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SEAFDEC convenes the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council



Participants of the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

EDITORIAL

One of the highlighted events of SEAFDEC for the second quarter of 2021 was the Fifty-third Meeting of SEAFDEC Council where the progress of activities and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2020 as well as proposed program of activities to be undertaken in 2021 were reported ensuring that their implementation corresponds to the priority needs of the countries in the region. The Council then expressed the appreciation to the Government of Japan as well as other collaborating organizations for their continued commitment to support the activities of SEAFDEC towards sustainable development and management of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.

Another remarkable event was the Webinar Series on WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text where the participants shared their views on the current Draft Consolidated Text on Fisheries Subsidies Negotiation and agreed on the way forward which is to come up with the consolidated position of the respective Member Countries of SEAFDEC.

(Continued on Page 2)

At the kind invitation of the Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic through its Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) as host, the “Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council” was convened from 27 to 28 April and on 11 May 2021 through an online platform due to the unusual situation brought by the onslaught of the COVID-19.

In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and delegations from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, and the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, as well as officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, and representatives from collaborating agencies. The Opening Session of the Meeting on 27 April 2021 was presided over by the Deputy Director-General, Fisheries Agency of Japan and the Council Director for Japan, *Mr. Takashi Koya*. The Meeting unanimously elected the Council Director for Lao PDR, *Mrs. Vilayphone Vorraphim* as the

Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2021–2022.

After considering the progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2020, and the proposed program of activities to be undertaken by SEAFDEC in 2021, and having been assured that their implementation corresponds to the priorities and needs of the countries in the region, the Council then discussed the region’s priority issues related to the regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing such as the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database, the regional cooperation to support the implementation of port State measures (PSM), and the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS). The Council also endorsed the report on the stock and risk assessments of kawakawa and longtail tuna resources in the Southeast Asian waters, and noted the proposed Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia.

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EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

In continuing the close cooperation and collaboration with regional/international agencies/organizations such as ASEAN Secretariat, FAO, CITES Secretariat, among others to address the priority fisheries issues, SEAFDEC participated in the 11ASA, 13AFCF, and 29ASWGF to report the progress of the implementation of several policy frameworks under the ASEAN cooperation in fisheries. SEAFDEC also took part in the 36APFIC to share the progress of works on several fisheries issues (*i.e.* combating IUU fishing, fisheries subsidies, stock assessment, gender, and so on). In addition, SEAFDEC also participated in the AC31 which discussed the conservation and trade status of selected wild fauna, and collaborated with the CITES Secretariat for the conduct of activities on improving national and regional statistics on shark landings and providing capacity building for national authorities on the development of non-detriment findings for shark species.

SEAFDEC also sustained the conduct of several training and workshops including the topics on eACDS application, freshwater prawn hatchery and grow-out operations, deck machinery and hauling devices, fish handling techniques onboard fishing vessels, marine fish hatchery, and gender analysis in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

The other important activity was the launching of two guides on the identification of common shark and ray species in the Southeast Asian region developed by SEAFDEC and the CITES Secretariat, which serve as an important tool that could be used by fisheries officers and researchers, CITES authorities, and other relevant stakeholders.

Lastly, SEAFDEC expressed condolences to the family of *Dr. Deb Menasveta* who served as the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC from January 1976 to January 1981, and who passed in July. *Dr. Deb* will surely be missed and the legacy he left with SEAFDEC and the fisheries sector of the Southeast Asian region would live in our minds. ☒

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SEAFDEC convenes the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (Continued from Page 1)



Participants of the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

On international fisheries-related issues, the Council provided guidance on the way forward on fisheries subsidies and for SEAFDEC to provide a platform to facilitate discussion among the Member Countries, share updated information, and develop common views to be reflected during WTO negotiations, as well as to extend capacity building for countries on developing the reference points to define overcapacity and overfishing. On the need to prevent the listing of certain aquatic species, such as sharks, rays, sea cucumbers, and eels in the CITES Appendices during the CoP19 in 2022, the Council requested SEAFDEC to facilitate discussion among the Member Countries taking into consideration the stock status of these aquatic species.

The Council also supported the proposed “Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030,” took note of the progress made by SEAFDEC in the preparation of the publication “Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022,” and the ongoing “Study on the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.”

On the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 which was granted by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC in 2004, proposals were put forward by some Member Countries, such as the Philippines, Malaysia, and Myanmar to utilize the vessel in 2021 and onward.

Moreover, the Council also appreciated the extension of the close cooperation and collaboration between SEAFDEC and regional/international agencies/organizations in undertaking activities towards sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. The Council expressed the appreciation to the Government of Japan for its commitment to continue supporting the activities of SEAFDEC towards sustainable development and management of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, in spite of the onslaught of COVID-19 that resulted in severe impacts on the fisheries sector and economy of all SEAFDEC Member Countries including Japan.

At the closing of the Meeting, the Council extended its appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for the excellent hosting of the Meeting, and announced that the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2022 would be hosted by Malaysia. ☒

SEAFDEC participates in 16th AWG-CITES

SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*, took part in the “16th AWG CITES” on 27 May 2021, which was hosted by the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division, Sectoral Development Directorate of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Department of the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEAN Working Group on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (AWG-CITES) was adopted in 2004 as a commitment of the ASEAN Member States to cooperate on improved implementation of CITES’

measures including enforcement of the Convention. The Meeting was attended by the members of AWG-CITES, as well as representatives from relevant international/regional organizations including USAID Wildlife Asia, ASEAN-USAID, ASEANPOL, INTERPOL, WCO, UNODC, and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

During the Meeting, *Dr. Worawit* presented the relevant works of SEAFDEC including updates on the progress and status of addressing issues on endangered aquatic species

that focus on regional programs/activities related to the commercially exploited aquatic species listed under CITES Appendices. In particular, he shared the current capacity building and information sharing platform provided by SEAFDEC; promotion of conservation and management of sharks and catadromous eels in Southeast Asian region; and the effort of SEAFDEC in facilitating the development of ASEAN common position for the proposal on listing aquatic species to be discussed at the next CITES-COP. ❖

Collection of inland fish catch data in Indonesia enhanced



Since January 2020, the enumerators and local fishers trained by SEAFDEC/IFRDMD collected the monthly catch data and biology of freshwater fish from Kampar River in Riau Province and Patratani River in South Sumatra Province in Indonesia. IFRDMD would then compile and analyze the collected data to establish the database and profile of freshwater fish biodiversity.

