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Regional Meeting on Way Forward of the Resolution and Plan of Action for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020



SEAFDEC organized the “Regional Meeting on Way Forward of the Resolution and Plan of Action for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020” from 1 to 2 May 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by the SEAFDEC National Coordinators and National Focal Points for the Revision of the RPOA&POA for: Brunei

Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam; officers and representatives from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely: TD, AQD, MFRDMD and IFRDMD; and resource persons and representatives from collaborating partners.

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EDITORIAL

One of the highlighted events of SEAFDEC for the second quarter of 2019 was the “Regional Meeting on Way Forward of the Resolution and Plan of Action for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020” where elements for revising the RES&POA that target upto the year 2020 were identified, and the Meeting came up with the initial revision of the draft RES&POA Towards 2030. Another remarkable event was the launching of the “SEAFDEC Gender Strategy” that serve as an overarching framework to facilitate SEAFDEC’s efforts toward integrating gender in its programs, projects, and activities. The SEAFDEC Gender Strategy is also intended to support the integration of gender perspectives in fisheries and aquaculture of the SEAFDEC Member Countries.

Moreover, through the “Gulf of Thailand Sub-regional MCS Network Meeting,” the common types of information on each component of M, C, and S were identified and would be shared and coordinated

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GOT Sub-regional MCS Network Meeting convened



The SEAFDEC-Sweden Project convened the “Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Sub-regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network Meeting” on 20-21 June 2019 in Chonburi, Thailand. The two-day Meeting brought together more than 30 participants comprising the officials from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam; representatives from relevant

agencies (fisheries, marine police, maritime enforcement, surveillance, and navy), as well as representatives from FAO, SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD, and MFRDMD. The Meeting started with a welcome speech delivered by SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn*. After presenting the brief background and rationale of the Meeting,

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EDITORIAL

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among the GOT for science-based decision making towards sustainable management of the fishery resources.

In continuing its close cooperation and collaboration with regional/international agencies/organizations such as ASEAN Secretariat, FAO, MRC, etc. to address the priority fisheries issues, SEAFDEC attended the 11th AFCF and the 27th ASWGF Meeting to report the progress of the implementation of several policy frameworks under the ASEAN cooperation in fisheries (*i.e.*, the Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products; the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme; Regional Fishing Vessels Record, among others). Based on the results of its projects and activities, SEAFDEC also participated in relevant fora and shared experiences with stakeholders on the progress and development of various aspects that include genetic research in aquaculture, EAFM in inland fisheries, fishing gears survey in inland fisheries, and the importance of collaboration and networking among partners in implementing activities that support the Member Countries for the sustainability of fishery resources.

SEAFDEC also sustained the conduct of several trainings and workshops including the topics on tropical anguillid eels; chondrichthyan taxonomy, biology, and data collection; sharks and rays; key stakeholder engagement; tuna stock risk assessment; EAFM; and writing skills. Meanwhile, as SEAFDEC/AQD is developing a new feed formulation that would lower the cost of fish farming and make fish more affordable by using cheaper alternative ingredients when compared to commercial feed, once the trials on this prove successful, the formulation would be shared to private feed manufacturers. ✕

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Regional Meeting on Way Forward of the Resolution and Plan of Action for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020

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The need for revision of the RPOA&POA which was adopted since 2011 was raised during the 50th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2018, considering that the RPOA&POA has specific target year in 2020. This regional meeting therefore started with reviewing of the progress made by the AMSs, SEAFDEC and other regional/sub-regional partners in implementing the RES&POA-2020, followed by discussion to identify other fisheries-related issues that emerged after the adoption of such document in order to accommodate in the revision of the RES&POA.

The National Focal Point for Revision of RES&POA for Thailand,

Mr. Theerawat Samphawamana, was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the Meeting. Through the discussion, several new issues and elements that should be updated were identified, and the meeting was able to come up with the initial draft RES&POA Towards 2030 and the work plan for revising the draft RES&POA-2030.

The results of the Meeting would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council and subsequently to the ASEAN for consideration *ad referendum*, and for endorsement under the arrangement of the Focal Points for the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership also *ad referendum*. ✕

GOT Sub-regional MCS Network Meeting convened

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Dr. Kom emphasized the importance of strengthening the MCS network for the Gulf of Thailand (GOT) sub-region. During the Meeting, the participants were provided with information on national MCS system as well as MCS principles and benefits through collaboration among relevant agencies in the GOT countries. In the discussion, the common types of information on each component of M, C, and S were identified, to be shared and coordinated among GOT countries for the benefit of

science-based decision making for managing fishery resources, controlling fishing effort, and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. To enhance the longer-term and formality of the networks, the Meeting provided feedback on the proposed working mechanism of the GOT sub-regional cooperation on MCS for future MCS coordination group as well as the opportunity to gain support and continue the collaboration on GOT sub-regional MCS network. ✕

Students from Kasetsart University visit TD

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) welcomed 26 students and a lecturer from the Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University on 10 May 2019. The aim of the study visit was to enhance the knowledge and experience of the students on coastal navigation. The students were informed on the activities of SEAFDEC in the Southeast Asian region. The students also had a chance to visit SEAFDEC/TD facilities such as the fishing workshop, marine engineering workshop, library, M.V. SEAFDEC,

and M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Moreover, the students, assisted by SEAFDEC staff, also practiced the use of skip boat control in Chao Phraya River. ✕



SEAFDEC participates in the 11th FIRMS and 26th CWP Meetings

Hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the 11th Meeting of Fisheries and Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) was convened on 13-14 May 2019 in Rome, Italy. Two representatives from SEAFDEC, *Ms. Saivason Klinasukhon* from the Secretariat and *Mr. Isara Chanrakhij* from the Training Department, as well as representatives from the 14 partners of FAO attended the Meeting. The aim of the Meeting was to update on the progress of activities of FAO partners in improving the quality of data and information on the global monitoring and management of fisheries and marine resources. During the Meeting, SEAFDEC presented the activities related to data collection and stock assessment carried out during 2017-2019, which include training courses related to data collection and activities under the framework of the RPOA-Neritic Tunas, especially the study on stock assessment.

