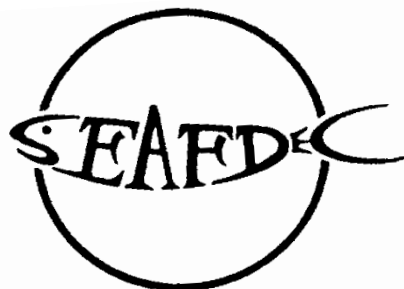


**REPORT OF  
THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
2-6 April 2012**



**THE SECRETARIAT  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

## **PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT**

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**THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
2-6 April 2012**



*The Council Directors and participants of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council*





## REPORT OF THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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### INTRODUCTION

1. The Forty-fourth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was convened in Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 2 to 6 April 2012, at the invitation of the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam together with their respective delegations, as well as the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and the senior officials of SEAFDEC. The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH), Myanmar Fisheries Federation, and the Myanmar Fishery Products, Processors and Exporters Association. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

### INAUGURAL CEREMONY

3. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 2 April 2012, and was officiated by the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, *U Khin Maung Aye*.
4. The Deputy Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and Alternate SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia *Hj. Ismail bin Abu Hassan* on behalf of the Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia *Dato' Ahamad Sabki bin Mahmood* in his capacity as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2011-2012, welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He expressed the gratitude of the SEAFDEC Council to the Government of Myanmar for hosting the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar for the arrangements of the Meeting.
5. While commending the successful organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in June 2011, he thanked the Government of Thailand through its Department of Fisheries for hosting the Conference, which marks another era for SEAFDEC. Specifically, he cited that the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 which were endorsed during the Conference, would pave the way for enhancing the collaboration between the ASEAN and SEAFDEC, as well as render guidance for the countries in the region in implementing programs on sustainable management of fisheries that could provide maximum benefits to the fishers and stakeholders in the region. His Welcome Statement appears as **Annex 2**.
6. The Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar, *U Khin Maung Aye* welcomed the participants to Nay Pyi Taw, the new administrative capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and thanked SEAFDEC for the assistance extended to Myanmar since the country became a member of SEAFDEC in 1999. He also commended SEAFDEC for implementing programs and activities that are useful for the Member Countries especially to

Myanmar, in the area of research and human resource development that enabled the officers and staff from the Department of Fisheries to enhance their knowledge and skills.

7. While recognizing that there are emerging issues especially climate change confronting the fisheries sector and affecting the socio-economic development in the coastal areas where the rural people especially the fishers are getting poorer each day, he therefore asked the SEAFDEC Council to consider this as a critical challenge which SEAFDEC and its Member Countries should overcome. He also encouraged SEAFDEC to address the issues related to the conservation of fishery resources in the region which had been over-exploited through irresponsible fishing practices while fish habitats had been degraded due to human activities that cause environmental pollution.

8. The Deputy Minister also commended the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for the successful organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 in June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, and the adoption of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action. He emphasized that Myanmar is now taking broad steps towards the implementation of 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action. He reiterated on the need for the countries in the region to have their sights set for the coming establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, especially the integration of the fisheries sector into the ASEAN Economic Community. By then, all countries should be ready when the region would be transformed into one big community with free movement of goods, services, investments, and skilled labors as well as free flow of capital. In order that no Member Country would be left behind, countries should muster all efforts in addressing the relevant issues that impede the sustainable development of fisheries, especially in terms of enhancing the capacity of the respective country's human resources.

9. While citing the need for the countries to comply with various requirements on food safety of fisheries products, he suggested that this would be one area where the assistance of SEAFDEC would be very much needed. He added that SEAFDEC could consider conducting regular fora where such requirements are discussed and where common regional stand is developed to address the issues emanating from such requirements, and that SEAFDEC could consider sustaining its role in this particular aspect. After expressing those insights, he then declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appear as **Annex 3**.

## I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### 1.1 Opening of the Meeting

10. The SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director for Malaysia, *Mr. Ismail bin Abu Hassan*, on behalf of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2011-2012, *Dató Ahamad Sabki bin Mahmood*, welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He reiterated his gratitude to SEAFDEC for the support extended to the Council Director for Malaysia during the term of his chairmanship of the SEAFDEC Council from 2011 to 2012.

### 1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2012-2013

11. The Council Director for Myanmar, *U Khin Ko Lay* was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2012-2013, in accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC.

12. While expressing his gratitude to the Council Directors for giving him confidence to chair the SEAFDEC Council for 2012-2013, the incoming Chairperson of the Council congratulated the SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia for his excellent Chairmanship and commended the successful organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in June 2011 which adopted the new decade Resolution and Plan of Action for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security Towards 2020.

13. The incoming Chairperson added that since there are several issues that need to be addressed with much seriousness considering that the impacts are becoming severe and are now being felt especially by the poor fishers in our region, he then encouraged the Council to play very crucial role by helping SEAFDEC achieve its goals of promoting the sustainability of fisheries for food security in the Southeast Asian region. While stressing the importance of the projects that aim to alleviate poverty of rural people especially the small-scale fishers and to enhance the contribution of fisheries to food security and income generation of the fishers, he encouraged SEAFDEC to consider such projects as priority to be pursued in addressing the relevant issues in the future. His Opening Remarks appear as **Annex 4**.

### **1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangement for the Meeting**

14. The Council adopted the Agenda of the Meeting, which appears as **Annex 5**.

## **II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

15. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC congratulated the Council Director for Myanmar *U Khin Ko Lay* for having been elected as the new Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2012-2013. He also expressed his appreciation to the Council Director for Malaysia *Dato' Ahamad Sabki bin Mahmood* for steering SEAFDEC during his term as Chairperson of the Council from 2011- 2012, which has guided SEAFDEC to implement programs that cater to the priorities and requirements of the Member Countries.

16. The Council noted with appreciation the efforts of SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments in undertaking activities in collaboration with the Member Countries during the year 2011, as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General.

17. The Council Director for Cambodia, expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for the activities implemented in 2011 and suggested that SEAFDEC could put more emphasis in the areas of co-management and community-based fisheries considering that Cambodia serves as lead country for the Fisheries Co-management and Decentralization Cluster under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) Mechanism; protection and conservation of the Irrawaddy dolphins in Mekong River basin since the population had been reported to be decreasing; and improvement of collection and compilation of statistics from inland and coastal small-scale fisheries with assistance from relevant organizations such as FAO. While raising the concern of consumers on the presence of liver fluke in inland fishes which could have impact on human health in the region, he requested SEAFDEC to conduct a study on this aspect and disseminate the results of the study to the Member Countries.

18. While also supporting the suggestion of Cambodia on the need to improve the collection of information and statistics on inland fisheries, the Council Director for Lao PDR reiterated that SEAFDEC could continue assisting the Member Countries in their efforts towards sustainable development of inland fisheries, conducting study on the impacts of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture, and providing support to the Member Countries in the aspect of human capacity development in fisheries.

19. With regards to the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, the Council Director for Vietnam expressed his apprehension on the impacts of the world's financial crisis on the consumption of seafood which could affect the producers. In this connection, he suggested that efforts should be made by the countries to consider improving their production practices and enhancing their products to ensure that fair prices could be obtained for such products. He added that SEAFDEC could also consider intensifying its activities on the mitigation of shrimp and fish diseases as their incidence could affect the food safety of seafood products.

20. The Council Director for Malaysia commended SEAFDEC for enhancing its collaboration with the National Agriculture Training Council (NATC) especially for the human resource development activities conducted by SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) as well as for providing expertise who assisted in the development of the fisheries curricula of NATC. He added that SEAFDEC through the Aquaculture Department (AQD) could also consider intensifying its efforts in fish health management, *e.g.* in addressing early mortality syndrome (EMS) of shrimps, and collaborating with the Fisheries Research Institute in Penang, Malaysia which came up with the findings on the possible causes of EMS.

21. The Council Director for Myanmar also supported the suggestion that SEAFDEC should focus its activities more on data collection from small-scale fisheries as well as in the conservation of the Irrawaddy dolphins. In order to support the rural livelihood development policy of Myanmar, he requested AQD to provide assistance in the country's activities on broodstock management of rohu (*Labeo rohita*) and in the development of mud crab hatchery. He added that Myanmar through the Department of Fisheries has already started the implementation of national activities in line with the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action.

22. After congratulating SEAFDEC for its achievements in 2011, the Council Director for the Philippines suggested that future activities of SEAFDEC related to the development of technologies could focus more on the concerns and requirements of the fisheries industry rather than on publications. He added that one of the important areas that SEAFDEC, particularly AQD could consider is on shrimp diseases, and also emphasized that the training on combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing should not only aim to comply with the requirements of importing countries but also to ensure the sustainable utilization of the region's fishery resources. In this connection, activities aimed at combating IUU fishing could focus on prohibiting "illegal" and "destructive" fishing. As regards tuna research, he suggested that SEAFDEC could consider undertaking activities on the identification of spawning areas for tunas and other pelagic species, and in coming up with effective conservation and management measures.

23. The Council Directors for Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam also congratulated SEAFDEC for its achievements in 2011, particularly the conduct of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in June 2011. The Council Director for Singapore suggested that SEAFDEC should continue to enhance its visibility not only within the Member Countries but also beyond the region's borders, and to raise the profile of the region with respect to sustainable aquaculture and fisheries development, particularly to important importing markets, *e.g.* the European Union. The Council Director for Vietnam also suggested that SEAFDEC could look into the possibility of intensifying its assistance for the development of fisheries and aquaculture especially in addressing shrimp disease outbreaks in the region, more particularly to Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia.

24. With regards to the conduct of activities aimed to combat IUU fishing in the region, the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam encouraged SEAFDEC to ensure that duplication of the efforts of other organizations in the region could be avoided, *e.g.* on "Information Education and Communications" to support development and management of fisheries with Brunei Darussalam as the lead country under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) and on combating IUU fishing with the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices (including Combating IUU Fishing) in the Region (RPOA-IUU).

25. The Council Director for Japan also recognized the achievements of SEAFDEC as summarized in the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2011, and thanked the Member Countries for their support during the fisheries tragedy in 2011 brought about by strong earthquake and tsunami which destroyed almost all fisheries facilities in the affected area where 30% of the country's fisheries had been concentrated. He informed the Meeting that after the tragedy, reconstruction of the fisheries-related infrastructures has been undertaken while the fishers committed themselves to continue supplying fish and fishery products for the whole country and to develop the fisheries sustainably for the future generations. While also expressing the continued support of the Government of Japan

to the activities of SEAFDEC that contribute to sustainable fisheries and food security in the Southeast Asian region, he emphasized on the importance of compiling technical and scientific information as these would guarantee transparency, credibility and traceability of the region's fisheries sector.

26. In response to the suggestions of the Council, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC assured the Council that SEAFDEC would avoid duplication of efforts by strengthening coordination and collaboration with partners, and that the requirements of the Member Countries are addressed accordingly in the SEAFDEC programs and activities. In this connection, SEAFDEC would exert efforts to improve its activities in accordance with the provisions of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, and ensure that the activities would compliment with those of other organizations.

27. After expressing their views on the activities undertaken by SEAFDEC in 2011 and the areas where the future activities of SEAFDEC could place more emphasis on, the Council approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2011 for publication and dissemination.

### **III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING**

28. The Council took note of the results of the Thirty-fourth Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC (**Annex 6**) which was held from 14 to 16 November 2011 in Manila, Philippines, as presented by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairperson of the Program Committee. The Council also approved the progress of the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2011 and the proposed programs for 2012, as well as the recommendations of the Program Committee Meeting. The Council then requested SEAFDEC to consider incorporating the recommendations of the Council at this Meeting in its future programs.

29. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam suggested that SEAFDEC should consider finding ways of developing programs that emanate from the Member Countries to ensure that such programs address the needs and requirements of the countries. In this connection, the Council Directors for Indonesia and Philippines requested SEAFDEC to consider intensifying its activities related to the development of fish processing and fish handling technologies. Furthermore, the Council Director for Indonesia also requested that SEAFDEC should consider conducting studies on market chains of fish and fishery products within and among the Member Countries. In addition, the Council Director for the Philippines also suggested that activities related to the use of chemical substances be regulated or controlled and use of non-animal protein be intensified. In addition, the AQD study on pellet feeds should be revisited as pellet feeds development technology had already been commercialized. Moreover, the Council Director for Lao PDR also requested SEAFDEC to synthesize the data and information on the progress of its programs to facilitate better utilization of the results by the Member Countries.

30. While briefly explaining the country's policy on poverty alleviation, the Council Director for Myanmar requested the continued assistance of SEAFDEC in the aspect of rural aquaculture development. He also added that Myanmar through its Department of Fisheries would be implementing the EC Regulations in combating IUU fishing, and appreciated the efforts of Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) in conducting preliminary study to collect information on the processes and procedures involved. The freshwater fishes exported to EU market are mainly from the wild.

31. During the discussion on fishery trade-related issues especially on traceability and the EC Regulations, the Council Director for Singapore requested SEAFDEC to continue supporting the Member Countries in addressing these emerging global issues as well as in mitigating the impact of such issues to fisheries in the region. The Council Director for Vietnam, while also supporting the activities on international fisheries-related issues, suggested that focal points from the Member

Countries should be nominated to facilitate the compilation of information on their efforts in implementing the EC Regulations.

32. The representative from FAO assured the Meeting that through close collaboration, SEAFDEC and FAO are implementing activities on areas of common interest that do not overlap but are complementary. He also suggested that AQD could consider taking the coordination role for fish disease monitoring and surveillance among countries in the region. Regarding the issue on the use of fishmeal as ingredients for aquaculture feeds, he informed the Meeting that since the relevant technologies are already available with other organizations, collaboration could be established with such organizations to facilitate exchanging of the necessary information.

33. With regards to the program on “**Climate Change and Its Impacts on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation towards Food Security**”, the Council was informed that the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility had already finalized the procedures for funding the project. The Council was also assured by the ASEAN that efforts are being made by the ASEAN and SEAFDEC to avoid duplication of efforts in the conduct of future activities. Moreover, the Meeting was also informed that relevant concerns raised by the Council at this Meeting would be raised by the ASEAN Secretariat to the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> for consideration.

#### **IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING**

34. The Council noted the results and endorsed the recommendations of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP), which was held from 17 to 18 November 2011 in Manila, Philippines (**Annex 7**), as presented by *Dr. Sam Nuov*, on behalf of the ASEAN Co-chair of the FCG/ASSP Meeting.

35. The Council Director for Thailand informed the Meeting that Thailand as the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) Secretariat would not organize the Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance in 2012. However, he requested the ASEAN Member States to implement the ASEAN Shrimp GAP, the progress of which should be reported to the next Meeting of the ASA in 2013. In this regard, the Council Director for Malaysia suggested that the issue on shrimp broodstock and shrimp disease/health should also be discussed during the next ASA Meeting.

36. The Council supported in principle the “Proposed Establishment of a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development” in Indonesia as part of SEAFDEC organization. In this connection, the Council Directors for Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam also expressed their willingness to share information and experiences in inland fisheries of their respective countries to the proposed Regional Center once this is established.

37. The Council Director for Vietnam informed the Meeting that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Tuna Working Group in August 2012 under the ASEAN framework would be hosted by Vietnam.

#### **V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES**

##### **5.1 Implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action and Way Forward**

38. The Council acknowledged with appreciation the conduct of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”, with the adoption of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 by the Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for fisheries of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The Council also took note of the initiative undertaken by SEAFDEC in the conduct of the Inception

Workshop on Follow-up Activities to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference, where the issues and activities elaborated in the Plan of Action were prioritized; as well as the proposed format for reporting of the progress in the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action by all Member Countries to SEAFDEC. The working document appears as **Annex 8**.

39. The Council supported that the progress in the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action should be reported to SEAFDEC for appropriate documentation. It was further agreed that the report of such progress should be made once in five years, in order not to create burden and allow the Member Countries to make ample progress in the implementation. In this regard, SEAFDEC should consider organizing a Regional Consultation in the next five years to monitor the progress, as well as to re-prioritize the issues and activities that should be undertaken in the future.

40. As for the new program on “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management” which had been proposed to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for funding, the Council Director for the Philippines requested SEAFDEC to include the Philippines in the implementation of the program for the benefit of the Muslim communities in the southern part of the country.

41. With regards to the implementation of the said program, the representative from FAO suggested that lessons learned from the Spanish-funded “Regional Fisheries Livelihood Program for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP)” implemented in the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Timor Leste could be considered in implementing similar activities in the future. In addition, the experiences gained from the RFLP project could also be considered for discussion during the forthcoming inception meeting of the program on “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management”.

42. The representative from the ASEAN also informed the Meeting that the project proposed to be funded by the IDB, would still require official letters from the three eligible countries *i.e.* Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Indonesia for the final approval processes of the grant. While agreeing with the suggestion of FAO to consider the lessons learned and experiences gained from the RFLP during the implementation of the IDB project, she suggested that SEAFDEC could also invite representatives from its relevant partners including FAO to the IDB project inception meeting to enhance collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts that should complement instead for the benefit of the SEAFDEC Member Countries.

43. In response to the request of the Council Director for the Philippines, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC suggested that the appeal of the Philippines could be referred to the donor agency. He also clarified that the mechanism for reporting the progress of implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Program Committee for endorsement and subsequently to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and policy guidance.

## **5.2 International/Regional Fisheries-related Issues**

44. The Council was informed on the international fisheries-related issues which had been discussed at the Regional Technical Consultations and 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of FCG/ASSP in 2011, and noted the priority issues which included the Recommendations on Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species including the outputs of the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC26), Combating IUU Fishing, and Development of ASEAN Catch Certification.



### 5.2.1 Recommendations for Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (Annex 9)

45. The Council took note of the outputs and endorsed the recommendations from the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species, which was convened in October 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Council also noted the outputs of AC26, and more particularly the recommendations of the RTC that Member Countries should share scientific data and develop a platform for discussion of the relevant issues.

46. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the Meeting that Indonesia has established the national stock assessment of fisheries resources since 1998, and particularly the conduct of new stock estimation. He added that Indonesia also established the Tuna Observation Institutes for Indian Ocean tuna in Bali in 1990 and for the Pacific tuna in Sulawesi which is still being established. With regards to sharks, Indonesia together with Australia has issued a guidebook on shark fisheries. He suggested that Indonesia would be willing to collaborate with SEAFDEC and the Member Countries in terms of capacity building on stock assessment specifically by providing the necessary expertise.

47. The Council Director for Vietnam suggested that some issues that were recommended during the October 2011 RTC could be compiled to provide clear direction for the Member Countries. Specifically, the issue on inadequate stock/catch assessment of selected commercially-exploited species could be addressed by improving the collection of scientific data on status and trends of selected commercially-exploited aquatic species from research institutions. In addition, for the assessment MSY of certain species especially for multi-species, capacity building in developing applicable models should also be considered. Moreover, in order to enhance the involvement of representatives from the fisheries sector in CITES discussions, he suggested that a coordinating mechanism between fisheries sector and agencies involved in CITES-related issues at country level could be established. Furthermore, the key recommendations could be prioritized while the compilation of historical data could be immediately initiated and national assessment implemented in a long-term basis.

48. The Council Director for Japan commended the Member Countries for jointly responding to CITES-related issues during the recent years, considering that the number of proposals for listing commercially-exploited aquatic species in the CITES Appendices had increased. He informed the Meeting that the forthcoming CITES-CoP16 is scheduled to be held on 3-15 March 2013 and the deadline for submission of draft proposals for species to be listed in the CITES Appendices is on 4 October 2012. During such time, information on the species proposed to be listed in CITES Appendices will be already known. He commended the attendance of the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC during the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Animals Committee held on 15-20 March 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland as this would pave the way for better understanding and bring about appropriate response from SEAFDEC in addressing the issues. He also informed the Meeting that the draft proposal to include Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix II was already raised by Germany, and expressed the apprehension that there could be many more proposals to be put forward especially on commercially-exploited aquatic species at the CITES-CoP16.

49. While supporting the key recommendations of the October 2011 RTC, the Council Director for Japan expressed some concerns related to CITES-related issues. These could include: (1) the possibility of listing species without danger of extinction to the Appendices considering that the listing criteria of CITES include automatically defining the percentage of decreased population compared with the biomass of an unexploited stock; and (2) the fact that once species is listed, it would be difficult to down-list or delete from the list such species even if the resources have already recovered because the process needs to obtain two-thirds majority vote at CoPs for de-listing or down-listing. In this regard, he also pointed out the possibility that under the CITES mechanism which focuses on management of trade issues, CITES may not be able to effectively manage the



fishery resources. Meanwhile, relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) can adopt comprehensive management programs including trade measures, catch limitations and controlling fishing efforts. Based on this circumstance, CITES-related issues could have serious impacts to fisheries including tuna.

