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EDITORIAL

For the third quarter of 2016, SEAFDEC organized many events enhancing its role in sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. Also during the quarter, a change in management of IFRDMD took place when *Dr. Arif Wibowo* was appointed the new Chief of IFRDMD succeeding *Dr. Satoshi Honda* as the Acting Chief since early 2016.

One of the most important meetings convened during the period was the High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development toward the ASEAN Economic Community: Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products in Bangkok on 3 August 2016. During the High-level Consultation, the Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing was adopted, signaling the

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ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperative forum for combating IUU fishing and enhance competitiveness of fish and fishery products



On 3 August 2016, the Department of Fisheries of Thailand hosted the “High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community: Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products.” The Consultation was officiated by *Dr. Theerapat Prayurasiddhi*, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and was attended by Senior Officials and delegates of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, including representatives from their respective Embassies in Thailand, officials of SEAFDEC and ASEAN Secretariat, and

representatives from regional/international organizations.

The Senior Officials of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC countries agreed on the “Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Product,” which signals the seriousness of countries in the region in enhancing cooperation to combat IUU fishing. The Joint Declaration was subsequently acknowledged by SOM-AMAF on the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry held on 22-23 August in the Philippines.



SEAFDEC Mission to Japan 2016

The Mission of SEAFDEC, led by the Secretary-General *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* and Deputy Secretary-General *Dr. Kaoru Ishii*, paid courtesy visits to agencies and institutions in Japan during 4-7 July 2016. The Mission team had opportunities to make courtesy calls on *Dr. Kazuo Sato* Director-General of the Fisheries Agency, *Mr. Shigeto Hase*, Deputy Director-General of the Fisheries Agency and SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan,



The Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General discussing with the SEAFDEC Council Director and officers of the Fisheries Agency of Japan

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EDITORIAL

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seriousness of the Southeast Asian countries in enhancing regional cooperation to combat IUU fishing in the region.

To substantiate the regional common coordinated position developed by the SEAFDEC Member Countries regarding the proposals to list several commercially important aquatic species in the CITES Appendices, representatives from SEAFDEC and Member Countries joined the 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2016. Sixty-two proposals focusing on commercially exploited aquatic species were debated over the two-week Convention. These proposals were aimed at enhancing the conservation and regulating the trade in commercially exploited aquatic species, the results of which serve as basis for the listing of such species in the CITES Appendices.

Many regional events were organized by SEAFDEC during this quarter including the Experts Meeting on Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region which was supported by the Japanese Trust Fund. The Meeting aimed to clarify the best available purse seine fisheries management in the region. In another development, a regional training course on Identification of HAB Species in the ASEAN Region was organized in Singapore through MFRD and supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, where the participants shared their knowledge, experiences and challenges in the management of HAB species in their respective countries. A training course on EAFM was conducted in Cambodia to strengthen the capacity of the country in sustainable fisheries management.

AQD commemorated its 43rd Anniversary in July 2016 highlighting on the development of aquaculture toward sustainability to ensure food security and improvement of livelihoods. Many activities were organized to commemorate the occasion, including lectures for fish farmers and the academe.



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SEAFDEC team visits SwAM to explore the applicability of traceability systems of Sweden in ACDS



Inspection of catch: after unloading from trawler, the catch would be sorted by species and covered with crushed ice

Over the past six years, SEAFDEC and SwAM have been discussing the areas for cooperation relevant to the needs of the region and building upon the experiences of SwAM and other Swedish and European institutions. The applicability of the traceability systems tested in Sweden has been highlighted as an area that, potentially, could be adjusted to be applicable in the ASEAN region. To explore such possibility, SEAFDEC team led by the Secretary-General and

senior officers including an IT expert from the USAID-Oceans, visited office of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) on 12-15 September 2016. Several issues were discussed: existing traceability system of the SwAM from sea to port and to consumers, catch documentation at Fish Auction in Gothenburg, fishermen organizations, landing control and inspection of fishing vessels, marine fisheries laboratory to support stock assessment, and negotiation work in EU as well as EU Common Fishery Policy.

In developing the e-ACDS (electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme), SEAFDEC applies the SwAM Traceability System as well as the existing systems applied by Indonesia and Thailand for exporting fish and fishery products to EU taking into account the practicality of such systems, while strengthening Monitoring Control and Surveillance is still needed since VMS is not in place in many Member Countries. 

SEAFDEC attends the RSN-6 and COFI-32

The Secretary-General, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* accompanied by *Dr. Kaoru Ishii*, *Dr. Magnus Torell* and *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* attended the 6th Meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) at FAO/Rome on 9 July 2016. The RSN promotes information sharing and discussion on emerging issues of common concern among the RFBs Secretariats. At the RSN Meeting, the need for consistency in positions of Member States in their work in RFBs, FAO, CBD, CITES and UNGA-related fora was noted; and thus, COFI members are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that their representatives in other international fora fully acknowledge the positions taken at COFI and within RFBs. The Meeting also discussed the importance of raising awareness of the work carried out by the RFBs not only to fisheries constituencies, but also to wider groups at the national and international levels so that coordination

and engagement can be promoted and more non-fisheries bodies are aware of relevant work undertaken by RFBs.

Subsequently on 11-15 July 2016, SEAFDEC attended in the 32nd Session of FAO/COFI. During the Meeting, SEAFDEC addressed and shared its initiatives and key achievements in strengthening regional cooperation toward combating IUU fishing, including the establishment of Regional Fishing Vessels Record, development of ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme, and promotion of sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. SEAFDEC also obtained updates on several information related to other FAO global programs such as the Ten Steps to Responsible Inland Fisheries; rights-based approaches for fisheries; Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change for 2017-2020, among others.