Kampar River has the potential for inland fisheries, while the marginal floodplain of Patratani River was assessed by IFRDMD in collaboration with the Research Institute for Inland Fisheries and Extension (RIIFE) to serve as pilot model of the Special Area for Conservation and Fish Refugia

(SPEECTRA) concept. The database that would be developed by IFRDMD is crucial for the decision-making of management authorities to sustain inland fisheries. ❖



Field survey conducted in Riau Province and South Sumatra Province

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Webinar highlights GAqP for shrimp and prawn

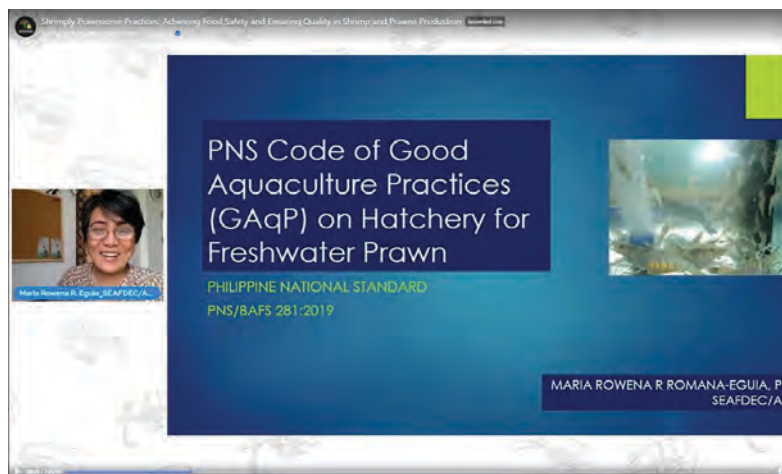
Food safety and quality of cultured shrimps and prawns were discussed during the webinar organized by the Philippine Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) on 20 May 2021.

Represented by Scientist *Dr. Maria Rowena Eguia*, SEAFDEC/AQD joined BAFS in promoting awareness and understanding of the good aquaculture practices (GAqP) embodied in the Philippine National Standards (PNS) for the production of economically relevant species.

Dr. Eguia discussed the PNS Code of Good Aquaculture Practices on Hatchery for Freshwater Prawn with the attendees. Her presentation included prevention and reduction of risk hazards in the hatchery stage as well as food safety

and quality requirements. PNS aims to guide the aquaculture industry to achieve safe and quality productions, protect consumers' health, and ensure global competitiveness.

Replay of the webinar can be watched through this link, <https://www.facebook.com/da.bafs/videos/5574079849331833/>.



Dr. Eguia discusses the Code of Good Aquaculture Practices on Hatchery for Freshwater Prawn during the Webinar on 20 May 2021

SEAFDEC participates in the Thirty-sixth Session of APFIC

SEAFDEC joined the “36th Session of the FAO Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)” which was held virtually on 5–7 May 2021 and hosted by the Government of Thailand. The 36th APFIC was attended by representatives from the 17 member countries of the Commission, APFIC Secretariat, and partner organizations. During this 36th Session of APFIC, the progress of works undertaken by APFIC was reported, while important emerging issues and challenges were raised and discussed. These include a series of APFIC regional webinars which commenced since January 2021; the aquaculture innovation, knowledge sharing and capacity development in the APFIC region in response to emerging challenges from within the sector (*e.g.* antimicrobial resistance, disease, environmental quality) or outside the sector (*e.g.* climate change, fishmeal supply, demands of markets and trade barriers); and building of capacity in assessment of the sustainable

management of marine and inland fisheries (*e.g.* improve reporting, capacity to assess marine fish stocks, inland fishery assessment), among others.

During the Session, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee* expressed her appreciation to FAO for providing the technical assistance and sharing the knowledge

to the SEAFDEC Member Countries to address several fisheries issues (*i.e.* combating IUU fishing, fisheries subsidies, stock assessment, SSF Guidelines, gender, etc.). In addition, she also reported that SEAFDEC has been working with FAO for a number of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility that are to be implemented in the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand sub-regions.



SEAFDEC participates in the Thirty-first Meeting of the Animals Committee



SEAFDEC officials attended the plenary session of the “31st Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31)” held on 31 May–4 June 2021 via videoconference. The AC31 was attended by experts as well as representatives from the Parties to CITES, observer Parties, and observer organizations. The Meeting discussed the progress of the Animals Committee at

the last CoP18 and consideration before reporting the outcomes to the upcoming CoP19 in 2022. The Committee also discussed the conservation and trade status of selected fauna as well as the technical issues related to the trade of CITES-listed wildlife. Furthermore, discussion was also made on species-specific matters including marine aquatic

species such as sharks and rays, eels, sea turtles, seahorses, Banggai cardinalfish, marine ornamental fishes, and others.

