the roles and functions of SEAFDEC focus in providing technical support and policy recommendations for sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, *H.E. Nina Hachigian* expressed the willingness of the U.S. to support the sustainable utilization of fishery resources, particularly through the initiatives on combating IUU

fishing, and enhancing the application of traceability system for fish and fishery products from the region.

Discussion was also made on the areas where assistance would be required to enhance the sustainability of fisheries in Southeast Asia, *e.g.* engagement of external expertise in areas where certain expertise are not available within SEAFDEC, enhancing high-level support and recognition of the

importance of the fisheries sector through improved valuation of fishery resources, and development of non-conventional methodologies to support fisheries data collection that could contribute to improving long-term statistics of the countries. After the discussion, *H.E. Nina Hachigian* observed the activities and facilities of TD, starting from fishing gear and marine engineering workshops, and the *M.V. SEAFDEC* docked at the TD pier. ☒



*U.S. Ambassador to the ASEAN, H.E. Nina Hachigian, visiting and observing the activities and facilities of TD*

## SEAFDEC holds the Second Experts Consultation on ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Experts Consultation on ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme was convened from 25 to 27 May 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia. Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, the Consultation was attended by representatives from five SEAFDEC Member Countries namely; Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, as well as senior officials from SEAFDEC. The Director of INFOFISH and representatives from the private sector also attended the Consultation as observers.

The main task of this Consultation was to review the second draft of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) and come up with the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft ACDS, particularly on the various forms of the Catch Documents, taking into account the recommendations raised during the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, as well as comments of the Member Countries.

The Consultation also analyzed the usage of the ASEAN Catch Documents or ASEAN Catch Certificate in various

scenario and conditions, and came up with the detailed adjustments on the ASEAN Catch Documents/ASEAN Catch Certificate. The Consultation also discussed and suggested the future workplan to enable SEAFDEC to improve and finalize the ACDS in the near future.

The progress of the ACDS development including the results of this Consultation were reported during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Workshop Group on Fisheries in Nay Pyi Taw from 10-12 June 2015, where it was also recommended that extensive stakeholders' consultation should be carried out with involvement of important trading partners such as EU and the US. Furthermore, it was suggested that the implementation of the ACDS should also be undertaken in a phased approach, starting from selected commodities or sectors. ☒



*The experts group discussion*