

# **ASEAN Roadmap Report**

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**Report of the  
Regional Workshop on Implementing the ASEAN Roadmap for  
Integration of Fisheries Sector**

**Bangkok, Thailand, 16 – 18 January 2008**



**Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center**

**The Secretariat**

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## **BACKGROUND TO THE WORKSHOP**

1. At the invitation of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, the Regional workshop on implementing the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector was held from 16 to 18 January 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop was organized under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) in collaboration with FAO and NACA, with funding support from SEAFDEC-Sida collaborative project.

2. The Workshop was initiated to support the ASEAN Member Countries in the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2010 through the implementation of the Roadmap for Integration of the Priority Sectors, including fisheries, in order to further deepen and accelerate regional economic integration and enhance international competitiveness of ASEAN products.

3. The Workshop was held with the objectives to review progress and status in the implementation of the Roadmap for the fisheries sector; develop an ASEAN common framework for the specific key issues/measures of the Roadmap; and to clarify and formulate supporting mechanism and follow-up actions to facilitate future coordination and implementation of the Roadmap.

## **WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION**

4. The workshop was attended by 62 participants from the 10 ASEAN Member Countries, the ASEAN secretariat, FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC, Thailand (DOF-Thailand). The participants included experts from government agencies, international and regional organizations and observers from the private sector. The list of participants is provided in Appendix I.

## **OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP**

5. The Secretary General of SEAFDEC, Dr Siri Ekmaharaj, welcomed and thanked the ASEAN secretariat and the member countries, together with participants from FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC Marine Research Development, and Department of Fisheries – Thailand for participating in this important meeting. He also gave special thanks for the financial support from Sida and all other partners that in kind have supported this workshop on the ASEAN roadmap. The production of fish from Asian countries contributes significantly to the world fisheries production, with especially significant growth in production from Southeast Asia in past years. The speech noted that it is important that all relevant sectors and agencies concerned should give their strong support in balancing social, economic and eco-systems, and at the same time strengthen regional cooperation in fisheries development and management. In order to maintain this development and further sustainably develop the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the ASEAN Region, the Secretary General emphasised it was important to focus efforts on partnership among ASEAN countries.

6. Dr Simon Funge-Smith, Senior Fishery Officer FAO, on behalf on the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, thanked the organizers for the opportunity to participate in the Regional workshop on implementing the ASEAN roadmap for integration of the fisheries Sector. As a United Nations specialized agency, FAO is strongly involved in global efforts to facilitate and assist member countries to be able to ensure food security and the associated aspects of relating to the ability to trade regionally and globally, assurance of food safety and the production of quality seafood products. As globalization brings regions closer together, it is inevitable that we must seek ways to ensure that we are able to use common or harmonized frameworks for our production and trading activities. FAO works in many areas relating to the agriculture sector and in the fisheries sub-sector is particularly active in areas relating to the mandatory requirements of food safety through interaction with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the FAO COFI sub-committee on trade as well as the COFI sub-Committee on Aquaculture, as well as promoting and assisting the

development of globally credible frameworks for fisheries eco-labelling and aquaculture certification. FAO's normative work programme is highly focussed on bringing member countries together in consensus on a wide range of issues relating to responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. In concluding, Mr Funge-Smith thanked the hosts, Department of Fisheries Thailand and acknowledges that FAO is pleased to be able to contribute its part to this important initiative of ASEAN and looks forward to further constructive collaboration and dialogue both with ASEAN secretariat and the member countries.

7. Dr Michael J. Phillips, Representative of Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific (NACA), thanked the hosts and partners for the invitation for NACA to participate in the workshop on ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector. Dr Phillips noted that NACA cooperation with ASEAN in aquaculture had strengthened over the past few years. Recently, NACA has implemented two successful aquatic animal disease projects, strengthening aquatic animal capacity and bio security in ASEAN and operational guidelines on responsible movement of live food finfish in ASEAN, the latter project leading to a set of ASEAN harmonized standards operating practices for movement of live food fish. The workshop was informed that NACA has recently received a grant from the ASEAN Foundation to strengthen small-holder aquaculture competitiveness in ASEAN that will be starting soon, with an emphasizing on assisting small-scale aquaculture farmers address increasing food safety and market standards; NACA looks forward to working with ASEAN partners in implementation of this project. It was noted that the subject of this workshop is important for all ASEAN members, but also other NACA members outside ASEAN. Many countries in Asia also face various trade problems with a rapidly growing fisheries sector and trade, such as certification, trade barriers, high food safety standards, and others, and the region has to closely to work together to address these problems. The roadmap and workshop is therefore an excellent example of such cooperation, with countries working together to develop cooperative actions. The NACA work program is about working together, and the organisation looks forward to the outcome of the workshop, and recommendations, as a basis for further strengthening of cooperation with ASEAN in addressing these problems and opportunities.

8. Dr Somsak Pipopinyo of ASEAN Secretariat welcomed the participants and thanked the organizers for participating and arranging this important workshop. In his remarks, he thanked the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand and the co-organisers, i.e. FAO, NACA and SEAFDEC for their joint efforts in organising this important workshop. He stressed that this Regional Workshop was significantly and timely taking place when ASEAN is in the midst of a process of profound transformation, from the loose association of nations in Southeast Asia into an ASEAN Community. The ASEAN Leaders have recently signified their commitment toward building the ASEAN Community, through the signed ASEAN Charter and approval of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint. The ASEAN Charter will be the new ASEAN legal foundation and institutional framework to bring about the ASEAN Community, Through the Charter, ASEAN will acquire a legal personality that will make Member Countries more proactive, strengthen collective decision-making processes and help ASEAN become the rules-based and people-oriented regional organization—an unprecedented effort for regional cooperation and unity, while the AEC Blueprint will be a roadmap for economic integration until 2015. ASEAN has come a long way since it was founded forty years ago, but best achievements are still ahead. The conduct of this Workshop is vital to take stock of what has been achieved so far, to discuss issues, and to strategize and develop action plan and work programmes in order to move forward the ASEAN Economic Community, as envisioned by the ASEAN Leaders. In concluding, he expressed appreciation for the assistance and support given by various partners, including FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC and Sida in the ASEAN's collaborative efforts over the past years and especially in co-organising this Regional Workshop.

9. On behalf of Royal Government, Deputy Director-General Wimol Jantrarotai, Department of Fisheries, Thailand welcomed all participants and thanks to co-organisers.

The Thai government has been involved in ASEAN roadmap integration since 2003. Prior focus has been on the economic development and reduction of poverty. In 2004, ASEAN decided to integrate by 2020 and the Roadmap is an important measure for integration of countries together. There are various measures in the Roadmap such as tariffs, and various non tariff measures. This workshop has a focus on SPS and TBT measures, where each measure has lead country that will facilitate the discussion and implementation of the measure. We look forward for practical recommendation and action plan from this workshop to effectively implement the ASEAN Roadmap for integration of the Fisheries Sector among ASEAN member countries.

## **SESSION I: ASEAN ROADMAP FOR INTEGRATION OF FISHERIES SECTOR: AN OVERVIEW**

*(Chaired by Dr. Nantiya Unprasert, DOF-Thailand)*

### ***Introduction of Workshop Objectives and Outputs***

*(Presented by Dr. Waraporn Prompoj, DOF- Thailand)*

10. In making the Southeast Asia Region a more dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain and the world economy, the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia in October 2003 adopted the Declaration of the ASEAN Concord II. Under this Declaration, ASEAN is committed to deepen and broaden internal economic integration. Given the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in the ASEAN region and the expanding international trade of fish and fisheries products it was agreed by ASEAN to set up a roadmap for integration of fisheries sector as one of eleven priority sectors in the ASEAN Region. The ASEAN Sectoral Working group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) has been given the task to implement this roadmap.

It should be noted that there is a very strong focus on corporation between government and private sector.

11. Considering the importance of sustainable development of the fisheries sector as well as its linkage with the further development of the ASEAN economic integration through implementation of the roadmap for integration of the fisheries sector, this Regional Workshop is intended to review implementation of the roadmap and identify necessary follow up actions to translate the identified measures to true implementation.

12. The ASEAN roadmap process for integration of the fisheries sector involves identification of a lead country for each measure. A full list of the proposed measures and the lead countries is attached in Appendix III.