SEAFDEC joins the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in South Africa

SEAFDEC team led by SEAFDEC Secretary-General *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* together with Deputy Secretary-General *Dr. Kaoru Ishii* and Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*, joined the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016. Over 2,500 representatives including those from more than 180 governments, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, philanthropists, and businesses attended this triennial conference. Sixty-two proposals by 64 countries were debated over two weeks in a global effort to enhance conservation and regulate the trade of wild animals and plants, the results of which were used to accordingly amend the CITES Appendices.

Particularly, for the commercially exploited aquatic species, seven proposals were made by CITES Parties on the inclusion of some commercially exploited

aquatic species into CITES Appendix II; and the down-listing of *Crocodylus porosus* (saltwater crocodile) from Appendix I to Appendix II as proposed by Malaysia. From the voting by Parties, proposals for inclusion of *Alopias* spp. (tresher sharks), *Mobula* spp. (mobula or devil rays), *Carcharhinus falciformis* (silky shark), *Holacanthus clarionensis* (Clarion angelfish) and all species of *Nautilus* into Appendix II, and the down-listing of saltwater crocodile were accepted. Proposals for inclusion of *Potamotrygon motoro* (ocellate river string ray) and *Pterapogon kauderni* (Bangai cardinal fish) into Appendix II were however withdrawn by the proponents. ☒



Dr. Kom Silapajarn (right) and Dr. Kaoru Ishii (left) during CITES-CoP

SEAFDEC Mission to Japan 2016

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and *Mr. Keichi Hara* of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Alternate SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan. During the visits, discussions were made on the progress of activities undertaken by SEAFDEC with particular focus on initiatives in combating IUU fishing including the preparations for the “High-level Consultation.”

The Mission team also visited several collaborating agencies, *i.e.* Tokyo University of Maritime and Fisheries (TUMSAT), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); the Fisheries Research and Education Agency of Japan (formerly FRA), and Hokkaido University. During the visits, *Dr. Kom* expressed the appreciation of SEAFDEC and all Member Countries for the continued

support from these agencies and discussed the areas of future cooperation. New areas that require technical support from relevant agencies in Japan including the need for Southeast Asian countries to comply with international standards and requirements for improved working conditions, safety and sanitation of workers on-board fishing vessels as well as the quality of catch were also raised and discussed.

On 5 July, the Mission attended in the “SEAFDEC Technical Support Committee (TSC) Meeting 2016” to discuss the cooperation between SEAFDEC and Japanese agencies, with the objectives of discussing and providing technical cooperation, advice and support to the implementation of the Japanese Trust Fund projects by SEAFDEC. ☒

SEAFDEC takes part in the Ministerial Meeting on Traceability of Fish and Fisheries Product

On 27 July 2016, SEAFDEC Secretary-General *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* attended the “Ministerial Meeting on Traceability of Fish and Fisheries Product” in Jakarta Indonesia. Officiated by *Her Excellency Ibu Susi Pudjiastuti*, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, and attended by Ministers in charge of fisheries affairs of the Southeast Asia and Pacific region, the Meeting reflected the mutual interest and concerns towards traceability as means of ensuring that the region’s fish and fishery products are derived from legal activities.

During the Meeting, *Dr. Kom* shared information on SEAFDEC initiatives towards enhancing the traceability of products from marine capture fisheries, particularly through the development of the ASEAN Catch Certification Scheme or ACDS, which is one of the integrated regional approaches to combat IUU fishing. Other initiatives were also discussed particularly in supporting the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), and development of the “Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products,” with a view that matters related to combating IUU fishing and enhancing traceability require close cooperation and coordination among relevant countries in order to lead toward effective and successful implementation in the future. ☒



Her Excellency Ibu Susi Pudjiastuti (2nd from the left) and Dr. Kom (2nd from the right)

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Staff from Fisheries Research Agency of Japan visit TD

Two staff from the Fisheries Research Agency of Japan (FRA) paid an official visit to SEAFDEC Training Department on 2 August 2016. At the welcoming reception, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD, *Dr. Kaoru Ishii* led the SEAFDEC staff to welcome the guests. The roles played by SEAFDEC and TD on regional fisheries development and significant achievements were presented by *Dr. Ishii* to the guests. Subsequently, a tour to observe TD facilities such as the fishing and engineering workshops, the M.V. SEAFDEC and the M.V. SEAFDEC



2 was conducted. Moreover, the FRA staff also visited and observed natural shrimp farms and mangrove areas at Prasamutchedi District in Samut Prakan Province. ❖

TD joins national and international fisheries exhibitions

Training Department (TD) joined the Department of Fisheries of Thailand in staging a fisheries exhibition at the annual national fair “Pramong Nomklao” organized this year at the Future Park Department Store in Pathum Thani Province, just north of Bangkok. At the 10-day exhibition that started on 1 July 2016, TD presented among others a prototype “fish passage for sustainable inland fisheries resources” developed by TD. The model of fish passage was displayed for the viewers to understand the functions of fish passage in maintaining the interconnectivity of fish habitats.

Subsequently, from 4 to 6 August 2016, TD also joined the “ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2016: ASEAN Seafood

for the World,” held in conjunction with the “11th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF) and Exhibition: Asian Food Security for the World” at Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The 11th AFAF comprised six sessions, namely: Governance; Education and Training; Sustainable Fisheries; Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture; Response to Impacts of Climate Change; and Seafood, Post-Harvest Technology and Food Safety. Additional forum on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries was also arranged concurrently. At the Exposition, SEAFDEC presented its activities that focus on the promotion of countermeasures and tools to reduce IUU fishing; conduct of fishery resources survey in collaboration with Member Countries; and promotion of responsible fisheries and fish passage for sustainable fishery resources. ❖



Fish passage model which attracted visitors and enhanced the public awareness on sustainability of inland capture fisheries

