

REPORT OF THE SEAFDEC DEPARTMENT CHIEFS' MEETING

28 November 2015, Manila, Philippines

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting was organized on 28 November 2015 in Manila, Philippines. The Meeting was attended by the Acting SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Department Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs, and officials of SEAFDEC Departments and Secretariat. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**. The Agenda of the Meeting appears as **Annex 2**.

2. The Meeting was chaired by the Acting Secretary-General, *Mr. Hajime Kawamura*. After welcoming the participants to the Meeting, the Acting Secretary-General expressed the appreciation to all Department officials and concerned staff for the successful conduct of the 38th PCM and 18th FCG/ASSP Meeting. He mentioned that there would be several up-coming works especially that SEAFDEC is at the threshold of commemorating its 50th Anniversary in 2017. He therefore encouraged the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to identify activities that are meant to celebrate this important occasion, emphasizing on the important areas of works, particularly on capacity building for fisheries resources management, and in addressing cross-cutting issues that require close collaboration among Departments and the Secretariat. After sharing some insights about the direction that the Departments should undertake including the follow-up actions on the instructions given by the SEAFDEC Program Committee and SEAFDEC Council, he declared the Meeting open.

II. CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

2.1 Monitoring of the Follow-up Actions to the 47th Council Meeting, 38th PCM and 18th FCG/ASSP Meeting

3. While taking note of the template developed by the Secretariat to monitor the follow-up actions to important Meetings, *i.e.* the 47th Council Meeting, 38th PCM and 18th FCG/ASSP Meeting, the Meeting agreed that the Secretariat would identify the issues that should be followed-up by each Department (left column of the template). The Departments would then provide information on the plan of activities, and update the information on the progress undertaken by the respective Departments, on quarterly basis.

4. The Meeting also agreed on the following coverage and timeframes for monitoring the progress, as indicated in the three templates.

- 47th Council Meeting – from 47th CM in 2015 until the next CM in 2016
- 38th PCM – from January to December 2016
- 18th FCG/ASSP Meeting – from January to December 2016

2.2 Follow-up Actions to the Recommendations of the 38th PCM

5. On the activities recommended by the 38th PCM that require collaboration among Departments, the Meeting suggested that responsible Department should establish the mechanism to collaborate with other Department(s) to undertake the follow-up actions, particularly:

- On **rice-cum-fish/shrimp culture** which AQD does not have the expertise, AQD would seek assistance from IFRDMD to provide information as required.
- On **eel issues**, SEAFDEC is now focusing on sustainable resources management (implemented by IFRDMD). For development of eel aquaculture technologies (to be implemented by AQD if funds

will become available), it was suggested that activities should not aim to promote eel aquaculture region-wide, but focus only in the Philippines; and AQD signified its willingness to implement the activities provided funds are available. It was also suggested that issues on eels could also be addressed through the Secretariat's project on "international fisheries trade-related issues. Furthermore, a "strategic action plan on eels" should also be developed to provide an overall picture of how SEAFDEC would deal with eel issues.

- On **emerging fish diseases**, AQD informed the meeting that the ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centres (ANAAHC) is the present platform for addressing this issue in the region. AQD will communicate with ANAAHC and the Inland Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute of DOF Thailand (IAAHRI) on how this platform can be utilized for this purpose with the active involvement of AQD. Furthermore, emerging fish disease issues that could not be accommodated in the current projects of AQD should be relayed with the SEAFDEC Secretariat in order that these could be incorporated in the project that addresses "international fisheries trade-related issues."
- On the need for IFRDMD to develop its strategic action plan for **sustainable management of inland fisheries**, IFRDMD is in the process of considering the activities to be undertaken, including their priorities. The Meeting suggested that activities on co-management for inland fisheries that are currently undertaken by TD should be transferred gradually to IFRDMD. As TD is in the process of developing a training curriculum on the subject, TD should involve IFRDMD in the process in order that its staff could observe the activities and thus, facilitate transfer of works in the future. Since the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project also have some components on inland fisheries, the Project should also involve IFRDMD in its future works.

2.3 Preparations for High-level Consultation

6. The Meeting discussed some issues to be included in the Joint Declaration which should be adopted at the High-level Consultation as follows:

- On **labor issues** including migratory workforce and decent working conditions, the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project plans to hire a consultant to work on this issue, and conduct the subsequent RTC. The Secretariat was urged to make sure that the hired consultant has good background about the situation of the region and should be aware that the Declaration would focus on how to deal with labor issues from the fishery sector's perspective. The counterpart SEAFDEC staff who would work with the said consultant on labor issues, were identified as Mr. Bundit (TD) and Ms. Sawitree (Secretariat).
- Other issues on Competitiveness of Fish and Fishery Products should focus on **traceability of fish and fisheries products**, with relevant inputs from MFRD on the traceability guidelines for aquaculture products, with AQD providing some inputs from the production side and Secretariat/TD/MFRDMD on traceability for capture fisheries viz. ACDS and Guidelines for Preventing Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.

