# Report of SEAFDEC Department Chiefs Meeting 3 December 2020, Virtual Meeting

#### I. Introduction

1. The SEAFDEC Department Chiefs Meeting (DCM2020) was organized on 3 December 2020 through an online platform. The Meeting was attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and officers of SEAFDEC Secretariat, as well as the Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Special Department Coordinators, and respective delegations of the SEAFDEC Departments. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**. The Agenda of the Meeting appears as **Annex 2**.

### II. Follow-up Actions to SEAFDEC Annual Meetings

- 2. The SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the Meeting about the remaining issues with regards to the follow-up actions to the directives given at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council that need to be implemented, and the new Matrix for the follow-up actions to the directives given at the Forty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and that of the Twenty-third Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP. After the discussion, the Departments were requested to provide inputs and submit the filled up matrices of the follow-up actions, to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by mid January 2021.
- 3. The DCM2020 was also informed that the matrices for the Follow-up Actions would be sent to the Departments by mid of December 2020.

#### • Follow-up actions to the Fifty-second Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

4. With regard to the proposed revision of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) Program, the DCM2020 noted that the SEAFDEC Secretariat would develop the detailed concept note, including suggested new title of the program if the revised TOR differs from the original concept of the RFPN, for submission to the SEAFDEC Council during its 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting in 2021. The possible involvement of the Technical Departments in the Program, perhaps on rotation basis, or invitation of resource persons from the Departments to be involved in the Program, should also be considered in the concept note. The concept note would be shared with the Technical Departments for comments and suggestions before this would be finalized for submission to the SEAFDEC Council during its 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting in 2021.

#### • Follow-up actions to the Forty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee

- 5. The DCM2020 took note of the follow-up actions required from the Departments, to the directives given during the Forty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee.
- 6. With regards to the concern that the application of high-pressure processing (HPP) technology proposed by MFRD would be costly, the Chief of MFRD addressed the concern, explaining that the introduction of the HPP technology is meant to enhance the awareness of the AMSs on the technology and to prepare the countries on its application when the technology becomes affordable and prevalent in the future. Hence, Chief of MFRD proposed the removal of this follow-up action and it was agreed upon by SEAFDEC Secretary-General.

#### Follow-up actions to the Twenty-third Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP

7. The DCM2020 noted the follow-up actions required from the Departments, to the directives given at the Twenty-third Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP.

# III. Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030

8. With regards to monitoring the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030), the DCM2020 was informed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat would organize an online consultation in early 2021 for the development of the Roadmap (to include the timelines, milestones, etc) with the involvement of the Departments and the SEAFDEC Member Countries. The Draft Roadmap would be submitted to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

#### IV. Information-related Matters

### • Results from the 21st Meeting of Information Staff Program

- 9. While noting the results of the 21<sup>st</sup> Information Staff Program Meeting (21ISP), the DCM2020 focused on the issues that require cooperation and support from the SEAFDEC Departments.
- 10. The DCM2020 took note of the preparation/production timeframe and focal points from the Secretariat and Departments for the preparation of SEAFDEC regular information materials in 2021, and agreed to provide their respective inputs upon request of the Secretariat.
- 11. The DCM2020 noted difficulties expressed during the 21ISP in monitoring Departmental staff participation to events organized by other organizations in 2020, considering that most of the events are conducted online without travel clearance form. The DCM2020 agreed that each Department should consider establishing internal system to monitor number of staff participation to such online events accordingly.
- 12. The DCM2020 agreed to the proposal that the servers of the Repositories of the Secretariat, TD, and MFRDMD would be hosted by AQD and the corresponding operational costs needed, as itemized by AQD, including investment cost of US\$ 8,500 which should be shared among the three offices plus annual operating cost of US\$ 570 for each office. In this regard, the details of the transfer or migration of the repositories, including the timelines, would be discussed among the information staff of the concerned Departments, taking into consideration the current status of the repository servers contracted by the Departments, *e.g.* contract of Secretariat server would end in September 2021.
- 13. On the provisional theme for the SEAFDEC Calendar 2022 as proposed during the 21ISP, the Departments agreed to use the "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022" as its theme. However, if the Departments have other suggested theme(s), such suggestion could be conveyed to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by early 2021.
- 14. For the sustainability of the Special Publication *Fish for the People* and in order to encourage the SEAFDEC staff to contribute articles for the Special Publication, the DCM2020 reiterated the previous suggestion for the Departments to consider providing incentives to authors of articles for the Special Publication. In this connection, the DCM2020 was informed that the Secretariat already shared the Administrative Order issued by TD on the incentive scheme applicable for TD and Secretariat staff, to AQD for their reference.
- 15. The DCM2020 noted the suggestion from the 21ISP for the conduct of Inter-Departmental Workshop to discuss and revise the "Note for Writing and Editing SEAFDEC Documents" which should be organized in early of the year 2021.