Back-to-back with the 11th FIRMS was the 26th Meeting of Coordinating Working Party (CWP) on Fishery



Statistics Meeting convened from 15 to 18 May 2019 to serve as the forum for agreeing on the common definitions, classifications, and standards for the collection of fishery statistics. The deliberations, focus on the revision of several international standard statistical classifications, *e.g.* the International

Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV), the final proposal of the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP), and the updated International Aquaculture Farming Systems Classification. In line with such revisions, the CWP Handbook was revised by updating the statistical concepts and eliminating unnecessary information. This matter would be brought for consideration by SEAFDEC and would be accommodated in the future revision of the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia. ✦



TD joins Thailand's fishery exhibition

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) joined the National Fishery Exhibition "Pramong Nomklao" organized by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand from 28 June to 7 July 2019 at the Future Park Shopping Mall in Pathumthani, Thailand. This year, SEAFDEC/TD's exhibition theme was "Automatic Squid Jigging" where samples of squids in Thailand were displayed to impart knowledge on its biology and life cycle. Moreover, SEAFDEC activities were also promoted through information materials such as technical publications, brochures, and fishery-related souvenirs.

The income generated from the SEAFDEC exhibition booth was donated to the Chulabhorn Research Institute for its cancer research. ✦

Capacity building on EAFM for university students

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the "Sixty-second Short-term Training Course for University Students on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)" from 4 to 14 June 2019 in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The training was intended to build up and raise awareness of the young generation on responsible fishing for sustainable fisheries. Twenty-six students from Kasetsart University, Burapha University (Bangsan Campus and Chantaburi Campus), Prince of Songkla University, Chulalongkorn University, and Hokkaido University participated in this training course.

The course was specifically designed for students to gain knowledge, practice, and experience the concept and principle of EAFM, fisheries management in Thailand and Japan, basic fisheries and



oceanographic surveys, fishing gears, and so on. Moreover, the participants also practiced rope and knotting, simple fishing gear construction, oceanographic survey and responsible fishing operations at sea, and fishing community survey in Phetchaburi Province. All of the activities empowered and developed the students' skill while the training also served as a venue for establishing networks among SEAFDEC and University students. ✦

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

2018 SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Annual Review Meeting

SEAFDEC hosted the 2018 SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Annual Review Meeting at SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand on 26 April 2019. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the Embassy of Sweden, SEAFDEC officials, and Regional Fisheries Policy Network members. The Meeting provided a timely platform and opportunities for SEAFDEC and SEAFDEC-Sweden Project to share the current project achievements and challenges that the project went through in 2018. The Meeting also discussed the phasing out plan of the Project as 2019 is the final year of implementation.



Through its discussion, each agendum has gathered valuable inputs reflecting possibilities and existing challenges as well as suggested solutions which will be beneficial towards attaining the Project objectives. ❖

Japan sponsors training of high school science teachers

To improve the quality of science education in Iloilo, host province of SEAFDEC/AQD, the Government of Japan sponsored a three-day training for 23 high school science teachers from 13 public high schools in the area.

Held from 21 to 24 May 2019 at AQD, the science teachers received lectures from scientists and specialists on

general aquaculture principles, genetics and biotechnology in aquaculture, basic microscopy, and science research.

The teachers were hands-on on the training on reference management, statistical design and analysis, and writing a research proposal. As a final output, the teachers came up with simple and doable research proposals. ❖

Enhancing Writing Skills through Writeshop in IFRDMD

SEAFDEC/IFRDMD organized the “In-house Training on Writing Skills for SEAFDEC/IFRDMD Staff Members: a Writeshop” in Palembang, South Sumatera, Indonesia from 1 to 5 April 2019. The aim of the Training was to enhance the skills of IFRDMD staff members in writing articles for publication as well as preparing meeting reports and drafting institutional documents for general office information and communication tasks. The resource person was *Mrs. Virgilia T. Sulit*, the Technical Writer and Editor from SEAFDEC Secretariat. For the opening remarks, the chief of IFRDMD, *Dr. Arif Wibowo*, expressed his gratitude to the resource person and he expected that this training would enhance the writing abilities of IFDRMD staff also

in writing scientific papers. During the training, *Mrs. Sulit* encouraged the participants to be creative in writing short but precise articles with catchy and punchy titles that would be interesting for readers. Moreover, the participants were divided into groups for writing exercises and presented their outputs at the end of the training. ❖



Data collection on Thai purse seine

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD), in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Thailand, conducted the case study on Thai purse seine fishing equipped with auxiliary equipment by using power block system (a mechanized winch for hauling the purse seine net) for hauling net on 22-26 April 2019 in Pattani Province and 16-17 June 2019 in Trat Province.

The study was conducted to understand the worthiness of the performance of Thai purse seine fishing when equipped with power block system as well as to address the problem on shortage of labor force to operate Thai purse seine fishing. Cost and return data collection was carried out by interviewing the purse seine fishing boat owners who installed crane and power block equipment for hauling net to replace manual hauling. The results of the study could be used to find alternative ways to reduce manual and safe labor in the fisheries sector. ❖

AQD participates in Month of the Ocean through clean-up drive

SEAFDEC/AQD, led by its museum, FishWorld, joins the “Month of the Ocean (MOO)” celebration by cleaning the coast near its area. The collected garbage was segregated according to their type. Food wrappers, take out containers, beverage bottles, plastic bags, paper bags, and fishing gears were found.

The “Month of the Ocean” is celebrated annually in the Philippines during the month of May. This year is the 20th anniversary of MOO with the theme “Free the sea from marine debris.” ❖

Development of the fisheries management work plan for Lao PDR

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Workshop on Development of the Fisheries Management Work Plan for Aung Kra Dein, Bolicunsei Province, Lao PDR” from 22 to 26 April 2019 in Thailand, joined by three men and six women from Aung Kra Dein Province. The Workshop included study visit and observation program in Thailand namely: 1) inland fisheries management case study of Keng Krajam,

Phetchaburi Province, and 2) inland fish aquaculture (breeding, nursery, and culture) seeding, restocking and inland fish processing in Ayutthaya Province. The Workshop participants initially compiled the available background/baseline information on fishery resources, habitats, status and livelihoods of fishing communities, and established the legal basis for the fisheries management plan and action for their province. ☒



Participants in a discussion during the workshop

Incoming and outgoing JIRCAS experts in AQD discuss their research progress

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) has appointed a new researcher to be based at SEAFDEC/AQD starting from April 2019. *Dr. Ryogen Nambu* will succeed *Dr. Masashi Kodama* who worked in AQD since 2014 as a visiting scientist.