50. Taking into consideration the aforementioned concerns, the Council Director for Japan encouraged the other Member Countries to keep on following up the issues, and reiterated the need for relevant staff from fisheries agencies to attend the CITES-CoP16 and to be ready with common stand on the relevant issues to be discussed.

51. While supporting the suggestions of the Council Director for Japan, the Council Director for the Philippines reiterated that once certain species is listed in the CITES Appendices, it would be very difficult to down-list or de-list such species from the Appendices. It would therefore be necessary that all countries carefully examine the draft proposals to be discussed during the CITES-CoP meetings. He emphasized that in CITES events, many representatives come from Embassies of countries assigned in country hosting the CITES meetings, who might not even be familiar with the technical aspects of the proposals. He therefore encouraged SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to send representatives to the CITES meetings to bring up the interests of the region and take part in scientific discussions that concern the fisheries of the Member Countries. However, prior to the CITES-CoP meetings, the SEAFDEC Secretariat should inform the Member Countries on the possible issues to be discussed and perhaps obtain the common position of the region on the issues. While thanking SEAFDEC for informing the Council on the outputs of the AC26, he requested for consideration and the specific position of SEAFDEC and the other Member Countries on the humphead wrasse (or Napoleon wrasse) which is of common interest to the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia but which is now listed in CITES Appendix II, as well as on the giant clam (*Tridacna gigas*) which is also listed in Appendix II, and could not be de-listed even if in the case of the Philippines the population of the giant clam has already recovered.

52. The Council Director for Thailand also supported the enhancement of regional cooperation to address the technical issues on commercially-exploited aquatic species in the Member Countries. However, considering that the common position of the region on certain issues should be submitted to the ASEAN for consideration and recommendation, efforts should be made to ensure that common position is established prior to the CITES-CoP meetings. He added that Thailand has been prohibiting the export of three species of seahorses (*Hippocampus kellogi*, *H. kuda*, and *H. spinosissimus*) for several years and would prepare information on these species of seahorses as recommended by AC26.

53. With regards to CITES-related issues, the representative from the ASEAN informed the Council that the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) will be conducted in early November 2012, tentatively focusing on activities of the ASEAN which aims to come up with common position and to prepare for the CITES-CoP16. In addition, the Council was also informed that the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) will be held in June 2012. Considering therefore such timeline, the Council was also informed that the coordinated position that would be developed during the 9<sup>th</sup> AEG-CITES could be circulated to the members of the ASWGFi by *ad referendum*.

### 5.2.2 Combating IUU Fishing

54. While noting the activities conducted by SEAFDEC that aim to combat IUU fishing in the region (**Annex 10**), the Council Director for Indonesia informed the Meeting that the Expert Consultation on Effective Surveillance and Law Enforcement to Combat IUU Fishing was organized from 5 to 8 December 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and expressed his appreciation to the Member Countries and SEAFDEC for participating in the Consultation. In this connection, the Council was also informed that the RPOA-IUU Secretariat conducted the Third Sub-regional Meeting on RPOA-IUU in the Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Sea and the Sulu-



Sulawesi Seas from 20 to 21 March 2012 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia with participation of representatives from the Member Countries, *i.e.* Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines as well as representatives from organizations such as SEAFDEC, WorldFish Center, and the Coral Triangle Initiatives on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF).

55. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam informed the Meeting that the country has already published the “Brunei Darussalam National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing” based on the country’s activities under RPOA-IUU. In this connection, he also informed the Meeting that the country would develop the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to facilitate the implementation of the NPOA-IUU.

56. The Council Director for Japan informed the Meeting that combating IUU fishing has been underlined in Japan for several years, and hence recommended that fishing vessels registration and certification scheme should be conducted in the Member Countries to overcome such problems. While supporting the initial efforts to combat IUU fishing in the region, the Council Director for Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC should cooperate with RPOA-IUU Secretariat based in Indonesia to support the establishment of MCS network in the region especially on fishing license as well as on the collection and compilation of reliable catch data.

57. With regards to combating IUU fishing, the Council Director for Myanmar informed the Meeting that EU dispatched an assessment mission for combating IUU fishing to Myanmar in 2011, and commended Myanmar for undertaking measures in combating IUU fishing which are in accordance with the EU requirements although some improvements would still be needed by the country to be able to comply with EC Regulation 1005/2008. He added that Myanmar had been exporting wild-caught fishery products to EU and issuing the corresponding national catch certificate. Considering that the country’s fish export is accepted by the EU countries, Myanmar would be willing to exchange the experience in combating IUU fishing and to participate in the regional activities that aim to combat IUU fishing.

### 5.2.3 Development of “ASEAN Catch Certification”

58. The Council took note of the requests made by the Member Countries during the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP for the development of common catch documentation scheme, and subsequently during the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP for the possibility of SEAFDEC to incorporate the development of the ASEAN Catch Certification Scheme (**Annex 11**) in the existing SEAFDEC program framework.

59. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the Council that Myanmar had implemented its catch certification scheme to comply with the EC Regulation using Product Movement Document (PMD), tracing the products one step backward and one step forward. He added that all fishing vessels of Myanmar are registered and licensed by Department of Marine Administration (DMA) and Department of Fisheries of Myanmar, respectively and that checking of necessary information recorded by the vessels is conducted before going out to sea and during landing.

60. While noting that the ASEAN Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) has previously discussed and agreed that each country can issue their respective national catch certification schemes that the Member Countries have already established, the Council Directors for Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand suggested that the activities to be undertaken by SEAFDEC should focus on facilitating the sharing of information and experiences among the Member Countries in the implementation of their respective catch certification schemes. In this regard, the Council agreed that SEAFDEC should organize a regional workshop to include the harmonization of catch certification format among countries in the region.

61. The Council Director for Vietnam further suggested that the SEAFDEC and ASEAN Secretariat could set up a Roadmap for activities that should be undertaken to support the Member Countries in the implementation of catch certification, which could be discussed during the proposed Workshop to facilitate sharing of experiences and for the harmonization of the Member Countries' catch certification formats. Moreover, the ASEAN Secretariat should communicate with the EU whether the proposed ASEAN Catch Certificate if developed, would be acceptable.

62. While expressing support to the development of common catch certification scheme, the Council Director for Indonesia recommended that such scheme should be simple, doable and applicable to the Member Countries. In addition, capacity building should also be promoted to enable the Member Countries to implement the catch certification scheme. If development of common scheme would not be possible, harmonization of national certification schemes should be undertaken, the results of which should be disseminated to the Member Countries.

63. After the discussion, the Council Director for Vietnam offered to host the first workshop to facilitate the sharing of experiences of the Member Countries on the implementation of catch certification which is proposed to be organized in 2012. The Council also thanked the Council Director for Singapore for the offer to provide financial support for the conduct of the said workshop.

### **5.3 Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA)**

64. The Meeting took note of the policy consideration on the production of the publication on "the Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture" or SEASOFIA (**Annex 12**) which was presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

65. While taking into consideration the usefulness of the SEASOFIA especially in providing a platform for integrating regional data and information and in coming up with information to support policy planning and management of fisheries, the Council agreed that the SEASOFIA could be published on a regular basis. However, future production of the publication should be done in close coordination with other agencies that produce similar publication in order to avoid the redundancies of the contents. Specifically, in order to minimize redundancy of the contents, the future publication could focus on the analysis of the specificity of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region and could include the reasons behind the changing trends of fishery production in respective countries. An analysis of the respective countries' policy directions and management policies, analysis of over-exploitation or under-exploitation of stocks should also be included in the publication. In order to minimize production costs and enhance dissemination, the publication could be produced in electronic format, *e.g.* in CD-ROM format or make the publication accessible through the website.

66. Moreover, while noting that within a few years' time it is unlikely that the fisheries situation and issues in the region would significantly change, the Council therefore agreed that at the initial stage, such information could be integrated in the existing annual Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia published by SEAFDEC. In this regard, the compilation of issues in the SEASOFIA could be done every 5 years. However, the Council may consider changing such policy guidance later on as appropriate.

## **VI. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS**

67. The Council noted the overview of the collaborative activities between SEAFDEC and other organizations in 2011 as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, which had been grouped into 5 main categories, namely: 1) collaborative program implementation; 2) collaborative research and training for information exchange; 3) capacity building; 4) aquaculture related activities; and 5) ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference.



68. The Council was also informed that for the collaborative program implementation, SEAFDEC collaborated with three main organizations, *i.e.* the ASEAN, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). On the collaborative research and training for information exchange, SEAFDEC collaborated with Hokkaido University of Japan, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, and Vocational Education Commission of Thailand. On capacity building, SEAFDEC Training Department organized three tailor-made training courses to enhance the capacity of Malaysian fisheries officers. For aquaculture related activities, SEAFDEC/AQD collaborated with 11 institutions, namely: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA); Aklan State University, Philippines; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR); Development Bank of the Philippines; Freshwater Fisheries Research Center/Chinese Academy of Fisheries Sciences, China; Japan International Research Center for Agriculture Sciences; Nagasaki University, Japan; North Carolina State University, USA; San Miguel Corporation, Philippines; the SmithBucklin Corporation, USA; and University of the Philippines in the Visayas.

69. The Council was also informed on the number of collaborating partners for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference, namely: FAO, the Mekong River Commission (MRC), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), the WorldFish Center, Coastal Development Center of Kasetsart University in Thailand, Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) of Japan, Hokkaido University of Japan, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), National Fisheries University (NFU) of Japan, Tokyo University of Marine Sciences and Technology (TUMSAT) of Japan, Faculty of Fisheries of Kagoshima University of Japan, School of Marine Science and Technology of Tokai University (TUMST) of Japan, Hiroshima University of Japan, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) in Japan, and the Marine Institute (MI) of the Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada.

70. While taking note of the collaborative arrangements concluded by SEAFDEC with various organizations for the sustainable development of fisheries in the region, representatives from the collaborating partners of SEAFDEC attending the Meeting provided their statements on areas of cooperation that had been carried out with SEAFDEC and also on possible cooperation that could be pursued in the future.

## **6.1 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

71. The representative from the ASEAN, congratulated SEAFDEC for the achievements made in 2011 especially under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) which is considered a main vehicle to drive the process of fulfilling the expectation and commitments of the fisheries sector in realizing of an ASEAN Community in 2015. She also congratulated and thanked SEAFDEC for co-hosting the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”, which was organized on 13-17 June 2011. While noting that the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020” were endorsed by the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) and the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), she cited that these instruments could serve as important basis for ensuring the sustainable development of the sector and for better livelihoods of those dependent on the fishery resources. She added that the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) agreed to use the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action as new Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) on ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries (2011-2015) and will be used as coordination and monitoring tools for the sector. In order to support the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action under the ASSP, the Programme Concept Note on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security which was endorsed by the ASWGFi in 2011 would cover priority areas and actions, and that sourcing of funds from the ASEAN dialogue and development partners would be pursued.

72. Moreover, the Council was assured that the ASEAN would continue to work closely with SEAFDEC on a number of areas and issues of common interest for the benefit of the Member Countries in order to safeguard the common interest of the ASEAN region on fisheries related issues, and that the ASEAN would sustain its close collaboration and partnership with SEAFDEC. Her statement appears in **Annex 13**.

73. Moreover, the Council was also informed on the three-year project (2012-2014) under the new ASEAN-US cooperation on *Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development, and Trade* (MARKET) which aims to promote food security and facilitate food trade in the ASEAN region and to support ASEAN's goal of an integrated community by 2015. The Project also aims to strengthen ASEAN's institutional platform for addressing regional food security and increase private sector and civil society engagement in regional agriculture dialogue. The project is also meant to expand dialogue with private sector and CSOs and contribute to harmonized food and agriculture trade regulations and standards, as well as strengthen regional producers and processors linkages to cross-border market opportunities, and pursue more detailed data on the enabling environment and cross-border market linkages.

74. While expressing appreciation for the activities carried out by ASEAN, particularly on the collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC through the "ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries", the Council Director for Vietnam expressed the concern on the sustainability of the said activities and suggested that the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry plus three (AMAF+3) which includes China, Japan, and Korea could be tapped to provide assistance. In this regard, he requested the ASEAN Secretariat to take action as the regional coordinator especially to ensure that balance between the food security and fisheries sector is maintained, and that capacity building is promoted while sufficient funds could be sourced from the ASEAN partners.

## **6.2 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

75. The representative from FAO expressed his appreciation for the invitation extended by SEAFDEC and to the Department of Fisheries and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar for their excellent arrangements and hospitality during the Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. While also congratulating SEAFDEC and the ASEAN for the very successful organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 "Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment", he expressed the appreciation of FAO for giving the chance to participate and support such important event. He added that FAO also welcomes the Resolution and Plan of Action as these instruments would serve good framework for both cooperating agencies and providing direction for the fisheries sector in the coming years. Moreover, FAO looks forward to working closely with SEAFDEC within such framework as a regional priority type of mechanism, being aware of the intention of the ASEAN to also work in the same way.

76. Furthermore, in his capacity as Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission, the representative from FAO expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for the strong support on the APFIC activities over the past year, particularly the participation and contribution to the regional consultative workshop. In this regard, he invited SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to participate in the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultative Meeting and the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of APFIC which will take place in Da-Nang, Vietnam in September 2012 to be hosted by Vietnam.

77. FAO also appreciated the strong cooperation of SEAFDEC with regional and global workshops particularly the recent workshop on Marine Protected Area under the Japanese Trust Fund and for its active role in supporting the activities of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project which involved four SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand. FAO is also looking forward to the involvement of SEAFDEC in the development of strategic action programs for the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea areas, to support the concerned Member Countries.



78. FAO also looked forward to operationalization of the new by-catch project as a strategy for trawl management which involves Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. This program is meant to help in improving the sustainability of trawl management and ensuring that products from the trawl fishery could be traded as responsible fisheries products. Looking ahead, FAO also considered another area where cooperation on a more regular basis could be established with SEAFDEC as the competent organization for fisheries and aquaculture in the region. For example, on the process of reporting the status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture in the region through the SEASOFIA which could contribute to the better analysis of Southeast Asian fisheries. FAO therefore encouraged SEAFDEC to continue such efforts.

79. While recognizing the important role of SEAFDEC in capacity building, FAO expressed the hope that collaboration could be enhanced in this aspect, *e.g.* the regional training course on ecosystem approach to fisheries by the BOBLME project and the Coral Triangle Initiative. FAO would also work collaboratively on the aspect of combating IUU fishing, regional awareness raising on Port State Measures, support to coastal livelihoods, and improved assessment of marine resources which are included in the SEAFDEC programs. The representative from FAO then expressed the willingness of FAO to support the direction that SEAFDEC would be pursuing in the aspect of mutual interests of the Member Countries. His Statement appears as **Annex 14**.

80. The Council Director for Vietnam expressed his appreciation to FAO for the cooperation that it had been establishing with SEAFDEC on the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. However, he expressed the concern in some FAO meetings such as the “31<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific” in Hanoi on 12-16 March 2012, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Department of Vietnam, fisheries was not given ample attention in this forum. He therefore suggested that FAO could pay more attention to the fisheries sector of the region considering that Southeast Asia is the lead provider of seafood not only for the region but also to the world. In response, the representative from FAO suggested that the Council Director for Vietnam could raise this important message to relevant FAO fora including the Asia-Pacific Regional Conferences as the FAO priority program mechanism for Asia.

### **6.3 Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH)**

81. The representative from INFOFISH congratulated SEAFDEC for the successful organization of the Meeting and the warm welcome of the Government of Myanmar accorded to the INFOFISH. He informed the Meeting that INFOFISH is an intergovernmental organization providing marketing information and technical advisory services to the fishery industry in Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With fourteen member countries including five Member Countries of SEAFDEC *i.e.* Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, INFOFISH had been involved in SEAFDEC activities in 2011 especially during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” in June 2011 and during the Inception Workshop on Follow-up Activities to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on “Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020” from 4-5 July 2011. He added that the areas of mutual collaboration/cooperation with SEAFDEC which are include strengthening of information network particularly on fish trade and market related matters; collaboration in tailor-made training and study tour on post-harvest and processing; and capacity building on fishery production. In this connection, he also informed the Council that SEAFDEC and the Member Countries could also share the experience from the implementation of the 3-year INFOFISH/CFC/FAO Freshwater Fishery Project which commenced in 2011, and focused on ‘sustainable aquaculture development and trade promotion’. He then suggested that the particular strengths of INFOFISH could be considered by the Member Countries and the industry, especially in the aspect of international conferences and events management, and in seafood shows all over the world. Furthermore, he also cited that if an opportunity for outsourcing should arise,

INFOFISH could also provide assistance for the production of SEASOFIA in the future. His statement appears as **Annex 15**.

## **VII. OTHER MATTERS**

### **7.1 Proposed Establishment of a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia**

82. The Council was informed by the Council Director for Indonesia on the Proposed Establishment of Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia (**Annex 16**), which was initially conveyed by the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2011. After the discussion, the Council agreed in principle the establishment of the Regional Center under SEAFDEC mechanism, considering the importance of inland fisheries to food security of peoples in the Southeast Asian region. However, the Council suggested that in order to proceed with the establishment of the said Regional Center, Indonesia should coordinate with the SEAFDEC Secretariat to work out the important issues, particularly whether the Regional Center should be established as a collaborating center for SEAFDEC or as a SEAFDEC Department, as well as the official name of the Center, the staff required, facilities and operations which should be financially sustained, and in ensuring that duplication of efforts with existing SEAFDEC Departments is avoided.

83. In response to the request of the Council for clarification on the establishment of the Collaborating Center for Post-Harvest Technology in Singapore, the Council Director for Singapore explained that as proposed by the Government of Singapore, the SEAFDEC Council during its 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2007 approved to transform the Marine Fisheries Research Department of SEAFDEC into a collaborating center. In this connection, the Collaborating Center would take over the activities of Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) and work independently from SEAFDEC both financially and operationally. Since then, MFRD as the Collaborating Center for Post-Harvest Technology was fully funded by the Government of Singapore and does not have to report its financial statement to SEAFDEC, although the progress of activities is still reported under the SEAFDEC framework. In addition, he also informed the Council that Singapore had developed the draft Guidelines for Establishment of Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC and communicated with the SEAFDEC Secretariat in 2007 to circulate the draft Guidelines and seek consideration and approval from the Council.

84. With regards to the proposed establishment of an institution for inland fisheries, the Council Director for Myanmar expressed the willingness of Myanmar to share experiences in inland fisheries and inland aquaculture while the Council Director for Cambodia also suggested that once such institution is organized, it should seek collaboration and work closely with relevant national/regional organizations *e.g.* Mekong River Commission (MRC), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in order to avoid duplicating the efforts of such organizations.

### **7.2 Others**

85. The Council agreed in principle to the participation of Timor Leste in SEAFDEC Meetings as observer considering that Timor Leste could become a new Member State of the ASEAN in the near future. In this regard, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC proposed that Timor Leste could be represented only in certain SEAFDEC events.

## **VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC**

86. The Council took note of the reports presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General on the results of the efforts of SEAFDEC to respond to the special request made by the Member Countries during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting in 2011, which appears as **Annex 17**. In the closed session attended

by the heads of the countries' delegations only, the Council agreed in principle the conduct of the Third SEAFDEC Review by an external entity, and requested SEAFDEC to prepare the terms of reference (TOR) of the Third SEAFDEC Review. While suggesting the criteria for the membership of the Third SEAFDEC Review Committee, the Council also requested SEAFDEC to consider searching for possible members of the said Review Committee.

## IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER

### 9.1 Adjustment of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)

87. The Council noted the Progress and Consideration on the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) which was presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat as shown in **Annex 18**. In the ensuing discussion, the Council agreed in principle the proposed adjustment of MRC based on the formula for the calculation of the MRC as agreed by the SEAFDEC Council since 2007, and suggested the possibility that the adjusted new MRC could be put into effect starting in 2013. However, the Council suggested that individual country could proceed with their respective internal processes in order to put the new MRC into effect.

88. The Council Directors for Myanmar and Indonesia expressed their difficulties in negotiating with their concerned ministries taking into account the drastic increased amount of the MRC. The Council Director for Cambodia also informed the Meeting that the country's Fisheries Administration is ready to submit the proposed MRC to the government upon receiving the letter from SEAFDEC Secretariat.

89. In order to assist the Member Countries during the negotiation process, the Council suggested that SEAFDEC Secretariat should issue an official letter containing the detailed explanation and clarification of the rationale for the increasing amount of the MRC. In this connection, the Council also suggested that such letter should be circulated to all Council Directors as soon as possible to facilitate discussion between the agencies responsible for fisheries and other relevant agencies to secure budget for the new MRC. Due to the exigency of the issue, such letter should be issued by 13 April 2012 to enable the countries to obtain approval of their budget for the next fiscal year.