13. The objective of the workshop is to: i) Review progress and status in the implementation of the Roadmap; ii) To develop an ASEAN common framework for the specific key issues to facilitate future coordination and implementation of the Roadmap; iii) To discuss and develop supporting mechanism (i.e. the establishment of an ad-hoc ASEAN-SEAFDEC Roadmap Working Group (ASRWG) and its Terms of Reference) for the implementation of the Roadmap; and iv) To clarify follow-up actions including possible collaboration among international/regional organizations for the implementation of the Roadmap.

14. At the end of the workshop it is expected that the following output will be generated: i) The plan of action for the specific key issues of the Roadmap is clarified; ii) Supporting mechanism for the implementation of the Roadmap is developed; and iii) Follow-up actions and collaboration with international/regional organizations in the implementation of the Roadmap are identified.

***Study Report on the Implementation of ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector***  
*(Presented by Robert Lee on behalf of WorldFish Center)*

15. The study report presents the results of a comprehensive study of the fisheries sector in the ASEAN region to supply information for the Roadmap for Integration of the Fisheries Sector in ASEAN. The study report made six key recommendations on the implementation of the roadmap and particular one recommendation is of particular relevance for this workshop. As a test case for the economic integration of the fishery sector, the implementing body for the ASEAN fishery roadmap may find it more convenient to focus on common tradable fish species and products in the region. It is suggested that member countries consider focusing on integrating its shrimp and tuna markets first instead of looking at the market for all Asian fisheries products. The case study can then be used as a model for other fishery products. The integration of the ASEAN shrimp and/or tuna market, as suggested by the study report, will be a logical choice as shrimp and tuna are both important export products. Many ASEAN member countries are already exporting shrimp and tuna to many countries. These countries already have in place export requirements that ASEAN member countries have met.

16. During the discussions it was noted that the commodity based approach was a good suggestion and could work as a success story for other commodities. It was suggested to focus on only one commodity could be shrimp (or tuna). The ASEAN deadline to have economic integration would be in year 2010 or maybe extended to year 2012 and it would be important to focus the work on one or two commodities.

17. It was noted that the term single market should be explained carefully both in relation to trade and technical issues. Harmonization of ASEAN standards related to production, food safety and others was an important part of the single market approach.

#### ***Reports on Implementation status by Lead ASEAN Member Countries***

18. A lead country has been identified for each of the Roadmap measures. In this workshop session the country representatives provided the status and identified the issues that need to be addressed in the future for implementation. Each presentation was followed by discussions among the ASEAN member countries (AMCs) and resource persons.

#### ***Fisheries quality and safety management systems (Measure 46)*** *(Presented by Ms Tan-Low Lai Kim, Singapore)*

19. Singapore, working with the Marine Fisheries Research Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre, initiated and implemented programme of activities to achieve Measure 46 through National Coordinators of the ASEAN Network of Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology Centres (AFPHTN). ASEAN has since 1992 been working on implementation of HACCP in its fish processing industry through various programmes run under MFRD/SEAFDEC. ASEAN training materials are available and AMCs have conducted training at national level using these common training materials. As such all seafood exporting establishments are HACCP certified within ASEAN and implements HACCP. Regional HACCP plan for seafood products and hazard case studies are available. To achieve Measure 46, Singapore built on this effort and continued programme focussing on beefing up the good manufacturing practices (GMP) and the sanitary standard operating procedures (SSOP) of small and medium enterprises namely pre-processing establishments (PPE) supplying intermediate raw materials to the processing factories and traditional products establishments (TPE) producing important traditional fish products in ASEAN. Singapore conducted a survey in 2005 to obtain update of status of implementation of HACCP within ASEAN. In 2006 a planning meeting was held to agree on the action plan and programme, and the list of products each member country would be working on. The project sponsored by the Japanese Trust Fund was initiated in 2007. By 2009, the GMP/SSOP Guidelines for PPE and first draft of GMP/SSOP Guidelines TPE would be completed by end of 2009.

20. For the implementation of good laboratory practices (GLP), Singapore through MFRD/SEAFDEC has trained key regional laboratories personnel on GLP and methods



validation. In varying degrees, Member Countries have developed their Laboratory Management Manuals, implemented GLP, validated their methods and participated in inter-laboratory proficiency testing programmes. Since the initiative started in 2000 where only Singapore laboratories were accredited to ISO17025, currently key laboratories in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.

***Compliance with international good practices and standards (Measure 47-49)***  
*(Presented by Mr Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Wahab, Malaysia)*

21. Malaysia has developed questionnaires in relation to Measures 47 and 48 and distributed them among ASEAN Member Countries (AMCs). Two countries namely Thailand and Singapore responded for Measures 47 while only Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand completed questionnaire for Measures 49. These results are viewed as insufficient to reflect the real situation in ASEAN at large due to the small number of responding countries. Nevertheless, survey finds out that legislations including code of practice and guidelines. Notwithstanding the poor representation, information gathered is indeed worthwhile for further discourse among MCs. Salient issues to be addressed for Measures 47 pertaining to compliance with international good practices and standards are the implementation of (1) Codex of practice of Good Animal Feeding, (2) International Code of Practice for Control of The Use of Veterinary Drugs ; and (3) Codex Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Food. In Malaysian case, legislation framework for Animal Feeding is only under drafting stage therefore, the future shape of regulations, Code of Practice and guidelines would be primarily determined by the main act itself. At present, under the Good Aquaculture Practice and monitoring program on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), part of requirement of Good Animal Feeding have been accommodated whereby feed used examined for drug residues.

22. Nevertheless, Malaysia sees enormous opportunities for Thailand to share experience and lesson to the rest of the AMCs both in the area of legislation framework, institutional building as well as programme planning and implementation. Particular Malaysia's interest would be the Thailand's monitoring programme for drug residues in feed from both feed factories and farm level. In the context of ASEAN, it is perceived to be of useful if guidelines of regional nature can be developed as animal feeding is an integral component in the traceability system requirement. On the control of veterinary drugs and residues, Malaysia has already established her legislation known as Food Act 1983 (Act 281 of the Laws of Malaysia) of which its subsidiary Food Regulation 1985 was enacted thereafter. These particular legislative documents are the primary reference for food safety activities in Malaysia that deal with food hygiene, labelling, imports and exports, advertising and laboratories. With regards to Measures 48 survey finds that fish sauce (Myanmar and Thailand) and fermented fish (Malaysia and Myanmar) have been identified by the respective countries as priority products that should be looked into. Products such as quick frozen shrimps, tuna and squid have been listed as priority products by the Philippines. National standards for some fish and fish products exist in Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand and these countries have their legislation in place. In view of harmonizing national standards with Codex international standards, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand had shown their interest. The existing mechanisms practiced in Codex (e.g.: ASEAN Task Force on Codex) are considered sufficient to accommodate the prioritization of ASEAN standards. Some of the constraints that have been highlighted by the Philippines in developing standards were lack of human resources, scientific data and funding. Malaysia on the other hand, had developed extensive standards but the constraint lies in legalizing them.

23. On Measures 49 there has been no survey conducted to examine the status of the use chemicals in aquaculture within ASEAN countries anyway, in Malaysian case, at present there are no regulations specifically cover the use of chemotherapeutants in aquaculture industry. The Poison Act, 1984 requires all drugs to register with Drug Control Authority. The trade and distribution of drugs are controlled by Pharmaceutical

Division in the Ministry Of Health. However, the Act covers only the use of human pharmaceuticals. It is admitted that the problems lie in the absence of adequate regulations relating to registration and control of trade in aquaculture medications and lack of knowledge. In light of this, Malaysia has commissioned a consultant to conduct a study on the use of chemotherapeutants in Malaysian Aquaculture industry. The recommendations contained in the report would form a basis for further actions which, among others, to include short, medium and long-term measures and Malaysia is without hesitation to share them with other member countries. Nevertheless, works are needed to gather information in all countries pertaining to this measure.

### **Discussions**

24. During the discussions it was raised that capacity building is needed in form of training seminars or workshops in order for all member countries to implement and take action on the measures, especially related to measure 47-49.

25. Experiences from Vietnam on aquatic animal feed issues and residue monitoring systems were mentioned as good examples in ASEAN of safety management systems developed.

26. Indonesia and Philippines mentioned that good progress was made in relation to measure 47-49. Control of feeding and use of veterinary drugs is recognized as very important aspects of better management practices in aquaculture. Progress in the countries has been made for implementation of residue monitoring (RM) and implementation of HACCP in the fish industry. Both legislation and control of the actual implementation need to be in place to develop a sustainable industry. In the Philippines, the activities were related to primary production and less to the processing segment. The Philippines noted that activities related to development of export standards to the EU had been developed.