7. The Secretariat would provide the format and timeframe for the Departments to provide the necessary information. Such information would be compiled and serve as inputs for developing the "preliminary draft Joint Declaration" and discussion during the Drafting Committee Meeting and Stakeholders' Consultation. Nevertheless, the preliminary draft at this stage would be based on the existing activities and works of SEAFDEC.

8. The preliminary draft Joint Declaration would be discussed at the Drafting Committee Meeting (early March 2016), where the Member Countries may identify other issues that should be included in the draft. It is expected that the Drafting Committee Meeting should come up with the draft Joint Declaration to be circulated to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

2.4 Preparation of SEASOFIA 2017

9. The Meeting took note of the planned preparation for SEASOFIA 2017, with following suggestions:

- Based on the recommendation made at the 38th PCM that “*National Coordinators were requested to facilitate providing the necessary information to ensure that the inputs into the SEASOFIA reflect the real picture of fisheries and aquaculture in the region,*” the Departments should communicate directly with NCs to obtain additional information that are required from the countries.
- On “sea cucumbers” and seahorses,” which should be led by MFRDMD, AQD could also provide MFRDMD with write-up on the aquaculture part of such commodities for consolidation.
- On “Utilization of Fishery Resources,” sub-titles under this topic should be “Product quality and safety” and “traceability” with inputs from MFRD. In addition, TD would also provide information on “on-board utilization.”
- On the assignment of staff to coordinate the preparation of SEASOFIA, the Departments had already assigned officers to be responsible for this matter who also attended the 16th ISP Meeting. However, any changes in such arrangements should be communicated to the Secretariat by 4 December 2015.

2.5 Preparations for the 50th SEAFDEC Anniversary

10. The Meeting agreed with the proposal of the Information Program Coordination (IPC) Office to produce “Coffee Table Book” for commemorating the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC, and provided the following suggestions:

- The book should include more photos than texts; and the former RFPNs that are promoted to higher positions could be included as interviewees.
- Candidate banner titles include:
 - o SEAFDEC at 50: a half-century journey of transforming fisheries in Southeast Asia
 - o 50 years of significance in Southeast Asian Fisheries development
 - o SEAFDEC at 50: Across the half century of SEAFDEC journey
 - o 50 years of significantly transforming Southeast Asian fisheries
 - o SEAFDEC at 50: a Journey of significantly transforming Southeast Asian fisheries

However, this could be decided once the draft publication is available and circulated to Departments.

- Departments would assign appropriate staff by 18 December 2015 to work with IPC Office on the production of the book. IPC Office would communicate with the assigned staff to obtain inputs as required. All communications should be copied to Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs of the respective Departments.
- Departments will propose the list of people to be interviewed (*e.g.* former Council Directors, Secretary-Generals, Chiefs, trainees, etc.) for discussion and selection. Criteria for selection could include the persons’ significant contribution to the success of SEAFDEC activities.
- Target recipients and number of copies of the publications could be decided later.

11. On the 50th SEAFDEC Anniversary logo, while most designs proposed by TD use the number “50” as symbol, the Meeting suggested that the logo should portray the image of SEAFDEC along the

line with the concept of the Coffee Table Book. The Departments could also provide ideas and submit designs for the logo by February 2016 for a shortlist selection. Few designs of logo would be tabled for selection by the 48th Council Meeting.

12. The Meeting also suggested some souvenirs to be produced to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC, *e.g.* t-shirts to be given to all staff of the Secretariat and Departments, SEAFDEC letterhead, etc.

13. On other celebration events to be conducted in 2017, a special session could be conducted at the 49th Council Meeting to be organized in Brunei Darussalam, together with the launching of the coffee table book, SEASOFIA 2017, and other events (*e.g.* exhibition). Each Department is requested to also consider incorporating the 50th Anniversary in the conduct of events to enhance the visibility of SEAFDEC and the respective Departments. The Meeting also suggested that a symposium could be organized in 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand with interesting activities, *e.g.* M.V. SEAFDEC cruise.

2.6 Preparation of SEAFDEC Introductory Video

14. The Meeting supported the need to update the “SEAFDEC Introductory Video” and production of another version of “Video on SEAFDEC Milestones.” The Departments were therefore requested to provide video shots in the format that could be used by the production team of TD. For Department(s) needing the services of a cameraman from TD to travel and take video shots, the Department(s) should assure that wide-aspects of departmental activities could be shot during such trips. The Secretariat in collaboration with TD would come up with a video script by December 2015 to help facilitate the taking of video shots.

