

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

Singapore
1-4 April 2014



THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

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

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

**Singapore
1-4 April 2014**



L-R: Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri (Secretary-General); Mr. Abdul Halidi Bin Mohd. Salleh (Brunei Darussalam); Prof. Nao Thuok (Cambodia); Dr. Sjarief Widjaja (Indonesia); Mr. Shigeto Hase (Japan); Mr. Bounthong Saphakdy (Lao PDR); Atty. Asis G. Perez (Philippines); Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Ministry of State, Ministry of National Development of Singapore; Ms. Tan Poh Hong, CEO of AVA (Singapore); Mr. Lee Kwong Weng (Singapore); Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan (Malaysia); Mr. Khin Maung Maw (Myanmar); Mr. Chirdsak Vongkamolchoon (Thailand); Mr. Pham Anh Tuan (Vietnam); and Mr. Hajime Kawamura (Deputy Secretary-General)

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

1-4 April 2014, Singapore

INTRODUCTION

1. The Forty-sixth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was convened in the city-state of Singapore from 1 to 4 April 2014, at the invitation of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore.

2. The Meeting was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, together with their respective delegations, as well as the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials of SEAFDEC. The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Development Mission for Asia; and the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH). The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

3. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 1 April 2014, and was officiated by the Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Defence, and Mayor of South East District, Singapore, *Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman*.

4. The Director of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2013-2014, *Atty. Asis G. Perez* welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the SEAFDEC Council to the Government of Singapore for hosting the Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. He also thanked the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore for the warm hospitality and arrangements. He took the opportunity to thank the Member Countries for the support extended to the Philippines after super typhoon Haiyan wrought havoc to large areas of coastal communities and coastal fisheries as well as to aquaculture farms in the Philippines. Such assistance had indeed boosted the efforts of the Philippines, especially those of BFAR, in coping with the severe impacts of the huge devastation and in promoting rehabilitation activities in the affected areas.

5. *Atty. Perez* shared considerable insights on the importance of SEAFDEC to continue its role in promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region. Although fisheries could be the most vulnerable sector to the effects of environmental changes, but based on the experience of the Philippines on the impacts of super typhoon Haiyan, the fisheries sector could also be the most resilient for it has the ability to recover quickly and thus, was the first sector to undergo rehabilitation after the said super typhoon. He therefore urged the Member Countries to continue supporting SEAFDEC, to enable it to sustain its relevance to the region for the benefit of the millions of fishers and aquafarmers. Through such support, SEAFDEC could continue to implement projects and activities that address emerging issues and develop measures that would enable the countries to cope with the changing environments, so that the region's fisheries sector could enhance its contribution to food security. His Statement appears as **Annex 2**.

6. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Corporate and Technology of AVA, Singapore and Council Director for Singapore, *Mr. Lee Kwong Weng* welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He commended the outgoing Chairperson of the Council for the role he played in 2013 which could be considered as a very heavy year for SEAFDEC. He cited that aside from the discussions during the

45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2013, the Council also provided guidance for SEAFDEC to sustain its role in promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region. In addition, the Special Council Meeting in October 2013 reviewed the output of the Third SEAFDEC Review and provided policy recommendations and guidance for SEAFDEC to undertake programs and activities in the most appropriate perspective. His Welcome Statement appears as **Annex 3**.

7. The Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Defence and Mayor of South East District, Singapore, *Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman* welcomed the participants to Singapore. While congratulating SEAFDEC for the activities that it had carried out throughout the years that promoted the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region, he also cited the need for SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to continue addressing global issues in fisheries in order to increase the supply of food fish, thus, narrowing the gap between fish supply and demand considering the ever-growing population of the region. For this reason, he expressed full support to the programs of SEAFDEC especially in developing countermeasures to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region since IUU fishing undermines all efforts to promote sustainable fisheries management and threatens the sustainability of the fisheries resources.

8. In addition, the Minister of State expressed his support to the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry as it could pave the way for increased food fish supply from the Southeast Asian region in light of the stagnating marine capture fisheries production. In this regard, he mentioned that focus should also be made on the integration of proper aquaculture management, technologies and green aquaculture practices in order to achieve a more responsible and environment-friendly aquaculture industry. He also recalled that Singapore with support from Japan had been instrumental in the development of surimi which had transformed the fish processing industry in the region. He also shared Singapore's experience on the recent massive fish kills due to algal bloom which had resulted from a confluence of adverse environmental factors. He said that there was a need to address such issues through modern technologies and development of mitigating measures. He then wished the SEAFDEC Council a successful 46th Meeting. With such note, he declared the Meeting open. His Opening Speech appears as **Annex 4**.

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Opening of the Meeting

9. The Director of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2013-2014, *Atty. Asis G. Perez* welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He reiterated his gratitude to SEAFDEC for the support extended to him during the term of his chairpersonship, and to the Council for their cooperation in addressing fisheries issues and concerns that had been confronting SEAFDEC and the Member Countries. As his term of chairpersonship ended at this Meeting, he then invited the Council to nominate the incoming Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2014-2015.

1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2014-2015

10. The Council Director for Singapore, *Mr. Lee Kwong Weng* was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2014-2015, in accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC.

11. In his Statement, the incoming Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council welcomed the participants to Singapore and thanked the Council for the trust accorded him to serve as the Chairperson of the Council for the Year 2014-2015. While also thanking the outgoing Chairperson for the guidance provided to the Council during the past year, he expressed the hope for continued strong support and cooperation of the Council to SEAFDEC for the successful and fruitful implementation of its programs and projects in the coming years.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements of the Meeting

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

II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

13. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC congratulated the Council Director for Singapore, *Mr. Lee Kwong Weng* for his election as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2014-2015. He also expressed his appreciation to the Council Director for the Philippines, *Atty. Asis G. Perez* for serving as the Chairperson of the Council in 2013-2014 and for providing guidance that enabled SEAFDEC to address the priorities and requirements of the Member Countries.

14. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General also informed the Council on the appointments made by the Government of Japan for *Mr. Tsuyoshi Iwata* to serve as Senior Expert and Technical Coordinator for SEAFDEC for two years from 6 March 2014 at the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand succeeding *Mr. Tadaihiro Kawata*; *Mr. Akira Bamba* as Assistant Project Manager for the Japanese Trust Fund Projects for two years from 25 March 2014 succeeding *Mr. Hidenao Watanabe*; *Dr. Takuro Shibuno* as the new Deputy Chief of AQD and Co-Trust Fund Manager for AQD from 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2016 succeeding *Dr. Teruo Azuma*, and for *Dr. Masaya Katoh* to continue his services as Deputy Chief of MFRDMD and Co-Trust Fund Manager for MFRDMD from 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015.

15. While taking note of the abovementioned information, the Council concurred with the extension of the term of office of *Dr. Masaya Katoh* as Deputy Chief of MFRDMD and Co-Trust Fund Manager for MFRDMD from 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015; and the appointments of *Dr. Takuro Shibuno* as the new Deputy Chief of AQD and Co-Trust Fund Manager for AQD starting 1 April 2014.

16. In presenting the Draft SEAFDEC Annual Report for 2013, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General focused on the highlights and major achievements of the programs and projects conducted by SEAFDEC in 2013, in accordance with the SEAFDEC mandate. He reiterated that the projects and activities had been categorized in accordance with the SEAFDEC Program Thrust adopted in 2009, and that the formulation and development of the programs and activities had been guided by the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 which was adopted in June 2011. In the ensuing discussion, the Council provided recommendations to improve the future activities of SEAFDEC.

17. While commending SEAFDEC for implementing various programs and activities during the past year, the Council Director for Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC could also consider putting more emphasis on its genetics improvement program as it could increase production from aquaculture activities. In this connection, he also expressed the concern on the need to share genetically-improved stocks to the Member Countries.

18. The Council Director for Indonesia conveyed the gratitude of his country to SEAFDEC for implementing various programs and activities in 2013 and especially for sustaining its efforts in promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development for food security in the Southeast Asian region, as well as in enhancing its role as the technical arm of the ASEAN for fisheries development. He also took the opportunity to inform the Council that the World Coral Reef Conference would be organized in Manado, Indonesia from 14 to 17 May 2014, and that the CTI-CFF Building and Regional Secretariat Headquarters would be inaugurated on 16 May 2014. In this regard, he extended his country's invitation to SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to participate in the said Conference and related activities.

19. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for the programs and activities that were systematically and successfully implemented in 2013. He mentioned that in line with the efforts exerted by Myanmar to promote poverty alleviation and food security in the country, he requested SEAFDEC to put more emphasis on the projects and activities under Program Thrust I on Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitat/Fishing Grounds for Fishery Enhancement. This would enable the country to sustain the promotion of sustainable fisheries and habitat management, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and improve the social well-being of its people.

20. While inquiring on the status of the special project on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management with support from the ASEAN, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam encouraged SEAFDEC to enhance its collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and to follow up on the progress of this proposed special project. He also requested SEAFDEC to consider revisiting the original proposal considering that there are emerging issues in fisheries that continue to confront the region which might need to be addressed under the proposed project.

21. After taking the opportunity to thank the countries for their support in the search and rescue operations for the Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, the Council Director for Malaysia also expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC, especially to MFRDMD for implementing several research and capacity building activities related to fisheries resources management.

22. The Council Director for Lao PDR expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing several programs and projects in 2013 that highlighted on human capacity building through on-site training and national workshops in Lao PDR. He also requested SEAFDEC to continue providing technical assistance to Lao PDR especially on fisheries resources management for the sustainable development of the country's fisheries sector.

23. While expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing activities on safety at sea and fisheries co-management, the Council Director for Vietnam suggested that SEAFDEC could also consider putting more emphasis on emerging issues such as fish diseases including the Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in shrimps, IUU fishing, and aquaculture certification, as well as on genetic-related issues.

24. The Council Director for Cambodia commended SEAFDEC for the successful implementation of programs and projects in 2013, and requested SEAFDEC to support the effort of the country in combating IUU fishing through training to enhance the country's capacity especially in complying with the EC Regulation. He informed the Council that Cambodia was drafting its National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, and requested SEAFDEC to provide technical support on this aspect.

25. The Council Director for the Philippines expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for successfully implementing various programs and projects in 2013, and suggested that SEAFDEC could also consider addressing the issues and concerns that confronted the countries in complying with the EC Regulation in relation to IUU fishing, and ensuring that fish and fishery products marketed from the region are not from IUU fishing activities. He also requested SEAFDEC to intensify its efforts in promoting regional policies in combating IUU fishing.

26. After providing their views and comments on the achievements of the various programs and projects implemented by SEAFDEC, the Council endorsed the Draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2013 for publication and dissemination to the Member Countries, relevant organizations and the public.

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

27. The Council took note of the results of the Thirty-sixth Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC (**Annex 6**) which was held from 25 to 27 November 2013 in Penang, Malaysia, as presented by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairperson of the Program Committee. The Council also endorsed the progress of the programs and projects implemented by SEAFDEC in 2013 and approved the proposed programs and projects for implementation in 2014, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Council for the improvement of the future programs and projects of SEAFDEC.

28. The Council Director for Malaysia informed the Meeting that in view of the latest changes in scenario of the fisheries sector, the project document on “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management” needed to be revalidated especially its contents to conform to the donor’s requirements and the changing fisheries situation. In this connection, SEAFDEC was requested to coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat for possibility of revisiting and revising the proposal if necessary.

29. The Council Director for Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC could consider strengthening its activities related to inland fisheries in order to support sustainable utilization of the fisheries resources for food security of the people in rural areas. In this connection, SEAFDEC was encouraged to strengthen its network with regional bodies and international organizations in the region, such as the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centres (ANAAHC), and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) to support its activities on aquatic animal health and fish disease management in the region.

30. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the Meeting that starting in 2015 the new SEAFDEC Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) would be formally established. In this regard, he requested the Member Countries to support the new SEAFDEC Department in the implementation of activities to promote inland fisheries management in the region. He also informed the Council that the initial activities of IFRDMD which focus on eel resource management with possible assistance from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF), would aim to alleviate poverty in rural areas while also conserve eel resources in a sustainable manner.

31. The Council Director for Cambodia requested SEAFDEC for technical assistance on stock enhancement of freshwater prawns especially in the area of artificial reproduction and grow-out culture to support rehabilitation activities on enhancing the freshwater prawn stocks which could be beneficial not only to Cambodia but also to Vietnam and Lao PDR.

32. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for its continuous efforts in implementing programs and projects that aim to address region-oriented issues in the fisheries sectors of the Member Countries. He also pointed out that the establishment of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) program for capacity building of young fisheries officers from Member Countries to work together with the SEAFDEC Secretariat and gain experience had been beneficial to the countries. He also requested SEAFDEC to consider providing technical assistance to the country to enable it to implement activities on small-scale fish farming for rural development.

33. The Council Director for the Philippines requested SEAFDEC to consider intensifying its activities related to aquatic animal health management and combating IUU fishing which could affect trade of fish and fishery products from the region. Considering that a mechanism for capacity building was already established within SEAFDEC, he suggested that SEAFDEC could make use of the expertise in the region to help the Member Countries in responding to the challenges of IUU fishing. He also encouraged the Member Countries to discuss the current issues openly and that the

countries should share information on such issues with other countries so that experiences could be learned.

34. While conforming to the concern of the Council Director for the Philippines, the Council Director for Vietnam suggested that relevant legal information and regulations in neighboring countries, especially information on IUU fishing should be shared. In addition, with regards to the project on “Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region” which would be completed in 2014, he informed the Council that during the COFI Sub-committee on Fish Trade in February 2014 in Norway, the Meeting came up with the plan to develop guidelines on best practices on traceability which might include capture fisheries. He then requested SEAFDEC to monitor this development and come up with appropriate activities for implementation in the future. Moreover, he also acknowledged the support that SEAFDEC has been providing to Vietnam on the promotion of community-based management, which has made significant contribution in the development of a sustainable coastal fisheries management scheme, and also requested SEAFDEC to continue supporting the country’s activities on this aspect.

35. With regards to the initial activities of IFRDMD, the Council Director for Japan pointed out that these could focus on resource management of eel species. He suggested that the development of regional policy recommendations for sustainable utilization should also be carried out by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and other concerned Departments. In addition, he informed the Council that the Government of Japan had increased its contribution to SEAFDEC for 2015 by approximately 30% in Japanese currency, and encouraged SEAFDEC to take prudent actions in the utilization of such funds.

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

36. The Council noted and endorsed the results and recommendations of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) which was held from 28 to 29 November 2013 in Penang, Malaysia (**Annex 7**) as presented by the Council Director for Lao PDR, *Mr. Bounthong Saphakdy* on behalf of the ASEAN Co-Chair for the FCG/ASSP Meeting. The Council also provided recommendations for the improvement of the projects under the FCG/ASSP mechanism.

37. The Council Director for Singapore thanked SEAFDEC/TD for promptly providing the relevant training materials on safety at sea for small fishing vessels. Nonetheless, after reviewing the materials, Singapore noted that the training course proposed by TD would not be appropriate for the type of fishing vessels in Singapore. Therefore, Singapore would not be requesting for such training course of TD.

38. The Council Director for Singapore also informed the Council that in response to the request from the Member Countries for hands-on training on vessel inspection, Singapore would organize a five-day Training Course on Vessel Inspection and Enforcement Measures Against IUU Fishing Activities for the Member Countries in August or September 2014. The training would include actual on-board inspection experiences with trainers from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. In this connection, the Council was informed that Singapore would provide funding support for the participation of two representatives from each Member Country. Invitation letters to the countries would be sent out as soon as the detailed plan is finalized.

39. With regards to the progress on the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), the Council Director for Thailand informed the Council that the mechanism to certify the ASEAN Shrimp GAP was still not practical to implement. In this connection, ASA would convene its 5th Meeting on 29 April 2014 in Malaysia to discuss this matter.

40. In addition, the Council Director for Thailand informed the Council on the postponement of the “ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition: ASEAN Seafood for the World” which was originally scheduled on 22-24 January 2015 at BITEC Bangna in Bangkok due to delayed approval of the necessary budget. He also mentioned that the Conference will be rescheduled for the succeeding year, and the new schedule and venue would be announced later.

41. While appreciating the report of the 16th Meeting of FCG/ASSP as presented by the Co-Chair, the Council Director for Indonesia emphasized on the importance of enhancing the sustainable management of inland fisheries to improve the well-being of communities in rural areas of the region. In this connection, he informed the Council that Indonesia would organize the 4th International Conference on Southeast Asian Inland Waters on 2-4 September 2014 in Palembang, Indonesia which would initially aim to identify the potentials of inland fisheries, especially, its role in contributing to food security and nutritional requirement, poverty alleviation, employment, integration in the livelihoods in rural areas. He also invited the Member Countries to take part in this event considering that this was relevant to the establishment of the new SEAFDEC Department on inland fisheries.

42. With regard to international fisheries-related issues, specifically on “CITES-related issues”, the Council Director for Malaysia encouraged SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Secretariat to carry out proactive initiative in enhancing the capacity of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in addressing concerns related to the listing of commercially-exploited aquatic resources in the CITES Appendices and to explore potential donors to support their relevant capacity building activities.

43. On the development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation System, the Council Director for Vietnam informed the Council that during the Fourteenth Session of the FAO COFI Sub-committee on Fish Trade in February 2014 in Bergen, Norway, the development of catch documentation scheme which was consistent with international laws as well as established agreements under the WTO was adopted. While the catch documentation scheme had its own specifications and considering that fisheries in the region were small-scale, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD which is mainly responsible for developing the ASEAN Catch Documentation System was requested to enhance close cooperation with and make technical contributions to the technical panel of FAO in terms of developing international best practices and guidelines for catch documentation.

44. Regarding the concern on capacity building for Member Countries to address issues related to the listing of species in the CITES Appendices and considering that SEAFDEC had been supporting the Member Countries in terms of capacity building, the Council Director for Vietnam also reiterated that the Member Countries could directly discuss CITES-related issues with the CITES focal point in each country.

45. With reference to the implementation of regional activities under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), the Council Director for Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to support Myanmar as the lead country for aquaculture feed development, in carrying out its tasks in developing the relevant strategic plan of action for the ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries (2011-2015).

46. In connection with the announcement of Indonesia to organize the 4th International Conference on Southeast Asian Inland Waters in September 2014 in Palembang, the Council Director for Cambodia shared the country’s experience in inland fisheries development. While earlier, fishing areas were divided into private concessions and when the concessions were abolished, the fishing lots were awarded to fishing communities to manage the fisheries resources and fish sanctuaries. Since then inland fisheries production had increased by at least 10% while fingerlings production also increased. Moreover, the establishment of fisheries management communities was also considered as means of combating illegal fishing practices in the country.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

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

47. The Council was informed on the progress of the Establishment of Regional Record of Fishing Vessels 24 Meters in Length and Over in the Southeast Asian Region (**Annex 8**), which aimed to support the efforts in combating IUU fishing within national jurisdictions. In addition, the Member Countries had also been encouraged to share with SEAFDEC the minimum requirement data on fishing vessels for the establishment of a Regional Database of Fishing Vessels.

48. During the discussion, the Council Director for Singapore informed the Council that the country's basic information on fishing vessels could be accessible by the Member Countries not only through the SEAFDEC database. While commending SEAFDEC for its effort, he also supported the establishment of RFVR as it was a step towards combating IUU fishing in the region.

49. The Council Director for Malaysia viewed this regional approach as a long-term effort to combat IUU fishing in the region and that the Government of Malaysia agreed to share its minimum requirements information on fishing vessels. He also requested SEAFDEC to consider the International Maritime Organization (IMO) decision in December 2013, to include in the RFVR large-scale fishing vessels weighing 100 GT or more into the voluntary IMO Numbering Scheme using seven-digit number identifier.

50. While supporting the establishment of the RFVR, the Council Director for Indonesia requested SEAFDEC to share the completed questionnaire of the vessel records to the RPOA-IUU Secretariat based in Indonesia, and requested SEAFDEC to continue extending technical assistance to Member Countries in converting fishing vessel measurements into meters for the RFVR.

51. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Council that the Department of Marine Administration (DMA) of Myanmar was responsible for registration of all vessels in accordance with the provisions of the IMO. Based on the regulation of DMA, the country could provide the basic requirements mentioned in the establishment of the RFVR. While the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar was responsible to issue fishing licenses for fishing vessels registered with DMA, Myanmar was willing to take part in the establishment of the RFVR. He added that currently, the compilation of data on national fishing vessels was recorded manually in hard copies and not in the form of database. In this connection, he requested SEAFDEC to provide technical support for the capacity building of the country's concerned fisheries administration staff on the use of the database collection software for the development of the country's electronic database.

52. The Council Director for Vietnam expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for providing technical assistance to Vietnam in conducting surveys on converting vessel measurement from horsepower to Gross Tonnage under international conversion scheme. However, the result of the conversion processes had not yet been finalized for implementation because of the varied conversion coefficients in many areas of the country. Vietnam therefore requested for further assistance from SEAFDEC in order to determine the appropriate conversion coefficient for fishing vessels larger than twenty meters in length in order to have more consistent information for the RFVR database.

53. With regards to the concern on the need for technical support for converting fishing vessel measurements, the Council Director for Japan suggested that requests from Member Countries for relevant experts from Japan to provide such support should be channeled through the SEAFDEC mechanism.

54. While commending SEAFDEC for establishing the RFVR as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the region, the Council endorsed the RFVR taking into consideration the abovementioned comments and recommendations.

5.2 Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Region

55. While taking note of the proposal of SEAFDEC for the development of “Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asia” (**Annex 9**), which included the proposed development of the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Management, the Council raised several concerns and suggestions.

56. The Council Director for Thailand sought clarification on the goal of the Regional Plan of Action since the status of neritic tuna stocks may not be known yet. Therefore, a management plan could not be developed. He then suggested that SEAFDEC could consider conducting the activities in two phases starting with the conduct of tuna stock assessment including parallel activities, *e.g.* capacity building for data collection, and followed by formulation and implementation of tuna management measures.

57. In this regard, the Council was informed that at the initial stage of the study, the status and trend of tuna stocks would be assessed in parallel with corresponding capacity building program. While stock assessment of each tuna species was one of the activities under the collaborative framework but since this required detailed data to be inputted in the complicated formula, the development of the Regional Plan of Action could be initiated using information available from other relevant sources, while stock assessment could be conducted by SEAFDEC at a later stage. Based on a review of available data and information, tuna stocks in some areas may appear decreasing, which could be due to the fact that the stock was being shared by many countries in the region. In this regard, a management plan could still be developed at regional or sub-regional level.

58. On the query of the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam regarding the few number of participating countries involved in this framework, it was clarified that the other Member Countries would still be involved in the process of developing the Regional Plan of Action.

59. The Council Director for the Philippines raised the concern that even though stocks in some areas might not indicate a decreasing trend but reduced average size of tuna could be observed, which could be a result of additional fishing effort. In this connection, he supported the initiative to develop the abovementioned Regional Plan of Action.

60. While expressing concern on the inadequacy of data and information to support the development of Regional Plan of Action, the Council Director for Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to circulate the draft Regional Plan of Action including substantive background information and to seek the support of the Member Countries on this development. He also requested SEAFDEC to develop appropriate technology and fishing gears for the capture of neritic tuna species in a sustainable manner.

61. The Council Director for Indonesia noted the progress of the development of Regional Plan of Action and informed the Council that Indonesia was willing to support such development especially in terms of capacity building and enhancing the awareness of small-scale fishers. In this connection, he requested SEAFDEC to consider the requirements of relevant tuna regional fisheries management organizations (tuna RFMOs) in order that the Regional Plan of Action would be developed in compliance with tuna RFMOs. In addition, he suggested that the four activities of SEAFDEC that aim to combat IUU fishing in the region could be consolidated, *i.e.* Establishment of the “Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)”; ASEAN Catch Documentation System; Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Region; and Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products. Furthermore, SEAFDEC was also requested to collaborate with RPOA-IUU in this aspect as it was one of the regional institutions working on combating IUU fishing in the region.



62. After the deliberation, the Council endorsed the development of “Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asia” which included the proposed development of the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Management.

5.3 Creation of Coordination Unit in SEAFDEC Training Department for the New Training Program on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

63. The Council was informed by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General on the request of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project for SEAFDEC to facilitate the creation of a Coordination Unit in SEAFDEC/TD to take charge of a new training program on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (**Annex 10**). At the onset, such Coordination Unit could facilitate assistance from BOBLME in the conduct of a series of training sessions on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) at TD in a period of one year with BOBLME providing the financial inputs while other donors would be sought to sustain such initiative.

64. While supporting such proposal, the Council for the Philippines pointed out that this could be the first step for the region to move towards ecosystem-based management approach and that this capacity building should be availed of by the countries in the region. He therefore requested SEAFDEC to assist the Member Countries on enhancing their capacities in EAFM.

65. The Council Director for Cambodia also supported the initiative and cited that EAFM was an important approach. He also requested SEAFDEC to disseminate the EAFM concept to the Member Countries through capacity building.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Establishment of the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) in Indonesia

66. The Council noted the progress of the preparations to establish the “Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)” in Indonesia as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, as well as the updated information for establishment of the “Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)” and the progress of the development of the Plan of Operation and Program of Work of IFRDMD as provided by the representative from Indonesia, *Mr. Budi Iskandar Prisantoso* (**Annex 11**).

67. During the discussion, the Council Director for Cambodia commended Indonesia for the progress made with regards to the establishment of IFRDMD. He informed the Council that the main focus of Cambodia was also on inland fisheries development as means of enhancing the contribution of fisheries to food security in rural areas, considering that the country had more than 600,000 ha of flooded forests and lowlands which were potential areas for inland fisheries development. He added that fisheries in these flooded forests and lowlands had provided substantial incomes to the rural people of Cambodia.

68. The Council Director for Japan suggested that the processes and requirements for the establishment of IFRDMD should be finalized at this Council Meeting to enable the IFRDMD to start implementing its planned activities in 2015. However, he added that the details of the Plan of Operation and Program of Work of IFRDMD could be discussed thoroughly together with the revised Plans of Operation of the other SEAFDEC Departments which should take into consideration the prioritized issues to be considered by the Council under sub-agenda of Agenda 9.1 on Identification of Priority Issues for SEAFDEC Program Formulation.

6.2 Cold Chain Management of Seafood

69. The Council supported the project proposed by the Council Director for Singapore on Cold Chain Management of Seafood to be implemented from 2015 to 2017 by the Post-Harvest Technology Department of AVA as the collaborating center of SEAFDEC for MFRD programs with support from the Government of Singapore (**Annex 12**).

70. While expressing the appreciation to Singapore for providing support to the Member Countries through this project, the Council Director for Indonesia offered to share the experience of Indonesia in the setting up of seafood logistic systems that include transport systems and standards of food safety in the seafood chain. In this connection, he also requested SEAFDEC to revisit the relevant project undertaken by the ASEAN in the past under the ASEAN Food Handling Bureau, and compile the necessary information for dissemination to the Member Countries. He emphasized that through this project, the quality of seafood could be sustained while higher price of fish products could be attained.

71. The Council Director for Indonesia also suggested that the output of the project could be reported to the ASEAN considering that this could later on be turned into the ASEAN Cold Chain Management System. He also requested Singapore to take into consideration the shortage of supply of quality ice in many countries in the region and also the difference between the price of iced and un-iced fish.

72. The Council Directors for Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam also expressed their support to this project considering its relevance to the Member Countries. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the implementation of the three-year project on Cold Chain Management for Seafood in the region taking into consideration the concerns raised by the Member Countries.

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

73. Representatives from organizations attending the Council Meeting provided information on the areas of mutual interest and possible sustained cooperation with SEAFDEC.

74. The representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Mr. Robert Lee* expressed the gratitude of FAO to SEAFDEC for the invitation to attend this SEAFDEC Council Meeting, and on behalf of Director General of FAO, *Mr. Graziano Da Silva* and the Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, *Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma*, commended SEAFDEC for its contribution in the promotion of sustainable fisheries management in the Southeast Asian region.

75. *Mr. Lee* informed the Council that FAO was happy to note the contribution of SEAFDEC to the regional cooperation in promoting sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region considering that one of the biggest challenges was balancing the needs for national and regional economic growth, increasing population, employment and food security with sustainable resources exploitation. He cited that of the 10 ASEAN countries, 7 ranked among the highest fisheries and aquaculture producers in the Asian region and that such production had come with a cost to the fisheries resources. Therefore, the task ahead would become even more challenging as marine resources had increasingly become impacted by the region's industrial and commercial development, increasing amount of marine solid wastes and chemical pollution, fleet overcapacity, illegal fishing, climate change, and the ever increasing demand for aquatic and animal feeds from by-catch.

76. Taking all these factors into account, FAO welcomed the positive contribution and productive collaboration of SEAFDEC, especially in the jointly executed REBYC-II CTI project, as well as on the training activities of BOBLME and NOAA on the Essential Ecosystem Approach to

Fisheries Management (EEAFM) and on the future plans to scale up the EAFM approach. He explained that there had been collaborative training courses by both organizations such as the Port and Flag State Measures, capacity strengthening for implementation of Port Inspections, vessel control and monitoring systems and advocacy among Member States to have greater momentum in combating and eliminating IUU fishing. Moreover, the sustainable intensification of aquaculture and inland fisheries in the SEAFDEC Department for inland fisheries in Palembang, Indonesia had also been identified as areas for possible collaboration in the future. His statement appears as **Annex 13**.

77. The Representative from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Development Mission for Asia, *Mr. Craig Starger* expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC and the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore for the invitation extended to USAID to attend this SEAFDEC Council Meeting. He continued by informing the Council that the United States Government was deeply committed to sustainable fisheries development in Asia and that ocean health and sustainable fisheries were priorities of the present government under President Barrack Obama who also hold very strong personal interest in the health of the oceans. In addition, he informed the Council that USAID was interested in addressing the ambitious challenge of combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Asia because IUU fishing was also linked with wildlife trafficking and other forms of transnational crimes including forced labor and trafficking in persons which undermine regional stability. He also expressed the interest of USAID in learning more about the progress of SEAFDEC, the Member Countries, and the private sector in achieving a unified, regional catch documentation system, and in implementing traceability to combat IUU fishing and to comply with national and international requirements, and on how these tools may be able to help in implementing catch certification and traceability in the Southeast Asian region through the USAID foreign assistance programs. His statement appears as **Annex 14**.

78. The representative from INFOFISH, *Dr. Abdul Basir Kunhimohamed* expressed the appreciation of INFOFISH for the invitation extended by SEAFDEC and to Singapore for the kind hospitality and for the excellent arrangement of this eventful meeting. He expressed the hope that SEAFDEC with its technical expertise in fisheries and the INFOFISH with marketing expertise, can synergize together for the benefit of whole fisheries industry. He also informed the Council that the INFOFISH had adopted a service-oriented approach and presently implements projects in its Member Countries funded by donor agencies. The project on “Promotion of Processing and Marketing of Freshwater Fish Products” funded by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) which was ongoing in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, may have common objectives with some projects implemented by SEAFDEC, thus, results could be shared and exchanged. He added that in 2014, INFOFISH had scheduled major events such as the 13th TUNA Conference & Exhibition 2014 scheduled for 21-23 May 2014 in Bangkok; the 3rd Malaysia International Seafood Exposition (MISE 2014) for 19-21 June 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the Technical and Trade Conference on Shrimp for 1-3 November 2014 in Chennai, India; Ornamental Trade and Exhibition in December 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.; and Tilapia Technical Trade Conference and Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in April 2015. He also hoped that these events could be participated by the SEAFDEC Member Countries and in this regard, INFOFISH could work out special fees for SEAFDEC-sponsored participants. His statement appears as **Annex 15**.

79. After their statements for sustained cooperation, the Council thanked the representatives from the regional organizations attending the Council Meeting for the commitments to continue cooperating with SEAFDEC, especially on issues that need to be addressed through sustained collaborative efforts and arrangements.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC

80. The Council took note of the reports presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General on the results of the efforts of SEAFDEC to respond to the special requests made by the Member Countries during the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2013. In the closed session attended by the heads of the Member Countries’ delegations only, the Council agreed on the following:

- i. In working out their respective Plans of Operation, the SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat should consider the prioritized issues categorized under the various Program Thrusts, and should also incorporate these prioritized areas into their respective 5-year plans;
- ii. The SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments should consider conducting cost-benefit analysis of their programs, projects and activities as well as post-implementation reviews. This would help ensure the effective and efficient utilization of funds. However, the Council recognized that this process would take some time to work out.
- iii. The Council also recognized that Post-Harvest Technology Department of Singapore as Collaborating Centre for SEAFDEC is a special arrangement between Singapore and SEAFDEC, and should remain as such under the conditions agreed by the Council in 2007.

IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER

9.1 Follow-up on the Results of the Special Council Meeting

81. The Council noted the efforts of SEAFDEC in following-up on the recommendations of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in October 2013.

- *Identification of Priority Issues for SEAFDEC Program Formulation*

82. The Council was informed by the SEAFDEC Secretariat on the series of discussions conducted by SEAFDEC for the finalization of the Priority Issues for SEAFDEC Program Formulation that were confirmed by the SEAFDEC National Coordinators during its Special Meeting on 26 February 2014, as shown in **Annex 16**. In this regard, the Council provided recommendations to enhance the process of SEAFDEC program formulation in the future.

83. The Council Director for Indonesia suggested that in the List of Issues to be Considered by SEAFDEC, “Combating IUU fishing including encouraging cooperation in the implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) among the countries” under the component on Fisheries Management should be the No. 1 priority and likewise, “Preventing trade of IUU fishing products” under the component of Post-harvest and Trade-related Issues should be considered the No. 1 priority considering that when the ASEAN Economic Community is integrated in 2015, some activities related to the chain of distribution of products in the region would be given more focus.

84. The Council Director for Malaysia agreed with the Council Director for Indonesia that activities concerning the need to combat IUU fishing should be given high priority. He added that although aquaculture would continue to play an important role in providing the much needed food fish to consumers in the future, fish supply should not only rely on the aquaculture sector but also on sustainable capture fisheries.

85. In response to the query from the Council Director for Vietnam on the maximum period of utilization of the identified priority issues by SEAFDEC considering that the development of its future programs would rely on the prescribed period, the Council Director for Japan suggested that the duration of such development could be discussed thoroughly in appropriate agenda at this Meeting.

86. The Council Director for the Philippines cited that although prioritizing the regional issues was an offshoot of an exercise assigned by the Council in 2013 for SEAFDEC to spearhead. He added that the priorities could be adjusted based on the decision of the Council, especially for certain aspects that the Council would deem necessary for SEAFDEC to address the common areas of concern of the Member Countries. In this connection, he also mentioned that the Council could still consider revisiting the prioritized issues as and when necessary.

87. The Council Directors for Thailand and the Philippines suggested that aquatic animal health management including control and prevention of trans-boundary aquatic animal diseases should be included in the future formulation of aquaculture programs because addressing this issue would require a regional collaborative effort. The Council therefore requested SEAFDEC and in particular AQD, to make sure that aquatic animal health management is included as first priority for AQD.

88. The Council Director for Vietnam cited that although some prioritized issues could be relevant for 3-5 years, different countries might have different priority issues. He also added that henceforth, emerging issues could be included in the updated priority issues. In this regard, the Council Director for Myanmar suggested that only common issues at regional level should be given emphasis and considered in the program formulation while individual countries' interests could be taken care of by the concerned countries.

89. While agreeing that the list of priority issues could be considered as framework for SEAFDEC to conform to during program formulation, the Council Directors for Cambodia and Vietnam suggested that each SEAFDEC Department should also prioritize the prescribed priority issues taking into consideration their respective capabilities and available resources.

90. In response to the clarification sought by the Council with regards to the issue on aquatic animal health management which is considered as a high priority, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC suggested that the existing collaborative arrangement with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) would be mobilized in order that the issue on aquatic animal health management would be adequately addressed. He added that while NACA was the lead organization which was tasked to address aquatic animal health-related issues, and with AQD being a member of the NACA task force to control aquatic animal diseases and also the regional aquaculture lead center for NACA, the occurrence of aquatic animal diseases in the Member Countries could be referred to AQD which in turn would coordinate closely with NACA to address such issue. In addition, the Council Director for Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC should also collaborate closely with the Bangkok-based ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centres (ANAAHC) which was working closely with NACA and the ASEAN governments in support of aquatic animal health management in the region.

91. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the revised list of Priority Issues for SEAFDEC Program Formulation starting in 2014 (**Annex 17**) and for possible review during the succeeding year taking into consideration the recommendations of the Council for the improvement of the future programs and projects of SEAFDEC.

- *Proposed Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat*

92. The Council was informed on the current as well as the proposed revised Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of TD, MFRD, AQD and MFRDMD, including the functions of the Secretariat (**Annex 18**). The Council was also informed that the new revised Plans and Operation and Programs of Work of the SEAFDEC Departments took into consideration the regional prioritized areas agreed upon during the special meeting of the SEAFDEC National Coordinators in February 2014.

93. In the ensuing discussion, the Council Director for Japan considered the occasion as still premature to discuss the proposed revised versions of the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of TD, MFRD, AQD and MFRDMD and provided two reasons. First, at the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in October 2013, the Council agreed that prioritization of SEAFDEC activities would be carried out so that the limited financial and human resources could be utilized in the most effective manner, and that performance/cost-benefit analysis should be carried out to maximize available resources and reflect clearer outcomes from activities. At this time, SEAFDEC had not been able to provide sufficient information especially about the effectiveness and efficiency of the

implementation of the current programs and projects. Secondly, the submitted revised versions of the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work appeared to be the same as those submitted at the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, and that these did not seem to have been scrutinized with consideration of the prioritized issues and result of performance/cost-benefit analysis. He therefore suggested that SEAFDEC should do the performance/cost-benefit analysis on all current programs and projects as soon as possible, and revise the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work accordingly taking into account the prioritized issues and the result of the performance/cost-benefit analysis, after which the revised version should be circulated to the Member Countries at least one month prior to the 37th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, and with the Committee's recommendations, the SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat correspondingly revise the documents for submission to the Council for consideration.

94. With regards to the Plan of Operation and Work of MFRD Programs, the Council Director for Singapore said that this would be reviewed by Singapore to include activities related to fisheries trade as an emerging issue in the region, in addition to its current activities on post-harvest technology. For the Plan of Operation and Program of Work of AQD, the Council Director for the Philippines requested that the regional priority on aquatic animal health management including control and prevention of trans-boundary aquatic animal diseases should be clearly specified in the document. Furthermore, the Council also suggested that MFRDMD should expand its activities on conservation of endangered species not only on sea turtles.

95. While suggesting that possible duplication of efforts among the Departments should be avoided by demarcating responsibilities, the Council was also of the view that provisions on Program of Work should be reviewed to ensure that there were no overlapping activities among the Departments although in cases where such concern could not be avoided, indications for inter-departmental collaboration should also be indicated in the final document. The Council Director for Japan suggested that the paragraphs on the contribution of the host countries and the Government of Japan, as well as request for financial and technical assistance should be deleted from the Plans of Operation and the revised paragraph should be placed as an attachment to the document. However, the Council agreed that host governments could decide if they would like to include the paragraph on their contribution in the Plans of Operation and the paragraph on request for financial and technical assistance should be kept in the main document.

96. While recognizing that there was a need to review the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation of the current programs and projects of SEAFDEC for the revision of the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of the Departments, the Council agreed to tentatively adopt in principle, the revised Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of TD, MFRD, AQD and MFRDMD taking into consideration the requirements raised by the Council at this Meeting. The Council also adopted the Plan of Operation and Program of Work of IFRDMD in order that the Department could be in operational once its formalization process is completed.

- *Scheme for Enhancing SEAFDEC Program Evaluation*

97. The Council took note of the Scheme for Enhancing SEAFDEC Program Evaluation as well as the schedule for the formulation and periodic review of SEAFDEC programs for 5-year plan (**Annex 19**). Moreover, the Council was also informed that the proposed scheme was mainly aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SEAFDEC through the SEAFDEC program evaluation process conducted by the SEAFDEC National Coordinators and external evaluators. Results of the program formulation using the proposed scheme would be submitted to the 37th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee and subsequently to the SEAFDEC Council at its next Meeting.

98. In the discussion, the Council Director for Vietnam suggested that SEAFDEC should set clear and measurable objectives at the planning stage of its projects and that the indicators or performance measurements should also be identified to be used as basis for the evaluation. He added that the evaluation plans for SEAFDEC projects should also be developed in order to assess the

progress towards achieving the performance expectations and to facilitate follow-up actions for project implementation.

99. The Council was informed of the new evaluation scheme for the FCG/ASSP projects under the Framework of SEAFDEC Program Thrusts adopted by Council since 2009 (**Annex 20**). For other projects supported by other donors such as GEF, Sweden, FAO and other sources which are categorized as Special Projects in view of their respective scopes of work but cross-cut across all five Program Thrusts, these projects would be evaluated separately based on donors' processes and requirements.

100. The Council Director for Japan expressed his view that the proposed evaluation form seemed to be complicated. He suggested that SEAFDEC simplify these evaluation forms taking into consideration the JTF evaluation forms as a reference to enable the Member Countries to easily provide the necessary information.

101. Furthermore, the Council also suggested that the program evaluation forms should be brought up for discussion during the 37th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee, and requested SEAFDEC to circulate the necessary documents including the revised project evaluation forms to Member Countries one month before the Meeting.

102. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the schedule and Scheme for Enhancing SEAFDEC Project and Program Evaluation taking into consideration the suggestions of the Council to enhance the Scheme.

- *Proposed Amendment to the Financial Regulations*

103. The Council noted the proposed amendment of the Financial Regulation 4.1, as recommended during the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council which stated that "the annual contribution from Member Countries in the form of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) shall be made in United States Dollars, not later than 31 March of the current fiscal year. The method to calculate the MRC from Member Countries should be unanimously agreed upon by the Council" (**Annex 21**).

104. During the discussion, the Council Director for Malaysia informed the Council that the proposed amendment of the Financial Regulations was now in the process of internal discussion and thus, Malaysia was not in a position to express its views on this matter. Nevertheless, Malaysia would communicate with the Secretariat once the decision on the issue has been made by the country.

105. The Council Director for Singapore reiterated the intention to include a provision on MRC in the Financial Regulation, and suggested that in addition to the amendment to the Financial Regulation 4.1, information should also be provided on the background of the MRC together with the formula used in computing the MRC as agreed in 2007 and revised in 2012. In addition, the procedure for obtaining the approval of the Council for future adjustment of the MRC should also be stated.

106. While agreeing with the amendment of the Financial Regulation 4.1, the Council Director for Indonesia expressed view that the table on calculation of the MRC should not be included as part of the Financial Regulation.

107. The Council recalled the discussion made during the 44th Council Meeting in 2012, when the Council Directors agreed in principle to the adjustment of the MRC, and that each country would conduct internal discussion on this matter in order to secure the amount of the MRC as proposed by the SEAFDEC Secretariat. While this process had been followed by the Member Countries, the Council was informed that in the case of Cambodia, its Ministry of Finance had already approved the new amount of MRC to be provided to SEAFDEC, while such process was still on-going in Indonesia and Vietnam. In this connection, the Council suggested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat

should send official letters to Indonesia and Vietnam informing the countries once again on the rationale for the increase of MRC which would support the efficient and effective implementation of the SEAFDEC programs and projects, and would also contribute to the development of the national fisheries of respective countries, and in the event that a decision on this issue had not yet been made, the countries could provide the existing amount of MRC.

108. While a final decision on the proposed Amendment of the Financial Regulations could not be made at this Meeting, the Council suggested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat should work closely with the Council Directors on the proposed amendment of the Financial Regulations to accommodate the recommendations made by the Council at this Meeting.

- *Guidelines for Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC*

109. The Council was informed on the Required Consideration on the Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC (**Annex 22**). Specifically, the Meeting took note of the background on Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC, and the amendment made to paragraph 13 of the Guidelines as prepared by Singapore since 2007: to remove the phrase *“However, the Collaborating Centre would decide on which SEAFDEC programmes it would be able to implement for the year, based on its financial and manpower resources, and may exercise the option of not executing all programmes that have been decided by the Council of SEAFDEC for that particular Collaborating Centre”*.

110. In the discussion, the Council Director of Singapore recalled that as agreed during the 39th Meeting of the Council in 2007, the Post-Harvest Technology Center of Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore would serve as Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC to implement MFRD programs, and the condition of the arrangement was also endorsed by the Council. During the same occasion, the Council also requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to develop the draft Guidelines for Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC in consultation with Singapore. This led to confusion as the Council at the same Meeting also approved the Guidelines for Collaborative Arrangements with Regional Organizations or Research Institutions. Since SEAFDEC had already been engaging other international/regional organizations and tertiary institutions as collaborators for some programs and projects in accordance with the said approved Guidelines for Collaborative Arrangements, the Council Director for Singapore expressed the view that the development of the Guidelines for Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC would no longer be necessary. Nevertheless, the case of the Post-Harvest Technology Department of AVA as Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC should be considered as a special arrangement between SEAFDEC and Singapore to enable the Government of Singapore to continue supporting the implementation of MFRD programs.

111. The Council Director for Japan supported the view of the Council Director for Singapore that development of the Guidelines for Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC was no longer necessary. He suggested that in case a similar situation should arise in the future requiring policy guidance for collaborating centers, such cases could be treated on a case-by-case basis.

112. After the discussion, the Council concurred with the abovementioned suggestions that the Guidelines for Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC would no longer be developed.

9.2 Collaborative Arrangements Between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations

113. The Council approved the collaborative arrangements made by SEAFDEC with other organizations since 2013 until before its 46th Meeting (**Annex 23**).

114. During the discussion, the Council suggested that before any Department enter into collaborative arrangements with institutions and organizations, information on the proposed collaboration with a copy of the proposed draft MOU should be circulated to the Member Countries for consideration and approval. The Council noted that in accordance with the Agreement

Establishing SEAFDEC, the Center may co-operate with governments and organizations external to the Center as well as other international organizations and, for this purpose, may conclude agreements or arrangements with those organizations (Article 12), which is subject to the approval by the Council (Article 6, Paragraph 2 (vii)); and the Center may, by a two-third of majority vote of the total number of the Directors of the Council, receive assistance from governments and organizations external to the Center as well as other international organizations, provided that no condition contrary to the purpose of the Center is attached to such assistance (Articles 13). The Council also decided that Member Countries should respond within 21 days upon receiving the proposal to facilitate signing of the proposed arrangements. In addition, the SEAFDEC Secretariat was requested to review the areas covered in the MOUs and help in following-up the decisions of the Member Countries.

115. While also suggesting that copies of the signed MOUs would be provided to the Council Directors for their information, the Council was of the view that the establishment of collaborative arrangements could be reported during the Meetings of the Council only for the Council's information.

9.3 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels

116. The Council was informed on the progress of the activities undertaken by the SEAFDEC Training Department with regards to the use of the SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels in 2013, and the proposed plan for the year 2014 and onwards. In addition, the Council was also informed that a budget of US\$65,000 had been annually allocated from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) for the operation costs of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which was sufficient enough for the operation of the vessel for approximately 60 days/year. In this regard, the Council was requested to consider and provide directives on other source(s) of budget for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, especially when Member Countries would wish to request for the use of the vessel for a total period that required higher operation costs than the budget allocated through the MRC (**Annex 24**).

117. During the discussion, the Council Director for Malaysia informed the Council that the country had embarked on a nationwide stock assessment program tentatively from March to June 2015 and would request for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. In this connection, the details of the cost-sharing mechanism would be worked out by Malaysia with SEAFDEC/TD. He added that Malaysia would continue to make use of vessel during the collaborative research in 2014 as agreed upon during the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

118. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam expressed regrets for not being able to make use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for its survey in 2014 as he could not obtain the necessary approval from higher authorities. However, he informed the Council that Brunei Darussalam would continue to avail of the vessel in the future and in this regard, would coordinate with the SEAFDEC Training Department on the proposed future use of the vessel.

119. While agreeing in principle that whenever requests of Member Countries to use the vessel exceed 60 operation days, the additional operation costs would be shouldered by requesting countries, the Council suggested that priority for the utilization of the vessel should be accorded to collaborative resources surveys involving more than one Member Country, and to requests from countries that do not have their own research vessels.

120. Moreover, for the enhanced utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the future, the Council also agreed in principle to allow national agencies of the Member Countries to charter the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 with approval by the respective Member Country, *e.g.* conduct of marine-related surveys and activities. Moreover, the requesting national agencies should take full responsibility for the costs incurred during the conduct of such activities notwithstanding the need to give priority to fisheries authorities of the respective countries. In this connection, the Council requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to develop draft guidelines for chartering or renting out the M.V. SEAFDEC 2,

including the criteria for utilization and the corresponding charges and expenditures, for the consideration of the Council at its next annual Meeting.

121. Nevertheless, while reiterating the guiding principles that the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be utilized for the benefit of the Member Countries, the Council Director for Japan encouraged the countries to make effective utilization of the vessel and welcomed the effort of three Member Countries to utilize the vessel for the tuna collaborative resources surveys. In addition, the Council Director for the Philippines suggested that in order to maximize the benefits of the countries on the utilization of the vessel, representatives from the Member Countries would be encouraged to participate in collaborative resources surveys taking into consideration the availability of space in the vessel, to exchange information and enhance their capacities in resources surveys as well as strengthen the cooperation among the Member Countries.

X. FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2012

122. In accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 2 (ii) of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Council endorsed the audited consolidated financial statement of the Center for the year ended 31 December 2012 including that of the Secretariat, TD, AQD, and MFRDMD for the Year 2012 (**Annex 25**) as audited by the official auditors of the Center, *Mr. Phongtorn Duangphanya* from P&A Audit Company Ltd. The Council also provided insights on the need to promote prudent use of SEAFDEC funds.

123. While noting that in the 2012 Audited Financial Report, AQD had invested on bonds using its savings to supplement its budget, the Council Director for the Philippines sought the view of the Council on any investment regulation or policy that the SEAFDEC Departments could use as reference in carrying out bond investments as well as the level of approval for such investments.

124. Considering the absence of any investment policy in SEAFDEC, the Council suggested that SEAFDEC should develop a financial investment policy on investment of funds in the form of bonds or other types of long-term investments for consideration by the Council at its next Meeting.

10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2013, and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2014

125. The Council took note of the Un-audited Consolidated Financial Report for the Year 2013 (**Annex 26**), which comprised the Un-audited Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2013, the Un-audited Statement of Income and Expenditures for the Year 2013, and the Un-audited Fund Balance as of 31 December 2013.

126. The Council also noted the Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2014 (**Annex 27**), which includes the MRC in 2014 from the Member Countries and contributions from the Fisheries Agency of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund program as well as those from other international organizations. In this regard, the Council Director for Cambodia requested SEAFDEC to send a letter to remind the country on the payment of its MRC, so that he could follow-up with the Finance Ministry of Cambodia.

10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2015

127. While expressing satisfaction with the manner of budgetary utilization by SEAFDEC, the Council approved the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the Year 2015 as shown in **Annex 28**. However, the Council provided recommendations on the proposed budgetary requirements to enhance the activities of SEAFDEC in the future.

128. In response to the query of the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam about the status of the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) especially on the inability of some countries to provide their respective MRC to SEAFDEC for 2014, the Council Director for Singapore shared the view that some Member Countries had encountered challenges in convincing their respective finance authorities on new rate of the MRC. In this regard, the Council agreed that those countries would be allowed to contribute the current rate of the MRC based on the previous formula for computation. The estimated MRC in 2014 would therefore depend on the capability of the countries to provide the amount based on their respective internal processes. This implies that the amount of MRC to be received in 2014 could be less than 500,000 US\$.

129. The Council Director for Vietnam agreed with the suggestion of the Council Director of Singapore considering that Vietnam was also facing difficulties in convincing its Ministry of Finance to approve the new rate of its MRC. He also recommended that SEAFDEC should send an additional letter explaining the MRC calculation and cost-effective rationale of SEAFDEC programs and projects for working further with its relevant Ministry. On the other hand, the Council Director for Cambodia informed the Council that its MRC would be based on the new rate starting in 2014.

130. The Council Director for the Philippines expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for projecting its budgetary requirements for 2015. However, he also cited that the challenges faced by some countries which could not contribute the new rate of MRC should be recognized. Nevertheless, he suggested that SEAFDEC should put more effort in seeking additional funds to cover the remaining budget from the MRC. In this connection, the Council suggested that SEAFDEC should make budgetary projections taking into consideration the maximum amount of MRC from the countries based on the new formula for computation and the expected risks from the reduced availability of funds due to possible reduced amount of the MRC. This means that SEAFDEC could continue with its established budgeting process but with a caveat that the total expected MRC might not be realized.

10.4 Other Financial Matters

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

XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS

11.1 Adoption of the Meeting Report and Press Statement

132. The Council adopted the Report of the Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Press Statement on the results of the Meeting as shown in **Annex 29**, on 4 April 2014.

11.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-seventh Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

133. In considering the date and venue of the Forty-seventh Meeting of the Council, the Council Director for Thailand informed the Council that the Government of Thailand accepts the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in Thailand in 2015.

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

11.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

135. The Council Director for Myanmar, on behalf of the Council Directors expressed the appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Singapore for hosting and for the arrangements of the Forty-sixth Meeting of the Council. He also congratulated the Chairperson of the Council

Meeting for the successful conduct of the Meeting, and looked forward to the enhancement of SEAFDEC to enable it to continue performing its role in the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. He also expressed his gratitude the Secretariat of the Meeting especially the staff of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore and Marine Fisheries Research Department for the smooth arrangements of the Meeting and for the memorable stay of the participants in Singapore. His Remarks appears as **Annex 30**.

XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

136. The Chairperson of the Council expressed his appreciation to the Council Directors and the representatives from regional and international organizations as well as the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Chiefs of Departments for the support accorded to him during the Meeting. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Secretariat of the Meeting for their hard work which led to the success of the Meeting. With that note, he declared the Forty-sixth Meeting of the Council closed.

Annex 1

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WELCOME ADDRESS

*By Atty. Asis G. Perez
Director of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2013-2014*

On behalf of the Philippine delegation I would like to welcome you all to this 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council here in Singapore.

Let me, at the onset, express my deepest appreciation to the Government of Singapore for hosting this year's meeting and for providing us a venue with a very warm ambiance that I hope would help us breeze through the significant agenda items with parallel ease and comfort.

Following the Philippine hosting of last year's Council Meeting in Cebu City, a large part of our country grappled from the devastation wrought by the strongest typhoon ever recorded, super typhoon Haiyan. So huge was the devastation done, especially to the most vulnerable sectors – the coastal communities and aquaculture areas – that complete rehabilitation of resources and livelihoods may not come easy; though we are slowly coping up.

As one of the Member Countries of this Council, I feel obliged to share with you some important facets of our rebuilding efforts in the hope that these could provide impetus in looking for ways that will “climate-proof”, if not improve, resilience of current and future fishing and fish production technologies, as well as the management of our coastal resources.

We have seen for instance the significance of expanding our mangrove rehabilitation efforts for both ecological relevance and livelihood potential. Prior to Haiyan, the country had embarked on a ambitious 5-year program to plant 100 million mangrove trees together with the academe, the local governments and the fisherfolk communities in the 72 provinces of the country. As expected, devastation was significantly reduced in areas with thick and matured mangrove cover.

Normalizing fishing, as a means to curb hunger, was given first priority in our rehab efforts, specifically in the coastal municipalities where more than 120,000 municipal fisherfolks were affected. The BFAR has launched the AHON Initiative which provides a platform for a tripartite partnership between the government, the private sector and the fisherfolks themselves to help rebuild their livelihoods-which is basically the fishing boat. Of all problems we could possible encounter, sourcing wood and lumber had been our greatest challenge. In order to build quickly and more efficiently, we repurposed the wood from damaged boats, particularly the keel. Repair of damaged boats with intact keel became the priority. So much so that barely 4 months into the launching of the Initiative, we had restored close to 15,000 fishing boats benefiting some 30,000 families. And we have started work in building new boats-both wooden and fiberglass. We are also starting to engage people in providing modest chest freezers to fishing communities in order for the fishermen to benefit more from the freshness of their catch.

In aquaculture, rehab efforts were aligned for seaweeds production and mariculture.

These is still more work that needs to be done. The lessons of Haiyan should be an opportunity for all sectors to seriously look at what is now becoming a “new normal” especially, in our Region where more of these climatic events constantly take place.

I bid everyone in this Council Meeting to work cooperatively and productively and to seriously consider the continued relevance of the SEAFDEC in relation to the new challenges faced by the Southeast Asian region.

WELCOME REMARKS

*By Mr. Lee Kwong Weng
Deputy CEO (Corporate & Technology), Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority,
and SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore*

Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Minister of State, Ministry of National Development & Ministry of Defence, Singapore;
Ms. Tan Poh Hong, CEO, AVA, Singapore;
Attorney Asis G. Perez, Current Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council;
Fellow Council Directors of SEAFDEC Member Countries;
SEAFDEC Secretary-General;
Ladies and gentlemen;

Good Morning,

First I would like to thank Minister of State, Dr. Maliki Osman for being here with us this morning to grace the opening of the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council meeting.

It is my honour and pleasure to host this 46th Meeting of the Council. I am happy to see many familiar faces here this morning. I welcome all of you to Singapore.

2013 was a heavy year for the SEAFDEC. The Council Directors went through a substantive agenda at the 45th Council meeting in April last year in the Philippines. This was followed by a special meeting of the Council Directors in October in Bangkok to discuss the 3rd SEAFDEC review.

I would like to express my appreciation to the current Chairperson, Attorney Asis for guiding the Council through these heavy going discussions. His chairmanship was on top of his heavy burden to help his country and the fishery industry recover from the typhoon which hit Philippines last year.

At this 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council we will also have substantive issues to discuss. The Meeting will deliberate on policy considerations on important regional issues such as the establishment of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region. The Council will also discuss the future direction for SEAFDEC as well as make recommendations on matters related to the management of the Centre such as the proposed Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC.

We certainly have enough issues on the agenda to occupy us for the next few days. What I am glad to note is that SEAFDEC has a good record of tackling difficult issues with a strong spirit of collaboration.

SEAFDEC has a long history. It is an organization where many delegates from Member Countries have been working closely together for a number of years. Many of us have come to know each other well. This has enabled us to work effectively together. We are able to discuss issues, even if they are difficult issues, openly and comfortably with one another. It is important for us to continue to nurture this spirit of collaboration as we collectively take on new challenges for SEAFDEC.

I look forward to a fruitful meeting and for the Council to come to a consensus on the various issues that will help us to develop and manage the regional fisheries resources in a sustainable manner for the benefit of Member Countries.

Finally, I wish everyone a pleasant stay in Singapore. Thank you.

OPENING SPEECH

*By Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman
Minister of State, Ministry of National Development &
Ministry of Defence and Mayor of South East District, Singapore*

I am glad to be here today at the opening of the 46th Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (or SEAFDEC for short). Singapore is pleased to host this 46th Council meeting. Let me first welcome our overseas delegates from more than 10 countries to Singapore, and we hope that you will have an enjoyable stay in Singapore.

All of us here today share a common goal, and that is, to address global issues on sustainable fisheries holistically, and to reaffirm our commitment to develop and promote capabilities in sustainable fisheries management and innovative aquaculture technologies. In turn, this goal will ultimately help increase food supply and ensure food security for our countries.

Why sustainable fisheries/fishing is important

Ensuring sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development matter to all of us. Our growing global population, coupled with increasing food consumption patterns, has dramatically expanded the gap between the supply and demand of fish and seafood.

According to the United Nations' 2012 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report, global fish consumption has reached record highs at about 18 kg of fish per person annually. At the same time, about 30% of the world's fish stocks are over-exploited, depleted or recovering.

A specific area of concern which is rapidly gaining global traction is the need to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing depletes fish stocks and threatens marine ecosystems, fisheries, coastal communities and food security around the world. It undermines our efforts to develop sustainable fisheries and manage fish stocks in our waters.

In June 2011, I attended the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020. I am glad that since then, SEAFDEC Member Countries have put in place measures to combat IUU Fishing such as the promotion of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) schemes, the implementation of FAO Port State Measures, and the development of a regional catch documentation system.

Singapore, as one of the founding members of SEAFDEC, fully supports such IUU fishing-related counter-measures. We have put in place measures such as preventing the entry of IUU-listed fishing vessels into Singapore waters, and increased inspections on fishing vessels.

Growing significance of aquaculture

With fish supply from capture fisheries stagnating, aquaculture is becoming one of the fastest growing form of food production in the world, with annual growth rates of up to 9% per year. It has expanded by almost twelve times over the last three decades. Aquaculture now provides more than 40% of global fish supply.

Of this, Asia accounted for up to 90% of world aquaculture production by volume in 2010. These trends point towards the growth potential of SEAFDEC's development of Member Countries' aquaculture industry. At the same time, it is essential that the industry grows in a sustainable manner. We must ensure the integration of proper management, technologies and green aquaculture

practices so as to achieve a more responsible and environment-friendly aquaculture industry all across the world.

Singapore's experience

While Singapore's fisheries sector is small, we are closely involved with SEAFDEC's work. With the support of expertise from Japan, Singapore's introduction of the concept of surimi to Member Countries in the 1980s was instrumental in transforming the regional fish processing industry. Today, surimi is one of the most dynamic commodities in the Asian seafood industry.

Since then, Singapore has focused on capacity building in seafood safety management and good laboratory practices for SEAFDEC Member Countries. This has enabled Member Countries prepare their fish inspection laboratories for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation to support the growth in seafood trade.

Besides regional collaboration, we are also exploring how to boost sustainable aquaculture in the face of the challenges of limited land and sea space for fish farming, manpower shortages, and climate change impacts.

For example, earlier this year in February, Singapore experienced first-hand the effects of a confluence of adverse environmental factors on our local fish production. A protracted spell of hot weather, neap tide, low levels of oxygen in the water and plankton bloom resulted in massive fish kills amounting to about 500 metric tonnes (MT) in our fish farms. Relative to your countries' productions, this may sound small, but to Singapore it was a significant loss. However, farms that had put in place solar powered aerators were able to ride through this incident with minimal losses as they were able to activate these systems early.

This unfortunate mass fish death incident illustrates the need to employ modern technologies in farming and to develop sea based farming systems that are less susceptible to changes in environmental conditions.

Even as we encourage increased productivity amongst our fish farms and aquaculture sector, we also need to develop necessary measures and systems to mitigate against similar future incidents.

In this regard, there is much potential for investments in research and development (R&D) to enable the development of innovative technologies in the aquaculture sector to simultaneously ramp up our productivity and safeguard our food supply resiliency.

Conclusion

There remains much to be done to safeguard the sustainability of our wild or capture fisheries, and to develop our aquaculture sector. I look forward to SEAFDEC Member Countries' continued commitment and greater collaboration to meet the challenges ahead.

On this note, let me wish all of you a fruitful and successful meeting over the next 4 days. I am pleased to declare the 46th Meeting of the Council of the SEAFDEC open.

AGENDA

Agenda 1: Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting
- 1.2 Election of Chairperson for the Year 2014-2015
- 1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements of the Meeting

Agenda 2: Report of the SEAFDEC Secretary-General

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

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

Agenda 5: Policy Consideration on Important Issues

- 5.1 Establishment of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR): A Tool to Combat IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region
- 5.2 Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Region
- 5.3 Creation of Coordination Unit in SEAFDEC Training Department for the New Training Program on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

Agenda 6: Other Matters

- 6.1 Progress of the Establishment of the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) in Indonesia
- 6.2 Cold Chain Management for Seafood

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

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

Agenda 9: *(Closed Session)* Management of the Center

- 9.1 Follow-up on the Results of the Special Council Meeting
 - Identification of Priority Issues for SEAFDEC Program Formulation
 - Proposed Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat
 - Scheme for Enhancing SEAFDEC Program Evaluation
 - Proposed Amendment of SEAFDEC Financial Regulations
 - Guidelines for Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC
- 9.2 Collaborative Arrangements Between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations
- 9.3 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels



Agenda 10: (Closed Session) Financial Matters

- 10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2012
- 10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2013, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2014
- 10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirement of the Center for the Year 2015
- 10.4 Other Financial Matters

Agenda 11: Concluding Matters

- 11.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement
- 11.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-seventh Meeting of the Council
- 11.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

Agenda 12: Closing of the Meeting

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

1. The Thirty-sixth Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Penang, Malaysia from 25 to 27 November 2013 and hosted by the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD). The Meeting reviewed the SEAFDEC programs implemented in 2013 and scrutinized the programs to be implemented in 2014, to ensure that these programs have been formulated and implemented in line with the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. The list of SEAFDEC programs of activities for 2013-2014 appears as **Appendix 1**. The Meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC in his capacity as the Chairperson of SEAFDEC Program Committee.

2. The Meeting noted the progress and achievements made by SEAFDEC in the implementation of **Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism** in 2013, which comprise 21 projects categorized under five (5) Program Thrusts and one Special Project. While noting that out of these, 20 projects and the Special Project would be continued in 2013, there are also two new Special Projects proposed for implementation starting from 2014. After the ensuing discussion, the Program Committee endorsed the projects to be implemented in 2014. During the review and scrutiny processes, the Program Committee sought the assistance of SEAFDEC to sustain the implementation of various projects, and provided recommendations to enhance the implementation of projects, which could be summarized as follows:

Program Thrust I: Developing and Promoting Responsible Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security

1. Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitat/Fishing Grounds for Resources Enhancement

- i) Considering that some activities under this project are relevant to the region but could not be implemented in 2014, Vietnam requested TD to consider integrating such activities with those under the project on “Establishment and Operation of Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”.
- ii) Cambodia suggested that SEAFDEC could consider combining several activities with similar goals, which are supported by various donors, *e.g.* Japanese Trust Fund (JTF), Sweden, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).
- iii) Malaysia offered to collaborate with SEAFDEC particularly on the installation of appropriate models of large artificial reefs and on the assessment of the suitability of different types of sediments for artificial reefs, and suggested SEAFDEC to consider Malaysia as a pilot site for this project.

2. Human Resources Development (HRD) Program on Fisheries Management Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries

- i) Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to consider the management of fishing capacity under the trend of developing offshore fisheries in the region as high priority in formulating activities under this project.
- ii) SEAFDEC was requested to also consider integrating some of its activities with the national programs of the respective countries where resources may already be available.
- iii) Cambodia expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for supporting the activities that aim to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and promote Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS); and suggested that SEAFDEC should collaborate with similar projects funded through other sources that also aim to address IUU fishing.
- iv) SEAFDEC was requested to share the curriculum of training on offshore and high sea fisheries management to interested agencies, and to consider the possibility of expanding the training participants to cover the other countries in the region.

- v) SEAFDEC was requested to make use of the training module on “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)” developed by NOAA in conducting training courses relevant to such topics in collaboration with various agencies.
- vi) Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to consider conducting capacity building on small-scale fisheries in Myanmar to improve the capacity of its local staff.

3. Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities

- i) Philippines suggested SEAFDEC to consider conducting activities on safety onboard fishing vessels for the Member Countries in 2014 with support from the Japanese Trust Fund, as well as on the impacts of climate change on small-scale fisheries.
- ii) SEAFDEC was requested to incorporate recommendations from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in its activity on reduction of energy use in fishing vessels, and tap on advanced technologies on fishing gear systems of developed countries that aim to reduce fuel consumption.
- iii) Japan was requested to consider supporting the participation of the Member Countries’ experts on small-scale fisheries to the “Resumed Session on International Guideline on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries” to be organized by FAO in February 2014.
- iv) SEAFDEC under FAO support in conducting energy audits onboard fishing vessels was requested to enhance the implementation of this project to prove that small-scale fishing vessels operating in the region create low carbon emission, and to provide scientific justification that could be used for negotiating and safeguarding the small-scale fisheries sector in the future.

4. Resource Enhancement of International Threatened and Over-exploited Species in Southeast Asia through Stock Release

- i) NOAA expressed the willingness to be involved in the activity on adaptive measures for coral reef replenishment of the ASEAN Member States based on its experiences on ocean acidification, and looked forward to collaborating with SEAFDEC in the implementation of relevant activities.

5. Promotion of Sustainable and Region-oriented Aquaculture

- i) Malaysia expressed the willingness to collaborate with AQD in its future research on sea cucumber.

Program Thrust II: Enhancing Capacity and Competitiveness to Facilitate International and Intra-regional Trade

6. Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia “Biotxin Monitoring in ASEAN”: ASP, AZA, and BTX

- i) Thailand requested SEAFDEC through MFRD to consider seeking appropriate proficiency testing providers for countries in the region, and transferring the knowledge and technology on the preparation of Reference Materials (RMs) to the countries. It was, however, clarified that this is beyond the capacity of MFRD as well as the scope of this project.

7. Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region

- i) Malaysia offered to host the End-of-Project Seminar on implementation of traceability system for aquaculture products in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

8. Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products

- i) Singapore was requested to consider continuing its support to the countries in the region on the development of value-added fishery products.

9. Accelerating Awareness and Capacity-building in Fish Health Management in Southeast Asia

- i) Malaysia confirmed the country's interest in conducting surveillance and training on fish-borne zoonotic parasites, and assured AQD that the country's response to its query on this matter would be sent in due course.

10. Food Safety of Aquaculture Products in Southeast Asia

- i) AQD was requested to continue coordinating with Malaysia on the development of the Guidelines on the Use of Antibiotics and Chemicals in Aquaculture, in order to ensure that the Guidelines to be published by AQD and Malaysia are harmonized.
- ii) AQD was requested to undertake activities that address emerging issue on shrimp diseases, particularly the Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS), and compile research advances on the EMS in white shrimp. While Japan expressed the willingness to support AQD in its research on EMS in white shrimp through the JTF, Vietnam also offered to share its research results on EMS in white shrimp with SEAFDEC and the other Member Countries.

Program Thrust III: Improving Management Concepts and Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries

11. Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management (REBYC-II CTI)

- i) Vietnam suggested that the engagement of private sector in the implementation of this project should be encouraged and their support should be sought as appropriate.
- ii) SEAFDEC was requested to consider facilitating the organization of a forum among relevant agencies and ensuring that the results of the project should also emphasize on the sustainable supply of raw materials for the fishmeal industry.
- iii) Vietnam was encouraged to organize a round table meeting to facilitate discussion among government sector and various stakeholders to raise awareness on the importance of their involvement in activities that focus on responsible trawls fisheries.
- iv) NOAA expressed the willingness to be involved in some activities of this project, especially on the training workshop on ecosystem approach to fisheries making use of its training module to enhance the capacity of the countries in the region.

12. Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities

- i) Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to support its capacity building activities especially on port inspection to support the implementation of its new Decree No. 80 on Port Management with Regulation on Entry to Fishing Port by Foreign Vessels.
- ii) Cambodia suggested that TD could collaborate with other SEAFDEC Departments in conducting relevant activities. Member Countries were also suggested to involve their respective agencies relevant to Port State Measures, e.g. port authorities, marine departments, and customs in the implementation of IUU fishing countermeasures.
- iii) Japan encouraged that while SEAFDEC could promote regional initiatives supporting IUU fishing countermeasures, the Member Countries should also consider developing their respective national measures to combat IUU fishing.
- iv) Thailand offered to share the results of its pilot project on Port State Measures in Phuket, Thailand with the other Member Countries through the relevant SEAFDEC training courses.
- v) Myanmar expressed its willingness to participate in this project, and to share its experience on the installation of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in large fishing vessels which had been practiced in Myanmar.

13. Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products.

- i) Japan suggested that SEAFDEC should consider the development of a catch documentation system with clear focus, taking into account the measures developed by several RFMOs for commercial tuna fisheries.

- ii) Cambodia suggested that this project could be coordinated with other projects as well as initiatives of other organizations such as the RPOA-IUU.

Program Thrust IV: Providing Policy and Advisory Services for Planning and Executing Management of Fisheries

14. Fisheries Resource Survey and Operation Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2

- i) On the proposal of Vietnam for additional survey in its waters in 2014, Vietnam will confirm the appropriate survey schedule by January 2014.
- ii) Brunei Darussalam requested SEAFDEC for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for its resources survey in two periods, *i.e.* in April-May and September-October 2014.
- iii) Indonesia also requested to make use of the vessel in 2014 and would communicate with SEAFDEC to confirm its plans.

15. Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia

- i) Vietnam suggested that SEAFDEC facilitate the compilation and sharing of lessons learnt from Member Countries on fish handling at sea, *e.g.* hand-line tuna practices, to other countries.
- ii) To respond to the request of Vietnam, a regional training course on tuna handling similar to the one to be organized in Philippines in December 2013 could also be conducted in Vietnam in the future.
- iii) MFRDMD suggested that a training workshop could be organized to analyze the data which have been collected in the past through hydro-acoustic applications.