Fisheries high school students from Japan visit TD facilities



Group of students from Japan visiting local fish market in Samut Prakan

TD warmly welcomed three teachers and six students from the Yaizu Fisheries High School of Japan on 18 August 2016. The group visited the facilities of TD such as the fishing and engineering workshops, and observed the installations and facilities onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Moreover, they also visited and observed natural shrimp farms and mangrove areas in Prasamutchedi District and the fish market in Pak Nam, Samut Prakan Province. ❖

NOAA staff visit TD to discuss collaboration on future activities

Five staff from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) visited the facilities of TD such as the M.V. SEAFDEC, and the fishing and engineering workshops on 8 July 2015. Moreover, discussion was also made on possible collaboration and assistance of NOAA in the future activities of TD especially in the area of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), Port State Measures (PSM), and database management for oceanographic survey. ❖



AQD strengthens collaboration with JIRCAS

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between AQD and Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) last 14 July 2016 to mutually plan and implement research projects, and exchange scientists through the conduct of research projects, seminars, trainings and site visit. The MOA stated that JIRCAS and AQD will conduct two collaborative research projects on “Demonstration and Verification of Sustainable and Efficient Aquaculture Techniques by Combination of Multiple Organisms” and “Development of Low Fish Meal Feed for Aquaculture Using Alternative Sources.” Effective until March 2021, the MOA was signed by the AQD Acting Chief and Deputy Chief *Dr. Chihaya Nakasayu*, and JIRCAS Program Director *Dr. Yukiyo Yamamoto* represented by JIRCAS Fisheries Division Director, *Dr. Tetsuo Fujii*. ☒



Representatives from Korea Regional Development Foundation visit TD



Representatives from Korea Regional Development Foundation visit TD

On 5 September 2016, 28 members from Korea Regional Development Foundation visited TD and discussed the benchmark on the overall R&D systems in fishing industry. The group also observed the facilities of TD such as fishing workshop, fishing engineering workshop and the M.V. SEAFDEC.

The Korea Regional Development Foundation is an organization tasked to foster and support each region to develop its future autonomously, through the pursuance of an integrated development of the economy, society, culture, and environment in each region, as well as to maximize the value of diversification in agriculture and farming areas. ☒

Capacity building for TD staff on gender concept

Supported by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, an In-house Training Workshop on “Gender Awareness and Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries Sector” was conducted on 26-28 July 2016 in Nakon Nayok, Thailand for staff of SEAFDEC/TD and Secretariat to enhance the staff’s awareness on gender concept and relevant tools for mainstreaming gender in fisheries sector at all levels, *e.g.* gender *vs.* sex, gender equality *vs.* equity), and identified gender issues in fisheries sector and their daily life as well as the tools for gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle in fisheries development. At the end, the participants developed their group gender action plan to be implemented during the one-year period, and identified gender focal point of SEAFDEC to follow-up and come up with coaching plan that could be used for organizing a follow-up workshop after one year. ☒



SEAFDEC joins the consultation-workshop on database development

Staff from SEAFDEC/TD and Secretariat represented SEAFDEC during the “Consultation-Workshop on Participatory Approaches on Database Development for Management of Marine and Coastal Resources” conducted from 28 to 29 July 2016 in Trat Province, Thailand.

Organized by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources of Thailand in collaboration with Burapha University, Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), and the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, this Consultation-Workshop was aimed at raising awareness of local communities and linking the various projects concerning management of marine and coastal resources currently

implemented by concerned fisheries agencies in the area. It also aimed to reduce duplication in fisheries data collection of each project and enhance coordination/collaboration in the development of database for marine and coastal resources in Trat Province. It is expected that Trat

Province would serve as a pilot site for the establishment of a standardized template and database collection for adoption and utilization by fisheries agencies/organizations/stakeholders in fisheries resources management in the coastal zone of Thailand. ☒



AQD researchers take part in molecular ecology and bioinformatics workshop

AQD Scientist *Dr. Maria Rowena Eguia*, Researcher *Dr. Shelah Mae Buen-Ursua*, together with Senior Technical Assistant *Ms. Joana Joy Huervana*, participated in the “2nd International Workshop on the Diversity of the Indo-Pacific Network (DIPnet)” held at the Microtel Hotel in Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines on 25 to 29 July 2016. Aiming to establish a collaborative research network as well as start a database for the advancement of marine biodiversity research in the region, the event was co-hosted by the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute c/o *Dr. Rachel Ravago-Gotanco* who invited and, through NSF, provided support to two of the AQD participants. Aside from lectures and hands-on training on bioinformatic analysis of molecular data and metadata



Lecturers and participants during the 2nd annual DIPnet Workshop

using computer software programs, also discussed during the workshop were determining the challenges in biodiversity research in Southeast Asia specifically the Philippines, and developing research proposals to address these challenges through collaborative projects possibly with support from local and international funding institutions. *Dr. Eguia* presented

the completed and on-going AQD population genetics researches on tilapia, milkfish, mud crab and abalone; while *Dr. Ursua* talked about her completed genetic assessment work on Philippine seahorses. The Philippine session is the second in a series of workshops conducted in Southeast Asia with the first session held in Indonesia last year. ❖

AQD participates in aquaculture exhibitions

For the third quarter of 2016, AQD joined four events, namely: the 1st National Aquaculture Summit, Aqua Kapihan: 5th AquaMarine Expo, 7th Aquaculture Expo and Convention Philippines, and Super National Science and Technology Week.

Aquaculture technologies developed by AQD were presented to the public through a booth during the 1st National Aquaculture Summit held on 7-8 July 2016 in Dagupan City, Philippines. The booth displayed and distributed various publications including farmer-friendly manuals, textbooks, and brochures which are outputs of the R&D work in AQD. The two-day summit discussed the status, trends, opportunities, and challenges in the aquaculture subsector including the impacts of the ASEAN integration to the Philippine aquaculture commodities trade.

AQD was also able to share its science-based aquaculture technologies to entrepreneurs, development-oriented groups, and other guests during the Aqua Kapihan: 5th AquaMarine Expo at Quezon City, Philippines from 15 to 17 July 2016. During the event, AQD Scientist *Dr. Frolan Aya* presented a seminar on the hatchery production of silver therapon.