27. It was noted that there were large diversity in how far the individual member countries had taken the measures in the roadmap. It was suggested that countries that have good legislation in place should share experiences with countries that still need to develop legislation and technical aspects of the measures 46 – 49 related to fisheries quality and safety management systems and Compliance with international good practices and standards. This would add to the development of economic linkage and integration.

### **Strengthening testing facilities in ASEAN and recognition of testing results and product certification by regulators (Measure 50)** *(Presented by Mr. Tin Hla, Myanmar)*

28. The situation in Myanmar is that veterinary drugs such as Nitrofurantoin, Chloramphenicol are not allowed to use whether in feed or processing of fish and crustacean. Better feeding practice based on GAP are being implemented for farmers to follow and legislation on GAP procedures will soon be issued by DOF-Myanmar. Although technical assistances related to CODEX Code of practices for Good Animals Feeding (GAF) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) have been conducted for most developing countries by CODEX/IAEA, Myanmar received little attention. Only one workshop on GAP for shrimp was hosted in Myanmar in December 2007. A meeting on HACCP for fermented fish products had also been conducted in Myanmar by SEAFDEC-MFRD. It was noted that establishment of an ASEAN Reference Laboratory was a priority to move forward. The role of the reference laboratory would be to ensure the dissemination of validated methods of analysis to the ASEAN member countries and more specifically to the National Reference Laboratories. This dissemination would be made through training of staff and provision of direct technical assistance to the national laboratories. Harmonization of lab standards is essential for Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

29. In 2007, 96 laboratory technicians from ASEAN national reference laboratories attend training conducted by EU reference laboratories. The training programs conducted

training at the following areas: Detection of pesticides residues, detection of veterinary drug residues, detection of mycotoxins, microbiology, detection of heavy metals, and detection of GMO's. Training on detection of veterinary drug residues, pesticides, heavy metal and microorganisms have also been conducted by FAO, and SEAFDEC-MFRD in Myanmar. DOF-Thailand has conducted training sessions on detection of veterinary drug residue under the ASEAN measure 51. But it is still needed to audit and accredited some laboratories in ASEAN member countries and to train more staff is a recommendation to move forward on the ASEAN Roadmap. The follow up activities from the Hanoi Meeting in 2007 to include all ASEAN members were recommended.

***Harmonization of sector specific technical regulatory regime in ASEAN (Measure 53-55)***

*(Presented by Ms Krissana Sukhumparnich, Thailand)*

30. Thailand is the lead country on measure numbers 53-55 dealing with *Harmonization of sector specific technical regulatory regime in ASEAN*. To get an overview over the current status in the ASEAN member countries a questionnaire was circulated to ASEAN member countries contact point. Six out of ten countries, including Thailand, replied and the presentation was based on the replied received. It was concluded that there are very diverse capacity levels in inspection and certification systems among the ASEAN countries. It was also noted that limited knowledge and expertise in risk assessment and SPS/TBT measures were obstacles for further strengthening and harmonization of the technical regulatory mechanism within ASEAN. Other constraints were difficulties in accessing information on import requirements, limited financial support for capacity building and harmonization activities like ASEAN training activities, meetings and other means of sharing information and experiences.

31. There is also limited capacity on laboratory facilities and few countries have laboratories accredited for ISO/IEC 17025.

32. A number of specific recommendations were given to address the constraints namely: i) Establish a working group to review the current constraints in regional trade, ii) Identify problems encountered in assuring quality and safety, iii) Identify source of funding for improving inspection and lab capacity as well as harmonization activities, iv) Acquire technical assistances from international agencies and v) Improve the capacities including risk assessment.

***Discussions***

33. Discussion the measure 51 on strengthening of testing facilities in ASEAN a reference was made to a meeting in Vietnam on establishing and identification of potential ASEAN reference laboratories. During an ASEAN-EU workshop (APRIS II) in Hanoi, Vietnam in November 2007 a list of potential reference laboratories was identified. The list was provided as reference for the discussions and circulated to the participants at the meeting.

**SESSION II: AN ASEAN COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR SPECIFIC KEY ISSUES OF THE ROADMAP**

***Fisheries Quality and Safety Management Systems (Measure 46)***

*(Resource person: Mr Soon Eong Yeap, SEAFDEC-MFRD)*

34. The Marine Fisheries Research Department (SEAFDEC) identified the importance in the introduction and implementation of HACCP to the fish processing industry of ASEAN since the late 1980s to enable the ASEAN community to be more competitive in the export of its fish and fish products. Therefore the MFRD proposed and initiated programmes and activities through various ASEAN as well as SEAFDEC projects. The first initiatives began with the ASEAN-Canada Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology Project – Phase II from 1992-1997. This was continued and enhanced through the SEAFDEC

Japanese Trust Fund I Project (2000 – 2003) and continued into the ASEAN-Australian Development Cooperation Program (AADCP): ASEAN-Australia Fish and Fish Products Safety Project (February 2004 – December 2006). Currently, the HACCP aspects of the ASEAN Roadmap Measure 46 initiatives are conducted under the Japanese Trust Fund II Project (2007-2011).

### **Discussions**

35. During the discussions it was noted that much have been done on HACCP in most countries. The key to harmonization of laboratories is that international standards are implemented in all member countries so the ASEAN member's standards not only are recognized in the ASEAN but at the international scene.

36. It was suggested as a milestone all countries should have implemented ISO/IEC 17025 on good laboratory practice before 2012.

37. It was noted that the industry as well as governments should continue to conduct training courses and capacity building in HACCP and other international and regional recognized certification standards. Food safety in general was mentioned as an area where capacity building was needed.

38. HACCP development and implementation in the export commodities is developing fast and is recognized also outside the region. However there are still quality problems in the *pre-harvest* stage of the production and at the more traditional processing facilities. More work should be done on BMP related to food safety at the farm level. One suggestion was to conduct regional training and workshops to exchange information between ASEAN members. Training on requirements for main exporting products have well established HACCP and quality assurance programs at the processing level. The main food safety problem now is handling and production, focus should be on pre-processing and pre-harvest and on the domestic market requirements.

39. The lead country on Roadmap Measure 46, Singapore suggested that funding for training on PPE and TPE from the SEAFDEC/Japanese trust fund should be investigated. It was mentioned that the national governments should also look for funding to set up training programs for their officers. There will be a continued need for training of staff and training funds should be built into the national budgets.

40. It was noted that focus should be kept on what ASEAN can do together as a group to address the specific measures in the roadmap. The lead country, Singapore stated that export oriented products had already reached a good acceptable level. The focus was on small enterprises and SME's that currently had standards below export standard. The idea was to focus efforts on how to lift these SME' up to a level for export.

### **Promotion and Strengthening of Compliance of Fisheries Industry to the Regional and International Requirements (Measure 50)**

*(Resource person: Dr. Nguyen Nhu Tiep, NAFIQAVED)*

41. The presentation listed an overview on GAP, GMP/GHP and their significance for trade and integration of the fisheries sector with Vietnam as the case study and how this can be translated into an ASEAN context. The presentation furthermore gave some concrete recommendations on actions needed to facilitate progress in implementation of GAP, GMP/GHP and HACCP in Vietnam and within ASEAN. Development of regional standards and certification schemes should be based on international guidelines and recommendations as fundamentals but be adapted to an Asian context taking into account the Asian culture and management practices. Some of the main international guidelines and regulations are, FAO Code of conduct for responsible fisheries, International Principles for responsible shrimp farming, OIE's Aquatic Animal Health Code chapter for risk assessment, ASEAN guidelines on responsible shrimp farming,

CODEX Codes of Practice and guidelines for GHP and HACCP, FAO draft Guidelines for aquaculture certification (still draft version).

42. A number of concrete recommendations on how to move forward with the ASEAN integration of fisheries were given: Harmonization of AMCs national shrimp GAP regulations/standards with ASEAN guidelines for responsible shrimp farming; Active participation in development of FAO guidelines on aquaculture certification and harmonization of AMCs national scheme with the guidelines; Harmonization of AMCs own GMP/ GHP and HACCP regulations/standards to the Codex and ASEAN guidelines; Development of Manuals on GMP/SSOP application at PPEs and TPEs, fishing landing sites, first sale markets, on fishing vessels; Training programme for SMEs on development and implementation of GMP/GHP or SSOP and Exchange experts within AMCs and from donor countries.