16. Research and Management of Sea Turtles in Foraging Habitats in the Southeast Asian Waters

- i) SEAFDEC was requested to take into consideration the issue on recent poaching of sea turtles in the Southeast Asian waters as this undermines the region's initiatives in sea turtles conservation and management.

17. Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region

- i) Vietnam expressed its willingness to be involved in the pilot activity on national data collection on sharks, and would communicate with TD to convey the request.
- ii) Vietnam also requested TD to continue providing assistance on community-based fisheries management to the country, and also to support the development of fisheries database by making use of its software that was already developed.

18. Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region

- i) Malaysia expressed support to the project, which could address the concerns on the application of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) system in stock assessment and resource management.

19. Research and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Waters

- i) It was noted that this project aims to provide technical materials on identification of sharks and rays to the Member Countries.

Program Thrust V: Addressing International Fisheries-related Issues from a Regional Perspective

20. Assistance for Capacity Building in the region to Address International Trade-related Issues

- i) Sweden offered to also pave the way for the successful implementation of this project, of which the mode of collaboration could be focused on the implementation of activities to

follow-up recommendations developed under this project including the conduct of capacity building activities to enable the Member Countries to address international-related issues.

21. Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries

- i) On the proposal that SEAFDEC will organize the review and evaluation meeting on 25-26 February 2014 to ensure that the JTF projects would be beneficial to the Member Countries, external fisheries experts from the region and the SEAFDEC National Coordinators for the Member Countries would be invited to sit as evaluators.
- ii) Japan and Sweden were commended for their continued support to the Regional Fisheries Policy and Network (RFPN), and were asked to continue providing the necessary assistance for the sustained implementation of this important activity.

3. For the Special Project on “**Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia**” under FCG/ASSP Mechanism, the Meeting provided recommendations as follows:

- i) NOAA expressed the willingness to share the publication on “Climate Change Adaptation for Coral Triangle Communities: Guide for Vulnerable Assessment and Local Early Action Planning (LEAP Guide)” to serve as a reference for the implementation of climate change related activities in the region.
- ii) The offer of the MRC Fisheries Programme (FP) to share its series of relevant publications which are available through the MRC website was welcome as this would be useful for the relevant activities of SEAFDEC.
- iii) Cambodia suggested that local initiatives and local NGOs should be involved in the implementation of this project in order to harmonize local perspectives in eco-conservation with those of the fisheries activities.
- iv) Philippines requested SEAFDEC to include the need to improve the performance indicators on the impact of climate change as an activity under this project.
- v) NOAA suggested that the on-going project on development of multi-model ensembles based on the analysis of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for predicting weather conditions in the region could be referred to during the implementation of project.
- vi) MRC offered that relevant surveys and research studies of MRC could be useful for this project, especially on the understanding of value of inland fisheries and their implications to social well-being.
- vii) Activities relevant to inland fisheries under this project should be referred to during the planning of the proposed activities of IFRDMD.
- viii) Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to consider extending its support to the implementation of this project in Myanmar to cover the country’s adjacent waters especially in the Myeik Archipelago.

4. For two **new Special Projects proposed under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism** starting from 2014, the Program Committee provided comments and suggestions to enhance the implementation of such projects as follows:

1. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (UNEP/GEF/SEAFDEC)

- i) Brunei Darussalam expressed the willingness to share the lessons learned from its implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to the other countries in the region.
- ii) Malaysia expressed its intention to support and be actively involved in this project.

2. Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management (ASEAN/IDB/SEAFDEC)

- i) The ASEAN Secretariat was requested to consider expediting the process of formalizing this project.

5. Moreover, the Program Committee also endorsed the **Departmental Programs** proposed for 2014 which comprise eight continuing programs from 2013, five of which would be implemented by AQD, namely: 1) Adapting to Climate Change Impacts; 2) Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture; 3) Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture; 4) Meeting Socio-economic Challenges in Aquaculture; and 5) Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture; and three by TD, namely: 1) Promotion on Strengthening SEAFDEC Visibility and Image; 2) Tailor-made Training Program; and 3) Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of Impacts from Fishing.

1. Aquaculture Department

- i) Thailand requested AQD to take into consideration in its activities, the emerging issues in aquaculture such as EMS in white shrimps and genetic improvement program of economically-important species in the Southeast Asian region.
- ii) AQD agreed to the suggestion that assessment of carbon emission from aquaculture should be included in the planning of its future activities.
- iii) The ASEAN Secretariat expressed the willingness to work closely with SEAFDEC through the ASEAN Working Group, especially in identifying the priority areas of the region's fisheries sector.
- iv) Cambodia suggested that SEAFDEC should be allowed to fully attend ASWGFi fora together with all ASEAN Member States, to enable SEAFDEC to work closely with the ASEAN and its Member States in the future.
- v) Myanmar requested AQD to consider sharing information on aquaculture advances and provide technical assistance to the country to support its rural aquaculture development activities.

2. Training Department

- i) NATC suggested that SEAFDEC consider undertaking activities in collaboration with the private sector in order to come up with applicable and practical procedures and systems in fisheries as well as to pool relevant information, *e.g.* fisheries technologies and practices, training courses, etc., under SEAFDEC's inventory/directory.
- ii) Philippines requested SEAFDEC to consider activities on improving post-harvest handling onboard fishing vessels as high priority, and encouraged SEAFDEC Departments concerned to verify and validate the relevant activities in order to address the high incidence of post-harvest losses in capture fisheries as well as in aquaculture.

6. Finally, the Program Committee considered and endorsed the two projects under **Other Programs**, implemented in 2013 and proposed for 2014.

1. Coastal Area Capability Enhancements in Southeast Asia (SEAFDEC-RIHN Collaborative Project)

- i) The Program Committee noted that lessons learnt from this project would be shared by SEAFDEC with the other SEAFDEC Member Countries.

2. Conservation and Management of Eel Resources in Southeast Asia (New Project - Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ))

- i) In response to the suggestion that this project should be carried out by the new IFRDMD, Indonesia informed that this suggestion would be conveyed to IFRDMD to develop necessary proposal based on the detailed outline as prepared by Japan.
- ii) Vietnam suggested that information on the distribution of eel species in the region should be compiled prior to the conduct of further activities.
- iii) Considering that SEAFDEC will convene an expert consultation on eel species, SEAFDEC suggested that collection of information on biological data, catch and aquaculture could be carried out; and the expert consultation would further analyze the compiled information, the result of which would be used for the development of the plan activities. It was also suggested that expert on eel species from Japan should be invited to serve as resource person to provide information on the culture of eels.

- iv) Myanmar requested AQD to consider implementing activities on seed production of eel species in hatcheries, and suggested SEAFDEC to also invite representatives from the private sector to participate in the aforesaid expert consultation on eel species.

7. In another development, the Program Committee took note of the recommendations of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for SEAFDEC to set priorities for the fisheries issues, and suggested that a special consultation among the SEAFDEC National Coordinators should be conducted to discuss this matter before the next meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The Program Committee also agreed to consider the proposal of the Fisheries Agency of Japan on the way forward for improving the work efficiency of SEAFDEC, which would be discussed more thoroughly during the proposed special consultation among SEAFDEC National Coordinators. Furthermore, while noting the status of the Japanese Trust Fund for 2014 and onwards to support the sustainable development of fisheries in the region, the Program Committee agreed that the proposed monitoring and reporting of SEAFDEC program thrusts would also be discussed during the proposed special consultation among the SEAFDEC National Coordinators.

8. The Program Committee expressed support to the “Proposed Collaborative Program on Fisheries Resources and Environmental Survey in the Gulf of Thailand Using the M.V. SEAFDEC”, while Vietnam and Cambodia informed that internal discussion would be conducted with their respective concerned agencies on this matter.

9. Subsequently, the Program Committee took note of the strengthened cooperation with non-member governments and international/regional organizations, *i.e.* the ASEAN-U.S. Maximizing Agriculture through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade (MARKET), the ASEAN Secretariat, the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Fisheries Programme, the National Agriculture Training Council (NATC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry Malaysia, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM).

10. After the deliberations, the Program Committee adopted the Report of the 36th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee for submission to the 46th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and to the ASEAN through the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) for consideration.

SEAFDEC PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014
I. Programs of Activities under FCG/ASSP Mechanism
Existing Programs/Projects

Program Thrust/Project Title	Lead Dept.	2013	2014
Thrust I: Developing and Promoting Responsible Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security			
1. Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitat/Fishing Grounds for Resources Enhancement	TD	Y	Y
2. Human Resources Development (HRD) Programs on Fisheries Management Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries	TD	Y	Y
3. Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities	TD	Y	Y
4. Resource Enhancement of International Threatened and Over-exploited Species in Southeast Asia through Stock Release	AQD	Y	Y
5. Promotion of Sustainable and Region-oriented Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
Thrust II: Enhancing Capacity and Competitiveness to Facilitate International and Intra-regional Trade			
6. Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia "Biotoxin Monitoring in ASEAN": ASP, AZA and BTX	MFRD	Y	Y
7. Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region	MFRD	Y	Y
8. Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value Added Products	MFRD	Y	N
9. Accelerating Awareness and Capacity-building in Fish Health Management in Southeast Asia	AQD	Y	Y
10. Food Safety of Aquaculture Products in Southeast Asia	AQD	Y	Y
Thrust III: Improving Management Concepts and Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries			
11. Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management (FAO-GEF/REBYC-II CTI)	TD	Y	Y
12. Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities	TD	Y	Y
13. Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products	MFRDMD	Y	Y
Thrust IV: Providing Policy and Advisory Services for Planning and Executing Management of Fisheries			
14. Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y
15. Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
16. Research and Management of Sea Turtles in Foraging Habitats in the Southeast Asian Waters	MFRDMD	Y	Y
17. Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region	TD	Y	Y
18. Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
19. Research and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Waters	MFRDMD	Y	Y
Thrust V: Addressing International Fisheries-related Issues from a Regional Perspective			
20. Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues	SEC	Y	Y

Program Thrust/Project Title	Lead Dept.	2013	2014
21. Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries	SEC	Y	Y

Special Project

Project Title	Lead Dept.	Period
1. Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia	SEC	2013-2017

Proposed New Special Projects

Project Title	Lead Dept.	Period
1. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (UNEP/GEF/SEAFDEC/SCS)	TD	2014-2017
2. Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management (ASEC/IDB/SEAFDEC)	MFRDMD	2014-2015

II. Departmental Programs

Project Title	Department	2013	2014
1. Adapting to Climate Change Impacts	AQD	Y	Y
2. Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
3. Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
4. Meeting Socio-economic Challenges in Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
5. Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
6. Promotion on strengthening of SEAFDEC visibility and image	TD	Y	Y
7. Tailor-made Training Programs	TD	Y	Y
8. Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing	TD	Y	Y

III. Other Programs

Project Title	Department	2013	2014
1. Coastal Area Capability Enhancements in Southeast Asia (SEAFDEC-RIHN Collaborative Project)	TD	Y	Y
2. Conservation and Management of Eel Resources in Southeast Asia (FAJ)	To be decided	N	Y

Y = Program implemented during the year

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

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was held from 28 to 29 November 2013 in Penang, Malaysia, and co-chaired by the representative from Lao PDR on behalf of the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the SEAFDEC Secretary-General. While providing their views and recommendations for the efficient and effective implementation of the programs, projects and activities under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism, the Meeting also considered the follow-up actions carried out by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the Fifteenth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in November 2012, the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2013, as well as those given during the meetings of the ASEAN bodies that discussed issues related to fisheries.
2. At the onset, the Meeting commended SEAFDEC for successfully conducting various activities that support the sustainable development of fisheries in the region, and suggested that SEAFDEC also consider the conduct of training sessions for fishers on appropriate technology to reduce labor onboard fishing vessels. In addition, SEAFDEC was also asked to provide assistance to Lao PDR to enable the country to carry out its regional tasks as Lead Country for the key cluster on Capacity Building under the AFCF Framework, and to continue supporting activities on the promotion of fisheries resource management in the fisheries communities in the ASEAN Member States.
3. On the CITES-related issues, ASEAN Secretariat was requested to explore ways and means of developing a mechanism that would enable the countries to reflect unified voice on common positions that had been agreed at relevant fora. On the status of the project on “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management”, the ASEAN Secretariat was asked to keep the ASEAN Member States informed on various aspects, especially once the agreement is already signed and implementation of the project could already be undertaken.
4. While considering the progress and achievements of the programs implemented in 2013 and those proposed for 2014 under the FCG/ASSP, as previously discussed and endorsed by the 36th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee, the Meeting noted that of the 22 existing projects, 21 had been categorized under the five SEAFDEC Program Thrusts adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2009; while the other project on “Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia” was a ‘Special Project’. The Meeting also noted that the project on “Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products” was already completed in 2013.
5. The Meeting also took note of two (2) new Special Projects on the “Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”, and “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management”, which would require the endorsement of ASWGFi and identification of the respective ASEAN Lead Countries.
6. While commending SEAFDEC for substantial efforts done to implement programs and projects under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism, Singapore also requested SEAFDEC to provide relevant training materials on safety at sea, and informed the Meeting that Singapore plans to conduct a training session on vessel inspection for the Member Countries. As for the conduct of capacity building on utilization of freshwater fishes, Singapore would consider convening a regional technical consultation to identify the focus of future relevant projects with possible support from Singapore. In this regard, the ASEAN Member States were asked to compile the information on issues and challenges of the region’s freshwater fisheries products which could be useful during the said consultation.

7. On the development of the “ASEAN Catch Documentation System”, the Meeting was informed that this does not aim to create a new catch documentation system in the region but to enhance the compliance of catch documentation systems by countries in the region which could be harmonized with the requirements of importing countries and RFMOs. Ultimately, this is expected to facilitate the trading of fish and fishery products of the region.

8. Finally, SEAFDEC was requested to explore the possibility of enhancing its programs of activity on sustainable management of inland fisheries to improve the well-being of communities in the rural areas of the region.

9. The Meeting also discussed the progress of projects that have been proposed under the ASSP. On the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Food Security (AIFS) Framework”, the Meeting noted the concept proposal on “Climate Change and Its Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation Towards Food Security”, and expressed concern that fisheries is one of the areas under the ASEAN Food Security Framework but aspects on fisheries are not considerably addressed by the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board as indicated in the proposal under the ASEAN-U.S. Maximizing Agriculture through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade (MARKET) Project. In this regard, the ASEAN Secretariat was encouraged to put more attention on this matter in order that fisheries issues could be included under the said Framework. The Meeting was also informed that the First Meeting of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environment Conservation was organized by Brunei Darussalam in Bandar Seri Begawan in December 2013 to discuss relevant issues among the EAS Member Countries, the report of which will be submitted to the EAS SOM Leaders in 2014.

10. The progress of the activities under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), which included the Special AFCF Meeting in February 2013 in Solo, Indonesia and the 5th AFCF Meeting in July 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, was also noted. On the activities under the “ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)”, the Meeting was informed on the need to align the national shrimp aquaculture standards with the ASEAN Shrimp GAP in order to improve shrimp farming practices in the region. In this regard, Thailand was asked to discuss this issue with the experts from FAO, SEAFDEC and other relevant organizations, and that if necessary, an Expert Group Meeting could be organized for the development of the alignment processes.

11. The Meeting was also informed on the planned organization of the “ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition: ASEAN Seafood for the World” on 22-24 January 2015 at BITEC Bangna in Bangkok, Thailand, which had been endorsed by the 35th AMAF Meeting. As proposed and considered by AMAF, the event could be biennial and hosted by the ASEAN Member States on rotation but voluntary basis. The Meeting also took note of the establishment of the Steering Committee to provide guidance on the preparation of the event in 2015, and that SEAFDEC was asked to serve as the executing agency of the 2015 Conference.

12. On the international fisheries-related issues, while taking note of the “CITES-related issues” especially on the regional approach in improving data collection on sharks in the Southeast Asian region and the support expressed by the EU in building the capacity of the countries to implement CITES-related measures, the Meeting encouraged the ASEAN Member States to convey their requests for funding capacity building activities through the CITES Secretariat. In this connection, SEAFDEC could facilitate following-up with the CITES Secretariat and consider providing the necessary technical support. The representative from Thailand supported the conduct of activities that would enhance the capacity of countries in improving their respective data and information collection systems on sharks, and sharing of such data and information among the countries, and also requested that the species to be addressed during SEAFDEC fora on CITES-related issues could also include commercially-exploited inland aquatic species. Considering that more shark species could be proposed for listing under the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP17 in addition to five (5) species

listed during the CITES-CoP16, the Meeting was informed that Japan would consider supporting the activities of SEAFDEC that address CITES-related issues with the expectation that such support could contribute to more sustainable development of fisheries in the ASEAN Member States.

13. On the development of the “International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries” (SSF Guidelines) which aims to provide a comprehensive framework and reference tool to support responsible governance of small-scale fisheries, the Member Countries were encouraged to take part in the negotiations through the online discussion forum or attend the resumed session of the FAO Technical Consultation on 3-7 February 2014 in FAO, Rome. However, the representatives from Vietnam and Singapore expressed their views that issues on human rights should not be included in the Guidelines as this could focus more on technical aspect of fisheries instead. Meanwhile, the representative from Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to support the Member Countries in developing common positions to serve as technical inputs during FAO technical consultations and meetings.

14. On the development of a “Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Management of Tuna Resources”, the Meeting was informed that the Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Resources in the Southeast Asian Waters was convened in October 2013 in Songkhla, Thailand as part of the follow-up actions to directives of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The Consultative Meeting came up with prioritized issues for the development of the draft Plan of Action for Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in Southeast Asian Region. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that the use of acoustic pinger, as an effective device for biological and migration studies of Neritic tunas, could be explored and the involvement of private sector in the development of the said Plan of Action should be strengthened.

15. On the “Establishment of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over” (RFVR), the Meeting took note of the recommendations of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on the development of the RFVR. In response to the suggestion on harmonizing the databases of SEAFDEC and those of the RPOA-IUU, the Meeting noted the differences between these two sets of databases and the challenges that could be encountered in seeking political support for harmonizing such databases as well as in sharing the information among the countries and within the ASEAN region. However, SEAFDEC would exert efforts to work closely with RPOA-IUU and to see how a collaboration with RPOA-IUU on this matter could be developed. While expressing the concern that in many countries in the region, vessels operating in the high seas may not be under the authority of fisheries-related agencies and the ministries responsible for fisheries, the Meeting conveyed to the countries the need to have strong willingness in exerting to be able to coordinate the respective concerned authorities within each country that issue fishing vessel registrations and fisheries licenses. The Meeting also suggested that vessels involved in these initiatives should only be those vessels operating within the jurisdiction of each Member State.

16. With regards to the progress of the development of the draft “Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Export and Import of IUU Fish and Fishery Products” by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, the Meeting raised the concern that the timeframe for finalizing the Guidelines as proposed by SEAFDEC may not be appropriate, as the provisions under this Guidelines are closely related with those of the Port State Measures Agreement and Catch Documentation System which are still in their preliminary stages of development. Moreover, the Meeting suggested that SEAFDEC should clearly elaborate the scope and contents of the Guidelines, whether such guidelines would address small-, medium- or large-scale fisheries and whether or not it could be applied in particular fishing areas (*e.g.* whether within the EEZs or beyond). The Meeting then requested SEAFDEC to circulate the current version of the Guidelines to the representatives attending the 16th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP Meeting prior to the Expert Meeting to finalize the Draft Guidelines in order to obtain the views of administrators and policy makers.



17. On the development of “Regional Policy Consideration on Regional Common Issues and Program of Activities for Supporting Port State Measures (PSM) Implementation in the Region”, the representative from Thailand expressed the concern on some requirements in the PSM that seem difficult for many countries to undertake, and encouraged SEAFDEC to continue its work in raising the awareness of the countries in the region on the implementation of the PSM.

18. While noting that the development of the “Regional Plan of Action for Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters” and the draft “Guidelines for Conducting Scientific Survey on Sea Turtles Foraging Habitats” by MFRDMD which was improved during the Regional Meeting on Conservation of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters is ongoing, the Meeting was also informed on the progress of development of the “Regional Guidelines on Implementation of Traceability for Aquaculture Products” by MFRD.

19. The Meeting took note of the progress in compiling the respective ASEAN Member States “List of Protected Aquatic Species” based on their national laws in response to the recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP, and the efforts of the SEAFDEC Secretariat in uploading the countries’ lists on the restricted page in the SEAFDEC website. In this regard, the Meeting requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate the complete draft regional list to all ASEAN Member States for updating and confirmation as well as for SEAFDEC to consider the confidentiality of such regional list.

20. After the deliberations, the Report of the 16th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP was adopted on 29 November 2013.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD (RFVR)

I. INTRODUCTION

SEAFDEC has been assisting the Southeast Asian countries in their efforts to combat IUU fishing through the implementation of the project on the Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries and IUU Fishing-related Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, which is funded by the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF). One of the main activities of the project is the Promotion of Fishing License, Boats Registration, and Port State Measures in Southeast Asia, carried out through a series of regional meetings. This activity is aimed at developing a regional record of fishing vessels starting with vessels measuring 24 meters in length and over during its first phase, which could be expanded later with the recording of vessels measuring less than 24 meters. Moreover, assistance has also been extended by SEAFDEC to the countries in the region in their endeavors of improving their respective fishing licensing systems to conform with regional and international requirements. It is envisioned that this regional fishing vessels record together with the refined fishing licensing systems could be effectively used as fisheries management tools in combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.

At the onset, SEAFDEC/TD organized the Regional Core Experts Meeting in Fishing License, Boats Registration and Information on Export of Fisheries Products in Southeast Asia in October 2011, where the procedures for fishing licensing and boats registration in Southeast Asian countries as well as the corresponding minimum requirements for obtaining fishing license and boats registration certificates were discussed. The results of such Meeting were compiled in a database maintained by SEAFDEC/TD. The Regional Core Experts Meeting also considered the development of regional guidelines on fishing licensing and boats registration while the ways and means of preventing the export of IUU fishing products in the region were initially identified (SEAFDEC/TD, 2011). In order to strengthen the regional networking and enhance the collaboration among the countries in the development of such guidelines as well as in future relevant activities, an electronic email group (combat_iuu@seafdec.org) was established which has since then, been actively used to exchange and update the necessary information.

Subsequently, the Experts Group Meeting on Fishing Licensing and Boats Registration in Southeast Asia was convened by SEAFDEC/TD in June 2012, where an agreement was reached by the SEAFDEC Member Countries on the compilation of the RFVR which should focus on the information of larger fishing vessels with length from 24 meters and over. Based on the results of such meetings, SEAFDEC/TD submitted the proposed establishment of the RFVR which was considered and approved by the SEAFDEC Council during its 45th Meeting in April 2013 in the Philippines. Furthermore, the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34th AMAF) also support the establishment a Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region.

II. PROGRESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD (RFVR)

In order to implement the activity on Establishment of **Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)** focusing on fishing vessels measuring 24 meters in length and over, SEAFDEC/TD designed a questionnaire on Regional Fishing Vessel Record which was sent out to eight SEAFDEC Member Countries¹, *i.e.* Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, to explore the possibility of data sharing and to identify the agreed basic information

¹ The Expert Group Meeting on Fishing Licensing and Boats Registration in Southeast Asia in 2012 mentioned that Cambodia has no fishing vessel 24 meters in length and over.

requirements (**Table 1** and **Table 2**). During the process of compiling the RFVR, information on the respective number of national fishing vessels that measure 24 meters in length and over was also compiled to be updated during the process of compilation. The initial number is shown in **Table 3**.

Table 1. Agreed basic requirements for vessel registration in the Southeast Asian countries

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

The results of the questionnaire have been analyzed, to be used as inputs during the proposed regional workshop on development and management of RFVR. In the analysis, obstacles with respect to the integration of the items in the basic requirements into RFVR will also be compiled for consideration during the implementation of the activity in 2014.

Table 2. Review of the national situation on the possibility of data sharing of the agreed basic information requirements of each SEAFDEC Member Country

Information on fishing vessels	Accessible by		Exclusively available from SEAFDEC database (Kept in database only)	Others
	General public	SEAFDEC Member Countries		
1. Name of vessel	BN, ID, MY, PH	MM, TH, VN	SG	MY (Vessel number, not vessel name)
2. Type of fishing method/gear	BN, ID, MY, PH	MM, TH, VN	SG	
3. Port of registry	BN, MY, PH	MM, TH, VN	SG	ID (Location of registry)
4. Gross tonnage (G.T.) (International gross tonnage/registered gross tonnage)	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, TH, VN	SG	MY (Using GRT)
5. Length (L)	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, TH, VN	SG	
6. Breadth (B)	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, TH, VN	SG	
7. Depth (D)	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, TH, VN	SG	
8. Engine Power	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, TH, VN	SG	
9. Shipyard	BN, MY	PH, VN		- ID (Location of Builder), - MM (-), - SG (not collected), - TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)

Information on fishing vessels	Accessible by		Exclusively available from SEAFDEC database (Kept in database only)	Others
	General public	SEAFDEC Member Countries		
10. Date of launching	ID, MY	PH, VN	SG	- BN (No answer), - MY (Same with date registered) - MM (-), - TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)
11. International Radio Call Sign	BN	PH, TH, VN	SG	- ID (-), - MY (No answer), - MM (-), - TH (If available)
12. Engine Brand	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, TH, VN	SG	
13. Serial number of engine	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, VN	SG	- TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)
14. Hull material	BN, ID	MM, PH, TH, VN	SG	- MY (Optional)
15. Date of registration	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, TH, VN	SG	
16. Area (country) of fishing operation	BN, ID, MY	MM, TH, VN	PH, SG	
17. Nationality of vessel (flag)	BN, MY, PH,	MM, TH, VN		- ID (-)
18. Previous name (if any)	BN, ID, MY	MM, PH, VN		- SG (not collected), - TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)
19. Previous flag (if any)	BN, MY	MM, PH, VN		- ID (-) - SG (Do not collected), - TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)
20. Name of captain/master	BN	MM, PH, VN	SG	- ID (-), - MY (Optional) - TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)
21. Nationality of captain/master	BN	MM, PH, VN	SG	- ID (-), - MY (Optional) - TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)

Information on fishing vessels	Accessible by		Exclusively available from SEAFDEC database (Kept in database only)	Others
	General public	SEAFDEC Member Countries		
22. Number of crew (maximum/minimum)	BN, MY	MM, PH, VN	SG	- ID (-), - TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)
23. Nationality of crew	BN, MY	MM, PH, VN	SG	- ID (-), - TH (This data is belonging to Marine Department which exclude in the MOU)

Countries: Brunei Darussalam (BN), Indonesia (ID), Malaysia (MY), Myanmar (MM), Philippines (PH), Singapore (SG), Thailand (TH), Vietnam (VN)

Table 3. Updated number of fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over

Country	Total	Less than 24 meters	24 meters and over
Brunei Darussalam	2,427	2,421	6
Cambodia	7,034	7,034	Nil
Indonesia	570,827	569,105	1,722
Malaysia	54,235	54,169	66
Myanmar	30,349	Powered 14,222 Non Powered 15,463	664
Philippines	473,400	472,804	596
Singapore	36	36	Nil
Thailand	40,742	39,995	747
Vietnam	123,125	122,812	312

III. ACTIVITY PLAN FOR 2014

For 2014, SEAFDEC/TD proposed to organize the regional workshop on RFVR database development and management to discuss the RFVR information sharing and integration of information under basic requirements with the Member Countries concerned. The outputs of this regional workshop will be used to create and design the RFVR database. Visit to the Member Countries concerned will also be organized to provide technical support and assistance during the introduction and implementation of the RFVR database.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The 46th Council Meeting is requested to consider and provide policy support to the development of the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) as well as to support the regional cooperation policy for data sharing of the vessel records.

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF NERITIC TUNAS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The oceans and seas of the Southeast Asian region abound with several species of oceanic and neritic tunas that are of high economic importance. Such resources not only generate export revenues for the countries of the region but also provide important protein sources for local populace. While oceanic tunas migrate over large sea areas and oceans, neritic tunas inhabit the economic zones and in the sub-regional seas of Southeast Asia. Statistical reports have indicated that oceanic tuna resources have been declining, this situation makes neritic tuna resources becoming more economically-important to the extent that the resources have increasingly become the target for commercial and local fisheries, especially that attractive prices are offered for such tunas by the fish processing industry. The distribution and migration of neritic tuna stocks in the waters and sub-regions of Southeast Asia however, as well as their utilization remain uncertain making it difficult to develop appropriate tuna management plans at national and sub-regional levels. Therefore, it has become necessary to establish a regional cooperation for the utilization of neritic tunas for the Southeast Asian region to address critical issues and concerns on their sustainability.

The need to develop a plan of action for regional cooperation on neritic tunas in the Southeast Asian region was recognized and expressed by the SEAFDEC Member Countries during the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2013. It was also during such Meeting that the SEAFDEC Council of Directors supported the proposal of the SEAFDEC Secretariat to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable management of neritic tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian waters. Through such collaborative cooperation, countries and producers should be able to show and verify the sustainability of neritic tuna fisheries. In order to support the need to develop collaborative management approaches, a case study was conducted by SEAFDEC Secretariat with support from Government of Japan and Sweden, and with technical support from concerned SEAFDEC Member Countries to review the information on tuna catch from the Southeast Asian region and to come up with the status and trends of neritic tuna fisheries in the region. Meanwhile, consultations with Member Countries have been carried out to determine the ways and means of promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation on the sustainable utilization of neritic tuna resources in the Southeast Asian region.

This paper report the progress of developing process that currently comes up with the reviews status and trends of neritic tuna in the region and the scope of works for regional cooperation for sustainable utilization of neritic tuna in Southeast Asia for consideration and policy recommendation by the 46th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council to ensure that next step of drafting the POAs through the technical consultation with all Member Countries could go in the same direction with regional requirement.

II. THE CASE STUDY

The case study conducted by the SEAFDEC Secretariat was aimed at determining the status and trends of neritic tuna exploitation from the EEZ of Southeast Asian countries focusing on the four most economically-important neritic tunas in the region (**Fig. 1**), namely: longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*), kawakawa or eastern little tuna (*Euthynnus affinis*), frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*), and bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*). The study was conducted in collaboration with national focal points from five major tuna producing countries of Southeast Asia, namely: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Analysis of the tuna production centered on the exploitations within the EEZ of the Southeast Asian countries, where the data and information used for the analysis were sourced from national fisheries statistics, data samplings at selected landing sites and results of consultations with national focal points. **Fig. 2** shows the fisheries administrative offices responsible for tuna data

collection in the Philippines and Indonesia, the selected landing sites for data collection in Thailand and Vietnam, and the fishing areas within the EEZ of Southeast Asian countries.

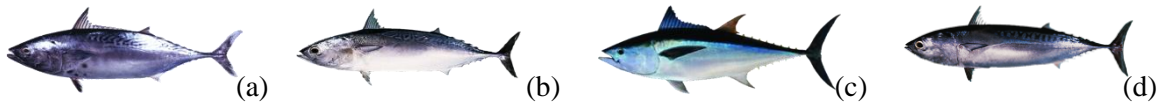


Fig. 1. Neritic tunas focused in the case study conducted by SEAFDEC: (a) eastern little tuna, (b) frigate tuna, (c) longtail tuna, and (d) bullet tuna

The origin/fishing grounds and species composition of neritic tunas were examined and analyzed to warrant the status of tuna exploitation in the specific sea areas in the Southeast Asian region, as shown in Fig. 2.



Fig. 2. Locations of fisheries administrative offices, selected landing sites and identified fishing areas by country

Neritic Tuna Fisheries of Southeast Asia

In the Southeast Asian region, neritic tunas are caught commercially using three main fishing gears, namely: purse seines, ring nets (mainly in the Philippines), and drift gillnets. Three types of purse seine operations are adopted in many Southeast Asian countries such as purse seines with searching methods, those associated with fish aggregating devices (FADs), and with luring light methods. In Thailand as well as in other countries, such as Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, and Indonesia, the purse seine used must have evolved from the Chinese purse seine which became widely used after 1957. This purse seine has been developed with a unique style of seining appropriate to conditions in the waters of Thailand, although such gear was initially intended to catch small pelagic fishes other than tunas. Targeting the small tunas using the Thai purse seine fishery started in 1982 with the expansion of the country's tuna canning industry. The Thai purse seine fishery is labor-intensive requiring 30-40 crew members to work on vessels with sizes that range from 25 to 30 m. The length of the nets range from 800 to 1250 m while the nets' depths range from 70 to 120 m and mesh sizes from 2.5 to 9.7 cm. Recently, modern purse seiners are equipped with radar, depth sounder, sonar transceiver, and satellite navigational instruments. Compared with purse seine operations nowadays, drift gillnets have also played an important role in neritic tuna fisheries,

especially in the early period of development of small pelagic fisheries in many Southeast Asian countries. Specifically, drift gillnets are important for some countries such as in Vietnam where 37% of its total neritic tuna catch of 72,650 mt is produced using drift gillnets (Nguyen Ba Thong, 2013).

Status and Trends of Neritic Tuna Production

Based on the countries' statistical records, the main sources of neritic tuna production of Southeast Asia are Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand. However, it should be noted that neritic tuna production of Vietnam has not been properly recorded in its national statistics, although the Research Institute of Marine Fisheries (RIMF) of Vietnam estimated the country's neritic tuna production in 2012 to be 72,650 mt. In addition, tuna production of Brunei Darussalam of less than 100 mt per year comprises mostly the eastern little tuna and skipjack tuna. The total production of neritic tuna in Southeast Asian waters in 2010 could therefore be estimated at about 857,440 mt (including the constant volume of from Vietnam as of 2012 and production from Brunei Darussalam). The trends of neritic tuna in four (4) countries during the period from 2004 to 2010 is shown in **Fig. 3** and specifically, it is shown in **Fig. 3(a)** that the regional production of neritic tunas varied between 700,000 and 800,000 mt, even if production from Thailand seemed to decrease from 136,227 mt in 2004 to 23,896 mt in 2010, a matter that needs to be reckoned with.

In 2007-2008, the system of compiling national fisheries statistics of Thailand was improved in order to exclude the production data from import as well as those from outside the EEZ of Thai waters, *e.g.* south of the Gulf of Thailand (Malaysia and Indonesia), and north-south of the Andaman Sea (Malaysia and Myanmar). As a result, production of Thailand had changed from 112,000 mt in 2007 to 35,000 mt in 2008, while an increasing trend of neritic tuna production could be noted in the case of Indonesia, from 293,461 mt in 2005 to 464,016 mt in 2009, while in the case of Malaysia, the production slightly varies but within the average of 51,000 mt per year in 2004-2010, similar to the production trend of Thailand.

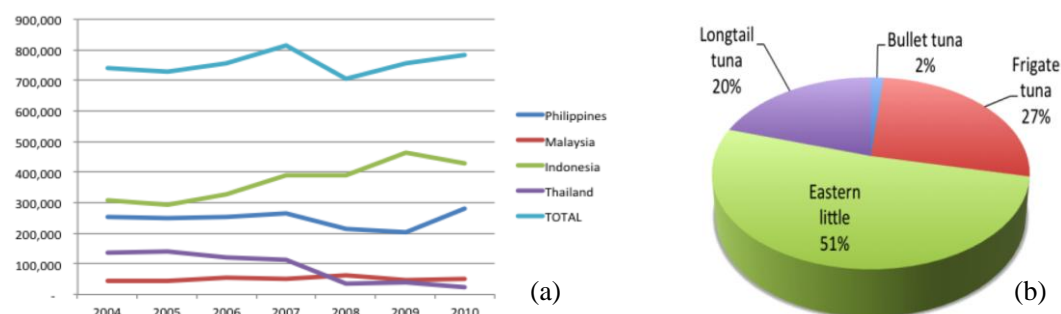


Fig. 3. Trends of neritic tuna production of the Southeast Asian countries in 2004-2010 (a), and species composition of neritic tuna catch in 2010 based on information from four main tuna producing countries of Southeast Asia (b)

Species Composition of Neritic Tuna Production

As shown in **Fig. 3(b)**, eastern little tuna was the predominant neritic tuna species caught from the Southeast Asian waters in 2010, accounting for 51% of the overall neritic tuna production, followed by frigate tuna at 27%, longtail tuna at 20%, and bullet tuna of about 2%. However, the species composition of neritic tuna production by country in 2004-2010 (**Fig. 4**) indicated that in the Philippines, only two neritic tunas (eastern little tuna and frigate tuna) have been recorded from fishing areas in 10 locations, namely: (1) Western Luzon; (2) Central Visayas; (3) Northern Luzon; (4) Pacific Ocean; (5) Sulu Sea; (6) Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Area; (7) Mindanao Sea; (8) Southern Luzon; (9) Northern Mindanao; and (10) Moro Gulf. For Indonesia, production of four neritic tunas recorded in its national fisheries statistics came from fishing grounds in 11 areas, namely: (1) West Sumatera; (2) South Java; (3) Malacca Strait; (4) East Sumatera; (5) North Java; (6) Bali-Nusatenggara; (7) South/West Kalimantan; (8) East Kalimantan; (9) South

Sulawesi; (10) North Sulawesi; and (11) Maluku-Papua, although before 2004, neritic tuna was recorded as unidentified species. For Malaysia, only longtail tuna was recorded before 2003 but later the other two neritic tunas (bullet tuna and eastern little tuna) have already been included in its national statistics. The fishing areas for neritic tunas in the EEZ of Malaysian waters are in the: (1) West Coast Peninsular; (2) East Coast Peninsular; (3) off the coast of Sarawak; (4) off the coast of Sabah; and (5) Labuan. For Thailand, recording of four neritic tunas started in 2009 where the fishing areas are in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea.