BFAR Region 1 Director Nestor Domenden visited the AQD booth during the 1st National Aquaculture Summit

In addition, AQD participated in the 7th Aquaculture Expo and Convention Philippines (Aquatech 2016) held on 20-21 July 2016 in Tagaytay City, Philippines, where AQD Scientists *Dr. Nerissa Salayo*, *Dr. Ma. Lourdes Aralar*, *Dr. Edgar Amar*, *Dr. Relicardo Coloso*, *Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa*, and Associate Scientist *Dr. Frolan Aya* were among the speakers during the technical conference. They talked on the following topics: (1) Social and economic challenges in Southeast Asian aquaculture; (2) Domestication and evaluation of the culture potential of the native caridean prawns; (3) Updates on the early mortality syndrome in marine shrimps; (4) Feeds & feeding for milkfish, mud crab & their polyculture; (5) Breeding, seed production & grow-

out of mangrove crab; and (6) Seed production of ayungin, respectively.

Aside from the technical conference, AQD also participated in the trade show with Technical Coordinator *Ms. Grace Garcia* as the technical resource person and booth in-charge. Philippine Senator *Cynthia Villar* visited the AQD booth and was very appreciative of AQD's technologies and participation in the convention.

Lastly, AQD joined the Super National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) celebration of the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) held on 25-29 July at the DOST-PCAARRD Innovation and Technology Center in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines. During the NSTW, AQD exhibited DOST-PCAARRD-funded projects on mangrove crab, blue swimming crab, oysters and abalone. The event was open to all science and technology enthusiasts, academicians, researchers, inventors, innovators, professionals, students, and the general public. ❖

SEAFDEC facilitates testing of CITES species NDFs in Malaysia and Indonesia

The Malaysian and Indonesian government supported by SEAFDEC organized the “Workshop on CITES Species Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs)” in Sandakan, Malaysia on 21-22 July, and subsequently in Jakarta, Indonesia on 26-27 July 2016. According to the CITES, Parties shall allow trade in specimens of species included in Appendix II, or non-commercial trade in species included in Appendix I, only if the Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that “such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species.” The Workshop therefore aims to support countries in development of “Non-Detriment Findings” or NDFs for CITES-listed species, by testing the available NDFs documents prepared by Germany,

Japan and Australia, and making use of available landings and biological data available in the two countries.

During the presentation of the case study, Malaysia and Indonesia made use of 2015-2016 data as well as previous data on mobula rays (*Mobula spp.*) and scalloped hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*). From such exercise, Indonesia could already fulfill the steps required for development of national NDFs ‘with condition’ for mobula rays and scalloped hammerhead sharks. Nevertheless, Indonesia still needs to implement several management measures as presented during the Workshop before NDFs recommendation could be made. For Malaysia, however, the country still needs

to collect more landing data to fulfill the requirements specified in the Germany’s NDFs. SEAFDEC has planned to develop Standard Operating Procedures for NDFs which should be made available by the end of 2016. The Workshop also recommended that SEAFDEC should initiate a regional workshop to discuss and develop regional guidelines on development of NDFs for Member Countries. ❖



SEAFDEC convenes Project-End-Meeting on Sharks Data Collection in Southeast Asia

SEAFDEC organized the “Project-End-Meeting on Sharks Data Collection in Southeast Asia” in Quezon City, Philippines on 18-20 August 2016. The Meeting was attended by the representatives from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam together with senior officers from SEAFDEC Secretariat, MFRDMD and TD.

The Meeting was aimed at reporting the results of the one-year data collection on sharks catch and landing at the selected sites in Southeast Asia. Preparation of the final report (technical) of the 1-year sharks data collection was also discussed as well as the plans for future works

and activities to support the sustainable utilization of sharks in Southeast Asia.

The Meeting also developed the way forward for the project especially on the need to carry out activities in support of HRD on species identification of sharks and rays, and conduct of genetic studies for stock validation. Analysis on Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) and relevant biological data analysis at regional level would be incorporated in the full report of the 1-year data collection. Meanwhile, total fishing efforts data would be included in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Sharks Data Collection in Southeast Asia, which is being developed by SEAFDEC. ❖



SEAFDEC team attends preparatory meeting for national resource survey in Cambodia waters

On 20 September 2016, SEAFDEC staff attended the Preparatory Meeting on Work Plan for the National Survey in the Jurisdiction of Cambodian Waters for 2016 at the Fisheries Administration (FiA) Office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the National Fisheries University of Japan (NFU), and researchers and officials from FiA. Reported and discussed during the Meeting were the findings and results of the survey carried out by NFU and SEAFDEC onboard T/S Koyo Maru in Cambodian Waters in 2015, and decided on the survey equipment and gears that should be included in the survey in 2016, as well as other arrangements for the next survey scheduled on 8-17 November 2016. ❖



Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products

WE, the Senior Officials of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries met on the occasion of the “High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community: Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products,” in Bangkok, Thailand on 3 August 2016;

Recognizing the provisions in international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982), Agenda 21, which was adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992), the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF, 1995), and the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU, 2007);

Guided by the ASEAN Charter, which aims to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations and to place the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the people at the center of the ASEAN community building process;

Bearing in mind that fisheries in the Southeast Asian region had developed rapidly during the last decade contributing significantly to the improved economy and food security of the region, however, IUU fishing is a serious concern and threatens the sustainability of the region’s fisheries management and conservation measures, fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems, as well as economic viability and food security;

Aware of the existing national, regional and international initiatives in combating IUU fishing undertaken by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and other regional and international organizations;

Recalling the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for fisheries during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” held in June 2011;