### 9.2 Progress of the Third SEAFDEC Review

90. The Council noted on the Preliminary Report on the Roles, Function and Activities of SEAFDEC (**Annex 19**) which was also discussed during Closed Session of the Meeting. In this connection, the Council agreed to conduct the Third SEAFDEC Review and provided the following directives to SEAFDEC:

- The review should be conducted by external/independent entity and the members of the review team should be from the Asian region, although one member could be from outside the region as appropriate and deemed necessary;
- The review team should have expertise (but not limited to) in aquaculture, capture fisheries, inland fisheries, organization management, policy and legal, post-harvest, processing and trade, and financial management;
- The review team should be familiar with SEAFDEC and SEAFDEC activities and have experience working in international arena and no conflict of interest with SEAFDEC;
- SEAFDEC to develop TOR and initially identify the potential review team members based on the aforementioned criteria;
- The Secretary-General would serve as *ex officio* member of the review team;
- The draft TOR and composition of the Third SEAFDEC Review Team should be circulated to the SEAFDEC Council of Directors by *ad referendum*; and



- After compiling the comments, the TOR could be adjusted and the revised TOR should be submitted to the Council for approval by *ad referendum*.

91. Furthermore, the Council also endorsed the conduct of the Third Review of SEAFDEC using the existing budget from the MRC.

### **9.3 Proposed Adjustment of the Modality to Increase the Effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism**

92. While noting the proposed adjustment on the modality to increase the effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP mechanism (**Annex 20**) which was presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, the Council suggested that the FCG/ASSP Meeting could still be conducted back-to-back with the SEAFDEC Program Committee. However, the Council suggested that SEAFDEC should make adjustments that could supersede the 1999 FCG mechanism taking into consideration the recommendations of the Council and submit the said adjustments to the next meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and approval.

93. The Council suggested that the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Secretariat should work closely in preparing the agenda proposed for discussion during the FCG/ASSP meetings in order that the requirements of the Member Countries are reflected during the said meetings as well as important issues that should be deliberated on before seeking the approval of the Council. In addition, the Council also suggested that invitation letters for FCG/ASSP Meetings should be sent to Member Countries at least two months before the FCG/ASSP Meetings. While agreeing with the suggestion that the FCG/ASSP Meetings would be organized back-to-back with the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meetings (PCM), the Council Director for Myanmar reiterated that the said invitation letters would require the approval of the concerned authorities of the Government of Myanmar.

### **9.4 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels**

94. The Council noted the information provided by SEAFDEC regarding the conduct of cruise surveys using the M.V. SEAFDEC and the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, and endorsed the plan of activities on the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2012 (**Annex 21**).

95. After commending SEAFDEC for the successful implementation of its activities, the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for the conduct of collaborative fishery resources survey in the waters of Brunei Darussalam using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and would continue to support the plan of operation of the vessels when the need arises.

96. The Council Director for Thailand expressed that the intention of Thailand to support the utilization of SEAFDEC vessels by the Member Countries, and Thailand would consider discussing with the SEAFDEC Secretariat for the development of co-research survey programs of the fisheries resources in Thailand.

97. The Council Director for Vietnam informed the Meeting that the Vice Minister in charge of Fisheries in Vietnam has agreed to provide sufficient budget for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 during the collaborative research survey aimed to conduct small pelagic stock assessment in the waters of Vietnam in 2012. He also informed the Council that this program is very crucial for Vietnam since the data available on fishery resources assessment are already outdated and could not be used for the formulation of a fisheries master plan in the future. In this regard, the Council endorsed the request of the Council Director for Vietnam for the implementation of two cruises in the waters of Vietnam in 2012.

98. In order to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the proposed cruise surveys, the Council Director for Vietnam proposed to make amendments on the objectives of the proposed



cruise surveys to be implemented in the waters of Vietnam to specify that two cruises would be conducted in 2012. In this regard, the Council endorsed the proposed amendment and requested SEAFDEC to include the two cruises conducted in the waters of Vietnam in the plan of operations of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2012.

99. The Council Director for the Philippines informed the Council that the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has already acquired its own research vessel, the M.V. DA-BFAR which BFAR used for the conduct of resource surveys in Philippine waters the whole year round. However, the amount of samples collected from such surveys have already accumulated due to the inadequate technical staff of BFAR to analyze the samples, In this regard, he requested SEAFDEC to make available its scientists and technical staff to assist in the identification and classification of the fish larvae.

100. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed the view that the high cost and expenditures of utilizing the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 had constrained the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar to utilize the vessel. In this regard, he requested SEAFDEC and collaborating partners to consider finding donors or sponsors for the conduct of a complete survey of the fishery resources in the waters of the Southeast Asian region using the research vessels of SEAFDEC.

101. The Council Director for Malaysia informed the Meeting that during the visit of the Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia to SEAFDEC Training Department in February 2012, he proposed to collaborate with SEAFDEC on the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC for Malaysian trainers under the planned training course on navigation, fishing gear, and marine engineering for 2012-2013.

102. The Council Director for Japan expressed the view that the cost of the scientific survey and the training course are very important aspects to be considered on the use of the SEAFDEC vessels. He specifically reiterated that the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was granted by Japan to SEAFDEC Training Department in 2004 for the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. Considering that the actual operation of the vessel must be reported to the Finance Authority of Japan, he requested the Member Countries to fully utilize the vessel otherwise this could affect the cooperation with the Member Countries in the future. In this regard, he expressed his appreciation to Vietnam for its research plan.

103. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the Council that a new vessel has just been acquired for fishery resources survey in the waters of Indonesia and requested SEAFDEC to consider providing technical expertise to assist in fish larvae survey. In this connection, the Council Director for Indonesia would send an official communication to SEAFDEC for such propose. He also informed the Council that their scientists had been encouraged to join the survey activities planned by SEAFDEC and suggested that SEAFDEC should inform the Member Countries one year prior to the planned surveys.

104. Considering the importance of inland fisheries in the region, the Council Director for Cambodia suggested that SEAFDEC should consider the possibility of conducting a resource survey in the Tonle Sap Great Lake, especially after the establishment the proposed institution for inland fisheries in Indonesia.

## **9.5 Collaborative Arrangement between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations**

105. The Council commended SEAFDEC for establishing cooperative arrangements with several organizations and institutions during the past years, and endorsed the collaborative arrangements established between SEAFDEC and other organizations during the year 2011, namely: Aklan State University, Philippines; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; Faculty of Fisheries Sciences of Hokkaido University, Japan; Freshwater Fisheries Research Center/Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, China; Japan International Research Center

for Agricultural Sciences; Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan; Universiti Teknologi Malaysia; and Vocational Education Commission of Thailand. In addition, the Council also took note of the formulation of cooperative framework between SEAFDEC and the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) of Japan, which was finalized in 2011.

106. While noting that the cooperative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations are primarily aimed at facilitating the exchange of information among researchers, allowing the staff to participate in training programs, and promoting academic exchange of information of mutual interest for the sustainable development of fisheries in the region, the Council suggested that SEAFDEC should intensify its effort in seeking more collaboration with other relevant organizations, particularly in the priority areas as identified by the Member Countries.

107. The Council Director for Malaysia acknowledged the several collaborative arrangements established between SEAFDEC and national institutions and agencies in Malaysia. In this connection, he requested SEAFDEC to consider communicating with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia prior to the establishment of formal arrangements with organizations in Malaysia which should be undertaken in collaboration with DOF Malaysia.

108. The Council Director for Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to explore the possibility of establishing closer collaboration with the ASEAN Plus Three Countries under the ASEAN Framework. In addition, collaboration should also be explored with Australia, New Zealand, India and the USA. He also requested that the Member Countries should be involved in the undertaking of activities under the cooperative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations where possible.

109. The Council Director for Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to consider providing opportunities for junior officers of the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar to be involved in the activities under cooperative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations, *e.g.* training, exchange of researchers/scientists, and participation to meetings/workshops. He also identified the areas where SEAFDEC could consider extending its assistance to Myanmar under the existing collaborative arrangements, *e.g.* with the Hokkaido University on research, training and other areas of interest; with ACIAR in improving seaweeds culture, post-harvest technologies and utilization; and with Chinese Academy of Fishery Science in fish disease control, fish feed formulation, genetics, breeding, and environmental management.

110. The Council Director for Japan welcomed the new collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and research institutes in Japan, and informed the Council that the Technical Cooperation Committee meeting of the Fisheries Agency of Japan with SEAFDEC and institutes in Japan is conducted every year. He added that the Government of Japan would like to support SEAFDEC in finding new collaborating partners in Japan under this process.

111. Moreover, the Council Directors for the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam agreed in principle to collaborate in the conduct of joint research on maximum sustainable yield of tuna catch in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea areas. In this regard, the Council requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to develop a collaborative mechanism under the SEAFDEC framework to facilitate the conduct of the collaborative activities in this area in the future.

## **X. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2010**

112. In accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 2 (ii) of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Council endorsed the audited consolidated financial statement of the Center for the year ended 31



December 2010 including that of the Secretariat and the three Departments for the Year 2010 (**Annex 22**) as audited by the official auditors of the Center.

113. During the discussion, the Council took note of the request made by the Council Director for the Philippines with regards to the Audited Financial Report, to reclassify the salaries of scientists under the expenditures of the programs of activity instead of placing these under the Administrative Expenditures. In this connection, the Finance Officers of the SEAFDEC Departments were requested to reclassify such expenditures based on the suggestion of the Council, and that the Audited Financial Report of the Year 2011 should incorporate such reclassification.

## **10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2011, and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2012**

114. The Council took note of the Un-audited Consolidated Financial Report for the Year 2011 (**Annex 23**), which comprised the Un-audited Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2011, the Un-audited Statement of Income and Expenditures for the Year 2011, and the Un-audited Fund Balance as of 31 December 2011.

115. The Council also noted the Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2012 (**Annex 24**), which includes the MRC in 2012 from the Member Countries and contributions from the Fisheries Agency through the Japanese Trust Fund program as well as other international organizations.

## **10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2013**

116. While expressing satisfaction with the manner of budgetary utilization by SEAFDEC, the Council approved the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the Year 2013 as shown in **Annex 25**.

# **XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS**

## **11.1 Adoption of the Meeting Report and Press Statement**

117. The Council adopted the Report of the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Press Statement on the results of the Meeting as shown in **Annex 26** on 5 April 2012.

## **11.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council**

118. In considering the date and venue of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the Council, the Council Director for the Philippines informed the Council that the Government of the Philippines would accept the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in the Philippines in 2013.

119. The Council expressed its appreciation of the offer of the Philippines to host the next Council Meeting in the Philippines, and requested the Secretary-General to discuss with the Council Director for the Philippines to finalize the exact date and venue of the next meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

## **11.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government**

120. The Council Director for Indonesia, on behalf of the Council Directors expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for hosting and for the arrangements for this Forty-fourth Meeting of the Council. He also congratulated the Chairperson of the Meeting for the successful conduct of the Meeting, and looked forward to the enhanced collaboration of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries for the conduct of activities in line with the priority and directives as guided by the Council.

## **XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

121. The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the Council Directors and the representatives from regional and international organizations as well as Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Chiefs of Departments for the support accorded him during the Meeting. He requested the continued cooperation of all concerned for the sustainable development of fisheries in the region and to steer SEAFDEC towards its goal of promoting sustainable fisheries for food security. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Secretariat of the Meeting for their hard work which led to the success of the Meeting. With that note, he declared the Forty-fourth Meeting of the Council closed. His Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 27**.



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## WELCOME STATEMENT

*By Hj. Ismail bin Abu Hassan  
Deputy Director General of Fisheries Malaysia  
And Alternate SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia,  
on behalf of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2011-2012*

Your Excellencies, U Khin Maung Aye,  
Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Mr. Khin Ko Lay,  
Director-General, Department of Fisheries of Myanmar

Distinguished Fellow Council Directors,  
Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, the Secretary General of SEAFDEC,  
Distinguished Delegates from SEAFDEC Member Countries,  
Representatives from International and Regional Organizations,  
Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Assalamualaikum W.B.T.

It gives me great pleasure to wish you a very good morning and to welcome all of you to this Opening Ceremony of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center here in this beautiful Nay Pyi Taw City, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is indeed a great honor for us to have a message from his Excellency, *U Khin Maung Aye*, Deputy Minister for Livestock of Fisheries of Myanmar, to grace this opening ceremony.

On behalf of SEAFDEC and everyone here, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for hosting this important Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC and to the Department of Fisheries, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and arrangements of this Meeting.

Please allow me to also express our thanks to all Distinguished Council Directors, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, country representatives and other delegates from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, INFOFISH for attending this meeting.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2011 was an eventful year for SEAFDEC. The successful conclusion of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” which was held from 13-17 June 2011 in Bangkok marks another new era for SEAFDEC. This was the second ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference organized and the first was in 2001.

Malaysia, as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council 2011-2012 would like to commend the Department of Fisheries Thailand as the host of the Conference and the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and staff for the successful organization of this Conference.

The Resolution and the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 as endorsed by our Ministers of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries will pave the way for determining the future collaborations between ASEAN and SEAFDEC. As members of SEAFDEC, it is our responsibility to ensure that the Resolution and Plan of Action are

implemented for the benefit of our fisherfolks as well as stakeholders in the region. Besides this, we should seek collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations such as FAO, Sida, Government of Japan, BOBLME, INFOFISH etc. to support activities of SEAFDEC.

I am sure, this 44<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting will discuss and approve the proposed programs and activities especially the ones that are related to management of fisheries sustainably and food security that will be implemented to support the Resolution and Plan of Action. Over the next few days, we will have the opportunity to discuss and deliberate at length on these matters. Malaysia would like to propose that more training programs to be developed especially in the marine capture fisheries to meet the challenges faced in the years to come. I look forward to the continued guidance and support from the SEAFDEC Council Directors in these important deliberations.

On behalf of the SEAFDEC Council, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sympathy to the Government and people of Thailand caused by the flood disaster in 2011 and I pray and hope that the rehabilitation of the damages caused by the tragic disaster has been instituted.

Finally, I would like to thank again to *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, the Deputy Secretary-General, all Department Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs, and their staff for their hard work and dedication during the year and especially in successfully organizing the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Mr. Khin Ko Lay, the Director-General, Department of Fisheries, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and his staff again for hosting this 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, here in Nay Pyi Taw City of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Thank you.

## OPENING REMARKS

*By U Khin Maung Aye  
Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar*

The Honorable SEAFDEC Council Directors,  
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries,  
Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning!

Mingalabar,

It is indeed an honor for me to be here with the distinguished delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries and representatives from international and regional fishery organizations at the opening ceremony of this SEAFDEC Council Meeting. On behalf of the Government of Myanmar, and on my own behalf, I would like to thank SEAFDEC for giving us the chance to host this important SEAFDEC Council Meeting in Myanmar. I would also wish to extend my warmest welcome to all of you, to Nay Pyi Taw, the new Capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

SEAFDEC is the sole regional fishery organization that has been assisting Myanmar in our journey to achieve sustainable development in fisheries. In fact, since Myanmar became a member of SEAFDEC in 1999, we have been getting much privilege especially in terms of human resource development, by participating in various kinds of training and workshops organized by SEAFDEC and conducting research programs and activities in our country. I fully recognize that the programs and activities implemented by SEAFDEC are useful for Myanmar and to the other Member Countries as well.

Fishery production in our region has been dominated by production from marine capture fisheries, followed by aquaculture and inland capture fisheries. Could it be possible that fisheries production from our region is even more than what is shown in our statistics tables? This is one challenge and food for thought for all of us here. It is in this aspect that we should try to rectify our efforts especially in making sure that the true value of our inland capture fisheries is recognized worldwide.

Furthermore, we have seen reports that the fishery resources of our region had been overexploited through irresponsible fishing practices while the fish habitats had been degraded due to human activities that cause environmental pollution. To top this all, we are being confronted with climate change that has affected our fishery industries. This situation has resulted in the slowing down of our economic development especially in the coastal areas where our rural people especially the fisherfolks are getting poorer each day. This is another critical challenge that SEAFDEC and its Member Countries should overcome.

We know that SEAFDEC and the ASEAN tried their best to address these challenges by organizing the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 in June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. Together with the other SEAFDEC Member Countries, Myanmar had actively participated in that important event and we are now taking broad steps towards the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action.

In another development, we should brace and prepare ourselves for the coming establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, especially the integration of the fisheries sector into the three pillars of the ASEAN Community. We should be ready with our resources not only physical but human as well so that by 2015 when our region shall have been transformed into one big community with free movement of goods, services, investments, and skilled labor as well as free

flow of capital. In this case, no Member Country should be left behind. This is therefore an opportune time for us to muster our efforts in addressing the relevant issues especially in terms of enhancing the capacity of our human resources.

In summary, I am sure that we could achieve our goals if we take heed to the provisions and implement the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action.

Nowadays, in fisheries trade, we are being imposed with various requirements on food safety of fisheries products, which we should comply with. This is one area where the assistance of SEAFDEC would be very much needed. I understand that SEAFDEC had been providing the forum where such requirements are discussed and where a common regional stand is developed to address the issues that emanate from such requirements. We would therefore ask SEAFDEC to sustain its role in this particular aspect.

Honorable Council Directors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I wish to inform you that the Government of Myanmar has recently laid down a new policy in economic development in parallel with environmental conservation under our Millennium Development Goals. Under such framework, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is implementing eight tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation with the main objective of improving the living conditions of rural people and alleviating poverty by creating economic opportunities for them.

In Myanmar, the rural people comprise 70 percent of the population and are the main working force where the majority of them are engaged in agriculture, fisheries and livestock raising. Therefore, boosting the production of goods and economic development of the rural areas has been considered the engine of our national economic development. The supporting committees for the development of fisheries and livestock industries are pursuing all efforts to increase production and improve marketing, by closely coordinating with the primary producers of the goods and other stakeholders.

Let me reiterate that the Government of Myanmar is well aware of the important role of fisheries in the food security, and attaining such goal would require strong policy development and management. I am happy to inform you that we are going towards such direction for the benefit of our people especially the fisherfolks.

Last but not least, please allow me to reiterate our gratitude to SEAFDEC for conducting this important Meeting in Myanmar. I hope that the deliberations will be fruitful for the sustainability of SEAFDEC and for the effective implementation of its programs and activities for the benefit of the Member Countries. I also hope that the Meeting will contribute greatly to the sustainable development of fisheries in our region.

In conclusion, I wish that all of you would enjoy and have a pleasant stay in the Golden Land of Myanmar. Now, I hereby declare the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council open.

Thank you and good day!

## OPENING REMARKS

*by U Khin Ko Lay*  
*SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar and*  
*Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2012-2013*

The Honorable Council and Alternate Council Directors,  
The Honorable Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,  
SEAFDEC Department Chiefs,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning!

First of all, please allow me to thank my fellow Council Directors for having confidence in me to Chair the SEAFDEC Council for the next 365 days. Secondly, it is also my great pleasure to extend our warmest welcome to all of you to Myanmar and especially to our new Capital, Nay Pyi Taw. As the Council Director for Myanmar and on behalf of the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar, it is indeed an honor for us to be given this chance of hosting the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

Please allow me also to congratulate the Council Director for Malaysia for his excellent Chairmanship of the SEAFDEC Council from last year until today when the baton was passed to me. During his term, SEAFDEC has attained significant achievements one of which is the successful ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in June 2011 which adopted the new decade Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020.

After Myanmar became a member of SEAFDEC in 1999, we hosted the Council Meeting for the first time in 2002. After 10 years, this is the second time for us to host this important meeting. So I am therefore very glad to meet again lots of my old friends and colleagues from SEAFDEC and the Member Countries.

As we are all aware of, the fishery sector is being confronted with many challenges such as climate change, habitat degradation, decreasing fishery resources, over exploitation, rising demand for energy, negative impacts of aquaculture, and increasing conflicts among resource users. All these factors tend to threaten food security and the livelihoods of our people in this region.

These are some of the several issues that we need to address with much seriousness as the impacts are becoming severe and are now being felt especially by the poor fishers in our region. This is where the Council could play a very crucial role by helping SEAFDEC achieve its goals of promoting the sustainability of fisheries for food security in the Southeast Asian region. Considering that SEAFDEC cannot do it alone, the guidance of the esteemed Council Directors especially at this Meeting is necessary to enable SEAFDEC to fulfill its goals.

Specifically, I am referring to the role of SEAFDEC which is getting more and more important than those of the last decade, especially in addressing the issues that have emerged which hinder the sustainable development of fisheries for food security in our region. It is in this very important aspect that SEAFDEC needs the all out support from the Member Countries as well as from other INGOs and donor organizations. I would therefore suggest that we discuss these matters very thoroughly at this Meeting. I am particularly referring to the effective implementation of the programs and activities of SEAFDEC as well as the structure of the organization which we should look into in order that SEAFDEC could carry out its functions and attain its objectives more efficiently for the benefit of our fisherfolks.