On 19 March, the two Japanese experts gave a back-to-back seminar held at AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo, Philippines. *Dr. Nambu* presented his two case studies in Japan, focusing on the relationship between artificial fisheries and environment, while *Dr. Kodama* discussed the progress of his Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) study in AQD.

As a Senior Researcher at the National Research Institute of Fisheries Engineering (NRIFE), Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, *Dr. Nambu* introduced two case studies: (1) Evaluation of artificial reefs in

increasing primary production in the Sea of Kashima; and (2) The mechanisms of Asari clam shellfisheries ground formation in Ise Bay, Central Japan.

Dr. Nambu’s technical experience include population ecology, biochemistry, fisheries engineering, and biomineralization, among others. He was awarded his Ph.D. degree in 2006 under the Department of Life Science, Faculty of Bioresources, Mie University. ☒



Culture systems specialist, Dr. Rolando Platon giving certifications to Dr. Ryogen Nambu

Program to lower cost of aquafeeds kicks off at AQD



Mr. Dan Baliao (5th from right) and Dr. Roger Edward Mamauag (4th from right) during the launching of the field testing project

A new feed formulation that hopes to lower the cost of fish farming and make fish more affordable to the masses kicked off with the field-testing of the low-cost feed at the Igang Marine Station of SEAFDEC/AQD last 15 May 2019. The new formulation, developed by AQD scientist *Dr. Roger Edward Mamauag*, uses cheaper alternative ingredients and will also be tested around the Philippines in partnership with the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

According to AQD Chief *Mr. Dan Baliao*, initial comparisons show that the new formulation is at par with a commercial diet and both result in large size milkfish. He also added that the formulation is much cheaper compared to commercial feed.

Dr. Mamauag added that the feed cost can still go down if the feed is produced in a commercial scale. However, the positive research result still needs to be verified through field testing. The field testing in Guimaras is for milkfish reared in sea cages. This feed will also be tested in milkfish sea cages in other locations. There will also be a field testing of low-cost aquaculture feed for tilapia.

If the trials prove successful, the formulation will be given to private feed manufacturers for them to adopt. ☒

Minister Counselor (Agriculture) of Thailand visits IFRDMD



The Counselor of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, *Dr. Smith Thummachue* together with officers from the Office of Agricultural Affairs Royal Thai Embassy, Jakarta, visited SEAFDEC/IFRDMD on 25 April 2019 to take a look at the activities of the Department. During the

visit, *Dr. Thummachue* expressed his interest in inland fishing activities in Southeast Asia. IFRDMD welcomed the special guests by sharing the overview of the five-year project “Promotion of responsible utilization of inland fisheries in Southeast Asia,” specifically the Fisheries Management Area (FMA) of inland fisheries in Indonesia including parameters to assess the fish stock (*i.e.*, stock population biomass, potential production, maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and total catch); and the present status of inland fisheries in Southeast Asia. Moreover, the visitors also went around the IFRDMD facilities including the laboratories and fish collection workshops. ❖

Partnership inked for resource enhancement project at Lahuy Island

To rehabilitate the degraded coastal resources and reduce stress to the marine ecosystem in Caramoan, Camarines Sur in the Philippines, the Partido State University (PSU) partnered with SEAFDEC/AQD for the implementation of a resource enhancement project at the Lahuy Group of Islands.

The two institutions sealed their partnership on 11 April 2019 through an agreement signing held at AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo, Philippines.

The collaborative research project will involve socio-economic and resource assessment; social and biophysical preparation of the enhancement site; and stock enhancement of abalone and sandfish, if proven suitable in the area.

Prior to the agreement signing, the Lahuy Group of Islands in Caramoan has been considered as a replication site adopting the strategies of the successful Community-Based Resource Enhancement (CBRE) project of AQD and the Government of Japan-Trust Fund 6 in Molocaboc, Sagay City, Negros Occidental. The Caramoan site was evaluated in a preliminary social assessment conducted by PSU and AQD in May 2017 together with the local stakeholders.

With its experience, AQD will be in-charge of providing technical advice based on the CBRE project in Sagay. AQD’s researchers and technical team in-charge of the project will also participate in some field activities at the site and in fisherfolk community meetings in Lahuy Island. ❖



Workshop on key stakeholder engagement and fisheries management in Thailand

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Workshop on Key Stakeholders’ Engagement, Problem Identification and Fisheries Management Plan Development” from 15 to 17 May 2019 in Krabi Province, Thailand.

The aim of the Workshop was to build up human capacity on the application of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) through the implementation of activities of fisheries management plan by encouraging the key stakeholders to participate in fisheries activities. There were 30 participants including fishery officers and key fisheries stakeholders from Krabi Province, who came up with management plan for their province. ❖

Australian Deputy Head of Mission visits AQD’s ACIAR-funded studies

The Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy in the Philippines, *Mr. Mat Kimberley* visited SEAFDEC/AQD facilities to see the ongoing studies on grouper and sandfish which are funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The delegation from ACIAR and the Australian Embassy toured the Igang Marine Station and the Tigbauan Main Station last 10 and 11 April 2019. They were briefed on the research activities by *Dr. Jon Altamirano* and *Dr. Evelyn Grace Ayson*, study leaders of the sandfish and grouper studies.

This year, ACIAR is supporting the study on “Breeding and seed production of giant grouper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*)” and “Increasing technical skills supporting community-based sea cucumber production in Viet Nam and the Philippines.” ❖

Grouper studies shine at aquaculture forum

SEAFDEC/AQD Researcher *Peter Palma* won the Best Research Presentation (postgraduate level) Award during the 12th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (12AFAF) held in Iloilo City last 8-12 April 2019.

His paper “Studies towards Advancing Reproductive Development in Giant Grouper *Epinephelus lanceolatus* using Recombinant Hormone Manipulations” was among the oral presentations during the session on genetics biotechnology.

