

Report of SEAFDEC Department Chiefs Meeting 2 December 2021, Virtual Meeting

I. Introduction

1. The SEAFDEC Department Chiefs Meeting (DCM2021) was organized on 2 December 2021 through a virtual platform. The Meeting was attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, the Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Special Departmental Coordinators, and officers of SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**.

2. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, in her capacity as a Chairperson of the Meeting, welcomed the participants and encouraged them to actively take part in the deliberations. Then, she declared the Meeting open.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Agenda of the Meeting appears as **Annex 2**.

III. Follow-up Actions to SEAFDEC Annual Meetings

4. The DCM2021 was informed of the remaining issues with regards to the follow-up actions to the directives given at the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council that need to be implemented with the added information in the matrices for the follow-up actions in response to the directives given at the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and that of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP). After the discussion, the Departments were requested to provide inputs and submit the filled-up information of the Follow-up Actions, to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by 31 January 2022.

5. The DCM2021 was also informed that the matrices for the Follow-up Actions would be sent to the Departments by mid of December 2021.

3.1 Follow-up Actions to the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

6. With regard to Paragraph 40 of the Report of the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council: “SEAFDEC to consider conducting stock and risk assessments either in the Andaman Sea or Gulf of Thailand every two or three years,” the DCM2021 suggested to MFRDMD to consider revising the period of conducting the stock assessment to every five years or more, based on an advice from a regional stock assessment expert.

7. The DCM2021 was informed that TD will provide the updated information regarding the request for the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2, as some progress had already been attained with respect to communicating with the requesting countries.

3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee

8. The DCM2021 encouraged the Departments that whenever possible, they should respond if possible, immediately to the issues raised during SEAFDEC Meetings.

9. While noting the issues about raising the profile of Japan and its contribution to SEAFDEC at the AMAF, AMAF+3, the DCM2021 encouraged the Departments to consider exploring the appropriate channels that could be utilized to reach out to the relevant agencies that have the capacity to inform the AMAF and AMAF+3.

10. With regard to the request of Indonesia for the issuance of e-certificate of attendance to SEAFDEC events, the DCM2021 agreed that for training courses conduct by the Departments, the

Departments concerned will issue to their participants based on their existing formats. For workshops, consultations, and meetings, the DCM2021 agreed that the Departments could consider issuing the e-certificate of the attendance upon request and suggested that such e-certificates could be requested in advance through the events' registration forms.

3.3 Follow-up actions to the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

11. The DCM2021 noted the follow-up actions required from the Departments, to the directives given at the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP.

IV. Information-related Matters

4.1 Results from the Twenty-second Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Program

12. While noting the results of the Twenty-second Meeting of the SEAFDEC Information Staff Program (22ISP) organized on 29 November and 1 December 2021 through online meeting, the following issues were discussed and summarized as follows:

- **Monitoring of Information Strategies for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication in the Year 2021**

13. The DCM2021 noted the suggestion from the 22ISP for Departments to explore the appropriate ways of making available reports of events that are not yet published in their respective websites, after completion of the events.

14. The DCM2021 requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to come up with updated SEAFDEC institutional videos. In this connection, the DCM2021 asked the SEAFDEC Secretariat to send the video script to Departments for updating, and requested the Departments to provide the appropriate footages that could be used for the production of the video.

- **Production of Regular Information Materials in 2022**

15. The DCM2021 took note of the materials to be prepared/produced by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in 2022:

- SEAFDEC Annual Report 2021
- Annual Compilation of Information Materials 2021
- SEAFDEC Newsletter Vol. 45 (4 issues)
- Special Publication "Fish for the People" Vol. 20 (3 issues)
- SEAFDEC Calendar 2023
- SEASOFIA 2022 (published by the 54CM)

16. In this connection, the Departments were requested to submit their inputs as required by SEAFDEC Secretariat based on the timeframe, and provide their updated Focal Points, if any.

- **Special Publication "Fish for the People"**

17. The DCM2021 was informed of the possible themes for the Special Publication "Fish for the People" in 2022, which could be related to the celebration of the "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022." Considering also that the 19th Conference of the Parties to CITES would be organized in 2022, this could also be a source of the themes. In this connection, the Departments were requested to provide relevant articles based on such themes.

- **Preparation of SEAFDEC Calendar 2023**

18. Having been provided the provisional themes for the SEAFDEC Calendar 2023 as proposed during the 22ISP, the DCM2021 reviewed such themes and agreed that the theme for the SEAFDEC Calendar 2023 would be “*Emerging fisheries-related issues* (sharks and rays, marine mammals, eels, COVID-19, marine debris, climate change, responsible fisheries, IUU, fish trade, gender, etc.)”.

- **Progress of Hosting Repositories**

19. The DCM2021 noted that the migration of repositories of the SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD and MFRDMD to be hosted by server at AQD will be finished by the end of January 2022. In this connection, the respective Departments were requested to extend the contracts of their existing repository servers until January 2022.

- **Proposed Updated text on “Notice of Copyright”**

20. The DCM2021 supported that the “Notice of Copyright” that is placed in SEAFDEC publication should be changed as proposed by the 22ISP, considering that the materials have been uploaded and openly accessible.