As introduced briefly by our Guest of Honor a while ago, the Government of Myanmar is implementing a Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Program throughout the whole country which aims to reduce poverty up to 16% by 2015. Currently, 26% of the population of Myanmar is living in poverty. As this juncture, Myanmar would like to express much appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing two very important projects in Myanmar. I am talking about the Project on On-site HRD Activities for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security by Fisheries Intervention and the Project on Inland Small-scale Fisheries Management through Right-base Fisheries and Fisheries Co-management, which we recognize as very effective for alleviating poverty of our rural people especially the small-scale fishers, and in enhancing the contribution of fisheries to food security and income generation of our fisherfolks. We should therefore include similar programs in our priority lists, and request SEAFDEC to assist us in pursuing the implementation of such projects in the near future.

As you must have already known, I am not really new to SEAFDEC. During my term as member of the Working Group for Regional Fisheries Policy or WGRFP for Myanmar from 1999 until 2000, I learned so much about the operations of SEAFDEC. Later, I continued to follow up the progress of SEAFDEC activities especially through its program on Regional Fisheries Policy Network or RFPN which replaced the WGRFP, where Myanmar actively participates by designating many of our fishery officers to represent the country in the RFPN. Lately, as I became more actively involved with our Department of Fisheries especially when I was designated as Deputy Director-General and later as the Director-General, I consistently follow-up the activities and operations of SEAFDEC. However, in spite of such experience, I can tell you that I still consider myself an embryo with a long way to go. Nevertheless, during my term as Chairperson of this Council I will try to steer SEAFDEC towards achieving the gigantic task of addressing the many emerging issues that continue to confront our fisheries sector. This is another area where I would need very much the full cooperation and support from my fellow Council Directors. Most of all, I would also need the assistance of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments to enable me to efficiently carry out this load being put on my shoulders and deliver to you the results. I only hope to equal the feat of my predecessor if not surpass his achievements. I am therefore asking for your help and cooperation, and also hope that you will bear with me and my shortcomings during my term as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council.

Lastly, I wish to welcome you again to this Council Meeting and to the New Capital of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw. I myself and my staff will try our best to make your stay and that of our guests here in Nay Pyi Taw, very convenient and enjoyable. If there is something that would be of inconvenience to you, please inform us and please feel free to contact our DOF staff who would be willing to be of help to all of you.

Thank you very much!

## AGENDA

- Agenda 1: Procedural Matters**
- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting
  - 1.2 Election of Chairperson for the Year 2012-2013
  - 1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements of the Meeting
- Agenda 2: Report of the Secretary-General**
- Agenda 3: Note of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Program Committee on the Results of the Thirty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee**
- Agenda 4: Note of the Chairperson of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) on the Results of the Fourteenth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP**
- Agenda 5: Policy Consideration on Important Issues**
- 5.1 Implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action and Way Forward
  - 5.2 International/Regional Fisheries-related Issues
    - 5.2.1 Recommendations for Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species
    - 5.2.2 Combating IUU Fishing
    - 5.2.3 Development of “ASEAN Catch Certification”
  - 5.3 Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA)
  - 5.4 Others
- Agenda 6: Cooperation with International/Regional Organizations and Non-member Governments**
- 6.1 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
  - 6.2 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
  - 6.3 Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Service for Fisheries Products in the Asian and Pacific Region (INFOFISH)
- Agenda 7: Other Matters**
- 7.1 Proposed Establishment of a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia
  - 7.2 Others
- Agenda 8: (Closed Session) Future Direction of SEAFDEC**
- Agenda 9: (Closed Session) Management of the Center**
- 9.1 Adjustment of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)
  - 9.2 Progress of the Third SEAFDEC Review
  - 9.3 Proposed Adjustment of the Modality to Increase the Effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism
  - 9.4 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels
  - 9.5 Collaborative Arrangement between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations



**Agenda 10: (Closed Session) Financial Matters**

- 10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the year 2010
- 10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2011, and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2012
- 10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2013
- 10.4 Other Financial Matters

**Agenda 11: Concluding Matters**

- 11.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement
- 11.2 Date and Venue of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council
- 11.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

**Agenda 12: Closing of the Meeting**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Thirty-fourth Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was held in Manila, Philippines from 14 to 16 November 2011 and hosted by the Aquaculture Department (AQD). The objective of the Meeting was to review the SEAFDEC programs implemented in 2011 and scrutinize the programs to be implemented in 2012, to ensure that the programs are formulated and implemented in line with the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. The Meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC in his capacity as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Program Committee.

The meeting took note of the thirty seven programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2011 which have been classified into: nine Departmental programs, twenty five programs under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Mechanism, and three Other programs. Meanwhile, the meeting endorsed the thirty eight programs proposed to be implemented in 2012, comprising eight Departmental programs, twenty seven programs under the FCG/ASSP, and three Other programs. During the Meeting, the Committee made recommendations to better address emerging issues and to ensure that the programs are appropriately linked with the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action. More particularly, the new Departmental programs of AQD which were proposed to be conducted starting in 2012 had been reformulated from commodity-based into thematic-based to be in line with the aquaculture-related provisions in the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action.

Taking into account the challenges confronting the aquaculture sector (*e.g.* impacts of climate change, diseases and market pressures), aquaculture would remain very promising especially in addressing food security provided that it is sustained and maintained in an eco-friendly manner. In this regard, AQD was asked to put more efforts in reducing dependence on fishmeal as main source of feeds by finding plant-based substitutes. Moreover, while recognizing the importance of small-scale aquaculture enterprise as tool for poverty alleviation in rural areas, outputs of relevant research activities and aquaculture technologies should be disseminated in accessible media while publications and pertinent technical papers should be disseminated through the SEAFDEC mechanism in order to enhance their accessibility.

Furthermore, some important freshwater fish species should be considered for R&D in aquaculture development, while studies on organic aquaculture should also be conducted to address the rising demand for organically produced aquaculture commodities. In addition, the training programs implemented by AQD should be evaluated to ensure their effectiveness. In the formulation and conduct of aquaculture R&D activities, AQD should look into relevant studies conducted by other organizations to avoid possible duplication of efforts and in order that the conduct of activities would not start from scratch. Specifically, AQD should collaborate with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific, which had been promoting “pellet feeds” to small-scale aquaculture farmers.

With due considerations of the species cultured, sources of phyto-proteins should also be carefully studied in terms their applicability, protein efficiency, protein digestibility, and availability. AQD was also requested to provide technical assistance for the development of rural aquaculture in Member Countries particularly Myanmar. With regards to the program on **Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impacts from Fishing** conducted by TD, the possibility of conducting fish handling activities onboard Indonesian vessels should be considered. Meanwhile, translation of publications into local languages especially on awareness building should be promoted for wider distribution of such materials to various levels of audience.



The Committee endorsed the 27 programs under the FCG/ASSP for the Year 2012, which comprise 24 programs continued from 2011 and another three new programs. The Committee noted that program on “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Food Security Towards 2020” was completed in 2011.

Under the program on **Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade-related Issues**, SEAFDEC was requested to conduct in-depth study on the impacts of the EC regulations especially on small-scale fisheries, taking into account the experience of the Member Countries that already implemented the EC regulations, where the positive results could be used as basis for other countries to comply with and implement such regulations in the future, while the negative results could be used as reference in future discussions and negotiations with EC for possible adjustment/modification of the regulations. Moreover, experts from the Member Countries should be invited to share their experiences on the implementation of the EC regulation during the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries Trade-related Issues in 2012. On issues related to combating IUU fishing including Global Record of Fishing Vessels which are associated with trade measures, SEAFDEC was requested to coordinate with RPOA-IUU Secretariat for the development of the guidelines on reducing IUU fishing which could be made compulsory for the region. This is in line with the other FCG/ASSP program on **Promotion on Fishing License, Boats Registration and Port State Measures** in which SEAFDEC was also requested to consider using the FAO Expert Consultation Report on FAO Global Record on Fishing Vessels as reference, and that sharing of information should be promoted among the Member Countries and capacity building should be carried out to make the Member Countries ready for the implementation of the Port State Measures, and in addressing issues related to catch certificate.

For the programs under the **Information Collection of Highly Migratory Species in Southeast Asia Waters: Focusing Tuna**, and **Resource Enhancement of International Threatened and Over-exploited Species in Southeast Asia through Stock Release**, Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to provide assistance on the stock assessment of tuna species in Myanmar waters and also to assist in breeding and culture of seahorse, mud crab and sea cucumber for conservation purposes. Meanwhile, AQD was requested to provide technical assistance on the mariculture of sea bass, sea cucumber and seahorse as well as on other modern techniques for fish culture. Furthermore, regional technical cooperation and HRD on stock assessment of selected aquatic species and on commercially-exploited aquatic species such as hilsa, Indian mackerel, sharks, tuna, sea cucumber, and seahorse among others, should also be carried out under the program on **Promotion of Sustainable and Region-oriented Aquaculture Practices**.

With regards to the program on **Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region**, the Member Countries had been requested to submit updated fishery statistics based on the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia in more timely manner, and ensure the accuracy of capture data through the focal point persons of the ASEAN Fisheries Statistics Network. In this connection, SEAFDEC was also requested to keep the National Coordinators informed when following up such concern with the focal point persons. Nevertheless, even if the SEAFDEC Fishery Statistical Bulletin may not be published on time, SEAFDEC should consider facilitating the dissemination of available statistics through the SEAFDEC website based on the online database of SEAFDEC.

Concerning the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 under the program on **Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2**, the Member Countries were encouraged to make full use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 especially in conducting surveys and exploration activities to be able to compile valuable data that are useful for the analysis of the respective countries' fishery resources. The low utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 could affect the conduct of collaborative projects such as the program on **Fisheries Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asia Including Deep Sea** which aims to establish the status of the fishery resources in this region. In this connection, SEAFDEC was requested to conduct activities on deep sea fishery resource exploration in the waters of Myanmar and provide relevant information that could be used as basis for the

Department of Fisheries of Myanmar to plan its deep sea fisheries resource exploration activities in the future.

For the program on **Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitats/Fishing Grounds through Resource Enhancement**, experts should be engaged to assist Thailand in improving the installation of artificial reefs (ARs) including the appropriate design of ARs and in evaluating the fishery resources around ARs before and after their installation, while the published outputs from R&D on artificial reefs undertaken in Malaysia with various objectives such as preventing trawlers from fishing in coastal areas as well as enhancing the fishery resources and habitats, could be used as reference. Since Malaysia has been conducting studies on the effectiveness and impacts of ARs to the livelihood of fishers, local researchers and engineers from Malaysia working on ARs could be invited to serve as resource persons in any planned SEAFDEC workshop on resource enhancement.

With regards to the program on **Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management**, SEAFDEC should collaborate with international organizations such as the FAO for its Regional Fisheries Livelihood Programme (RFLP) in order to optimize resources and avoid duplication of efforts in implementation of related activities, especially in the promotion of alternative livelihood and in addressing gender issues. In addition, SEAFDEC was requested to support capacity building activities aimed to enhance the knowledge of fisheries officers of the Member Countries on the concept and theoretical framework of co-management and rights-based fisheries for fisheries resource management.

The Committee took note of the **three new programs under the FCG/ASSP** proposed for the 2012, namely: 1) Climate Change and Its Impacts on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation Towards Food Security; 2) Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management; and 3) Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management.

For the program on **“Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management”**, the proposal has been submitted to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in 2007 and is expected to be officially approved for funding by the IDB starting in 2012. To complete the procedure for official approval of the proposal by the IDB, the ASEAN Secretariat was asked to coordinate with SEAFDEC and the eligible participating countries for the remaining processes to facilitate the implementation of the project in 2012.

For the program on **Climate Change and Its Impacts on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation Towards Food Security**, the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility (AU-TATF) has planned to conduct a meeting as an initial activity tentatively in February 2012, to discuss and formulate the activities that should be undertaken under this program. However, financial support to be provided by the AU-TATF for the conduct of future activities would be based on the outputs and recommendations of the said initial meeting.

The Other programs proposed for 2012, comprise three continuing programs from 2011, namely: 1) Cetacean Research in Southeast Asian Waters: Cetacean Sighting; and 2) Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Boats; and 3) Promotion of Inland Small-scale Fisheries Management through Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Approaches. In this regard, SEAFDEC/TD is requested to consider expanding its HRD activities to include the coastal areas of the countries under the “Promotion of Inland Small-scale Fisheries Management through Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Approaches”. In this regard, the guidelines on safety at sea for small fishing boats which had been published in the Thai language should be translated into other languages of the Southeast Asian region.



The Meeting took note of a pipeline project on the **Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (UNEP/GEF/SCS)** which is still under discussion and negotiation with potential donor agencies. Due to the changes in the GEF funding component of the program, the proposal was revised by SEAFDEC and submitted to UNEP in June 2011. In this regard, the Member Countries were requested to submit their respective letters of endorsement to UNEP by the end of 2011 so that UNEP could submit the proposal to GEF for project approval. As the submission process for funding support from GEF has been prolonged for several years, the SEAFDEC Secretariat was requested to follow up with UNEP and keep the Member Countries informed on the status of the project proposal.

With regards to the development of the **Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA)** which was submitted to the Program Committee for consideration, the representative from FAO/RAP suggested that if the publication could be finished within six months before the next COFI meeting, this could be very useful to facilitate the preparation of the global review as this publication is expected to reflect a science-based analysis of the fisheries at the regional level. In addition, SEASOFIA could also support the development of the State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) by FAO as well as enhance the rationalization of fisheries information of the region which could be properly reflected in the global perspective. In this regard, SEAFDEC was also requested to consider developing this publication periodically and on a regular basis.

On the program/activities structure of SEAFDEC, an apprehension was expressed that some activities could have been misclassified and conducted by Departments that were not supposed to carry out such activities in accordance with their functions. In addition, some activities which are of common interest to Member Countries such as tuna fisheries and IUU fishing, among others, could be grouped in the report so that a clearer picture of the situation of such fisheries and practices in the region would be clearly understood. In such a situation, the Agenda of the Program Committee Meeting could be restructured in order that reporting of activities could be grouped based on the Program Thrusts of SEAFDEC.

#### **REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council is requested to consider and endorse the results of the program implementation in 2011 and the proposed programs for 2012, including the recommendations made at the Thirty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee. The Council is also invited to provide directives to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments on important areas for the improvement of program formulation, monitoring and evaluation to ensure that enhanced benefits could be derived by the Member Countries from the implementation of such programs.

**Annex 7**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF FISHERIES  
CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
(FCG/ASSP)**

The Fourteenth Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was held from 17 to 18 November 2011 in Manila, Philippines. The Meeting was co-chaired by the representative from Cambodia on behalf of the Chairperson of the ASEAN-Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) and the SEAFDEC Secretary-General. The Meeting provided views and recommendations for the efficient and effective implementation of programs, projects and activities under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism.

The Meeting noted the follow-up actions carried out by SEAFDEC in response to the directives given at the Thirteenth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP held in December 2010, the Forty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2011, as well as at the meetings of the ASEAN bodies that discussed issues related to fisheries. Specifically with regards to CITES-related issues, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD has already submitted a three-year project on sharks and rays for funding support by the Japanese Trust Fund from 2012. Moreover, the ASEAN has planned to convene a meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) in early 2012 to discuss relevant issues and prepare the ASEAN Member States for the forthcoming 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the CITES.

Since it is expected that the proposal on “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management” would soon receive the official approval for funding support from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the ASEAN Secretariat was asked to coordinate with SEAFDEC Secretariat and eligible countries to complete the remaining processes for the implementation of the project in 2012 in order to facilitate eventual approval of the proposed project by IDB. For the effective implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, the ASEAN Secretariat was requested to communicate with the “Plus Three” countries and other prospective funding sources to follow-up their commitment for possible support, and to explore possible ways of developing activities that would support the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action. In addition, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries should prioritize the requirements spelled out in the Plan of Actions into short-, medium- and long-term plans/activities that could be implemented in respective countries. Meanwhile, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the activities of SEAFDEC that aim to combat IUU fishing in the region, SEAFDEC should continue to coordinate with the RPOA-IUU for the formulation and implementation of relevant programs to ensure that such programs would complement with those of the RPOA-IUU and avoid duplication of efforts.

The Meeting endorsed the progress and achievements of the programs implemented in 2011 under the FCG/ASSP and the programs proposed for 2012, as previously discussed and endorsed by the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee. More particularly, the 25 programs implemented in 2011 would be continued in 2012 except the Program on “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020” which was successfully completed in 2011. Regarding the two pipeline projects proposed as new activities under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism for 2012, namely: 1) Climate Change and Its Impacts on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation Towards Food Security; and 2) Enhance Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resource Management, the representatives attending the Meeting were requested to bring back the proposals on these two projects to their respective national governments for consideration and endorsement at the forthcoming meeting of the ASWGF<sub>i</sub>

Furthermore, the new project on “Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management” which would be supported by FAO/GEF with SEAFDEC as the regional facilitating unit and executing partner, should also be brought up during the next meeting of the ASWGFi for collaboration, implementation and incorporation into the FCG/ASSP programs. While noting the proposed organization of an initial consultation with the public and private sector by the ASEAN Secretariat with support from the AU-TATF, which aimed to discuss and recommend future activities that would be implemented under the program on “Climate Change and Its Impacts on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation towards Food Security”, the Meeting recommended that any possible linkage of such program with the activities being undertaken under the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AFCC) should be clarified.

Considering that fishery resources in the region had deteriorated and that restoration of the resources would be necessary, SEAFDEC was requested to provide technical support in the resource rehabilitation efforts of depleted fishing areas in the region, *e.g.* installation/deployment of artificial reefs, establishment of Marine Protected Areas, promotion of the concept of fisheries *refugia*, deployment of fish enhancement devices, and for SEAFDEC to also enhance regional collaboration for the implementation of such activities. Moreover, a clear regional implementation plan should be put in place in order that such rehabilitation strategies could be effectively carried out.

On the need to conduct a review of the regional implications of EC Regulation 1005/2008 as expressed by the Meeting, sharing of information and experiences among countries in the region on the implementation of catch certification should be enhanced. The development of the ASEAN Catch Certification scheme should also be initiated but should be consistent with the EU Catch Certificate scheme. SEAFDEC was then requested to explore the possibility of incorporating the development of the ASEAN Catch Certification scheme into its existing relevant programs, and to organize a workshop to discuss the relevant issues. The ASEAN Member States should also convey this matter to the forthcoming meeting of the ASWGFi for consideration and support.

Regarding the “Outputs of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020”, in addition to the adopted 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, two volumes of the Conference Proceedings are being prepared for publication by SEAFDEC. Since the existing programs of SEAFDEC should be aligned with the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, some re-grouping or re-formulation in terms of broader aspects under the SEAFDEC Program Framework may have to be carried out taking into consideration important regional issues indicated in the Plan of Action and the revised programs should be incorporated into the FCG/ASSP Mechanism. SEAFDEC was also requested to assist the Member Countries in the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action.

With regards to the status of the concept proposals to support the implementation of the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework”, the Meeting supported the organization by the ASEAN of initial activities in early 2012 such as the public-private sector consultation. The Meeting also took note of the progress of the activities under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) as reported during the 3<sup>rd</sup> AFCF Meeting on 26 April 2011 in Cambodia.

On the activities under the “ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)”, the representative from Vietnam suggested that the culture environment aspect under the “Animal Health and Welfare” in the ASA should be clarified and that guidance for implementation of this aspect should be proposed and discussed at the next meetings of ASA, considering that the aspect on “Animal Health and Welfare” has already been incorporated in the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.

With regards to the possible adjustment of the “Modality to Increase the Effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism”, the SEAFDEC Secretariat in close coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat was requested to develop the necessary proposal with possible options to enhance the modality and increase the effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism, taking into consideration the recommendations during this FCG/ASSP Meeting. The proposal should be submitted to the forthcoming meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi for consideration and further guidance.

Notwithstanding financial considerations, the “Establishment of the Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development” under SEAFDEC proposed by the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, received support from the Meeting as such establishment would help in promoting sustainable inland fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region, and could benefit the Member Countries, especially Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

Regarding the commendable initiative of SEAFDEC in preparing the “Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture” or SEASOFIA, SEAFDEC was encouraged to sustain the publication in the future. SEAFDEC was also requested to coordinate with FAO in order that the relevant issues and information of the Southeast Asian region contained in the SEASOFIA, could be reflected in the global State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) developed by FAO.

The full Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP was adopted on 18 November 2011.





## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2011 RESOLUTION AND PLAN OF ACTION AND WAY FORWARD

### I. INTRODUCTION

The outputs of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” in June 2011 included the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 or the so-called “the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action”, which were adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

As a follow-up, the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action would be implemented in different layers of activities at local, national and regional levels. While the Member Countries would implement local and national activities, SEAFDEC would focus on regional activities to support the Member Countries in the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action.