The research is aimed at using recombinant hormone manipulation to induce groupers’ sexual maturation to address the issue of low productivity of the animals caused by late sexual maturity. Results showed not only how effective the hormone is to groupers’ sexual maturity but also modulated the process of sex reversal either through intermuscular or oral administration.

In the same event, AQD Technical Assistant *Josielou Chan* also presented her research on “Reproductive Development of the Threatened Giant Grouper *E. lanceolatus*.” The aim of her study was to verify the long-standing hypothesis that giant groupers



follow the reproductive patterns of most Epinephelines that were characterized by protogynous hermaphroditism wherein male maturation is attained through sex reversal of a functional female. Findings, however, deviated from the previous hypothesis and rather suggested that giant grouper is a diandric protogynous hermaphrodite. This study provided novel information on the reproductive biology of giant grouper which will be useful in the development of effective captive breeding technology as well as strategic population management of this economically important and vulnerable species.

The 12AFAF was organized by the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) in partnership with the University of the Philippines Visayas and the University of the Philippines Visayas Foundation, Inc.

Japanese internship student joins TD activities

A second year master’s degree student from the Graduate School of Global Food Resource, Hokkaido University, *Ms. Keio Takano* joined SEAFDEC/TD as an internship student from 29 April to 21 June 2019. The main objectives of her internship at TD were to conduct survey and data analysis on the fishery of blue swimming crab in Kep Province, Cambodia which is under a TD project. During her stint at TD, she gained experience from the SEAFDEC activities such on various monitoring and evaluation of co-management project at Num Oon Dam in Sakon Nakhon Province, Thailand. She also attended the “Sixty-second Short-term Training Course for University Students” organized by TD on 4-14 June 2019. The internship of Japanese students is an activity under the Memorandum of Understanding between SEAFDEC and Hokkaido University.



IFRDMD and FAO collaboration to assess EAFM of inland fisheries in Indonesia

The consultation and needs assessment and verification of ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) for the inland fisheries at district, provincial, and national levels were held in five districts in Indonesia, namely: Kapuas District, Barito Selatan District, Cilacap District, Palabuhan

Ratu District, and Kampar District. The activities were conducted from April to June 2019. The facilitators of the activities were officers of SEAFDEC/IFRDMD, Research Institute for Inland Fisheries and Extension (RIIFE), and Fisheries Research Center (FRC) of Indonesia. During the focus group

discussions (FGD), the participating stakeholders including fishers, village heads, indigenous community leaders, community leaders, Fishery Service Office of each District, and other related institutes, actively shared information, suggestions, and wishes regarding the sustainability of fish biodiversity and ecosystem. The facilitators guided the participants in fulfilling the questionnaire to assess the inland fishery by using the ecosystem approach, gathered information from participants, and ran the discussion smoothly. Finally, after analyzing the answers from participants, it is hoped that all the districts are capable of inland fisheries management through ecosystem approach.



SPECIAL REPORT

Establishment of MCS networks in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea sub-regions by SEAFDEC Secretariat

Upon the endorsement of the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Region in May 2007 in Bali, Indonesia, the cooperation to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia had been strengthened, especially towards the establishment of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) networks in the sub-regional areas of the Southern and Eastern of South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, Gulf of Thailand, and Arafura-Timor Seas. As a regional fisheries R&D which also promotes the sustainable development of fisheries in the region, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) works closely with the RPOA-IUU in strengthening the MCS networks as tool to combat IUU fishing in the waters of Southeast Asia.

In order to complete the draft matrix of MCS needs and potential actions for the Gulf of Thailand, SEAFDEC through the SEAFDEC-Sida Project (forerunner of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project) collaborated with the Department of Fisheries of Thailand and organized the Sub-regional Meeting on the Gulf of Thailand in 2008 which considered the need to establish regional/sub-regional MCS system/network by developing national MCS systems recognizing that MCS functions could be useful in improving data collection within the region and among the countries. Such recommendation to establish the regional cooperation on MCS network was supported by the ASEAN high-level officials' commitments as indicated in the "Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020" which was adopted at the 2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 "Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment" and subsequently endorsed at the 33rd Meeting of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) also in 2011. Specifically, Plan of Action No. 22 encourages the ASEAN Member States to "Establish and strengthen regional and sub-regional coordination on fisheries management and efforts to combat IUU fishing including the development of regional/sub-regional Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) networks."

The renewed support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in 2013 through the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project "Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia" boosted the efforts of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to implement regional and sub-regional

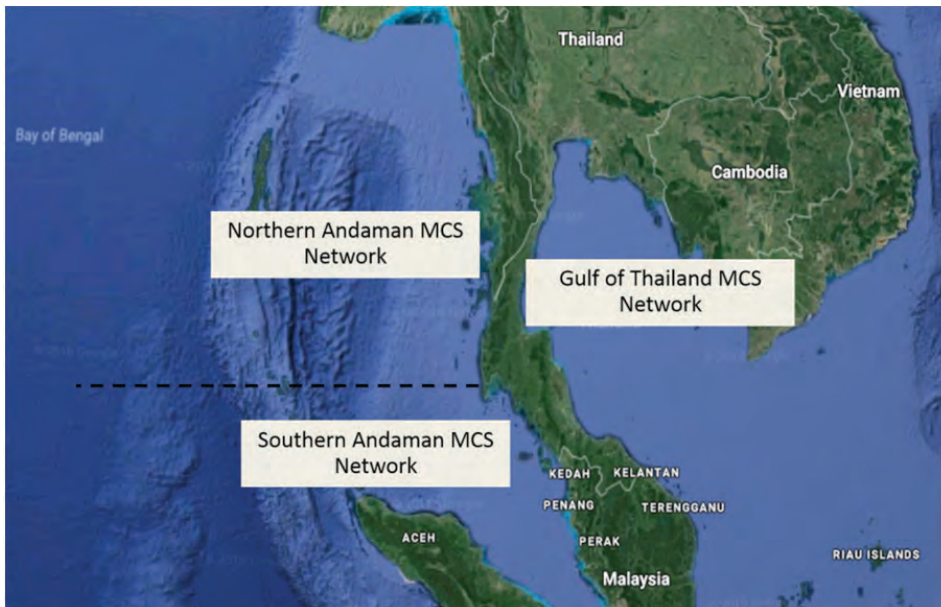
actions by building upon the momentum of the RPOA-IUU in addressing initiatives towards sustainable fisheries development and combating IUU fishing. In particular, the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project emphasized on the regional and sub-regional cooperation among the AMSs by facilitating the exchange of fisheries related data for the purpose of enhancing cooperation within MCS networks and on fisheries management. In general, the AMSs strengthened their support to combat IUU fishing through the regional MCS networks, where MCS is defined by FAO as:

- **Monitoring (M)** includes the collection, measurement, and analysis of fishing and related activities - but not limited to catch, species composition, fishing effort, bycatch, discard, areas of operation, etc.; this type of information provide primary data to use for decision making.
- **Control (C)** involves specific terms and conditions under which resources can be harvested. These specifications are normally contained in national fisheries legislations and other arrangements that might be nationally, sub-regionally, or regionally agreed. The legislation provides the basis for which fisheries arrangements, via MCS, are implemented.
- **Surveillance (S)** involves checking and supervision of fishing and related activities to ensure that national legislations and terms, conditions of access, and management measures are observed.

In principle, the benefits of strengthened coordination in sub-regional MCS networks could include:

- expressed support for the implementation of UNCLOS/UN Fish Stock Agreement, Port State Measure Agreement;
- improved product traceability and certification;
- improved data for stock assessment;
- experience gained and knowledge shared in combating IUU fishing;
- improved management of shared stocks;
- enhanced knowledge of regulations in neighboring countries among fishers and control agencies; and
- reduced surveillance costs (as these could be shared among concerned countries).

When the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project organized the Sub-regional Consultation on the Development of MCS in the Gulf of Thailand in 2017, the concerned countries agreed to: 1) coordinate in combating IUU fishing through enforcement of the MCS network in accordance with existing national mechanisms; 2) develop a sub-regional MCS network as a



Map showing the sub-regional MCS cooperation areas under the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project

major force to keep track of the implementation of fisheries management plans that could positively reduce long-term damages on fish stocks and marine ecosystem; and 3) collaborate with responsible agencies to secure the mandate and approach for the establishment of the sub-regional MCS network to be linked with existing national networks. These were also confirmed for the Andaman Sea Sub-region (Northern and Southern Sea Sub-sub-regions). Nevertheless, the establishment of such cooperation should take into account the national rules and mandates of agencies involved such as departments of fisheries, environmental agencies, port authorities, customs, trade promotion, immigration, transport, and labour as well as the maritime enforcement authorities (navy, coastguard, marine police or similar entities). As there are already existing national coordination groups established for inter-agency coordination in the AMSs, the development of sub-regional MCS network could build upon the activities these groups through strengthened cooperation.

The expected outcomes of the sub-regional cooperation through the MCS networks could include: (i) improved verification and certification of legal status of catch/

landing and fishery products; (ii) enhanced effectiveness of sub-regional/ bilateral coordination for facilitating trade and improve product traceability; (iii) improved scientific assessment for transboundary species; and (iv) new coordination body/cooperation for MCS linked through the existing cooperation on surveillance. These could be realized through the National Technical Groups for MCS established in each AMS, comprising members responsible for the development of information collection mechanism, and collaboration with agencies and institutions involved in the national MCS network.

Furthermore, based on the recommendations during the sub-regional meetings, any sub-regional agreements should not be legally binding but could be built on mutual trust recognizing the mutual benefits gained, but should take into consideration the national legal systems of concerned countries. In addition, agreements could also be established for sharing of data/information that are mutually useful and which would simplify the national fisheries management processes (e.g., scientific data, trade verification data, among others). ❖



Participants of the Southern Andaman Sea MCS Meeting



Group discussion during the MCS Network Meeting 2019

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

RFVR side event meeting in Korea



The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Meeting on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) in Southeast Asia” from 13 to 14 May 2019 as a side event during the “Fifth Meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Workshop Group (GRWG5)” supported by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Government of the Republic of Korea in Seoul. There were 22 participants from the ASEAN Member States (except Brunei Darussalam and Singapore),

FAO, and Spain and Tonga (as observers) during the side event meeting. The Meeting discussed the progress and the updated information for RFVR Database 24 meters in length and over, preparation and way forward on the development of the RFVR Database less than 24 meters in Southeast Asia, and future cooperation between SEAFDEC and FAO on sharing information between RFVR and Global Record. The Meeting came up with plan of activities for next year and the way forward for cooperation with FAO in the future.

Moreover, three SEAFDEC staff also participated in the GRWG5 and the Second Meeting of the PSMA Open-Ended Technical Workshop Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE2) from 15-17 May 2019 organized by FAO in Seoul, Republic of Korea. During the Meetings, SEAFDEC shared the information on implementation of the RFVR and regional cooperation to support Port State Measures in the Southeast Asian region. ❖

Fijians choose AQD as training ground for sandfish culture

Aiming to start a small-scale commercial sandfish hatchery, three Fijians searched the world over and found the platform they needed for learning the culture of the prized commodity at SEAFDEC/AQD in Iloilo, Philippines.

The trainees from Fiji, together with other participants from Papua New Guinea (1), and the Philippines (2), attended AQD’s 16-day training course on “Sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) Seed Production, Nursery and Management” held at Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo, Philippines on 25 March-8 April 2019.

