

# 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference: “Fish for the People”

by Suriyan Vichitlekarn

## Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People”

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People” was held in November 2001. The conference was in response to widespread regional concern over unsustainable fisheries practices, which may negatively affect future fish supplies for food security and the economic and social well-being of people in the ASEAN region. Attention focused on fisheries issues of specific concern to the ASEAN region, the goal being to coordinate policies and actions within the region and harmonize these with policies and actions at the international level.



*Opening ceremony of the Millennium Conference  
on 19 November 2001*

The Conference was the culmination of over two years of collaborative efforts by ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, together with SEAFDEC, the ASEAN Secretariats and FAO. The conclusions and recommendations on various important issues, reached through consultative processes at both national and regional levels, formed the basis for deliberation at the Conference, as well as for the formulation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries in the ASEAN Region (Page 7-11), which could be considered as the ASEAN fisheries common policies and guidelines.

The conference itself is the beginning of long-term work to meet the challenges of achieving sustainable fisheries and food security in the region. Through its Resolution and Plan of Action, the conference has provided regional policy direction and guidance as well as various technical documents. A ‘Follow-up Program on the Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region (2002-2005)’ was formulated to pursue the initiatives launched by the conference.

The Follow-up Program aims at assisting ASEAN Member Countries in the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN region together with the recommendations from the Technical Session. The program also aims to provide benefit to all ASEAN Member Countries, emphasizing support for the least developed countries in the region to minimize disparities and to achieve coordinated efforts toward sustainable fisheries.

### **“A Follow-up Program on the Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region (2002-2005) was formulated”**

Considering the nature and competence of the organizations, SEAFDEC has been viewed as a policy and technical organization, while ASEAN is considered a political organization. Mutual benefits, especially from activities conducted in the fields of fisheries can therefore be derived by their Member Countries. To enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of fishery programs in the ASEAN Region, close collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC is considered essential. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) was established in 1999 as a strategic alliance to pool resources and avoids duplication of effort in response to this requirement.

The FCG is mandated to identify important regional and international fisheries issues, to provide technical assistance to ASEAN for the formulation and implementation of common policies, and to assist Member Countries in formulating common positions on regional or international fisheries issues. Through this collaborative mechanism, a joint program of planning and review has been conducted every year. It is envisaged that, supported by ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries, these programs will increase the benefits to the promotion of sustainable fisheries in the region. In order to assist ASEAN Member Countries in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference, it is therefore important that the follow-up program is integrated into this regional fisheries collaborative mechanism.

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## **ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Programs**

Considering the priority issues identified before and after the conference, a number of regional fisheries programs (Page 12) have been established under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism to promote sustainable fisheries and ensure food security in the ASEAN region. These include the Special Five-year Program on the Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region, considered as support to the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action.

What progress has been made in the one year since the establishment of the regional fisheries policy towards sustainable fisheries and food security in the region?

### **1. Upgrading of Traditional Fish Processing Industries in Southeast Asia**

This program aims primarily to upgrade traditional fish processing industries in the region, with particular emphasis on fermented fish products. This has been done through improved processing technology and the introduction of quality management systems such as

the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP). It is expected that this program will provide a basis for future development of other traditional fish products in the region.

### **2. Promotion of Mangrove-friendly Aquaculture in Southeast Asia**

In order to promote sustainable aquaculture, the program aims at developing sustainable culture technology packages particularly for shrimp farming that have the least negative impact on mangroves and their environment. Once fish culture technology packages develop, the program plans to disseminate them in the region through demonstration and training. This also includes verification and pilot demonstration, research and preparation of instructional materials for dissemination.

### **3. Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles in Southeast Asian Countries**

Populations of sea turtles are decreasing throughout the region. This program aims at establishing a regional approach towards the conservation and management of this resource. Program activities include studies on the biology of sea turtles and their populations, habitats and nesting ground loss and degradation, and other potential threats with the goal of developing an effective management plan for sea turtles populations in the region. Regular workshops on Southeast Asia Sea Turtle Associative Research (SEASTAR) will also be held for sea turtle scientists to meet and discuss research findings for future development.