15. In addition to the aforementioned Videos, TD could also consider producing another version of a video commemorating the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC.

2.7 Fish for the People

16. The Meeting took note of ways to enhance contribution from the Departments to the Special Publication “Fish for the People” as suggested during the 16th ISP Meeting. It was supported that when Departments formulate proposals and plans for projects, dissemination strategies including development of popularized articles should be clearly indicated in the proposals. Moreover, when Departments organize events, *e.g.* RTCs, the development of article(s) for the Special Publication could also be included as one of the “expected outputs” from such events.

2.8 SEAFDEC Calendar 2017

17. The Meeting agreed with the theme and contents of SEAFDEC Calendar 2017 which would focus on “Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC.” The Departments also agreed to provide their respective inputs to the Secretariat based on the timeframe as discussed at the ISP Meeting in October 2015.

2.9 Other Follow-up Actions from ISP Meeting

18. The Meeting took note of the suggestions of the October 2015 ISP Meeting, particularly on the need to produce “high impact” materials to meet the needs of target stakeholders/audience. Moreover, the Departments were also requested to check and monitor the appearance of SEAFDEC in public media, and report such information to their respective IOs so that this could be compiled through the annual ISP mechanism.

19. The Meeting also took note of the information materials to be prepared in 2016, of which the Secretariat will coordinate with officers-in-charge of the respective Departments to obtain the inputs accordingly.

2.10 Monitoring and Evaluation of SEAFDEC Program

20. The Meeting took note of the Project Database, which was developed by the Secretariat to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of SEAFDEC programs. The Departments were requested to fill in the necessary information in the Database, which will be adopted starting from the next PCM in 2016.

2.11 Preparations for 48th Council Meeting

21. On the Agenda of the 48th Council Meeting, the Meeting suggested revisions/addition of sub-agenda as follows:

- 5.1 Common/Coordinated Position on CITES Issues
- 5.3.1 Regional Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries
- 5.3.2 Regional Policy Recommendations and Strategic Plans for Fishery Resources Enhancement in the SEA Countries
- Additional Guidelines for Traceability System for Aquaculture Products

22. For agenda 8 on Future Direction Requested by the Council which should be participated in only by Member Countries' Head Delegates (and interpreter, if any), this Agenda should be maintained as is.

23. For Sub-agenda 9.2 on Plans of Operation and Programs of Work, this should be retained as is, for the time being. However, the Secretariat should be careful when making the presentation, *i.e.* should be made clear what this has already been agreed and should indicate what are still pending (organization structures of TD and Secretariat).

2.12 Other Matters

24. The Meeting also discussed and agreed on the other matters:

- In response to the request of MCs for their staff to be involved more in AQD research activities, AQD suggested that RFPN members may be invited to visit AQD for a period of time to learn the activities. It was, however, noted that the RFPN members may have different technical backgrounds, and most of them are not researchers. It was suggested that to properly respond to the request of MCs, MCs should send an official request to AQD mentioning clearly the specific activity they are interested in. MCs may send appropriate person(s) to stay and learn the activities, the cost of which should be covered by the requesting member country.
- The Secretariat informed AQD of the name of two staff who will attend the RTC on EMS/AHPND scheduled to be held in the Philippines on 22-24 February 2016, with support from the Government of Japan through the ASEAN Foundation. They are Dr. Somboon, and the new SG.
- ASG requested the Secretariat to analyze the US Presidential Taskforce on Combating IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud, particularly on requirements from the Taskforce.
- SEAFDEC Secretariat was requested to communicate with the Thai DOF whether an exhibition space would also be provided to SEAFDEC during the ASEAN Conference and Exposition in August 2016.
- The Meeting suggested that Department Chiefs' Meeting should be annually conducted in the future, possibly back-to-back with PCM and FCG/ASSP Meeting.

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AGENDA

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda 2: Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda 3: Follow-up Actions to the 48th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, 38th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee and the 18th Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG)

Agenda 4: Preparation for the High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community: Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products

Agenda 5: Preparation of “the Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2017”

Agenda 6: Preparation for the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC

Agenda 7: Other Information-related Matters

- Preparation of SEAFDEC Introductory Video(s)
- Sustaining SEAFDEC Inputs for “Fish for the People”
- SEAFDEC Calendar 2017
- Other follow-up actions from 16th ISP Meeting

Agenda 8: Introduction of the “Monitoring and Evaluation of SEAFDEC Programs and Its Online Database System”

Agenda 9: Preparation for the 48th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2016

Agenda 10: Other matters

Agenda 11: Conclusion and Follow-up Actions

Agenda 12: Closing of the Meeting