The training course covered lectures and practical activities on natural food culture, sandfish spawning induction, and larval rearing. The course also included field tours to nursery culture sites and sandfish sea ranching sites. Grow-out culture and sandfish processing were taken up as well during the course. ❖

Regional Training and Workshop on Chondrichthyan Taxonomy, Biology and Data Collection

Nineteen participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, SEAFDEC/TD, and SEAFDEC/MFRDMD participated in the five-day “Regional Training and Workshop on Chondrichthyan Taxonomy, Biology and Data Collection” on 16-20 June 2019 held at MFRDMD in Terengganu, Malaysia. Most of the participants are involved in data collection of shark and ray landings in their respective countries. The resource person of the training was *Dr. Ahmad Ali*, MFRDMD Senior Researcher and Regional Vice-Chair of the IUCN Sharks Specialist Group for the Southeast Asian Region. The training included lectures on the taxonomy and biology of elasmobranchs, methods on data collection at species level, and



Participants of the Regional Training and Workshop on Chondrichthyan Taxonomy, Biology and Data Collection

status of sharks and rays in the region. For the exercises, the participants identified fresh specimens of sharks and rays. Moreover, the participants were taught to key-in landing data using MS Excel and analyze the keyed

data using pivot table application for data management. Finally, the new SEAFDEC Shark Database Software developed by TD for shark management project at regional level was introduced to the participants. ❖

Training on sharks and rays age determination by using vertebra



SEAFDEC/TD organized the “Regional Training Course on Age Determination using Vertebra for Sharks and Rays” from 29 April to 1 May 2019 in Samut Prakan, Thailand. Nineteen trainees from Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, and SEAFDEC/MFRDMD attended the training which was based on the recommendations from the yield per recruit (YPR) model training course conducted by TD in 2018.

The resource persons were stock assessment and shark experts in the region and Japan, namely: *Dr. Tuantong Jutagate* from Ubon Ratchathani University, *Dr. Thanitha Darbanandana* from Kasetsart University, *Dr. Sontaya Koolkalya* from Rambhai Barni Rajabhat University, *Dr. Ahmad Ali* from MFRDMD, and *Dr. Matsuishi Takashi Fritz* from Hokkaido University. During the training, the trainees learned how to collect vertebrae from sharks, stain, operate vertebrae cutting machines, as well as count the yearly ring of vertebrae. The trainees also learned the software application for counting yearly ring, back calculation of age, and estimation of the growth parameter.

Since information on age are important in stock assessment studies on sharks and rays in the region, it is planned that this training program would be continued under the JTF VI (Phase II) during 2020-2024 in collaboration between TD and MFRDMD. ✕

Two workshops on tropical anguillid eels in Southeast Asia organized in Manila



SEAFDEC organized the back-to-back workshops on “Statistics of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia” and “Aquaculture of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia” in Manila, Philippines on 23 April and 24-25 April 2019, respectively. The workshops were part of the work plan of the project “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia” which is supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). A total of 46 participants attended the workshops comprising focal points and delegates from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), the Assessment Committee, resource

persons from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences and Faculty of Science, University of Brunei Darussalam, representatives from prominent eel farms from Indonesia, Philippines, and Viet Nam, SEAFDEC Secretariat, SEAFDEC/AQD, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD, and JANUS.

The discussions during the two workshops focused on the status of information on the resource utilization, distribution and resource stock of tropical anguillid eels in the Southeast Asian countries, and the development of technologies to improve the survival rate of juvenile eels. On this occasion, AQD’s Aquaculture Extension Manual No. 65 “Nursery Culture of Tropical Anguillid Eels in the Philippines” was launched and disseminated to the workshop participants. The back to back workshops covered the first phase of the JAIF project on tropical anguillid eels which is due to be completed in July 2019. The second phase of the JAIF project is currently finalizing the activities and tasks based on the outcome of the current phase. ✕

Capacity building on EAFM for Thai fisheries officers



The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Training Course” from 27 to 31 May 2019 in Chiangmai, Thailand. The training course focused on the integration of EAFM concept in the development of fishery management plans, manage problems and issues, solve conflict, and encourage the participation of fishery

stakeholders. The participants comprised twenty Thai fisheries officers involved in fishery management, human capacity development in fisheries, and fishery extension. At the end, the participants were capacitated to be able to apply the knowledge and experiences from the training to their work relevant to fisheries management. ✕

SEAFDEC talks on ASEAN Cooperation and Commitments on Combating IUU Fishing

The Policy and Program Coordinator of SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*, was tapped as one of the speakers for the “1st ASEAN Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in Partnership with the EU” on 4-5 April 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. *Dr. Worawit*’s presentation “ASEAN Cooperation and Commitment on Combating IUU Fishing” focused on the implementation of regional initiatives in supporting the ASEAN Member States to combat IUU Fishing, including the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of

Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020; Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products; ASEAN Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain; Regional Fishing Vessel Record; and ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries. The outputs of the Meeting were subsequently

reported to the meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) held on 27-29 June 2019, while proposed establishment of the ASEAN Network for Combatting IUU Fishing was also submitted to ASWGF_i for further discussion and consideration. The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat and Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) to work with the SEAFDEC Secretariat in the development of the concept proposal on establishing the Network. ✕

SEAFDEC attends the Inception Meeting on the Development of an ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study

SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn*, Deputy Secretary-General, *Mr. Akito Sato*, and Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*, attended the “Inception Meeting on the Development of an ASEAN General Fisheries Feasibility Study” on 22-23 May 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. With the objective of developing the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), the Meeting discussed and considered the framework of the feasibility study to

be developed by project consultants. SEAFDEC and other regional fisheries organizations presented key regional initiatives and activities as references in defining the scope of the feasibility study. Furthermore, the Meeting agreed on the scope of the assignment of the consultants, which is to develop a series of “policy briefing notes” that would be used for developing the feasibility study and report on the formulation of an AGFP. ✕



Mr. Akito Sato, Dr. Kom Silapajarn, and Dr. Worawit Wanchana during the meeting

SEAFDEC participates in the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures and the 3rd Meeting of the Part 6 Working Group

SEAFDEC participated in the “2nd Meeting of the Parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)” on 3-6 June 2019 and the “3rd Meeting of the Part 6 Working Group” on 7 June 2019 held in Santiago, Chile. The Meetings were attended by Parties to the PSMA observers from non-Party States, and intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. While updating on the progress on the implementation of the PSMA, the Meeting also discussed and agreed on the draft Rules of Procedures for meetings of the Parties and subsidiary working groups. The Meeting also provided the progress of FAO work on the development of an electronic global

information exchange system which the Parties can view the information on the national contact point and designated ports to effectively implement port State measures. Moreover, the Meeting also reviewed and adopted the draft TOR for the funding mechanisms under Part 6 of the Agreement. Such funding support from FAO was launched in 2017 to support the implementation of the PSMA at national, regional, and global levels. During the meeting, Indonesia was elected as a member of the Committee for approval of the FAO Global Development Program to support the implementation of the PSMA and complementary international instruments. ✕

