

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

Bangkok, Thailand
1-2 May 2019

I. Introduction

1. The Regional Meeting on Way Forward of the Resolution and Plan of Action for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 (RES&POA-2020) was convened in Bangkok, Thailand from 1 to 2 May 2019. The Meeting was attended by the SEAFDEC National Coordinators and National Focal Points for the Revision of RPOA&POA for the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam; officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely: Training Department (TD), Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD); resource persons from the collaborating partners of SEAFDEC such as the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, Faculty of Fisheries of Kasetsart University in Thailand, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mekong River Commission (MRC), SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF/Fisheries *Refugia* Project, and the School of Fisheries Science of Hokkaido University in Japan. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

II. Opening of the Meeting and Election of Chairperson of the Meeting

2. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* welcomed the participants to the Regional Meeting and highlighted that the Regional Meeting would review the progress made by the ASEAN Member States focusing on the outputs/outcomes attained at national level, and those of SEAFDEC and other regional and sub-regional partners in the implementation of the RES&POA-Toward 2020. He mentioned that the Meeting would also discuss and identify other fisheries-related priority/emerging issues which should be considered in reviewing the RES&POA, and would attempt to establish the possible links between the RES&POA-Toward 2020 with other fisheries policy development processes in the ASEAN in discussing the workplan and way forward for the development of the draft RES&POA-Beyond 2020. He added that SEAFDEC would accordingly prepare the draft RES&POA-Beyond 2020. He sought for the full support and cooperation of all participants during the discussions for the success of the Regional Meeting, and declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appears as **Annex 2**.

3. The National Focal Point for Thailand, *Mr. Theerawat Samphawamana* was unanimously elected as the Chairperson for the Regional Meeting.

III. Background, Objectives, and Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

4. After presenting the background and objectives of the Meeting, the Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* updated on the progress of the RES&POA. He explained that the Meeting would also be tasked to finalize the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the National Focal Points for Revision of the RES&PoA-2020, set the priorities and issues under each thematic area, develop the timeline and plan of activities for the revision of the RES&POA-2020, and decide on the evaluation process of the implementation RES&POA-2020, if necessary. His presentation appears as **Annex 3**.

5. The Agenda which appears as **Annex 4** was adopted.

IV. Review of the Progress in the Implementation and Way Forward of the RES&POA-2020

4.1 Progress in the Implementation of the RES&POA-2020

6. The Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* presented the progress of implementation of the RES&POA-2020 which was extracted from the feedback of the AMSs on the mid-term review (2015) and final review (2019) questionnaires from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. He also clarified that the activities implemented by the AMSs were in accordance with the RES&POA-2020, *i.e.* under the thematic areas consisting of planning and information, fisheries management, marine fisheries, inland fisheries, aquaculture, optimal utilization of fish and fisheries products, fish trade and, regional and international policy formulation. Although the results of the survey have the potentials for application in sustainable fisheries development and management in the region, such feedback had been derived from three AMSs only. In this connection, the Meeting agreed to discuss the methodology for reviewing the progress and the evaluation of the RES&POA-2020 in order to obtain the maximum feedbacks from the countries. His presentation appears as **Annex 5**.

7. During the discussion, it was also suggested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat should consider continuing its efforts in monitoring the progress of implementation of the RES&POA-2020 in the AMSs taking into consideration the issues that hindered the efforts of the countries in the implementation, and the compiled results should be provided to all the AMSs. For the evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA, the Meeting suggested that this concern should be discussed in the future as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA.

4.2 Way Forward of the RES&POA-2020

4.2.1 ASEAN Member States

i. Brunei Darussalam

8. The representative from Brunei Darussalam, *Ms. Rinahwati Haji Masri* presented the major outputs of the country's fisheries and aquaculture activities that have been accomplished at national level taking into account the provisions of RES&POA-2020. With regards to the implementation of fisheries management for enclosed facilities, some constraints include the need to establish prevention plan for addressing the occurrence of emerging aquatic diseases and conservation plans for endangered species. Her presentation appears as **Annex 6**.