***Compliance with international good practices and standards (Measure 48)***

*(Resource persons: Dr Simon Funge-Smith, FAO of the UN and Mr Michael J Phillips, NACA on Aquaculture and Dr Magnus Torell (Sida/SEAFDEC) on Capture fisheries)*

43. This presentation focussed on some international standards related to fisheries existing or potential in terms of ASEAN trade promotion. The ambition of the Measure 48 is to set priorities and to set specific targets and schedules for harmonisation in ASEAN. Some examples of types of categories of “standards” that apply to fisheries and aquaculture production and product can be listed as follows:

i) Food safety standards/certification (mandatory standards) which contains a whole range of standard setting bodies with the main focus on food safety, such as HACCP and the CODEX Alimentarius,

ii) Good practices and quality related standards (voluntary certification). These quality related schemes and standards for good practices are specifically found in aquaculture, such Thai CoC (shrimps), GLOBALGAP,

iii) Safety management systems are standards developed to focus on work related safety and safety of third parties. This could include standards for safety at sea, standard for movement of hazardous goods etc. Relevant conventions, to fisheries, would include some IMO and ILO conventions,

iv) Environmental standards and certification specifies the level of sustainability of resources utilisation and is mostly focusing on environmental issues, such as maintaining fish stocks and ecological impacts of production – some environmental schemes do, however, include standards on social aspects,

v) Social standards and fair-trade standards and certification looks at the social profile of different production stages, mainly in terms of social and working conditions. Schemes include “fair-fish” and the Fair Labour Organization (hereunder the Max Havelaar foundation). Social standards are included among other schemes developed by retailers, those with an environmental focus, etc. Standards developed out of the ILO conventions would include social aspects. Often social schemes do include standards on environmental aspects of especially the local surroundings where the products are produced.

44. These standards or criteria for measure “safety, quality, fair trade or environmental sustainability are based on global standards or ‘norms’ which are derived from conventions or agreements. In some cases these are binding on signatory countries or members and in other cases they are non-binding but may still be part of a voluntary scheme such as a certification scheme. To be able to give some priorities to various “standards” or certification schemes it is important to have a look at some of the international or regional conventions and agreements that “frame” the way criteria and standards are developed. The ratification of binding international agreements implies that

countries must make necessary adjustments in their national legislation to allow for proper implementation. A review of some conventions and international agreements that are relevant to fisheries and trade in fisheries products are presented in the table at the end of this document. The matrix builds upon reference points a) to d) in the note for preparation of papers.

45. Measure No 48 is different in nature from that of many other measures in that it do not refer to any specific elements, or standards for that matter, such as implementation of HACCP, good aquaculture practices (GAP) or good hygiene practices (GHP), etc. On the contrary it cuts across and it will be important to reflect the status of various standards its present and potential future implications to ASEAN trade by having to reflect a whole range of international standards of great variety. In this respect Item 48 has considerable overlap with the other items and there is some sense in trying to clearly indicate where each issue should be dealt with.

### **Discussions**

46. In the discussions it was noted that there were a lot of overlap between standards and certification schemes present in the region. There is a need to highlight and prioritize what way the ASEAN members will go and develop some ASEAN certification standards of their own to harmonize more within the region. An example of this was also the port-state measures that are coming up quickly and as an example where it is useful to think ahead and be prepared on what might come up.

47. It was noted during the discussion that clear goals were needed as a general recommendation to make sure some goals would be reached before the year 2010.

48. It was noted that the ASEAN members despite being main producers of fisheries products most international standards where developed by the consuming countries or retailers. If there could be an ASEAN standard the region would stand stronger in negotiations with consumers and retailers. It was agreed that there should be more ASEAN input in setting the international standards. Certification of aquaculture products was noted as an area of particular concern.

49. The minimum requirements should be to establish standards according to internationally agreed norms and then deal with additional private sector standards and certification schemes. Initially there should be a focus on a few prioritised standards that are already well developed to focus the work and get some success stories.

50. The ASEAN Shrimp Alliance was mentioned as an example on an initiative that tried to formalize the harmonization of shrimp production in the ASEAN region. This could be an example where a regional initiative is facilitating setting of standards at the international standard. The ASEAN group can actively take part in the standard setting process. There is also a responsibility for the member countries to actively comment on international standards.

51. Workshop participants also suggested a focus on a single or two commodities in order to have a focussed and practical way of working forward with standards and harmonization. When prioritization of commodities some of the lessons learned are that a lead country should be appointed when the prioritization has been agreed upon. It is clear that there are individual country preferences when it comes to export and trade. Under the ASEAN umbrella it should be remembered that there is a strong economic and trade aspect that has to be in the forefront of the decisions.

### **Compliance with international good practices and standards (Measure 49)**

*(Resource person: Mr Soon Eong Yeap, SEAFDEC-MFRD)*

52. The presentation recommended that the formulation of guidelines for the use of chemicals in aquaculture and measure to eliminate the use of harmful chemicals. There

are a number of major considerations related to this measure in the different ASEAN member countries. In Myanmar there is lack of awareness of the legislations. In the Philippines the cost of monitoring is expensive and labor intensive. There is a limited accredited laboratory facility. All guidelines and listings should follow international standards and guidelines by Codex, OIE or FAO.

53. The recommendations to move forward on Measure 49 was an extension of training seminars and workshops, promotion of laboratories being accredited and to set up guidelines for efficacy and toxicity testing among ASEAN member countries.

### **Discussions**

54. There has already been work done on code of conducts and guidelines on good aquaculture practices in ASEAN. It was noted that the already developed regional guidelines should be referred to when more detailed national good aquaculture practices (GAP) guidelines were developed. It was suggested that national GAP guidelines should be harmonized and ASEAN member countries should agree on the scope of the GAP. A common list of banned substances should be developed (for example as an open database) and be a reference point for the countries. It was suggested to collect all national GAP guidelines, create a matrix for comparison and from that list develop an ASEAN GAP.

### **Compliance with international good practices and standards (Measure 47), Harmonisation of Sector Specific Technical Regulatory Regime in ASEAN (Measure 53-54) and Development and Implementation of MRAs in Selected Fisheries Products (Measure 55)**

*(Resource persons: Ms Krissana Sukhumpanich, Department of Fisheries, Thailand, Lahsen Ababouch and Jesper Clausen, FAO of the UN)*

55. The presentation highlighted that the drivers for regional approach should be trade. This is the case for both the regional and international markets. The main international legal framework is based on SPS and TBT agreements agreed upon in WTO. It should be noted that WTO role is to monitor the progress of international harmonization on these agreements and not to develop standards and schemes. The SPS covers health issues (human, animal and plant) and the TBT agreement covers technical issues related to product. The SPS/TBT agreement is based on a set of general principles. Any ASEAN formalized set up should be in compliance with international standards but should be harmonized. Internationally accepted risk assessment based on good science should form the base for setting up the standards. If a regional approach is to be followed it is important to read what the Codex Alimentarius is saying and then develop a harmonized approach between member countries. The different levels of development within ASEAN member countries should be taken into account. It is important that the starting point is set at the most developed standards and then help the countries still not at that level to raise the bar.

56. The development of private standards has been brought up at SPS/TBT meetings. There is a concern that the mushrooming of private standard are duplicating the work already being done by governments on issues related to food safety and public health. Food safety is the responsibility of the producers and processors. Governments can only set up guidelines and legislation and then monitor partly if the guidelines and legislation are followed.

57. Looking at the different measures identified in the roadmap it was noted that most are interlinked in one way or the other. This should be recognized when dealing with the measures. It is suggested that it should be recognized that there is a need to think about the measures as both vertical and horizontal integration A value chain approach should be used; with a focus not only on the final product but the full value chain.

### **Discussions**

58. It was noted that any harmonization should be done according to international standards like Codex Alimentarius and to ease the coordination it was suggested by

participants to establish a consultative group to coordinate the work. There were general agreement to focus on work related to one product and it was discussed if there should be both horizontal and vertical approach. It was preferable to work on the full value chain, however due to time constraints maybe it would be difficult to get the work done in time.

59. It was emphasised that it was important to focus on a single commodity but this focus should include the complete value chain. The requirements to transparency of the whole value chain (including production systems) are important to make sure the work is in line with international requirements. Instead of looking at one product it was suggested that one option might be to look at for example of aquaculture products in general.

60. Related to Measure 55 it was noted in the discussions that the MRA was considered a bilateral agreement between two countries. It was also noted that the decision to have a mechanism for MRA to be between ASEAN and an outside country would require more harmonization between AMC's since there is still large differences between the ASEAN countries and their current level of development and that would make it difficult to make an MRA with the ASEAN framework.