Conscious of the need to meet food safety and quality requirements; such as through implementing the ASEAN Guidelines for the Use of Chemicals in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemicals, ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practice (GAqP), ASEAN Shrimp GAP, and continue developing ASEAN standards in line with relevant regional and international instruments such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Agreement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures;

Taking into consideration the importance of working conditions of labor in fisheries sector as outlined in the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;

HEREBY DECLARE OUR INTENT, without prejudice to the sovereign rights, obligations, and responsibilities of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries under relevant international laws and arrangements, to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region and enhance the competitiveness of ASEAN fish and fishery products by:

1. Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) programs under national laws and regulations for combating IUU fishing and enhancing cooperation among relevant national agencies within the country for effective implementation of laws and regulations for combating IUU fishing;
2. Intensifying capacity building and awareness-raising programs, including information, education and communication campaigns;
3. Enhancing traceability of fish and fishery products from capture fisheries through the implementation of the “ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain,” and “ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries”;
4. Enhancing traceability of aquaculture products, through the implementation of all ASEAN GAPs with certification scheme based on regulations of respective countries, and traceability systems that are harmonized with those of major importing countries;

5. Managing fishing capacity with a view to balance fishing efforts taking into account the declining status of the fishery resources in the Southeast Asian region, and establishing conservation measures based on scientific evidence;
6. Promoting the implementation of port State measures through enhanced inter-agencies and regional cooperation in preventing the landing of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities from all foreign fishing vessels, and encouraging the use of the “Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)”;
7. Enhancing regional cooperation in managing trans-boundary fisheries resources through regional, sub-regional, and bilateral arrangements in combating IUU fishing, particularly poaching by fishing vessels, transshipment and transportation of fish and fishery products across borders of respective countries;
8. Regulating the quality and safety of ASEAN fish and fishery products all throughout the supply chain to meet standards and market requirements as well as acceptability by importing countries, and development and promotion of ASEAN seal of excellence/label;
9. Addressing issues on labor (safe, legal and equitable practices) in the fisheries sector in the Southeast Asian region through strengthened cooperation among relevant national agencies within the country as well as establishing regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation and collaboration via relevant ASEAN platforms, and helping to support the development and implementation of relevant labor guidelines for the fisheries sector;
10. Enhancing close collaboration between the AMSs and relevant RFMOs in combating IUU fishing; and
11. Undertaking collective efforts in developing preventive and supportive measures to strengthen rehabilitation of resources and recovery of fish stocks to mitigate the impacts of IUU fishing.

WE HEREBY DECLARE AND ENCOURAGE THAT

This Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products be implemented by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries; and that AMSs and SEAFDEC with support from donors and collaborating partners, strengthen their efforts to implement programs to combat IUU fishing and enhancing the competitiveness of ASEAN fish and fishery products.

This Joint Declaration is adopted on 3 August 2016. In attendance during the adoption are:

- 1) *Pg. Kamalrudzaman bin Pg. Haji Md Ishak*, Senior Special Duties Officer, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam
- 2) *Dr. Kao Sochivi*, Deputy Director General, Fisheries Administration, Kingdom of Cambodia
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The Senior Officials of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, together with official of ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC Secretary-General during the adoption of the “Joint Declaration” at the High-level Consultation on 3 August 2016

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Core Experts Meeting on Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region convened

MFRDMD with support from the Japanese Trust Fund organized the “Core Experts Meeting on Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region” from 9 to 11 August 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was convened to update the information on landings and catch per unit efforts (CPUEs) for small pelagic fishes caught by purse seine vessels in the region, so that a regional synthesis for purse seine fishery, as well as performance and fishing capacity of purse seine vessels could be determined and shared among the participating Member Countries.

During the Meeting, the participants’ understanding of the best available management regimes for purse seine

fishery was enhanced. A preliminary result of the genetics study on spotted sardinella (*Amblygaster sirm*) was also presented, as well as the regional synthesis for Andaman Sea and South China Sea of such species. Although management plans for both purse seiners and the resources it captures are indispensable for sustainable use of such resources, it is very challenging for the AMSs to clarify the best available way in managing these resources mostly due to limited information on stocks and fisheries data. Owing to this, the Meeting agreed that MFRDMD should facilitate the organization of a regional workshop involving only scientists where catch sheet and data harmonization would be thoroughly discussed. The said regional workshop would be held tentatively in late December 2016.



Participants of the core experts meeting on management of purse seine fisheries

Capacity building on larval fish identification

The “2nd Regional Training Workshop on Larval Fish Identification and Fish Early Life History Science” was conducted by TD from 4 to 14 July 2016 at the TD premises in Samut Prakan, Thailand. This Training Workshop was attended by 19 participants from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam who attended the 1st Regional Training Workshop as basic course. This advance course focused on identification of Engraulid and Scombrid larvae up to genus or species level. The participants gained better understanding of larval fish terminologies, the techniques for larval fish identification and illustrations, which could be applied in their jobs.



Participants of the 2nd Larval Fish Identification Workshop

Training course on E-EAFM in Cambodia

Under the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, TD organized the “Training Course on Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management” from 5 to 10 September 2016 in Siem Reap, Cambodia for 20 fisheries officers who work in fisheries management and are involved in the development of fisheries management plans or human capacity building on fisheries management. The training course provided the trainees with the EAFM skills that will help them in developing a management plan to better manage fisheries more holistically, reduce

group conflicts, help unlock financial resources, work cooperatively with other stakeholders, and better resolve fisheries issues and challenges.



Brainstorming among the participants of the E-EAFM training course

Subsequently, as a follow-up to this activity, seven fishery officers who passed the E-EAFM training course and could potentially serve as trainers were selected to attend in the “Training of Trainers on Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management for Cambodia” from 27 to 30 September 2016 in Siem Reap also organized by TD. This training focused on developing skills, experiences and training techniques of the trainees that would enable them to be good trainers on EAFM in their country in the future.