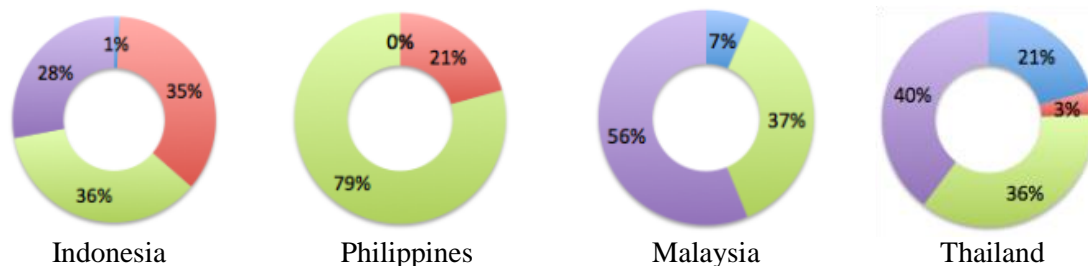


Fig. 4. Species composition of neritic tunas found in major tuna producing Southeast Asian countries
 ■ eastern little tuna, ■ frigate tuna, ■ longtail tuna, and ■ bullet tuna

Relative Abundance and Distribution

The relative abundance and distribution of the neritic tuna in the EEZ of Southeast Asian countries in 2010 (**Fig. 5**), includes production of neritic tuna from Vietnam in 2012 of about 72,650 mt, assuming that not much changes occurred in its catch of about 72,000-73,000 mt in 2010 and based on reports that most of the country's neritic tunas are caught from the southeast coast of Vietnam. Therefore, the total tuna exploitation based on specific sea areas can be estimated at: 121,376 mt in South China Sea; 126,672 mt in Natuna Sea, part of southern South China Sea; 144,100 mt in Sulu Sea; 88,600 mt in Celebes Sea; 90,000 mt in Banda Sea; 65,000 mt in the east coast of the Philippines; 58,300 mt in Indian Ocean (S-Java); 50,100 mt in West Sumatra; 50,000 mt in Andaman Sea; and 474 mt in the Gulf of Thailand.

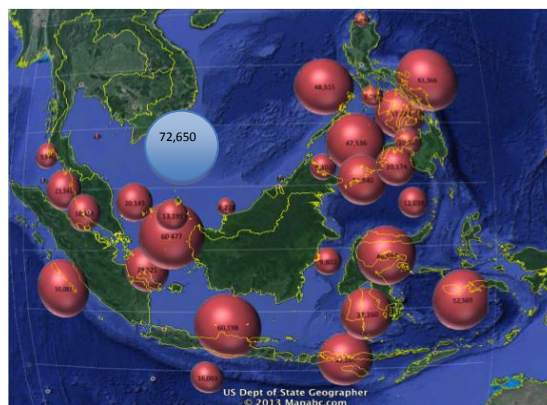


Fig. 5. Relative abundance and distribution of neritic tunas in Southeast Asian waters (as of 2010)

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the distribution of neritic tunas in Southeast Asian waters (**Fig. 6**), it could be gleaned that almost 74% of longtail tuna are found in the Indonesian waters particularly in Natuna Sea down to the north Java and north Sulawesi Seas. Meanwhile, less than 20% could be found in the east and west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. For frigate tuna, 70% of the total exploitation also comes from Indonesian waters while another 30% are from Philippine waters.

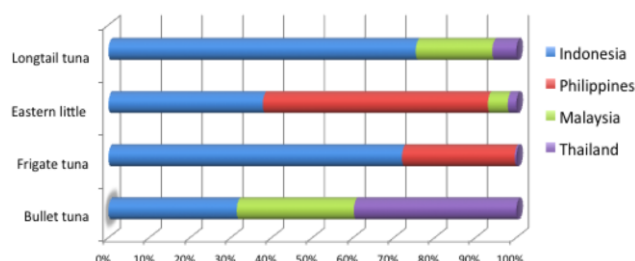


Fig. 6. Distribution of neritic tunas in Southeast Asian waters

While eastern little tuna represents about 55% of the Philippine tuna resources, the other 35% comes from Indonesian waters. For bullet tuna, about 30% each are from Indonesia and Malaysia, while the

remaining 40% are from Thai waters (**Fig. 6**). In the Gulf of Thailand (GOT), neritic tuna production had been recorded from the EEZ of the Gulf of Thailand and from the east and south of the Gulf of Thailand outside the EEZ as shown in **Fig. 7**, leading to varying volumes, *i.e.* from 8,000 to 19,000 mt from 1998 to 2007, while production rapidly decreased from 10,000 mt in 2007 to 5,000 mt in 2008, and 474 mt in 2010 (Praulai Nootmorn, *et.al.*, 2013).

Similarly, data on neritic tuna exploitation from outside of the EEZ in the east and south of the GOT indicated different volumes, *i.e.* 60,000 mt in 1998 increasing to 110,000 mt in 2005, but drastically decreased from 96,000 mt in 2006 to only 13,200 mt in 2010. This was a result of the improvement of data recording system from 2005 to 2010 when data on tuna exploitation within the EEZ and outside the EEZ of the Gulf of Thailand were segregated (**Fig. 7a**). Meanwhile, neritic tuna exploitation in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia and off Sarawak during the same period from 2005 to 2010 varied from 20,000 mt to 33,000 mt, indicating that the resources had not declined. Such information makes it necessary to identify the origin of neritic tunas exploited outside the EEZ of the GOT (**Fig. 7b**).

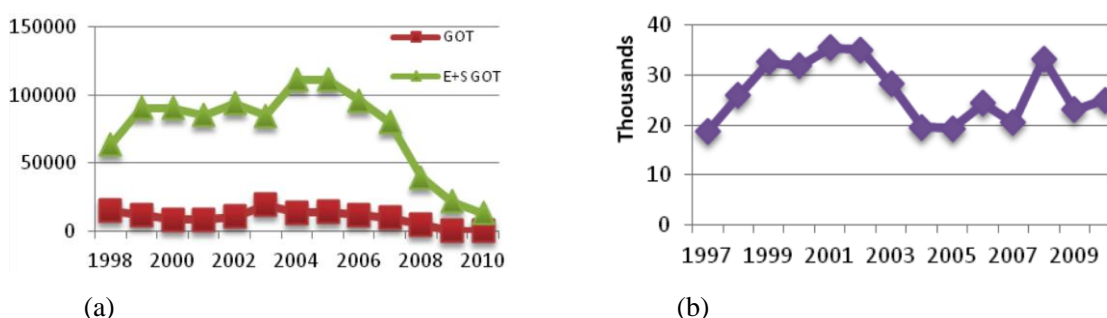


Fig. 7. Neritic tuna exploitation in the EEZ and outside EEZ of the Gulf of Thailand during 1998-2010 (a), and neritic tuna exploitation in east coast of Peninsular Malaysia and off Sarawak during 1998-2010 (b)

As for the exploitation of neritic tunas in Indonesia during the same period from 1998 to 2010, production had increased gradually from 206,000 mt in 1998 to 464,000 mt in 2009. This trend ensures that the country's neritic tuna resources are still in good condition even though it is expected that the increasing production from Indonesian maybe linked to the decreasing trends of exploitation of Thailand particularly when the fishery policy on joint venture of these two countries was changed after 2007.

IV. WAY FORWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF NERITIC TUNAS

Recognizing the need to develop a Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries of Neritic Tunas in Southeast Asia, the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council endorsed the proposal of SEAFDEC Secretariat to conduct regular stakeholders' consultations for the development of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries (RPOA-Neritic Tuna). Thus, SEAFDEC with funding support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project together with ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries organized the "Consultative Meeting on Regional Cooperation Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries in Southeast Asian Waters" in October 2013 in Songkhla Province, Thailand. The Meeting had provided the platform to initiate and coordinate a process of promoting dialogue and cooperation on "regional" (neritic) tuna resources, while information on the status of neritic tuna in the region and sub-regions were revealed and shared as well as experiences of SEAFDEC and partner organizations at regional and sub-regional level. Issues related to neritic tuna fisheries and trade were also discussed taking into account the current problems/challenges in different sub-regional areas/fishing grounds, *i.e.* South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea, and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.

The need to update the status and trend of neritic tuna resources and improve collection of data/information was highlighted due to inadequacy of data collection systems in many countries. In addition, it was also suggested during the October 2013 Consultative Meeting that sub-regional

management of neritic tuna should be established through cooperation among countries and with sub-regional, regional, international organizations.

Furthermore, prioritized issues were identified during the October 2013 Consultative Meeting (**Box 1**), which could be used for drafting the Plan of Action on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries (RPOA-Neritic Tuna) in Southeast Asian Waters at national and regional levels.

Box 1. Prioritized issues to be considered for developing the RPOA-Neritic Tuna
<p><i>At National Level</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open access, management of fishing capacity necessary • Undetermined resources, status and trend of neritic tuna need regular updating • Insufficient data/information, data collection systems should be improved • IUU Fishing • Transshipment of catch • Double flagging, poaching • Post-harvest losses • Appropriate technology of fishing gears and devices should be promoted • Infrastructure of fishing port/landing sites inadequate • Unfair benefits allocation, working conditions and labor issues should be settled • Supporting policy from Government should be assured • Capacity building necessary
<p><i>At Regional Level</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-regional fisheries management for neritic tuna should be developed • Assessment of the status and trends of neritic tuna at sub-regional level should be carried out through the establishment of working groups • Intra-regional trade should be enhanced through harmonized standard catch documentation systems • Sharing of data and information necessary, <i>e.g.</i> through the development of list of fishing vessels, etc. • Cooperation with other sub-regional, regional, international organizations should be sought

The October 2013 Consultative Meeting also agreed that the scope and goals of the RPOA-Neritic Tuna should enhance sustainable fisheries of neritic tunas through the integration of fisheries management and ecosystem interventions in order to attain the outputs as planned (**Box 2**). Moreover, the scope of interventions should be able to contribute to the attainment of the four program level strategic results as shown in **Box 3**.

Box 2. Expected outputs of the RPOA-Neritic Tuna
<p>Result 1: Generation and uptake of demand driven fisheries technologies and innovations facilitated</p> <p>Result 2: Policy options for enhancing the performance of the fisheries subsectors in the Southeast Asian region facilitated</p> <p>Result 3: Capacity for fisheries research development in Southeast Asia strengthened, and</p> <p>Result 4: Availability of information on fisheries innovation enhanced</p>

Box 3. Scope of interventions corresponding to program level strategic results for the development of the RPOA-Neritic Tuna
<p>i. Improving fisheries productivity: this is meant to address productivity constraints at system levels by applying effective fisheries management tools which include management of fishing capacity and reduction of IUU fishing-related activities in tuna fisheries such as transshipment, double flagging, etc.</p> <p>ii. Improving access to markets: a key issue to be addressed in order to support access of fisheries to market, is traceability system by enhancing regional standard/catch documentation system, while also addressing the need to enhance intra-regional and international trading of tuna in the region.</p>

- iii. **Improving data collection and development of key indicators:** this is meant to better understand the status and trends of tuna resources in the region. Assessment of tuna stocks at national and sub-regional areas would be promoted through the establishment of stock assessment working groups so that existing science-based fisheries management for long-term impacts is ensured. Research programs could also cover onboard fish handling practices to avoid post-harvest losses.
- iv. **Improving sustainable interaction between fisheries and the marine ecosystem:** Appropriate technology of fishing gears and devices to be promoted for harvesting neritic tunas to reduce by-catch species.

V. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The 46th Meeting of the Council is requested to take note and endorse of the concept and scope and goal of Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in Southeast Asia based on the SEAFDEC analysis from 2001-2010. In this connection, the Council is further requested to comment and provide advice to SEAFDEC for further development of the Plan of Action and to Member Countries on moving together towards sustainable management of tuna fisheries in the region.

CREATION OF COORDINATION UNIT IN SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT FOR THE NEW TRAINING PROGRAM ON ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

I. BACKGROUND

The need to apply an ecosystem approach to capture fisheries management is now globally accepted and has been endorsed in several international fora; for example, the United Nations General Assembly (2012), UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (2012), World Conservation Congress (2012), World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), and the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in Marine Ecosystems (2001).

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) represents a move away from fisheries management that focuses only on the sustainable harvest of target species, towards management systems and decision-making processes that balance ecological well-being with human and social well-being through improved governance frameworks.

In 2011, at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”, Bangkok Thailand 16 June 2011, the Senior Officials adopted a Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020. Several action points in the “fisheries management” section of this Plan refer directly and indirectly to the promotion of the EAFM.

A consortium of agencies working in the Asia-Pacific Region has developed a training package responding to the need for EAFM capacity development. The course is called Essential EAFM and is the result of a unique partnership involving the FAO-Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); the US Coral Triangle Initiative (USCTI) funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP); as well as the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC).

The focus of Essential EAFM is the development of professional planning, analytical and interpersonal skills needed for structured and informed decision-making. The course will help current (and future) practitioners ensure that their approach to fisheries management is more ecologically sound and accounts for human needs as well as the governance realities within which they are operating. Essential EAFM will equip trainees to:

- Develop and implement an effective EAFM plan;
- Manage fisheries more holistically;
- Better resolve fisheries issues and challenges;
- Reduce user group conflicts;
- Work cooperatively with other stakeholders; and
- Help unlock financial resources to support initiatives to improve fisheries management.

Essential EAFM was piloted in mid-2013 in Malaysia, and a full training (with training of trainers) took place at SEAFDEC Training Department in January 2014. Several national training events have also been held in Malaysia and the Philippines.



II. PROPOSAL

The Essential EAFM training program is ready to be rolled out. And a cadre of SEAFDEC Training Department staff have been trained to conduct the course. SEAFDEC is well placed to address these capacity development needs through its own Training Department, to provide coordination support to future national EAFM training initiatives, and to serve as facilitator or moderator to the growing network of training graduates.

In order to assist the implementation of an EAFM Training Program in SEAFDEC countries, the BOBLME Project is prepared to provide funding towards the set up of an EAFM Training Coordination Unit that would be based in the offices of the SEAFDEC Training Department.

SEAFDEC would provide office space; and the BOBLME project would provide financial assistance for an EAFM Coordinator and an EAFM Coordinator Assistant; and basic office equipment.

The Coordination Unit would provide support and coordinate the multiple trainings that are going to take place in the region; including:

- Assistance with the delivery of the courses at SEAFDEC/TD and other training bodies;
- Providing technical and coordination support for the translation of course materials to regional languages;
- Providing technical and coordination support to the enrichment of the course materials through regional case studies and audio-visual media;
- Assisting with establishing and maintaining an online knowledge exchange network accessible to all past participants; and
- To ensure all the updated Essential EAFM course components are uploaded onto the various posted websites and maintain a repository of these materials and associated training reports.

In the first instance - the support from the BOBLME project would be one year. During this time, it is envisaged that other donors will be found to carry on the initiative.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION

To consider the content of this proposal; and make a decision on whether the SEAFDEC Training Department might host the EAFM Coordination Unit as a means of support to its forthcoming EAFM training program.

Annex 11

PROGRESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INLAND FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (IFRDMD) IN INDONESIA

(Combined from working papers prepared by SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia)

I. BACKGROUND

While recognizing the importance of inland fisheries has been well reflected at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 organized in June 2011, the Minister of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia proposed to establish a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development as part of SEAFDEC organization. The proposal was supported in principle by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries during the 14th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in November 2011, and the SEAFDEC Council during its 44th Meeting in 2012.

To move ahead of the establishment, of which the Government of Indonesia has officially named as the “Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD), SEAFDEC in collaboration with MMAF organized the first Meeting of the Working Group on the Establishment of the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD), which was held on 24-25 January 2013, in Palembang, Indonesia to discuss on the plan of operation, functions and work plan. To avoid the duplication of efforts among all SEAFDEC Departments including new department, the draft plan of operation, functions and its work plan for the IFRDMD were presented at the SEAFDEC Interdepartmental Meeting on 2 March 2013, whereas all chief, deputy department chief and the working group for establishment of new Department joined. Subsequently, the draft of plan of operation, function and work program of IFRDMD was proposed to the SEAFDEC Council during its 45th Meeting in 2013 for consideration.

Regarding this establishment of a new Department under SEAFDEC, Indonesia would utilise the existing Indonesian Institutions to promote inland fisheries under SEAFDEC framework. While noting the existing of the Research Institute for Inland Fisheries (RIIF), the Government of Indonesia also plans to donate land (~20,000 m²) and new building and research facilities for this new Department (see **Appendix 1**). Aside from infrastructures and support to the operations and staff of the new Department, Indonesia is also in the process of sourcing financial support from potential donors for the implementation of the programs and projects of IFRDMD.

II. PROGRESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “INLAND FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (IFRDMD)” IN INDONESIA

During the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in the Philippines in April 2013, Indonesia presented the final draft plan of operation, functions and its work plan for the IFRDMD, with the appreciation expressed by the Council to SEAFDEC and Indonesia for the support extended for the establishment of the new SEAFDEC Department. While expressing the concern that the activities of the new Department should be conducted in close cooperation with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Fisheries Programme as well as with national agencies/institutions on inland fisheries in the respective Member Countries in order to avoid duplication of efforts and activities that address common issues in the regional perspective.

While noting that the Government of Japan had already started efforts to increase funds to support the activities of the new Department through its Japanese Trust Fund as well as explore funding from other potential donors to ensure that sufficient resources would be available to support the activities of the new Department.

During the Special Council Meeting organized in October 2013, the proposed the Plan of Operation and Program of Work of IFRDMD was again presented together with the proposed revision of the Plan of Operation and Program of Work of other SEAFDEC Department and Secretariat, however it was recommended that activities of IFRDMD shall not include the aquaculture. In addition, the Council expressed the view that it might still be premature for the Council to make decision at this Meeting on the Proposed Revised Plans of Operation, prior to the final decision of the Council on the recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review. As the Council Directors are in the process of reviewing the priority areas of their respective country, the Council also recommended that such priorities, once available, should be taken into consideration in finalizing the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council at its next Meeting in 2014. In this regard, Indonesia could come up with a draft of Plan of Operation, Function, and Work Program of IFRDMD.

In February 2014, SEAFDEC organized the 4th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Review for Japanese Trust Fund-V and Identification of Prioritized Issues for Future Regional Program Formulation from 25 to 27 February 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. The prioritized issues were presented and discussed among SEAFDEC National Coordinators while the Meeting agreed that the list of prioritized issues will be submitted to SEAFDEC Council for consideration during its 46th Meeting.

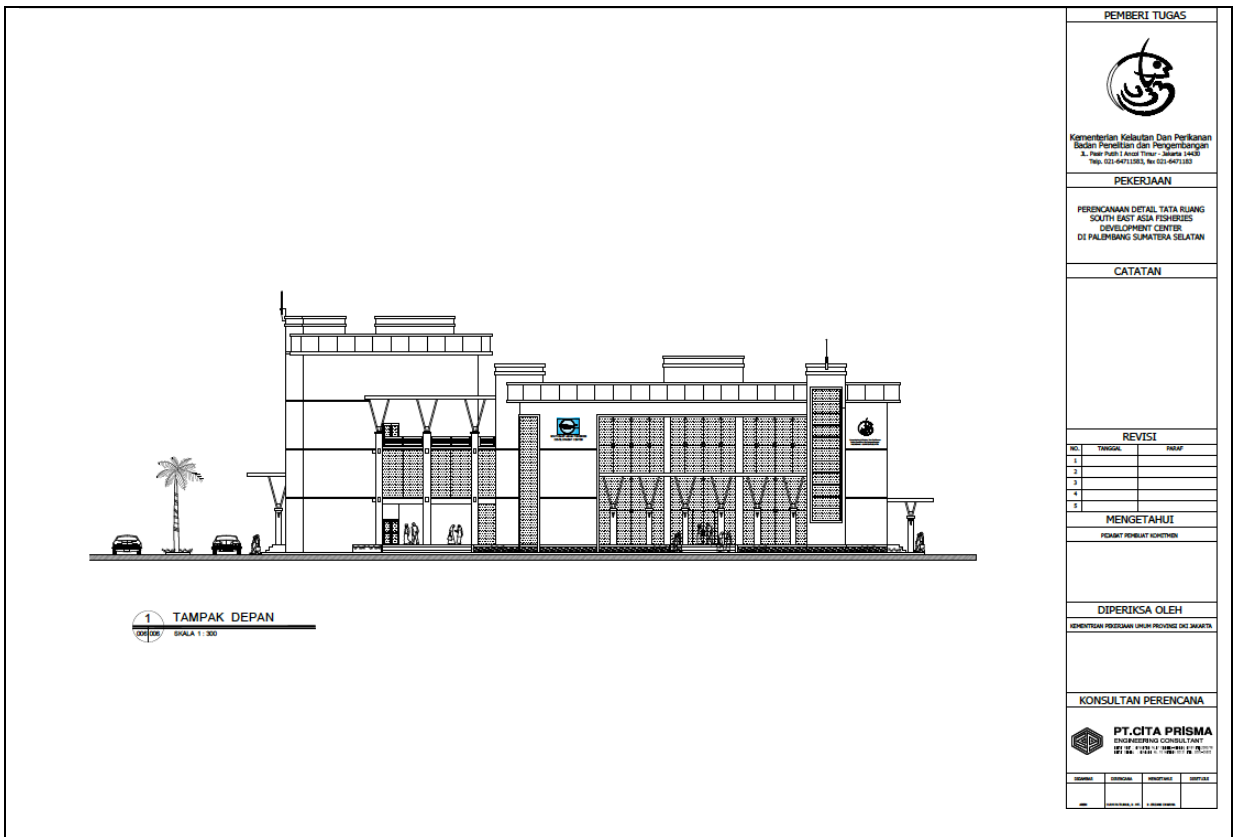
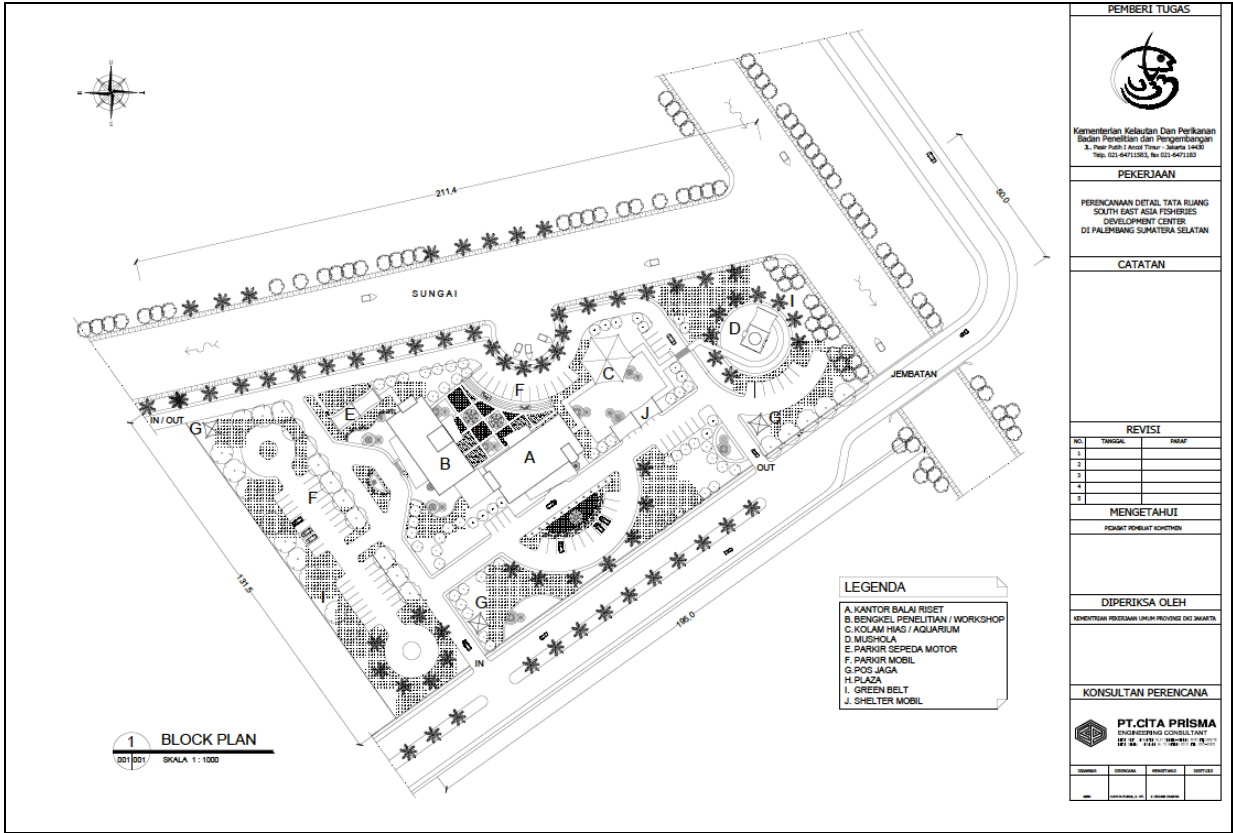
The Plan of Operation and Program of Work of IFRDMD (**Appendix 2**) were drafted taking into consideration the recommendations made at the Special Meeting of the Council and to the prioritized issues for inland fisheries that are agreed at the said NC meeting. It should be noted that the Council's approval of the Plan of Operation and Work Program of IFRDMD is required in order to support further process of formalizing the IFRDMD, which is currently under internal process of the country.

The number of staff and position of IFRDMD, and the draft initial work plan of IFRDMD also appear as **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 4**, respectively.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE SEAFDEC COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note on the progress on the establishment arrangements of the IFRDMD. The Council is also requested to provide policy directives, and consider endorsing the proposed Plan of Operation and Program of Work of the IFRDMD that is drafted in line with the recommendations made at Special Council Meeting in 2013 and it's mandate covers the prioritized issues agreed at the NC Meeting in February 2014.

Building Plan of IFRDMD



Plan of Operation and Program of Work of IFRDMD

I. THE PLAN OF OPERATION OF IFRDMD

1. The Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department has the following functions:
 - a) To act as a centre for providing guidelines for the proper development and management of inland fishery resources of Member Countries. The inland waters is permanent water bodies inland from the coastal zone and areas whose properties and use are dominated by the permanent, seasonal, or intermittent occurrence of flooded conditions. Inland waters include rivers, lakes, floodplains, reservoirs, wetlands, and inland saline systems.
 - b) To establish partnership with other organizations, such as Mekong River Commission, to mobilize research results and extend to other Member Countries
 - c) To develop guidelines of basic data collection of basic for routine monitoring activities of different types of habitat.
 - d) To provide the tools for assessment and management that can be applied in the region.
 - e) To monitor the state of inland fishery resources and exploitation of the resources;
 - f) To provide scientific basis for proper development and management of the inland fishery resources of Member Countries;
 - g) To serve as a regional forum for cooperation and consultation on research, conservation and management of inland fishery resources among Member Countries; and
 - h) To coordinate and implement programs to improve the capability of Member Countries in the development, management and conservation of the inland fishery resources.
 - i) To develop master plan that covers all programs of activities that will be undertaken for sustainable inland fisheries.
2. The Government of Indonesia provides the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Centre, with the following:
 - a) Services of the following professional staff:
 - (i) A Department Chief, and
 - (ii) Professional and service staff.
 - b) Adequate infrastructure facilities for inland fishery resources research and development, training and information dissemination programs of the Department including office building and laboratories; and
 - c) Appropriate funds towards operational expenses of the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department.
3. The Government of Japan provides the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Centre, with the following (*This part, SEAFDEC secretariat will consult internally with FA/Japan before any decisions*):
 - a) Services of the following professional staff:
 - (i) A Deputy Department Chief, and
 - (ii) An appropriate number of professional staff to implement the Department's programs.
 - b) Appropriate grants and amount of money in US\$ for the purchase of research equipment for scientists from Member Countries to conduct research at the IFRDMD and to upgrade the professional and technical expertise of the Department's staff.
4. In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement Establishing the Centre, the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in consultation with the SEAFDEC Secretariat may seek financial and technical assistance from potential donor governments and agencies to enable it to fulfill its functions.

5. All assets procured by the Government of Indonesia shall remain the properties of the Government of Indonesia

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE IFRDMD

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

A. Research Program

The research activities of the Department cover the following areas:

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

B. Training Program

The Department will conduct training through:

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

C. Information Program

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

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

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE IFRDMD

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



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

1. Administration and Finance Section

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

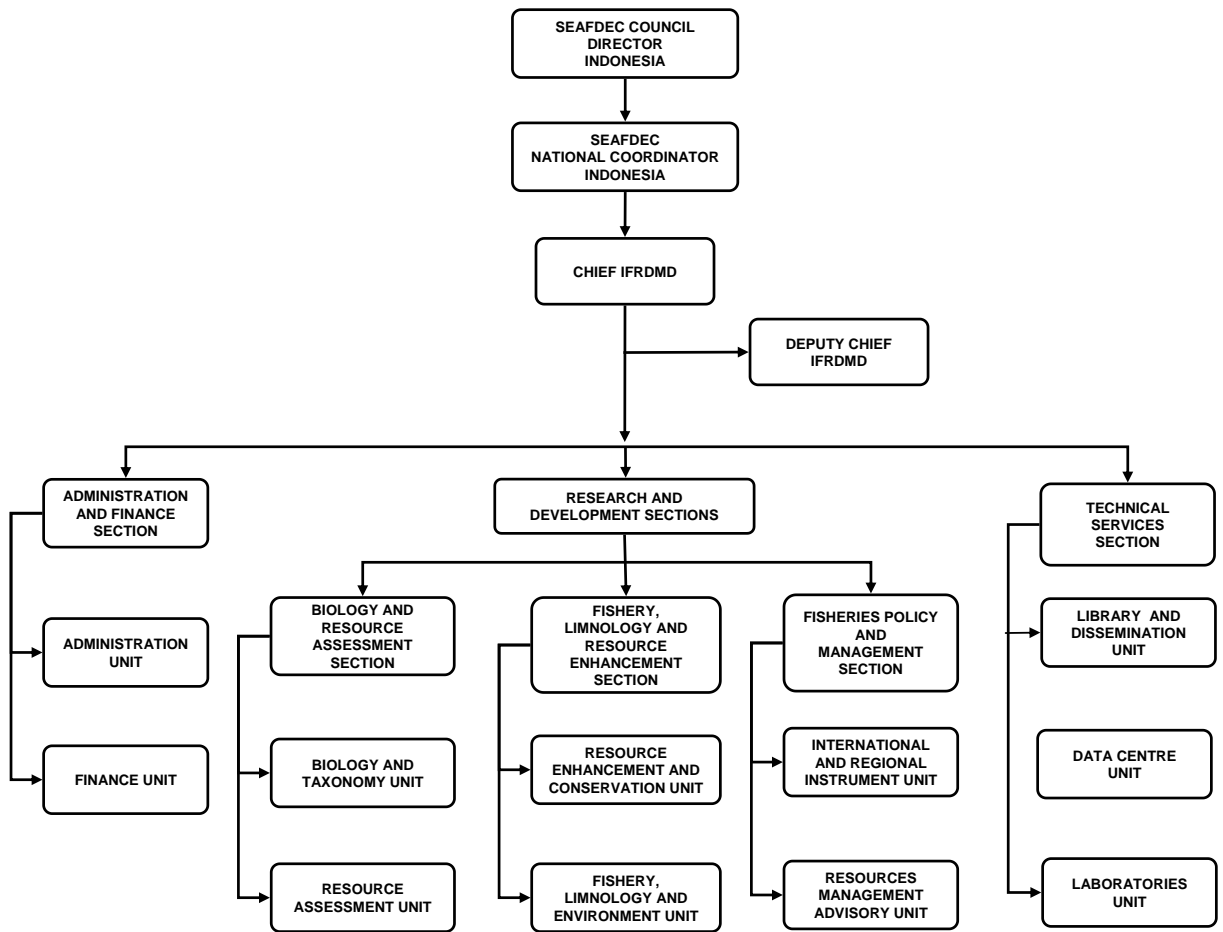
2. Research and Development Section

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

3. Technical Services Section

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

Organization Chart of SEAFDEC/IFRDMD



Number of Staff and Position of IFRDMD

No	Position	Number of person	Source
1	Chief of Department	1	Indonesia TBA
2	Deputy Chief of Department	1	TBA
3	Head of Administration and Finance Section	1	Indonesia
	- Administration staff	1	Indonesia
	- Finance Staff	1	Indonesia
4	Biology and Resource Assessment Section	1	Indonesia
	- Biology and Taxonomy staff	1	Indonesia
	- Resource Assessment staff	1	Indonesia
5	Fishery Limnology and Resource Enhancement Section	1	Indonesia
	- Resource Enhancement and Conservation staff	1	Indonesia
	- Fishery Limnology and Environment staff	1	Indonesia
6	Fisheries Policy and Management Section	1	Indonesia
	- International and Regional Instrument staff	1	Indonesia
	- Resource Management Advisory staff	1	Indonesia
7	Technical Services Section	1	Indonesia
	- Library and Dissemination staff	1	Indonesia
	- Data Centre staff	1	Indonesia
	- Laboratory staff	1	Indonesia
Total Personnel		18	

Draft of Initial Work Plan of IFRDMD

Year	Components	Objectives	Activities	
1	Compiling basic information on eel species in the Southeast Asia	To conduct a review on status and trends of freshwater eel fisheries in the Southeast Asia region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop studies on biological aspects and detail distribution of eel species 	
2			To collect detail data and information on status and trend of eels fisheries in the Southeast Asian region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status of eel fisheries in SEAFDEC member countries. This activity will be conducted by the IFRDMD and MFRDMD. • Organizing a workshop to exchange information on eels in the Southeast Asia (including its biology and current status of fisheries and aquaculture). This workshop is aimed at identifying SEAFDEC's future activities for promoting sustainable eel fisheries and aquaculture in the region (Biological Study, Development of fishery management methods, etc.).
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data catch and effort by species by area by time • Number of fishers and household • Policy and regulation (if any)
3	To establish a robust methodology in the statistical data collection of the freshwater eel fisheries	Conduct intensive activities and workshop to establish a methodology in the statistical data collection. This activities and workshop should be involved eel experts, database expert and mathematic expert		
4	Research on eel biology	To obtain and summarize genetic information for eels species population structure identification in the region by using DNA technology	Conduct some sampling on biological aspects including species identification, size and aging, gonad maturity, etc.	
	Development of eel fishery management measures	To train technical officers in the participating Member Countries to be able to collect taxonomic and biological data on eels in their countries.	Conduct training workshops and publish the guideline of data collection statistic of the freshwater eel fisheries.	
			Publish the SEAFDEC Freshwater Eel Statistic (if possible)	
Promotion of sustainable utilization of eel resources	To promote conservation, management and sustainable utilization of Eel Resources in the Southeast Asia region	Conduct workshops to harmonizing policy on the promotion of sustainable utilization of eel resources.		
		Create code of conduct for the utilization of eel resources (if possible)		

COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT OF SEAFOOD

(Project proposal prepared by Singapore)

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Seafood is an important commodity in many ASEAN Member States and serves as an important source of foreign exchange and food supply for these countries. There is an increasing demand for seafood as consumers around the world recognize their nutritional value. However, seafood is very perishable and several chemical and biological changes occur immediately after capture and/or harvest. The deterioration process of seafood quality by microbiological metabolism, oxidative reaction and enzymatic activity is accelerated by poor temperature control along the supply chain. Thus, good cold chain management is one of the most critical requirements to keep the seafood product fresh and safe, extend shelf life and to maintain its quality and economic value from catch to consumer.