9. During the discussion and in responding to the queries raised, the representative from Brunei Darussalam explained that the country's effort to ban the capture and utilization of all shark species is in support to the CITES regulations as well as in an effort to sustainably manage the country's shark resources. With regards to the management of shark resources, and while agreeing to the suggestion that an assessment of the shark population of the country should also be carried out, she indicated that technical support and assistance would be needed in this aspect.

ii. Cambodia

10. The National Focal Point for Cambodia, *Mr. Heng Samay* provided information on the implementation of RES&POA-2020 in Cambodia. His presentation appears as **Annex 7**.

11. In the response to the query about the involvement of the Fisheries Administration (FiA) in the conservation of the Mekong River dolphin in Cambodia, the National Focal Point for Cambodia indicated that although conservation of the Mekong River dolphin is a responsibility of the Department of Fisheries Conservation (DFC) of Cambodia, *e.g.* deploying river guards in two provinces including Kratie Province and Stung Treng Province, other government agencies including FiA and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) cooperate with the DFC in the conservation efforts. As a result of such collaborative efforts, the population of Mekong River dolphin has recently increased to about 12 tails after reporting some deaths. Dolphin Day is organized every year to raise the awareness of the Cambodians about the need to conserve the Mekong River dolphin which is considered an endangered species.

iii. Indonesia

12. The representative from Indonesia, *Ms. Aniza Puspita* presented the progress of the implementation the RES&PoA in Indonesia and provided inputs regarding the country's initiatives. Specifically, she explained that under the thematic area in Planning Management in RES, Indonesia has developed and implemented several guidelines and regulations, *e.g.* measures on the responsible use of chemicals in aquaculture measures, Good Aquaculture Practice, which have been used as baseline for the country to implement food safety and security. Regarding the revision of the RES, Indonesia has deliberated to include the issues and concerns related to marine debris and pollution in the revised RES. Her presentation appears as **Annex 8**.

13. On the implementation of the POA, the representative from Indonesia expressed the need to minimize the gap between and among the AMSs on the implementation of the various programs and activities. Nevertheless, Indonesia has established the Integrated Marine and Fisheries Center (SKPT) in 14 areas of the country to correspond to the thematic area on fisheries management.

14. For the revision of the RES&POA, Indonesia proposed to keep the aspect on 'increase alternative use of energy sources' in the RES as this has not been fully implemented by the fisheries sector of the region. On the issue related to employment in fisheries in the RES, there seems to be an obstacle in that country's national standard which is below international standard or guideline that hinders the implementation of such provision.

15. Moreover, Indonesia proposed to keep 'under-utilized fisheries resources' and 'enhance the join ASEAN program for small-scale producer' activities. For the POA on safety at sea, Indonesia proposed that SEAFDEC should consider continuing its activities human capacity building through training.

16. Under thematic area on inland fisheries and while thanking SEAFDEC for recognizing inland fisheries as important for food security in the region, Indonesia proposed that SEAFDEC should continue to address the rising concern on sustainable eel management. On aquatic feeds, and while thanking SEAFDEC/ AQD for its effort in searching for alternative ingredients in aquafeed formulations, Indonesia has established its Pakan Mandiri Program (Self-Independent Feed Program) for aquaculture. On traceability of fish and fishery products, Indonesia suggested that the AMSs should identify strategic issues that need to be addressed based on the specific country's requirements.