Practical workshop on tuna stock risk assessment



Participants during the meeting

The “Practical Workshop on Tuna Stock Risk Assessment for Yellowfin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna and Skipjack Tuna Resources in Sulu and Sulawesi Seas (SSSs)” was organized from 13 to 18 May 2019 by the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) in Samut Prakan, Thailand. This Workshop was

(Continued on Page 13)

SEAFDEC TWG of USAID Oceans joins two workshops on catch documentation and traceability

Two SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) staff who serve as Technical Coordinator and member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for Information Communication and Technology for the Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans) participated in the “Workshop on Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) System Design and Development based on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)” organized by the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) from 25 to 26 June 2019 in Dili, Timor Leste. This workshop aimed to enable the six Coral Triangle (CT6) countries, namely: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste to understand how the electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability (eCDT) systems can support EAFM planning and enhance national fisheries management, and to learn about the existing eCDT systems that can be adapted and customized based on individual CT6 countries’ needs.

Moreover, the USAID Oceans, in partnership with SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, organized pre and post event workshop on CDT Gaps Assessment and Private Sector Appraisal principally with CTI Pacific Countries (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste) on 24, 27-28 June 2019. The Workshop was aimed at completing a rapid CDT Gap Analysis and Partnership Appraisal with the three CT Pacific countries; learning and considering the eCDT technology solutions currently being piloted by the program; and reviewing and discussing the draft regional CDT technical guidance for using eCDT technologies. In attendance were 40 participants from CT6 countries as well as representatives from relevant international organizations such as USAID/RDMA, DOI, NOAA, USAID Oceans and SEAFDEC.

The representatives from SEAFDEC/TD presented the “Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS): An Effective Fisheries Management

Tool in EAFM.” The introduction and demonstration of the electronic ACDS (eACDS) in Brunei Darussalam as pilot country was also presented at the Workshop. At the end, the Workshop came up with: 1) increased capacity to implement eCDT technologies under EAFM, including addressing existing CDT gaps and building private sector partnerships with the CTI Pacific countries; and 2) increased capacity of all CT6 to adopt and implement USAID Oceans-piloted eCDT technologies and/or identify and implement other suitable technologies for robust eCDT systems. Moreover, the CT6 countries provided revisions and support to the draft regional CDT technical guidance to ACDS, with draft national eCDT implementation roadmaps; and increased awareness and familiarity of the products and training materials available to CT6 countries for their use in implementing eCDT, EAFM, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), and Human Welfare: Gender Labor (HWGL) strategies. ❏

Practical workshop on tuna stock risk assessment

(Continued from Page 12)

intended to build up the capacity of researchers from the countries around Sulu and Sulawesi Seas under the project “Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia.” There were 12 participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, SEAFDEC/TD, and SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in this Workshop. *Dr. Tsutomu Nishida*, an experienced and expert on tuna stock assessment, was the resource person during the Workshop.

At the end, the participants enhanced their understanding of the steps on tuna stock assessments from CPUE standardization, stock assessments through A Stock Production Model Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC), Kobe plot (a stock status trajectory plot), and risk assessment. ❏

SEAFDEC-Sweden Project shares experiences in the Mekong River Basin

Hosted by the Mekong River Commission (MRC), the “7th MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum on Mekong Transboundary Integrated Water Resources Management” was convened on 20-21 May 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. *Dr. Yuttana Theparoonrat*, Technical Expert of SEAFDEC, joined as one of the panelists of the Panel Session on Fisheries Management, and shared the experiences of SEAFDEC from its activities in the Mekong River

Basin under the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project, which includes the conduct of fishing gear survey in Bokeo, Lao PDR and in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, bilateral dialogue between Lao PDR and Thailand, and EAFM trainings. He also conveyed his views on the importance of collaboration and networking among partners in implementing activities that support the Member Countries for the sustainability of transboundary fishery resources. ❏



Dr. Yuttana Theparoonrat sharing his experiences during the 7th MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum on Mekong Transboundary Integrated Water Resources Management

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
2019			
5-9 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Review Training Program on Optimizing Energy and Improve Safety at Sea for Small Fishing	TD
9 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Workshop on the Development of the Action Plan for SEAFDEC Gender Strategy	TD
10-11 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Experts Consultation Workshop on Finalization of the Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia	TD
8-12 July	Iloilo, Philippines	AQD Anniversary	AQD
18-19 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	National Workshop on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Findings Document	SEAFDEC EU/CITES Project-II
22-23 July	Bangkok, Thailand	3 rd Regional Meeting on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	Secretariat JAIF project
22-26 July	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Port State Measures Implementation for Inspector	TD
25-26 July	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Regional Training Course for the Improvement on Management of Inland Fisheries	IFRDMD
6-7 August	Tawau, Malaysia	National Workshop on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Findings Document	SEAFDEC EU/CITES Project-II
6-7 August	Chanthaburi, Thailand	National Forum on Sharing Lessons Learned and Knowledge on Habitat and Fisheries Management (implemented by SDF) in Thailand	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
14-15 August	Singapore	End-of-Project (EOP) meeting for Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia - Biotoxins (ASP, AZA, and BTX) and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the ASEAN Region	MFRD Programmes
20-21 August	Bangkok, Thailand	Southern Andaman Sea Sub-region MCS Meeting	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
3-5 September	Chonburi, Thailand	Terminal RTC for Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products Project	MFRDMD
4-5 September	Chonburi, Thailand	8 th Meeting of the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
10-11 September	Bangkok, Thailand	Meeting for Revision of Resolution & Plan of Action 2020	Secretariat
12-13 September	Chonburi, Thailand	Sub-regional Consultation to Develop Action/Management Plan of Indo-Pacific Mackerel	Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> and SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
2-4 October	Bangkok, Thailand	Capacity Development Workshop on Estimation and Reporting of SDG Indicator 14.4.1 for the Asia and Pacific Region	FAO/HQ & SEAFDEC
3-4 October	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Core Experts Meeting on Tropical Anguillid Eel Information Sharing	Secretariat
7-10 October	Thailand	Regional Workshop on the Activities Results and Reporting on the Lessons Learned from the HRD Project	TD
8-9 October	Bangkok, Thailand	1-Year Shark Data Collection Validation Workshop	SEAFDEC EU/Secretariat CITES Project-II
8-10 October	Jakarta, Indonesia	Workshop on 5-Year of IFRDMD's Achievement	IFRDMD
15-17 October	Philippines	20 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Program (ISP)	Secretariat
30-31 October	Bangkok, Thailand	End of the Project Meeting: Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia (2013-2019)	SEAFDEC-Sweden Project
11-13 November	Chiang Mai, Thailand	42 nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee	Secretariat & TD
14-15 November	Chiang Mai, Thailand	22 nd Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	Secretariat
16 November	Chiang Mai, Thailand	SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting	Secretariat
25-29 November	Vigo, Spain	17 th Session of the FAO/COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade	FAO/HQ