IFRDMD holds workshop to review activities and methodologies for promotion of inland fishery

IFRDMD organized a 3-day workshop to review the activities and methodologies for promotion of inland fishery from 8 August 2016 in Palembang, Indonesia. There were 38 participants coming from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; scientists from Mekong River Commission (MRC); Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS); academia, researchers, as well as from the Secretariat, TD and IFRDMD.

The workshop focused its discussion on the frameworks of research on inland fisheries. Although inland fisheries is one of the important sub-sectors providing food and income for millions of people in the Southeast Asian region, inland fisheries are often underrated. Many related sectors are involved in the inland

water resources and fishers/communities. Fisheries management measures should therefore consider the close relationship with the present status of the other sectors and their interaction.

An excursion was arranged on the last day, where the participants saw some fishers with several fishing gears in downstream Musi River. During the trip, the participants shared the views and experiences relevant to the fisheries

activities and habitat change by human activities on inland fisheries. In this regard, appreciation was expressed to participants who provided valuable data, information, results of their studies to the workshop, and for the inputs/contribution that paved the way toward facilitating the future activities of SEAFDEC and Member Countries especially in improving the planning, implementation and management of activities on inland fisheries in Southeast Asia. ✦



REBYC-II CTI organizes meeting on trawl fisheries

TD as the Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) of the Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management Project (REBYC-II CTI), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) organized the “Southeast Asia Trawl Fisheries Round-table Meeting” and “The Regional Meeting on the Future of Trawl Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia” on 21 and 23-25 September 2016, respectively, in Bangkok, Thailand. The first Meeting came up with case studies and good practices of trawl fisheries management in REBYC-II CTI participating countries and policy recommendations for trawl fisheries management in Southeast Asia to be raised during the back-to-back regional meeting on the future of trawl fisheries management in Southeast Asia.

In the second Meeting, forty-three representatives from participating countries, namely: Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as from TD, FAO-GEF, relevant private sectors and other agencies were in attendance. The Meeting was aimed

at developing policy recommendations for trawl fisheries management in Southeast Asia by reviewing the current national policy of trawl fisheries management in SEAFDEC Member Countries. During the Meeting, the overall lessons learned from implementation of the REBYC-II CTI project, the need and contents of potential follow-up project and policy recommendations for trawl fisheries management in Southeast Asia were discussed. The Meeting came up with recommendations for trawl fisheries management in Southeast Asia and summary future project(s) on developing sustainable trawl fisheries in Southeast Asia. ✦



TD co-organizes Technical Working Group Training and Workshop for Oceans project

TD in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organized the “USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership Technical Working Group Training and Workshop” on 12-14 July 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. Aimed to formally introduce the Technical Working Groups (TWG) from each partner fisheries organization and commence the work together as one regional and cohesive team, the Workshop was attended by eighty-four participants from the ASEAN Member States, SEAFDEC, and USAID team. The Workshop came up with clear and agreed roles and responsibilities of the TWG members for implementation of the project activities. ✦



Six aquaculture training courses concluded

For the third quarter of 2016, AQD conducted six training courses on marine fish hatchery, aquaculture technologies, catfish hatchery and grow-out, seaweed farming, and abalone nursery and grow-out. A total of 54 participants attended these courses.

The marine fish hatchery training course was held at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station (TMS) with participants from Sudan (1), Brazil (1), Thailand (1), and the Philippines (2). The month-long training course had lectures and practical activities on biology of marine fishes, broodstock management, larval rearing and hatchery operations as well as in feed development, fish health management & marketing strategies, among others.



A practical activity on marine fish sampling

Another training course held at TMS was the Abalone Nursery and Grow-out with five participants from the Philippines. The training had lectures on biology & ecology, hatchery & nursery, grow-out culture, feeds & feeding, impact of climate change to aquaculture production, and biology & grow-out culture of *Gracilaria*. There were also practical sessions such as feed preparation, harvesting & stocking of early juveniles in nursery cages, fabrication of culture containers, and sorting & packing of juveniles for transport. This training course was part of the Philippine Climate Change Adaptation Project (under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) for Siargao Island Protected Landscapes and Seascapes.

Additionally, training courses on aquaculture technologies for milkfish



AQD's Research Assistant Mr. Jonas Mediavilla and Laboratory Technician Patrick Alicante conducting a practical session on stocking of abalone juveniles

and mangrove crab, as well as on oysters and seaweeds were held in Tacloban City, Philippines, and funded by NGOs for Fisheries Reform, Inc. The participants of the Aquaculture Technologies (for milkfish and mangrove crab) training course, attended lectures on broodstock management, seed production, nursery culture, grow-out culture and feeding management of milkfish. A practical activity on induced spawning of marine fish was also conducted. There were also lectures on hatchery operations; nursery management; and culture in ponds, pens, and cages of mangrove crab as well as practical activities on the identification of *Scylla* species, embryonic & larval stages, and morphology.



Mangrove crab species identification

In addition, the lecture series for the Aquaculture Technologies (for oyster and seaweed) training course include biology & ecology, common diseases, grow-out culture, and post-processing of seaweeds; biology & ecology of bivalves; and biology, nursery and grow-out culture techniques of oysters. Practical activities for this course were on seaweed culture and post-harvest processing.



A practical activity on seaweed processing

A training course on seaweed farming was also held at TMS with a total of seven participants from Sri Lanka (4), Thailand (2), and the Philippines (1). This course had lectures and practical sessions on taxonomy & biology, grow-out culture of *Kappaphycus*, concepts & principles of sustainable aquaculture, food safety in production and processing, application of seaweed extracts, land-based & sea-based nursery, water & soil quality, impacts of climate change, and economic analysis, among others.



A practical activity on the grow-out culture of Kappaphycus

Lastly, a special training course on catfish hatchery and grow-out was also conducted at TMS. The participants learned about breeding, seed production, nursery, and grow-out management; feed preparation; and health management.



