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EDITORIAL

For the third quarter of 2020, SEAFDEC organized several events through the online platform, particularly the webinar "Information-sharing of the Impact of COVID-19 on Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia" where discussion and assessment were made on the impacts of COVID-19 on the fisheries and aquaculture sector of Southeast Asia. Another significant regional event of SEAFDEC was the "Webinar on Fisheries Subsidies" which was aimed at coming up with a set of recommendations and ASEAN common position on fisheries subsidies.

Furthermore, SEAFDEC continued to conduct several training courses including the "Online Training on the Use of Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Systems (eACDS) Application" to build the capacity of the participants to become trainers to fishers and relevant stakeholders in using the application. In another development, the "Online Regional Technical Meeting on Reducing Negative

(Continued on Page 2)

Information-sharing of the impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia





SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Ms. Malinee Smithrithee (left) and resource speakers of the webinar (right)

had availed of the expertise of resource Department, who discussed and assessed speakers from the FAO Headquarters,

The Southeast Asian Fisheries INFOFISH, CGIAR Research Program Development Center (SEAFDEC) - WorldFish Center, as well as from the facilitated the sharing of information on Thai Union Company Limited, Andaman the impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries Surimi Company Limited, Thai Frozen and aquaculture in Southeast Asia Food Association, Viet Nam Association through the Webinar organized on of Seafood Exporters and Producers 2-3 July 2020 with support from the (VASEP), Department of Fisheries Japanese Trust Fund (JTF). The Webinar of Thailand, and SEAFDEC Training

(Continued on Page 2)

SEAFDEC Webinar on Fisheries Subsidies: Southeast Asian region perspective



the "Webinar on Fisheries Subsidies: Southeast Asian region perspective" on 23-24 September 2020 with the support of the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF). This Webinar gathers resource speakers from international organizations which

The SEAFDEC Secretariat arranged include the representatives from the World Trade Organization (WTO), FAO Headquarter, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and Fisheries Agency of Japan.

(Continued on Page 2)

EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

Impact to Ecosystem, Optimizing Energy and Fuel Consumption" was also organized by TD to discuss the technological improvements and assess the needs to pave the way for the planning and implementation of the activities under the Project "Responsible Fishing Technology and Practices."

Other regional meetings and consultations organized by SEAFDEC during this quarter include the Teleseminar on Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia; Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Tools for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia; Regional Consultation Teleworkshop on the Utilization of Fisheries Geographic Information System (FGIS) and Remote Sensing (RS); Sub-regional Consultation Teleworkshop on Developing a Plan of Activity for Transboundary Fisheries Resources; and Regional Consultation Workshop on Developing a Plan of Activities for Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asian Region.

Moreover, TD took part in the "Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of the AMSs in Implementation the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication to Support Access to Markets" to identify the key issues and needs of the AMSs in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, and came up with recommendations for future collaboration.

Furthermore, SEAFDEC welcomed Mr. Koichi Honda on 31 August 2020 as the new SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of the Training Department, succeeding Mr. Akito Sato. Also, MFRDMD had its new management team starting October 2020, namely: Dr. Ahmad bin Ali as the new MFRDMD Department Chief and Ms. Mazalina binti Ali as the new Special Departmental Coordinator.

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You can also send your comment on our Newsletter to secretariat@seafdec.org.

Information-sharing of the impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia

(Continued from Page 1)

the impacts of COVID-19 on the fisheries and aquaculture sector of Southeast Asia. The Webinar was primarily aimed at sharing of information and experiences on the impacts of COVID-19 for better understanding of the current situation and establishment of adaptation measures to the new normal for our future. Also

discussed were the immediate responses of the private sector to address the issues as well as the medium-term mitigation of the impacts of some countries. More than 250 audience from international, regional, and national fisheries agencies and industry representatives participated in each day's session.

SEAFDEC Webinar on Fisheries Subsidies: Southeast Asian region perspective (Continued from Page 1)

Webinar.

2020, information and experiences on fisheries subsidies Agreement from the resource speakers were shared for better understanding of the negotiation agenda on fisheries subsidies. In the Closed Session on 24 September 2020, the issues

More than 90 attendees from and concerns with regard to the legal international, regional, and national text for fisheries subsidies agreement fisheries agencies participated in the of the WTO were discussed among the SEAFDEC Member Countries. Also discussed was the possibility of coming In the Open Session on 23 September up with a set of recommendations and ASEAN common position on fisheries subsidies, as well as the support from organizations such as SEAFDEC and FAO toward capacity building for countries in the region to comply with the Agreement once it is finalized.

Online webinars boost AQD's information dissemination on shrimp aquaculture



SEAFDEC/AOD continues to enhance its information dissemination efforts towards its stakeholders and constituents via webinars and lecture series on shrimp aquaculture. The Head of the AQD Research Division, Dr. Leobert de la Peña, presented the lecture on mitigating the effects of White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) and Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND) in Philippine shrimp aquaculture during the "Webinar on Philippine Shrimp Aquaculture Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic" organized by the Biosolutions International in collaboration with the Negros Prawn

Producers Cooperative on 29 May 2020 hosted in Quezon City, Philippines.

The other webinar was the "AMR Proposal Writing and Research Collaboration series" organized by the Department Agriculture and Bureau of Animal Industry in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 7 July 2020 hosted in Quezon City via Zoom. During the Webinar, Dr. de la Peña presented the lecture on the draft sequence of the multidrug resistant Vibrio parahaemolyticus bacteria that infected penaeid shrimp in the Philippines.