iv. Lao PDR

17. The representative from Lao PDR, *Mr. Vannaphar Tammajedy* presented the activities of the country's fisheries sector and informed the meeting that Lao PDR organizes the Annual National Fish every 13th of July to raise the awareness of the public and private organizations about sustainable

fisheries management. Aside from working in the irrigation and hydropower reservoir facilities, established groups of fishers and women's groups are also working in fisheries industries. He also presented the development of mobile hatcheries in deep pools every spawning season for stock enhancement, and mentioned that fish conservation zones had been established as a network for food chain based on fish production with the concept of food safety for the people. For strengthening research and fisheries capacity building, value adding of traditional fishery products is being promoted including innovations made to improve the country's fishery products, *e.g.* sun-dried fish, smoked fish, fish paste, fish sauce and other products. To prepare for import and export the fish and fish products, some NGOs have been providing the needed technical advice, especially in the area of gender in fisheries and improvement of laboratory facilities and practices in fish disease diagnosis and control. For the inland fisheries, he mentioned that Lao PDR would need more technical support and assistance. His presentation appears as **Annex 9**.

v. *Malaysia*

18. The representative for Malaysia, *Ms. Nur Fadhlina Chan binti Mahadie Chan* provided information about the laws and policies of Malaysia related to fisheries, marine and inland fisheries management, the fisheries strategy plan 2011-2020, and the way forward related to inland fisheries and marine fisheries, and other relevant issues. Her presentation appears as **Annex 10**.

19. During the discussion, the Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD added information about the use of hydro-acoustics and bottom trawl in the stock assessment programs of Malaysia for pelagic and demersal fishes, respectively. On coastal fisheries, promotion of the zoning scheme is enhanced with some mechanisms. As for the effect of climate change effect on fisheries stocks, initial results of the special program on the impact of global warming, indicated that temperature increase had caused reduction of some fisheries stocks.

vi. *Myanmar*

20. The National Focal Point for Myanmar, *Dr. Kyaw Kyaw* presented major the outputs and outcomes of activities in the fisheries sector and reported that there are some major impediments in the implementation especially on financial matters, human resources, corporation, technical method, organization, and different levels of participation. As Myanmar is implementing projects on stock assessment of freshwater fishes, he requested SEAFDEC to provide training on fish species identification for inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture, especially the indigenous freshwater fish species. He also mentioned that Department of Fisheries of Myanmar has strengthened the cooperation with regional and international organizations in accordance with the RES&POA-2020. His presentation appears as **Annex 11**.

vii. *Philippines*

21. The representative for the Philippines, *Ms. Elymi-Ar-J S. Tuñacao* presented the Philippine Country Report with regards to the RES&POA-2020, focusing on the major outputs and challenges in the Philippine fisheries sector including the major areas where assistance from SEAFDEC and other relevant agencies, would be necessary. Her presentation appears as **Annex 12**.

viii. *Thailand*

22. The National Focal Point for Thailand, *Mr. Theerawat Samphawamana* presented the status of implementation of RES&POA-2020 in Thailand including the activities that have been carried out in

Thailand based on the RES and POA. On the issue related to fish and fishery products, Thailand had been successful in the development of traceability system to prevent the entry of IUU fish in the country's supply chain. Currently, Thailand has announced the National Strategy projects for 2017 –2036 under Thailand's Constitution. His presentation appears as **Annex 13**.

ix. Singapore

23. The National Focal Point for Singapore, *Ms. Seow Hui Ching* presented the effort of Singapore in implementing the three main fisheries thematic areas of the RES&POA-2020, which are on fisheries management, aquaculture, and optimal utilization of fish and fishery products. Under fisheries management, Singapore prepared regional initiatives for responsible fisheries management as well as in surveillance for fishing vessels where focus in on any AMS ensuring that no fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities enter into the country's supply chain. On combating IUU fishing, Singapore participates in relevant meetings, shares information related to RPOA-IUU Fishing, and strengthens cooperation for the implementation of safety standards in fish and fishery products. Her presentation appears as **Annex 14**.

24. On aquaculture, Singapore has improved the procedures in handling the emerging fish diseases and surveillance, harmonization of the procedures and regulations in handling regional disease, including timely reporting to NACA and OIE, and participation in regional trainings in regional aquatic laboratory practices and aquaculture. For aquaculture R&D, the country's activities include disease identification through breeding selection of the Asian sea bass and Mozambique tilapia, and studies on genetic resources. Other activities include the development of procedures and programs on traceability, review of national policies and legal institutional frameworks including the aquaculture framework.