In line with the agenda of AC31, SEAFDEC has been carrying out regional initiatives aimed at enhancing the management and sustainable utilization of commercially-exploited aquatic species such as sharks, rays, and eels in the Southeast Asian region. SEAFDEC also collaborated with CITES Secretariat to conduct the activities on improving national and regional statistics on shark landings and carry out capacity building activities for national authorities in developing non-detriment findings for shark species. ❖

Long-running marine fish training offered online for the first time



Participants and AQD resource persons during the closing program of the Marine Fish Hatchery Online Training Course on 29 June 2021 held via Zoom

True to its mandate of disseminating information, even at times of the pandemic, SEAFDEC/AQD made adjustments to its Marine Fish Hatchery (MarFish) training course and offered it online for the first time. The MarFish training course, since its launching in 1985, was offered yearly by AQD as a hands-on training course. A shift to being an online course was made in 2021 to adapt to the new normal. The online training ran from 14 to 29 June 2021.

The MarFish training course is one of the best-attended training courses of AQD, and even in its first online offering, the course had 21 participants coming from various countries. There were six participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Philippines, and Thailand, who were funded by the Government of Japan Trust Fund. The other participants came from Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Singapore, and the USA.

The MarFish training course consists of six modules with topics on broodstock management, larval rearing, hatchery design, natural food culture, nutrition, health management, pond and cage culture, and biotechnology in aquaculture. The 16-day online course used Canvas, a web-based learning management system (LMS), to manage the online course wherein learning materials such as videos of lectures and practical activities were uploaded. The LMS also provided a venue for the participants to interact with resource persons from AQD and fellow participants through a discussion board.

A live recapitulation of the first three modules, where the participants can interact with the resource persons, was done halfway through the online course via Zoom. Another recapitulation was done for the last three modules at the end of the training course. AQD Chief, *Mr. Dan Baliao*, said that he was convinced that distance learning mode can deliver what face-to-face training programs hoped to achieve under the present circumstances of restricted travel and physical distancing. The closing program was held on 29 June 2021 via Zoom. ❖

BFAR 6 seeks help from AQD

SEAFDEC/AQD Chief, *Mr. Dan Baliao*, together with AQD experts met with the Director of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources 6 (BFAR Region 6), *Ms. Remia Aparri*, and staff for possible assistance on their implementation of legislated hatcheries and other aquaculture facilities in the Western Visayas region of the Philippines.

will start this year with three core hatcheries and two satellite hatcheries for construction in the municipalities of San Dionisio, Concepcion, Barotac Viejo, and Estancia in Iloilo Province.



In the meeting held at AQD's Main Station in Tigbauan, Iloilo on 12 April 2021, *Ms. Aparri* requested AQD to help them conduct the feasibility study for this project. The proposed project

AQD was also requested to assist in assessing the Blue Swimming Crab Hatchery and the newly-finished Seaweed Laboratory that was put up in Guimaras Island before starting its operation.

The Memorandum of Agreement on the establishment of hatcheries was signed by both parties on 21 May 2021. ❖

Freshwater training course migrated to online platform



To continue serving the freshwater aquaculture sector amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, SEAFDEC/AQD's Binangonan Freshwater Station (BFS) in Rizal, Philippines began shifting its

operations held on 13–15 April 2021 via Zoom. The Training had a series of lectures including topics on the freshwater prawn industry, biology, broodstock management, hatchery

training courses from hands-on to an online platform.

The first online training course conducted by BFS was on freshwater prawn hatchery and grow-out

and nursery operations, natural food production, feed preparation, cost and returns analysis, and investment analysis.

In place of the practical sessions performed during hands-on training, video presentations on the determination of water quality, hatchery operations, and feed preparation were shown to the participants. The online training course had 12 participants coming from the different parts of the Philippines. ❖

FAO/RAP taps AQD to partner in new project

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP) tapped SEAFDEC/AQD as a collaborator to develop the Regional Technical Platform on Aquaculture (RTP-AQ). The RTP-AQ aims to increase knowledge sharing on aquaculture among stakeholders, take advantage of collaborations to advance innovations, improve best practices in all the regions, and bring together ideas from stakeholders to increase investment opportunities.



AQD Chief, *Mr. Dan Baliao*, Research Head, *Dr. Leobert de la Peña*, Training and Information Head, *Dr. Edgar Amar*, Technology Verification and Extension Head, *Dr. Roger Edward Mamauag*, and Breeding and Seed Production Head, *Dr. Shelah Mae Ursua* participated in

the webinar about this Project on 25 May 2021. Before this Webinar, *Mr. Baliao*, *Dr. de la Peña*, and *Dr. Amar* met virtually with the FAO/RAP team on 15 May 2021 and discussed ways to enhance aquaculture information dissemination. ❖

Collaborating community continues CBRE project of AQD



The Molocaboc Sea Ranchers Association (MOSRA) shared photos of their members conducting maintenance activities at the Community-Based Resource Enhancement (CBRE) demonstration site of SEAFDEC/AQD on 19 June 2021. The area, locally known as *semilyahan*, is where abalone and sandfish stocks were released to replenish the restored intertidal flats of

Molocaboc Island in Negros Occidental, Philippines.

Aside from maintenance activities of the study site, MOSRA also continuously conducts monthly meetings and fund monitoring sessions. The group is currently working with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to learn about



practices and values to become more effective partners of sustainability.

AQD started this project in 2006 and turned it over to local stakeholders on 17 December 2019. After almost two years since the Project's turnover to the community, actions like these show a great promise of its sustainability.



AQD harvests milkfish fry from new hatchery



SEAFDEC/AQD successfully harvested its first batch of milkfish fry from the newly-built multispecies marine hatchery in Tigbauan, Iloilo,



Philippines on 24 April 2021. The batch of fry was then transported to a buyer from Roxas City, Capiz, Philippines.



AQD will help produce more fry for more fish farmers through the newly-built hatcheries and continue research on effective culture techniques.



AQD and NFRDI discuss future collaborations



SEAFDEC/AQD and the Department of Agriculture-National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-



NFRDI) of the Philippines met virtually on 17 May 2021 to discuss the current and future research collaborations. Areas

of collaboration mentioned were mostly on technology demonstrations, expert pairing programs, and development of aquaculture business schemes, especially with the proposed establishment of agribusiness corridors in the country. The two research institutes agreed to harmonize efforts and strengthen partnerships on aquaculture research, development, and innovations.