61. The individual countries in the ASEAN region have put a lot of effort into fulfilling requirements of importing countries, noting particular the success in achieving market access to the EU. All countries already on the EU Food safety List A might be considered as already having a mutual recognition and agreement, although this was not formally a MRA. It was suggested that ASEAN could build on these successful experiences in developing MRA within the region.

#### ***Strengthening of Testing Facilities in ASEAN and Recognition of Testing Results and Product Certification by regulators (Measure 51)***

*(Resource persons: Dr. Nantiya Unprasert, Department of Fisheries, Thailand)*

62. The purpose of measure 51 is to strengthen the capacities of the competent authorities of the ASEAN member countries in the field of fisheries and aquaculture products testing and build sustainable testing capacities at regional level. Identification of the general technical advice and training needs in relation with the understanding and implementation of the importing legislation on fisheries products and provision activities concerning proficiency testing, method validations. The idea is to establish a network of ASEAN reference laboratories (ARL) and ASEAN fisheries reference laboratories (AFRL). It is considered important that a network to implement capacity building is established. Such a network would be responsible for activities in mainly proficiency testing programs, improve performance and testing methods. It will also be an important task to seek resources for capacity building both from ASEAN member countries and from international donors. A database should be established for all members to provide updated information on technical capacities. Also sharing of information and relevant documents could be done through this network. The network would be ISO/IEC 17025 accredited for international recognition to ensure a high confidence and reliability of test results.

63. A number of specific recommendations were given to the ASEAN member countries. It was suggested that the members should consider appointing an AFRL according to a defined selection criteria. The responsibilities of being the AFRL should be shared between member countries. The AFRL finally chosen will be responsible to support all member countries when needed as defined in the selection criteria.

#### ***Discussions***

64. It was suggested to consider the possibility of utilising the "Seafood Safety Information Network" which was aimed at establishing a network of regional experts and institutions working in the area of seafood safety on the website including the list of laboratories under SEAFDEC project.



65. In the discussions, participants noted that agreement in principle on how a reference laboratory was set up should be agreed on and the discussions on where the facilities would be situated. It was recommended to make use the existing facilities and seek cost sharing and develop already existing facilities.

66. There was further agreement on the need for such reference laboratory facilities. It was recommended to build further on the meeting already conducted in Vietnam in November 2007 by the ASEAN-EU Programme for Regional Integration Support (APRIS II). The criteria for a reference laboratory were discussed and a list of potential laboratories living up to those criteria was identified.

***Establishment and ASEAN Early Warning System on Hazards and Outbreaks (Measure 60)***

*(Resource Persons: Dr Michael Phillips, Dr CV Mohan and Dr Simon Funge Smith)*

67. The presentation noted that no ASEAN member had yet been nominated as a lead country for this measure, and that there was still a lack of clarity on the specific issues to be considered. The presentation briefly reviewed the types of hazards and outbreaks that might be considered, following with a detailed description of systems already established by OIE, NACA and FAO in Asia to respond to aquatic animal disease emergencies.

***An overview of the ASEAN Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed (ARASFF) (Measure 60)***

*(Presented by Dr Sanchai Tontyaporn, ARASF team leader)*

68. A Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed (RASFF) is a developing network for notification of direct or indirect risks to human health deriving from food or feed between competent authorities. The presentation recommended establishing an ASEAN Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed (ARASFF) based around experiences from a similar system in Europe. Since 2005 an ASEAN-EU program has been running and a pilot study in Thailand supported by The Royal Thai Government and EU has been set up. The projects goals are to i) develop an information exchange software program based on the EU RASFF model. ii) Establish an information exchange network on Food Safety among Responsible Agencies within Thailand and iii) Establish an information exchange network on Food Safety among Competent Authorities of some ASEAN members countries.

***Discussion on ASEAN Common Framework for Specific Key Issues of the Roadmap***

*(Chaired by Mr Robert Lee, SEAFDEC and Dr Michael J. Phillips, NACA)*

69. There was a general consensus towards focussing on a few commodities and then work with these commodities across horizontal issues. There should be a focus on the whole value chain on the chosen commodity/group of commodities. In general there was a strong focus on frozen products especially aquaculture frozen shrimp and some interest in traditional products like fish sauce.

70. At the same time, further work should be prioritised on a few key horizontal issues within the roadmap, such as guidelines on aquaculture certification, ASEAN code of good aquaculture practice (GAP) and harmonization of laboratory facilities (including work on ASEAN reference laboratories).

71. It was noted that more horizontal measures such as Code of Practice (i.e. GAP, GMP, HACCP, and Industry standards) will not be significant difference between commodities. Considerable efforts have been made at the regional and international level (i.e. CODEX) to work on horizontal measures and less on commodity specific measures.

72. A lot of good progress has been made by member countries as individual countries. It is an important task to share these more widely among members and translate these good stories into an ASEAN harmonization.

### **SESSION III: ACTION PLAN OF EACH MEASURE AND DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE COLLABORATION**

73. The main output from the workshop was an agreed action plan on how to facilitate the integration of the fisheries sector within ASEAN and a set of concrete recommendations on the measures based on inputs from the ASEAN representatives and the invited resource persons.

#### ***Presentation of Workshop Outcome: Action Plan of Each Measure***

*(Chairperson: Dr Waraporn Prompoj)*

The workshop outcome was presented and discussed. The following is the final action plan prepared by the workshop is provided at the end of the report.

#### **Composition of an Ad-hoc ASEAN-SEAFDEC Roadmap Working Group (ASRWG) and its Terms of Reference**

74. The workshop discussed the ad hoc ASEAN Roadmap working group. After three years of work on the roadmap measures still only a few measures have been translated into action. It was suggested to set up a working group to facilitate and monitor the follow up from this meeting. A SEAFDEC-ASEAN ad-hoc working group was presented in last ASWG and it was recommended to go back to the next ASWG after this workshop for further discussion on how to effectively implement the roadmap measures. It was noted that ASWG role is to monitor and follow-up

75. The ASEAN secretariat suggested that careful consideration and strong justifications was needed for creating a new working group. Terms of reference should be developed before any commitments were given from the ASWG. Experiences from the ASEAN working group for Forestry were that it was not needed to create a new working group.

#### **Discussion on Possible Collaboration with Various International Organizations**

##### ***FAO***

76. Implementation of food safety and quality standards, fish utilization and planning remain to be important issues in this region. The particular area; Certification, HACCAP in Aquaculture in SME, Strengthen capacity on risk assessment, and CODEX risk and benefit analysis. Much regional corroboration has been done previously through INFOFISH to AMC and other international organization but look forward for more collaborating in the future. There are funds made available from Norway and Japan to work on the issues relevant to this region. It is plan to start as a pilot project in Thailand and India and to further promote and expand to the other country in the region.

77. It is hoped to assist fall behind country to catch up with the other AMC, through ASEAN mechanism, such as GMP support between two countries. Regional economic integration showing commitment for further cooperation with ASEAN. Various issues mentioned in the “Blue Print” nicely fit with ongoing regional activities by FAORAP and looking forward for the fruitful collaboration in the future.

##### ***Sida***

78. Sida addressed its focus for supporting various issues in the ASEAN region. Cooperation to be continue for the second phase of their project regarding fisheries management and look forward for linking the activities described in Blueprint.

##### ***ASEAN***

79. The recently completed work on “Standard Operating Practices for quarantine and health certification for responsible movement of live food finfish within ASEAN” was quoted as a good example of AMC and international agencies collaborated together, and look forward for similar arrangement in the future.

## **NACA**

80. NACA has various ongoing cooperating with ASEAN and AMC, such as recently completed work explained previously by the ASEAN Secretariat on live food finish standards. NACA would continue to work with ASEAN members and in partnership with other international and regional organisations such as FAO and SEAFDEC. The Roadmap contains a number of similar initiative to ongoing NACA activities, and there are various cooperation opportunities that can be seen from the workshop discussions. The possible cooperation might be considered further at the Governing Council meeting scheduled in March 2008 in Nepal.

81. NACA is currently working with FAO on Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification, and looks forward for more cooperation with AMC on such issues around GAP and certification itself, and linking the further cooperation into ASEAN Blue print.

## **SEAFDEC**

82. It is mandate of SEAFDEC to service for ASEAN Country, and look forward for further cooperation with AMC as well as international organizations.

## **ADOPTION OF WORKSHOP CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

83. The workshop participants adopted the final conclusions and recommendations. The recommendations were given under two headings namely general recommendations and measure specific recommendations.