25. On the optimal utilization of fish and fishery products, the activities focused on the development of measures for food safety and utilization of catch by reducing post-harvest losses and wastes, and increase fish supply through the application of value-adding, advanced packaging and freezing technologies.

26. For the overall RES&POA, Singapore raised several key challenges that need to be addressed, these are; improvement of traceability of products across the supply chain, combating diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in aquaculture, enhanced sustainability of aquaculture, improved resilience against environmental stressors throughout the value chain, and adoption of responsible technologies from farm to fork.

x. Viet Nam

27. In her presentation which focused mainly on aquaculture, the representative from Viet Nam, *Ms. Ngyen Thi Bang Tam* mentioned that Viet Nam has made progress in quality control systems through the promotion of VietGAP and ISO. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issues the regulations on feed ingredients used in aquaculture, and prohibits the use of chemicals in aquatic feeds. Decrees and decisions have been issued to control the fish quality and promote safety management systems. The aquaculture R&D includes production of pathogen-free species, quality seeds and broodstocks. Results of studies have indicated that increases in temperature and sea level rise due to climate change have negative effects on fish farming leading to incidence of disease outbreaks. She added that funding support is welcome to enable the country to continue the researches and conduct technical training. Her presentation appears as **Annex 15**.

xi. RFPN

28. The representative of Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN), *Ms. Kay Khine Tint* presented the plenary issues and challenges for the RES&POA in fisheries sector, highlighting on the way forward for further development and support in the future. Her presentation appears as **Annex 16**.

29. During the discussion, it was suggested that addressing the issues and constraints should be conducted on country-basis to take into account the respective requirements and structures of the countries' fisheries management plans. Subsequently, the ways and means of complying with the standards in fisheries regulations and management at the regional level could be explored.

4.2.2 SEAFDEC Technical Departments and the Secretariat

i. SEAFDEC/AQD

30. The Chief of SEAFDEC/AQD, *Mr. Dan D. Baliao* presented three issues related to RES, especially paragraphs 15, 16 and 17, and POA from paragraph 39 to 57. He highlighted on the related program/activities which should remain and continue to be carried out in the future. His presentation appears as **Annex 17**.

ii. SEAFDEC/IFMRD

31. The Chief of SEAFDEC/IFMRD, *Dr. Arif Wibowo* explained the responsibility of IFMRD with respect to the sustainability of inland fisheries which is constrained by the quantity and quality of water supply, and the effects of relevant environmental factors. He highlighted on the achievements and future research activities related to POA Para 32. Under POA Para 33, IFMRD is responsible in enhancing the awareness of the significance of sustainable inland fisheries. The role of IFMRD to achieve this POA through the sustainable development of commercially-important inland aquatic species, which is carried out under the Japanese Trust Fund VI projects. In addition, the Chief of IFMRD suggested that for the RES&POA beyond 2020, the issue on introduction of invasive species should be included. Considering that such biological invasion emanates from regional involvement, this concern should be discussed at the regional level. His presentation appears as **Annex 18**.

iii. SEAFDEC/MFRD

32. On behalf of Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRD, the SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* presented the programs/activities implemented by MFRD under the food security issues for sustainable fisheries. Additionally, he also raised the challenges that need to be addressed and the future direction of such activities. The presentation appears as **Annex 19**.

iv. SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

33. The Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, *Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan* presented the achievements of implementation of the RES&POA based on the activities of MFRDMD. He also provided suggestions on the way forward for fisheries management towards the sustainable development of the region's fisheries. His presentation appears as **Annex 20**.

v. SEAFDEC Secretariat

34. The SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* presented the issues related to environmental fishing gear practices, food safety and contamination of the aquatic animal habitats by micro-plastics. For sustainable mariculture set up, he provided suggestions that include improvement of breeding and aquaculture technologies, especially for high value species, *e.g.* eels. He also raised related issues that need to be addressed such as feed ingredients, especially fish meal. His presentation appears as **Annex 21**.