SPECIAL REPORT

Underscoring the Importance of Capacity Building Activities on Promoting Gender in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia

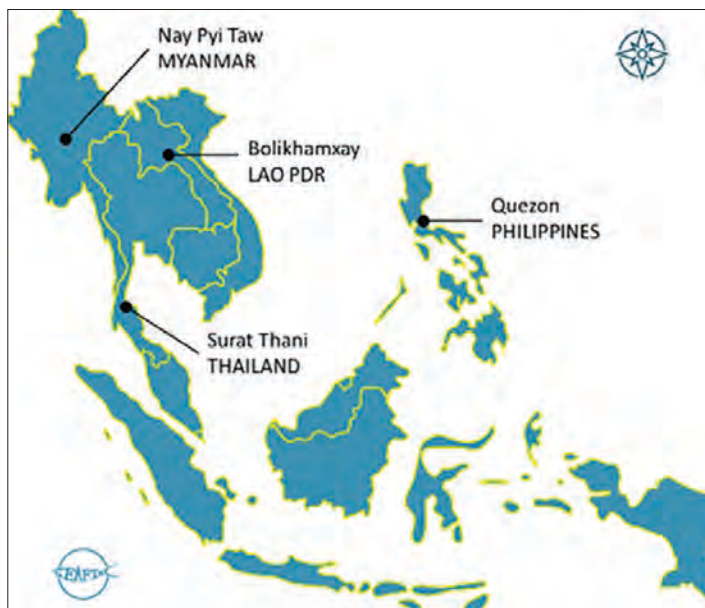
by SEAFDEC/TD

Gender equality and equity is one of the basic guiding principles of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). In order to support the promotion and implementation of the SSF Guidelines, SEAFDEC had made several initiatives on mainstreaming gender in the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the Southeast Asian region which include the development of SEAFDEC Gender Strategy and Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia (Practical Guide) as well as the conduct of several capacity building activities and gender studies in selected areas in the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). Currently, SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is implementing the project “Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia” to support the initiatives made by SEAFDEC, particularly the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy and Practical Guide. The objective of the Project is to improve and strengthen the gender dimension in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture value chain in Southeast Asia by identifying gender issues and appropriate interventions, promoting gender equality and equity in decision-making processes and organizations, fisheries technologies, and policies, and empowering women and men in small-scale fishing communities in sustaining their livelihoods.

With pilot sites located in the selected small-scale fisheries and aquaculture communities in four participating ASEAN Member States, namely: Lao PDR for inland aquaculture, Myanmar for inland capture fisheries, Philippines for marine capture fisheries, and Thailand for mariculture, the Project focuses on training on gender analysis, data collection, and data validation workshop, as indicated in the framework and recommendations of the Practical Guide. As part of capacity building activities, the training on gender analysis and data collection is intended for fisheries officers to strengthen their knowledge and capacity on gender integration; while the data validation workshop is meant for the key fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders to equip them with skills in verifying the collected data as well as to raise their awareness of gender concept.

Capacity building activities

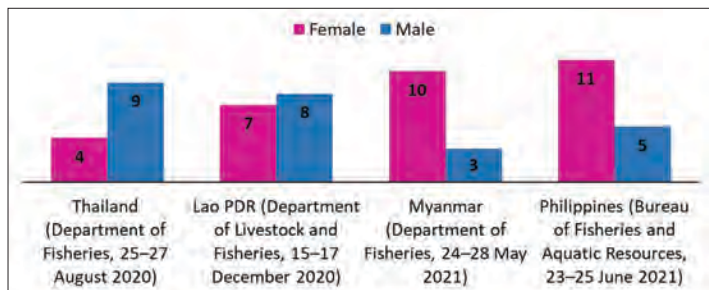
SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the fisheries agency of the respective participating countries organized the “Site Training for Enumerators on Gender Concept and Analysis and Development of a Data Collection Protocol,” where gender concepts and analysis were introduced to the participants. Subsequently, the questionnaire and data collection protocol for gender analysis in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture were developed by the participants with assistance from TD. The Training in Thailand was organized face-to-face; while the Trainings sessions in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Philippines were also face-to-face for the local participants but supervisions by the staff from TD was carried out online because of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Location of pilot sites in Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand



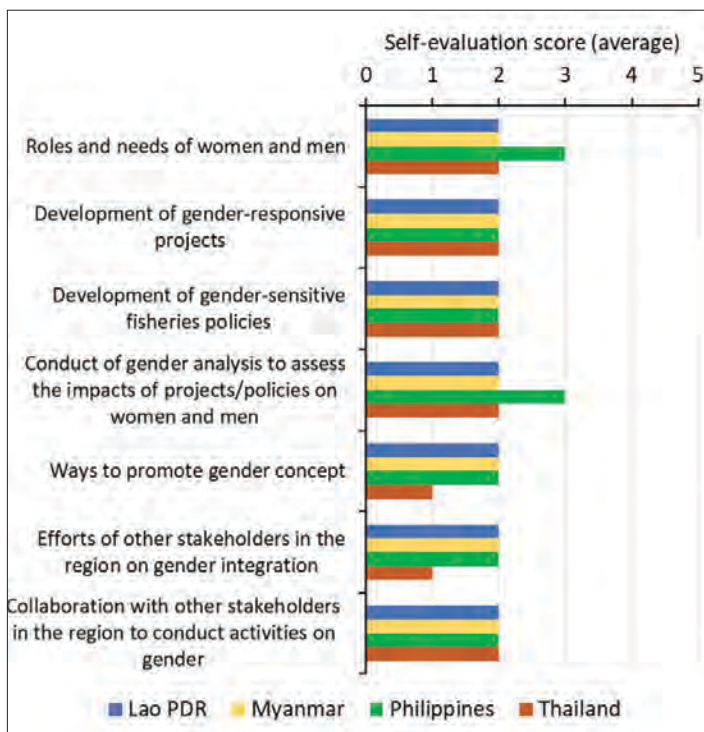
Capacity building activities in Thailand (above) and Lao PDR (below)



Number of participants in the Site Training for Enumerators on Gender Concept and Analysis and Development of a Data Collection Protocol

Before and after the Training, the fisheries officers who attend the Training have to self-evaluate their knowledge and capacity to integrate gender in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. At the onset, the participants are also tasked to assess their respective knowledge of different gender perspectives. At the end of the training, the participants are also asked to evaluate their personal capacity based on what they have learned from the Training.