Throughout the seafood supply chain, the seafood industry relies on proper cold chain to ensure the commercial viability of the seafood products. Modern technologies for seafood production at the aquaculture farms, seafood catch on the fishing vessels, pre-harvest considerations, post-harvest handling techniques, processing, packaging, storage, distribution and transportation modes, wholesale and retail constitute integral parts of the seafood cold chain management process. Only proper management at every stage of this cold chain would enable the supply of fresh, quality, wholesome and safe seafood to consumers. This cold chain may take various forms including ice, refrigerated seawater, refrigerated compartments and cold stores. Low temperature conditions have to be supported by careful, hygienic handling practices during processing, storage and transportation to effectively reduce the spoilage of fish.

The implementation of cold chain for seafood in the ASEAN region involves a number of challenges. One of the major challenges is the lack of or limited integrated supply chains from farm to fork where each industry player regards itself as a separate entity and does not impose cold chain requirements on the next stage in the supply chain. However, any breakage in the cold chain would have cumulative effects on the final quality of the seafood. The great diversity of species combined with multiple international origins and production methods (fishing or farming) further complicate the cold chain requirements. Secondly, seafood and many other traditional fish products in the ASEAN region are largely handled by small- and medium-sized establishments which lack appropriate facilities, technologies and knowledge in adopting cold chain practices. Lastly, cold chain management is still seen as non-mandatory in many countries; some cold chain guidelines may have been established but cannot be enforced as regulation.

Notwithstanding these challenges, there is substantial opportunity to create a platform for the ASEAN region to share knowledge, experiences and cost-effective technologies on the cold chain management for seafood. A set of general guidelines may be established to serve as a benchmark for Member Countries when developing their own national guidelines. Cold chain management of seafood should be promoted to safeguard consumer health and food security and to ensure the sustainability of the seafood industry.

The project is proposed based on the following Resolution and Plan of Action as endorsed at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference of 2011:

Resolution 20: Optimize the utilization of catch from water to market by reducing post-harvest losses and waste to increase fish supply and improve economic returns through promotion of appropriate technologies and facilities along the supply chain

Plan of Action D58: Introduce and provide support for the development and application of technologies that optimize the utilization of catch, reduce post-harvest losses, wastes and discards in commercial and small-scale fisheries and processing operations, through improved processing, facilities and infrastructure development, on-board and on-shore handling, storage, distribution and marketing of fish and fishery products.

Plan of Action D63: Promote and conduct training programs and develop training materials to upgrade the technical skills and competencies of personnel in the public and private sectors on fisheries post-harvest technology and food safety management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project are:

1. To assist in upgrading the regional seafood industry in cold chain management and technologies; and
2. To develop generic guidelines on cold chain management for the seafood industry in the region.

The expected outputs for the project:

1. Workshop on Cold Chain Management of Seafood (fish and shrimp);
2. Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood in the ASEAN Region; and
3. End-of-Project Seminar

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Post-Harvest Technology Department (PHTD) of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) as the Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC for MFRD programs will be responsible for the project and will manage and coordinate all project activities.

The project will be funded using the MFRD Other Fund and will be on a cost-sharing basis with the ASEAN Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.

The project will be implemented through the following activities:

Activity 1: Project Inception and Planning Meeting (2 days)

A 2-day Project Inception and Planning Meeting will be held in Singapore to discuss and plan for all project activities. Two participants each from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam who are involved in the seafood industry will be invited to attend; one of whom should be from the private sector. The meeting will provide an opportunity for a better overview and understanding of the seafood cold chain resources and practices in these countries, and briefly assess the requirements/ deliverables for each project activity. The meeting will also identify the key project leader in each country and commercial cooperants, if any, for the project.

Activity 2: Workshop on Cold Chain Management for Seafood (3 days)

A Regional Workshop on Cold Chain Management for Seafood will be organized by MFRD and conducted in Singapore. MFRD proposes to engage an overseas expert in seafood cold chain management to be the resource speaker/trainer for this workshop. Two participants from each country will be invited to attend, one of whom should be from the private sector. The workshop will include lectures and hands-on practicals on the best practices and technologies for seafood cold chain management, incorporating discussion of end-user and food safety specifications. Participants will

learn the temperature logging techniques to monitor the cold chain from harvest to end-user/consumer, with measurement of product quality parameters (e.g. microbiological analyses, drip loss, quality index development, etc). Participants will also be taught how to undertake supply chain monitoring within companies or with specific seafood groups, and develop performance indicators to evaluate the impacts of adopting proper cold chain practices in the seafood business. Good manufacturing and handling practices to ensure product safety and quality will also be emphasized in the course. Field visits to a few Singapore seafood companies may be arranged to understand the supply chain practices in Singapore's seafood industry.

The workshop will also discuss to agree on the necessary steps and timelines to meet the project objective to develop a set of generic guidelines on cold chain management for the seafood industry in the region.

Activity 3: Supply Chain/ Cold Chain Pilot Trials (1 year)

Each country may conduct pilot trials to implement cold chain management at either one stage of the seafood supply chain, or across the whole integrated supply chain. The performance of the cold chain practices adoption will be evaluated with the defined criteria by the country. This activity will be conducted for a period of about one year. The results and data of the pilot trials will be useful when developing the generic guidelines on cold chain management for the seafood industry in the region.

Activity 4: Mid-term Evaluation and Progress Meeting (2 days)

A 2-day Mid-term Evaluation and Progress Meeting will be held in Singapore at the end of the pilot trials to discuss and evaluate the results of the pilot trials and to discuss and plan for the subsequent project activities *i.e.* drafting of the seafood cold chain management guidelines and the End-of-Project Seminar. Two participants from each country will be invited to attend.

Activity 5: Preparation and Publication of Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood (6-8months)

Each country will draft a section or sections of the Seafood Cold Chain Management guidelines. The various sections will be compiled and edited by MFRD which will then publish the guidelines for distribution to ASEAN Member States.

Activity 6: End-of-Project Seminar (2 days)

An End-of-Project Seminar will be organized in Singapore or another member country as agreed to share the results of the project and the seafood cold chain guidelines among the Member Countries. Two participants from each country will be invited to attend of which at least one should be from the private sector.

IV. PROJECT SCHEDULE

Duration: 3 years (2015 – 2017)

V. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Program/Project /Activities	2015				2016				2017			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Project Inception and Planning Meeting (2 days)												
2. Workshop on Cold Chain Management of Seafood (3 days)												
3. Supply Chain/ Cold Chain Pilot Trials (1 year)												
4. Mid-term Evaluation and Progress Meeting (2 days)												
5. Drafting of Seafood Cold Chain Management Guidelines (6-8 months)												
6. End-of-Project Seminar (2 days)												

VI. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: US\$ 136,120

STATEMENT

*By Mr. Robert Lee
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP)*

Mr. Lee Kwong Weng, Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, and Deputy CEO (Corporate and Technology) and Council Director for Singapore,
Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,
Attorney Asis Perez, outgoing Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council,
Distinguished SEAFDEC Council Directors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director General of FAO, Mr. Graziano Da Silva and Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of the FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO would like to sincerely thank the SEAFDEC Council for the opportunity to participate in this, the 46th meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

FAO applauds SEAFDEC for its contribution to regional cooperation particularly in promoting sustainable fisheries development in the ASEAN region. Balancing the needs for national and regional economic growth with, with necessary sustainable resource exploitation continues to be a serious challenge for all countries. Of the 10 ASEAN Member States, 7 ranked amongst the highest fisheries and aquaculture producers in the Asian region. This production has come at a price, with many of the fisheries of the region showing steady declines in the catch per unit effort and strong indications of overfishing and ecosystem level effects. We already know that the task ahead will become even more challenging as marine resources increasingly become impacted by the region's industrial and commercial development, increasing marine solid waste and chemical pollution, fleet overcapacity, illegal fishing, climate change and the ever increasing demand for aquatic and animal feeds from by-catch. Confronting these challenges will require increased collaboration, cooperation, knowledge sharing, joint planning and advocacy in order to make the changes required to reverse some of the negative trends related to natural and fisheries resources management.

In this regard, FAO welcomes SEAFDEC's productive collaboration with FAO as well as with other international, regional and non-governmental organizations. SEAFDEC has an increasingly important role as the regional body capable of promoting and influencing sustainable fisheries management within its mandate and area of influence.

FAO's recent work with SEAFDEC has seen collaboration in jointly executing the REBYC-II CTI, Strategies for Trawl Bycatch Management, an important step in the region towards promoting responsible management of trawl fisheries. The cooperation of SEAFDEC in the development of the APFIC Trawl Management Guidelines is also appreciated. SEAFDEC has more recently joined hands with FAO, APFIC, BOBLME and NOAA in the rollout of the Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EEAFM) training course. This course was successfully run at SEAFDEC/TD for 25 regional fisheries personnel and for SEAFDEC staff in January this year. It has now been successfully run in the Philippines and twice in Malaysia, and there are calls for follow-up, in-country training. The commitment of SEAFDEC to this process is also seen through activities of adding further value to the course by developing audio-visual materials to support the course modules. We also understand that there are plans afoot to roll out the course for Thai university students studying fisheries. Indeed, it is these types of synergies that we believe where much impact can be gained.

FAO sincerely hopes that this type of collaboration will continue in the future and grow from strength to strength using the synergies of the two organizations to assist the member states towards more robust and effective fishery management planning.

Forthcoming, in 2014, FAO looks forward to welcoming the SEAFDEC representatives to the 31st Session of the Committee of Fisheries from 9-13 June, in Rome and to the APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and 33rd Session, to be held in, Hyderabad, India in June this year. We believe that building joint regional programmes could greatly enhance inter member state collaboration.

An example of one area of work where there is good potential for regional collaboration is the follow on and scaling up of capacity building for implementing more effective Port State Measures in the region. The momentum for this started with FAO support to Thailand in developing a Port Inspector's training initiative in Phuket. Other areas of collaboration include combating IUU through Port and Flag State measures, capacity strengthening for implementation of Port Inspections, vessel control and monitoring systems and advocacy among Member States to have greater momentum in combating and elimination IUU.

Asia's fish supply in the future will increasingly come from aquaculture, and the sustainable intensification of this sector will increasingly require stronger regulation and management if it is to fulfill this potential. FAO will be looking for greater collaboration with SEAFDEC/AQD on the sustainable development of aquaculture to face the challenges of the sector in the next decade.

Finally, FAO is pleased to inform the council of the development of a project submitted to GEF in support of inland fisheries in Indonesia. FAO expects that this will see capacity building activities at the SEAFDEC inland fisheries centre in Palembang, another good example of our collaborative support, this time focusing on management of inland fisheries.

Distinguished Council Members, I would like to reiterate FAO's appreciation to be able to participate in this Council Meeting and reaffirm FAO's commitment to working with our regional partners towards sustainable management of our aquatic resources. Finally, I would like to thank our hosts, the Government of Singapore and the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority for providing their warm Singaporean hospitality.

Thank you.

STATEMENT

By *Dr. Craig J. Starger*
United States Agency for International Development,
Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA)

Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General and Mr. Chairman, and thank you to AVA for hosting this event.

We would like to make a brief statement to the Council Directors and guests.

The United States Government is deeply committed to sustainable fisheries in the Asia region. Ocean health and sustainable fisheries are priorities of President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry who also holds a very strong personal interest in the health of our oceans.

USAID has a history of supporting marine conservation and sustainable fisheries in Asia, most recently through our support to the Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF). And I thank the delegate from Indonesia for reminding us that the CTI-CFF Permanent Secretariat will be launched next month at the World Coral Reef Conference in Manado, Indonesia. Also we are pleased to report on progress to institutionalize the regional EAFM Training Curriculum in Asia with the SEAFDEC Training Department, through the CTI-CFF, the USCTI Support Program and NOAA, SEAFDEC and the UN/FAO/Bay of Bengal Large Marine Eco-region Project.

Looking ahead, USAID is interested, as you are, in the ambitious challenge of combating illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Asia. This is not only an issue of biodiversity conservation and food security, but IUU fishing is also linked to wildlife trafficking and other forms of transnational crime including forced labor and trafficking in persons which undermine regional stability.

In looking for solutions, we note that the *Plan of Action for Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020* lists “catch certification” and traceability” as priority action items for combating IUU fishing and implementing the ecosystem approach for fisheries management (EAFM).

We have heard some updates already at this meeting on progress that SEAFDEC has made in working towards an ASEAN regional catch documentation system. And we have also heard some discussion on traceability in the aquaculture supply chain, both to comply with the requirements of seafood importing bodies such as the E.U. and to combat IUU fishing. And I will also point out that the United States is also currently considering a policy that will require full traceability of all seafood products.

We at USAID are currently interested to learn more about the progress of SEAFDEC, the Member Countries, and the private sector in achieving a unified, regional certification and catch registration system, and in implementing traceability both to combat IUU fishing and to comply with national and international requirements. In particular, we are interested to know about the technical challenges in implementing these systems, but also the institutional responsibilities, and role of the private sector, for managing and sustaining catch certification and traceability systems.

We at USAID are interested to know how we may be able to help implement catch certification and traceability in the Asia region through our foreign assistance programs moving forward.



We will soon be soliciting a request for information in a few weeks online asking these same questions, but in the mean time, we hope that you will share your advice and recommendations with us at this meeting.

STATEMENT

*By Dr. Abdul Basir Kunhimohamed
Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information
and Advisory Services (INFOFISH)*

Good morning,
Ladies and gentlemen

Indeed, it is my pleasure to participate in SEAFDEC 46th Council Meeting and exchange information and views with esteemed participants. My sincere thanks to SEAFDEC for inviting INFOFISH to this meeting and last but not least, to Singapore for the kind hospitality and for the excellent arrangement of this eventful meeting.

As an inter-governmental organization, I believe that it is very competitive now-a-days to obtain grants, donations and sponsorships from other bodies/organization in support to our programs whether it is a research/study programs or MICE programs. I therefore would like to invite SEAFDEC and other members to work together in developing innovative programs for the industry. The SEAFDEC Technical Expertise in different fields of fisheries and INFOFISH Marketing Expertise, I believe we can synergize for the benefits of whole industry.

INFOFISH adopt service oriented approach and presently implementing projects in Member Countries funded by donor agencies. The CFC funded project entitled 'Promotion of Processing and Marketing of Freshwater Fish Products is under progress in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

In addition to the projects and regular activities INFOFISH has already scheduled a few major events for the year 2014, starting with:-

- (i) TUNA 2014: INFOFISH- 13th TUNA Conference & Exhibition 2014 scheduled to be held from 21-23 May 2014 at Bangkok. TUNA Conference is a biennial event and expected to attract approximately 600-700 participants. Along with the Conference is the Exhibition with a capacity of 40 booths;
- (ii) MISE 2014: The 3rd Malaysia International Seafood Exposition (MISE 2014) is scheduled from 19-21 June 2014 in PWTC, at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This event is hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Malaysia and co-organised by Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia (FDAM) and INFOFISH. 220 booths are planned for the 3-day exhibition and is targeting for the exhibitors from the fishery industry worldwide. In conjunction with MISE 2014, a 2-day conference on aquaculture and trade, will be organised on 19-20 June 2014 with an expected of 300 delegates;
- (iii) SHRIMP 2014: A Technical and Trade Conference on Shrimp, is scheduled to be organized in collaboration with MPEDA, India in Chennai on 1-3 November 2014. The details are to be finalized soon in consultation with MPEDA;
- (iv) Ornamental Trade and Exhibition 2014: Upon completion of the SHRIMP 2014, another major event, Ornamental Trade and Exhibition will be followed to be held in December 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This event will be organized in collaboration with Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB) and is now in the midst of finalizing the details; and



(v) TILAPIA 2015: The last event in line is Tilapia Technical Trade Conference and Exhibition scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in April 2015. TILAPIA 2015 a global event will be co-organized with Department of Fisheries and Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia (FDAM).

It will be my honor to receive the participation of SEAFDEC members to INFOFISH programs. We can work out special fees for SEAFDEC sponsored participants. The details of the programs and the participation forms are available on INFOFISH Website: www.infofish.org and also to the particular event website: www.tunatradeconference.com, and www.mise2014.com

Thank you once again for giving me opportunity to share the information and my special thanks are also to Mr. Lee Kwong Weng , Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for chairing this fruitful meeting.

I look forward to work together with SEAFDEC in particular and also with other members in our future programs.

Thank you.

PRIORITIZED ISSUES FOR FUTURE REGIONAL PROGRAM FORMULATION

(As agreed by SEAFDEC National Coordinators in February 2014)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Third SEAFDEC Review provided recommendations/suggestions for the improvement of the SEAFDEC organization as well as the “List of Issues” that should be considered/undertaken by SEAFDEC for future regional program formulation, which appears in **Appendix 1**. During its 36th Meeting, the SEAFDEC Program Committee suggested that the SEAFDEC National Coordinators should conduct a thorough discussion among the countries and come up with final recommendations before the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. In this connection, the SEAFDEC National Coordinators met to finalize the prioritized areas for future regional program formulation during the 4th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Review for Japanese Trust Fund V and Identification of Prioritized Issues for Future Regional Program Formulation on 25-26 February 2014 in Bangkok. In addition, priority areas for inland fisheries were indentified separately, in view of the several specific areas which are different from marine fisheries, which would also be considered for regional program formulation.

The conduct of such meeting was considered crucial in order to finalize the prioritization of the issues for future regional program formulation. The results of the prioritization are linked to the inputs for the revision of the Plans of Operation (role and functions) and Programs of Work of the SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat. It should be recalled that during its Special Meeting in October 2013, the Council recommended that the priorities, once available, should be taken into consideration in finalizing the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council at its next Meeting in 2014.

II. REGIONAL PRIORITIZED ISSUES

During the 26 February 2014 Meeting, the discussion and finalization of the prioritized issues was participated in by the National Coordinators as well as representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The Chief, Deputy Chief and Special Departmental Coordinator and senior staff of the respective SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat also took part in the process except the MFRD Chief that did not attend the meeting.

The prioritization process took into consideration the issues that have been identified during the Third SEAFDEC Review, which have been used as reference. After the discussion, the meeting agreed on the list of prioritized issues classified into seven (7) Components for regional program formulation as shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. The agreed regional prioritized issues identified in Components 1 to 6

Components/Issues	Regional Priority
Component 1: Fisheries Management	
1) Conservation and management of fishery resources, taking into consideration tropical specificity of fisheries and applying precautionary approach	1
2) Combating IUU fishing, including encouraging cooperation in the implementation of MCS among countries	2
3) Enhancing good management practices, <i>e.g.</i> responsible fisheries, EAF; and development of guidelines for fisheries management	2
4) Management of fishing capacity, including shifting from open-access to limited-access	3

Components/Issues	Regional Priority
5) Promoting community – based fisheries management, co- management and empowering of fishers in fisheries management	4
6) Providing recommendations for management of shared stocks, and resolving conflicts among countries in fisheries outside their respective EEZ	4
7) Harmonization of vessel registration and fishery licensing	5
Component 2: Fishing Technology and Practices	
1) Promotion and awareness building on responsible fishing	1
2) Improving fish quality through on-board fish handling technologies and good practices for small-scale fisheries	2
3) Developing and enhancing the use of automated and mechanized fishing gears and energy saving technologies	3
Component 3: Post-harvest Technology and Trade-related Issues	
1) Improving post-harvest technologies and safety/quality of products for export	1
2) Addressing emerging requirements for traceability/ certification of fishery products for export	2
3) Preventing trade of IUU fishing products	2
4) Developing new technologies for fishery post-harvest, including value-added products and reduction of wastes	3
5) Enhancing market access of products from small-scale fishers	4
Component 4: Sustainable Aquaculture	
1) Promoting best management practices in aquaculture	1
2) Development of feeds to reduce dependence on fish meal and fish-based products	2
3) Minimizing impacts of aquaculture on the environment/ biodiversity	3
4) Advancing aquaculture technologies	4
5) Implementing regional guidelines for good aquaculture practices	5
Component 5: Fisheries Information and Statistics	
1) Improving the harmonization and collect/compilation of fishery statistics and information	1
2) Enhancing the analysis, interpretation and analysis of available data and information to provide information status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture, and support science-based policy planning and management of fisheries	1
3) Improving database of fishery information and statistics to facilitate sharing/dissemination of data an information	1
Component 6: Human Resources Development	
1) Assessing human resources requirements of the Member Countries, and providing human resources development program, particularly in the areas where shortage could be envisaged in the future	1
Component 7: Others*	
1) Inland fisheries and aquaculture	To be identified

As shown in **Table 1**, the prioritized issues have been classified under the seven (7) components, which cover the areas of marine and inland fisheries. However, while considering the importance of inland fisheries and aquaculture, the meeting suggested that issues in inland fisheries should also be specifically identified and prioritized by the Member Countries. The SEAFDEC Secretariat therefore collected the inputs for discussion which the meeting used for the prioritization of the issues in inland fisheries. After the deliberation, the meeting came up with the regional prioritized issues for inland fisheries as shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2. The agreed regional prioritized issues for inland fisheries as indicated in Component 7

Components/Issues	Regional Priority
New Component 7: Inland Fisheries	
1) Habitat conservation/rehabilitation and resource enhancement for inland fisheries, including inundated forest and wetland	1
2) Co-management, rights-based fisheries, strengthening institutions, alternative livelihood	2
3) Ecosystem approach to inland fisheries	3
4) Enhancing awareness on the importance of inland fisheries, including contribution to food security	4
5) Measures needed to mitigate effects of climate change and to build adaptive capacity	5
6) Indicators for sustainable inland fisheries	6
7) Improving methodologies for collection of data and information on inland fisheries	6
8) Management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing	7
9) Enhancing interconnectivity of habitat and mitigating impacts from water infrastructure	8

III. CONCLUSION ON THE AGREED REGIONAL PRIORITIZED ISSUES AND LINK TO EACH SEAFDEC DEPARTMENT AND SECRETARIAT

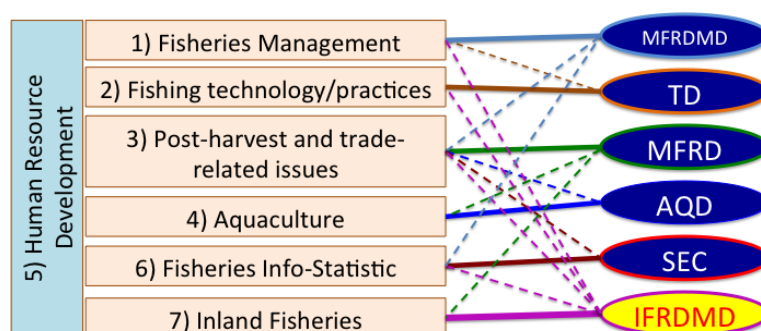


Fig. 1. Link between the regional prioritized issues and the functions of the SEAFDEC Departments and the Secretariat

The Regional Prioritized Issues shown in **Tables 1** and **Table 2** have been agreed upon by the Member Countries during the 26 February meeting. The SEAFDEC Secretariat established the link between each component and the functions of the SEAFDEC Departments as shown in **Fig. 1**. This link would serve as guide and provide better demarcation of the functions of each Department and the Secretariat, in order that duplication of efforts is avoided and their respective roles and functions of works are enhanced.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY SEAFDEC COUNCIL

The Council is requested to consider and endorse the prioritized areas and issues as results from the National Coordinators meeting on 26 February 2014 for future regional programs formulation. The Council is also invited to provide directives and guidance to SEAFDEC for the revision of the Plans of Operation (Role and Functions) and Programs of Work of the SEAFDEC Departments and the Secretariat.

List of Issues that should be considered/undertaken by SEAFDEC

(As identified by the Third SEAFDEC Review Committees)

Fisheries Management:

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

Fishing Technologies and Practices:

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

Post-harvest and trade-related Issues:

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

Aquaculture:

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

Human resources development:

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

Fisheries Information and Statistics:

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

Others:

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

Annex 17

PRIORITIZED ISSUES FOR FUTURE REGIONAL PROGRAM FORMULATION*(As adopted by the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2014)*

Components/Issues	Regional Priority
Component 1: Fisheries Management	
1) Conservation and management of fishery resources, taking into consideration tropical specificity of fisheries and applying precautionary approach	1
2) Combating IUU fishing, including encouraging cooperation in the implementation of MCS among countries*	1
8) Enhancing good management practices, <i>e.g.</i> responsible fisheries, EAF; and development of guidelines for fisheries management	2
9) Management of fishing capacity, including shifting from open-access to limited-access	3
10) Promoting community – based fisheries management, co- management and empowering of fishers in fisheries management	4
11) Providing recommendations for management of shared stocks, and resolving conflicts among countries in fisheries outside their respective EEZ	4
12) Harmonization of vessel registration and fishery licensing	5
Component 2: Fishing Technology and Practices	
4) Promotion and awareness building on responsible fishing	1
5) Improving fish quality through on-board fish handling technologies and good practices for small-scale fisheries	2
6) Developing and enhancing the use of automated and mechanized fishing gears and energy saving technologies	3
Component 3: Post-harvest Technology and Trade-related Issues	
6) Improving post-harvest technologies and safety/quality of products for export	1
7) Addressing emerging requirements for traceability/ certification of fishery products for export*	1
8) Preventing trade of IUU fishing products	2
9) Developing new technologies for fishery post-harvest, including value-added products and reduction of wastes	3
10) Enhancing market access of products from small-scale fishers	4
Component 4: Sustainable Aquaculture	
6) Promoting best management practices in aquaculture	1
7) Fish Health Management: Trans-boundary Disease Control**	1
8) Development of feeds to reduce dependence on fish meal and fish-based products	2
9) Minimizing impacts of aquaculture on the environment/ biodiversity	3
10) Advancing aquaculture technologies	4
11) Implementing regional guidelines for good aquaculture practices	5
12) Undertaking R&D on aquaculture that are required for different objectives, <i>e.g.</i> for economic development, food security, livelihood improvement, resources enhancement, etc.	6
13) Giving more emphasis on the roles of aquaculture for food security and poverty alleviation, especially using indigenous species, as well as technology verification and extension activities	7
Component 5: Fisheries Information and Statistics	
4) Improving the harmonization and collect/compilation of fishery statistics and information	1

Components/Issues	Regional Priority
5) Enhancing the analysis, interpretation and analysis of available data and information to provide information status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture, and support science-based policy planning and management of fisheries	1
6) Improving database of fishery information and statistics to facilitate sharing/dissemination of data an information	1
Component 6: Human Resources Development	
2) Assessing human resources requirements of the Member Countries, and providing human resources development program, particularly in the areas where shortage could be envisaged in the future	1
Component 7: Inland Fisheries	
1) Habitat conservation/rehabilitation and resource enhancement for inland fisheries, including inundated forest and wetland	1
2) Co-management, rights-based fisheries, strengthening institutions, alternative livelihood	2
3) Ecosystem approach to inland fisheries	3
4) Enhancing awareness on the importance of inland fisheries, including contribution to food security	4
5) Measures needed to mitigate effects of climate change and to build adaptive capacity	5
6) Indicators for sustainable inland fisheries	6
7) Improving methodologies for collection of data and information on inland fisheries	6
8) Management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing	7
9) Enhancing interconnectivity of habitat and mitigating impacts from water infrastructure	8

Remarks

* The high priority level was recommended at the 46th CM

** The new issue raised as high priority at the 46th CM

Annex 18

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE PLANS OF OPERATION AND PROGRAMS OF WORK OF SEAFDEC DEPARTMENTS AND SECRETARIAT

This document aims to report the progress of the proposed revision of the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of the SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat as recommended by the Third SEAFDEC Review in 2013 at the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, and revisited at the Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in October 2013. The recommendation of the Special Council Meeting was addressed during the special meeting of the SEAFDEC National Coordinators on the “Identification of the Prioritized Issues for Future Regional Program Formulation” held on 26 February 2014 in Bangkok. Moreover, while taking into account the recommendation of the Council that - *such priorities, once available, should be taken into consideration in finalizing the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council* at its next Meeting in 2014, this document therefore includes such revised Plans of Operation and Programs of Work. Nevertheless, this issue will be discussed at the 46th Meeting of Council, only if results of the “Identification of the Prioritized Issues for Future Regional Program Formulation” are endorsed by the Council.

However, after consultation with the new Chair of the SEAFDEC Council for Singapore (2014-2015), it was suggested that the proposed revision Plan of Operation and Program of Work of the SEAFDEC Departments and proposed functions of Secretariat should be circulated to all Council Directors prior to the 46th Meeting of the Council for consideration. Noting that the new revised Plan and Operation and Program of Work proposed by SEAFDEC Departments will cover the regional prioritized areas agreed by the SEAFDEC National Coordinators Meeting in February 2014.

In this connection, the Secretariat provides the current Plan of Operation and Program of Work as well as the proposed revised ones for TD, MFRD, AQD and MFRDMD, including the Functions of the Secretariat for consideration and endorsement by the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The proposed revision of plans of operation and programs of work of SEAFDEC Departments and the proposed functions of Secretariat appear as **Appendix 1** to **Appendix 5**.

**Proposed Revision of Plan of Operation and Program of Work:
Training Department (TD)**

I. PLAN OF OPERATION

1. The Training Department has the following functions:
 - (i) To train fishery personnel of Member Countries and other countries in various aspects of sustainable capture fisheries, optimum utilization of fishery resources, resource enhancement, coastal and small-scale fishery management and emerging issues concerns, in order that available fishery resources would be effectively and rationally utilized;
 - (ii) To undertake research and development (R&D) on fishing grounds, fishing gear improvement, statistics and socio-economic aspects related to marine capture fisheries, to facilitate the management and sustainable utilization of fishery resources in the Southeast Asian region; and
 - (iii) To develop and promote regional fisheries information to the Member Countries for policy consideration at national level and sub-regional areas.

2. The Government of Thailand provides the Training Department, in accordance with the provisions of the Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, with the following:
 - (i) An area of land located in Samut Prakan as the site of the Training Department;
 - (ii) Buildings with floor space to accommodate the Training Department, including a trainees' dormitory and other facilities;
 - (iii) Office furniture and equipment, including vehicles;
 - (iv) Services of professional and general staff; and
 - (v) An amount of money as an annual contribution towards the operational expenses of the Training Department; and fellowship funds for Thai trainees.

3. The Government of Japan provides the Training Department, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, with the following:
 - (i) Services of professional staff;
 - (ii) A fully equipped steel training and research purse seiner of 1,178 gross tons, and an FRP purse seiner of approximately 65 gross tons from Japan;
 - (iii) An amount of money in Yen for the purchase of training and research instruments and equipment;
 - (iv) An amount of money in U.S. dollars to provide fellowships and training equipment for trainees from Member Countries; and
 - (v) An amount of money in U.S. dollars as an annual contribution towards the operational expenses of the Training Department.

4. In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Training Department seeks financial and technical assistance from potential donor governments and agencies, to enable it to fulfill its functions and the objectives of the Center.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK

In view of the functions described in the Plan of Operation, the Training Department will implement training, research, and information activities as approved by the Council of the Center. These activities will serve as means of promoting sustainable fisheries development and management in Southeast Asia.

A. Research and Development Program

The Research and Development Program of the Department covers the following major areas and activities:

1. Sustainable Capture Fisheries
 - a. Reduction of the impacts of fishing to marine fishery resources and the environment;
 - b. Promotion of selective fishing and environment-friendly fishing gears and practices, such as reduction of by-catch of non-target species, juvenile fishes, and endangered species, and reduction of impacts to sea bottom and benthic habitats, etc.;
 - c. Exploration of alternative fishery resources in Southeast Asian waters (assessment of mid-layer scattering species, exploration of deep sea fishery resources, fishery resources in un-trawlable fishing grounds, etc.); and
 - d. Improvement of fisheries data management systems (data for sustainable fisheries management, promotion of onboard fishing logbook, application of GIS for coastal fisheries resources mapping, etc.).
2. Optimum Utilization of Fishery Resources
 - a. Improvement of post-harvest fish handling onboard fishing vessels, *i.e.* for tuna, squid, small pelagic, demersal fish, etc.;
 - b. Improvement of hygiene onboard fishing vessels and fish handling technology; and
 - c. Promotion of the use of hauling devices, hydraulic engineering and auxiliary fishing devices.
3. Resource Enhancement
 - a. Rehabilitation of fishery resources and habitats/fishing grounds through resources enhancement;
 - b. Promotion of ecosystem approach through the concepts of marine protected areas (MPA) and fisheries *refugia* for coastal fishery resources enhancement; and
 - c. Development of policy recommendations for management, conservation and rehabilitation of habitats and protective geographical features.
4. Fishing Community Resilience
 - a. Promotion of rights-based fisheries and co-management towards institutional building and participatory mechanism for coastal small-scale fisheries;
 - b. Promotion of socio-economic activities in fishery communities for fisheries management and poverty alleviation;
 - c. Development of fisheries management plans based on ecosystem approach, as basis for fisheries conservation and management, and enhanced cooperation for sustainable utilization of fishery resources;
 - d. Ecosystem approach for coastal and small-scale fisheries management;
 - e. Promotion of fisheries with the function of supporting gender entering into alternative livelihoods; and
 - f. Enhancing fisheries good governance through transparent and participatory approach.



5. Emerging Issues
 - a. Optimizing energy use in capture fisheries, reduction of the use of fossil fuel and promoting the use of alternative energy; and
 - b. Study and research on international fisheries-related issues affecting the development of sustainable fisheries in the region including those on by-catch; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; commercially-exploited aquatic species such as sharks and rays, seahorse, etc.

B. Training Program

The training program of the Department covers the following areas:

1. Regional training courses for fishery personnel of Member Countries, and other countries in various aspects related to the research and development program of the Department, which could include the following areas:
 - a. Sustainable Capture Fisheries
 - b. Optimum Utilization of Fishery Resources
 - c. Resource Enhancement
 - d. Coastal and Small-scale Fishery Management
 - e. Emerging issues;
2. Tailor-made training courses for personnel of Member Countries and other countries that require specific activities that tailor to their requirements, to be conducted based on collaborative arrangements with training partners from concerned countries; and
3. Promotion of capability building and staff exchange activities with other SEAFDEC Departments and organizations.

C. Information Program

The Information Program of the Department covers the following areas:

1. Promotion and dissemination of fishing information systems that focus on the research and development activities of the Department through the establishment of a fisheries information hub in Southeast Asia;
2. Establishment of information coordinating partners in Southeast Asia and all over the world; and
3. Organization/coordination of information-related meetings/workshops/conferences related to the research and development program as well as training activities of the Department.