35. On the current impacts of intensive aquaculture that includes parasites and pollution, *Dr. Worawit* also mentioned that these should be focused by SEAFDEC R&D. For fisheries management, he reported that several projects have been implemented to address the various issues, and research and developmental implementation tools and practices have been developed and promoted in the region for the sustainable development of fisheries.

36. On fish trade, he explained that promotion of traceability is upcoming with regional and international policies. For future priority, he also commented that SEAFDEC will assist in the implementation of new ASEAN Guidelines developed for general fisheries policy, and establishment of regional working groups for supporting the ASEAN position and facilitate training of technical persons. These concerns would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and to the ASEAN mechanism.

vi. SEAFDEC/TD

37. The Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Mr. Akito Sato* presented the main activities that TD implemented since 2010 with respect to the RES&POA, namely: (i) planning and information, (ii) fisheries management, (iii) marine fisheries, and (iv) optimal utilization of fish and fishery products. He also mentioned the ongoing programs/activities and those planned to be implemented in the future. His presentation appears as **Annex 22**.

V. Regional and Sub-regional Partners

- *FAO/RAP*

38. The resource person from FAO/RAP, *Dr. Simon Nicol* emphasized that there are arrangements and national activities promoted by the respective countries in the region with respect to the RES&POA. At the regional level, FAO introduced three projects, in line with the POA, these are: the New Watch Marine Ecosystem Project, Indonesian Ecosystem Project, and in the Gulf of Thailand, sub-regional project of the South China Sea Large Ecosystem. The projects basically emphasized on the fisheries management of transboundary stocks, bycatch products, and conservation, as well as on pollution mitigation such as enhanced technology application in an efficient manner. The expressed concern on sustainable small-scale fisheries and gender, should be addressed and made part of the objectives of the POA. From the perspective of IUU fishing, an analysis of vessels operating around hot spot areas and in pirate-infested waters. He added that there are activities which FAO broached for development in genetic modified organisms, *i.e.* application of genes derived from technology in aquaculture diseases and promotion of genetic manipulation techniques. However, these activities have to deal with the regulations applied in each country.

39. For the areas where expertise has been inadequate, *Dr. Nicol* mentioned that these could include such areas as raising the awareness on biosecurity risks in aquaculture due to diseases and parasites. This biosecurity issue would impact on the natural environment and fisheries which are mutually dependent.

He suggested that an analysis should be carried out with regards to developing biosecurity measures, as well as on the aspects of climate change and variability. He added that although FAO has been working around the adaptation aspects, the way forward has to be considered based on fisheries assessment frameworks and not only on the MSY, and that other solutions should be explored to move forward, to initiate the development of the effective cost-benefit adaptive measures.

- *MRC*

40. The representative from MRC, *Mr. Vanna Nuon* supported the fisheries management with ten strategic priorities, which are in line with the POA. These strategies include: fisheries monitoring analysis, fisheries enhancement, fisheries and irrigation agriculture development, gender and fisheries, fisheries transboundary and shared fish stocks, water development and fisheries, and climate change. He offered the willingness of MRC to cooperate with related organizations to develop the action plan with respect to the RES&POA. He also suggested that SEAFDEC should enhance its efforts in addressing climate change issues and for SEAFDEC to consider assisting the AMSs in their respective studies that aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change in their fisheries sectors. He also suggested that data collection should be enhanced as this is important in fish trade even for non-commercial species.

- *SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF/Fisheries Refugia Project*

41. The Regional Director for the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Fisheries *Refugia* Project, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* highlighted on the progress of implementation of the ecosystem research in the Gulf of Thailand by the concerned AMSs. He also mentioned three issues that should be considered for the promotion of sustainable fisheries management. These are: i) the good fishing practices and methods, including the improvement of fishing gear or the methods, of which *Refugia* Project is working on the fishing gear part; ii) management of the fisheries stock including assessment at the regional level, and support in capacity building so that each country could come up with their respective stock assessment, and iii) establishment of fisheries *refugia* to protect the spawning areas and necessary grounds, and conduct of study on migration tracks and also stock assessment for sustainable fisheries management.