The participants of both webinar series were representatives from the government and non-government organizations, members of the academe, research institutions, and other stakeholders of the shrimp aquaculture industry. X

Conservation urged to save the Philippine native catfish

In one of the lectures during the virtual forum on "Innovative Technologies in Improving Aquaculture Practices" organized by the Department of Science and Technology on 7 August 2020 in the Philippines, SEAFDEC/AQD called for the conservation of the bighead catfish (Clarias macrocephalus). The bighead catfish is one of the two native catfish species found in lakes, ponds, and rice fields across the country. This species was once a popular meal; however, it is now found only in a handful of locations based on studies and anecdotal reports. The native catfish industry has been neglected in favor of the imported African catfish (Clarias gariepinus). The African catfish is favored both in the natural environment and in farms because of its faster growth and bigger size. Moreover, habitat destruction, pollution, and crossbreeding with



imported species contributed to the decline of the native catfish. Studies on the native catfish reported abnormalities in some local populations, suggesting that inbreeding could weaken their resistance to diseases. In 2011, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assessed the native catfish to be near threatened with the population declining internationally.

During the forum, AQD information specialist, Mr. Rosenio Pagador, appealed to the government to issue policies on the protection of the native catfish and its habitat. Further, he called on the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and local government units in areas where native catfish are found to protect and rehabilitate the remaining habitats and to educate the communities regarding the status of the species, the research institutions to conduct sustainable breeding programs, and the private sector to farm the native species.

The bighead or broadhead catfish, Clarias macrocephalus, is distinguished by the blunt rounded shape on top of their head which is more pointed in other species

Also, an AQD Scientist based at AQD's Binangonan Freshwater Station (BFS) in Rizal Province, Dr. Frolan Aya, emphasized that more stock assessment studies on the native catfish are needed to better understand the status of their population in the wild.

In response to an already declining abundance, AQD conducted research from 1988 to 2001 to establish the breeding, nutrition, health, and culture of the native catfish. Scientific publications were also simplified to publish two farmer-friendly manuals and training courses have been done annually at BFS since 1995. However, the sourcing of breeders has become increasingly difficult over the years and native catfish farming failed to take off due to the lack of fingerlings and the preference for the African catfish. With a fresh resolve to save the native catfish, Dr. Aya's team was able to recently acquire new stocks of native catfish from Quezon Province which they intend to breed at BFS to produce fingerlings. AQD is also nearing the completion of a new multispecies hatchery in Tigbauan, Iloilo that will host the production of the catfish along with other freshwater species. ×

SEAFDEC-NOAA capacity building on EAFM management tools

SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), organized the "Online Workshop on EAFM Management Tools" from 20 to 24 July 2020 in Samut Prakan, Thailand through Google Meet. Sixteen (16) core staff of TD who are EAFM trainers participated in the Workshop which consisted of five sessions, namely: 1) management tools to address core ecological issues; 2) management tools to address core governance issues; 3) management tools to address core human issues; 4) working with scenarios and bringing it all together; and 5) updating the SEAFDEC Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (E-EAFM). In the end, the management



Participants during the online workshop on EAFM management tools

tool booklet was finalized with increased States in (AMSs) in the implementation effectiveness of core TD staff to and management of EAFM activities. technically support the ASEAN Member



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

SEAFDEC kicks of the preparation of SEASOFIA 2022



Participant during the consultation

the "Inter-Departmental Consultation on Preparation of SEASOFIA 2022" on 6-7 August 2020 through Google Meet. The Consultation was attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, senior officials and information-related officers from

The SEAFDEC Secretariat convened Departmental Coordinators (SDCs) and technical staff from TD, AQD, MFRD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD.

As the first consultation among the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments toward preparation of the SEASOFIA 2022 publication, the draft outline, SEAFDEC Secretariat, as well as Special required inputs, preparation process,

and workplan of the publication were discussed and agreed upon; while the focal persons of each Department were also identified.

The SEASOFIA publication was first published in 2012 to provide information on the status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia, including fisheries-related issues and challenges, initiatives undertaken in the region, future outlook as well as SEAFDEC activities. SEAFDEC was then requested by its Council to consider producing this publication every five years. While the publication aims to enhance the understanding of stakeholders on the status of fisheries and aquaculture in the region, results from several SEAFDEC projects could also be analyzed and integrated with other information so that the visibility of SEAFDEC and its activities could be enhanced to wide audiences at the global level.

IFRDMD convenes its 2020 JTF Semi-Annual Meeting

"2020 JTF Semi-Annual Meeting" on (JTF) VI Phase 2 projects conducted 24 August 2020 in Palembang, Indonesia in 2020 and discussing the proposed via Zoom. The Meeting was aimed activities for 2021. There were 30 at reviewing the outputs of ongoing participants including the IFRDMD

SEAFDEC/IFRDMD convened the activities of the Japanese Trust Fund researchers and administrative staff of as well as students from the Sriwijaya University who study on International Relationship.



Participant during the meeting

During the Meeting, the two projects, namely:1) Management Scheme of Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian region; and 2) Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eel in the Southeast Asia Region, implemented in 2020 were presented by the project coordinators and reviewed by the participants. On the other hand, some activities in 2020 were postponed due to the COVID-19 situation, thus, the researchers were encouraged to devise strategies to reach their goals. Participants were also encouraged to include gender perspectives in project documents and reports. X

Aquaculture technologies take spotlight in webinar for MSMEs











(from top left to right): SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dan Baliao, Mr. Victor Emmanuel Estilo, Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa, Ms. Irene Legaspi, and Mr. Rosenio Pagador

Four experts from SEAFDEC/ AQD served as resource persons during the "Webinar on Innovative Technologies in Improving Aquaculture Practices" on 7 August 2020 hosted in Iloilo, Philippines via Google Meet. The Webinar was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with the aim of easing the difficulties encountered by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of

the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic by highlighting the innovative aquaculture technologies developed by AQD for different commodities. There its environment. Lastly, Mr. Rosenio were 206 participants including fish farmers, government staff, and members of the academe.