For the pre-Training evaluation, majority of the participants indicated that they possess a bit of knowledge of gender perspectives but they do not know how to put it into practice. There were some who have limited knowledge of the ways of promoting gender concepts as well as of the efforts of other stakeholders in the region on gender integration. Nevertheless, participants who have a bit of knowledge of the roles and needs

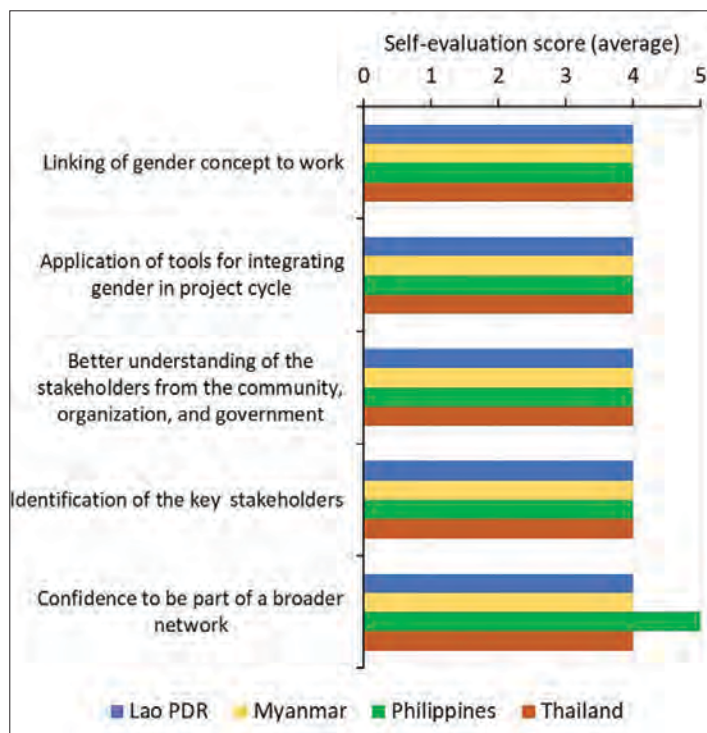


Self-evaluation score: 1 = No knowledge; 2 = A bit of knowledge but do not know how to put it into practice; 3 = A bit of knowledge and apply it when required; 4 = A lot of knowledge and confident to promote and seek opportunity to apply it; 5 = A lot of knowledge and always prioritize to apply it

Pre-training evaluation of knowledge of gender perspectives in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture

of women and men and how to conduct gender analysis stated that they apply these when required. The results generally indicated the need to conduct more awareness raising and capacity building activities to promote gender integration in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

On the other hand, the post-Training evaluation results exhibited the effectiveness of the Training, as the fisheries officers said that their knowledge had been enhanced and they believed that their capacity to integrate gender in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture had been improved. Some participants also said that they have gained greater confidence to be part of a broader network outside their locality or country.



Self-evaluation score: 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neutral; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree

Post-training evaluation of knowledge of gender perspectives in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture

Way Forward

The period of implementation of the Project is supposed to be during 2020–2021. However, the conduct of the remaining Project activities was extended until 2022 due to the constraints brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. When the Project activities in all pilot sites are completed, a regional workshop would be organized among the SEAFDEC Member Countries to present the Project results and the lessons learned. The results of the Project, particularly the gender analysis in pilot sites, would also be used in validating the recommendations, methods, and tools of the Practical Guide, after which the finalized Practical Guide would be made available for public use.



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

SEAFDEC convenes the Webinar Series on WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text

In response to the recommendation made by the SEAFDEC Council during its 53rd Meeting in 2021, SEAFDEC convened the “Webinar Series on WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text (Negotiating Group on Rules)” which was held on 10 June 2021 (open session) and 17 June 2021 (closed session).

The open session on 10 June 2021 was attended by more than 100 participants from the countries in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world. Key issues and concerns with regard to the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text were presented by resource persons from the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the Commonwealth, as well as from SEAFDEC Member Countries (Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam). The video record of the open session is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z72uNI5Tvek&t=1144s>.

Moreover, the closed session on 17 June 2021 was attended by the representatives from the fisheries and relevant agencies



Participants of the Webinar

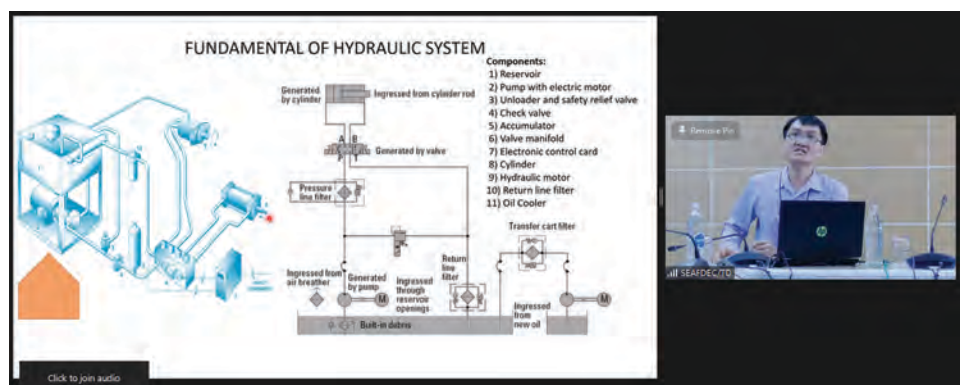
of the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as SEAFDEC officials. At this closed session, the representatives from the Member Countries expressed the views of their respective countries

on the current WTO Draft Consolidated Text on Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations. The Meeting discussed the way forward and came up with the positions of the respective countries which would be consolidated for submission to SEAFDEC Council for consideration.