42. On international trade-related issues, *Dr. Somboon* also suggested that these should also be addressed by each country at the national level. Fisheries and aquaculture products will have to go through sustainable production systems, and for the next decade, the regional fisheries will have to comply with the ASEAN Standard. Therefore, further discussion on this aspect should be undertaken.

- *JICA*

43. The resource person on fisheries policy from JICA, *Dr. Ichiro Nomura*, pointed out the key factors for achieving the POA in the AMSs, taking into account the different characteristics and specificities of fisheries in the region. He suggested that new issues for the RES&POA could consist of the accomplishments with regard to the sustainable development goals (SDGs); mitigating the impacts of climate change; addressing the impacts of micro-plastics on the environment; social issues including establishment of safety policies for fishers and human trafficking, development of concrete and acceptable action on traceability systems for the whole value chain; promotion of certification, eco-labelling in the region; improvement of effective fishermen, especially small-scale fishermen by improving the visibility of institutionalized fishermen's groups; and for the regional fishing vessels monitoring, considerations on operationalization and practice of the Global Record.

44. For other minor issues, *Dr. Ichiro* suggested that it would be necessary for the countries to establish reference points for stock assessment as the MSY could be insufficient, thus this issue should be addressed in future meetings. He also mentioned that gear restriction is the responsibility of the government and stakeholders, *e.g.* prohibiting the use of bottom trawl fisheries which is a traditional gear in the region.

- *Department of Fisheries of Thailand*

45. The advisor to the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri* acknowledged that the previous RES&POA had been resolved by the ministers, and he also proposed new emerging issues. He explained that the development of the RES&POA had undergone long processes, involving many people and covering many broad activities. After going through revisions, it has to be proposed to the higher level of management mechanisms again. For the revision, many issues that had been addressed by the countries should be considered. However, he added that the mode of information sharing had not been very efficient, especially when it comes to emerging issues, like for example those related to genetic concerns. He therefore suggested that a review of the activities and thrusts of relevant organizations should be carried out, where the critical concerns should be compiled and considered as part of the regional aspects in the revised RES&POA. Meanwhile, the relevant activities carried out by individual countries which attempted to address various challenges, although quite limited, could be assessed and used for the development of collaborative study in the region.

- *Dr. Magnus Torell*

46. The former Special Advisor to SEAFDEC, *Dr. Magnus Torell* who served as Resource Person for this Regional Meeting proposed to add information for the preamble of RES&POA. Considering that a number of regional POAs, such as in neritic tuna, fishing capacity and others had been developed and adopted in the region, he suggested that all those regional plans could be used as tools in managing the fisheries especially on specific areas, and thus should be mentioned in the RES&POA.

47. With the number of other institutions involved in the regional cooperation, *Dr. Magnus* encouraged the strengthening of existing cooperation and commissioning these institutions to be involved in the proposed revision of the RES&POA. Regarding the on-going process of revision, he suggested that this could be referred to the ASEAN management in fisheries mechanism then report the achievements to ASEAN, thus, avoiding a parallel track along the way, with the ASEAN mechanism.

- *Hokkaido University of Japan*

48. The Resource Person from Hokkaido University, *Dr. Matsuishi Takashi Fritz* introduced the related activities that could be added to the development of the POA to achieve the international standard in this region.

- *Kasetsart University of Thailand*

49. The Resource Person from Kasetsart University, *Dr. Anukorn Boutson* explained that sustainable fisheries are the key important words in the RES&POA. In this regard, and after noting that there still no POA related to habitat, he suggested that the aspects on capture fisheries emphasizing on the negative impacts of fishing gear and methods, could be considered.