84. The general recommendations were:

- i) ASEAN standards must be aligned with international standards to gain recognition.
- ii) ASEAN Member Countries need to have national inter-agency working groups to implement measures.
- iii) National level to inform ASEAN regional level of implementation.
- iv) ASEAN Member Countries at national level need to commit funds and resources to build national human resources capacity, infrastructure *etc.* to support implementation of the roadmap.
- v) ASEAN Member Countries dependency on donors and sponsors for “projects” to support implementation of the roadmap is not a viable option.
- vi) For “quick” implementation of the roadmap, focus should be on up to three fishery commodities with economic impact. The meeting recommended: 1) Frozen shrimp; 2) Frozen fish and 3) Fish sauce.
- vii) It was also recommended that the roadmap measures and their action plans should be integrated along the following sectors: production, processing and post-harvest; and laboratory practices and control. The three should be further interlinked to enable traceability throughout the whole value chain.

85. The measure specific recommendations were:

**Measure 46** -Develop and apply fisheries quality management system that ensure food safety and support competitive position of ASEAN Fisheries products on world markets through the implementation, validation, verification of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based systems and improved laboratories practices, and adopting quality and safety management systems so that they may be applied to small enterprises in ASEAN.

It was noted that the system for implementation of HACCP has been established in ASEAN and all Member countries have implemented the measure. It was recommended that:

- National governments should commit sufficient national budget for training of stakeholders and implementation.

**Measure 47** - Implement the Codex Code of Practice of Good Animal Feeding and Recommended International Code of Practice for Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs and the Codex Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods in ASEAN in order to reduce potential hazards in terms of chemical contamination, mycotoxins and veterinary drugs.

- Three member countries have been implementing two code of practice and other member countries should complete their implementation.
- Implement the Codex Alimentarius:
  - Code of practice (COP) for good animal feeding.
  - The recommended International COP for the control of the use of veterinary drugs.
- AMC formulation of guidelines for the establishment of a regulatory programme for the control of veterinary drug residues in ASEAN should take into account:
  - National initiatives (Codes, certification schemes).
  - Results and recommendations of the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Development of Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture.
  - Work of the Codex task force on the development of antimicrobial resistance in foods.

**Measure 48** - Prioritize international standards related to fisheries that would be significant to trade value and those with potential for ASEAN trade in the future and set specific targets for harmonization in ASEAN.

- Select the minimum number of standards that specifically relate to trade under the approaches above, principally food safety and aquatic animal health. Report these responsibilities to ASEAN (indicating that no further elaboration will be made on “present” standards as they will be addressed under other Measures).
- Create mechanisms whereby ASEAN Member Countries can pro-actively contribute to the standard setting processes in the future.
- Define workable systems that would facilitate harmonisation of standards among ASEAN Member Country.

There are standards that may be relevant to trade in fisheries but which would be better dealt with in other ASEAN fora or mechanisms (e.g. the ASWGFi or the ASEAN/SEAFDEC Regional Management Mechanism).

- Identify those standards and conventions.
- Future reporting on Measure 48 should focus on international standards that might have future significance to the value of ASEAN trade (internationally and regionally). This will bear in mind the emerging importance of issues relating to social, labour, climate change and other aspects not directly linked to food safety, but linked to the production systems.

**Measure 49** - Formulate guidelines for the use of chemicals in aquaculture and measures to eliminate the use of harmful chemicals.

- Lead Country (Malaysia) to send out survey to AMC on current national guidelines and practices on the use of chemicals in aquaculture and list of banned and permitted substances with their limits and withdrawal periods. Collation of existing guidelines and documents.
- Regional Technical Consultation. Lead country to organize and conduct a Regional Technical Consultation to report on the survey, share the information collated, form a Working Committee (WC) to draft common regional guidelines (list of banned substances, limits, withdrawal periods), establish work schedule and timeframe.
- Strategy – Establish common guidelines by consensus; supported by scientific data; incorporate international and national guidelines where applicable.
- WC draft and circulate common guidelines for national consultation.
- WC Meeting to finalise common guidelines taking into consideration feedback from national consultations.
- Lead country to circulate final draft to AMC's for approval.
- Publish common guidelines.

**Measure 50** - Promotion of GAP, GMP/GHP and HACCP for the fishery industry, especially SME's.

- Harmonization should be initiated among AMC's on national shrimp GAP regulations/standards with the ASEAN guidelines for responsible shrimp farming.
- Active participation in development of FAO guidelines on aquaculture certification and harmonization of AMCs national scheme with the guidelines.
- Harmonization should be initiated of AMCs own GMP/ GHP and HACCP regulations/standards based on Codex and ASEAN guidelines.
- Development of Manuals on GMP/SSOP application for certain commodities under PPEs and TPEs.
- Training programme for SMEs on development and implementation of GMP/GHP or SSOP.
- Exchange experts within AMCs and from donor countries.
- The meeting recommended accepting Viet Nam's offer to take the lead on Measure 50.

**Measure 51-** Establishment of ASEAN Reference Testing Laboratories for fisheries products (Microbiology, mycotoxin, pesticide residues; Veterinary Drug Residues; Heavy Metals etc)

- The need for reference testing laboratories is continually changing as a result of the dynamic nature of the fisheries sector. In order to meet the changing requirements due to emerging food safety hazards national governments are strongly recommended to continue work on strengthening their designated ASEAN reference laboratory testing capabilities.
- Identify the groups of substances for which AFRL's are required.
- Criteria should be set up for the selection of fisheries laboratories as the AFRL.

- Evaluate the status and capacity of laboratories proposed as AFRL's
- Circulate the decision to all countries for agreement (in case of disagreement the lead country would organize a meeting for final decision).
- Assign additional countries in accordance with the established criteria to be AFRL for substance groups that are not included in the ARL.
- Appoint and AFRL according to Selection criteria (recognizing that only one country should be AFRL).

All member countries should agree upon the country's purpose with scientifically basic. (Existing facilities, most appropriated Testing method using, activities to provide to the member countries and how do they develop Test method, equipments and facilities continuously).

**Measure 52** - Encourage recognition by ASEAN domestic regulators for test reports issues by ASEAN Reference Testing Laboratories and those already accredited by national accreditation bodies who are signatories to ILAC, APLAC MRA.

- Encourage the national regulators who issue test certificates to be accredited with ISO/IEC 17025.
- It is recommended that the responsible ARL/AFRL provide technical assistance upon request to support accreditation.

**Measure 53** - Identify and prioritize SPS and TBT measures related to fisheries products for harmonization in ASEAN

and

**Measure 54** - Harmonize identified SPS and TBT measures including harmonization of import and export, labelling requirements and marketing compliance

- Establish a working group to review the current constraints in regional trade and identify problems encountered in assuring quality and safety and take the necessary action.
- Secure sources of funding for improving inspection and lab capacity as well as harmonization activities.
- Acquire technical assistance from international agencies.
- Improve capacities including in risk assessment.
- Establish a consultative group to coordinate:
  - Contributions of ASEAN fisheries issues to relevant Codex committees and expert meetings.
  - With trade people to highlight fisheries trade issues at SPS/TBT committees.
  - With trade enquiry focal points.
- Initiate the development of special and differential treatment scheme for meeting common ASEAN standards and codes of practice
- Initiate the adoption/adaptation of Codex guidelines on import/export certification in fisheries and aquaculture
- Initiate the adoption/adaptation of the Codex Code on GAP to ASEAN aquaculture systems
- Contribute ASEAN issues to the development of international guidelines for aquaculture certification

- Initiate the adoption/adaptation of the Codex guidelines on labelling to fisheries and aquaculture in ASEAN

**Measure 55** - Development and implementation of MRAs in selected fishery products.

- Review of international trade on fish and fishery products
- Consult on costs and benefits for establishing an MRA
- Identify problems encountered in international trade and take action as needed.
- Identify parties interested in establishing an MRA (MRAs are developed by definition between trading partners (bilateral MRAs) or trading blocks).
- ASEAN countries that have been approved/harmonized for export to the EU should analyze how this can be turned into a multilateral MRA for specific commodities and/or horizontal issues. This will de facto lead to ASEAN harmonization.
- A multilateral MRA can originally start with the countries currently ready and evolve to include other countries as they become ready.
- ASEAN countries are encouraged to achieve bilateral MRAs as necessary.

The Guidelines for the Development of Equivalence Agreements regarding Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CAC/GL 34-1999) of Codex should guide the development of MRA's.