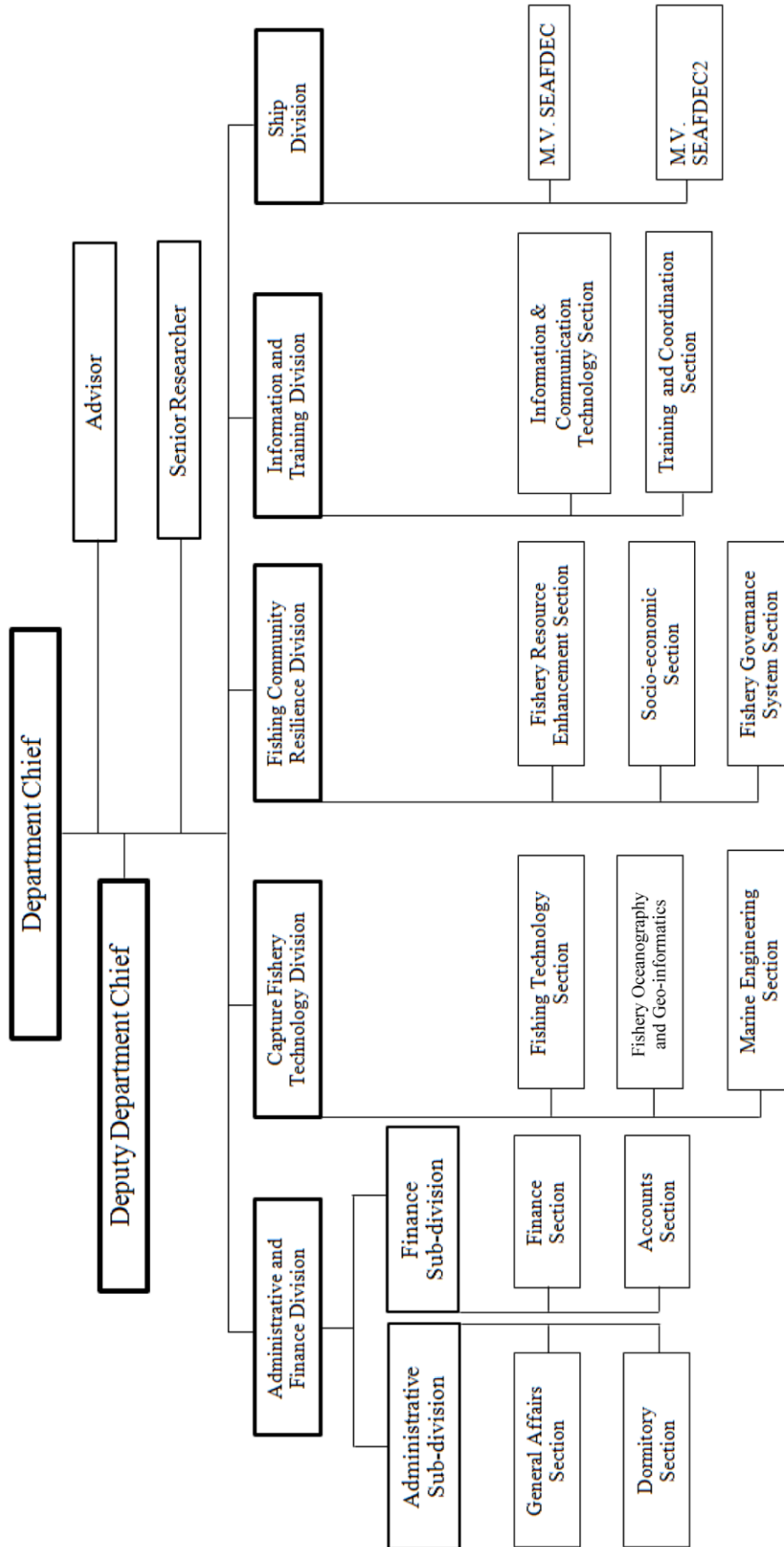
III. ORGANIZATION OF TD

The Training Department Chief shall be responsible for the administration and operations of the Department. Under the Chief are the following Offices and Divisions.

1. **Administrative and Finance Division**, to be responsible for all administrative works including finance administration, and includes:
 - **Administrative Sub-division** to be responsible for all administrative works, personnel affairs, external affairs including general services and maintenance and procurement of equipment, arrangement of living quarters for trainees and staff, overall operation as regards coordination with experts and other Division Heads, supervision, administrative and technical works. The Administrative Division shall comprise the General Affairs and Dormitory Sections.
 - **Finance Sub-division**, to be responsible for the financial administration of the Department, and shall comprise the Finance and Accounting Sections.

2. **Information and Training Division**, to be responsible for the preparation and implementation of the information, extension and training programs of the Department, preparation and production of audio-visual and other materials for internal and external training purposes. The Information and Training Division shall comprise the Information & Communications Technology, and Training & Coordination Sections.
3. **Capture Fishery Technology Division**, to be responsible for planning and implementation of research projects and activities on capture fisheries of the Department, providing supportive technical information to the Department, and supporting researchers and other technical personnel. The Capture Fishery Technology Division shall comprise the Fishing Technology, Fishery Oceanography and Geo-informatics, and Fisheries Engineering Sections.
4. **Fishing Community Resilience Division**, to be responsible for planning and conducting research projects and activities concerning coastal and small-scale fisheries management of the Department, and providing supportive technical information to the Department. The Fishing Community Resilience Division shall comprise the Fishery Resources Enhancement, Socio-economic and Fishery Governance, and Management System Sections.
5. **Ship Division**, to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the research and training vessels of the Department including the activities for the training and research programs carried out onboard the vessels of the Department. The Ship Division shall comprise the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

Organization Chart of TD



**Proposed Revision of Plan of Operation and Program of Work:
Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)**

The Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) was set up in Singapore in 1969 with the initial task of developing fishing grounds. Developing fisheries post-harvest technology is vital in advancing fisheries development in ASEAN and placing ASEAN fisheries products in the world market. With this as the key direction, MFRD has since the late 1970's, assumed the responsibilities of promoting, under-taking and co-coordinating research in fisheries post-harvest technology and furthering the development of the fish processing industry in the ASEAN region. Besides R&D, MFRD has transferred technology developed to the region through training programmes and the dissemination of information through its regional library services.

With effect from April 2007, the Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC), Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) served as the SEAFDEC Collaborating Center for MFRD Programs.

I. PLAN OF OPERATION - COLLABORATING CENTER FOR MFRD PROGRAMS

1. The Marine Fisheries Research Department has the following functions:
 - (i) To promote, undertake and coordinate research in post-harvest technology directed towards optimizing utilization of available fish resources and, improving the quality and safety of fish and fisheries products;
 - (ii) To further the development of the fish processing industry in the region particularly the traditional and, small and medium size enterprises;
 - (iii) To establish an effective system for the smooth transfer of post-harvest technology to the region through workshops, training programs, publications, etc.; and
 - (iv) To undertake such other activities as may be determined by the Council.

2. The Government of Singapore provides the Marine Fisheries Research Department, in accordance with the provision of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, with the followings:
 - (i) Land at Changi Point;
 - (ii) Buildings with floor space to accommodate the Department;
 - (iii) Furniture and equipment, including vehicles;
 - (iv) Services of professional and service staff; and
 - (v) An amount of money as an annual contribution towards the operational expenses of the Department.

3. The Government of Japan provides the Marine Fisheries Research Department in accordance with the provisions of Articles 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center with the following:
 - (i) Services of professional staff;
 - (ii) An amount of money in Yen for the purchase of the necessary laboratory and processing equipment for post-harvest technology, including adequate facilities for a pilot processing plant for feasibility studies and extension demonstrations;



- (iii) An amount of money in U.S. dollars to provide fellowships and training equipment for trainees from Member Countries; and
 - (iv) An amount of money in U.S. dollars as an annual contribution towards the operational expenses of the Department.
- 4. In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Marine Fisheries Research Department seeks financial and technical assistance from potential donor, governments and agencies to enable it to fulfill its functions and the objectives of the Center.
- 5. At the 39th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC (Siem Reap, Cambodia, 3-7 April 2007), the Post-Harvest Division of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), Singapore was endorsed as a Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC to implement MFRD programs. With effect from 1 April 2010, the Post-Harvest Division was changed to the Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC). As a Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC, the responsibilities of PHTC are:
 - (i) To conduct matters pertaining to the Office of the Chief of MFRD Programs; and
 - (ii) To undertake the activities of MFRD under the SEAFDEC regional programs including those supported by the Japanese Trust Fund.
- 6. Programs and activities under the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) are thus referred to as MFRD Programs, and make up one of the programs under the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of AVA. The facilities and manpower are provided by the Government of Singapore through AVA. With effect from 1 January 2007, AVA maintains the facilities and equipment, and all operating and manpower costs, as a national entity under AVA.
- 7. At the 40th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC (Bali, Indonesia, 7-10 April 2008), the Council noted that as MFRD activities have been implemented by the PHTC of AVA, Singapore, as the Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC, Singapore's contributions will not be reflected under MFRD in the SEAFDEC financial reports.
- 8. At the 41st Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC (Fukuoka, Japan, 7-10 April 2009), the Council approved the request made by the Council Director for Singapore that the accumulated funds from bank interest, gain in exchange rates and miscellaneous incomes under MFRD other fund account, be transferred to the AVA's account in order to be audited under the normal auditing process of the AVA. This would save the unnecessary cost of a separate audit which is grossly disproportionate to the expenditure of MFRD. The Council was also assured that such fund would be utilized for MFRD post-harvest programs under SEAFDEC. As a result, the financial report from MFRD will not appear in the SEAFDEC Consolidated Financial Report starting from the year 2009.
- 9. At the 42nd Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC (Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 5-9 April 2010), the Council took note of the request made by the Council Director for Singapore to transfer the assets of MFRD which includes post-harvest equipment and library materials, to AVA. This is to allow AVA to absorb the repair and maintenance costs for these equipment as well as the required accessories under the AVA budget. Furthermore, the Council was assured that although these assets are transferred to the AVA, the equipment and library materials would continue to be used for the activities of MFRD programs under SEAFDEC. The Council supported in-principle the transfer of the assets of MFRD to the AVA of Singapore. With effect from April 2011, all MFRD assets were officially transferred to PHTC/AVA, Singapore.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK

1. The purpose of MFRD Programs is to enhance the development of fisheries post-harvest technology in the region according to resources available at the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of AVA.
2. The MFRD Programs covers the following areas:
 - (i) Research and investigations on post-harvest technology directed towards optimizing utilization of available fish resources, including development of a wide range of products from under-utilized fish resources, with a view to sustainable post-harvest development;
 - (ii) Research and investigations on issues and concerns related to the handling, preservation, quality and safety of fish and fisheries products, with a view to recommending methods to reduce post-harvest losses and wastage for food security, and to implement programmes and activities to upgrade the quality and safety of fish and fisheries products in the region; and
 - (iii) Transfer of technology and dissemination of knowledge and information on post-harvest technology to the region through workshops, training programs, publications, etc.
3. The activities of the MFRD Programs are:
 - (a) Post-harvest Technology
 - (i) To develop a wide range of value added products acceptable to consumers in the region, including products from under-utilized fish resources (marine and freshwater) for human consumption;
 - (ii) To improve and upgrade the quality and safety of fish and fisheries products in the region by coordinating regional activities pertaining to:
 - the monitoring of chemical contaminants such as heavy metals, antibiotic and pesticide residues, marine biotoxins;
 - the application of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to fish processing establishment in the region; and
 - the promotion of traceability systems for aquaculture products;
 - (iii) To investigate issues and concerns related to fish handling and preservation in the region, and recommend measures to upgrade the quality and safety of fish;
 - (iv) To promote harmonization of analytical methods in the region through methods validation and proficiency testing; and
 - (v) To increase the credibility of key regional laboratories through good laboratory practices.
 - (b) Other Activities

In connection with the above, the MFRD Programs will also cover the following activities:

 - (i) To provide information on its activities and results of research to Member Countries and interested organizations/agencies;
 - (ii) To exchange information of mutual interest with research institutions, and hold symposia/expert meetings or workshops, and conduct cooperative researches;
 - (iii) To receive trainees from Member Countries, and other countries as approved by the Council of SEAFDEC, for transfer of research skills and applied technology;
 - (iv) To collaborate with Member Countries and non-Member Countries, regional and international organizations or agencies in activities of common interest.



III. ORGANIZATION FOR MFRD PROGRAMS

1. MFRD Programs are coordinated by the Chief of MFRD Programs.
2. As of April 2007, the Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC) of the Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), Singapore has been appointed as the Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC to implement the regional fisheries post-harvest programmes and activities of MFRD. Thereafter, this is referred to as MFRD Programs.
3. Resources for implementation of MFRD Programs will be deployed by the Director, Post-Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC) according to capacity and resources available.
4. MFRD Programs comprise regional SEAFDEC projects and activities with project funds from SEAFDEC Member Countries or SEAFDEC Donor organizations.

**Proposed Revision of Plan of Operation and Program of Work:
Aquaculture Department (AQD)**

I. PLAN OF OPERATION

1. The Aquaculture Department has the following functions:
 - (i) To promote and undertake aquaculture R & D that is relevant to and appropriate for the Southeast Asian region;
 - (ii) To build the capacity of human and institutional resources for aquaculture development;
 - (iii) To publish, disseminate and exchange information on aquaculture and responsible practices; and
 - (iv) To serve as a regional forum for cooperation and consultation on aquaculture R&D among Member Countries.

2. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, in accordance with the Provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, provides the Aquaculture Department with the following:
 - (i) Services of the following staff:
 - (a) A Department Chief, and
 - (b) A sufficient number of professional and service staff.
 - (ii) Adequate physical facilities for aquaculture R & D, training and information dissemination of the Department; and
 - (iii) An amount of money as an annual contribution towards the Operational expenses of the Aquaculture Department.

3. The Government of Japan, in accordance with provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, provides the Aquaculture Department with the following:
 - (i) Services of the following professional staff:
 - (a) A Deputy Department Chief, and
 - (b) An appropriate number of professional staff to be assigned to positions in the Department as specifically requested by the Department Chief
 - (ii) Research and training instruments and equipment or the amount in yen necessary for the purchase thereof;
 - (iii) An appropriated number of fellowship grants for trainees form Member Countries; and
 - (iv) An amount of money as contribution towards the operational Expenses of the Department.

4. In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Aquaculture Department, in consultation with the Secretary-General, may seek financial and technical assistance from potential donor governments and agencies to enable it to fulfill its functions.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK

With the functions indicated in the Plan of Operation, AQD will implement research, technology verification and demonstration, and training and information activities, as approved by the Council of the Center, in order to promote sustainable aquaculture development in Southeast Asia.

The Department's R&D activities will be based on priorities and needs of the SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member Countries and will focus on the following:

- (i) Development of responsible aquaculture technologies and practices;
- (ii) Responsible use of aquatic resources for the purpose of aquaculture;
- (iii) Adoption of measures to avoid environmental degradation; and
- (iv) Promotion of environmentally sound aquaculture methods and commodities.

A. Research

The research activities of the Department will cover the following areas:

- (i) Broodstock development and seed production;
- (ii) Farming systems and aquatic ecology;
- (iii) Nutrition and feed development;
- (iv) Fish health management; and
- (v) Socio-economics.

B. Technology Verification and Demonstration

The Department will enhance its services to the private sector and the fishery industry as a whole, through a more systematic packaging of research results into commercially viable aquaculture technologies and production systems.

The Department will hasten the utilization of newly developed technologies at AQD by scaling up these technologies, verifying their commercial viability; and applying, adopting and adapting any appropriate aquaculture technology that has been developed elsewhere.

The Department will demonstrate the tested aquaculture technologies through the national fisheries agencies of SEAFDEC Member Countries; and will provide technical assistance in starting up or in the adoption of new technologies.

The extent of utilization, in Member Countries, of technologies developed by the Department, will be evaluated regularly.

C. Training and Information Dissemination

To support technology adoption and policy formulation, the Department's R&D results will be transferred to Member Countries and various stakeholder groups through training and information dissemination activities. Depending on the need, the following types of training programs will be conducted:

- (i) On-site and AQD-based training courses;
- (ii) On-the-job and research internships;
- (iii) Specialized and client-driven training courses;
- (iv) Distance or e-learning courses; and
- (v) Study tours.

AQD will conduct a regular review of its programs and will ensure that such programs are upgraded and conform to the priorities and requirements of the fisheries/aquaculture industry in the Member Countries. A tracer study of former AQD trainees will be included in the review to assess the extent of utilization of the knowledge they gained from the training courses conducted by AQD.

Apart from training and research internships, dissemination and exchange of information on aquaculture research and technology will be facilitated through:

- (i) Publication of scientific papers, manuals, books/proceedings, newsletters, and other information materials;
- (ii) Symposia, seminars and workshops;
- (iii) Library services;
- (iv) AQD webpage and other forms of social media;
- (v) Print and broadcast media; and
- (vi) Exhibitions in industry-led congress.

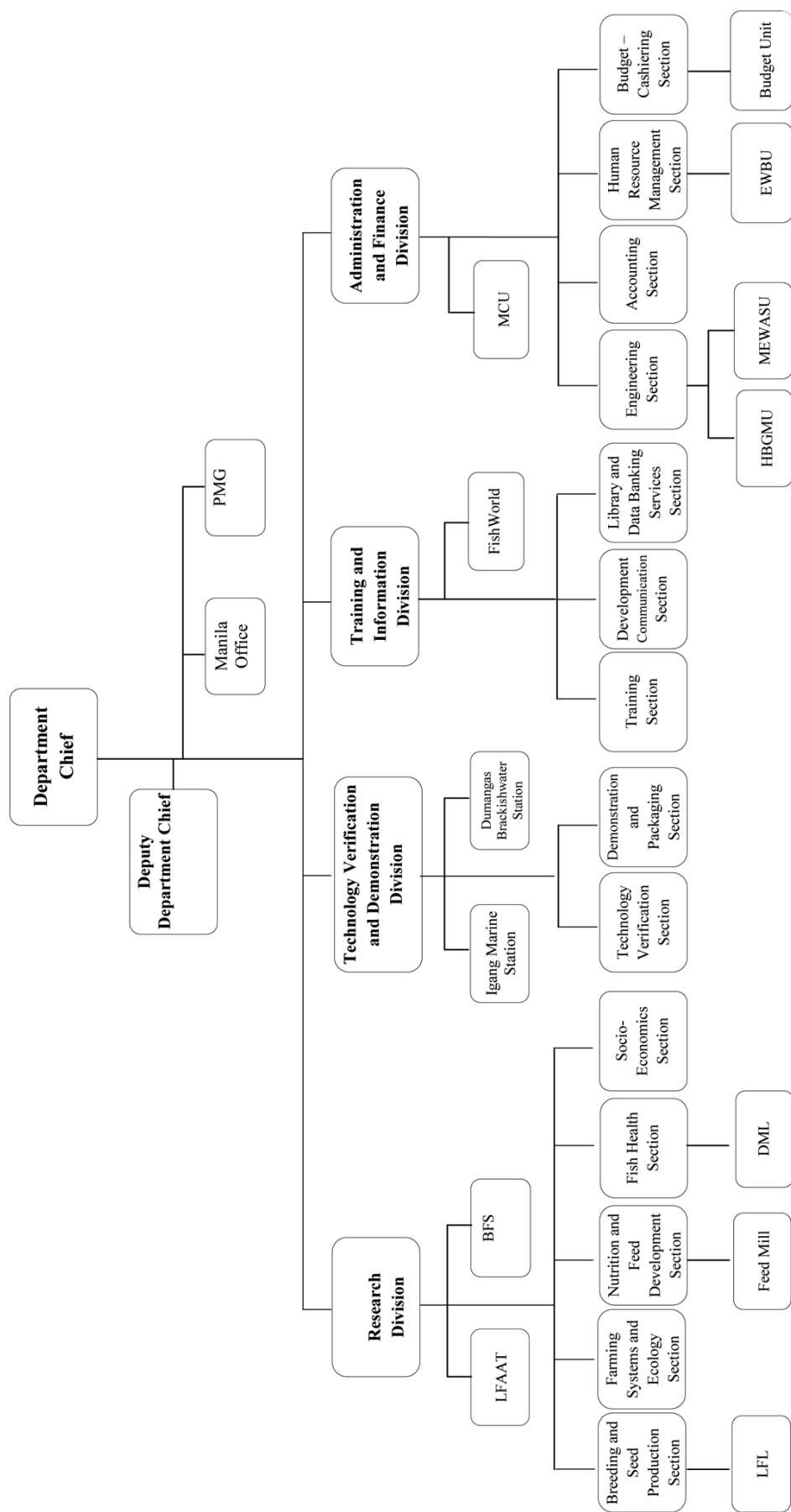
III. ORGANIZATION OF AQD

The Aquaculture Department consists of a Department Chief, a Deputy Department Chief and Department staff. The organizational chart of the Department is attached.

The Department Chief is responsible for the administration and overall operation of the Department. Under the Chief are the following offices and divisions:

- (i) **Office of Department Chief** comprises the Office the Deputy Chief, Performance Management Group, and the Manila Office.
- (ii) **Research Division** is responsible for the research activities of the Department. The Research Division comprises the five Sections: Breeding and Seed Production, Nutrition and Feed Development, Farming Systems and Ecology, Fish Health and Socio-Economics. The Division operates service laboratories and units; namely, Larval Food Laboratory, Centralized Analytical Laboratory, Fish Health Diagnostics Laboratory, and a Feed Preparation Laboratory and Feed Mill. The Division also operates the Laboratory Facilities for Advanced Aquaculture Technologies (LFAAT) and the Binangonan Freshwater Station.
- (iii) **Technology Verification and Demonstration Division** is responsible for testing the economic viability of various aquaculture technologies and packaging these into commercially viable production systems. The Technology Verification and Demonstration Division comprises the Technology Verification, and Demonstration and Packaging Sections. The Division operates the Dumangas Brackish water Station and Igang Marine Station.
- (iv) **Training and Information Division** is responsible for the capacity development of human and institutional resources and dissemination of information on aquaculture. This Division comprises the Training, Development Communication, Library and Data banking Services Sections, and Fish world Museum.
- (v) **Administration and Finance Division** is responsible for providing administrative support to the programs and for the financial administration of the Department. It comprises the Human Resource Management, Engineering, Accounting, and Budget- Cashiering Sections and the Materials Control Unit.

Organizational Chart of AQD



Legend:
 LFAAT - Laboratory for Advanced Aquaculture Technologies
 BFS - Binangonan Freshwater Station
 LFL - Larval Food Laboratory
 DML - Diagnostic and Microtechnique Laboratory

Legend:
 PMG - Performance Management Group
 MCU - Materials Control Unit
 HBGMU - Housing, Building, and Grounds Maintenance Unit
 MEWASU - Mechanical, Electrical, Water, and Aeration Services Unit
 EWBU - Employees' Welfare and Benefits Unit

**Proposed Revision of Plan of Operation and Program of Work:
Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD)**

I. PLAN OF OPERATION

1. The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department has the following functions:
 - (i) To provide a regional forum for consultation and cooperation in research, conservation and management of marine fishery resources among Member Countries;
 - (ii) To coordinate and implement research programmes to support sustainable development and management of marine fishery resources in Member Countries through:
 - Evaluating and review status of marine fishery resources and the exploitation of the resources.
 - Providing scientific basis and appropriate guidelines.
 - Providing advice on management of marine fishery resources.
 - (iii) To provide expertise in the field of stock assessment and fishery management towards improving the capability of SEAFDEC Member Countries in sustainable development and management of marine fishery resource.
 - (iv) To publish, disseminate and exchange information through:
 - Regional fora and consultations in research, conservation and management.
 - Intensification of publications
 - Dissemination of information.
2. The Government of Malaysia provides the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, with the following:
 - (i) Services of the following professional staff;
 - (a) A Department Chief, and
 - (b) Professional and service staff.
 - (ii) Adequate infrastructure facilities for marine fishery resources research, training and information dissemination programs of the Department; and
 - (iii) Appropriate funds towards operational expenses of the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department.
3. The Government of Japan provides the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, with the following:
 - (i) Services of the following professional staff;
 - (a) A Deputy Department Chief, and
 - (b) An appropriate number of professional staff to implement the Department's programs.
 - (ii) An amount of money in Yen for the purchase of research instruments and equipment;



- (iii) Appropriate fellowship grants and amount of money in U.S. dollars for the purchase of research equipment for scientists from Member Countries to conduct research at the department and to upgrade the professional and technical expertise of the Department's staff; and
 - (iv) An amount of money in US Dollars as an annual contribution for the operational expenses of the Department.
4. In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, in consultation with the Secretary-General, may seek financial and technical assistance from potential donor governments and agencies to enable it to fulfill its functions.

II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK

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

A. Research Program

The research activities of the Department cover the following areas:

- (i) Fishery biological studies of species groups to provide information for resource assessment;
- (ii) Assessment of shared resources for their proper development and management;
- (iii) Economic viability studies on fishing activities;
- (iv) Monitoring of catches and analysis of catch effort data from commercial fishing vessels;
- (v) Fishery oceanography studies to determine the relationship between physico-chemical parameter of the ocean water and the fishery resources;
- (vi) Assessment of coastal demersal fish and prawn resources to provide necessary information for the management of these fisheries to ensure maximum sustainable yield;
- (vii) Assessment of the status of the coastal marine habitats and development of strategies to rehabilitate habitats and enhancing the fishery resources; and
- (viii) Conservation of sea turtles.

B. Training Program

The Department conducts the following activities:

- (i) Training of researchers from National Institutions of the Member Countries by collaborative research on fish stock assessment, fisheries management and conservation of endangered, threatened and protected aquatic species;
- (ii) On-the-job training for researchers and administrators of the Department; and
- (iii) Seminars and workshops.

C. Information Program

The Department disseminates and exchange information on development and management of marine fishery resources through:

- (i) Publishing periodicals and reports;
- (ii) Dissemination of information to Member Countries and other international agencies/organizations;
- (iii) Library services; and
- (iv) Developing and maintaining department's homepage (<http://www.seafdec.org.my>).

III. ORGANIZATION OF MFRDMD

The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department consists of a Chief, a Deputy Chief, Special Department Coordinator and Department staff.

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

1. **Administration and Finance Section** - to be responsible for providing administrative support to the Department including general services and maintenance of the Department buildings and research facilities as well as financial administration of the Department.

The Administrative and Finance Section comprises Finance Unit and Administrative Unit.

2. **Biology and Resource Assessment Section** - to be responsible for the implementation of research activities on marine fishery resources. The activities include marine fishery biological studies and genetics and fish stock assessment. Shared stocks of pelagic resources and conservation of sea turtles are conducted under this section.

The Biology and Resource Assessment Section comprises Biology and Genetic Unit and Resource Assessment Unit.

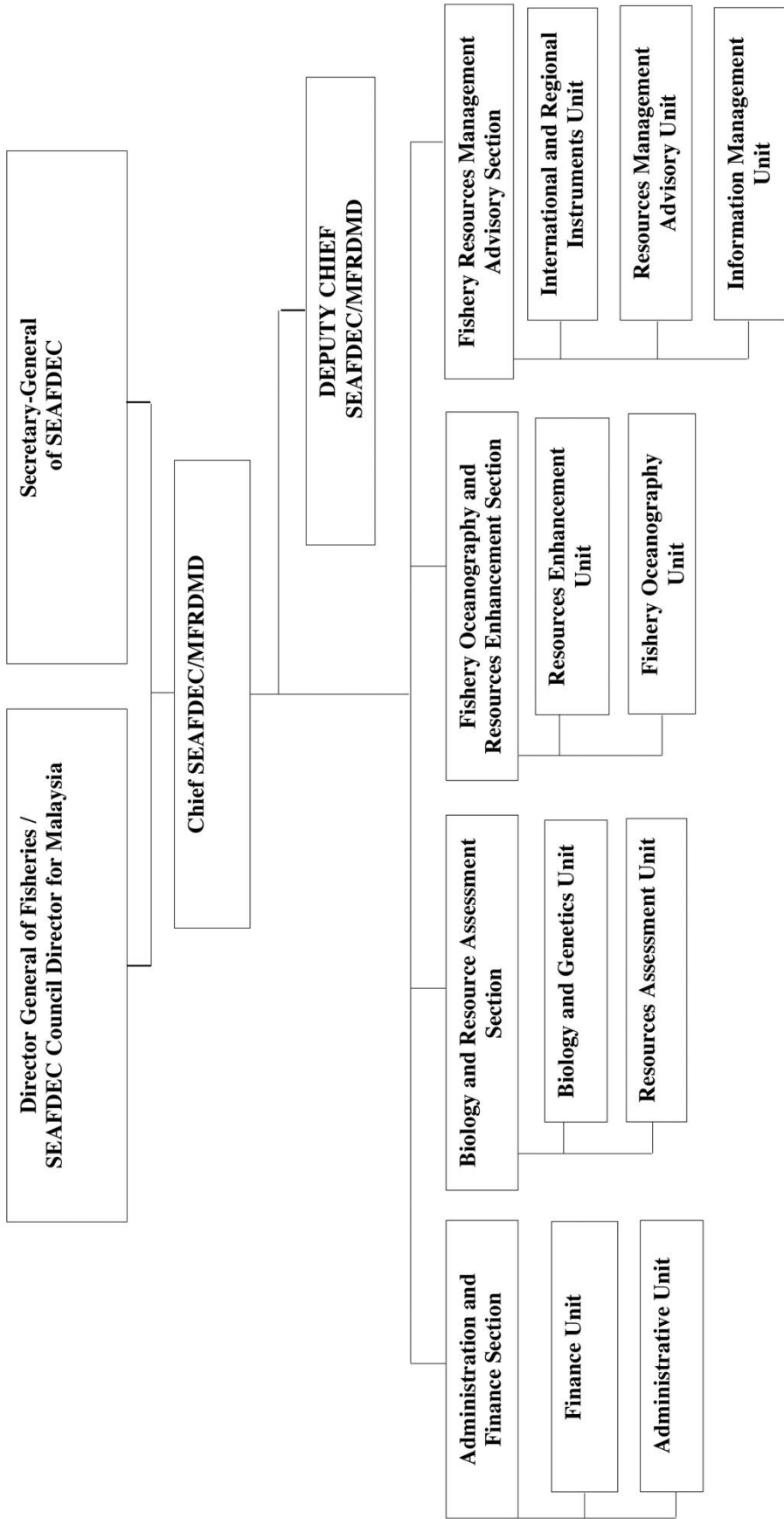
3. **Fishery Oceanography and Resource Enhancement Section** - to be responsible for the research programs on fishery oceanographic studies and resource enhancement.

The Fishery Oceanography and Resource Enhancement Section comprises Resource Enhancement Unit and Fishery Oceanography Unit.

4. **Fishery Resources Management Advisory Section** - to be responsible for the compilation, collation and dissemination of information and provide management advice on the exploitation and management of the marine fishery resources and conservation of endangered, threaten and protected aquatic species in the EEZ of Member Countries. This Section is also responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Department's training activities for fishery resources research.

The Fishery Resources Management Advisory Section comprises the International and Regional Instruments Unit, Resource management Advisory Unit and Information Management Unit.

Proposed Organization Chart of MFRDMD



Proposed Functions and Program of Work: SEAFDEC Secretariat

During the establishment of SEAFDEC, the SEAFDEC Secretariat was attached to the Training Department (TD), in Samut Prakan Province, Thailand, as a Liaison Office. The office was re-located to Bangkok in 1981 at the “Olympia Building”, and subsequently at the “Chan Issara Tower” in 1993. From 1997 until present, the Secretariat set up its permanent office at the “Suraswadi Building” in the compound of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand. The operation of the SEAFDEC Secretariat has been undertaken taking into consideration the directives given by the SEAFDEC Council, and the provisions as stipulated in the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC, as well as the Administrative and Financial Regulations. In addition, during the recent years, the works of the Secretariat have been strengthened along the line with the Resolution on SEAFDEC Strategic Plan (1998), the formalization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership or ASSP (2007), the establishment of Regional Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (2008), and the adoption of the SEAFDEC Program Framework (2009).

Although the Plans of Operation of the SEAFDEC Departments were regularly revised to reflect the fisheries situation and priority issues/requirements of the region and submitted for endorsement by the Council, those of the SEAFDEC Secretariat has never been put in proper record. The Secretariat therefore propose the following functions, program of work, and organization structure for consideration by the Council, in order to delineate clear roles and functions of the Secretariat, and to minimize the duplication of works between the Secretariat and Departments in the future.

I. FUNCTIONS

The SEAFDEC Secretariat has these functions:

- (i) To serve as the focal point for channeling and implementing the decisions and resolutions of the SEAFDEC Council;
- (ii) To provide administrative services and facilitate the implementation of the overall activities of SEAFDEC, including organizing the agreed Annual Meetings, and preparing budget requirements and audited consolidated financial reports of the Center;
- (iii) To facilitate overall planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SEAFDEC programs and projects, based on the SEAFDEC Program Framework, and the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020;
- (iv) To involve in the implementation of programs and projects, particularly those related to regional fisheries policy, fisheries statistics and information, and other multi-disciplinary programs;
- (v) To support ASEAN in the development of the common/coordinated positions among countries on important fisheries-related issues, enhancing coordination of projects under the FCG/ASSP mechanism; and seek policy support from the higher authorities of ASEAN on priority fisheries issues;
- (vi) To strengthen close cooperation between SEAFDEC and the Member Countries, other international/regional organizations and donor agencies in the implementation of programs and projects, as well as to explore financial support to the activities of SEAFDEC; and
- (vii) To enhance the visibility of SEAFDEC through the appropriate tools and materials.



II. THE PROGRAM OF WORK

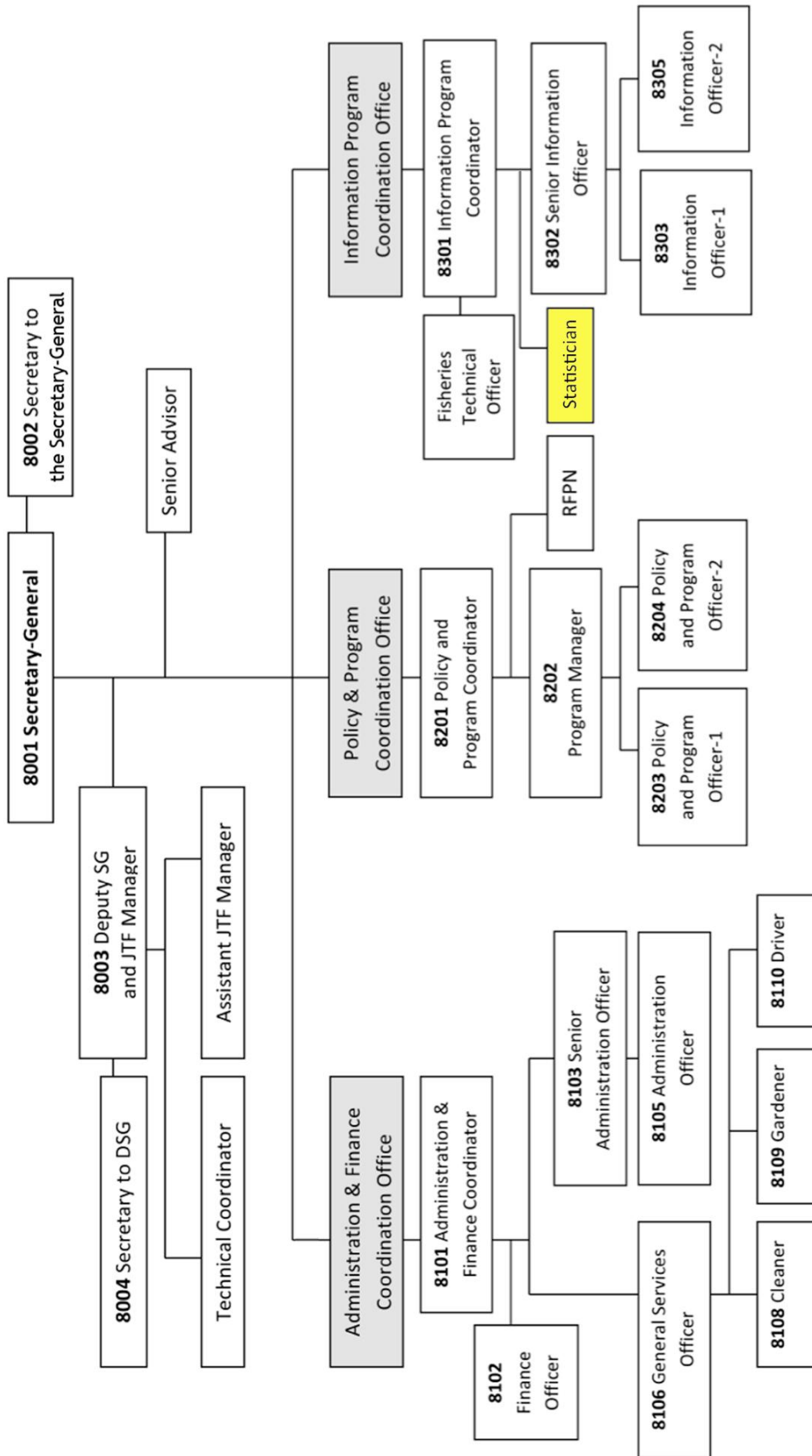
SEAFDEC Secretariat has responsibilities to implement technical activities as follows:

- (i) To support the development and implementation of regional fisheries policy, and the formulation of regional common/coordinated positions on important fisheries-related subjects;
- (ii) To facilitate the compilation of fisheries statistics and information to enhance better understanding on the status and trends of fisheries in the region, and disseminate such information with a view to support sustainable development and management of fisheries; and
- (iii) To coordinate with SEAFDEC Departments and collaborating partners in the implementation of multi-disciplinary programs and projects, as well as those that SEAFDEC has no in-house capacity to implement.

III. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The Secretariat consists of the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Secretariat staff. The organization chart of the Secretariat appears as follow:

Organization Chart of SEAFDEC Secretariat



Remarks: The Chart is based on the current structure of the Secretariat, with an additional position of “Statistician”.
 Total number of staff ~ 28 person (including Japanese staff, Advisor supported by Sida and RFPN Members); SG and DSG are concurrent Chief and Deputy-Chief of TD.

SCHEME FOR ENHANCING SEAFDEC PROGRAM EVALUATION

I. INTRODUCTION

In the existing mechanism of SEAFDEC program management, one of the main mechanisms is the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership which was first established in 1999 and subsequently modified in 2006, and implemented up to present (Fig. 1). The FCG/ASSP is a strategic alliance to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of fisheries programs in the ASEAN.

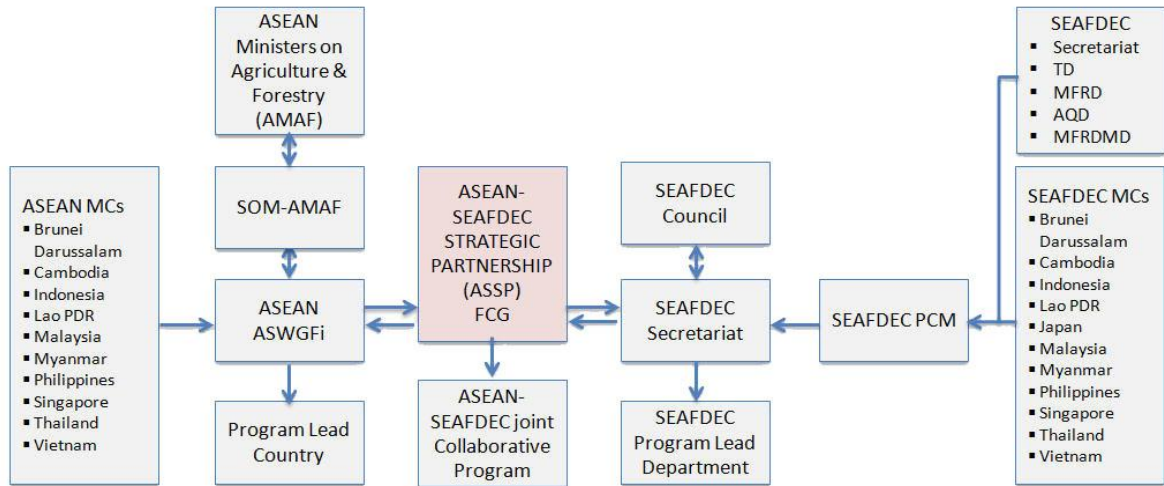


Fig. 1. Mechanism of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) in effect since 2006

During the Meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, SEAFDEC activities including collaborative programs under the FCG/ASSP mechanism, Departmental Programs and Other Programs are reported and scrutinized by the Program Committee. The periodic review process of SEAFDEC programs and those under the FCG/ASSP collaborative mechanism is shown in Fig. 2.

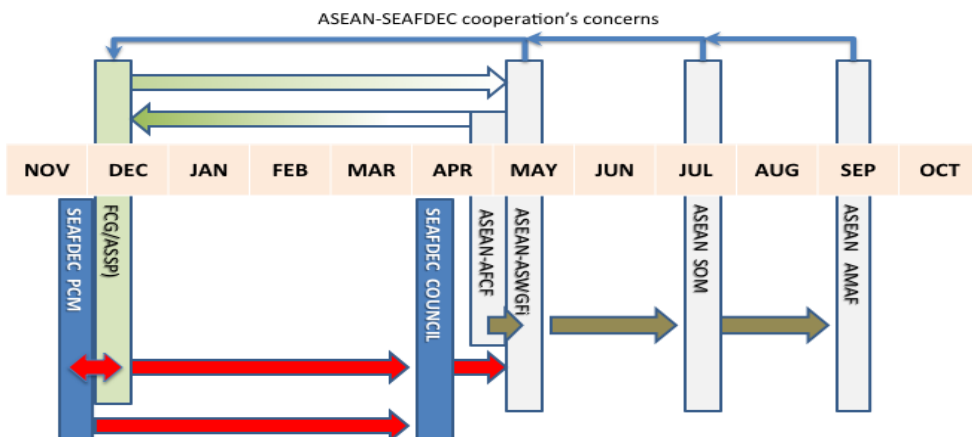


Fig. 2. Yearly Timeline of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaborative Mechanism

II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- **Schedule and scheme for enhancing SEAFDEC program evaluation**

Responding to the recommendations of the Member Countries to enhance the performance of SEAFDEC, especially in the evaluation of the impacts and consequences of its programs and activities to ensure that real benefits could be fairly shared among the Member Countries¹, several actions have been carried out by SEAFDEC. These include prioritization of the SEAFDEC future activities by the Member Countries, building the capacity of SEAFDEC staff on results-based management approach and ecosystem approach to fisheries management, among others.

In order to improve the mechanism of SEAFDEC program development and management in more efficient manner, SEAFDEC proposes a trial period for harmonizing the evaluation system into the SEAFDEC program development and management to start in May 2014. The schedule of formulation and periodic review of SEAFDEC programs for 2015-2019 is shown in **Fig. 3**. Once the prioritized areas for future SEAFDEC program formulation had been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council during its Forty-sixth Meeting in April 2014, SEAFDEC proposes to conduct a program formulation exercise from May to September 2014.

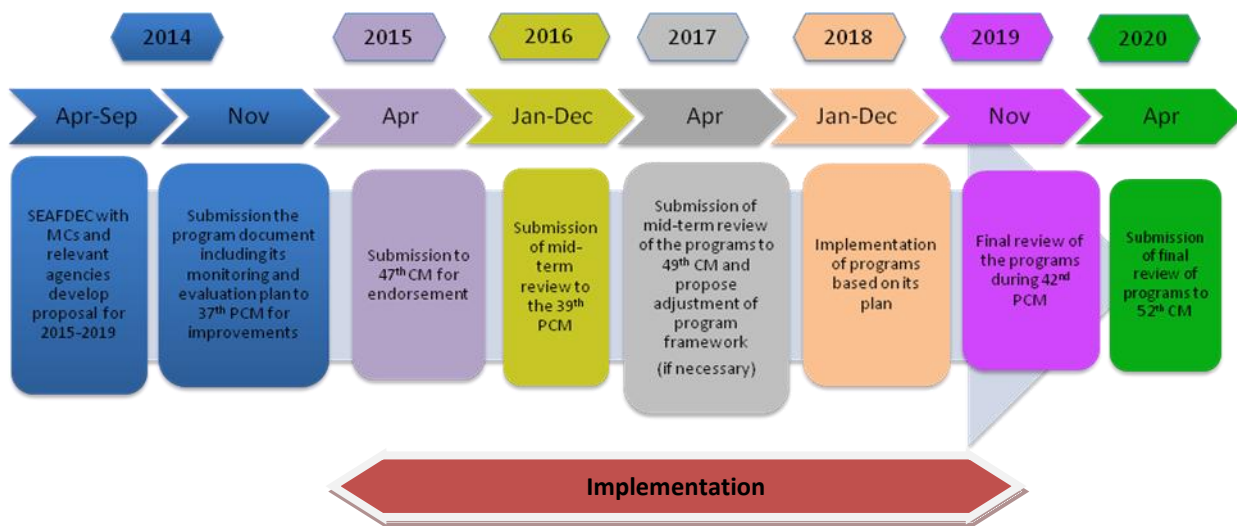


Fig. 3. Schedule of formulation and periodical reviews of SEAFDEC programs for 2015-2019

In view of recent developments, a result-oriented approach is recommended with line factors or performance measurements to be identified and used in determining what to measure, and data collection methods and collection of data to be specified. An overall plan for monitoring and evaluation of the program could be also developed in order to assess its progress toward achieving performance expectations and to facilitate follow-up actions of the program implementation including its impacts and consequences. It is expected that identifying the performance measurements could improve the management and delivery of products and services that SEAFDEC provides to the Member Countries.

Along with this development, several consultations among relevant agencies involved will be held during the proposed period through any means. The results of the program formulation would be submitted to the 37th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee and subsequently to the SEAFDEC Council during its next meeting. Parallel with this development, the process of program formulation, monitoring and evaluation of SEAFDEC would be carried out regardless of donor agencies. However, thorough discussion among relevant donors would be carried out in order to fulfill their

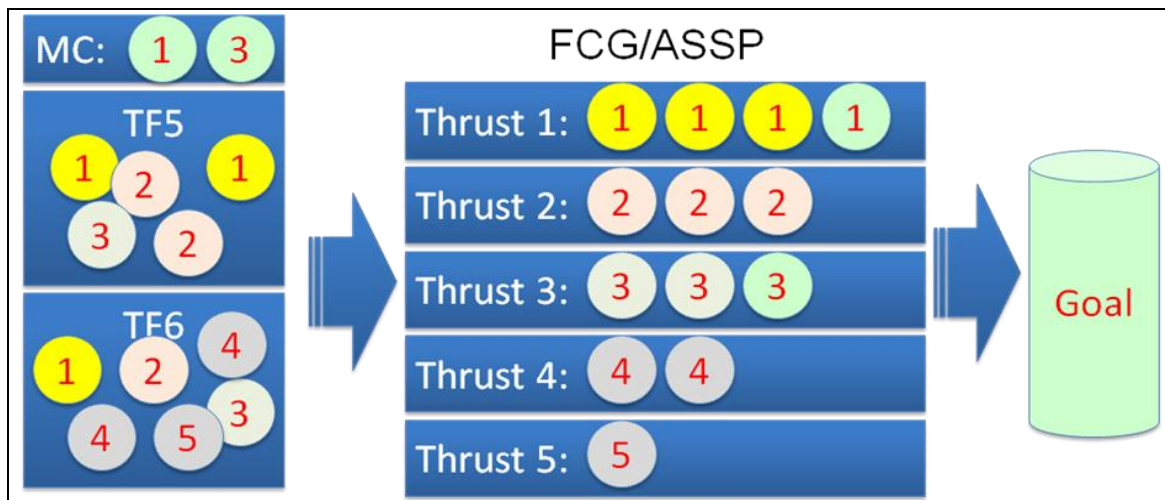
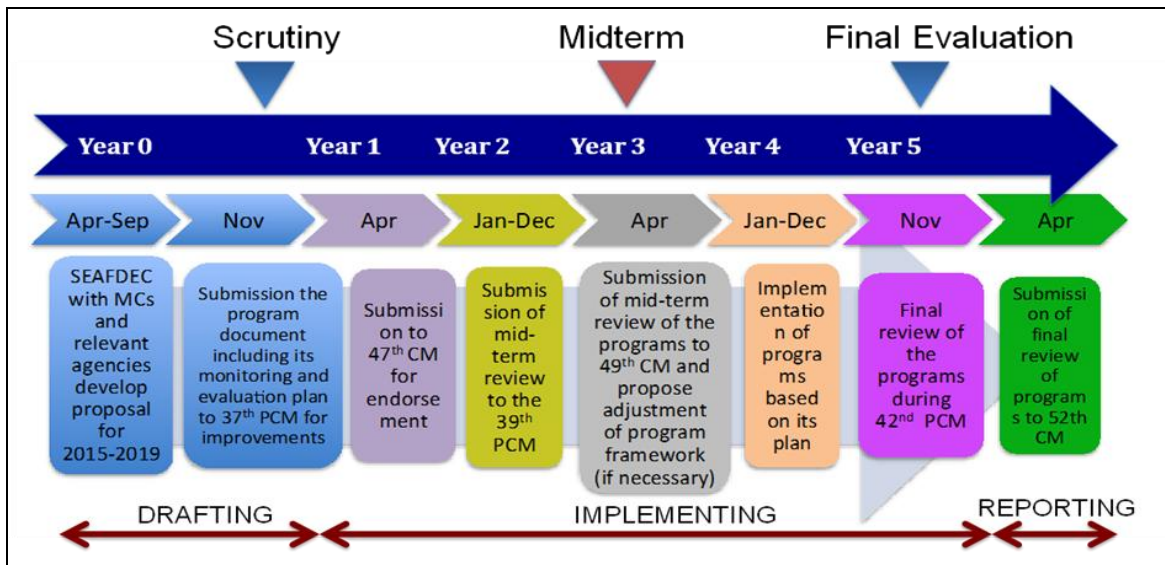
¹ Paragraph 15 of the Report of the Special Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), 3-4 October 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.

requirements while also accommodating the internal evaluation of SEAFDEC programs to be more efficient. SEAFDEC, therefore, proposes the enhancement of SEAFDEC program formulation, monitoring and evaluation streamlining in the existing process of SEAFDEC program management initially starting in 2014.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY SEAFDEC COUNCIL

The Council is requested to consider and endorse the schedule and scheme for enhancing SEAFDEC program evaluation. The Council is also invited to provide directive guidance to SEAFDEC on this matter to improve the scheme.

NEW EVALUATION SCHEME FOR FCG/ASSP PROJECTS UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM THRUSTS



PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

I. BACKGROUND

During the 39th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2007, the Member Countries agreed to provide the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) to sustain the operation of SEAFDEC; and at the 40th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Council further agreed that the level of MRC should be reviewed every 5 years and appropriately adjusted in order to ensure the sustainable operation of SEAFDEC. Along this line, at the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2012, the Council agreed in principle the proposed adjustment of MRC based on the formula for the calculation of the MRC as agreed by the SEAFDEC Council since 2007, and suggested the possibility that the adjusted new MRC could be put into effect starting in 2013. The Council during its 45th Meeting in 2013 further requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to include the MRC and its formula in the Financial Regulations of SEAFDEC.

During the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (3-4 October 2013), the Council took note of the proposed amendment of the SEAFDEC Financial Regulations in order to reflect the MRC, which has been put into practice in SEAFDEC financial system since 2007. The Council Directors for Singapore and Indonesia requested that the approved method of calculation be included in the financial regulation as annexure. After the discussion, the Council recommended that the Financial Regulation 4.1 should be amended to *wit*:

“The annual contribution from Member Countries in the form of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) shall be made in United States Dollars, not later than 31 March of the current fiscal year. The method to calculate the MRC from Member Countries should be unanimously agreed upon by the Council.”

The Council also agreed that each country should make internal consultations with their respective concerned national agencies, in order that the proposed amendment to the financial regulation could be discussed again at the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2014.

II. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATION

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Council, it is proposed that the Financial Regulation 4.1, which currently states that *“The annual contributions from Member Countries, except host countries in which the Departments of the Center are located, and Japan shall be made in United States dollars, not later than 31 March of the current fiscal year.”*, would be amended as follows:

Rev 4.1 The annual contribution from Member Countries in the form of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) shall be made in United States Dollars, not later than 31 March of the current fiscal year. The method to calculate the MRC from Member Countries should be unanimously agreed upon by the Council. ¹

Remarks:

¹ The agreed method of calculation of MRC as agreed during the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2012 appears as **Appendix 1**.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to consider the proposed amendment to the Financial Regulations, or provide further directives on this matter.

CALCULATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC) FOR SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES
 (As agreed during the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2012)

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

Remarks:

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

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

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

* MRC of Japan and Brunei Darussalam should be retained

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

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

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

Allocation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)

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

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

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

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

the upper 50% of the region's total fishery production. (It should be noted that this is not applicable to Japan due to its position as donor.); and

- A Special Adjustment factor is required when the MRC of Japan and Brunei Darussalam are fixed. Hence, decrease of 0.14 % and 0.36% will be applied to Brunei Darussalam and other countries respectively, except Japan (Column F). The required equivalent of 3.38% will added to the percentage of the membership fee of Japan in order to maintain the present level of its MRC.

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

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION ON THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATING CENTERS FOR SEAFDEC

I. BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS

During the *39th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council* on 3-7 April 2007 in Cambodia, the Council Director for Singapore proposed to offer the “Post-harvest Center of Singapore” as one of the Collaborating Centers of SEAFDEC; and the Post-harvest Center would take over the activities of MFRD under the SEAFDEC regional programs including those supported by the Japanese Trust Fund (*Para 42, Report of the 39th Council Meeting*).

The Council Director for Singapore also proposed the establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC, as an additional mechanism to formalize linkages between SEAFDEC and institutions within and outside the SEAFDEC membership. The establishment is envisaged to complement the work of SEAFDEC and strengthen the scope and capabilities of SEAFDEC in the implementation of its mandate in tropical fisheries development. The Collaborating Centers would operate independently both financially and operationally from SEAFDEC, although the Centers will implement projects and activities for SEAFDEC and the SEAFDEC Member Countries through the SEAFDEC regional program mechanism with funding from SEAFDEC and other sources (*Para 43, Report of the 39th Council Meeting*).

In response, Council approved the proposal and endorsed the Post-harvest Center of Singapore to be a Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC. Noting that other institutes could also be considered as Collaborating Centers in the future, the Council requested the Secretariat to develop the guidelines in consultation with Singapore, for the collaborative arrangement between SEAFDEC and the Collaborating Centers within the Member Countries; and it is envisaged that such guidelines would facilitate the establishment of other fisheries-related institutions as Collaborating Centers of SEAFDEC (*Para 44-45, Report of the 39th Council Meeting*).

There was however no response or further discussion on the issue until *the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council* on 2-6 April 2012 in Myanmar, where the Council Director for Singapore informed the Council that Singapore had developed the draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC, and communicated with the SEAFDEC Secretariat in 2007 to circulate the draft Guidelines and seek consideration and approval from the Council (*Para 83, Report of the 44th Council Meeting*).

Immediately after the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Secretariat retrieved the aforesaid draft Guidelines which was drafted by Singapore in 2007, and circulated to the Member Countries, and sought their views on the Guidelines for discussion during *the 35th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee* in 2012. During the 35th PCM, after discussion and providing their views and comments, the Program Committee requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to accommodate their comments and come up with a revised draft, and circulate to National Coordinators before submission to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration (*Para 118-119, Report of the 35th PCM*).

In response to the views and comments expressed by the Member Countries, the Secretariat came up with a Revised Guidelines, which was circulated to Member Countries, and tabled at the Council Meeting during *the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council* on 1-5 April 2013 in the Philippines. However, Singapore, was not comfortable with the new set of guidelines tabled by the Secretariat at the Council Meeting which included amendments not recommended by Member Countries at the PCM. The Council therefore agreed that the Post-Harvest Centre of Singapore, as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, could continue to operate under the umbrella of the draft Guidelines prepared by Singapore in 2007. The Council agreed to Singapore’s proposal to amend the Guidelines taking into consideration the comments of made by some Member Countries (*i.e.* Brunei Darussalam,

Indonesia and Japan's comment on Paragraph 13 of the Guidelines), and circulate the amended Guidelines to the Council for approval by *ad referendum*. Moreover, the Council also agreed to take a closer look at the relevant recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee, which could be used for the possible revision of the original draft Guidelines (*Para 119-120, Report of the 45th Council Meeting*).

Summary of Member Country's views on the draft Guidelines (based on the version prepared by Singapore) appears as **Appendix 1**.

After the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, Singapore revised the draft Guidelines for the Establishment of SEAFDEC Collaborating Centers, which was subsequently circulated by the SEAFDEC Secretariat to all Member Countries through the *letter dated 27 September 2013*.

During *the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council* on 3-4 October 2013 in Thailand, the recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review were tabled for consideration by the Council. Recommendation number 35 states that "*the "Guidelines for Collaborative Arrangements" and proposed "Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC" should be streamlined into a single set of guidelines that cover all forms of collaboration, in order to avoid confusion that may arise in the implementation of activities by SEAFDEC Departments and the Collaborating Centers, and that there should be a clear distinction between SEAFDEC Departments and Collaborating Centers*". The council recommended that this issue should be pending for the time being. While Singapore clarified that the difference is that the collaborating center would be responsible for the implementation of programs for SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Japan recommended that the Guidelines for Collaborating Center as circulated by Singapore need to be discussed again in the future.

Although some Member Countries have already expressed their support to the draft Guidelines as revised by Singapore, however as agreed at the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the draft guidelines need to be re-discussed again before conclusion and adoption by the SEAFDEC Council.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERTION BY THE COUNCIL

The council is requested to consider the revised draft Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC (**Appendix 2**), and provide policy directives for finalization/adoption of the Guidelines.

**VIEWS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES ON THE DRAFT GUIDELINES
PREPARED BY SINGAPORE IN 2007**

Japan (through letter dated 6 August 2012):

SEAFDEC currently has some cooperative arrangements with other organizations in the member and non-Member Countries (e.g. Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) and Hokkaido University in Japan). These arrangements are quite useful for SEAFDEC, allowing the staff to participate in training programs, promoting academic exchange of information and other meaningful activities. On the other hand, since the draft guidelines had been prepared in 2007, and in order to put this issue forward, SEAFDEC could consider identifying the similarities and differences between the aforementioned arrangements and the “Collaborating Centre and that the output from the 3rd SEAFDEC Review Committee, which is examining the whole activities of SEAFDEC, is important to discuss on the aspects of the guidelines. Japan therefore suggested that issues relating to the draft guidelines could be addressed at the next Council Meeting along with the results of SEAFDEC review process, taking into consideration the current situation of co-operative works of SEAFDEC with other organizations.

Brunei Darussalam (through Letter IKAN/69, dated 16 August 2012):

The guidelines are only relevant for any institutions intending to collaborate with SEAFDEC. However, if SEAFDEC wishes to collaborate with any particular institution, paragraph 13 of the draft guidelines, will be irrelevant and the paragraph had to be amended accordingly to support the collaboration.

Program Committee Meeting (paragraph 118 of the Report of the 35th PCM, 26-28 November 2012)

With regards to the Draft Guidelines as elaborated by Singapore, the Program Committee supported in principle the Draft Guidelines taking into consideration the areas where consideration/modification could be considered, namely:

- Para 13 “... Collaborating Centre would decide on which SEAFDEC programs it would be able to implement for the year, based on its financial and manpower resources, and may exercise the option of not executing all programs that have been decided by the Council of SEAFDEC for that particular Collaborating Centre.” To be modified taking into consideration certain commitment of the collaborating centers in the implementation of SEAFDEC programs.
- Paragraph 14 ...(to be reconsidered)
- Paragraph 15 ...(to be reconsidered)
- Paragraph 18 Article 2 “...” To be reconsidered as this does not coincide with the existing TOR of the Program Committee, and there is no Expert Advisory Committee in the SEAFDEC mechanism.

Indonesia (paragraph 118 of the Report of the 45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting, 1-5 April 2013)

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

GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEAFDEC COLLABORATING CENTRES

Background

1. SEAFDEC was established in 1967, and operated with an organizational structure comprising a Secretariat and four technical Departments, namely Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Training Department (TD). Each Department specialised in various fields of fisheries development. The Departments are hosted by member countries, viz., AQD by Philippines, MFRD by Singapore, MFRDMD by Malaysia, and TD by Thailand. Over the years, these Departments have developed regional expertise in their specific fields – AQD in Aquaculture, MFRD in Fisheries Post-harvest Practices, MFRDMD in Fisheries Resource Development and Management, and TD in Fisheries Training on the Use of Modern Fisheries Technology. Until 31 December 2006, the operations of the Departments were based on funding from Japan and the hosting governments. Funding from Japan was in the form of annual contributions.
2. In May 2006, the SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan informed fellow SEAFDEC Council Directors that the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs would cease to provide the annual regular contribution to SEAFDEC from 1 January 2007, and requested that:
 - (a) host countries assume full financial responsibility for its Department; and
 - (b) each member country secures Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) similar to membership fees, to SEAFDEC for 2007 and beyond. The formula used and adopted by the Council was based mainly on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the member countries and other criteria such as the size of the fisheries, whether the member country is a host country, etc.
3. At the 39th Meeting of the Council Directors of SEAFDEC, the Council approved Singapore's proposal to allow the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) to be the SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre for implementing SEAFDEC programmes in fisheries post-harvest technology.
4. At the same meeting, the Council also requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat in consultation with Singapore to draft a Guidelines on the establishment of SEAFDEC Collaborating Centres.
5. This draft guideline was prepared by Singapore and submitted to SEAFDEC Secretariat in 2007. It identified and establishes a mechanism for formalising and adopting institutions in and outside SEAFDEC membership, specialising in certain fields of Fisheries as Collaborating Centres of SEAFDEC.
6. This paper describes such a Guideline, elaborating on the scope of Collaborating Centres, Terms of Reference for such a Centre, criteria for selection, and mechanism for adopting centres as Collaborating Centres.
7. The first use of national institutions as collaborating centres started in 1947 as World Health Organisation (WHO) was established and National Laboratories were first designated as reference centres for specific purposes. These reference centres became WHO collaborating centres as early as 1949 when WHO laid down the policy "that research in the field of health is best advanced by assessing, coordinating and making use of activities of existing institutions." The OIE is another international organisation that taps on the strength of their collaborating centres.

Collaborating Centres

Scope

8. Collaborating Centres are therefore centres of expertise in a specific designated sphere of competence relating to the management of a particular sector of industry, providing their expertise to

an organization that the countries operating these centres are members of. In the case of Singapore's Collaborating Centre for SEAFDEC, the specific designated sphere of competence is Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology, the particular sector of industry is Fisheries in Southeast Asia, and the organization is SEAFDEC.

9. A SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre will therefore form part of an inter-institutional collaborative network of SEAFDEC to support its programme at the country, inter-country, regional, inter-regional and global levels, as appropriate, with the approval of the Council of SEAFDEC.

Terms of Reference

10. The following Terms of Reference (TOR) shall apply for a Collaborating Centre of SEAFDEC:

- To serve as a centre of research, expertise and dissemination of research and development programmes within its sphere of competence for member countries of SEAFDEC;
- To operate independently from SEAFDEC, both financially and administratively, and have such operations solely governed by the Government of the nominating country;
- To propose or develop any research and development activities which will enhance sustainable tropical fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region for the consideration of the Council of SEAFDEC.

11. Serving as a centre of research and expertise, the Collaborating Centre would provide facilities to personnel of member countries of SEAFDEC for attachments to undertake studies on specific projects at the Collaborating Centre and advice member countries on issues related to the competence of the Collaborating Centre, with the cost of both services being borne by the member countries concerned.

12. The mechanism of dissemination of research and development programmes by the Collaborating Centre would include the following and whether the cost of such dissemination would be borne by the recipients would be decided by the Collaborating Centre on a case-by-case basis:

- Training of personnel from member countries of SEAFDEC
- Publications of scientific findings and technologies developed
- Workshops and seminars on specific topics which the Collaborating Centre has expertise in
- Advice to member countries of SEAFDEC on the specified field of expertise

13. Although operating independently from SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Centre would report its activities and plans at SEAFDEC's annual Program Committee Meetings and Council Directors Meetings and any other appropriate forums as organised by SEAFDEC. ~~However, the Collaborating Centre would decide on which SEAFDEC programmes it would be able to implement for the year, based on its financial and manpower resources, and may exercise the option of not executing all programmes that have been decided by the Council of SEAFDEC for that particular Collaborating Centre.~~

14. In proposing or developing research and development activities for member countries of SEAFDEC, the Collaborating Centre would bear in mind the needs of the member countries in particular and the Southeast Asian region in general, so that the technologies resulting from such research and development studies would be applicable and practical to these countries.

15. The Government or its agency operating the Collaborating Centre and/or the Council of SEAFDEC may decide to withdraw the centre as a Collaborating Centre for SEAFDEC, and under such situation, the former must serve 3 months notice to the Council of SEAFDEC of such an intent, and vice-versa, whereby a formal acceptance and/or notification of the withdrawal would be issued by the Council of SEAFDEC.



Criteria for selection

16. As a rule, SEAFDEC Collaborating Centres must be selected from centres, which could be institutions, laboratories and establishments, that are renown and specialised in fields that are relevant and can contribute to the implementation of SEAFDEC programme activities. They must fulfil one or several essential functions in support of SEAFDEC programmes and key priorities, as identified by the Council of SEAFDEC. These centres need to be national centres operated by Governments of member countries of SEAFDEC or countries that are non-members of SEAFDEC, and the Government concerned or its agency must offer the centre to SEAFDEC as a Collaborating Centre under the TOR outlined above.

17. Within this context, the criteria to be applied in selecting a centre for designation as a SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre are:

- The scientific and technical standing of the centre concerned at the national and international levels, with preference to its recent record of achievements, its ongoing activities, expertise of its staff, and facilities available to SEAFDEC member countries;
- The financial standing of the centre vis-à-vis support to SEAFDEC and member countries, in terms of carrying out the programmes of SEAFDEC;
- The network which the centre has developed with other institutions in the country as well as at the inter-country, regional and global levels;
- The technical and geographical relevance of the centre and its activities to SEAFDEC's mandate and program priorities.

Mechanism for adoption

18. The following internal rules are suggested for incorporation in SEAFDEC's operating guidelines for adoption of Collaborating Centres:

Article 1

Applications for a centre to be a Collaborating Centre of SEAFDEC shall be submitted to the Council of SEAFDEC through the Secretary General of SEAFDEC by the Council Director of a Member Country or Director General of Fisheries (or its equivalent) of a non-member Country to which the centre belongs. The Secretary General will in turn inform the applicant of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of a SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre.

Article 2

Applications received shall be presented to the Council of SEAFDEC, after consultation with the appropriate Expert Advisory Committee and/or Program Committee at its annual meetings. Applications shall be selected solely on the basis of scientific and technical competence of the candidate centre and its acceptance to meet the TOR outlined.

Article 3

After approval by the Council of SEAFDEC, the Secretary General of SEAFDEC shall notify the applicant through a letter of notification of the decision of the Council of SEAFDEC.

Article 4

Notification shall entitle the Centre to use the name of "SEAFDEC Collaborating Centre" and the use of SEAFDEC logo on all documents issued by the Centre in its official capacity in executing SEAFDEC programmes.

Article 5

The rights conferred by Article 4 shall require full compliance by the Collaborating Centre with its mandate, within the limits of facilities and manpower resources available, and provision of a brief annual report of its activities and plans at the end of each calendar year of its mandate at the Program Committee Meeting and SEAFDEC Council Meeting. This report will be distributed to all Member Countries.

Article 6

The designation “Collaborating Centre” shall be valid for four years, at the end of which the Secretary General may propose to the Council of SEAFDEC that it be renewed for the same or shorter periods, if warranted by programme requirements and results of evaluation. Either party may revoke this designation at any time, serving 3 months notice.

Article 7

The Director of the Collaborating Centre and his alternative will be members of SEAFDEC’s Program Committee and are to attend all Program Committee Meetings organised by SEAFDEC to discuss the research and development activities and plans of the Centre in relation to the programmes of SEAFDEC.

Article 8

The Director of the Collaborating Centre and his alternative shall attend all SEAFDEC Council Meetings representing its Collaborating Centre, and present the activities the Centre has conducted during the year and plans of future activities for the following year.

19. The Expert Advisory Committee and/or Program Committee shall provide the Council of SEAFDEC with its evaluation on the degree that the centre can meet the criteria outlined in Para. 17, and the following assessment:

- a. The impact of the service that the centre can make as a Collaborating Centre to SEAFDEC programmes and development, both immediate and in the long term;
- b. The political risk, if any, in adopting the centre as a Collaborating Centre;
- c. The alternatives of not accepting the centre’s application to serve as a Collaborating Centre.

20. Designation must be by agreement with the administrative head of the centre after consultation with national authorities.

Conclusion

21. Singapore’s proposal to re-designate MFRD to a Collaborating Centre that is nationally operated has been approved by Council Directors at their 39th SEAFDEC Council Meetings. A guideline on the scope, Terms of Reference (TOR), selection criteria, and mechanism for adoption of Collaborating Centres has been drafted.

Date drafted: 4th November 2007
Drafted by: Singapore

COLLABORATION BETWEEN SEAFDEC AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN 2013

In 2013, SEAFDEC continued to exert efforts in enhancing its collaboration and cooperation with other international and regional organizations involved in the sustainable development of fisheries. Since its establishment in 1967, SEAFDEC has developed linkage with numbers of organizations and institutions that led to the development of practices and approaches for sustainable fisheries, while avoiding duplication of efforts.

Nha Trang University, Vietnam

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SEAFDEC and Nha Trang University of Vietnam was signed on 3 May 2013 at the premises of SEAFDEC Training Department in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The MOU on Cooperation in fisheries research, programs and education covers the program areas of: (i) exchange of staff/student; (ii) joint development of collaborative research projects; (iii) joint organization of scientific and cultural events; (iv) shared conduct of training courses on the related subjects; and (v) joint issuance of certificates of shared trainings/educational programs in the future. The MOU will be in effect for five years from 3 May 2013 to 2 May 2018.

Queensland University of Technology, Australia

A Memorandum of Understanding between SEAFDEC/AQD and Queensland University of Technology, Australia was signed in November 2013. The Agreement has the following objectives: (i) research collaboration including joint application for research funding and development of joint venture projects between SEAFDEC/AQD and QUT; (ii) organization of joint scientific activities such as courses, conferences, seminars, symposia or lectures; (iii) exchange of staff and/or students including guidance in research proposal drafting for staff and students who intend to enter Science graduate programs at QUT; and (iv) exchange of materials and publications of common interest. Cooperative projects arising from the agreement will include relevant disciplines common to both SEAFDEC/AQD and QUT. The Agreement is valid for five years from November 2013 to November 2018.

Sophia University (Japan)

SEAFDEC/AQD entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Materials and Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, Sophia University of Japan on 25 June 2013. The two parties have mutually agreed to strengthen common interest in fostering research and training programs. It is expected that the collaboration which is valid for one year from date of signing would develop cooperative and collaborative activities in the furtherance of the common goals and objectives of SEAFDEC/AQD and Sophia University. Specifically, this would involve a conduct of short-term experiment on the reproductive physiology of seahorse at SEAFDEC/AQD by professor/researcher from Sophia University.

University of Tokyo and Tokai University (Japan)

SEAFDEC/AQD signed an Agreement for research cooperation with two universities in Japan – the Laboratory of Global Fisheries Science, University of Tokyo and the School of Marine Science and Technology, Tokai University. The purpose of the Agreement is to develop and implement collaborative activities as part of the research objectives under Components 3 (Environmental Assessment and Environmental Health Survey) and 7 (Community-based Stock Enhancement of Shrimps) of the Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia Project of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN). The Agreement also aims to exchange research findings and general knowledge regarding aquatic ecosystems and environments in the New Washington



Estuary and Batan Bay Estuary in order to promote their conservation and to enhance area capability of the local people. The Agreement is valid from the date of signing (July 2013) until March 2017.

Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development-Department of Science and Technology (PCAARRD-DOST)

Memoranda of Agreements were executed between SEAFDEC/AQD and PCAARRD-DOST in 2013 for the implementation of a 3-year: (i) National R&D Program for the Donkey's Ear Abalone, *Haliotis asinina*; and (ii) National R&D Program for Blue Swimming Crabs. The program for Abalone, in general, aims to increase abalone production in the Philippines for domestic/export markets through refinement of existing culture technologies. Concerning the program for Blue Swimming Crabs, the main objectives are to refine the existing hatchery technology and develop nursery technology. The two Agreements are effective until 2015.

RENEWAL OF THE COLLABORATION IN 2013

University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV)

SEAFDEC/AQD continued its collaboration with University of the Philippines in the Visayas through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on 28 January 2013. The MOU which is effective for five years from the date of signing, aims to: (i) develop collaborative activities in the furtherance of the common goals and objectives of SEAFDEC/AQD and UPV; (ii) undertake collaborative instruction, research, training and extension programs; (iii) promote exchange of scientists and researchers between AQD and UPV for instruction, research, training and other related activities; and (iv) strengthen the capabilities of SEAFDEC/AQD and UPV in the fields of aquaculture, fisheries, aquatic sciences and related fields through the cooperative use of materials and facilities. The collaborative activities would cover joint undertakings in research, instruction, training and extension programs of SEAFDEC/AQD and UPV.