VI. Plenary Discussion on the Revisions of the RES&POA 2020

6.1 Fisheries Management

50. On fisheries management in the table of the draft of RES&POA on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030, the representatives from the countries agreed to edit and add some points to the POA, specifically for the Articles 8, 12, 18, 21, 22, 25, 31, and 33 as shown in Annex **XX**.

6.2 Aquaculture

51. On POA in aquaculture sector, the participants introduced two additional bullets and modified four bullets. Specifically under Article 42, additional inputs were provided by the representatives from AQD, Cambodia, Singapore, and other participants. Suggested revisions of the wordings used in bullets 42, 46, and 52, were proposed, as shown in Annex **XX**.

52. During the discussion, the participants recommended that the aspect on usage of drugs and chemicals in aquaculture should be properly managed and that the aspect on addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) should be considered in the revised RES&POA.

6.3 Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

53. Under the aforementioned aspect, it was agreed that concerns related to the aquatic environment, should be considered.

6.4 Fish Trade

54. The Regional Meeting did not make revisions, comments, nor suggestions as the existing provisions appear to be still valid.

6.5 Regional and International Policy Formulation

55. Likewise, the Regional Meeting did not make revisions, comments, nor suggestions as the existing provisions appear to be still valid.

56. During the ensuing discussion, the Regional Meeting agreed on the Suggested Elements for Revision of the Resolution and Plan of Action as shown in **Annex 23**.

VII. Conclusion, Timeline and Way Forward

57. The Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* summarized the results of the Regional Meeting and presented the procedure for the next process. He mentioned that the results of this meeting including the Suggested Elements for Revision of the Resolution and Plan of Action, Revised Workplan, and List of National Focal Points for Reviewing the RES&PoA will be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum* for support, and subsequently for the Council to submit the proposed revision the RES&PoA to the ASEAN mechanism after endorsement by the FCG/ASSP Focal Points and the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) which will be convened in Viet Nam on 27-29 June 2019.

58. In a parallel manner, the SEAFDEC Secretariat will circulate the 1st Draft RES&PoA Towards 2030 to all technical Departments for their review work and for them to send back the comments and amendments to SEAFDEC Secretariat by 30 June 2019. After accommodating the comments from the

Departments, SEAFDEC Secretariat will circulate the 2nd Draft RES&PoA Towards 2030 to National Focal Points for national discussions and send back their comments to SEAFDEC Secretariat by 31 July 2019 for inclusion into the 3rd Draft of RES&PoA Towards 2030. In September 2019, SEAFDEC will organize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 to come up with the 4th Draft of RES&POA Towards 2030, and the results from this meeting will be presented to the 42nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee and also the 22nd Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN- SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership in November 2019. Then, the 5th Draft of RES&PoA Towards would be submitted to the 52nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2020 for adoption of the final Draft of RES&PoA Towards 2030.

59. Subsequently, ASEAN Secretariat will be asked to circulate the final Draft of RES&PoA Towards 2030 by *ad referendum* to the FCG/ASSP Focal Points for further submission to ASWGFi. In this connection, the Chair of National Focal Point would be requested to submit the Final Draft of RES&PoA Towards 2030 to the 28th ASWGFi Meeting to get endorsement of the final Draft of RES&PoA Towards 2030 for submission to the SOM-AMAF and AMAF. Then, the SEAFDEC Secretariat will submit the Final Draft of RES&PoA Towards 2030 to the Council Director for Japan to seek endorsement from the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan *ad referendum*. The SEAFDEC Secretariat plans to submit the Final Draft of RES&PoA Towards 2030 to the higher authorities of ASEAN in August 2020. After the discussion, the Regional Meeting agreed with the timeline, which appears as **Annex 24**.

VIII. Closing of the Meeting

60. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Kom* expressed his gratitude to the participants of the Regional Meeting for their contributions to the revision of the RES&POA Towards 2020. He appreciated the excellent job of the participants that led to the valuable outputs that were obtained through the discussions of the relevant technical and policy issues. Then, he declared the Meeting closed. His Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 25**.