### **4. Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**

The program has been developed with the aim of assisting ASEAN Member Countries in the implementation at the national level of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The program highlights a collaborative regional learning process through regional consultations, focusing on regional fisheries specificities and priorities. Following the main thematic issues of the Code, the program has four phases: fishing operations, aquaculture, fisheries management, and post-harvest technology and trade. The program's initial aim is the development of regional

guidelines reflecting the regional consultations and the identification of follow-up actions to further promote the implementation of the Code.

### 5. Development of Fish Disease Inspection Methodologies for Artificially-bred Seeds

Infectious diseases threaten the sustainability of aquaculture. This program was developed as an extension to the program for the Promotion of Mangrove-friendly Aquaculture in Southeast Asia. It aims to promote healthy and wholesome trading of aquaculture products through the establishment of standardized diagnostic methods for important diseases and a surveillance and disease control system.

### 6. Fish Trade and Environment

This program was developed to promote sustainable fish trade in the region through the investigation of common issues related to fish trade and environment in the region. The program provides a basis for regional deliberation to establish effective management plan and measures, as well as to develop common positions among the ASEAN Member Countries in the promotion of regional fish trade. So far, the program has identified several major issues for investigation. These include fisheries subsidies, eco-labelling, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, dealing with antibiotic residues in farmed shrimps, and sea turtle and shark related issues.

### 7. Coastal Resource Management

The aim of this program is to establish practical locally based approaches to sustainable coastal fisheries management, the rehabilitation of coastal resources, and poverty alleviation. A pilot project on coastal resource management has been implemented in a selected district in Thailand. Program activities include baseline studies on coastal fisheries of the pilot areas, development and promotion of a locally based coastal fisheries management framework through capacity building, and the rehabilitation and enhancement of coastal resources.

## 8. Special Five-year Follow-up Program on the Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region

### COMPONENT I: Fisheries Management

#### Toward Decentralized Management for Sustainable Fisheries in the ASEAN Region

This project aims at addressing fisheries management frameworks that will ensure the stable fish supplies and food security necessary for achieving sustainable fisheries in the region. The project approach focuses on mobilizing knowledge, expertise and experience on the decentralization of fisheries management and rights-based fisheries already existing in the region. It will then develop guidelines as regional references for the promotion of the decentralization of fisheries management and rights-based fisheries as a strategy to improve existing national fisheries management frameworks.



*Fisheries management is an important component of the Special Five-year Follow-up Program*

#### Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms

This project aims primarily at improving national fishery statistical systems in ASEAN Member Countries. The project focuses on the development of regional references for human resource development on fishery statistics at all levels. These regional references could be promoted through mobilizing relevant expertise and

experience within and beyond the region. The project also aims to promote a fishery statistical system using standardized definitions and terminology, as well as statistical classification, in order to facilitate the compilation of fishery statistics at both the regional and global levels.

### **Responsible Fishing Gears and Practices**

This project centers on the promotion of selective fishing gears, particularly in coastal areas. Research studies and demonstration works will be used to improve selectivity and reduce the destructive impact of major fishing gears on resources and habitats in the region. The project particularly highlights the promotion of Juvenile and Trash Excluder Devices (JTEDs) to reduce the capture of immature cohorts of commercially important species.

### **Resource Enhancement**

As part of attempts to enhance coastal resources in response to their continuous degradation in the region, this project aims to promote resource enhancement tools such as artificial reefs as well as some selected stationary fishing technologies and aquaculture facilities. With regard to the sustainability of resource enhancement, the project will be promoted under the rights-based fisheries principle, with the active involvement of local communities and fishers.

### **Identification of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region**

In response to the needs for effective management tools for capture fisheries in the Region, this project investigates practical indicators for sustainable fisheries. This also includes usage of the identified indicators and promoting data and information collection to support the indicators. The project will promote pilot sub-projects on the use of various indicators in different fisheries to draw practical experience, which will be used as a basis to develop regional guidelines on the use of indicators for sustainable development and management of fisheries in the region.