With the main objective of enhancing the awareness of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, relevant agencies/institutions/organizations and donor agencies on the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, the Inception Workshop on Follow-up Activities to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 was organized on 4-5 July 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop also reviewed the existing activities/initiatives undertaken in the Southeast Asian region in line with the Resolution and Plan of Action; and facilitated the planning and implementation of activities by relevant agencies, institutions and organizations at various levels. During the Workshop, the participants identified the priority issues to be addressed in ensuring sustainable fisheries development and enhancing the contribution of fisheries to food security in the Southeast Asian region, which have been summarized and shown in **Appendix 1**.

During the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting Program Committee in November 2011, the Committee was informed that the SEAFDEC programs have been linked accordingly with the provisions in the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, and noted the progress made by some countries in the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action.

- Malaysia conducted a national workshop on the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, the results of which included proposed project activities in line with the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, and which would be submitted to the Government of Malaysia for funding support.
- Cambodia had translated the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action into the Khmer language for wider dissemination and to enable the stakeholders to implement relevant activities at the national level. The progress of the activity would be reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and other policy making bodies of the country.
- Myanmar will implement the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action based on the prioritized areas of fisheries-related issues to support the promotion of sustainable fisheries, food security and food safety in line with the efforts at regional level.

Moreover, the Program Committee suggested that relevant activities at the national level should also be linked with the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, and in order to facilitate reporting of the implementation of the 2011 Plan of Action, SEAFDEC was asked to develop a format of the report highlighting on the activities implemented by the Member Countries. The objectives of this working paper therefore, are to report the progress of implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action, and provide the suggested draft format of the report format on implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council. The report format covers relevant provisions of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action which are deemed



priority at the national level, the corresponding projects/programs to address such issues as well as recommendations for future development/improvement of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action based on the perspectives from the implementation of activities at local/national level. The draft report format appears as **Appendix 2**.

## **II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council is requested to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action by the Member Countries and SEAFDEC.

**SUMMARY OF THE PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPANTS<sup>1</sup>  
THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND  
ENHANCE THE CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES TO FOOD SECURITY**

**I. MARINE/COASTAL FISHERIES**

**1.1 Planning and Information**

- (1) Conduct of a regional training program and regular technical meeting to increase the number of people capable of interpreting national/regional data
- (2) Expand the coverage of data/information to include fishery labor dimensions (fishers)
- (3) Include import-export data on marine fishery products (where presently these are not cover because some Member Countries are unable to provide the data)
- (4) Incorporate ecological/environmental data into fishery data, in order to support national policy and planning
- (5) Provide information in the user-friendly format for decision-makers/stakeholders to easily understand such information
- (6) Provide technical assistance on the usage of GIS and HRD activities on spatial (zoning) planning
- (7) Improve the reliability of statistical data collection at landing sites

**1.2 Fisheries Management**

- (1) Develop regional guidelines on fishing license, boat registration and port state measure to combat IUU fishing
- (2) Develop common terminology on fishing vessel registration based on the global fishing record
- (3) Develop national database center (by Member Countries) on fishing vessel that kept history and its fishing activities to support regional database/mechanism to combat IUU fishing
- (4) Conduct awareness program for the fishery sector on the aspect of IUU fishing particularly to fishery managers (of the fishery authorities) and entrepreneurs/fishing communities
- (5) Promote market based management to combat IUU fishing and/or eco-labeling
- (6) Promote the application of good governance approach in fishery (*e.g.* co-management, right-based fisheries) in the region
- (7) Promote the importance of safety at sea at all levels through information dissemination and training programs
- (8) Encourage the sharing experiences based on local knowledge on fisheries management among countries in the region through training/workshop or available media
- (9) Encourage local government units to promote the use of by-catch devices by conducting on-site training programs to keep them aware on the significance of sustainable fisheries (*e.g.* use of JTED in addressing excessive catch of juvenile fish)
- (10) Create alternative means of livelihoods by supporting small-scale aquaculture especially on herbivorous species
- (11) Optimize socio-economic returns and food security for small-scale stakeholders through value addition and market promotion of the fishery products
- (12) Assess the fuel consumed by the fishing sector (vessels/gears) and carbon emitted by fishing boats, and identify and promote the use of alternative energy for fishing activities

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<sup>1</sup> Inception Workshop on Follow-up Activities to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 was organized on 4-5 July 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand



- (13) Develop regional guidelines for management of commercial marine fish species

### **1.3 Optimum Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products**

- (1) Apply hygienic practices to improve fish handling along the whole supply chain from landing to retail markets
- (2) Develop consumer guidelines on good quality fish and fishery products through expert consultation
- (3) Enhance cooperation among relevant authorities on health and quality concerns through Mutual Recognition Agreement
- (4) Develop regional guidelines on the employment practices in fish processing industries

### **1.4 Fish Trade**

- (1) Study supply chain (marketing channel) of fishery products and improve local fish marketing systems
- (2) Promote community fish marketing system at the production sites (to improve income of the fishers)
- (3) Establish market information network for fisheries in the region
- (4) Conduct regular survey on consumer purchasing power and consumers' choice
- (5) Develop regional guidelines for halal fishery products

### **1.5 Regional and International Policy Formulation**

- (1) Create common understanding through information exchange mechanism and establish strong common stand among Member Countries on international fisheries related-issues such as WTO fishery subsidies process, CITES, Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) process, etc., and identify the need for collaboration among Member Countries

## **II. INLAND FISHERIES**

### **2.1 Planning and Information**

- (1) Improve information/statistics and better understanding on inland fisheries (current inland fishery statistics is underestimated)
  - Review, adopt and implement methodologies (*e.g.* in empowering of local people in wetland management through Tai-Baan research program and Salaphom initiatives in the Lower Mekong Basin) to enhance the collection and dissemination of inland fishery statistics/information, *e.g.* by involving local people and other stakeholders (*e.g.* private sector, NGOs, etc.) in data/information collection, which will be useful to improve management practices
  - Promote and enhance awareness of local people and stakeholders on the need to improve the livelihood (income benefit and food security)
  - Incorporating information from census, research, survey (fish consumption), and indigenous/local knowledge (such as habitat, bio-diversity, migration) with statistics data to provide more realistic figures and better understanding on inland fisheries
  - Develop simple indicators such as CPUE (taking into consideration EAF) for inland fisheries in order to get better picture on the status and trends of the fisheries
- (2) Enhance awareness of public and private sector on the importance of inland fisheries (presently inland fisheries sub-sector is generally given lower priority compared to other development sectors)
  - Improve the presentation/dissemination of available data/information to policy makers and planners in an easily understandable form in order to be easily used for the development and implementation of activities in poverty alleviation and food security

- Quantify the contribution from freshwater ecosystem services, including fishery and other activities, in terms of livelihood and economy benefits
- (3) Conserve habitats
  - Map vulnerable inland ecosystems that need to be conserved/protected (*e.g.* deep pools for preserving brooders especially during dry season) to ensure sustainable availability of resources, and establish mechanism (*e.g.* local system with support from government) for the protection/management of these vulnerable ecosystems

## 2.2 Fisheries Management

- (1) Enhance inland fisheries production
  - Improve technology/methodology to enhance the integration/harmonization of inland fisheries with other activities/sectors, *e.g.* rice field (need environmental-friendly agriculture technology), water management (reservoirs, irrigation-water flow scheme)
  - Study the capacity of fishing gears, in order to come up with basis for fisheries management
  - Develop and promote the use of environmental-friendly, selective gears/practices that are appropriate for inland fisheries (in relation to species and habitats)
  - Apply/enforce appropriate fisheries-related regulations, *e.g.* regulated gears, areas and seasonality, based on scientific information (*e.g.* spawning grounds, seasonality, and other factors affecting spawner and juvenile population) such as deep pools, dry season refuge)
  - Review the practicality/appropriateness of laws/regulations, taking into consideration the situation of fishing grounds, and demonstrate the benefit that could be derived from enforcing such laws/regulations to fisherfolk's income and livelihood in a long-term basis
  - Conduct study on the effectiveness of fish restocking program to natural habitats (stocking strategy, size, species, etc.) in terms of cost-benefit, resource enhancement taking into account the carrying capacity of the habitats
  - Promote inland aquaculture taking into consideration the natural geographical habitats and the availability of seedstocks and fish throughout the year
- (2) Co-management
  - Promote co-management for inland fisheries, and enhance participation of all stakeholders in protection and sustainable utilization of fishery resources
  - Promote alternative livelihood (*e.g.* eco-tourism, etc.) to reduce pressure and negative impacts from fishing activities to resources and the environment
- (3) Regional management
  - Enhance coordination among concerned countries and agencies (such as MRC, WWF) in research (including data collection, monitoring and evaluation) and management for transboundary freshwater ecosystems, *e.g.* Mekong River

## 2.3 Optimal Utilization, Post-harvest Practices and Trade

- (1) Utilization of trade of inland fishery products
  - Ensure year-round availability of fish and fishery products by improving post-harvest and preservation technologies (considering seasonal variation of production)
  - Improve the quality of traditional fish products to meet food security and safety requirements
  - Improve marketing and returns from fish and fishery products to fishers, *e.g.* development of value-added products



## **2.4 Regional and International Policy Formulation**

- (1) Regional coordination and policy formulation
  - Establish regional center, specifically working on sustainable inland fisheries development (*e.g.* as department under SEAFDEC framework)
  - Enhance coordination among organizations/institutions working on issues relevant to inland fisheries

## **2.5 Cross-cutting Issues**

- (1) Lack of expertise (experts) in inland fisheries (the big difference among the various inland ecosystems (*e.g.* riverine, lake, floodplain, swamps) makes expertise in certain areas not applicable for other areas)
  - Develop more expertise in the areas/subjects on freshwater ecology/limnology, population dynamics, fisheries management, ecosystem services and valuation, at various levels (local, national and regional)
  - Seek cooperation with agencies that have the required expertise (*e.g.* MRC, WWF, and Wetland alliance) to enhance HRD activities, specifically for inland fisheries
- (2) Climate change
  - Conduct proper/sufficient documentation on the effects of climate changes on inland fisheries
  - Study the influence of climate change on inland fisheries, taking into consideration available data from fisheries and non-fisheries agencies, and take appropriate measures to mitigate the impacts from climate change to inland fisheries

## **III. AQUACULTURE**

### **3.1 Enhance the Role of Aquaculture in Rural Development**

- (1) Conduct policy assessment to identify mechanisms, infrastructure that support socially equitable fish production/livelihood programs by government, NGOs and other relevant organizations
  - Review of existing policies
  - Set up the solutions
  - Craft guidelines

### **3.2 Inequitable Distribution of Opportunities and Benefits, Leaving Behind Small-scale Farmers**

- (1) Adopt and implement the concept of community-based or cluster approach and or cluster approach and consequently to develop rural aquaculture by government and small-scale farmers
  - Disseminate knowledge and technologies

### **3.3 Compliance to Standards and Requirements of Importing Countries and Enhance the Quality of Local Aquaculture Products**

- (1) Harmonize ASEAN guidelines on GAqP, come up with GAqP guidelines for high and low value species by ASEAN-SEAFDEC countries and other organizations
  - Categorize the scale of aquaculture based on market potential, quality-based, marketability

### **3.4 Farmers Not Fully Aware on Importance of Food Safety for Aquaculture Products**

- (1) Promote the application of GAqP by government in partnership with private sector and farmers
  - Conduct intensive campaign on the importance of food safety and GAqP
  - Strengthen the capacity (financial and knowledge) of farmers to enable them to meet the standards

- Encourage Member Countries to comply with FAO Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification

### **3.5 Fast-track the Search for Alternative Protein Source through R&D**

- (1) Promote closer collaboration among Member Countries and R&D institutions and on-site training for farmers at all levels including small-scale farmers on efficient and healthy feeding management practices as well as cost-efficient and healthy feeding management by government and private R&D institutions and farmers
  - Facilitate information sharing, particularly on progress of research on alternative protein source and development of quality feeds-nutritious, cost effective, and less polluting

### **3.6 Aquatic Animal Disease which Remains a Problem**

- (1) Conduct capacity building for aquatic animal health by Government and private sector, and regional laboratories (*e.g.* AAHRI) and farmers
  - Conduct of on-site training and hands-on training
  - Conduct R&D on disease diagnostic, control and prevention

### **3.7 Importance of Biosecurity Especially in Domestication of Stocks**

- (1) Monitor closely at national and regional levels/surveillance of disease transmission should be linked to biosecurity and promote information sharing on pathogens transboundary movement by government and private sector, and regional laboratories (*e.g.* AAHARI) and farmers
  - Set up surveillance system
  - Establish national laboratories for fish disease

### **3.8 Address Poor Quality of Aquatic Seeds and Broodstocks**

- (1) More R&D efforts on domestication, selective breeding and other genetic improvement approaches to improve stocks by government and private sector hatcheries, research institutions and agencies and farmers
  - R&D on development of improved stocks
  - Technology verification
  - Transfer of technology

### **3.9 Long-term Breeding Program**

- (1) Set up program for exchange of genetic resources among Member Countries by regional organizations, government, NGOs and private sector
  - Establish network among Member Countries and regional organization on breeding program
  - Develop regional guidelines on exchanges of genetic resources (important however to strictly follow existing international guidelines)
- (2) Enhance the capacity of hatchery operators to properly maintain stocks (emphasis on genetic management) at farm level by government and private sector hatcheries, research institutes
  - Set up standard guidelines for hatchery operators

### **3.10 Over Development of Aquaculture; Indiscriminate Aquaculture Practices**

- (1) Conduct more research to assess the effects of aquaculture on the environment by governments, NGOs, private sector and research institutes
  - Implement regulations on responsible management of aquaculture (*e.g.* GAqP, BMP)
  - Develop national regulation on licensing of aquaculture farms
  - Proper zoning of aquaculture sites



- (2) Enhance knowledge of farmers on environment-friendly aquaculture practices by governments, NGOs, private sector, research institutes
  - Intensify information dissemination through IEC

### **3.11 Impacts of Climate Change on Aquaculture**

- (1) Develop capacity to conduct risk assessment (identify risk) and management by R&D organizations in collaborations with Member Countries
  - Research to assess the impacts of climate change on species (*e.g.* reproduction, survival and growth, tolerance to diseases)

### **3.12 Stocks/Strains Adaptable to Climate Change Need to be Developed**

- (1) Develop species and strains that are tolerant to changes in environmental condition (*e.g.* temperature/salinity fluctuations) by R&D organizations in collaboration with Member Countries
  - R&D on ecological and physiological aspects on target and candidate species and strains

### **3.13 Impacts of Aquaculture Management on Climate Change**

- (1) Assess and mitigate impacts of aquaculture management on environment by R&D organizations in collaboration with Member Countries
  - Improve aquaculture engineering and design
  - Mapping of aquaculture sites vulnerable to environmental changes (*e.g.* site selection)
  - R&D on carbon footprints from aquaculture
  - R&D to reduce greenhouse gas emission from aquaculture activities (*e.g.* promote use of alternative energy sources, utilization of mangroves)
  - Training for all sectors (especially farmers) to increase their capacity to adapt to climate change

### **3.14 Gender Development**



**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2011 RESOLUTION AND PLAN OF ACTION**

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Period covered: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution no.	Relevant Plan of Action	Program/activities title	Duration	Lead agency and collaborating partners	Program description and expected outputs	Achievement and lesson learnt



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL  
CONSULTATION ON ADDRESSING TECHNICAL ISSUES ON  
COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Regional Technical Consultation on Addressing Technical Issues on Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species was organized by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department from 18 to 20 October 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand to: (1) build awareness of the SEAFDEC Member Countries on CITES issues related to commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEASs); (2) review the existing data, status and trend of selected CEASs; (3) provide the forum to enable the Member Countries to discuss and develop common position on CEASs which could be reflected in relevant international fora; and (4) promote regional cooperation on the conservation and management of selected CEASs. The Consultation was attended by national delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments as well as a representative from the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia Pacific also attended the Consultation.

The Consultation noted the conservation efforts of SEAFDEC on concerned aquatic species which focused on sharks, tunas, sea cucumber as well as the progress of the enhancement programs on seahorse, sea cucumber and humphead wrasse. With regards to CITES related issues, particularly on the process of listing aquatic species in CITES Appendices, the Consultation expressed the following concerns:

- 1) Difficulty in species identification from exported products (*e.g.* tuna meat, juvenile tunas, and shark fins);
- 2) Some species listed under CITES Appendices are caught as incidental catch from trawl fisheries due to the multi-species nature of fisheries in Southeast Asia where large number of small-scale fishers involved in fishing operations;
- 3) National statistics framework does not seem to facilitate data collection by species resulting in lack of data and information for management purposes; and
- 4) Weak enforcement of national legislations that regulate management and trade of the concerned species.

Considering that several RFMOs and relevant national agencies are also pursuing efforts to ensure sustainable exploitation of aquatic species by regulating trade to ensure the sustainable utilization of resources including the collection of data and information through their respective statistical frameworks, a regional cooperation through the existing mechanisms should be strengthened to facilitate the exchange of information and avoid duplication of efforts. Meanwhile, the participation of fisheries-related authorities in CITES related meetings and discussions should be enhanced to reinforce the arguments of the countries in the region and augment relevant information on the commercially-exploited aquatic species. Since in previous CoP-CITES most representatives from the ASEAN came from environment-related agencies, a situation which makes it difficult to coordinate and convey the arguments that emanate from the fisheries sector through the said representatives, the SEAFDEC-ASEAN Member Countries should consider supporting the participation of their respective fisheries-related authorities in future CoP-CITES starting with the forthcoming CoP16-CITES in 2013, to be able to reflect the stance from the fisheries point of view in such fora.

## **Recommendations for Regional Collaboration and Cooperation on the Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species Related to CITES**

The Key Recommendations for Future Regional Collaborations on the Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species Related to CITES which were adopted during the Regional Technical Consultation are shown in **Appendix 1**.

Moreover, in spite of the fact that some progress on scientific data collection had been made by the Member Countries, the region still lacks specific mechanisms or tools for sharing such existing scientific data. The Consultation therefore suggested that the Member Countries should enhance their cooperation and develop a platform for discussion of the relevant issues scientifically, and that the ASEAN Working Group on CITES should be one of the means where regional cooperation could be enhanced and where the efforts of the ASEAN countries could be reflected.

## **II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council is requested to endorse the key Recommendations for Future Regional Collaborations on the Selected Commercially-Exploited Aquatic Species Related to CITES, as well as to provide comments; and policy direction on enhancing the collaboration among the ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC with respect to the aforementioned concern.

## **KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

*Regional Technical Consultation on Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species  
18-20 October 2011, Bangkok, Thailand*

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Issues on the sustainable fishery management of commercially-exploited aquatic species have been discussed at SEAFDEC Meetings for many years, and at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Council Directors of SEAFDEC in April 2011, “SEAFDEC was requested to identify the technical problems on CITES faced by all Member Countries and provide the information to the CITES Secretariat to make them aware of the situation and concerns of the Member Countries before the next CoP16-CITES in 2013”. Responding to such directive, SEAFDEC organized the Regional Technical Consultation on Addressing of Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species in October 2011 with the main objective of identifying the technical problems encountered by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on commercially-exploited aquatic species related to CITES issues.

Specifically, the status and trends of the selected commercially-exploited aquatic species such as sharks-rays, sea cucumber, seahorse, humphead wrasse, including some inland aquatic species such as the Irrawaddy dolphin were discussed during the Consultation. The following concerns on the fisheries management and conservation of the selected commercially-exploited aquatic species were raised during the Consultation, which needs to be addressed:

#### **1.1 Insufficiency of data and information to support decision-making on proper management measures**

- Species under international concerns are sometimes caught as by-catch and being caught in small quantity, which cannot be segregated from total catch;
- Difficulty in identifying species and recording of catch landing by species due to inadequate human resource capacity;
- Data and information available on catch landing may not be reliable as many fishers are unable to provide the necessary information because of capacity problem and also due to illegal fishing practices; and
- Limited capacity and methodologies for stock assessment, especially for the multi-species nature of fisheries in the region.

#### **1.2 Trade**

- Species in CITES Appendices are usually traded in small quantities (mixed with other species) and inspection of specimens by custom officers is usually done at random, which makes implementation of CITES rules not practical;
- Unavailability of tagging methodologies for certain species (*e.g.* seahorse, corals) that are imported and re-exported; and
- Application for farm registration and certification for cultured species under CITES Appendices (*e.g.* Arowana farms) need long process for approval by the CITES Secretariat, stimulating continued illegal trade of many restricted species (*e.g.* juvenile golden Arowana mistaken as silver Arowana).