A trainee injects hormone to a catfish broodstock

MFRD organizes the Regional Training Course on Identification of HAB Species

The “Regional Training Course on Identification of HAB (Harmful Algal Bloom) Species in ASEAN Region” was successfully organized in Singapore from 18-22 July 2016 by the Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC), Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore as SEAFDEC’s collaborating centre for MFRD Programmes in collaboration with IOC-WESTPAC.

Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, the Training Course was attended by 19 participants from the 10 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and was conducted by Japanese and regional experts, namely: *Dr. Yasuwo Fukuyo*, *Dr. Kazumi Wakita* and *Dr. Mitsunori Iwataki* of Japan, and *Dr. Lim Po Teen* and *Dr. Lim Hong Chang* of Malaysia, respectively.

The Training Course comprised both lectures and laboratory sessions as well as a field trip at sea. The lectures covered a range of topics such as the taxonomy of HAB species, sampling and identification techniques for various HAB species. Laboratory demonstrations and hands-on laboratory sessions on sampling protocols and identification techniques for HAB species were also conducted during the course.



Identification of plankton specimens

During the field trip at sea, participants were trained on the proper use of plankton nets for sampling and had the opportunity to carry out sampling to collect plankton specimens for identification in the laboratory. During the course, there were also discussion sessions for participants to share their knowledge and experiences in the management of HAB species in their country as well as the challenges faced. The participants highlighted the need for more training on specimen preservation and use of fluorescence microscopy for the identification of HAB species. The participants also agreed to set up a team headed by the Philippine participant to work together after the training course to prepare two posters on the different HAB and red-tide causing species in the region which will be distributed to all Member Countries. ❖

Training of trainers on fishery management in Lao PDR

TD organized the “Training of Trainers (ToT) on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Community-based Fisheries Management (CBFM)” during 19-22 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR with the aim of imparting knowledge and better understanding of fishers and local government authorities on the importance of sustainable fisheries development through co-management for inland fisheries. Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, 25 local fishery officers attended in the training. Experiences on practical approach to co-management and CBFM were exchanged and discussed, while preparation of fisheries management plan in fisheries communities was practiced. ❖



Capacity building on energy saving and safety at sea in Cambodia

TD, also with support from the Japanese Trust Fund, organized the “On-site Training on Energy Saving and Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Vessels” from 20 to 22 September 2016 in Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia to increase stakeholders’ awareness on energy saving and improvement of working conditions onboard fishing vessels. With 30 participants who are fisheries officers, fishing vessel owners, this training was able to enhance the capacity of the participants that would enable them to transfer and utilize the knowledge and information on energy saving and safety at sea for capture fisheries in their responsible areas. ❖



Participants during the energy saving and safety at sea training course

Capacity Building on Fish Handling Techniques in the Southeast Asian Region



Participants during the training course

The “Regional Training Course on Fish Handling Techniques Applicable to Various Fishing Operations in Southeast Asia” was organized at TD from 22 to 26 August 2016 with eighteen participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries attending. Supported by the JTF, the training course was designed to build human resource capacity on basic post-harvest and fish handling techniques applicable to various fishing operations in the region by providing the participants with comprehensive knowledge and best practices in fish preservation and reduction of the post-harvest losses. ❖

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
2016			
12-13 October	Sien Reap, Cambodia	22 nd Meeting of Technic Advisory Body (TAB) on Proposal for a Basin-wide Fisheries Management and Development Strategy	MRC
18-20 October	Langkawi, Malaysia	3 rd Meeting of the Andaman Sea Sub-region	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
24-26 October	Rome, Italy	FAO Workshop on Exploring the Human Rights Based Approach in the Context of Implementation and Monitoring of the SSF Guidelines	FAO
25-27 October	Indonesia	17 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Program (ISP)	Secretariat & IFRDMD
1-3 November	Bangkok, Thailand	Inception Meeting for the Project on "Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand"	TD
7-10 November	Bangkok, Thailand	Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures to Improve Fisheries Management and Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
14-17 November	Lao PDR	Conference on Fish Passage in the Lower Mekong Basin	LARReC
21-23 November	Hokkaido, Japan	10 th Meeting and Conference of Asian Fisheries Acoustic Society (AFAS) 2016	AFAS
22-24 November	Bangkok, Thailand	9 th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting	RPOA-IUU
22 Nov-1 Dec	BFS-Philippines	Training Course on Community-Based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Rural Areas of Southeast Asia	AQD
26 November	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Umitaka-maru On-board Seminar among Fisheries Universities and Institutions	TUMSAT
28-30 November	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	39 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee (PCM)	Secretariat & IFRDMD
28-30 November	Rome, Italy	Expert Workshop on Gender-equitable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines	FAO
29-30 November	Seoul, South Korea	Conference on "Building Ocean Health: Sharing experiences to move towards sustainable fisheries management"	EJF
30 November	Bali, Indonesia	Experts Dialogue on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in ASEAN	ASEAN Secretariat
1-2 December	Bali, Indonesia	5 th Meeting of the Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security	ASEAN Secretariat
1-2 December	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	19 th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	Secretariat & ASEAN
3 December	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting	SEAFDEC
6-8 December	Champasak, Lao PDR	Bilateral Workshop on Result of Comparative Study of Law and Legistration between Cambodia and Lao PDR	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
6-8 December	Paris, France	18 th Annual Large Marine Ecosystems and Coastal Partners Meeting	IOC/UNESCO
13-14 December	Bangkok, Thailand	Hokkaido University International Forum on Global Food Resources	HU, Japan
13-15 December	Phu Quoc, Viet Nam	Bilateral Workshop on Results of Comparative Study of Law and Legislation Between Cambodia and Viet Nam	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
19-21 December	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM): Risk Assessment of the Longtail Tuna and Kawakawa in Southeast Asian Region	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
20 December	Bangkok, Thailand	Inception Meeting on Inland Capture Fishery Information: Fishing Gear and Its Application	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
2017			
January (Tentative)	Nonthaburi, Thailand	6 th Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region	SEAFDEC-Sweden project
15-16 May	Singapore	9 th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)	ASEAN Secretariat
17-19 May	Singapore	25 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi)	ASEAN Secretariat