### **Information Gathering for Capture Inland Fisheries in ASEAN Countries**

This project addresses the importance and usage of data and information to support the sustainable management of inland capture fisheries. The project emphasizes in particular required data gathering, analysis and presentation. It is expected that the project will develop various approaches for different inland water bodies, such as lakes and reservoirs, for the formulation of a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) to be used for regional guidance and reference in the management and development of this sector.

### **Harvesting of Under-exploited Resource**

As a strategy to tackle the increasing demand for fish and fishery products, this project was developed to investigate the possibility of developing new fisheries and increasing production from currently under-exploited fisheries in a sustainable manner. The project will identify key under-exploited resources and their potential as well as appropriate fishing and handling techniques and possible promotion of these fisheries through research and information collection by putting emphasis on fish resources in both the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific regions. These stocks have so far been identified mainly as pelagic species, such as tunas, scads, mackerel and squid.

## **COMPONENT II: Aquaculture**

### **Aquaculture for Rural Development**

This project aims at promoting appropriate aquatic species and responsible technologies for aquaculture in both freshwater and marine systems, to contribute to rural development in the region. It comprises four major components: freshwater aquaculture of indigenous



*Aquaculture is the second component of the Special Five-year Follow-up Program*

species, promotion of integrated agri/aquaculture systems, coastal aquaculture for poverty alleviation, and small-scale sea farming.

### Supply of Good Quality Seeds

Within the region, there is a need for both quality seed in aquaculture and for stock enhancement programs. This project aims to identify, verify and disseminate appropriate broodstock management and seed production technologies for potential freshwater and marine species. The project focuses on existing capabilities and current regional needs in aquaculture. Activities include pilot demonstrations, technology verification and on-site training.

## COMPONENT III: Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

### Maximizing the Utilization of Fish Catch

The project aims to promote the use of under-utilized marine and freshwater fish species for the development of value-added products. Studies to maximize the use of fish catch will be conducted, particularly in the areas of preliminary processing trials and actual production, as well as product shelf life. The outcomes will be used to formulate a regional manual for further dissemination.

### Fish Quality and Safety Management Systems

In response to the increasing requirements for safely consumable fishery products, this project aims to improve aspects of laboratory practices in the region, through harmonizing and validating laboratory test procedures to bring them into line with international standards. The project also expects to establish a network of lead laboratories and good laboratory practices to be implemented in each ASEAN Member Country.

## 9. Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea

This program was developed as part of an attempt to promote sustainable development and management of pelagic fisheries in the region. It addresses the importance of collecting information on the exploitation of pelagic fish resources. The program focuses on the status of operation and catches of purse seines in order to determine the possible existence of under-exploited

resources, the biological characteristics of some selected species exploited by purse seines, and maximizing the utilization of the catches.

## 10. Digitized Atlas

In utilizing and making accessible fisheries data and information, geo-informatics technology is an important tool to support the development and management of fisheries in the region. The digitized atlas program aims to establish an integrated data management system on fisheries, accessible through a user-friendly map-based interface on the Internet. The program involves a wide range of data and information on, among other things, fishery statistics, geographical information, cases studies, and their analysis, and research data and outcomes.

## 11. Application of HACCP in the Fish Processing Industry in Southeast Asia

In line with international trends and the need to comply with regulations of importing countries, the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system has been endorsed for ensuring food safety in ASEAN Member Countries. This program was developed to assist ASEAN Member Countries in further promoting the implementation of HACCP programs. HACCP not only needs to be used for export fish and fishery products but also for those traditionally consumed domestically. The program aims to document HACCP applications in fish processing industries of ASEAN Member Countries, and to provide a useful platform for sharing of information and experiences among Member Countries on HACCP applications.