### 1.3 CITES-related issues

- Possibility of listing certain species in CITES Appendices, which are not endangered with extinction, or likely to become so, including (but not limited to) look-alike species;
- Difficulty of down-listing or de-listing of species even if the resources could have already recovered; and
- Impacts of the CITES system for management of aquatic species under CITES, which could possibly bring about various adverse effects to the regional/local fisheries communities

## II. KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE REGIONAL COLLABORATION

In order to support decision-making on the proper management of commercially-exploited aquatic species or/and endangered species listed in the CITES Appendices, the key issues and recommendations for future regional collaboration including HRD requirements are as follows:

Key Issues/ Concerns	Recommendations	Priority of Action	HRD Requirements
Collection of scientific data on status and trends of selected commercially-exploited aquatic species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compile historical data from relevant agencies on trends of national catch and production (within and outside EEZ);</li> <li>2. Develop fishing data collection system from fishers and markets, if necessary;</li> <li>3. Identify critically important commercially-exploited aquatic species (at appropriate species level and other data items);</li> <li>4. Harmonize and improve national statistics systems and capacity for the collection data on catch including endangered species or selected commercially-exploited aquatic species;</li> <li>5. Conduct periodic biological data collection;</li> <li>6. Develop national and regional database for long term assessment and prediction of fisheries trends; and</li> <li>7. Identify and define the origin of catch/production by species</li> </ol>	Immediate and long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on species identification (based on selected commercially-exploited aquatic species);</li> <li>• Training on biological data collection; and</li> <li>• Fishing Logbook, Catch documentation schemes</li> </ul>
Inadequate stock/catch assessment of selected commercially-exploited species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote the conduct national stock/catch assessment for selected target species (such as tuna, identified sharks) in order to support the regional stock assessment managed by RFMOs;</li> <li>2. Establish the Regional Working Group on Stock Assessment (tuna, identified sharks);</li> <li>3. Implement Ecosystem Approach to fisheries</li> </ol>	Immediate and long term	
Development of coordinating mechanism between fisheries sector and agencies involved in CITES-related issues at country level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the gap of communication/coordination;</li> <li>2. Clarify the list of focal point of both agencies;</li> <li>3. Enhance coordination; and</li> <li>4. Enhance the role/function of fisheries authority in the CITES venues</li> </ol>	Immediate and long term	
Involvement of representatives for fisheries sector in CITES discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage the participation of countries' fisheries authorities in CITES-related meetings (CoP-CITES, CITES Animals and Standing Committees, Committees' on-line inter-sessional discussions)</li> </ol>	Immediate and long term	

Technical problems within CITES system itself	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and implement appropriate fisheries management measures on important species so that CITES regulations may no longer be necessary;</li> <li>2. Examine whether proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species in CITES Appendices is really justified and necessary;</li> <li>3. Share information on unjustified proposals among SEAFDEC Member Countries for collaborative action;</li> <li>4. Ensure that scientific evidences such as biomass level for MSY are adequately evaluated in the proposals;</li> <li>5. Evaluate the application of look-alike provisions in the CITES regulation; and</li> <li>6. Assess the interpretation of criteria for inclusion of species in CITES Appendices which should be appropriate and clear.</li> </ol>	Immediate and long term	
Various adverse impacts of CITES listings to regional/local communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate the impacts of the proposed listings at the proposal stage and share the results of the evaluation among Countries concerned; and</li> <li>2. Develop and improve data collection and analysis systems to ensure appropriate implementation of CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDF).</li> </ol>	Medium and long term action	Training on NDF
Promotion of conservation/management measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review status and trends, and conduct assessment of fish stocks;</li> <li>2. Define the appropriate fisheries management measures based on the results of stock assessment;</li> <li>3. Enhance national policies and legal framework to support the enforcement and implementation of the various measures; and</li> <li>4. Adjust national legislations accordingly, if necessary.</li> </ol>	Medium and long term action	
Stock enhancement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focus on identified priority species when initiating stock assessment activities;</li> <li>2. Share experiences among the ASEAN countries on successful aquaculture and stock enhancement technologies (<i>e.g.</i> artificial breeding) of giant catfish, Arowana, seahorse, giant clams, corals, sea cucumbers, and others;</li> <li>3. Promote the conservation of ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSA) such as nursery areas through the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) and/or other measures; and</li> <li>4. Implement rehabilitation programs in EBSA such as critical fishing grounds and habitats.</li> </ol>	Medium and long term action	
Participation of SEAFDEC in CITES-related fora	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Issue official communications (from SEAFDEC to CITES Secretariat) to enable SEAFDEC to take part in CITES Animals and Standing Committees discussions as well as during the Committees' on-line inter-sessional discussions</li> </ol>	Medium and long term action	

### 3. SCHEDULE OF PREPARATORY WORKS FOR THE COP16-CITES

As discussed during the October 2011 Consultation, SEAFDEC-ASEAN Member Countries should consider supporting the participation of their respective fisheries-related authorities in future CoP-CITES starting with the forthcoming CoP16-CITES in 2013. The following schedule should be taken into consideration by the Member Countries to prepare their respective representatives for the CoP16-CITES

Period	Activity	Remarks
October - December 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize Summary of technical problems encountered by SEAFDEC Member Countries/Report of the RTC on <i>Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species</i></li> </ul>	All Member Countries including Singapore
December 2011 - January 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Advisory Committee Meeting: Establishment of the Stock Assessment Working Group (for tuna, sharks, others)</li> </ul>	
February 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of Report of RTC on <i>Addressing Technical Issues Related to Selected Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species</i></li> </ul>	To SEAFDEC Council
15-20 March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation of SEAFDEC in the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Animals Committee (March 2012) and Joint Meeting of Animals and Plants Committee (subject to availability of funds)</li> </ul>	SEAFDEC Secretary-General together with Policy and Program Coordinator
January - September 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compilation of results of R&amp;D activities on selected commercially exploited aquatic species in the ASEAN region (review all results if appropriate)</li> </ul>	Designation of country focal points on specific target species
23-27 July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAFDEC Participation to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Standing Committee (subject to availability of funds)</li> </ul>	To be confirmed
October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert Meeting to discuss the proposed list of commercially-exploited aquatic species (Review of proposals on inclusion of commercially-exploited aquatic species in CITES Appendices to be submitted to the CoP16-CITES)</li> </ul>	Date to be confirmed
November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RTC on International Fish Trade and CITES Related Issues (ASEAN-SEAFDEC coordinated position will be developed on the each proposal on inclusion of commercially-exploited aquatic species in CITES Appendices)</li> </ul>	Date to be confirmed
December 2012 - January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Coordinated Position to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEAFDEC Council for approval</li> <li>- ASEAN-Secretariat, AEG-CITES and ASEAN-WEN</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	SEAFDEC
March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in the CoP16-CITES in Thailand</li> </ul>	Representatives from Member Countries and SEAFDEC



## **SUMMARY REPORT ON THE CONCERNED COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES FROM THE 26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE**

15-20 March 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

*Chumnarn Pongsri and Somboon Siriraksophon*  
*SEAFDEC Secretariat*

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC26) was organized by the CITES from 15-20 March 2012 at Geneva, Switzerland and continuing with the Join-Committee between Plants and Animals from 22-25 March 2012 at Dublin, Ireland. Follow-up the recommendations from the SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Addressing Technical Issues on Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species held in Bangkok from 18-20 October 2011 that suggested SEAFDEC to participate to the CITES-related for a such as the CITES Animals Committee in order to address the Regional concerns and assist Member Countries on technical matters. Response to the Consultation, SEAFDEC secretariat as officially communicated and requested to the Chair of the Animals Committee for SEAFDEC participation. Under his authorization SEAFDEC, therefore lead by the Secretary-General, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri* and the Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* participated to the first half meeting in Geneva.

A total of 165 participants were: the Animals Committee from different regions of the world (namely Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America, and Oceania Regions), 37 Observer-Parties, 1 Observer-Nonparty, 4 Observer-IGOs (including SEAFDEC), 18 Observer-NGOs, and 18 Observer-National NGOs. Regarding this five SEAFDEC Member Countries namely Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam participated to the AC26.

The Agenda of the meeting and daily highlights of the AC26 from 15 to 20 March are shown in *Annex 1* and *Annex 2*, respectively.

### **II. AIMS OF THIS PAPER**

The aims of this paper are as follows:

- 1) To update the list of Fish CITES Species concerning to the Southeast Asian Region (*Annex 5*);
- 2) To update the results on the concerned Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species addressed at the AC26 to all ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries; and
- 3) To build the awareness to all Member Countries on the recommendations on CITES-related species such as sharks, sea cucumber, seahorses, and corals and other CITES management matters.

### **III. IMPORTANT ISSUES CONCERNED TO THE REGION**

#### **1. SHARKS:**

- **Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes);**

Refers to the AC26 Doc. 16.1, the working group on Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)* reported that:



- In Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)*, the Conference of the Parties instructs the CITES Secretariat to inform FAO of the concerns of the CITES Parties regarding the significant lack of progress in implementing the IPOA-Sharks, and to urge FAO to take steps to actively encourage relevant States to develop NPOA-Sharks;
- In July 2010, the FAO and CITES Secretariat jointly convened the *Workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of elasmobranchs* in Genazzano, Italy. This workshop was attended by experts from a range of geographic areas and sectors, including scientists, fisheries industry and representatives of the government. The workshop tried to outline the strengths and weaknesses of regulatory measures and to evaluate their effectiveness. If it is finalized in time, the final report of the workshop will be submitted as an information document at the present meeting;
- During the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) that was held in Rome, Italy, in February 2011, the CITES Secretariat pointed out that the joint workshop in Genazzano showed that harvest-related measures and trade-related measures could and should be used in tandem, where appropriate, to ensure the successful management of fish;
- In Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15), the Conference of the Parties also encourages Parties to obtain information on implementation of NPOA-Sharks or regional plans, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee, and “*directs the Animals Committee to examine information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and report their analyses at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties*”. The following list, the parties are invited to:
  - Submit a list of shark species (Class Chondrichthyes) that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management, including if possible any concrete measures which they believe to be needed. The list should include a summary of additional supporting information;
  - Advise whether they have domestic measures (*e.g.* laws or regulations) regulating the fishing, retention or landing of shark or ray species in their waters, and whether those measures apply to certain species only or to all species; and
  - Advise whether they have domestic measures (*e.g.* laws or regulations) regulating the import or export of shark parts and products (fins, meat, skin, organs, etc.) and, if so, what those measures are.
- By the reporting deadline of 15 January 2011 provided in that Notification, the Secretariat had received responses from the European Union (on behalf of 27 Parties), Canada, New Zealand, Peru and the United States of America. Further responses were received before the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee (AC25, Geneva, July 2011) from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Japan and Mexico. At the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee in July 2011, a Working Group considered these 12 reports; however, it was noted that reports had not been received by many key Parties involved in shark fisheries.

**The Recommendations** from Working Group at AC26 are:

1. Parties take note of the above documents submitted to the Animals Committee when reviewing species of concern from the Class Chondrichthyes, and the Secretariat inform Parties when the final version of the UK Report on assessing the intrinsic vulnerability of harvested sharks (AC26 Inf. 9) becomes available;
2. The CITES Secretariat contact the top 26 shark fishing Member States/Entities (*i.e.* those taking >1% of the global catch of sharks) that did not respond to CITES notifications (2010/027 and 2011/049 – as they relate to sharks) or to the FAO questionnaire on the status of implementation of the FAO IPOA–Sharks, and encourage a response, and the Secretariat to make this information publicly available to the Parties;
3. The CITES Secretariat invite Parties that responded to CITES Notification 2011/049, but did not provide the following information on trade in sharks and on domestic measures (*e.g.* laws or regulations) regulating the import or export of shark parts and products (fins, meat, skin, organs, *etc.*), to do so, and the Secretariat to make this information publicly available to the Parties;

4. The CITES Secretariat issue a notification alerting Parties when the FAO report “*The Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*” (in preparation for the upcoming COFI meeting in July 2012), becomes available and provide a link to this document;
5. The summary list of shark species submitted by Parties in response to Notification 2011/049 a) ii, that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management, be appended to this Working Group report; and
6. Recognizing the MOU between the CITES and FAO Secretariats, ask the CITES Secretariat to request from FAO the terms of reference for the FAO assessment to be undertaken regarding all commercially exploited aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices, make this information available to Parties through a notification, and request FAO to report on progress in its reports to CoP16 and AC27.

#### **Draft Decisions**

- RECOGNIZING that it is difficult for Parties to avoid importing illegally-obtained shark products if they are unaware of the domestic legislation and regulations of other Parties, or of measures adopted by RFMOs, and hence to enable importing Parties, [where applicable,] to assist exporting Parties with the enforcement of their laws, [as appropriate,] and to assist the Animals Committee to inform the Parties as required under Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev Cop15); REQUESTS the Animals Committee to ask the Standing Committee to request the Secretariat to:
  - i) Issue a Notification to Parties requesting them to summarize their domestic laws and regulations that prohibit the landing or trade of shark species and products, and provide copies of or links to these instruments; in order for the Secretariat to make this information available on the CITES website; and
  - ii) Collaborate with the FAO Secretariat in the development of a single, regularly updated, source summarizing current RFMO measures for shark conservation and management, with information on species, fisheries, members/contracting parties, and the geographical areas covered and excluded;
- RECOGNIZING/RECALLING the CITES/CMS Joint Work Plan, **ENCOURAGES** Parties to engage with the work of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), as appropriate, particularly for shark species listed in the relevant Appendices to CITES and CMS, recognizing that CMS Parties are required to strive towards strictly protecting species listed in Appendix I to CMS, including by prohibiting the taking of these species, and to implement other measures through the Migratory Sharks MOU;

#### **Draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. Cop15)**

The following wording (underlined> to be added to operative paragraphs 6 and 8:

- **URGES** Parties that are shark fishing States but that have not yet implemented an NPOA-Sharks, to develop their own NPOAs at the earliest opportunity and take steps to improve research and data collection on both fisheries and trade as a first step towards their Shark Plans, particularly the necessity to AC26 WG4 Doc. 1 – p. 3 improve the collection of catch and trade data at the lowest taxonomic level possible (ideally by species), and to report these data to the relevant national, regional and international authorities;
- **ENCOURAGES** Parties to improve data collection, data reporting, management and conservation measures for shark species, implementing, enhancing and enforcing these actions through domestic, bilateral, RFMOs or other international measures;
- **List of Shark Species (Class Chondrichthyes) Submitted by Parties** (see *Annex 3*)

The Animals Committee notes that the following list of shark species (Class Chondrichthyes) were submitted by the Parties in response to CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2011/049, which

invited Parties to submit a list of shark species (Class Chondrichthyes) that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management, including if possible any concrete measures which they believe to be needed (for more details, see documents AC26 Doc. 16.1 and AC26 Doc. 16.2).

## **2. SEA CUCUMBERS:**

The Committee established a drafting group (DG1) to draft a Notification to the Parties drawing attention to the report from the CITES workshop in 2003 (see document CoP14 Doc. 62), the FAO documents on these species and any other relevant publications, and encouraging range States to use this and other information to manage their fisheries. This Notification would effectively conclude the work directed to the Committee in Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15).

The group drafted the following recommendations to the Parties (AC26 DG1 Doc. 1).

### *Recommendations;*

- 1) Recommend that the Secretariat issue a notification to the Parties drawing their attention to FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper 516 and 520 arising from the FAO Workshop on the Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, conducted in 2007. And furthermore draw attention to the abridged version of Technical Paper 520, entitled "*Putting into practice an ecosystem approach to managing sea cucumber fisheries*", and drawing their attention to the forthcoming publication of an FAO catalogue "*Commercially Important Sea Cucumbers of the World*";
- 2) Encourages range countries to promote conservation and management of sea cucumbers which occur in their own jurisdiction, taking advantage of the information in these and other documents available from FAO, the report from the CITES workshop in 2003 (CoP14 Doc. 62), and other publications, and taking into account the status of stocks, fisheries and use of sea cucumber as well as social, economic and historical factors of each region, and where appropriate, with the help of FAO and/or regional fishery-related bodies, manage their sea cucumber fisheries in a sustainable way; and
- 3) Recommend that these recommendations fulfill the mandate of Decision 14.100 (Rev CoP15), and so the work of the Sea Cucumber WG is complete.

## **3. SEAHORSES:**

The seahorses issue was addressed under the Review of Significant Trade (RST) in Specimens of Appendix-II Species. The CITES secretariat informed the overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade referring to the Resolution Conf.12.8 (Rev. CoP13), the Conference of the Parties directs the Secretariat, for the purpose of monitoring and facilitating the implementation of that Resolution, "to report at each meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee on the implementation by the range States concerned of the recommendations made by the Committee".

The latest list of countries under a recommendation to suspend trade for certain species following non-compliance with Article IV of the Convention Species was published with Notification to the Parties No. 2011/035 of 5 September 2011 (see <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E035.pdf>). The recommendations were made in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), or its predecessor Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.). These cases are kept under regular review by the Standing Committee in line with paragraph v) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13). Other species, including some seahorses that concerned to the Southeast Asian Countries for which a Review of Significant Trade is ongoing are shown in the Annex to the present document (AC26 Doc.12.1), with an indication of the current status of the review, and the reference documents that provide detailed information for the cases in question.

Further information on species selected by the Animals Committee for the Review of Significant Trade following the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13, Bangkok,

2004; CoP14, The Hague, 2007; and CoP15, Doha, 2010) is provided in documents AC26 Doc. 12.2 and AC26 Doc. 12.3.

Regarding this, AC26 established a working group to review the reports and the responses received from range States as well as formulate recommendations for species of urgent concern and of possible concern with deadlines for their implementation. Since there are many taxa selected under the Review of Significant Trade, however, this paper will select only concerned seahorses species in which relevant Member Countries may have to consider actively response to the CITES Secretariat.

The draft recommendations for species of Urgent and Possible Concern are as follows;

**Thailand<sup>2</sup>**

**Species of Urgent concern:** *Hippocampus kellogi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus*

The Recommendations are as follows:

**Within 150 days the Management Authority** should:

- a) Clarify what legal protection is afforded to these species in Thailand and provide information to the Secretariat on controls or regulation of fishing activity that might otherwise detrimentally impact on seahorse populations;
- b) Provide available information to the Secretariat on the distribution, abundance, threats and conservation status of, and any current management measures in place for, the three *Hippocampus* spp. in Thailand;
- c) Provide justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which, it has been established that the quantities of the *Hippocampus kellogi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus* exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a) and 3 taking into account any potential unregulated and/or illegal off-take and trade; and
- d) Initiate measures to ensure that descriptions on all CITES permits are standardized such that trade is only permitted at **species level** and that, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.3, XIV e), trade ceases to be reported or permitted at higher *taxon* levels (genus or family).

**Within one year the Management Authority** should:

- e) Undertake studies to provide evidence on variation in the spatial and temporal abundance of the three species of *Hippocampus* to enable areas of high seahorse density to be identified and provide the results of the analysis to the Secretariat, as the basis for considering area restrictions on nonselective fishing gear that obtains *Hippocampus* species as by-catch; and
- f) Examine the technical and logistical feasibility of returning to the sea live seahorses taken as by catch in various types of fishing gear, particularly by inshore gear such as crab gill nets and other traps, as the basis for considering the feasibility of minimum size limits and/or other output controls.

**Within 2 years the Management Authority** should:

- g) Establish a detailed monitoring program of landings of the three *Hippocampus* spp. at representative sites, taking into account different gear types and means of extraction and recording catch and effort metrics and provide a report to the Secretariat;
- h) Conduct a detailed study of the life history parameters of the three *Hippocampus* spp., including growth rate, size and age at maturity, average annual reproductive output, and annual survivorship of different age classes and provide a report to the Secretariat. Based on the outcome of this study, model population responses to exploitation pressures in order to review and revise management measures;
- i) Implement additional measures, including spatial and/or temporal restrictions on fishing activities, to support non-detriment findings; and
- j) Based on the studies and measures in h), i) and j) above, establish an adaptive management programme for extraction of, and trade in, the three *Hippocampus* spp., enabling management measures to be reviewed and, if necessary, revised to ensure that trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and complies with Article IV.2.a and IV.3.

<sup>2</sup> The following issue was referred to the Secretariat to follow up with the Management Authority of Thailand and to bring to the attention of the Animals or Standing Committee as appropriate; whether adequate control measures and inspection were in place or being developed to enhance the enforcement of the reported ban on trawling within 3-5 km of the coast, as the main means of reducing incidental capture of these *Hippocampus* species

**Vietnam**

**Species of Possible concern:** *Hippocampus kuda*

The Recommendations are as follows:

**Within 90 days the Management Authority should:**

- a) Clarify what legal protection is afforded to the species and inform the Secretariat whether the present policy allows for export of wild-taken specimens;
- b) If there is no intent to allow export of wild specimens of this species for the foreseeable future establish a zero export quota which should be communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat; or
- c) If trade is to be allowed, provide a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that export is not detrimental to the survival of the species and is in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, taking into account potential unregulated and/or illegal off-take and trade; and
- d) Initiate measures to ensure that descriptions on all CITES permits are standardized such that trade is only permitted at species level and that, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.3, XIV e), trade ceases to be reported or permitted at higher *taxon* levels (genus or family).