**Measure 60** - Establish an ASEAN Early Warning System on Hazards and Outbreaks

- Aquatic animal disease early warning system be further developed based on the existing NACA/OIE/FAO Asia regional system:
  - ASEAN should adopt/adapt global and regional reporting systems in view of the existing global (OIE) and regional QAAD reporting systems, and recognizing the value of information generated through reporting for the purpose of early warning.
  - Create a mechanism for providing inputs, that reflect ASEAN concerns, on aquatic animal diseases to OIE and NACA (e.g. proposal for listing/delisting of aquatic animal diseases for global and regional reporting)
  - Support national surveillance systems through implementation of national aquatic animal health strategies, so that quality of disease reports and compliance to global and regional reporting can be upgraded in ASEAN
  - Consider encouraging ASEAN organizations (e.g. SEADEC AQD, ANAAHC) to initiate mechanisms to develop early warning messages based on global (OIE) and regional reporting (QAAD, ARAHIS) systems and circulate to ASEAN Competent Authorities as appropriate.
  - In considering an early warning system, ASWGFi should consult ASWGL whether aquatic animal could be included in the ASEAN Regional Animal Health Information System (ARAHIS).

- The ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed initiative should be formally adopted by ASEAN and further enhanced to meet the needs of all the ASEAN member countries.

#### **CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

86. On behalf of the organizers, Dr. Waraporn Prompoj DOF-Thailand, thanked the ASEAN member countries, other participants from international and regional organizations and the observers for actively attending this important workshop. The workshop marked an important step towards integrating fisheries in the ASEAN countries and some concrete recommendations were given to move ahead with the roadmap.



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## APPENDIX II: AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

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### Wednesday, January 16, 2008

0830-0900 Registration

0900-0945 Opening of the Workshop

- Remarks by Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, Secretary General, SEAFDEC
- Remarks by Dr. Simon Funge-Smith, FAO
- Remarks by Dr. Michael J. Phillips, NACA
- Remarks by Dr. Somsak Pipopinyo, ASEAN Secretariat
- Opening Remarks by Dr. Wimol Jantrarotai, Deputy Director-General, Department of Fisheries, Thailand

0945-1015 Group Photography and Coffee Break

**Session I: ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector: An Overview**  
*Chaired by Dr. Nantiya Unprasert, Department of Fisheries, Thailand (DOF)*

1015-1030 Introduction of Workshop Objectives and Outputs  
*Presented by Dr. Waraporn Prompoj, DOF*

1030-1100 The Study Report on the Implementation of ASEAN Roadmap for  
Integration of Fisheries Sector by WorldFish Center

#### **Reports on Implementation status by Lead ASEAN Member Countries**

1100-1115 Singapore: Measure 1 46  
*Presented by Ms. Tan-Low Lai Kim*

1115-1145 Malaysia: Measure 47-49

1145-1200 Discussion

1200-1330 Lunch Break

#### **Reports on Implementation status (cont'd)**

1330-1345 Myanmar: Measure 51  
*Presented by Mr. Tin Hla*

1345-1415 Thailand: Measure 53-55  
*Presented by Ms. Krissana Sukhumparnich*

1415-1430 Discussion

#### **Session II: An ASEAN Common Framework for Specific Key Issues of the Roadmap**

1430-1500 Fisheries Quality and Safety Management Systems (Measure 46)  
*Resource Person: Mr. Soon Eong Yeap, SEAFDEC-*

#### **Compliance with International Good Practices and Standards (Measure 47-49)**

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<sup>1</sup> The details of measures to be discussed in this workshop are attached with the tentative program

- 1500-1530 Promotion and Strengthening of Compliance of Fisheries Industry to the Regional and International Requirements (Measure 50)  
Resource Person: Dr. Nguyen Nhu Tiep, NAFIQAVED
- 1530-1545 Coffee Break
- 1545-1630 Measure 48  
Resource Persons:  
Dr Simon Funge-Smith, FAO/RAP and Dr Michael Phillips, NACA on Aquaculture, Dr Magnus Torell, SEAFDEC-Sida on Capture fisheries
- 1800-2100 Welcome Dinner hosted by Department of Fisheries, Thailand

### **Thursday, January 17, 2008**

#### **Session II: ASEAN Common Framework for Specific Key Issues of the Roadmap (Cont'd)**

- 0900-0930 Measure 49  
Resource Person: Mr. Soon Eong Yeap, SEAFDEC-MFRD
- 0930-1000 Measure 47  
Resource Person: Dr. Lahsen Ababouch, FAO/Rome and Mr. Jesper Clausen, FAO/RAP
- 1000-1030 Strengthening of Testing Facilities in ASEAN and Recognition of Testing Results and Product Certification by regulators (Measure 51)  
Resource Person: Dr. Nantiya Unprasert, and Ms. Suwimon Keerativiriyaporn, DOF
- 1030-1045 Coffee Break
- 1045-1200 Harmonisation of Sector Specific Technical Regulatory Regime in ASEAN (Measure 53-54)  
Resource Person: Dr. Lahsen Ababouch, FAO/Rome and Ms. Krissana Sukhumparnich, DOF
- 1200-1330 Lunch Break
- 1330-1400 Development and Implementation of MRAs in Selected Fisheries Products (Measure 55)  
Resource Person: Dr. Lahsen Ababouch, FAO/Rome and Ms. Krissana Sukhumparnich, DOF
- 1400-1430 Establishment an ASEAN Early Warning System on Hazards and Outbreaks (Measure 60)  
Resource Person: Dr. Michael Phillips, NACA, Mr. Chadag Vishnumurthy Mohan, NACA and Dr. Simon Funge Smith, FAO/RAP
- 1430-1445 An Overview of the ASEAN Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed (ARASF) Presented by Dr. Sanchai Tontyaporn, ARASF Team Leader
- 1445-1530 Discussion  
Chaired by Mr. Robert Lee, SEAFDEC and Dr. Michael Phillips, NACA
- 1530-1545 Coffee Break
- 1545-1630 Discussion (Cont'd)



**Friday, January 18, 2008**

**Session III: Action Plan of Each Measure and Discussion on Possible Collaboration**

- 0900-1030 Presentation of Workshop Outcome: Action Plan of Each Measure by Resource Person
- 1030-1045 Coffee Break
- 1045-1200 Discussion on Possible Collaboration with Various International Organizations, Composition of an Ad-hoc ASEAN-SEAFDEC Roadmap Working Group (ASRWG) and its Terms of Reference  
*Chaired by Dr. Waraporn Prompoj, DOF*
- 1200-1400 Lunch Break
- 1400-1500 Adoption of Workshop Conclusion and Recommendations
- 1500-1530 Workshop Closing by Dr. Waraporn Prompoj on behalf of Director-General, DOF

### **APPENDIX III: PROPOSED MEASURES FOR THE ASEAN ROADMAP FOR INTEGRATION OF FISHERIES SECTOR**

#### **Fisheries Quality and Safety Management Systems (Measure 46):**

*Measure 46:* Develop and apply fisheries quality management system that ensure food safety and support competitive position of ASEAN fisheries products on world markets through the implementation, validation, verification of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) -based systems and improved laboratories practices, and adapting quality and safety management systems so that they may be applied to small enterprises in ASEAN.

*Lead country: Singapore*

#### **Compliance with international good practices and standards (Measure 47 – 49):**

*Measure 47:* Implement the Codex Code of Practice of Good Animal Feeding and Recommended International Code of Practice for Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs and the Codex Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods in ASEAN in order to reduce potential hazards in terms of chemical contamination, mycotoxins and veterinary drugs.

*Measure 48:* Prioritize international standards related to fisheries that would be significant for ASEAN trade value and those with potential for ASEAN trade in the future and set specific targets and schedules for harmonization in ASEAN.

*Measure 49:* Formulate guidelines for the use of chemicals in aquaculture and measures to eliminate the use of harmful chemical.

*Lead country: Malaysia*

#### **Promote and strengthen the compliance of fisheries industry to the regional and international requirements (Measure 50).**

*Measure 50:* Promotion of HACCP, Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) for fishery industry, especially SME's.

*Lead country: -*

#### **Strengthening Testing Facilities in ASEAN and Recognition of Testing Results and Product Certification by regulators (Measure 51)**

*Measure 51:* Establishment of ASEAN Reference Testing Laboratories for fisheries products (Microbiology, mycotoxin, pesticide residues; Veterinary Drug Residues; Heavy Metals etc)

*Lead country: Myanmar*

#### **Harmonisation of sector specific technical regulatory regime in ASEAN (Measure 53-54)**

*Measure 53:* Identify and prioritise SPS and TBT Measures related to fisheries products for harmonisation in ASEAN

*Measure 54:* Harmonise identified SPS and TBTs measures including harmonisation of import and export, labeling requirements and marking of compliance.