During the Webinar, Mr. Victor

hatchery maintenance techniques, natural food production as well as disease intervention strategies. For the grow-out culture of mangrove crabs, Dr. Fe Dolores Estepa presented the technology and innovations particularly on pond preparation, feeding, water management as well as transport and packing preparations upon harvest of the crabs once they grow into marketable size. Ms. Ma. Irene Legaspi discussed the nursery and grow-out culture of the snubnose pompano. Rapidly growing in popular demand from domestic and international markets for its tasty meat, this species readily adapts to Pagador discussed the status of the native catfish industry in the Philippines as well as highlighted on the various AQD initiatives to revive the production of native catfish. He also stressed Emmanuel Estilo shared his knowledge the importance of conservation and on milkfish and shrimp culture including management strategies for this species.



AQD holds on-site freshwater aquaculture training

SEAFDEC/AQD, in collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, organized the "Onsite Training Course on Freshwater Aquaculture" in Zarraga, Iloilo, Philippines on 2 July 2020. The Training was attended by 50 participants who learned about culture techniques on freshwater species such as giant freshwater prawn, catfish, and tilapia.

This is the first training course conducted by AQD since the nationwide community quarantine implemented in the Philippines in March 2020. With the assistance and supervision from the local government of Zarraga, health and safety guidelines were strictly followed including disinfection, temperature check, and physical distancing.





Genetics expertise tapped for aquaculture practices in the 'new normal'

SEAFDEC/AQD Scientist, Dr. Maria Rowena Eguia, shared her genetics expertise as one of the presenters during the "40th Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE) Anniversary and 2020 APAMS (Annual PAASE Meeting and Symposium), Philippines" held on 5 July 2020 in Quezon City, Philippines via Zoom. The aim of the virtual Meeting was to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the Philippine aquaculture industry. The Meeting was participated by members of PAASE and the academe.

Dr. Eguia discussed various tools such as PCR-based diagnosis, biosecurity measures, development of immunostimulant-lined feeds, and effective disease surveillance which would help mitigate disease outbreaks in fish farms and prevent losses.



Enhancing research design through writeshop in IFRDMD



Participants during the writeshop

SEAFDEC/IFRDMD organized promote the contribution of IFRDMD the "In-house Training on Design Research and Big Data Management" on 30 September 2020 through a videoconference hosted in Palembang, Indonesia. The Training was participated by officers of Department of Fisheries (DOF) in South Sumatera Regencies and Riau Province and Kampar Regency, lecturers from the academes in South Sumatra and Riau, and staff of IFRDMD and Research Institute for Inland Fisheries and Extension (RIIFE). The aim of the Training was to enhance the skills of the participants on research design and big data management. Also, the Training was an opportunity to

to the stakeholders in South Sumatra.

The resource persons of the Training were Mr. Andhika Prima Prasetyo from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) and Ms. Sevi Sawestri from IFRDMD. Mr. Andhika made emphasis on problem identification and literature review at the beginning of research and introduced the software Publish or Perish (PoP) to retrieve and analyze academic citations. Furthermore, Ms. Sevi provided the overview of IFRDMD profile. At the end, the participants were encouraged to learn VOSviewer for constructing and visualizing bibliometric networks.



Workshop on model construction and structure of commercial fishing gears

SEAFDEC/TD assisted the 36 fisheries officers from the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division, Department of Fisheries, Thailand on building their capacity and knowledge of developing model structure and construction of commercial fishing gears during the Workshop organized at TD in Samut Prakan, Thailand on 3-7 August 2020.

The lecture topics include structure, materials, and construction of trawl net, purse seine, and anchovy cast net. Moreover, the practical sessions on model construction and repair of fishing gears were also conducted. After the completion of the Workshop, the participants are expected to apply their knowledge to their work.



AQD supports the aquafarmers hurt by lockdown

Fish farmers from Capiz Province in sold their crabs for two months which the Philippines, together with the Bureau were just left to die inside the ponds. of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Furthermore, prices of milkfish have (BFAR), visited SEAFDEC/AOD on 7 July 2020 to find ways to alleviate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aquaculture industry. Transport restrictions due to the pandemic have driven down the prices of milkfish, crab, and shrimp produce. The shipment of 10-12 t of live crabs per day decreased to 1.5-2 t per day because of lack of flights, while shipments of live crabs by land and sea would take three days to reach Manila and leaving only 10 percent aquaculture systems that do not rely that survived. Some farmers have not on naturally occurring food such as

gone as low as USD 1.30/kg down from USD 2.70/kg.

To accommodate the lower selling prices of milkfish, the fish farmers inquired with AQD nutrition experts regarding the possibility of establishing a local agua feed mill in Capiz and producing feeds using local ingredients to lower the cost. Feeds account for as much as half the cost of operating

filamentous green algae and algal mats. Thus, they are hoping to locally produce feeds using local ingredients such as corn which is abundant in their area. While touring the aquafarmers at the Department's pilot-scale feed mill, AQD nutrition experts shared to them the different costs of establishing a feed mill and cost-efficient feed formulations. The farmers were assured that with BFAR's endorsement, AQD is willing to help in the feasibility studies, design, and setting up and monitoring of the feed mill.