*The Ministerial Session of the Millennium Conference*

## **The Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region**

**We, the Ministers of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries who are responsible for fisheries, met in Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of *The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People”, on 24 November, 2001,***

**Recalling** the principles of the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the initiatives agreed upon by the ASEAN Member Countries under the Hanoi Plan of Action;

**Recognizing** the importance of sustainable fisheries for food security and the livelihoods and well-being of the ASEAN people;

**Noting** the provisions of international declarations and instruments on food security, fisheries, ocean governance, trade, and the aquatic environment;

**Conscious of** the growing demand for fish and fishery products and the need to secure sustainable fish supplies for food security for each ASEAN Member Country;

**Aware of** the increasing pressures on ASEAN’s aquatic environment and fisheries resources from fisheries and non-fisheries activities, that may negatively impact on the livelihoods of the ASEAN people, in particular the poor and disadvantaged segments of society;

**Considering** the benefits of current and future fisheries cooperation among ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to promote sustainable fisheries in ASEAN Member Countries; and,

**Deciding** that the issues identified through the national and regional participatory processes in preparation for the above Conference and those identified at the Conference should be given priority;

**DO HEREBY RESOLVE**, without prejudice to the sovereign rights, obligations, and responsibilities of our countries under relevant international laws and arrangements, to:

1. Formulate regional guidelines to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, taking into account the specific social, economic, cultural, ecological and institutional contexts and diversity of ASEAN fisheries;
2. Cooperate to identify constraints and enhance collaboration among government agencies, which have responsibility for fisheries and fisheries-related issues, in order to harmonize policies, plans and activities which support sustainable fisheries at the national and regional levels;
3. Acknowledge the need for enhanced human resource capabilities at all levels and encourage greater involvement by stakeholders to facilitate consensus and compliance in achieving sustainable fisheries;
4. Mobilize regional technical cooperation to reduce disparities and promote solidarity among ASEAN Member Countries;
5. Encourage effective management of fisheries through delegation of selected management functions to the local level;
6. Recognize the need to progressively replace “open access” to fisheries resources with “limited access regimes” through the introduction of rights-based fisheries which may also facilitate the management of fishing capacity and promote the use of responsible fishing gears and practices;

7. Strengthen national fishery statistical systems and maximize their use for fisheries planning and management and develop standard definitions and classifications to facilitate regional fishery statistics and information exchanges;
8. Emphasize the importance of inland fisheries and aquaculture in planning and policy formulation to improve food security and the livelihoods of rural people;
9. Work towards the conservation and rehabilitation of aquatic habitats essential to enhancing fisheries resources;
10. Mitigate the potential impacts on the environment and biodiversity, including the spreading of aquatic animal diseases, caused by the uncontrolled introduction and transfer of non-indigenous and exotic aquatic species;
11. Promote the maximum utilization of catch, including the reduction of discards and post-harvest losses to increase fish supply and improve economic returns;
12. Increase aquaculture production in a sustainable and environment-friendly manner by ensuring a stable supply of quality seeds and feeds, effectively controlling disease, promoting good farm management and transferring appropriate technology;
13. Promote aquaculture for rural development, which is compatible with the rational use of land and water resources, to increase fish supplies and improve the livelihoods of rural people;
14. Improve post-harvest technologies to ensure fish quality assurance and safety management systems, which are appropriate for small and medium-sized enterprises in the Region, taking into account the importance of traditional fish products and food security requirements;
15. Strengthen the joint ASEAN approaches and positions on international trade in fish and fishery products indigenous to the Region by harmonizing standards, criteria and guidelines; and
16. Increase the participation and involvement of ASEAN Member Countries in international fora to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests;

**AND DO HEREBY DECIDE**, that the Resolution be implemented as soon as possible and use the **Plan of Action** adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Senior Officials as a result of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People”, held November 19-24, 2001, in Bangkok, Thailand, as a guideline for formulating and implementing programs, projects, and activities through appropriate ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanisms.



## **The Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region**

Guided by the Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region, and the need to formulate regional guidelines for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Senior Officials adopted the following Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region to be used as a guideline to develop programs, projects and activities for the implementation of the Resolution.