Partnerships highlighted as AQD celebrates 43rd anniversary

AQD has an enormous task in terms of steering aquaculture development towards sustainability to ensure its maximum contribution to food security and improvement of livelihood, according to its Acting Chief and Deputy Chief *Dr. Chihaya Nakayasu* during the 43rd Anniversary Program of AQD held in 15 July 2016 at its Tigbauan Main Station. *Dr. Nakayasu* added that without the partnerships with its stakeholders, AQD will not be able to provide the technological needs of the aquaculture industry. Among the guests in the anniversary program was *Dr. Tetsuo Fujii* of the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) who revealed that AQD and JIRCAS recently inked a five-year partnership to develop sustainable aquaculture technologies.

Dr. Nakayasu cited that AQD conducted 64 studies and one of the major accomplishments during the period is that many important aquaculture technologies on mangrove crab (mud crab), abalone, shrimp, and oyster have been refined through funding from the DOST-PCAARRD (Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development). He also mentioned that AQD had organized two regional technical consultations in partnership with the Government of Myanmar on aquafeed formulation and the Government of the Philippines on aquatic animal health to address the emerging issues in the Southeast Asian region. These consultations were made possible with funding support from the Government of Japan through the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). *Dr. Nakayasu* then urged everyone to reflect on how AQD could improve further as a regional R&D organization in order to help improve lives of the people through sustainable aquaculture.

During the same week, AQD held other activities to commemorate its 43rd year. Among the activities was a series of lectures for fish farmers, government agencies, and the academe which was attended by about 120 guests. New publications, including the proceedings of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients or Fish Meal Substitutes in Aquaculture Feed Formulation, were also introduced and distributed during a book launching activity.



From left to right: AQD Acting Chief and Deputy Chief *Dr. Chihaya Nakayasu*, JIRCAS Fisheries Division Director *Dr. Tetsuo Fujii*, Former AQD Deputy Chief and FREA Director of the Research Center for Aquaculture Systems *Dr. Takuro Shibuno*, together with his wife *Ms. Nobuko Shibuno*

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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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Layout: Satana Duangsawasdi

IFRDMD welcomes the new Department Chief, Dr. Arif Wibowo



New Chief of IFRDMD Dr. Arif Wibowo

The new Chief of SEAFDEC Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) is *Dr. Arif Wibowo*, who used to work as Head of the Research Institute for Inland Fisheries. *Dr. Arif*, as he is fondly called, was appointed by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fishery to succeed *Mr. Budi Iskandar Prisantoso*. After his nomination was affirmed by the SEAFDEC Council, *Dr. Arif* began his term of office as IFRDMD Chief on 1 August 2016.

A career fisheries scientist specializing on freshwater fish, *Dr. Arif* completed his post doctoral fellowship at Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology

(ZMT) in Bremen, Germany in 2013, and at the Biology Department of University of Turku, Finland in 2014 through the Erasmus Mundus Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program. He acquired his Ph.D degree in Aquatic Resources Management from the School of Graduate Study in Bogor Agricultural University in 2011 and obtained his M.Sc and B.Sc. degrees in Major Environmental Science from the School of Graduate Study, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta in 2003, and in Plant Breeding from the Faculty of Agriculture of Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta in 2001, respectively. *Dr. Arif* also attended the on-site training for tissue sampling and tagging of sea turtles in Sukabumi organized by MFRDMD in 2005; participated in the summer school on global warming and sustainable water management – Interactions and Effects, organized by Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany in 2011; and took part in the International Symposium Re-Water Braunschweig, Germany organized by the SE BS,

Veolia Environment, Abwasserverbund Braunschweig, Technische Universität Braunschweig, EWA and Kompetenz Zentrum Wasser Berlin in 2011. He also participated in the master class program high throughput DNA sequence analysis organized by IPB ICC – Bogor supported by IndoSol project, Indonesia Academy of Science (AIPI) and The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) in 2011; and also in the full immersion German Courses in Cologne, Germany at the Carl Duisberg Centren German Language School (CDC) in 2011.

His knowledge and expertise in research would surely contribute greatly to the inland fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region through the IFRDMD activities. IFRDMD staff warmly welcomes him and looks forward to the active involvement of IFRDMD under the helm of *Dr. Arif*, in serving the needs of inland fisheries stakeholders in Member Countries. ✦

Experts Group Meeting on Stock Status and Geographical Distribution of Anchovy, Indo-Pacific Mackerel and Blue Swimming Crab in the Gulf of Thailand

SEAFDEC Secretariat through the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project organized the “Experts Group Meeting on Stock Status and Geographical Distribution of Anchovy, Indo-Pacific Mackerel and Blue Swimming Crab (AIB) Species in the Gulf of Thailand” for better understanding of these trans-boundary AIB species and development of workplans for the sustainable management of such species. Held from 22 to 23 September 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Meeting was attended by representatives from the Gulf of Thailand countries, namely: Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam; resource persons from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand and academic institutions in Thailand; and officials of Secretariat, MFRDMD and TD.

After the presentations and deliberations, understanding of the participants on the status and distribution

of these transboundary AIB species was enhanced while the key issues on data collection of the said species were identified. The Meeting also agreed that the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for Data Collection and Analysis – Information Collection for Trans-boundary Fishery Resources in the Gulf of Thailand developed during the 2015 Fifth Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region

should be adopted by the GOT countries in order to harmonize the data collected and compiled. Moreover, the Meeting also came up with short- and medium-term plans for better understanding of the stock structure of AIB species in the GOT and development of measures for the sustainable management of these economically important species. ✦