From pollution to profit: Over 13 t of shrimp harvested from a hectare

Almost 13 t valued at USD 68,000 of whiteleg shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei) was harvested from 10,449 m² old earthen ponds of AQD in Dumangas, Iloilo, Philippines. The gradual harvest was between 22 September 2019 and 12 November 2019. The profit was around USD 29,000 at a selling price of USD 5.3/kg, which gave a 172 percent return of investment. The farm used a biofloc culture system by recycling nutrients that would otherwise have been released to the environment. The pond water rich in shrimp waste and excess feeds was manipulated, instead of replaced, to promote the growth of various organisms which then become food for the shrimp. Being a closed system, nutrients needed by the cultured species like shrimps can be continuously recycled and reused, thereby reducing the need for feeding and decreasing costs with the feed conversion ratio of 1.4.

Moreover, AQD conducted the study during the rainy season to demonstrate to shrimp farmers the effectiveness of biofloc technology in reducing disease occurrence despite the rains. Heavy rains tend to lower the temperature and salinity of water in shrimp ponds while making it more acidic and lead to higher prevalence of diseases caused by the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV). However,



Mr. Victor Emmanuel Estilo, station head of AQD's Dumangas Brackishwater Station, shows crates of whiteleg shrimp harvested from biofloc ponds

studies have shown that shrimps grown in a biofloc system are less susceptible to disease since biofloc reduces the presence of potentially pathogenic bacteria. Survival rate was 97 percent despite the rainy season when the culture was done. The results of the study could be helpful to shrimp farmers as they can continue to culture shrimp even during the rainy season without suffering losses brought about by diseases.

Anguillid eels survey in Indonesia

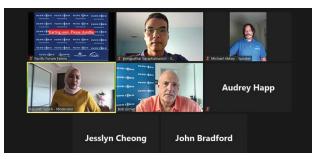
The survey was conducted on 14-18 August 2020 under the projects "Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eel in the Southeast Asia Region" and "Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia" supported by the JTF VI Phase II and JAIF Phase II Project, respectively. IFRDMD surveyed the two rivers of Indonesia directly draining to the Indian Ocean, namely: Cimandiri River in Palabuhan Ratu and Cikaso River. Palabuhan Ratu in West Java, which are well known as fishing grounds for the anguillid eels.

The aim of the survey was to collect data and information related to the complete stages of anguillid eel catch including glass eels, elvers, yellow eels, and silver eels. In addition, tissue samples of tropical eels were collected from Maluku Province, Indonesia on 7-12 September 2020. Furthermore, the stakeholders such as fishers and collectors were interviewed regarding their fishing activities. Generally, fishers would catch eels based on the demand from buyers. But there was no demand from the buvers when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, and the buyers demanded for glass eels again in August 2020. X

SEAFDEC participates in Maritime Discussion Series

The Project Manager of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia of SEAFDEC/TD, *Mr.Kongpathai Saraphaivanich*, participated in the "Maritime Discussion Series" which was organized by the Pacific Forum in partnership with the Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies on 3-4 September 2020 via Zoom.

During the session on IUU Fishing as a Major Security Threat in Southeast Asia held on the second day of the event, *Mr. Kongpathai* delivered the presentation



on "Countermeasures to Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN" which includes information on SEAFDEC activities in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia particularly the regional cooperation to support the implementation of the port

State measures (PSM). The Maritime Discussion Series featured military and civilian leaders, international security experts, and scholars who discussed the most pressing maritime issues in the Indo-Pacific region.

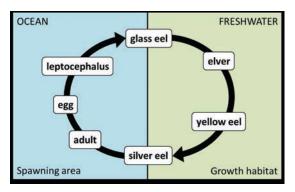
SPECIAL REPORT

Fate of Anguillid Eel Fishery of Indonesia during the COVID-19 Pandemic

by Dina Muthmainnah, Ni Komang Suryati, Yenni Sri Mulyani, and Yanu Prasetiyo Pamungkas SEAFDEC/IFRDMD

Anguillid eel resource in Indonesia

Indonesia has a vast area of inland waters which is about 276.0 million ha, comprising 223.0 million ha of rivers and floodplains, 1.8 million ha of lakes, 27.0 million ha of reservoirs, and 24.0 million ha of wetlands and swamp areas. The country's inland waters are inhabited by more than 1,300 freshwater fish species. Anguillid eel is one of the economically important freshwater fishes which is widely distributed all over the country. Anguillid eel fishery in Indonesia is thriving in several regions, namely: Bengkulu, Palabuhan Ratu, Cilacap, and Poso. Anguillid eel is a popular



Life cycle of anguillid eels showing the major stages



Elver caught from Poso Lake in Central Sulawesi



Yellow eel caught from Seluma River in Bengkulu

food in Japan, China, Korea, USA, Denmark, France, Italy, Belgium, and Germany. However, Indonesian people prefer not to eat this fish because of its snake-like appearance and slimy texture. Although majority of world's eel production is from aquaculture, all young eels (glass eels and elvers) used in aquaculture are caught from the wild. Consequently, the supply of eel resources for human consumption is completely dependent on wild catch.