### **A. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

1. Establish and implement comprehensive policies for innovative fisheries management, such as the decentralization of selected fisheries management functions to the local level, the progressive introduction of rights-based fisheries management through licensing and community fishing rights, the improvement of vessel registration systems and the development of supporting legal and institutional frameworks.
2. Ensure local consensus building on innovative management measures through consultative processes and create close monitoring mechanisms to support and implement these measures.
3. Take measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate the use of illegal and destructive fishing gears and practices by building awareness of their adverse impacts, the development and promotion of responsible and selective fishing gears and practices, enforcing regulations and encouraging alternative means of livelihood.
4. Optimize the use of inshore waters through resource enhancement programs such as promoting the installation of artificial reefs and structures, encouraging coordinated and effective planning for coastal fisheries management programs, undertaking environmental impact assessment studies, restocking of commercially important fish species and developing human resources for the implementation of such programs.
5. Review the issue of excess fishing capacity at the national level and recommend where appropriate, measures to improve the registration of fishing vessels, the introduction of right-based fisheries and the reduction of the number of fishing boats and level of fishing effort using government incentives.
6. Formulate guidelines to promote the use of practical and simple indicators for multi-species fisheries as a substitute for classical fisheries management models within the national fisheries management framework, with particular regard to facilitating timely local level fisheries management decisions.
7. Investigate the potential of under-utilized fisheries resources and promote their exploitation in a precautionary manner based upon analysis of the best available scientific information under right-based fisheries regimes.
8. Develop and maintain freshwater fisheries through inter-agency coordination of multiple-use water resources and trans-boundary inland fisheries management, promoting awareness of the importance of freshwater fisheries for local food security, rehabilitating and restoring habitats for migratory freshwater fish, restocking indigenous fish species to enhance productivity and encouraging culture-based freshwater fisheries where appropriate.
9. Coordinate and decentralize the collection and use of fisheries related statistical data between the national fisheries and other authorities including those responsible for food security, trade, vessel registration, aquaculture and rural development.
10. Maximize the use of national fisheries statistical systems by focusing on clear objectives and timely



results directly related to fishery management decision-making and planning processes.

11. Apply, where appropriate, regionally standardized definitions and classifications for statistical data to facilitate regional compilation, analysis and data exchange.
12. Develop national statistical mechanisms on inland fisheries and aquaculture in order to provide a basis for their development and the exchange of statistical data and related information, with particular emphasis on the catchment approach in international river basins.

## **B. AQUACULTURE**

1. Ensure that national policies and regulatory frameworks on aquaculture development are directed toward sustainability and avoidance of conflicts by incorporating consultations with stakeholder groups, implementing aquaculture zoning, considering social and environmental impact, and also regulating rights of access to, and use of, open water sites for mariculture.
2. Ensure production of high quality seeds on a consistent and sustainable basis by providing government support for public and private hatchery development and research, developing domesticated broodstocks and fish reproductive technologies, and promoting responsible collection and use of wild broodstock and seed.
3. Promote good farm management practices that reduce effluent pollution load and comply with relevant effluent standards through appropriate treatment.
4. Reduce the risks of negative environmental impacts, loss of biodiversity, and disease transfer by regulating the introduction and transfer of aquatic organisms in accordance with the Regional Guidelines on the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals and Plants.
5. Improve the efficient use of aquatic feeds by regulating the quality of manufactured feed and feed ingredients, providing guidelines on farm-level food conversion ratios and levels of aquaculture effluents, and supporting research into developing suitable alternative protein sources to reduce dependence on fish meal and other fish based products.
6. Improve capabilities in the diagnosis and control of fish diseases within the Region by developing technology and techniques for disease identification, reliable field-side diagnostics and harmonized diagnostic procedures, and establishing regional and inter-regional referral systems, including designation of reference laboratories and timely access to disease control experts within the Region.
7. Formulate guidelines for the use of chemicals in aquaculture, establish quality standards and take measures to reduce or eliminate the use of harmful chemicals.
8. Build human resource capabilities for environment-friendly, healthy, wholesome and sustainable aquaculture through closer public and private sector collaboration in research and development, paying particular attention to the emerging need for skills in biotechnology, and effectively implementing aquaculture education and extension services.
9. Promote aquaculture as an integrated rural development activity within multiple-use of land and water resources available through inter-agency coordination in policy formulation, project planning and

implementation, stakeholder consultation, extension services and technology transfer.