**Within 2 years the Management Authority should:**

- e) If trade in wild specimens is anticipated in the future conduct a study of the life history parameters of *H. kuda*, including growth rate, size and age at maturity, average annual reproductive output and annual survivorship of different age classes and make the results available to the Secretariat. Based on the outcome of this study, model population responses to exploitation pressures in order to review and revise export quotas; and if they intend to trade the species in the future,
- f) Provide to the Secretariat a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that any proposed export quota for wild specimens of *H. kuda* will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and is in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3; and
- g) If trade in wild specimens is anticipated in the future, establish a detailed monitoring program of landings of *Hippocampus kuda* at representative sites, taking into account different gear types and means of extraction and recording catch and effort metrics and provide a report to the Secretariat.

The categorizations of each species into one of the three categories outlined in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), namely:

- i) '*Species of **urgent concern***' shall include species for which the available information indicates that the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a) of the Convention are not being implemented;
- ii) '*Species of **possible concern***' shall include species for which it is not clear whether or not these provisions are being implemented; and
- iii) '*Species of **least concern***' shall include species for which the available information appears to indicate that these provisions are being met. Actions required from the 26<sup>th</sup> Animals Committee (refers to AC26 WG7 Doc.1)

#### **4. CORALS:**

On CITES-listed corals (*Annex 4*), the Committee agreed that it is not possible even for an informed non-specialist, with reasonable effort, to distinguish between all the species in the genus without recourse to a specialist taxonomist.

#### **IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council is invited to take note some outputs on fish species related to CITES from the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Animals Committee particularly the sharks, sea cucumbers, seahorses and corals species listed in the CITES Appendix. The Council is also requested to consider the recommendations and draft decision on sharks including the development and implementation of the NPOA-Sharks as well as well as to provide comments; and policy direction to SEAFDEC and/or Member Countries for further works on this matter.

*Annex I: Agenda of the Meeting for Animals Committee (not included Plants Committee)*

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Rules of Procedure
3. Adoption of the agenda and working programme
4. Admission of observers
- 5-11. <Plants Committee Issues >
12. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species
13. Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices
  - 13.1 Overview of species under review
  - 13.2 Species selected for review from CoP13 (2004) to CoP15 (2010)
    - 13.2.1 Galliformes – Report of the working group
  - 13.3 Species selected for review from CoP15 (2010) to CoP17 (2016)
14. Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendices I and II – Report of the working group
15. Sturgeons and paddlefish
  - 15.1 Secretariat's report
  - 15.2 Evaluation of sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology – Reports from Caspian Sea range States
  - 15.3 Review of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* regarding caviar labelling, product sources and species identification – Report of the working group
16. Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)*
  - 16.1 Report of the working group
  - 16.2 Reports from Parties
17. Snake trade and conservation management (Decision 15.76)- Report of working group
18. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Decision 15.79)
19. Sea cucumbers [Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15)] – Report of the working group
20. Nomenclatural matters
21. Identification of CITES-listed corals in trade [Decision 15.64 b)] – Report of the working group
23. Relationship between wildlife trade and wildlife diseases
24. Report of the Chair for the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties
25. Review of objections to the registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes
26. Proposals to amend the Appendices
27. Reports on the actions taken by regional representatives and additional information from Parties, relevant to regional cooperation and the work of the Animals Committee
28. Time and venue of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee
29. Any other business



**Annex 2: Daily Highlights of the Meeting:**

**Day 1: 15 March 2012**

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee (AC26) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) opened today in Geneva, Switzerland. Carlos Ibero Solana, Chair of the Animals Committee (AC), opened the AC by highlighting the record number of more than 200 registered participants as a sign of the interest of parties in scientific deliberations. He stressed that the increased workload for the AC would need greater financial or staff support.

John Scanlon, CITES Secretary-General, welcomed participants to the first of a series of meetings of the scientific bodies of the Convention, which will last for the next 16 days. He acknowledged the important work done by the Committees who rely on the voluntary work of individuals. Throughout the day participants discussed the Periodic Review of Appendices as well as conservation matters concerning shark, snake, sturgeon and paddlefish and sea cucumber.

In the afternoon, the Minister for the Environment and Forests of Madagascar thanked CITES for the technical and financial assistance provided to protect rare and threatened species of native fauna and flora, including ebony and other precious woods. He outlined strategies to end the exploitation of rare and protected species of trees in Madagascar, and to update the country's legislation on forestry and rare species. The Secretariat noted that CITES funding from the European Commission has been diverted to Madagascar to assist in these efforts.

**Day 2: 16 March 2012**

In plenary on Friday, AC26 participants discussed Review of Significant Trade (RST) in specimens of Appendix-II species. They also reviewed: the objections to the registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes, as well as nomenclature matters; identification of CITES-listed corals in trade; and the relationship between wildlife trade and wildlife diseases. On the latter, the CITES Secretariat recalled the invitation received from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Secretariat to become a core affiliate of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Diseases convened with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO).

In the afternoon, participants reconvened into working groups to discuss: listing criteria, snakes, nomenclature, periodic review and sturgeon and paddlefish. The Working Group on Listing Criteria discussed, *inter alia*, whether to provide guidance for determining if commercially exploitable aquatic species qualify for listing on CITES Appendix II when that species has multiple stocks or subpopulations. The working group on snakes discussed: the preliminary results of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission Reptile Assessment, including possible listing of threatened trade snake species that are currently not listed under CITES. The working group on periodic review looked at recommendations on the list of species selected for review from CoP13 to CoP15 and from CoP15 to CoP17. The working group on sturgeon and paddlefish addressed the labeling of caviar shipping containers, appropriate source codes for roe, and other topics surrounding the conservation of and trade in these species and products derived from them.

**Day 3: 17 March 2012**

On Saturday, working groups on sharks, periodic review, sturgeon and paddlefish, snake, tortoises and freshwater turtles, review of significant trade (RST), nomenclature and corals identification met throughout the day. The sharks working group considered, *inter alia*: national reports; the report of the CITES/FAO workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of sharks; complementary with regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) measures; and CITES and FAO shark questionnaires, noting that, out of the 26 top shark fishing states, 10 and 8 nations, respectively, did not respond. Participants also discussed draft recommendations, including asking the CITES Secretariat to request parties to submit outstanding shark questionnaire responses and urging them to record trade data at the species level.

The working group on RST met to address recommendations on the provisional categorization of species made by UNEP-WCMC and on the list of species selected for RST following COP15. The Group on tortoises and freshwater turtles met in the early afternoon and considered recommendations to forward to the Secretariat, parties and Standing Committee, noting that no progress had been made in identifying elements and guidance for a non-detriment finding. The Working Group on Sturgeon and Paddlefish prepared a draft report to present to plenary that amended the relevant resolution and acknowledged the limited progress achieved since the Standing Committee meeting.



**Day 4:** 19 March 2012

Throughout the morning, AC participants convened in the established working groups to complete their discussions. Among them, the nomenclature working group met briefly to address the lack of global standard coral references. The shark working group continued revising draft recommendations for the AC and discussed outstanding information and analysis concerns, *inter alia*: whether to attach party responses to the CITES shark questionnaire as a list of shark species or to compile it in a table with additional information for analysis; and an in-progress FAO review of commercially exploited aquatic species.

Participants reconvened in plenary in the afternoon. The representative of Africa read a statement by Senegal highlighting the proposal to transfer the West Africa manatee to CITES Appendix I. Mexico introduced a draft proposal to delete the imperial woodpecker from the appendices, citing that extinction of the species took place between 1946 and 1965. Regional representatives then presented their respective reports. Later in the afternoon, participants heard the reports of the working groups on sturgeon and paddlefish, snakes and periodic review. While recommendations on sturgeon and paddlefish and snakes were adopted, the Committee discussed at length amendments to the report on periodic review. The Committee deferred further discussion of the report to Tuesday's plenary.

**Day 5:** 20 March 2012

On Tuesday, AC26 Participants reconvened for the last day to hear recommendations from working groups and proceed to adopt them. On sturgeon and paddlefish, the Committee agreed to amend the definitions of non-reusable caviar labels and secondary containers and recommended that the Secretariat continue to produce a written report at each AC meeting on related activities. On Sea Cucumbers, the AC recommended that the Secretariat issue a notification to the parties drawing attention to the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Papers arising from the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries.

On CITES-listed corals, the Committee agreed that it is not possible even for an informed non-specialist, with reasonable effort, to distinguish between all the species in the genus without recourse to a specialist taxonomist. On nomenclature, it recommended not add a footnote to *Primates* spp. clarifying that *Homo sapiens* are not covered by this higher *taxon* listing. On sharks, the Committee recommended, *inter alia*, that the CITES Secretariat contact the top 26 shark fishing member States that did not respond to CITES notifications relating to sharks or to the FAO questionnaire on the status of implementation of the FAO IPOA-Sharks, and encourage a response and make this information publicly available to parties. AC adopted the recommendation for the species urgent and possible concerns such as seahorses addressed by the RST working group.

Shortly before the closing of the meeting, Ireland welcomed the forthcoming arrival of all the delegates to Dublin for the Joint AC & PC and PC meetings and encouraged other parties to host future CITES meetings. The meeting was gavelled to a close at 6:34.



**Annex 3: List of Shark Species (Class Chondrichthyes) Submitted by Parties**

LIST OF SHARK SPECIES (CLASS CHONDRICHTHYES) SUBMITTED BY PARTIES

The Animals Committee notes that the following list of shark species (*Class Chondrichthyes*) were submitted by the Parties in response to CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2011/049, which invited Parties to submit a list of shark species (*Class Chondrichthyes*) that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management, including if possible any concrete measures which they believe to be needed (for more details, see documents AC26 Doc. 16.1 and AC26 Doc. 16.2).

**Australia** (AC26 Doc. 16.2 Annex AU)

School shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*)  
Gulper sharks (*Centrophorus harrissoni*,  
*C. moluccensis*, *C. zeehaani*)

**Colombia** (AC26 Doc. 16.2 Annex CO)

Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformes*)  
Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)  
Scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*)

**European Union** (AC26 Doc. 16.2 Annex EU)

Shortfin (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and longfin Mako (*Isurus paucus*)  
Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*)  
Bigeye thresher (*Alopias superciliosus*)  
Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformes*)  
Scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*)  
Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*)

**India** (AC26 Doc. 16.2 Annex IN)

Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*)  
Knifetooth sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidate*)  
Pondicherry shark (*Carcharhinus hemiodon*)  
Ganges shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*)  
Speartooth shark (*Glyphis glyphis*)  
Ganges stingray (*Himantura fluviatilis*)  
Largetooth sawfish (*Pristis microdon*)  
Longcomb sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*)  
Giant guitarfish (*Rhynchobatus djiddensis*)  
Porcupine ray (*Urogyrnus asperimus*)

**Israel** (AC26 Doc. 16.2 Annex IL)

Sharpnose guitarfish (*Glaucostegus granulatus*)  
Halavi Guitarfish (*Glaucostegus halavi*)  
Clubnose guitarfish (*Glaucostegus thouin*)  
Common shovelnose Ray, Giant shovelnose Ray (*Glaucostegus typus*)

**Japan** (AC26 Doc. 16.2 Annex JP)

Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*)  
Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)  
Great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*)

**Montenegro** (this submission was provided after the deadline and will be posted as an information document on the CITES website)

Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*)  
Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)

**New Zealand** (AC26 Doc. 16.2 Annex NZ)

Deepwater Nurse Shark (*Odontaspis ferox*)  
Manta Ray (*Manta birostris*)  
Spinetail Devil Ray/Spinetail Mobula (*Mobula japonica*)  
Shortfin Mako Shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)  
Longfin Mako Shark (*Isurus paucus*)  
Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*)  
Scalloped Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna lewini*)  
Great hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*)  
Smooth Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*)  
Oceanic Whitetip Shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)

**United States of America** (AC26 Doc. 16.2 Annex US)








Spiny dogfish shark (*Squalus acanthias*)  
Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*)  
Freshwater stingrays Family Potamotrygonidae  
Sawfishes Family Pristidae  
Gulper sharks genus *Centrophorus*  
School, tope, or soupfin shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*)  
Guitarfishes, shovelnose rays Order Rhinobatiformes  
Requiem and pelagic sharks  
Devil rays Family Mobulidae  
Leopard sharks (*Triakis semifasciata*)  
Hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna* spp.)  
Dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*)  
Thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.)  
Shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)  
Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*)  
Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)  
Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)  
Sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*)  
Bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*)  
Tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*)




**Annex 4: Coral Taxa where Identification to Genus Level is Acceptable\*, but which should be Identified to Species Level where Feasible**

Taxa	Number of Species in the genus
<i>Acanthastrea</i>	10
<i>Acropora</i>	127
<i>Agaricia</i>	7
<i>Alveopora</i>	12
<i>Anacropora</i>	5
<i>Astreopora</i>	11
<i>Balanophyllia</i>	56
<i>Barabattoia</i>	3
<i>Blastomussa</i>	3
<i>Caulastraea</i>	4
<i>Coscinaraea</i>	9
<i>Ctenactis</i>	3
<i>Cycloseris</i>	11
<i>Cyphastrea</i>	7
<i>Densrophyllia</i>	21
<i>Diaseris</i>	
<i>Distichopora</i>	23
<i>Echinophyllia</i>	8
<i>Echinopora</i>	9
<i>Euphyllia</i>	9
<i>Favia</i>	18
<i>Favites</i>	9
<i>Fungia</i>	25
<i>Galaxea</i>	4
<i>Goniastrea</i>	8
<i>Goniopora</i>	20
<i>Heterocyathus</i>	3
<i>Heteropsammia</i>	2
<i>Hydnophora</i>	7
<i>Isopora</i>	?
<i>Leptastrea</i>	6
<i>Leptoseris</i>	14
<i>Lithophyllon</i>	4
<i>Lobophyllia</i>	7
<i>Madracis</i>	15
<i>Millepora</i>	17
<i>Montastrea</i>	9
<i>Montipora</i>	56
<i>Mussismilia</i>	3
<i>Mycetophyllia</i>	5
<i>Oculina</i>	9
<i>Oxypora</i>	3
<i>Pachyseris</i>	12
<i>Pavona</i>	17
<i>Pectinia</i>	5
<i>Physogyra (dead)</i>	2
<i>Platygyra</i>	9
<i>Plerogyra</i>	4
<i>Pocillopora</i>	7
<i>Porties</i>	41

Taxa	Number of Species in the genus
<i>Psammocora</i>	11
<i>Seriatopora</i>	5
<i>Scolymia</i>	5
<i>Siderastrea</i>	4
<i>Styaster</i>	75
<i>Stylocoeriella</i>	3
<i>Stylophora</i>	5
<i>Symphyllia</i>	7
<i>Tubastraea</i>	6
<i>Turbibaria</i>	12

**Annex 5: Some Fish CITES Species concerning to the Southeast Asian Region**

<p><b>Common name:</b> Coelacanth; Gombessa; Latimeria  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Latimeria chalumnae</i>  <b>Distribution:</b> Comoros, Indonesia, South Africa (ex)  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix I (19/07/2000)  <b>Photo:</b> © Johnny Jensen (taken at Denmark Aquarium, Denmark)</p>	
<p><b>Common name:</b> Jullien's Golden Carp; Seven-line barb; Esok; Isok barb  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Probarbus jullieni</i>  <b>Distribution:</b> Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix I (01/07/1975)  <b>Photo:</b> © Johnny Jensen (taken at Sangklaburi, Thailand)</p>	
<p><b>Common name:</b> Basking shark; Bone shark; Elephant Shark; Hoe-mother; Sun-fish  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix II (13/02/2003)  <b>Distribution:</b> Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Black Sea, Pacific  <b>Photo:</b> © S L Fowler</p>	
<p><b>Common name:</b> Great white shark; man-eater shark (United Kingdom); mango-taniwha (New Zealand); mango-ururoa (New Zealand); white pointer (United Kingdom); white shark (United States of America); white death (Australia);  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>  <b>Distribution:</b> Worldwide distribution  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix II  <b>Photo:</b> © Rachel Powell</p>	
<p><b>Common name:</b> Whale Shark  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Rhincodon typus</i>  <b>Distribution:</b> Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix II (13/02/2003)  <b>Photo:</b> © Shark Trust</p>	
<p><b>Common name:</b> Golden Arowana, Asian Arowana, Asian bonytongue, Golden Dragon Fish  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Scleropages formosus</i>  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix I (01/07/1975)  <b>Distribution:</b> Southeast Asia  <b>Photo:</b> Jörg Hess, Zoological Garden Basel</p>	
<p><b>Common name:</b> Giant Catfish  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Pangasianodon gigas</i>  <b>Synonym:</b> <i>Pangasius gigas</i>  <b>Distribution:</b> Cambodia, China: Yunnan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix I (01/07/1975)  <b>Photo:</b> © Johnny Jensen (taken at Bung Sam Lan Lake, Bangkok, Thailand)</p>	

<p><b>Common name:</b> Black seahorse; short-snouted seahorse  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>  <b>Synonyms:</b> <i>H. antiquorum</i>, <i>H. antiquus</i>, <i>H. brevirostris</i>,  <i>H. europaeus</i>, <i>H. heptagonus</i>,  <i>H. pentagonus</i>, <i>H. rondeletii</i>,  <i>H. vulgaris</i>  <b>Distribution:</b> Atlantic - eastern central, northeast,  Mediterranean and Black Sea  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix II (15/05/04)  © Patrick Louisy  <b>Photo:</b> (taken at the Banyuls aquarium,  south of France)</p>	
<p><b>Common name:</b> Longsnout seahorse; slender seahorse  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Hippocampus reidi</i>  <b>Synonyms:</b> <i>Hippocampus obtusus</i>,  <i>Hippocampus poeyi</i>  <b>Distribution:</b> Atlantic ocean – southwest,  western central  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix II (15/05/04)  © Patrick Louisy  <b>Photo:</b> (taken in Curaçao, Netherland Antilles)</p>	
<p><b>Common name:</b> Long-snouted Seahorse  <b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i>  <b>Synonyms:</b> <i>H. atrichus</i>, <i>H. bicuspis</i>, <i>H. multiannularis</i>,  <i>H. filamentosus</i>, <i>H. jubatus</i>,  <i>H. longirostris</i>, <i>H. microcoronatus</i>,  <i>H. microstephanus</i>, <i>H. rosaceus</i>  <b>Distribution:</b> Atlantic ocean – eastern central,  northeast, Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea  <b>CITES listing:</b> Appendix II (15/05/04)  © Patrick Louisy  <b>Photo:</b> (taken at the Thau laguna, south of France)</p>	



## SEAFDEC EFFORTS AIMED TO COMBAT IUU FISHING

### I. INTRODUCTION

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and related fishing activities continue to be a major problem, *inter alia*, jeopardizing responsible and sustainable fisheries and frustrating attempts to protect the marine environment. All regions of the world and most fisheries are confronting the difficulties and adverse effects associated with and aggravated by IUU fishing. Many of the underlying conditions that enable and promote IUU fishing are fuelled by lack of transparency and financial incentives which allow illegal activities to go undetected. The situation is further worsened by factors such as inadequate national fishing capacity controls, insufficient resources dedicated to combating IUU fishing, underdeveloped regional cooperation, and widespread corruption, resulting in poor fisheries governance and unacceptable outcomes such as serious damage to biological, human, social, and environmental frameworks. These conditions must be addressed if governance is to be enhanced, outcomes improved and inroads made in order to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

Attempts have been becoming more severe all over the world including the ASEAN region, in seeking ways to improve fisheries management with the objective of reducing IUU and destructive fishing. A number of important international instruments, binding or voluntary had been developed and agreed upon globally (*i.e.* 1982 UN Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS 1982), the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures). In the ASEAN region, Senior Officials and other decision makers from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries have increasingly strengthened their commitments to improve the management of fishing capacity and intensify their efforts to combat IUU fishing. This is also among priority actions for the ASEAN countries especially in the development of the ASEAN Economic Community and the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

The matter has therefore been seriously addressed by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi), ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), SEAFDEC Council, and the Indonesia-based RPOA initiative to combat IUU fishing. More particularly, the critical importance to manage fishing capacity as basis for making efforts to combat IUU has been specified in the *2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020* adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers responsible for fisheries, which provides policy directions for the countries in the ASEAN region.

In improving the management of fishing capacity and ensuring that fishing effort do not exceed the availability of resources in the ASEAN countries, the establishment of good and systematic schemes for the registration of fishing vessels, and the development of processes to issue license to fish are the basic requirements. From the comprehensive records on vessels, gear and people involved in fishing, reliable catch data and report on actual fishing effort could be derived. Information on vessels is also critical in developing effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) networks, which are instrumental for the cooperation on management of fishing capacity and support the efforts to combat IUU fishing, in order to achieve long-term sustainability of marine resources and coastal habitats. National arrangements that would facilitate the control and enforcement of laws and regulations should therefore be developed to ensure, maintain and conserve fisheries resources and habitats.