Survey on the status of anguillid eel fishery

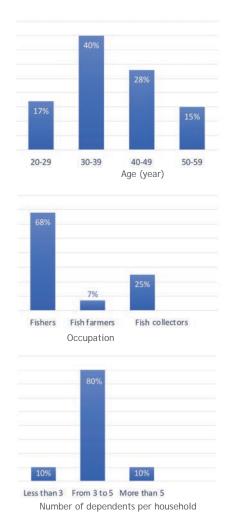
For the sustainable utilization and management of anguillid eel resources in the Southeast Asian region, SEAFDEC/



Glass eels capture activity in Cimandiri River in Palabuhan Ratu, West Java

IFRDMD has undertaken several projects supported by the JTF and JAIF including "Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia" in 2015-2019, "Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eel in the Southeast Asia region" in 2020, "Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia" in 2017-2019, and "Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region" in 2020. The projects were conducted in the ASEAN Member States where anguillid eel fishery is practiced. Moreover, the Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels Resources in Southeast Asia was developed by SEAFDEC to propose a way of formulating and implementing effective regional management measures, as well as recommend the actions that should be taken for the sustainable utilization of tropical anguillid eels in the Southeast Asian region.

However, the current COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented global socio-economic crisis including the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The Government of Indonesia has enforced a large-scale social restriction measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country, which limited



Profile of stakeholders providing responses to the questionaire

the logistics and transportation resulting in the decreased demand for anguillid eels. In this regard, IFRDMD conducted the rapid appraisal in 16-19 September 2020 to evaluate the impacts of the pandemic to the key stakeholders of anguillid eel fishery of Indonesia who were requested to answer the questionnaire through the WhatsApp social media application.

There was a total of 60 respondents between 20 and 59 years old who were mostly fishers, a few fish farmers, and fish collectors from the provinces of Bengkulu, West Java, Central Java, and Central Sulawesi. All of the respondents were heads of their households and the most of them had 3-5 dependents. Among the respondents, only two were women who were involved in capture fishing and aquaculture, which indicated that heavier activities in anguillid eel fishery are dominated by men. However, generally, the anguillid eel marketing and trade activities are performed mainly by women as fish collectors.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 restriction measures applied in the country, majority of the respondents ceased fishery and aquaculture activities, some continued their culture operations despite the price increase of feeds and other aquaculture inputs, while only a few continued the trading of anguillid eels. In order to augment their income, they shifted to catch, culture, or trade other freshwater fishes or do other jobs.



Impacts of the COVID-19 to key stakeholders of anguillid eel fishery of Indonesia

Way Forward

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the supply chain of anguillid eels, and the key stakeholders suffered huge economic losses. The initial challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic is to restore the supply of anguillid eel seeds for culture to sustain the market chain and uphold the livelihoods of the people who depend on this fishery. Despite the challenges that they are facing, most of the respondents are expecting that the anguillid eel trade would recover soon after the pandemic. They hope that the price in the market would be stabilized as the demand for anguillid eels increase again with the resumption of operations of food services. While the COVID-19 situation has not yet improved, IFRDMD would continue to implement the project on anguillid eels particularly the conduct of data collection to monitor the production of eels from capture and aquaculture. X

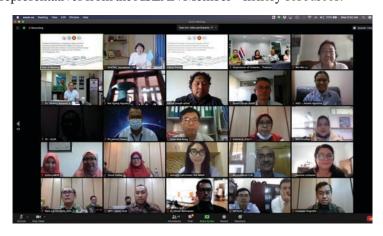
REGIONAL PROGRAMS

SEAFDEC co-organizes the regional workshop on SSF

The "Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication to Support Access to Markets" was co-organized by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, ASEAN Secretariat, FAO, and SEAFDEC on 16-17 September 2020 through a videoconference hosted by MMAF in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Workshop was participated by the representatives from the ASEAN Member

States, ASEAN Secretariat, FAO, as well as officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD.

In this occasion, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, delivered the welcome remarks and cited the importance of small-scale fisheries in Southeast Asia in food security and emphasized several outcomes that support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Southeast Asia towards the betterment of small-scale fishers while sustaining the fishery resources.



Participants of the regional workshop on SSF

During the Workshop, the achievements of SEAFDEC activities were shared including human capacity development on sustainable fisheries management and development through the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) and community-based resources management/ co-management; the support provided on alternative livelihood programs in fishing communities; and enhancement of capture fisheries and aquaculture resources to increase fish production. In addition, in line with the SSF Guidelines, SEAFDEC incorporated the activities on microfinance, credit, and insurance as well as promotion of gender integration and empowerment in small-scale fisheries communities. SEAFDEC also highlighted the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic to small-scale fisheries based on the results of the pre-survey conducted in Thailand. After the discussion, the Workshop came up with the key issues and needs of the AMSs in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and recommendations for future collaboration.

Regional consultation-teleworkshop to improve fisheries management through FGIS and RS

SEAFDEC/TD organized the "Regional Consultation-Teleworkshop on the Utilization of Fisheries Geographic Information System (FGIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) to Improve Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia" on 20 August 2020 through Google Meet in Samut Prakan, Thailand.

A total of 36 participants including the representatives from the ASEAN Member State (AMSs) and SEAFDEC Departments attended the event, which aimed to: 1) gather updates on the studies/researches on the utilization of GIS and RS in fisheries and environmental science conducted in the region; 2) discuss the activities on human resource development during 2021-2023; and 3) establish the FGIS and RS network in the region. Based on the information



provided by the AMSs, there were 26 accomplished and 24 ongoing studies and researches on fisheries, fisheries management, and environmental science which applied GIS and RS technology in the region during the past two decades. With regard to the conduct of human resource development activities during 2021-2023, SEAFDEC would provide

one training course each year on the following topics, namely: 1) GIS for aquaculture; 2) GIS for marine resources management; and 3) oceanographic data analysis and visualization. Moreover, the regional network of FGIS and RS was initiated to facilitate the circulation and exchange of information among SEAFDEC and the AMSs.