Global experts: Info sharing on aquaculture a must among AMSs

Global experts in aquaculture said in a recent international workshop that to enhance successes in resource enhancement and prevent failures in the aquaculture industry, the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) must share information.

The appeal was made at the “International Workshop on the Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture, Aquatic Animal Health and Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia (SARSEA)” organized by SEAFDEC/AQD with funding support from the Government of Japan on 25-27 June 2019 in Iloilo City, Philippines.


Sharing of information among AMSs was considered crucial in view of the need for stronger capabilities in the detection of diseases in aquaculture resources so that aquaculture industries and institutions engaged in aquaculture resource enhancement avoid the repetitions of mistakes.

Other recommendations during the Workshop were the enforcement of the established guidelines on disease surveillance and disease reporting, and the adoption of established guidelines for food safety and traceability.

There were four aquaculture experts across the globe who shared their knowledge on aquatic animal health, sustainable aquaculture, and resource enhancement to 53 participants in the SARSEA. The participants also reported on the status of sustainable aquaculture and resource enhancement and aquatic animal health of their respective countries. 

SEAFDEC participates the Workshop on Empowering Fisheries Officers for Gender-Responsive and Sustainable Fisheries Management

The SEAFDEC Gender Focal Persons from SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC/TD participated in the “Workshop on Empowering Fisheries Officers for Gender-Responsive and Sustainable Fisheries Management” held from 25 to 26 April 2019 in Iloilo City, Philippines. The Workshop was attended by the Regional Directors, Central Office Division Chiefs, National Center Chiefs, and Regional Planners from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) as well as representatives from the USAID Fish Right Project, USAID Oceans, WWF, and University of Philippines Visayas. The aim of the Workshop was to review BFAR’s Gender and Development action plans and discuss on how it can be implemented and localized.

During the Workshop, SEAFDEC presented the lessons and experiences learned from the study on gender in fisheries in pilot countries as well as the principles of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy. 

Note for contributors

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

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

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SEAFDEC Gender Strategy launched

In striving as a gender-responsive and gender-sensitive organization, SEAFDEC cordially announces the launching of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy, which serves as an overarching framework to facilitate the Center's efforts toward integrating gender in its programs, projects, and activities. The SEAFDEC Gender Strategy is also intended to support the integration of gender perspectives in fisheries and aquaculture of the SEAFDEC Member Countries. The development of the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy was a collaborative effort among the Secretariat and Departments with funding support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project.

SEAFDEC has initiated over the past years several human capacity building activities with emphasis on gender in achieving food security and poverty alleviation. SEAFDEC will continue its efforts in addressing gender issues in the fisheries sector by strengthening the understanding of gender dynamics which include interactions between men, women, and youth in the sustainable utilization of fishery resources and conservation and management of aquatic environment.

The SEAFDEC Gender Strategy can be viewed and downloaded at

<http://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/4861>.

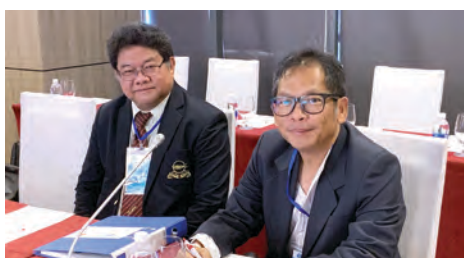


SEAFDEC Gender Strategy and the QR code to download

SEAFDEC participates the 11th AFCF and 27th ASWGFi Meeting

SEAFDEC took part in the “11th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)” hosted by the Directorate of Fisheries of Viet Nam on 25-26 June 2019 in Da Nang. The Meeting was attended by country delegates of the ten ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and representatives from regional organizations including SEAFDEC. The Meeting came up with the updated progress on initiatives and activities undertaken by the AMSs, namely: fishing capacity and zoning system, securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, resource rehabilitation and enhancements, impacts of climate change on fisheries, combating IUU fishing, and traceability of fisheries and aquaculture products. SEAFDEC presented at the Meeting, the regional initiatives related to fishing capacity, combating IUU fishing, resource rehabilitation and enhancements, securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, especially on gender aspects.

Back-to-back with the 11th AFCF was the “27th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi)” on 27-28 June 2019. SEAFDEC Secretary-General *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* led the SEAFDEC delegation to the ASWGFi Meeting. Representatives from the ASEAN Member States, officials of



the ASEAN Secretariat, and observers from the Australian Government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the European Union (EU) also attended the Meeting.

During the Meeting, SEAFDEC reported its progress in the implementation of several regional policy frameworks, *e.g.* the Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products; the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR); the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme; the Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of the Port State Measures in ASEAN Region; and the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in Southeast Asian Region. The ASWGFi also concurred the endorsement by the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) of the ASEAN Common

Position on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species in the CITES Appendices, which shall be used as basis for AMSs in reflecting their respective position during the forthcoming 18th Session of CITES-CoP in August 2019 in Switzerland. Furthermore, the ASWGFi noted the plan and progress made by SEAFDEC in reviewing the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020” which was previously adopted by the Senior Officials and Ministers responsible for fisheries of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in 2011.

On the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative projects, the ASWGFi took note of the 25 on-going projects of 2018-2019, noting the completion of two projects on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management; and Cold Chain Management for Seafood in 2018. The ASWGFi also noted two pipeline projects: Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region; and Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resource Management.