- **Moving toward e-publication**

21. The DCM2021 noted the discussion at the 22ISP on the possibility of shifting from producing publications, *i.e.* the SEAFDEC Newsletter and the Special Publication “Fish for the People” in printed format to only their electronic formats. During the discussion however, it was argued that although such publications could be disseminated in electronic formats, the printed format would still be necessary for documentation purposes. In this connection, the number of printed copies of the publications could be reduced and should be confirmed by the respective Departments with the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

22. On the possibility of developing electronic news alert that could be disseminated through e-mail as suggested at the 22ISP, the DCM2021 asked the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to consider such proposal and to explore the ways of developing such material in the future. In this connection, the SEAFDEC Secretariat was requested to discuss this issue with the Departments by early 2022, especially with respect to frequency, contents, quality of inputs, etc., and report the progress of discussions to DCM through e-mail.

- **Placing of SEAFDEC logos on SEAFDEC properties**

23. The DCM2021 noted the suggestion that SEAFDEC logo should be placed and made visible on the general properties of SEAFDEC, *e.g.* computer notebooks, monitors, etc. that could be seen by the public in order to enhance the visibility of SEAFDEC.

4.2 The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (SEASOFIA) 2022

24. The DCM2021 noted the progress of the Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (SEASOFIA2022) as supported by the 44PCM. The DCM2021 was also informed that the Draft SEASOFIA2022 is being reviewed by the Member Countries (MCs) and that their feedbacks should be sent to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by 15 December 2021. After accommodating the comments from the MCs, the SEAFDEC Secretariat will circulate the final draft SEASOFIA2022 to the MCs and the SEAFDEC Departments once again for confirmation prior the 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2022.

4.3 Revision of the Note for Editing SEAFDEC Documents

25. The DCM2021 took note of the progress in the preparation of the Guide for Writing and Editing Document and Publications (SEAFDEC Style) by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with all Departments. After the discussion, the DCM2021 approved the Document, and requested the

Departments to encourage their respective concerned staff to make use of the SEAFDEC Style when producing SEAFDEC publications and documents. It was also noted that the Secretariat will publish this as booklet for usage by the staff.

4.4 Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries

26. The DCM2021 took note of the progress of the study and the remaining activities for finalizing the Study Report and developing the Policy Brief. The DCM2021 was also informed on the schedule to organize the Second Regional Workshop on the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of Southeast Asian Region, which will be in February 2022 back-to-back with the Special Meeting for the development of the Policy Brief.

4.5 Roadmap on Monitoring and Evaluation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030

27. 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 DCM2021 was informed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat would organize an online consultation in early 2022 for the development of the set of indicators and targets in achieving the implementation of RES&POA-2030 with the involvement of the Departments and the SEAFDEC Member Countries. The results of the Consultation would be submitted to the 54th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

V. Preparations for the 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2022

28. The DCM2021 was informed on the plan of the SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to Departments, the draft Provisional Agenda of the 54th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council by early January 2022 and that the Departments would be requested to provide comments and suggestions on the proposed items in the Provisional Agenda, before this would be sent to the SEAFDEC Member Countries for consideration. Meanwhile, the DCM2021 was also informed that the Ramadan for the year 2022 would be from 2 April to 1 May, making it not possible to organize the next Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2022 as originally planned. In this connection, the SEAFDEC Secretariat would consult with the SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia for the proposed dates and venue of the Meeting.

VI. Other Matters

6.1 The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022

29. The DCM2021 was informed that the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022) would have the FAO as the lead agency for the celebration in collaboration with other relevant organizations at the global level. While noting that SEAFDEC also plans to organize some events to celebrate IYAFA in 2022, the DCM2021 welcomed the updated information on the plans of the Departments for such celebration.

6.2 LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Collection of Research and Datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources”

30. In considering the part of the LOA on “Formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources” which will be undertaken by AQD, the DCM2021 was informed that AQD will conduct further internal discussion as soon as possible, the results of which would be relayed to FAO and the SEAFDEC Secretariat. Moreover, the concerned Departments, namely AQD, TD and MFRDMD agreed to extend their respective staff to support activities under this LOA.

VII. Conclusion and Follow-up Actions

31. The DCM2021 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

32. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC thanked the officers and staff of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments for their active participation during the DCM2021, and declared the Meeting closed.

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Agenda

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda 2: Adoption of Agenda

Agenda 3: Follow-up Actions to the Directive Given at

- 3.1 The 53rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council
- 3.2 The 44th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee
- 3.3 The 24th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

Agenda 4: Information-related Matters

- 4.1 Results from the 22nd Meeting of Information Staff Program
- 4.2 The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022
- 4.3 Revision of the Note for Editing SEAFDEC Document
- 4.4 Study on Impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
- 4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation on the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030

Agenda 5: Preparation for the 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2022

Agenda 6: Other Matters

- 6.1 The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022
- 6.2 LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Collection of Research and Datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources”
- 6.3 Others

Agenda 7: Conclusion and Follow-up Actions

Agenda 8: Closing of the Meeting