Online Training on the Use of eACDS Application

SEAFDEC/TD organized the "Online Training on the Use of Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation System (eACDS) Application" for fisheries officers from the Sub-Directorate of Fisheries of Binh Thuan Province, Viet Nam, the Department of Fisheries of Brunei Darussalam, and the Department of Fisheries of Malaysia, in Samut Prakan, Thailand on 13-14 August 2020, 2-3 September 2020, and 10-11 September 2020, respectively via Google Meet. The Training focused on the Catch Declaration (CD) and Movement Document (MD) parts of the eACDS, which were demonstrated step by step to the participants. Moreover, the participants practiced the use of the eACDS application during the Training. It is expected that the



Participants of the online training on *eACDS*

participants will become the trainers to traceability of fish and fishery products the eACDS application.

management tool to enhance intraregional and international trades for

fishers and relevant stakeholders in using from fishing grounds to the plate of consumers. The eACDS consists of three main documents, namely: Catch The eACDS application is a fisheries Declaration (CD), Movement Document (MD), and Catch Certification (CC).



Teleconference on developing plan of activities for resources enhancement



SEAFDEC/TD organized the "Regional Consultation Workshop on Developing a Plan of Activities for Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asian Region" on 15 September 2020 in Samut Prakan,

Thailand via Google Meet. The aim of the Workshop was to develop the plan of activities including training courses, research studies, trainings, workshops, and others to be conducted during 20212024. There were 30 participants who attended the Workshop including the National Focal Points and researchers from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and technical staff from TD.

During the Workshop, the status of fisheries resource enhancement initiatives was presented by the respective AMSs. Based on the assessment of the priorities and needs of the AMSs, SEAFDEC would provide support through the conduct of activities on capacity building, development of platform for sharing of knowledge and scientific evidences, and promotion of sustainable fisheries management practices. \mathbb{X}

SEAFDEC shares information on impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia at ASSOCHAM Webinar



SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator, Dr. Worawit Wanchana, served as one of the speakers during the "National Webinar on Fisheries and Aquaculture Industry in COVID Times: Challenges and a Roadmap Ahead" which was hosted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on 16 July 2020 in India. During the Webinar, Dr. Worawit shared the highlights of the "SEAFDEC Webinar on Impact of COVID-19 on

Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia" which was organized on 2-3 July 2020 in Thailand, particularly the impacts of the pandemic such as decreased export of fish and fisheries products from the region to international markets, reduced prices of several fish food, minimized fishing pressure from commercial fishing activities as well as intensified usage of advanced technologies for monitoring, control, and surveillance of fishing activities at sea. ×

Online Regional TOT on Fish Handling Techniques Onboard **Fishing Vessels**



Participants during the online training

SEAFDEC/TD organized the "Online Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) on Fish Handling Techniques Onboard Fishing Vessels" from 3 to 7 August 2020 in Samut Prakan, Thailand through the Google Classroom and Google Meet platforms. The Training was attended by 23 participants from the AMSs who are working on fish handling and are capable to serve as trainers. The participants presented the current situation and in their respective countries.

problems relevant to fish handling in their respective areas. Topics on good practice and hygiene control for fish handling, preservation techniques, and method for onboard fish handling through cold chain management were imparted to the participants.

Moreover, an online demonstration on good practice for fish handling techniques onboard and at landing sites, including fish storage and ways to improve fresh quality at the landing site was also arranged. In the end, the participants are expected to have better practical skills on the reduction of post-harvest losses and improvement of hygiene and good practice of fish handling onboard the fishing fleet, as well as to disseminate knowledge and experience from this training as trainers \gg

Teleworkshop on developing plan of activities for transboundary resources

The "Sub-regional Consultation Teleworkshop on Developing a Plan of Activity for Transboundary Fisheries Resources" was organized by SEAFDEC/ TD from 27 to 28 August 2020 via Google Meet in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The aim of the Teleworkshop was to develop the plan of activities for transboundary fisheries resources in the Gulf of Thailand and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas. There were 37 participants in the Workshop including the resource persons and representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries and SEAFDEC Departments. During the Workshop, the discussion focused on

the identification of needed activities to address transboundary fisheries resources issues. Based on the discussions in foregoing workshops, the countries agreed on managing economically important fisheries resource in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region which include the short mackerel, anchovies, and neritic tunas; while in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas sub-region this could include neritic tunas. In this connection, TD would provide capacity building activities to the countries, such as training courses on Yield Per Recruit Model and Feedback Control during 2020-2024.



Participants during the teleworkshop

Online regional meeting on reducing impact to ecosystem and optimizing energy in **Southeast Asia**

SEAFDEC/TD organized the "Online Regional Technical Meeting on Reducing Negative Impact to Ecosystem, Optimizing Energy and Fuel Consumption, and Enhancing Safety in Fishing Practices in Southeast Asia" on 21 and 28 September 2020 via Google Meet in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by 37 participants including representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries and TD. The resource persons of the Meeting were from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and National Research Institute of Fisheries Engineering, Japan. The aim of the Meeting was to discuss the information on technological improvements and needs assessment among the SEAFDEC Member Countries to pave the way for planning and implementing the activities of the project "Responsible Fishing Technology and Practices" during 2021-2023.

During the Meeting, the respective countries provided information on fishing practices including responsible fishing manners, mitigating the damages to the aquatic ecosystems, reducing emissions and lowering fuel costs, and contributing to economical and sustainable utilization of fishery resources and better well-being of fisherfolk. Finally, the Meeting came up with recommendations particularly on reducing the negative impacts to ecosystem, optimizing energy and fuel consumption, and enhancing safety in fishing practices.