### **C. SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS**

1. Introduce and provide support for the development of technologies to optimize the utilization of catch and reduce post-harvest losses, wastes and discards in industrial and small-scale fisheries and processing operations through improved processing facilities, on-board and on-shore handling, storage and distribution of fish and fishery products.
2. Promote the production and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products by assisting producers to secure stable supplies of quality raw materials, to meet food safety requirements and to improve product identity, nutritive value and marketing.
3. Encourage relevant control agencies to coordinate their activities at all levels in applying appropriate legislation regarding the quality and safety of fish and fishery products.
4. Develop and apply fish quality and safety management systems that ensure food safety and support the competitive position of ASEAN fish products on world markets through the implementation, validation and verification of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) based systems and improved laboratory practices, and adapting quality and safety management systems so that they may be applied to small and medium enterprises in the ASEAN Region.
5. Promote and conduct training programs to upgrade the technical skills and competencies of personnel in the public sector and the fish processing industry in the ASEAN Region.

### **D. FISH TRADE**

1. Strengthen ASEAN trade policy on fish and fishery products through regional collaboration by harmonizing product standards and sanitary measures with international standards wherever appropriate, working towards harmonised guidelines for fish inspection and quality control systems among ASEAN Member Countries, strengthening fish inspection and quality control systems with regard to food safety and exchanging information on risk analysis.
2. In collaboration with international technical organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), assess the impact of government subsidies on fisheries, particularly on the needs of small-scale fisheries in the ASEAN Region and sustainable fisheries.
3. Anticipate and address the potential impacts of eco-labelling of ASEAN fish and fishery products.

### **E. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY FORMULATION**

1. Enhance regional collaboration by developing guidelines, criteria and standards on important fisheries issues to strengthen ASEAN policies and positions and harmonize them with international initiatives and arrangements.
2. Increase participation and involvement of ASEAN Member Countries in international fora and technical committees such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Codex, FAO, Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Regional Fisheries Bodies, and WTO to safeguard and promote ASEAN interests, recognizing that international fisheries policies are increasingly discussed and agreed upon at the global level.

## Programs under ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Mechanisms

1. Upgrading of Traditional Fish Processing Industries in Southeast Asia
2. Promotion of Mangrove-friendly Aquaculture in Southeast Asian Countries
3. Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles in Southeast Asian Countries
4. Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF)
5. Development of Fish Diseases Diagnostic Inspection Methodologies for Artificial-bred Seeds
6. Fish Trade and Environment
7. Coastal Resource Management
8. Special 5-year Program

### *Component I: Fisheries Management*

- 8.1. Toward Decentralized Management for Sustainable Fisheries in the ASEAN Region
- 8.2. Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms
- 8.3. Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices
- 8.4. Resource Enhancement
- 8.5. Identification of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region
- 8.6. Information Gathering for Capture Inland Fisheries in ASEAN Countries
- 8.7. Harvesting of Under-exploited Resource

### *Component II: Aquaculture*

- 8.8. Aquaculture for Rural Development
- 8.9. Supply of Good Quality Seeds

### *Component III: Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products*

- 8.10. Maximizing the Utilization of Fish Catch
- 8.11. Fish Quality and Safety Management Systems
9. Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea
10. Digitized Atlas
11. Application of HACCP in the Fish Processing Industry in Southeast Asia

## Conclusion

Achieving sustainable fisheries and food security in the ASEAN region is a major challenge for all Member Countries. The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries in the ASEAN region and programs to support its implementation have been established, but the journey to achieving identified regional goals has just begun. Strong commitment, support and close cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries, coupled with collaborative technical support between regional and international organizations, are major driving forces to ensure “fish for the people” for generations to come.

### About the author

Suriyan Vichitlekarn is currently working as the Program Manager of the SEAFDEC Secretariat. He was involved in the preparation of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference organized in 2001, as well as in the coordination and implementation of the Conference follow-up programs, particularly for the project on Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms.