Online Regional Training on Deck Machinery and Hauling Devices

SEAFDEC/TD organized the “Online Regional Training Course on Deck Machineries and Hauling Devices to Reduce Manpower in Fishing Vessels and Enhance Safety in Fishing Operations” from 5 to 6 May 2021 via the Zoom platform. A total of 29 participants from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) who are mechanics, technicians, and engineers attended the Training. The aim of the Training was to enhance the capacity of the participants on the use of deck machinery and hauling devices as well as in optimizing energy and safety at sea in capture fishery and fishing fleet through lectures, demonstration, and discussion. The participants are expected to transfer and apply the knowledge



they obtained from the Training in their responsible areas of work. Moreover, the participants were also encouraged to share information and technology they learned from the Training with the stakeholders in coastal and deep sea fisheries.

The Training was one of the activities of the project “Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice” of TD during 2020–2024.



Online Practical Workshop on eACDS Application Version 2 for Viet Nam



Participants of the workshop on eACDS

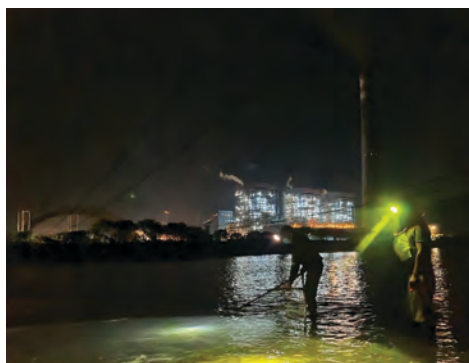
SEAFDEC Training Department in collaboration with the Directorate of Fisheries (D-FISH), Viet Nam organized the “Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch

Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2” from 7 to 9 April 2021 via the Zoom platform. The Workshop was attended by 20 fisheries officers and port authorities

from Binh Thuan Province. During the Workshop, the eACDS application version 2 in the part of Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC), and Catch Certification (CC) and some new features were introduced to the participants. Subsequently, the D-FISH staff test the eACDS application version 2 facilitated by the SEAFDEC eACDS working team.

The eACDS is a web-based and mobile application developed by SEAFDEC in collaboration with the ASEAN Member States which links all information and data on the marine capture fisheries supply chain from point of catch to plates/consumers. ☒

Eel catch survey in Indonesia



SEAFDEC/IFRDMD conducted a survey of eel fishing grounds in Palabuhan Ratu, West Java and Poso, Central Sulawesi in Indonesia in April and June 2021 to obtain a better understanding of the biology and ecology of eels. With assistance from the local fishers, the IFRDMD survey team recorded the glass

and elver eels caught by fishing gears as well as the water quality in the study area. Subsequent surveys were however discontinued due to the COVID-19 situation in the country. Nevertheless, IFRDMD would modify the method to obtain better-quality data from the future surveys.

This activity is under the project “Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia” implemented by IFRDMD with support from the Japan–ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) during 2020–2021. ☒

Online Regional Training on Fish Handling Techniques Onboard Fishing Vessels



Participants during the online training

Under the project “Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice” implemented by SEAFDEC/TD from 2020 to 2024, the “Online Regional Training Course of Fish Handling Techniques Onboard Fishing Vessels” was organized by TD from 12 to 13 May 2021 via the Zoom platform.

The participants of the Training were 11 representatives from the ASEAN Member States who have relevant work on fish handling. The Training was composed of lectures, demonstration, and discussion to enhance the capacity of the participants on fish handling techniques on fishing vessels. It is expected that through the training, the technical knowledge and practical skills of the participants had been enhanced to contribute to the reduction of post-harvest losses onboard through improved hygiene and good practices of fish handling. ✖

Capacity building on gender analysis in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in Myanmar and Philippines



The online workshop in Myanmar on 18–20 May 2021

The “Site Training for Enumerators on Gender Concept and Analysis and Development of Data Collection Protocol” was organized by SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Myanmar from 18 to 20 May 2021. The face-to-face Training for local participants was conducted in Nay Pyi Taw for 13 fisheries officers from DOF while TD carried out the supervisions of the training online. Data collection was then carried out in Kyauktan, Yangon on 24–28 May 2021 where 40 fishers engaged in small-scale inland capture fisheries were interviewed. Subsequently, the Data Validation Workshop on Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Inland Fisheries was organized on 29 June 2021 in Kyauktan, Yangon with 54 participants including the local fishers and other stakeholders.

In the Philippines, the face-to-face Training with online supervision from TD was organized on 23–25 June 2021 in Infanta, Quezon participated by 17 fishery officers from the Philippine

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. However, the data collection from the small-scale marine fisheries and data validation workshop would be carried out at a later schedule depending on the COVID-19 situation in the Project pilot site.

These activities are under the project “Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia” which is currently implemented by TD with the support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). ✖



The online workshop in the Philippines on 23–25 June 2021

New guides to bolster shark and ray research and species identification in Southeast Asia

The SEAFDEC Secretariat and the CITES Secretariat have jointly published two guides to facilitate the identification of shark and ray species common in the Southeast Asian region.