Teleseminar on Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia" was organized by SEAFDEC/ TD in collaboration with SEAFDEC/ MFRDMD and SEAFDEC Secretariat via Zoom on 24-26 August in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The Teleseminar was attended by 578 participants including

The "Teleseminar on Way Forward the representatives from the AMSs and the public. The panelists of the Teleseminar were the representatives from SEAFDEC partner organizations including FAO, DG MARE, Sustainable Fisheries Research and Development Foundation, RPOA-IUU, OceanMind, IMCS Network, and NOAA.



Panelists from SEAFDEC and other partner organizations

During the Teleseminar, the SEAFDEC partner organizations provided the updated information and progress of activities to combat IUU fishing which are being implemented in the region. On the way forward, the fundamental elements for combating IUU fishing at the national and regional levels in Southeast Asia should continue to include political will and commitment, cooperation and collaboration, transparency, law enforcement, capacity development, application of technologies and innovations, and sustainability of the initiatives and mechanisms. ×

Teleworkshop on the development of regional tools for combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia

on Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia," SEAFDEC/ TD organized the "Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Tools for Combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia" from 27 to 28 August 2020 via Zoom. The aim of the Teleworkshop was to discuss the

the Regional Fishing Vessels Record updating the RFVR for vessels 24 (RFVR) and implementation of port State measures (PSM). The 49 participants in the Teleworkshop included the representatives from the AMSs who are responsible for combating IUU fishing activities at policy-making level, SEAFDEC's National RFVR focal activities of SEAFDEC on development points, and fisheries officers from the of measures and tools to combat IUU AMSs who are responsible for national



Back to back with the "Teleseminar fishing, through the utilization of PSM and port control/inspection. In meters in length and over, the ways forward include the development of the platform that would enable the countries to update their respective information, development of the dashboard on general information, and linkage between the RFVR and FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record). With regard to the RFVR for vessels less than 24 meters in length, the participants agreed that the appropriate range length could be 18.00-23.99 meters. Furthermore, the needs and actions for the effective and efficient implementation of PSM should include capacity building activities such as on inspection at port. \gg

Online regional training on sampling gear design

The "Online Regional Training Course on Sampling Gear Design for Onboard Fisheries Resource Survey" was organized by SEAFDEC/TD from 31 August to 4 September 2020 in Samut Prakan, Thailand via Google Meet. The Online Training was part of SEAFDEC's initiatives to support the AMSs in developing the capacities of human

resources to conduct fisheries resource surveys and establishing the fisheries resource survey network in the region. There were 19 participants including fisheries officers from the AMSs who attended the Training, which focused on sampling gear selection, fishing gear design, sampling process and data recording, CPUE standardization, and

fisheries resource survey design. At the end of the Training, the participants gained the knowledge of carrying out appropriate fisheries resource surveys in their respective countries. Moreover, the fisheries resource survey network was initiated where the trainees could directly consult with experts on the subject.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
1 October	Virtual Meeting	2020 2nd Inter-Departmental Consultation on Preparation for SEASOFIA2022	Secretariat
6 October	Virtual Meeting	2 nd Ad-Hoc Meeting of the Project Steering Committee of the Fisheries	Fisheries
	Ŭ	Refugia Project	Refugia projec
6-9 October	Virtual Meeting	Inception Workshop for the Project on Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products	MFRD
7 October	Virtual Meeting	Inter-Departmental Workshop on Study on Impacts from Corona Virus-2019 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the SEAFDEC Member Countries	Secretariat
14 & 16 October	Virtual Meeting	19th Environmental Management Expert Group Meeting	MRC
20 October	Virtual Meeting	4 th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN	ASEAN
21 October	Virtual Meeting	42 nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)	ASEAN
26-29 October	Webinar	Regional Aquaculture Reviews and State of World Aquaculture 2020	FAO
29 October	Virtual Meeting	3 rd Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean	UN/ESCAP
2-6 November	Virtual Meeting	24th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	IOTC
9-11 November	Virtual Meeting	4 th Compliance Committee Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	SIOFA
9 Nov 2020 - 20 Feb 2021	Online course	Distance Learning Course: Basic Principles of Health Management in Aquaculture	AQD
10 November	Webinar	JIRCAS 50 th Year Anniversary International Symposium 2020: The role of international collaboration in agricultural research to address challenges in the post-COVID-19 global food system	JIRCAS
10-12 November	Virtual Seminar	43 rd Meeting of the Program Committee Meeting (PCM)	SEAFDEC
16 & 25 November	Virtual Seminar	Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative Virtual Seminar	US-DOI
17-18 November	Virtual Seminar	23 rd Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	SEAFDEC
24 November	Virtual Seminar	1st Core Expert Meeting on Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD
25 November	Virtual Seminar	1st Core Expert Meeting on Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD
30 Nov -1 Dec	Virtual Meeting	21st Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Program	Secretariat
2 December	Virtual Meeting	6 th Meeting of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters	MFRDMD
3 December	Virtual Meeting	SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting (DCM)	Secretariat
4 December	Virtual Meeting	2 nd Regional Inception Phase Meeting for the Project on Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea	UNEP/GEF
8 December	Virtual Meeting	Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA Capacity)	MFRDMD
9 December	Virtual Meeting	Inception Meeting for the Project on Sustainable Fish in Asia Project (SuFIA)	RTI
9 December	Virtual Meeting	2020 Government of Japan Trust Fund Projects Annual Progress Meeting	IFRDMD
18 December	Secretariat	In-house Training on Micro-finance, Credit and Insurance	TD
21 December	Virtual Meeting	Teleconference for the Project on Strengthening the Effective Management of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in AMS with GIS and RS Technology	Secretariat
21-22 December	Virtual Meeting	1st Meeting of AN-IUU National Focal Points	ASEAN

Capacity building on gender analysis in Surat Thani Province, Thailand

Under the project "Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia" supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), SEAFDEC/TD conducted several activities in Surat Thani Province, Thailand as one of the project sites. Participated by the 13 fisheries officers (four females and eight males) from the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Thailand, the activities were intended to field test the recommendations of the Draft Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia developed by SEAFDEC which would be finalized at the completion of the Project.