RENEWAL OF THE COLLABORATION IN 2014

The Fisheries Research Agency (FRA), Japan

SEAFDEC and FRA continued their collaboration through the Arrangement for Scientific and Technical Cooperation signed on 23 January 2014. This Arrangement is the second time of re-extension from the first extension made in 2009. The main objectives of the Arrangement which is effective for five years are: (i) develop scientific and technical cooperation in various fields that are of interest to the two relevant organizations under the mutual understanding and inter-relationship; and (ii) develop the Scientific Exchange Program, "Exchange of Scientists".

OPERATION OF THE TRAINING AND RESEARCH VESSELS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center – Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) operates two training/research vessels constructed with the financial support from Japanese Government. The vessels of SEAFDEC/TD include M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Over the years, they have been utilized mainly for training activities and assessment of national fisheries resources in the EEZ water of the Member Countries of SEAFDEC and other governmental related agencies. More detail information of their services, capacities, and facilities are available at the website of SEAFDEC/TD.

Over the years, Government of Japan has supported various programs and activities through SEAFDEC/TD. In this connection, TD has provided technical assistance and facilities for research and training program onboard these two vessels for regional/national activities including: (i) cruise for fishery resources survey; and (ii) human resources capacity building program on fishing gear samplings, oceanography, and navigation.

In case of M.V. SEAFDEC 2, her utilization by the Member Countries of SEAFDEC is based on “Guidelines on the Cost Sharing Policy for the Operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2” which was recently revised at the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council organized in April 2013. The revised guidelines appear as **Appendix 1**.

II. UTILIZATION OF THE VESSELS

In case of M.V. SEAFDEC, it was recorded that her service has decreased from 100~200 days/year (during 1993 to 2000) to be only 25~100 days/year since 2001. This was due to the fact that regular training course onboard M.V. SEAFDEC has been closed around the year 2001. Referring to the record of utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC over the past 10 years (from 2004 to 2013), her utilization included: (i) fisheries, environmental, and oceanographic survey in several areas such as Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, Indian Ocean, East Timor Sea; (ii) regional research program under technical cooperation with BIMSTEC¹; and (iii) deployment and maintenance of Tsunami warning system in Andaman Sea and Indian Ocean under technical arrangement with Thailand National Disaster Warning Center.

M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been utilized to assess fishery resources by means of extensive scientific surveys of coastal and offshore fisheries resources. The vessel is also used to implement various fishery training programs with regard to promote utilization of fishery resources in offshore/deepsea fisheries as well as exploration of un-trawlable grounds in the EEZ waters of the Member Countries. In a boarder sense, the acquisition M.V. SEAFDEC 2 helps strengthen technical cooperation in the Southeast Asian region through enhancement of research and training capability. Historical records of revisions of the cost sharing scheme and some major changes in utilizing M.V. SEAFDEC 2 since 2004 to date shows as **Appendix 2**.

In addition, **Table 1** shows the total number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 since 2004 was 976 days, averaged approximately at 97.6 days/year. It was also recorded that Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, and Vietnam were countries that utilized M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for totally about 200 days.

In following-up with the countries and regional initiatives for utilizing M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2014, there are up-to-date four (4) main cruises that would be carried out, including: (i) tuna fisheries

¹ Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

resources survey in Sulu Sulawesi Seas; (ii) two cruises of fisheries resources survey in Brunei Darussalam waters²; and (iii) fisheries resources survey in Indonesia³.

Table 1. Number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 utilized by the Member Countries of SEAFDEC during 2004 to 2013 (unit = number of days)

Year	Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam	Total days
2004	34						14		48
2005	27	13	20	42		46	26	30	204
2006	29		22	29		23	40	30	173
2007					43	40	40		123
2008	31						64		95
2009			30						30
2010	41			45					86
2011	27						24		51
2012								143	143
2013							23		23
Sub-total	189	13	72	116	43	109	231	203	976
Percentage	19%	1%	7%	12%	5%	11%	24%	21%	100%

III. OBJECTIVES

In general, utilization of the research and training vessels M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is mainly for:

- Assisting Member Countries and requesting country/agency in conducting research surveys;
- Assisting Member Countries and requesting country/agency in building human resource capacity in various technical fields during the cruise survey based on their request and competency of SEAFDEC; and
- Providing technical support in order to analyze potential fishery resources.

IV. OPERATION OF THE TRAINING/RESEARCH VESSELS OF SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT IN 2014

The annual plan in the year 2014 M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and M.V. SEAFDEC appears as **Table 2**.

Table 2. Program of activities of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and M.V. SEAFDEC in 2014

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
M.V. SEAFDEC 2												
<i>Docking survey</i>												
<i>Fisheries Resources Survey in Brunei Darussalam Water</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>											
<i>Tuna Fisheries Resources Survey in Sulu-Sulawesi Seas</i>												
<i>Fisheries Resources Survey in Indonesian Water</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>											
M.V. SEAFDEC												
<i>Deployment of Tsunami Warning System in Indian Ocean</i>												
<i>Survey in BOB (Collaboration with PMBC⁴)</i>												
<i>Survey in Andaman Sea and Retrieving Oceanographic Observation Buoy in Andaman Sea (Collaboration with PMBC)</i>												

² To be further followed up with Brunei Darussalam

³ To be further followed up with Indonesia

⁴ Phuket Marine Biological Center

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<i>Survey in Gulf of Thailand (Collaboration with PMBC)</i>												
<i>Survey in Gulf of Thailand (TD)</i>												

V. ISSUES ON FUTURE UTILIZATION OF THE M.V. SEAFDEC 2

During the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the “*Council Director for Japan mentioned that since the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is granted by Japan as exceptional contribution to SEAFDEC, its operation cost must be borne by the Member Countries. Therefore, to sustain the operations of the vessel, SEAFDEC could explore other types of systems/sources of funds to cover the cost of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the future*” (Paragraph 28 of the Report of Special Council Meeting, on Recommendation No. 13 of the Third Review).

The Secretariat therefore wish to seek directives from the Council on future usage of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, as follows:

1. The budget of US\$ 65,000 has been annually allocated from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) for operation cost of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, and this amount is sufficient for the operation of the vessels for approximately 60 days/year. The Council may wish to consider and provide directives on the source(s) of budget for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the future, in the case where Member Countries request to use the vessel for a total period that requires higher operation cost than the allocated MRC, *e.g.* whether the cost-sharing policy should be amend in the future, etc.
2. On other types of systems/sources of funds to cover the cost of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the future, the Council may wish to consider possible options, *e.g.* hiring of the vessels for conducting research by other national agencies of Member Countries, including criteria, condition for sharing of information (secondary data) to SEAFDEC, and policy for charging of expenditures. Nevertheless, it should be noted that hiring of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for other activities should be given less priority than collaborative activities with Member Countries under the cost-sharing policy.

VI. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

1. The Council is requested to take note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC in 2013 and the plan for 2014.
2. The Council is requested to take note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2013, and endorse the proposed plan for operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2014.
3. The Council is requested to provide directives on source(s) of budget, including amendment of cost-sharing scheme, for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the case where Member Countries request to use the vessel for a total period that requires higher operation cost than allocated MRC.
4. The Council is requested to provide directives on other types of systems/sources of funds to cover cost of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the future, *i.e.* hiring of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for research by national agencies of Member Countries.

Revised Guidelines on the Cost Sharing Policy for the Operation of the “M.V. SEAFDEC 2”

I. Introduction

With favorable understanding of the Government of Japan about the function of SEAFDEC to assist in the sustainable development of fisheries of the Member Countries, the Government of Japan agreed to provide a new research vessel, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 under the Japanese Grant Aid Program to SEAFDEC.

Through a series of consultations with the Government of Japan, SEAFDEC and Japan reached to the agreement that the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be secured for the benefit of the countries which are eligible to the Japanese Grant Aid Program. On the other hand, it was also agreed among the SEAFDEC Member Countries that the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be based on cost-sharing policy taking into account both aspects, such as the benefits of the operation of the vessel to the Member Countries and the expected budgetary constraints of SEAFDEC in the future. The cost-sharing policy regarding the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has also been recognized as an important element to establish the ownership of research activities by the Member Countries and to promote sustainable research activities using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the region.

In exploring the research needs of the Member Countries, SEAFDEC established two mechanisms, namely: the Eligible Countries Committee where the eligible countries could provide or propose their own research needs or plans for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2; and the Operations Committee where the annual plan of operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 would be developed taking into account of needs of the SEAFDEC Member Countries other than the eligible countries as well.

During the 26th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee held in Manila in 2004, three categories of the expected operation using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 were presented. It was also recommended that all categories of collaborative operations that are related to the needs of the Member Countries and operation in the national waters would be under the cost-sharing policy except the operation by SEAFDEC to verify the application of standardized research methods using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which have been considered through the Technical Consultative Meeting in October 2003 and November 2004.

At the 45th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC held in Cebu of the Philippines in 2013, SEAFDEC/TD proposed revision of the Guidelines on the cost sharing policy for operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 particularly on the proposed modification of the cost-sharing policy for countries requesting for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the Council expressed apprehension that the Member Countries might not be able to shoulder the increased costs as proposed by SEAFDEC considering the difficulties in the internal negotiations with the respective national budget agencies of the countries.

However, With regards to data sharing, the Council agreed that some basic data collected onboard during the survey should be shared with SEAFDEC/TD. The data to be shared should be finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey between the requesting country and SEAFDEC. Such basic data will be kept confidential and to be used only for the SEAFDEC regional database and for future regional analysis (appears as a new paragraph 4 of the Part IV in this document).

II. Objectives

This Guideline will provide the outline of the expected cost-sharing policy to be considered by the Member Countries, for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 based on the policy arrived at SEAFDEC in early March 2004.

III. Outline of the Proposed Cost-Sharing Policy

Regardless of whether it is in cash or in kind, the following financial items related to the operations cost should be borne as a matter of principle, by the Member Country requesting for the collaborative operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in her national waters in response to her needs and interests.

- 1) **Supply of fuel** for the entire duration of the research including cruising to and back to the requesting country;
- 2) **Supply of fresh water** that would be consumed by the vessel during the operation of research in the national waters;
- 3) **Salary and necessary DSA of the local or national participants** onboard, who are involved in the research activities should be borne by the Member Country based on its own national standard; and
- 4) **Agency fee and port clearance fee** should be borne by the Member Country when the vessel visits and stays at the port for implementation of the collaborative research program.

IV. Working Scheme for the Collaborative Research with the Member Countries

- 1) Each Member Country is requested to prepare her research proposal, if any, taking into account of the short or medium-term activities. The proposal should be presented to the Eligible Countries Committee and/or Operations Committee to consider the cruise plans for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. As a matter of principle, the staying period for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the national waters could be limited to a maximum period of one month, taking into account of the availability also of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the other Member Countries;
- 2) Through consultation with the Operations Committee, each proposal from the Member Countries and Departments should be reviewed and finalized based on priority, practicability, readiness and financial background of the proposed research programs. The schedule of the research program of the country finalized by the Operations Committee could be adjusted to cater to the next priority country's needs or could be postponed until financial arrangements become ready by the requesting country;
- 3) Two months prior to the implementation of the individual research program, TD staff in charge of the operation will communicate through E-mail/or visit each beneficiary Member Country to discuss with the concerned staff on the detailed arrangements of the cruise and research program. The concerned members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) could be mobilized for effective communication with their respective countries, as the case may be;
- 4) With regards to data sharing, Member Country agreed that some basic data collected onboard during the survey should be shared with SEAFDEC/TD. The data to be shared should be finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey between the requesting country and SEAFDEC. Such basic data will be kept confidential and to be used only for the SEAFDEC regional database and for future regional analysis; and
- 5) Preliminary cruise report including comments on the immediate impacts of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 as well as the results of the national research program should be submitted to SEAFDEC/TD within six months after the cruise.

**Historical records of revisions of the cost sharing scheme and some major changes
in utilizing M.V. SEAFDEC 2 since 2004 to date**

Period 2004 ~2006

- Utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC during 2004 to 2006 was based on the results from the review/consultation meetings of the “*Eligible Countries Committee and Operations Committee under the Cost-sharing Policy of SEAFDEC*”.
- However, due to budgetary constraints in 2006, the Meeting of the Eligible Countries Committee and Operations Committee for the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was discontinued. Since then, the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the national fishery resources surveys has been carried out based on request of the Member Countries.

Period 2007 to 2010

- From 2007, the funding support for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been mainly sourced from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) of SEAFDEC. Such support has enabled SEAFDEC/TD to conduct a number of fishery resources surveys within the national waters of the Member Countries until now.
- At the 41st Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, the Council agreed that the countries that gain the benefit from the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be responsible for the cost incurred by the vessel. In addition, the Council agreed also to secure the budget for the additional cost of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Therefore, the cost sharing policy was modified. The major change in the cost sharing policy of using M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was that *the requesting country will support the fuel supply for the entire duration of the research activity including cruising to and back from the requesting countries.*

Period 2011 to date

- At the 45th Meeting of Council of SEAFDEC in 2013, the Council agreed that some basic data collected onboard during the survey should be shared with SEAFDEC/TD. *The data to be shared should be finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey between the requesting country and SEAFDEC. Such basic data will be kept confidential and to be used only for the SEAFDEC regional database and for future regional analysis.*

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2012

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
ABRIDGED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	In US\$	
	2012	2011
REVENUES		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	8,119,058	7,749,268
Other sources	1,908,611	1,007,369
Other income	624,406	787,691
TOTAL REVENUES	10,652,075	9,544,328
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	3,221,215	3,074,799
Training	1,053,758	1,045,954
Information	850,836	839,547
Collaborative	177,863	140,327
Others	412,780	414,960
Administrative	3,554,004	4,234,104
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,270,456	9,749,691
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year	1,381,619	(205,363)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	5,004,647	(1) 4,969,560
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	43,976
FUND BALANCE, End of year	6,386,266	4,808,173 (1)
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash and cash equivalents	6,586,261	4,515,665
Other receivables	448,496	161,046
Advances and Deposits	169,486	95,748
Supplies inventory	62,075	66,357
Fuel oil for vessels	188,783	114,258
Prepayments	14,959	13,761
Total Current assets	7,470,060	4,966,835
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	70,068	68,599
Termination indemnity fund	1,953,013	1,888,776
Other assets-Net	419,502	622,515
Total Assets	9,912,643	7,546,725
Less: Liabilities		
Accrued payable	598,185	638,506
Contribution received in advance	760,373	
Funds held in trust	212,336	211,270
Provision for termination indemnity	1,953,013	1,888,776
Total Liabilities	3,523,907	2,738,552
Unrealized gain on available-for-sale financial assets	2,470	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	6,386,266	4,808,173

(1) The difference of US\$ 196,474 (US\$ 5,004,647 – US\$ 4,808,173) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
THE SECRETARIAT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

	In US\$	
	2012	2011
REVENUES		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	400,000	400,000
Other sources	47,285	45,019
Other income	3,418	61,378
TOTAL REVENUES	450,703	506,397
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Training	-	-
Information	56,124	48,876
Collaborative	177,863	140,327
Others	40,118	298,086
Administrative	187,610	164,975
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	461,715	652,264
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year	(11,012)	(145,867)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	265,230	403,219
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	254,218	257,352
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash and cash equivalents	230,716	250,810
Other receivables	16,950	18,205
Advances and Deposits	36,256	32,766
Prepayments	47	372
Total Current assets	283,969	302,153
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	70,068	68,599
Total Assets	354,037	370,752
Less: Liabilities		
Accrued payable	99,819	113,400
Total Liabilities	99,819	113,400
TOTAL NET ASSETS	254,218	257,352

⁽¹⁾ The difference of US\$ 7,878 (US\$ 265,230 – US\$ 257,352) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

	In US\$	
	2012	2011
REVENUES		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	2,534,562	2,544,427
Other sources	947,833	507,456
Other income	156,990	160,289
TOTAL REVENUES	3,639,385	3,212,172
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	413,526	412,629
Training	887,099	809,653
Information	241,444	258,840
Others	372,662	116,874
Administrative	1,095,054	1,085,716
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,009,785	2,683,712
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year	629,600	528,460
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	3,330,329	2,702,948
FUND BALANCE, End of year	3,959,929	3,231,408
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,481,244	3,175,737
Other receivables	27,131	22,127
Advances and Deposits	90,984	30,115
Fuel oil for vessels	188,783	114,258
Prepayments	14,912	13,389
Total Current assets	4,803,054	3,355,626
Termination indemnity fund	1,953,013	1,888,776
Total Assets	6,756,067	5,244,402
Less: Liabilities		
Accrued payable	82,752	124,218
Contribution received in advance	760,373	
Provision for termination indemnity	1,953,013	1,888,776
Total Liabilities	2,796,138	2,012,994
TOTAL NET ASSETS	3,959,929	3,231,408

⁽¹⁾ The difference of US\$ 98,921 (US\$ 3,330,329 – US\$ 3,231,408) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

	In US\$	
	2012	2011
REVENUES		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	4,141,291	3,877,737
Other sources	913,493	454,894
Other income	463,998	566,024
TOTAL REVENUES	5,518,782	4,898,655
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	2,807,689	2,662,170
Training	166,659	236,301
Information	553,268	531,831
Administrative	1,228,135	2,056,309
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,755,751	5,486,611
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year	763,031	(587,956)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	1,409,088	1,863,393 ⁽¹⁾
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	43,976
FUND BALANCE, End of year	2,172,119	1,319,413 ⁽¹⁾
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,874,301	1,089,118
Receivables	376,137	111,485
Advances and Deposits	42,246	32,867
Supplies inventory	62,075	66,357
Other Current Assets	28,278	9,229
Total Current assets	2,383,037	1,309,056
Other assets-Net	419,502	622,515
Total Assets	2,802,539	1,931,571
Less: Liabilities		
Accrued payable	415,614	400,888
Funds held in trust	212,336	211,270
Total Liabilities	627,950	612,158
Unrealized gain on available-for-sale financial assets	2,470	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,172,119	1,319,413

⁽¹⁾ The difference of US\$ 89,675 (US\$ 1,409,088 – US\$ 1,319,413) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

	In US\$	
	2012	2011
REVENUES		
Contributions from :-		
Member governments	1,043,205	927,104
TOTAL REVENUES	1,043,205	927,104
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Administrative	1,043,205	927,104
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,043,205	927,104
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY), For the year	-	-
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	-	-
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	-	-
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-
Advances and Deposits	-	-
Total Current assets	-	-
Total Assets	-	-
Less: Liabilities		
Accrued payable	-	-
Total Liabilities	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	-	-

UN-AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012
(In US. dollars)

	2013 (Un-audited)	2012 (Audited)
ACCUMULATED FUND		
As at December 31	<u>8,030,882</u>	<u>6,386,266</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Current assets		
Cash in hand and at banks	8,159,671	6,586,261
Other receivables and Advances	670,514	617,982
Supplies inventory	87,804	62,075
Fuel oil for vessels	102,768	188,783
Prepayments	<u>25,760</u>	<u>14,959</u>
Total Current assets	<u>9,046,517</u>	<u>7,470,060</u>
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	102,889	70,068
Termination indemnity fund	1,949,619	1,953,013
Other assets	<u>360,844</u>	<u>419,502</u>
Total Other assets	<u>2,413,352</u>	<u>2,442,583</u>
Total Assets	<u>11,459,869</u>	<u>9,912,643</u>
<u>Less</u> : Liabilities		
Accounts payable	476,074	600,655
Contribution received in advance	856,351	760,373
Funds held in trust	146,943	212,336
Provision for staff termination indemnity	<u>1,949,619</u>	<u>1,953,013</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,428,987</u>	<u>3,526,377</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>8,030,882</u>	<u>6,386,266</u>

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

	In US\$				Total	
	Operating Fund	MRC	Fellowship	Others	2013	2012
	Host Department		Fund	Fund	(Un-audited)	(Audited)
REVENUES						
Contributions from:-						
Government of Brunei Darussalam		7,000			7,000	7,000
Government of Cambodia		6,000			6,000	6,000
Government of Indonesia		26,000			26,000	26,000
Government of Japan		280,000			280,000	280,000
Government of Lao PDR		5,000			5,000	4,000
Government of Malaysia	1,013,388	21,000			1,034,388	1,053,205
Government of Myanmar		21,000			21,000	10,000
Government of Philippines	4,004,711	25,000			4,029,711	4,156,291
Government of Singapore		13,000			13,000	8,000
Government of Thailand	2,496,578	20,000	23,695		2,540,273	2,554,562
Government of Vietnam		14,000			14,000	14,000
Sub-total	7,514,677	438,000	23,695	0	7,976,372	8,119,058
Other sources	708,420	566	3,530	2,105,459	2,817,975	2,533,017
TOTAL REVENUES	8,223,097	438,566	27,225	2,105,459	10,794,347	10,652,075

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

	In US\$				Total	
	Operating Fund	MRC	Fellowship	Others	2013	2012
	Host Department		Fund	Fund	(Un-audited)	(Audited)
EXPENDITURES						
Operating Expenditures						
Program of Activities:						
Research	2,382,860			906,717	3,289,577	3,221,215
Training	648,744		15,557	55,542	719,843	1,053,758
Information	651,960	38,742		93,841	784,543	850,836
Collaborative		86,236			86,236	177,863
Others				661,050	661,050	412,780
	<u>3,683,564</u>	<u>124,978</u>	<u>15,557</u>	<u>1,717,150</u>	<u>5,541,249</u>	<u>5,716,452</u>
Administrative & Capital expenditures	3,029,243	199,091		22,572	3,250,906	3,554,004
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>6,712,807</u>	<u>324,069</u>	<u>15,557</u>	<u>1,739,722</u>	<u>8,792,155</u>	<u>9,270,456</u>
 SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	 <u>1,510,290</u>	 <u>114,497</u>	 <u>11,668</u>	 <u>365,737</u>	 <u>2,002,192</u>	 <u>1,381,619</u>

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FUND BALANCE
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012**

	Balance as at January 1, 2013	Adjustment of fund	In US\$ Surplus (Deficit)	Balance December 31, 2013 (Un-audited)	Balance as at December 31, 2012 (Audited)
Operating fund	4,335,270	344	1,624,787	5,960,401	4,583,313
Fellowship fund	174,798		11,668	186,466	187,456
Others fund	1,522,385	-4,107	365,737	1,884,015	1,617,967
Net	6,032,453 ^{1/}	-3,763	2,002,192	8,030,882	6,388,736 ^{1/}

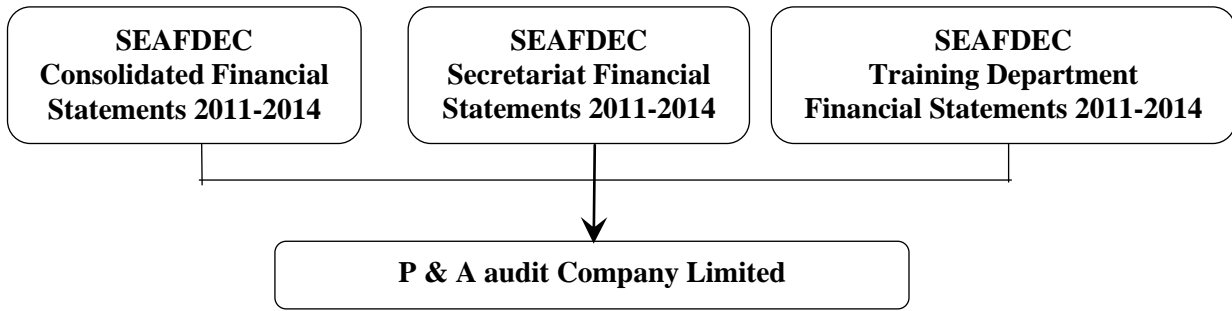
⁽¹⁾ The difference of US\$ 356,283 (US\$ 6,388,735 – US\$ 6,032,453) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

Annex 27

STATUS OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION FOR THE YEAR 2014**Contributions Received from SEAFDEC Member Countries
as Annual Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) in 2014**

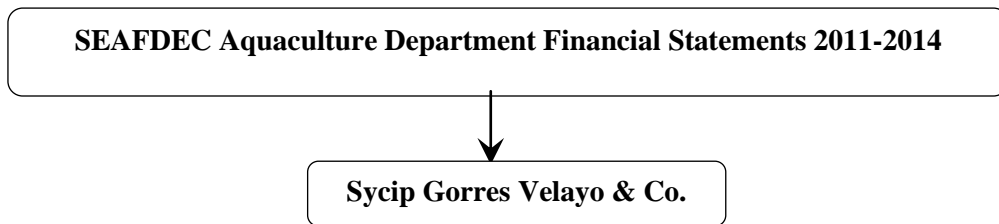
Countries	Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)	Amount Received (In US\$) (As of 3 March 2014)
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	
Cambodia	11,000	
Indonesia	58,000	
Japan	280,000	280,000
Lao PDR	5,000	5,000
Malaysia	21,000	21,000
Myanmar	21,000	
Philippines	25,000	25,000
Singapore	13,000	13,000
Thailand	33,000	33,000
Vietnam	26,000	14,000
	500,000	391,000

Contact Person and Audit Firm



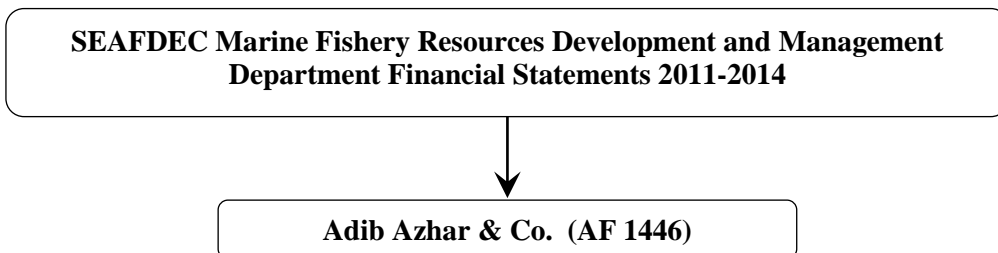
Auditor' name : Mr. Phongtorn Duangphanya
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 Navamin Road, Klongjan Bangkapi
 Bangkok 10240, Thailand
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 Telephone : (609) 624-4616
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 Email : *adibazharktrg@gmail.com*

PROPOSED BUDGETARY REQUIREMENT FOR THE YEAR 2015

Table 1. Estimated Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other sources (in US Dollars) in fiscal Year 2014

Sources	Secretariat	Training Department	Marine Fisheries Research Department	Aquaculture Department	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department	Total	
						In US\$	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000					7,000	0.05
Cambodia	11,000					11,000	0.07
Indonesia	58,000					58,000	0.38
Japan	280,000					280,000	1.84
Lao PDR	5,000					5,000	0.03
Malaysia	21,000				1,729,707 ^{g/}	1,750,707	11.53
Myanmar	21,000					21,000	0.14
Philippines	25,000			5,569,620 ^{f/}		5,594,620	36.83
Singapore	13,000		0 ^{e/}			13,000	0.09
Thailand	33,000	2,696,300 ^{d/}				2,729,300	17.97
Vietnam	26,000					26,000	0.17
Sub-total	500,000	2,696,300	0	5,569,620	1,729,707	10,495,627	69.10
Others ^{h/}	2,977,182 ^{b/}	994,500 ^{c/}		721,556		4,693,238	30.90
Total	3,477,182 ^{a/}	3,690,800	0	6,291,176	1,729,707	15,188,865	100%

Remarks: ^{a/} Including Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$500,000

^{b/} Including extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,414,682(Excluded MRC=US\$280,000) and Sweden Fund = US\$1,562,500

^{c/} Including extra-budgetary sources from FAO = US\$190,600, RIHN(Japan) = US\$80,300, UNEP=US\$550,000, ASEAN Foundation=US\$143,600 and others

^{d/} Contribution in cash from Thailand

^{e/} No contribution from Singapore

^{f/} Contribution in cash from the Philippines

^{g/} Contribution in kind from Malaysia

^{h/} Including contributions from non-member governments, international organizations/agencies and miscellaneous receipts.

Table 2. Estimated Expenditures of the Center for 2014 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	Total	%
I Program of Activities							
1.1 Research Programs		650,800		3,334,829		3,985,629	26.24
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	836,000		630,799		1,471,799	9.69
1.3 Information Programs	71,000	397,800		557,377		1,026,177	6.76
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000 ^{6/}	86,600				236,600	1.56
1.5 Other Programs	3,055,182 ^{7/}	994,500 ^{8/}		536,066		4,585,748	30.19
Sub-total	3,281,182	2,965,700	0	5,059,071	0	11,305,953	74.44
II Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures							
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	725,100		1,206,130		2,119,730	13.96
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500			25,975		33,475	0.21
2.3 In-kind Expenditures	196,000	725,100		1,232,105	1,729,707	2,153,205	14.18
Sub-total	196,000	725,100	0	1,232,105	1,729,707	3,882,912	25.56
TOTAL	3,477,182	3,690,800	0	6,291,176	1,729,707	15,188,865	100%

 Remarks: ^{1/} Secretariat

^{2/} Training Department: The Program of Activities are included administrative and others expenses which are directly related to the programs.

^{3/} Marine Fisheries Research Department

^{4/} Aquaculture Department: The Program of Activities are included administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.

^{5/} Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

^{6/} Included operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of M.V. SEAFDEC 2

^{7/} Included program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,414,682 and Sweden Fund = US\$1,562,500.

^{8/} Included program expenses from FAO = US\$190,600, RIHN (Japan) = US\$ 80,300, UNEP=US\$550,000, ASEAN Foundation=US\$143,600 and Others.

Table 3. Expected Contributions Received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other Sources (in US Dollars) in Fiscal Year 2015

Sources	Secretariat	Training Department	Marine Fisheries Research Department	Aquaculture Department	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department	Total	
						In US\$	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000					7,000	0.04
Cambodia	11,000					11,000	0.07
Indonesia	58,000					58,000	0.37
Japan	280,000					280,000	1.79
Lao PDR	5,000					5,000	0.03
Malaysia	21,000				1,816,192 ^{g/}	1,837,192	11.73
Myanmar	21,000					21,000	0.13
Philippines	25,000			5,077,900 ^{f/}		5,102,900	32.57
Singapore	13,000		0 ^{e/}			13,000	0.08
Thailand	33,000	2,808,700 ^{d/}				2,841,700	18.14
Vietnam	26,000					26,000	0.17
Sub-total	500,000	2,808,700	0	5,077,900	1,816,192	10,202,792	65.12
Others ^{h/}	3,077,097 ^{b/}	1,084,400 ^{c/}		1,302,435		5,463,932	34.88
Total	3,577,097 ^{a/}	3,893,100	0	6,380,335	1,816,192	15,666,724	100%

Remarks: a/ Including Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$500,000

b/ Including extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,514,597(Excluded MRC=US\$280,000) and Sweden Fund = US\$1,562,500

c/ Including extra-budgetary sources from FAO = US\$190,600, RIHN (Japan) = US\$63,800, UNEP=US\$800,000 and Others

d/ Contribution in cash from Thailand

e/ No contribution from Singapore

f/ Contribution in cash from the Philippines

g/ Contribution in kind from Malaysia

h/ Including contributions from non-member governments, international organizations/agencies and miscellaneous receipts.

Table 4. Proposed Expenditures of the Center for 2015 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	Total	%
I Program of Activities							
1.1 Research Programs		692,000		3,101,305		3,793,305	24.21
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	857,200		641,551		1,503,751	9.60
1.3 Information Programs	71,000	421,100		560,155		1,052,255	6.72
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000 ^{6/}	86,600				236,600	1.51
1.5 Other Programs	3,155,097 ^{7/}	1,084,400 ^{8/}		889,654		5,129,151	32.75
Sub-total	3,381,097	3,141,300	0	5,192,665	0	11,715,062	74.79
II Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures							
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	751,800		1,153,645		2,093,945	13.37
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500			34,025		41,525	0.26
	196,000	751,800		1,187,670		2,135,470	13.63
2.3 In-kind Expenditures					1,816,192	1,816,192	11.58
Sub-total	196,000	751,800	0	1,187,670	1,816,192	3,951,662	25.21
TOTAL	3,577,097	3,893,100	0	6,380,335	1,816,192	15,666,724	100%

Remarks: 1/ Secretariat

2/ Training Department: The Program of Activities are included administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.

3/ Marine Fisheries Research Department

4/ Aquaculture Department: The Program of Activities are included administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.

5/ Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

6/ Included operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of M.V. SEAFDEC 2

7/ Included program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,514,597 and Sweden Fund = US\$1,562,500.

8/ Included program expenses from FAO = US\$190,600, RIHN (Japan) = US\$63,800, UNEP=US\$800,000 and Other

ADOPTED PRESS STATEMENT

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Singapore, the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held from 1 to 4 April 2014 and hosted by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore. Situated in the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula and being one of the world's busiest hubs for transshipment traffic, Singapore is a regional food showcase and headquarters for a number of international food and agricultural related companies including fish and seafood products which have contributed to the country's economic development.
2. In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and delegations from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Inaugural Ceremony of the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 1 April and presided over by the Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Defence and Mayor of South East District, Singapore, *Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman*. The Meeting unanimously elected the Council Director for Singapore, *Mr. Lee Kwong Weng* as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2014-2015, succeeding *Atty. Asis G. Perez*, SEAFDEC Council Director for the Philippines who served as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the year 2013-2014.
3. The Council noted the good progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2013, and approved the proposed program of activities to be undertaken by SEAFDEC in 2014, which have been formulated taking into consideration the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers and Senior Officials in June 2011. The Council also provided directions on the future activities of SEAFDEC, particularly the establishment of "Regional Fishing Vessels Record" as a tool to combat IUU fishing, and the "Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asian Region".
4. On the "Regional Fishing Vessels Record" (RFVR), the Council supported the establishment of the RFVR as it is an initial but bold step towards combating IUU fishing in the region. While the Member Countries agreed to share their respective minimum requirements information on fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over for compilation in the SEAFDEC database system, SEAFDEC was also requested by the countries to provide capacity building for staff of concerned national agencies to enable them to efficiently provide information into the database, as well as continued support particularly in the conversion the current units used in measuring fishing vessels into the commonly-agreed unit of measurement.
5. The Council endorsed the proposal for the development of Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asia which includes the development of the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Management. Considering the inadequate data and information to support the development of the said Regional Plan of Action, SEAFDEC was requested to circulate the draft Regional Plan of Action including substantive background information to the Member Countries for their support on such development. SEAFDEC was also requested to develop appropriate technology and fishing gears for the capture of neritic tuna species in a sustainable manner.
6. The Council also supported the proposal for SEAFDEC to serve as Coordination Unit for the new training program on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), considering that this could be the first step for the countries in the region to move towards EAFM. In this connection, SEAFDEC was requested to provide assistance to the Member Countries to enhance their capacities on the application of EAFM in the future.

7. The Council took note of the progress of the establishment of the “Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)”, especially the construction of new buildings on land areas donated by the Government of Indonesia, as well as in securing research facilities for this new Department. Aside from providing infrastructures and support to the operations and staff of the new Department, Indonesia is also sourcing financial support from potential donors for the implementation of programs and projects of IFRDMD. The Council considered and approved in principle the Plan of Operation and Program of Work of IFRDMD to enable the Department to start operations in the soonest time possible.

8. At the closing of the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Council extended its appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Singapore for the excellent hosting of the Meeting and the warm hospitality accorded to the Council throughout the event. The Council then announced that the 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2015 would be hosted by Thailand.

For further information, please contact:

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VOTE OF THANKS TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT

*By Mr. Khin Maung Maw
SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar*

The Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, My fellow SEAFDEC Council Directors,
Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon!

On behalf of the SEAFDEC Council Directors and representatives from our collaborating partners attending this 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, I wish to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Singapore, particularly to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore and Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) for their warm hospitality and arrangements that make our stay in Singapore very comfortable.

Please allow me also to congratulate the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the successful conduct of the Meeting. Although we had a very hectic schedule at this Meeting, I am glad that we are able to come up with policy guidance for SEAFDEC to consider in planning its future activities. I noted that through the discussion, the Member Countries were determined to support and strengthen SEAFDEC to enable it to continue performing its role in the sustainable development of fisheries in our region. I hope that the contribution of SEAFDEC to the region will be enhanced with more successful achievements in the years to come.

Finally, please allow me to also thank the Secretariat of the Meeting especially the staff of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore and Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) for the smooth arrangements of our Meeting and for our memorable short stay in Singapore.

Thank you very much.