*Lead country: Thailand*

#### **Development and Implementation of MRAs in selected fisheries products (Measure 55 and 60)**

*Measure 55:* Development and Implementation of MRAs in selected fisheries products

*Lead country: Thailand*

*Measure 60:* Establish an ASEAN Early Warning System on Hazards and Outbreaks

*Lead country: -*

## **APPENDIX IV: WORKSHOP PROSPECTUS**

### **Background and Rationale**

Contribution of the fisheries sector to national development in Southeast Asia is well recognized worldwide, as it does not only provides a source of fish consumption but also provide livelihoods, employment and income opportunities as well as generating trade the region. In terms of employment and income opportunities, more than 4 million people in the region are engaged in their primary economic activity, either work at capture or culture fisheries, a full-time or a part-time basis, and small-scale or commercial fisheries. Meanwhile the estimated number of persons employed in fisheries related industries such as processing, distribution and trade amounts to some 20 millions. Besides its contribution to employment and income earnings, fisheries also provide benefits to the economic wealth of countries in the region. As such there is a critical linkage between trade in fishery products and poverty alleviation, and also sustainable fisheries.

According to the status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and Pacific in 2004, the production of fish in the region has well known contributed significantly to the world fisheries production both marine and inland waters. FAO reported that the capture fisheries production growth in Southeast Asia has been very strong for the past four decades with marine capture production increasing linearly through this period with the production level of 14 million tones in 2002 after China sub-region. The trade of fisheries commodities has developed rapidly during the past years and has become one of the most important commodities in international trade. Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam have earned substantial foreign exchange through the export of their fish and fishery products.

In order to maintain the importance of economic contribution of the fisheries sector in the region, it is necessary that the sector should be developed under the sustainability principle by striking the balance of social, economic and eco-system consideration. To this end, regional cooperation in fisheries development, trade and management can complement the national efforts in pursuing this goal.

### **ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector**

In making the Southeast Asian region a more dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain and the world economy, the 9th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia in October 2003 adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II). Under the Declaration, ASEAN is committed to deepen and broaden its internal economic integration linkages, with the participation of the private sector, to realize an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). AEC will result in ASEAN becoming a single and competitive market and production base with free flow of good, service, investment, skilled labor and capital, turning the diversity that characterizes the region into opportunities and business complementation.

To further deepen and accelerate regional economic integration, the ASEAN Leaders, at their 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane in November 2004, signed the Framework Agreement for Integration of Priority Sectors, and 11 ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols for integration of 11 priority sectors, of which fisheries is among others. This signals and reaffirms the ASEAN's commitment to fast track the integration towards the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) that ASEAN Leaders agreed to realize by 2010.

Attached to each protocol is a roadmap that is intended to serve as the basis for economic integration of the respective priority sector. These roadmaps were prepared by the governments and with active involvement of the private sector. Each roadmap include specific measures that are of direct relevance to each sector, as well as common issues that cut across all priority integration section to be implemented with timelines from now on to the year 2010.

Given the expanding global economy and international trade of fish and fisheries products as well as the increasing trade related issues, the implementation of the

Framework Agreement for Integration of Priority Sectors and attached protocol for fisheries integration are very much significant and timely, especially in preparing member countries to enhance competitiveness in the current globalization and international trade of fish and fishery products faced by ASEAN. ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) is considered an important implementing body of specific issues for this roadmap.

### **Regional Cooperation in Fisheries and the Roadmap**

ASEAN and other international/regional organizations including FAO, SEAFDEC, APFIC, NACA, WorldFish Center, INFOFISH, and MRC have many years of technical cooperation in fisheries. ASEAN formalized its cooperation with SEAFDEC since the establishment of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism in 1999, cumulating in the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference in November 2001 and the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries through SEAFDEC Seminar in December 2003. At these meetings, the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security for the ASEAN Region, and the ASEAN Vision in Fisheries Development were adopted.

The 9th Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) held in December 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand requested SEAFDEC to work closely with the four lead ASEAN Member Countries (i.e. Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand which have been assigned responsibilities on specific key issues under the Roadmap), and the ASEAN Secretariat, in developing any project proposals related to the ASEAN Roadmap under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP).

The World Fish Center (WFC) Study Report, commissioned by ASEAN on the ASEAN Roadmap, reported that regional organizations like SEAFDEC can play an important role in assisting ASEAN in the implementation of the Roadmap. SEAFDEC is already providing some assistance to ASEAN, especially to the four Lead ASEAN Member Countries (LAMCs), for the Roadmap under the FCG programs/activities. At the 9th FCG Meeting, ASEAN member countries (AMCs) have requested for more SEAFDEC assistance on the implement the Roadmap. The 39th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, held in April 2007 in Siem Reap, Cambodia agreed to closely cooperate with ASEAN on the Roadmap, and requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to submit a proposal, including the establishment of an ad-hoc ASEAN-SEAFDEC Roadmap Working Group (ASRWG), to ASEAN through ASWGF<sub>i</sub> for consideration. SEAFDEC through its relevant Departments with technical competence can play an important coordinating and executing role working closely with the AMCs and the ASEAN Secretariat, especially the four LAMCs, in assisting them in developing a common framework for the specific key issues of the Roadmap. These key issues cover the areas that are relevant to the development of a common harmonized ASEAN food safety and quality standards, and certification system which is critical for the economic integration of the fisheries sector, taking into consideration of close linkages among economic integration in fisheries and sustainable development of fisheries for poverty alleviation and food security. These issues are also areas of common interest to SEAFDEC and SEAFDEC member countries.

In taking further steps in the implementation of the Roadmap, it is important that whatever data and information that the four existing LAMCs have compiled should be collated and set as guideline towards the development of an ASEAN common framework for the specific key issues to contribute towards harmonization of the food safety and quality standards, and certifications in ASEAN under the Roadmap. Supporting mechanism for the implementation of the Roadmap including cooperation among ASEAN and other international/regional organizations should also be clarified.

### **Meeting Objectives**

Considering the importance of sustainable development of the fisheries sector as well as it linkages with ASEAN Economic Integration through the implementation of the Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector, a Regional Workshop on Implementing the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector is proposed.

In view of supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Fisheries Sector, the Workshop is organized with the following objectives:

1. To review progress and status in the implementation of the Roadmap;
2. To develop an ASEAN common framework for the specific key issues to facilitate future coordination and implementation of the Roadmap;
3. To discuss and develop supporting mechanism (i.e. the establishment of an ad-hoc ASEAN-SEAFDEC Roadmap Working Group (ASRWG) and its Terms of Reference) for the implementation of the Roadmap; and
4. To clarify follow-up actions including possible collaboration among international/regional organizations for the implementation of the Roadmap.

### **Expected Outputs**

After the end of the Workshop, the following outputs are expected:

1. The plan of action for the specific key issues of the Roadmap is clarified;
2. Supporting mechanism for the implementation of the Roadmap is developed; and
3. Follow-up actions and collaboration with international/regional organizations in the implementation of the Roadmap are identified.

### **Date and Venue**

The Workshop will be convened in Bangkok, Thailand from 16 to 18 January 2008 at Windsor Suites Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

### **Participants**

It is proposed that the participants of the Workshop will be the following:

Representatives from ASEAN Member Countries  
Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat  
Representatives from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and relevant Departments  
Representatives from relevant international/regional organizations

### **Workshop Organization and Arrangement**

The Department of Fisheries, Thailand with support from SEAFDEC and in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA) offers hosting the Workshop. SEAFDEC through its project on "Human Resource Development on the Support of Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Management for the ASEAN Region" funded by Sida offers financial support for participation of one representative from each ASEAN Member Country and some meeting expenses. Cost for additional participation from the ASEAN Member Countries is proposed to be borne by respective countries. Invited international/regional organizations (i.e. FAO, APFIC, WorldFish Center, NACA, INFOFISH) will be identified in consultation with ASEAN Secretariat, of which their participation cost will be borne by respective organizations. Additional financial support (i.e. from other Lead ASEAN Member Countries and interested international/regional organizations) for organizing the Workshop is invited. The Department of Fisheries, Thailand, SEAFDEC (Secretariat and MFRD) and NACA will form a joint secretariat of the Workshop.