The first activity was the "Site Training for Enumerator on Gender Concept and Analysis and Development of a Data Collection Protocol" which was organized on 25-27 August 2020. During the Training, the Gender Team of TD introduced the basic concepts on gender and assisted the participants to develop the tools to collect data for gender analysis. Moreover, during the "Training on Data Collecting and Analysis on Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture" conducted on 28 August -1 September 2020, the DOF officers interviewed the fish farmers in small-scale marine aquaculture community using the questionnaire that they have developed. Finally, the data were collated during the "Data Validation Workshop" on 2-3 September 2020. Similar activities are also planned to be conducted in other project sites in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Philippines when the COVID-19 situation has improved.

Capacity building on EAFM for Ranong pilot learning site in Thailand

Under the project Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources, SEAFDEC/TD organized the "Training Course on Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (E-EAFM)" on 14-18 September 2020 in Ranong Province, Thailand. The aim of the Training was to introduce the EAFM process to the fisheries officers and key fisheries stakeholders in Ranong Province and strengthen their capacity to implement the EAFM concept.

There were 16 participants including the officers from the Ranong Provincial Fisheries Office and Ranong Marine Fisheries Research and Development Station as well as community members of Ban Hat Sai Khao Village, attending in the Training course which came up with the draft EAFM plan for Ranong Province which include fisheries resources enhancement, fish habitat rehabilitation, alternative livelihood program, and strengthening the participation and cooperation among stakeholders at national and regional levels. ×

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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Lavout: Sunutta Pudtal

SEAFDEC welcomes Mr. Koichi Honda as its new Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD



Mr. Koichi Honda, New Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD

SEAFDEC welcomes Mr. Koichi Honda as the new Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of the Training Department (TD), succeeding Mr. Akito Sato who had served as the Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of the Government of Japan to serve TD for two years from 1 May 2018 to 31 August 2020.

Prior to his designation in SEAFDEC, Mr. Honda served as Senior Adviser of the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Center of Japan where he provided technical support to local governments

on the development and management of fishery infrastructure, particularly on the recovery from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and other natural disasters. In 2015-2017, he was the Director of Fisheries Division of Agriculture and Fisheries Department of the Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau and focused on the management and implementation of fishing port development projects.

Mr. Honda was nominated by in SEAFDEC for two years from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2022. With his experiences in fishery infrastructure and fishery engineering, it is certain that he would greatly help and guide SEAFDEC in the implementation of its programs and projects for the benefit of

all Member Countries.

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD bids farewell to Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan and welcomes the new management team



Handover ceremony of the former Chief of MFRDMD, Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD congratulated and wished its former Chief, Mr. Raja Bidin bin Raja Hassan, good luck after his promotion as the Deputy Director General (Development) of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia starting 17 August 2020. During his term in SEAFDEC since 2016, Mr. Raja Bidin played significant roles particularly as an expert in acoustic fisheries, stock assessment, and tuna

On the other hand, MFRDMD welcomed the well-known sharks expert in the region, Dr. Ahmad bin Ali, as the new Chief starting August 2020. Dr. Ahmad graduated from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia with B.S. Fisheries in 1985 and M.S. Recreational Fisheries in 2001. In 2015, he graduated from the Universiti

fisheries in the region.



New Management Team from left to right: Ms. Mazalina binti Ali, Dr. Ahmad bin Ali, and Dr. Masaya Katoh

Malaysia Terengganu with Ph.D. in Oceanography. He is an active member of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group for Southeast Asia since 2007 and Co-regional Vice-Chair since 2013. MFRDMD also congratulated Senior Researcher Ms. Mazalina binti Ali, for her appointment as the new Special Departmental Coordinator (SDC) starting October 2020. It is hoped that the combination of expertise and experience of the new Chief and SDC with Deputy Chief who started his duty since April 2019 with extensive experience and expertise in the field of molecular ecology and international issues such as CITES and IUU fishing will be able to bring more success to MFRDMD especially in the field of marine fisheries resources management in the region. ×

SEAFDEC/TD welcomes new M.V. PLALUNG, Trawler **Prototype**





Welcome ceremony of M.V. PLALUNG

SEAFDEC/TD organized the welcome ceremony for the arrival of the refurbished M.V. PLALUNG on 29 September 2020. The Ceremony was attended by the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Thailand, Mr. Thaworn Jirasoponrak; SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Ms. Malinee Smithrithee; SEAFDEC senior officers, and guests from the DOF, Thailand.

The M.V. PLALUNG is a 44.99 GT wooden vessel with the length of 19 m, breadth of 4.67 m, and depth of 2.05 m. This vessel is to be converted into a multi-purpose training vessel which consists of fishing gears such as trawl, trap, gillnet, and longline; and equipped with technologies to minimize its impacts to the environment, reduce manpower onboard, and improve fish handling efficiency. The M.V. PLALUNG would also be modernized to support training and research activities of TD along the coastal areas of Thailand. Moreover, the vessel design would be compliance to the Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188) or known as C188, particularly on the working condition and safety at sea of onboard crew. X