#### • SEASOFIA 2022

16. The DCM2020 noted the outline of the Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (SEASOFIA 2020) as supported by the 43PCM, and agreed on the workplan and timeframe for

submission of the inputs which is by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2021. The DCM2020 was also informed that the contributors are also welcome to submit their completed inputs earlier than the indicated schedule, especially for inputs that do not need to wait for results of works in 2021.

17. With regards to the contact persons and contributors of inputs, while the other Departments confirmed on the list of contact persons of their respective Department, MFRD informed on the change of cc. name from *Ms. Chan Huili* to *Ms. Chia Siok Hiang*.

# • Study on Impacts of Coronavirus-2019 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries

18. The DCM2020 took note of the timelines of the study and supported the technical inputs required, particularly on the schedule of sending out the invitation letters to the SEAFDEC Member Countries for the First Regional Workshop on the Study on Impacts of COVID-2019 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of Southeast Asian Region, which will be organized in February 2021. In this connection, the Secretariat sought the nominations of the focal points from the Member Countries for the COVID-19 study, whom the information materials would be provided including the letters of invitation, before the end of December 2020.

### V. Preparations for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2021

- 19. The DCM2020 was informed on the plan of the Secretariat to circulate to Departments the draft Provisional Agenda of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The DCM then suggested to remove the following sub-agenda:
  - 5.1.1 ASEAN Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain
  - 5.2.4 Progress on Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood
  - 7.3 Revision of Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia
- 20. The Departments were requested to provide further comments and suggestions on the proposed items in the Agenda, if any, before this would be sent to the SEAFDEC Member Countries for consideration. Nevertheless, the DCM2020 was also informed that although Lao PDR has offered to host the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2021, the final arrangements of the Meeting could not yet be confirmed because of the COVID-19 situation in the region.

#### VI. Other Matters

- The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020 (IYAFA 2022)
- 21. The DCM2020 was also informed that the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022) would have FAO as the lead agency for the celebration in collaboration with other relevant organizations. In this regard, SEAFDEC Secretariat plans to arrange an exhibition with relevant organizations in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 22. In addition, the DCM2020 also encouraged the SEAFDEC Technical Departments to initiate their respective plans and schemes for the promotion of IYAFA 2022.

#### VII. Conclusion and Follow-up Actions

23. The DCM2020 took note of the follow-up actions that should be undertaken by the respective Departments, and suggested that the schedules and timelines for submission of the required inputs to the SEAFDEC Secretariat should be observed.

### VIII.Closing of the Meeting

24. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC thanked the officers and staff of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments for their active participation during the DCM2020, and declared the Meeting closed.

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#### **AGENDA**

- **Agenda 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- **Agenda 2:** Adoption of the Agenda
- Agenda 3: Follow-up Actions to the Directive Given at
  - 3.1 The 52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council
  - 3.2 The 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee (including updated structure new projects and updated status of pipeline projects)
  - 3.3 The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG)
- **Agenda 4:** Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030
- **Agenda 5:** Information-related Matters
  - 5.1 Results from the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Information Staff Program
  - 5.2 SEASOFIA 2022
  - 5.3 Study on Impacts from Coronavirus-2019 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
- **Agenda 6:** Preparation for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2021
- **Agenda 7:** Other Matters
  - 7.1 The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022)
  - 7.2 Others
- **Agenda 8:** Conclusion and Follow-up Actions
- Agenda 9: Closing of the Meeting