The purpose of the guides is to provide an accessible tool to help fisheries officers, fisheries researchers, CITES authorities and other relevant stakeholders in identifying sharks and rays commonly found in the Southeast Asian region.

The guides, collectively named the “Pocket Field Guide: sharks and rays in Southeast Asian region,” contain photographs and summary descriptions of the most commonly found 25 species of rays and 25 species of sharks.

The average sizes of each species, their scientific and common names, and their status under CITES and in the IUCN Red List are also included

in the guides. Color photographs and drawings are provided for each species with highlighted arrows on the main identifying characteristics. The images of “look-alike” species are arranged in the same page or the following adjacent pages for easy comparison.

Selection of the species and the pictures used in the guides were taken from the series of regional and national data collection efforts under the supervision of international shark and ray specialists, namely: *Dr. Ahmad bin Ali*, Chief of SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department and Regional Vice Chair of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group for South East Asia Region, and the late *Mr. Dharmadi*, member of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group and Sharks Expert from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia.

Additionally, the project also contributed to the “Identification Guide to Sharks, Rays, Skates and Chimaeras of the Southeast Asian Region Vol.2,” which contains 50 species of sharks, 30 species of rays, six species of skates and four species of chimaeras found in Southeast Asia.

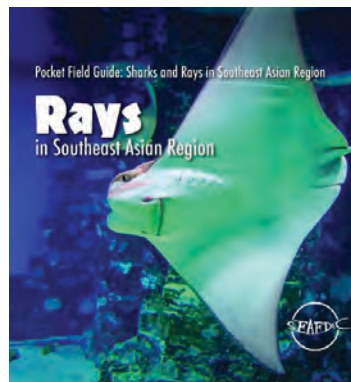
The guides were developed through the series of prior activities carried out by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with SEAFDEC Training Department and SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department, with support from the CITES Secretariat, which were aimed at assisting SEAFDEC Member Countries in meeting CITES provisions for international trade in commercially valuable, CITES-listed shark and ray specimens.

With financial support from the European Union, the CITES Secretariat conducted a project in 2017–2020 to support Parties with the implementation of the Convention’s provisions for marine species. To this end, it partnered with SEAFDEC for the conduct of the project in the Southeast Asian region.

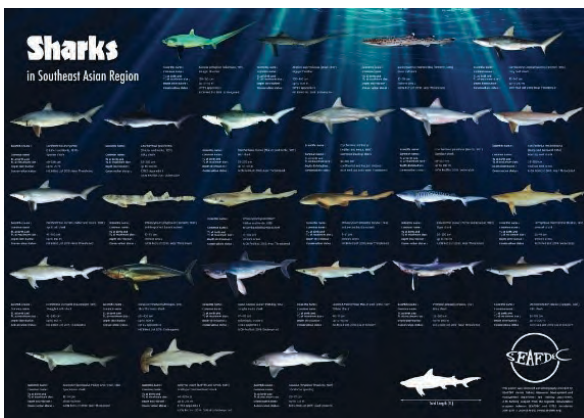
The development of the guides stems from decisions adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP 17 in 2016). These included Decision 17.210 and 17.214, tasking the CITES Secretariat



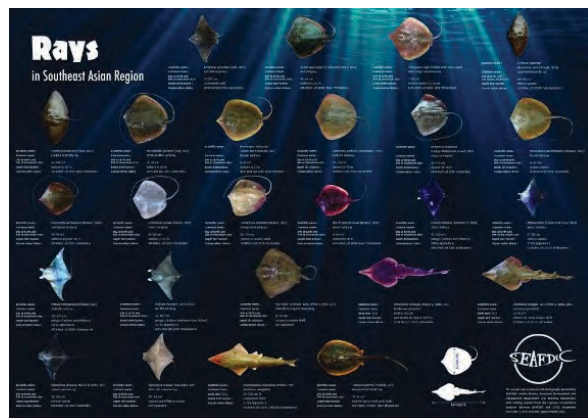
Pocket Field Guide: Sharks in Southeast Asian Region



Pocket Field Guide: Rays in Southeast Asian Region



Sharks Poster



Rays Poster

(Continued on Page 15)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
2021			
15 July	Rayong Province, Thailand	Stakeholders Consultation Meeting on Assessment of the Sustainability of Currently Used Fishing Technologies and Operations in Thailand and Options for Innovation and Improvements	TD
19-23 July	Online training	Training Course on Fish Population Dynamics and Fisheries Management Using R	TD
20 July	Online meeting	Online Meeting on Survey Results of SEAFDEC/TD HRD and Implementation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in Learning Sites	TD
23–27 August	Online training	Training Course on Fisheries Management Tools for EAFM	TD
8 September	Online workshop	GEF Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Inception Workshop of the Project “Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries” (GoTFish Project)	FAO and SEAFDEC
21–22 September	Online meeting	1 st Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia	Secretariat
21–23 September (tentative)	Online training	Training Course on Carp Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
28–30 September	Online workshop	Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	TD
28–30 September	Online training	Online Regional Training on Gender Integration in Small Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia	TD
1–15 October	Online training	Training Course on Sandfish (<i>Holothuria scabra</i>) Seed Production, Nursery and Management	AQD
5–8 October	Online training	Online Training on Implementing Adaptive Fisheries Management and the Use of the Fish Path Decision Support Tool	TD
13–20 October	Online training	Training Course on Mangrove Crab (Mud Crab) Hatchery Operations	AQD
18 and 20 October	Online meeting	3 rd Inter-Departmental Consultation on Preparation of SEASOFIA 2022	Secretariat
18–22 October (tentative)	Online training	Training Course on Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out Operations	AQD
26–29 October	Online training	Regional Training Course on Implementation of Port State Measure for Inspection	TD
27–28 October	Online workshop	Regional Workshop on Effective Practice Supporting the Livelihood and Well-being of Small-scale Fishers in Southeast Asia	TD
October (Tentative)	Online training	Regional Training Course on Geographic Information System (GIS) for Aquaculture	TD
15–17 November	Online meeting	44 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM)	Secretariat
22–26 November	Online training	Regional Training Course on the Relationship Between Ocean Environment Variability and Marine Resource Abundance and Oceanographic Sampling	TD
24–25 November	Online meeting	24 th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	Secretariat
29 Nov and 1 Dec	Online meeting	22 nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Program (ISP)	Secretariat
November (tentative)	Online training	Training Course on Community-based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Rural Areas of Southeast Asia	AQD
November (tentative)	Online training	Regional Training Course on the Relationship Between Ocean Environment Variability and Marine Resource Abundance	TD
Nov/Dec (Tentative)	Malaysia (TBC)	Workshop on Seerfish in the Malaysian Waters by using ASPIC in collaboration with DOF Malaysia	MFRDMD
Nov/Dec (Tentative)	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	Workshop on Landing Data Analysis of Sharks and Rays by Species to Determine Value of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	MFRDMD
Nov/Dec (Tentative)	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	Workshop on Conservation of Sharks and Rays Through Parasites’ Perspective	MFRDMD
2 December	Online meeting	SEAFDEC Department Chiefs’ Meeting	Secretariat

New guides to bolster shark and ray research and species identification in Southeast Asia

(Continued from Page 13)

to develop guidance and identification materials for sharks and rays to be made available to Parties and relevant stakeholders, and encouraging Parties and Regional Fisheries Organizations such as SEAFDEC to “consider making CITES-listed species a priority for data collection.”

As a partner, SEAFDEC organized a regional data validation workshop in October 2019, building on the previous shark data collection activities in Cambodia and Myanmar during 2015 and 2016.

With joint funding from the EU-CITES project and the Government of Japan, SEAFDEC also organized the compilation of sharks landing data in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam for 2015–2016 and 2018–2019. Published in September 2020, the results of these research efforts helped develop the identification materials in the guides, *inter alia* by informing which species of sharks and rays are most commonly landed in the region.

CITES Secretary-General, *Ivonne Higuero* welcomed the Pocket Field Guide, saying: “We believe the information in these new guides will greatly support efforts to conserve CITES-listed marine species from overfishing in Southeast Asia, thus contributing to ensure fisheries in the region can remain sustainable. As Parties continue to discuss the potential listing of additional marine species and the implications for fisheries and fishing communities, tools like these guides and SEAFDEC’s technical reports can only support Parties in implementing the Convention and achieving its conservation and sustainable use objectives.”

SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Chief of SEAFDEC Training Department, *Ms. Malinee Smithrittee* expressed her views on the importance of capacity development on species identification of elasmobranch species, saying “The sustainable utilization of multispecies fisheries resources in Southeast Asia requires enhanced knowledge and skills of concerned fisheries officials and relevant researchers to correctly identify the species for understanding the stock status of such resources. These guides and other technical publications of SEAFDEC are envisioned to motivate and facilitate the improvement of fisheries stocks management including the vulnerable species of sharks and rays.”



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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Layout: Sunutta Pudtal

SEAFDEC offers condolences on the demise of *Dr. Deb Menasveta*

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of *Dr. Deb Menasveta* on 9 July 2021. *Dr. Deb Menasveta* is well remembered by his SEAFDEC family as the third Secretary-General of SEAFDEC serving from January 1976 to January 1981. An expert in fisheries management, he served as a Consultant with FAO Rome after his tour of duty at SEAFDEC. In 2012–2013, *Dr. Deb* was commissioned by SEAFDEC to Chair the Third SEAFDEC

Review Committee which was tasked to review the working mechanism and management of SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments and to come up with the ways and means of ensuring the continued effectiveness of the overall operations of SEAFDEC.

He will surely be missed by his SEAFDEC family but the legacy he left with SEAFDEC and the fisheries sector of the Southeast Asian region would live



in our minds, especially of those who had the privilege of knowing *Dr. Deb*, a fine gentleman. May he rest in peace.



SEAFDEC participates in the virtual 11ASA, 13AFCF, and 29ASWGFi

Led by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, SEAFDEC participated in the “11th Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (11ASA),” “13th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (13AFCF),” and “29th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (29ASWGFi).” The 11ASA was organized virtually on 21 June 2021 and hosted by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. The Meeting noted the progress of activities under the Plan of Action of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance 2020–2025. Also, the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) shared information on the current marine shrimp situation during the COVID-19 pandemic especially the national measures to support shrimp farmers as well as shrimp farming and trade.

Furthermore, the virtual 13AFCF and 29ASWGFi Meetings were chaired and hosted by Cambodia on 22 and 23–24 June 2021, respectively. During the 13AFCF, SEAFDEC reported its regional initiatives related to fishing capacity, securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, combating IUU fishing, resource rehabilitation and enhancement, and impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture. The Meeting noted the progress of initiatives and activities undertaken by the AMSs on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. Indonesia which is the lead country was



asked by the Meeting to develop the detailed proposal on regional strategies to implement the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and activities related to small-scale aquaculture in the region. Regarding the US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Meeting agreed to seek technical support from SEAFDEC on stock assessment of marine mammals through organization of a workshop where the AMSs can also share information and exchange views on MMPA implementation.

Subsequently, during the 29ASWGFi, SEAFDEC shared the information on its activities related to the impacts of and responses to COVID-19 pandemic on

the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the region. Since SEAFDEC is currently conducting the study on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries with the support of the Japanese Trust Fund, the results would be shared with the ASEAN. In addition, SEAFDEC also reported the outcomes of the 23rd Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP). Finally, the Meeting was also informed of the progress of the implementation of policy frameworks such as the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2021–2025) and Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing in the ASEAN Region (2021–2025).