## II. SEAFDEC INITIATIVES

During the past couple of years, SEAFDEC through the support provided by the Japanese Trust Fund and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has been working to improve sustainable and responsible fisheries management as well as promote sub-regional cooperation in support of the efforts to combat IUU fisheries in the ASEAN region. Several programs have been conducted including the: (1) promotion of fishing license and boats registration system as tools to support of management and control fishing capacity in ASEAN region; (2) conduct of human resource development on sustainable fisheries and IUU fishing related countermeasures for fisheries managers/officers from the ASEAN region; (3) conduct of regional consultations/workshops to generate actions needed to better manage fishing in support of combating IUU fisheries; (4) conduct of awareness raising activities; and (5) strengthening of the SEAFDEC Network in the SEAFDEC-ASEAN countries for the implementation of sustainable fisheries and IUU fishing related countermeasures.

Furthermore, SEAFDEC continues to strengthen its cooperation with the ASEAN and builds upon the achievements of the lead countries of the “key clusters” under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) framework in developing common understanding on key issues and problems that need to be addressed by the countries through joint efforts. Such issues could include among others, the encroachment of larger vessels into coastal waters and combating IUU fishing, which could be addressed by highlighting the integration of fisheries with habitat management.

Considering that the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) with Indonesia serving as the RPOA Secretariat, has also been significantly implementing activities that aim to enhance and strengthen the overall level of fisheries management in the region, sustain the fisheries resources and marine environment, and optimize the benefit of adopting responsible fishing practices, the 4<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee Meeting of the RPOA held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 1-5 November 2011 suggested that it is important for countries in MCS networks to level up their information that could be shared with the other countries. In this connection, the countries should utilize equivalent information to better identify fishing vessels and improve licensing systems. More focus should also be made in improving the status and role of small-scale fisheries with respect to transboundary issues and in reducing (local) destructive fishing practices. SEAFDEC has also been involved in the process by acting as one of the advisory bodies to RPOA-IUU.

During the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in November 2011, SEAFDEC was requested to conduct in-depth study on the impacts of the EC regulations especially on small-scale fisheries and consider inviting experts from the Member Countries that received the EU Evaluation Mission Report to present their cases and share their experiences during the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries Trade-related Issues which will be held in 2012. SEAFDEC was also asked to coordinate with RPOA-IUU Secretariat to develop guidelines indicating measures to reduce IUU fishing which could possibly be made compulsory for the Southeast Asian region. In this regard, it would be necessary to conduct capacity building for the Member Countries to make them ready for the implementation of the Port State Measures. However, since some Member Countries are not members of the RPOA-IUU, SEAFDEC should disseminate the information that have been discussed at RPOA fora, to the Member Countries especially information on IUU fishing vessels. In addition, during the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of FCG/ASSP in November 2011, SEAFDEC was asked to continue coordinating with the RPOA-IUU for the formulation and implementation of programs aimed at addressing the issues related to combating IUU fishing to ensure that the SEAFDEC programs and those of the RPOA-IUU are complementary and duplication of efforts is avoided.



### **III. OTHER REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

Taking into consideration the various important regional initiatives/programs that have been implemented in the region, it is important to draw the attention of the Member Countries on the need to collaborate and cooperate among the Member Countries and with regional initiatives. In addition, it is also necessary to boost the cooperation among neighboring countries through bilateral or trilateral arrangements/agreements as recommended at the sub-regional consultations in order to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of legislations related to improved management of fishing capacity and to combat IUU fishing, as well as the implementation of relevant international requirements and conventions. Moreover, efforts should be made to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation to more efficiently combat IUU fishing in the region, as well as the sub-regional arrangements by improving strict implementation of fisheries management measures and specifically on the management of fishing capacity.

### **IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council is requested to:

- 1) Take note of the initiatives undertaken by SEAFDEC on sustainable and responsible fisheries in support of combating IUU fishing in the ASEAN region;
- 2) Provide guidance to SEAFDEC and the Member Countries on the ways and means of improving the management of fishing license /fishing boat registration and fishing capacity and enhancing collaboration and cooperation to reduce IUU fishing in the ASEAN region; and
- 3) To support the Member Countries in sharing and exchanging record on vessels, gear and people involved in fishing, collecting reliable catch data and more accurate information on landings (port monitoring).



## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Marine resources having declined due to over-exploitation and un-controlled fisheries have for many years been recognized with much concern throughout the world. The level of un-sustainability is alarming and many countries in the region have increasingly recognized the intensity of the problem. Attempts to address these problems have been initiated in the Southeast Asian region, at national and regional levels through various efforts mobilized by fisheries agencies and other sectors involved in resources management.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing which had been identified as one of the causes of the declining fishery resources, can take place in all aspects of capture fisheries, whether within national jurisdictions or in the high seas. Initiatives to conserve and manage fish stocks have been undermined by IUU fishing, the result of which could lead to total collapse of capture fisheries seriously hampering all attempts to rebuild the stocks that have already been overfished. This situation could also lead to the loss of both short- and long-term social and economic opportunities and thus, could have negative impacts on food security.

#### **1) Status of the promotion of fishing management schemes to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia**

Every country in the Southeast Asian region and regional organizations are now focusing their efforts on the promotion of sustainable fisheries management and countermeasures to combat IUU fishing. This is in cognizant of the role of fishing management schemes, such as co-management, fishing license, and boats registration in controlling active fishing efforts of both large-scale and small-scale fisheries. Such efforts aim to improve fisheries management in order to reduce and combat IUU fishing, as well as promote sustainable utilization and the long-term conservation of the aquatic resources.

#### **2) Measures undertaken by international organizations**

On 29 September 2008, the European Union (EU) adopted a regulation to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries. The regulation requires a catch certificate for all imports and landings of fish and fish products into the EU by third countries (*i.e.* countries that are not members of the EU). As one of the main tools of the EC regulation, catch certification scheme is aimed at bringing to an end the export of IUU fishery products into the EU. The scheme places strong emphasis on checking, inspection and verification 'to be carried out according to common criteria governed by risk management and assessment', and as a matter of priority, regulates targeted trade flows to the EU. On the other hand, catch documentation scheme known variously as statistical document scheme or trade information scheme, aims to validate catch data and minimize opportunities for products taken by illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing to reach the markets. The later schemes are used increasingly by regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

#### **3) Lessons learned by the ASEAN countries on catch certification/catch documentation**

The Member Countries were encouraged to exchange their experiences with regards to the implementation of the EC regulation. Malaysia for example, has initiated the development of an electronic-based catch documentation system with the assistance of EU. In addition, Member Countries should also learn lessons from the implementation of catch documentation scheme in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Reauthorization



Act imposed by US markets. For example, Indonesia has already adopted a catch documentation scheme for tuna fisheries.

Therefore, based on the experiences from the implementation of catch certification or catch documentation schemes, Member Countries should review and re-think on how to proceed with the development of a common catch certification/documentation scheme for the Southeast Asian region, which should be clearly understood by and implementable in the Member Countries. The lessons learned from the experience of Malaysia in developing an electronic-based catch documentation system and those of Indonesia for tuna, should be reviewed by the other countries as this could serve as reference in developing a common Catch Certification for the Southeast Asian region.

#### **4) Key issues for consideration**

- **Impacts of the proposed ASEAN Catch Certification/Documentation Scheme on regional trade**

The February 2011 RTC suggested that in the development and implementation of an ASEAN documentation/certification scheme, caution should be exercised as such scheme could adversely affect regional trade, particularly since some countries may not be able to comply with the requirements of such scheme.

- **Compliance with the requirements of importing countries and RFMOs**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP recommended that a common catch documentation scheme for the Southeast Asian region should comply with the requirements of RFMOs as well with those imposed by importing countries, *e.g.* USA and EU countries, in order to facilitate intra-regional trade of fish and fishery products.

## **II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council is requested to provide policy directives on the ways of proceeding with the development of the ASEAN Certification/Documentation Scheme taking into consideration the suggestions made during the Thirteenth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in December 2010.

## POLICY CONSIDERATION ON THE PRODUCTION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (SEASOFIA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

Information on the status and trends of fisheries are crucial for sustainable development and management of fisheries. The importance of such information has also been well-recognized by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries and thus, had been reflected in the Resolution and Plan of Action for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 which were adopted during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in June 2011. Specifically, the “Resolution” emphasized the necessity to “*strengthen knowledge/science-based development and management of fisheries*”; while the “Plan of Action” specified the need to “*strengthen national statistical mechanisms for fisheries and aquaculture and the exchange of statistical data and related information; and include other non-routine data and information such as fish consumption surveys as well as mobilizing local and indigenous knowledge with the aim of improving the valuation of fisheries and monitoring their performance, to address the needs of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and adaptation to climate change*”.

Throughout the past decades, SEAFDEC had been undertaking activities to compile various forms of fishery-related data and information. These include the regional fishery statistics based on national statistics data provided by the Southeast Asian countries, as well as other data and information from various SEAFDEC programs/projects, e.g. fishery resources surveys in the Southeast Asian waters, information collection of highly migratory species, deep sea fishery resources exploration, tagging of sea turtles and research study on their habitats, tagging of economically-important pelagic species, development and usage of practical indicators for sustainable development and management of capture fisheries, among others. However, the outputs from these initiatives had rarely been integrated or synthesized to come up with information that could be used to support the development and management of sustainable fisheries in the region.

SEAFDEC therefore undertook a pilot exercise in developing the “**Southeast Asian States of Fisheries and Aquaculture**” or “**SEASOFIA**” with the objective of providing a platform for the compilation of synthesized data and information generated from various programs and activities, incorporating other available data and information, in order to provide better understanding of the status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. Also included in the publication are selected fisheries-related issues and challenges, and an outlook of fisheries and aquaculture in the region, to raise the awareness/preparedness and enhance the capacity of countries in the region in responding to such issues. The Contents of the SEASOFIA appears as **Appendix 1**.

It should be noted however that there are also publications produced by other organizations with similar nature and purposes as those of the SEASOFIA, namely:

#### 1) **The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Publisher: FAO Fisheries Department

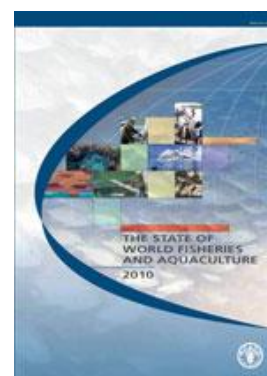
First published: 1996

Timeframe: every 2 years (release at the biennial FAO/COFI Session)

Geographical scope: Global

Contents: World review of fisheries and aquaculture (trend in production, utilization and trade of fishery resources); selected issues facing fisheries and aquaculture, some highlighted FAO studies, and outlook of fisheries (production, consumption, trade and policy aspects) in a global perspective

The Contents of the latest publication appears as **Appendix 2**.



## 2) Status and Potential of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific

Publisher: FAO/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

First published: 2004

Timeframe: every 2 years (release at the biennial APFIC Session)

Geographical scope: States, entities and areas of Asia and the Pacific region (i.e. South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Other Asia and Oceania, including the South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea)

Contents: Updated information on emerging issues relevant to fisheries and aquaculture, and regional information to describe some of the key trends that affect the resources and production system



The Contents of the latest publication appears as **Appendix 3**.

These publications should therefore be taken into consideration in the future preparation and production of SEASOFIA in order that duplication of efforts is, as much as possible, avoided. Moreover, it should be noted that during the discussion on the production of SEASOFIA at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP, the SEAFDEC Secretariat was asked to coordinate with FAO so that information of the Southeast Asian region contained in the SEASOFIA could be reflected in the global SOFIA.

## II. REQUIRED CONSIDERTION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to provide policy guidance on issue related to the future production of SEASOFIA.

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## STATEMENT

*By Ms. Pouchamarn Wongsanga  
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ASEAN Secretariat*

Honorable SEAFDEC Council Chairperson and Council Directors,  
SEAFDEC Secretary-General,  
Colleagues from FAO and INFOFISH  
Ladies and gentlemen, good morning,

At the outset, allow me once again to take this opportunity to thank SEAFDEC and the host country, Myanmar for kind invitation to the ASEAN Secretariat to participate in this auspicious Meeting and for allowing me to speak before all of you about ASEAN and SEAFDEC collaboration in fisheries.

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP), which was formalized in 2007 has provided for greater integration of ASEAN and SEAFDEC fisheries program thereby avoid duplication and enable better utilization of resources. Along this line, ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat would like to extend the profound appreciation and joining other delegates in congratulating SEAFDEC for its achievements made in 2011.

Chairperson, Council Directors, realization of an ASEAN Community in 2015 as envisioned by the Leaders is less than four years ahead of us. Fisheries is an important sector of ASEAN, contributing to national development and regional cooperation in the region; and is among the forefront sectors that will help shaping the ASEAN Community. Contribution of fisheries to ASEAN Community Building by 2015 as addressed in the strategic measures related to the fisheries sector outlined in the Blueprints and Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan include Food safety/SPS, Fisheries quality management system-HACCP-based systems, good laboratory practices, application for SMEs, Good aquaculture practices (as a regional product standard), including appropriate use of veterinary drugs, Strategic alliances and joint approaches among ASEAN Member States and with the private sectors, Engaging CSOs (fishers' organizations) in the integration of fisheries sector, Combating IUU fishing (considering the economic and security implication), Enhancing food security and safety, Promoting sustainable use of coastal and marine environment, Promoting sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity, and Responding to climate change and addressing its impacts. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) has been perceived as the main vehicle to drive the process of fulfilling the expectation and commitments of the fisheries sector.

ASEAN will continue working closely with SEAFDEC on a number of areas and issues of common interest for the benefits of ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member States. Among others, collective effort of all ASEAN Member States in development of the common/coordinated position on international fisheries related issues to be raised at the international for a is importance in addressing Joint ASEAN Position and Approach on Regional and International Fisheries Issues. ASEAN agreed on the required close collaboration and cooperation among ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC to safeguard common interest on fisheries related issues of the ASEAN region.

Chairperson, Council Directors, let me highlight the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 "Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment", which was organized on 13-17 June 2011. The Conference was the key cooperation with SEAFDEC in the implementation of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative programme in

enhancing the “Strategic Partnership”. On behalf of the ASEAN Member States, I would like to take this opportunity to thank SEAFDEC for untiring effort and cooperation on working for the preparation and successfully conduct of the Conference.

The “2011 Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020” as the key outcomes from the Conference clarified the detailed plan or roadmap for the sector to contribute the Leaders’ vision of realization of one ASEAN Community by 2015. These are an important basis for ensuring sustainable development of the sector and for better livelihoods of those depend on them in the longer term.

Chairperson, SEAFDEC Council Directors, from ASEAN side, the Plan of Action and the Resolution were endorsed by the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) and the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) last year. SOM-AMAF noted the successful outcomes of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference; and commended that the Conference was considered as an important regional platform in addressing emerging challenges faced by the fisheries sector as well as contribution of the fisheries sector in the ASEAN Community building.

The AMAF noted the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference held in June 2011 as an activity in cooperation with international organizations and dialogue partners in the implementation of ASEAN policy and initiatives, and encouraged ASEAN Member States with the assistance from ASEAN Secretariat to further continue the cooperation.

Along this line, the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) agreed to use the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action as outcomes from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference as the new Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) on ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries (2011-2015) and will be used as coordination and monitoring tool for the sector.

With the high-level policy support, we are now in the more important step to drive the process of fulfilling the expectation and commitments of the fisheries sector by implementing the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action as the ASEAN Policy and actions required to address fisheries challenges. These eventually will contribute to the efforts of facing the challenges of food security. To support the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action under the ASSP, the programme concept note on sustainable fisheries for food security as endorsed by the ASWGF<sub>i</sub> last year will be elaborated to cover priority areas and actions and sourcing fund from ASEAN dialogue partners and development partners.

Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, please allows me to conclude my statement by expressing my appreciation on behalf of ASEAN to SEAFDEC Council for your kind continued support to ASSP Programme and particularly for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference. I assure you all of our strong interests in and any possible support to the close collaboration and partnership with SEAFDEC.

Thank you.



## STATEMENT

*By Dr. Simon Funge-Smith  
Senior Fishery Officer  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

U. Khin Ko Lay, Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council,  
Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC  
Honourable Council Directors and representatives of regional organizations,  
Representatives of the SEAFDEC Departments and SEAFDEC Secretariat,  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, I would like to thank SEAFDEC for the invitation to attend this 44<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting in the new Capital city of Nay Pyi Taw. I would also like to thank our hosts, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries, Government of Union of Myanmar for their excellent arrangements and the hospitality, which we are enjoying here.

FAO would like to congratulate SEAFDEC on the busy year's activities during 2011 and 2012, and in particular the outcomes of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference. FAO was pleased to be able to cooperate in this regional visioning initiative and we hope that we can use this as a framework for cooperation and partnership with both ASEAN and SEAFDEC in the coming years.

We appreciate the effort to produce the SEASOFIA 2012 and note that it contains comment and regional insight to a range of issues. I anticipate that some of the content will complement the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission biennial review, which will be produced later this year and can contribute to FAO's biennial SOFIA as well.

FAO and SEAFDEC have a long history of cooperation on Regional workshops for training and capacity building. FAO would like to thank SEAFDEC for continuing this productive cooperation and draw particular attention to the Regional workshops on "Marine Protected Areas".

As Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, I would like to thank SEAFDEC for the support provide to APFIC Regional Consultative Workshops in 2011, and take this opportunity to invite SEAFDE Secretariat and interested council members to participate in the APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission which are being hosted by Government of Vietnam and will be convened in Da Nang, Vietnam on 12-22 September 2012.

In terms of field program impacts, FAO appreciates SEAFDEC cooperation with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project, with activities in Myanmar, and Thailand. This program is looking to build more concrete partnerships with SEAFDEC as they move in the next two years of the BOBLME work, which seeks to identify sustainable regional mechanisms for cooperation in the management of some key fishery stocks as well as capacity building for ecosystem management

SEAFDEC is seen as a key partner and whilst the SEAFDEC program activities in the Bay of Bengal area are some times less high profile than the south China Sea, they are still important and have much to contribute to the fishery management of Bay of Bengal and as a coordination mechanisms with the other BOBLME countries.

FAO noted that SEAFDEC could do much to improve our understanding of key fisheries resources in the region and urges SEAFDEC to look into how to support this process with their members such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar.



As part of the BOBLME program there is also under development an ecosystem approach to fishery management training course. FAO hopes that SEAFDEC will take this into account as she develops the “EAF training” program to ensure that approaches meet international standards and can contribute to greater regional and global understanding of the modern management approaches we note the calls from member countries to strengthen fisheries management capacity building and training in this regard.

Looking forward to the start up of the activities of the FAO/GEF project to be executed in cooperation with SEAFDEC, “ Strategies for trawl fisheries by-catch management (REBYC II)”, this \$11 million project will see SEAFDEC member countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, participating in a four year program to develop more effective trawl management strategies that will reduce the pervasive ecosystem impacts of trawling by-catch of small low values species as well as high value and ecologically important species. The project links both government fishery institutions with linkages to private sector fishing operations and fishmeal and feeds producers will truly see this emerge as cooperation between the important stakeholders. We hope that this will open the door to more responsible fishery management in the trawl sector, as well as demonstrate our region’s commitment to responsible fishery management and reduction of environmental impacts. At the same time, I expect that this will contribute to answering some of the questions as to how the region’s aquaculture products are produced and demonstrate that we can sustain aquaculture production without excessively compromising the marine environment.

Demonstrating that the region is making progress in the field of responsible fisheries and aquaculture is always a challenge with such diverse fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The diversity of context of each member country means that there is no fixed model for this and each country follows its own priorities within the constraints of budgets, human resources capacity and the global economic environment and there is great diversity of application of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Despite this there is a need to try to keep track of progress and reporting this into global such as the committee on fisheries, as well as regionally to APFIC and SEAFDEC council is an important way to demonstrate the effort being made. In this regard, FAO would urge Member Countries to report their successes and challenges in the area of responsible fisheries and aquaculture and in this regard APFIC will be contacting members and key respondents in the region to try and evaluate this. I would like to draw your attention to an APFIC online questionnaire and encourage you to return the FAO CCRF questionnaire.

Chairperson,

FAO would once again like to thank SEAFDEC and our hosts the, Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries, Government of Union of Myanmar, for this opportunity to participate in the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, and looks forward to further partnership and cooperation between FAO and SEAFDEC in the future.

Thank you

## STATEMENT

*By Dr. Muhammad Ayub*

*Director, Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH)*

I thank SEAFDEC for giving this opportunity, I also thank the Department of fisheries and the Government of Myanmar for the very warm hospitality extended to us.

INFOFISH, formerly a regional project of FAO of the U.N., is an Intergovernmental Organization providing marketing information and technical advisory services to the fishery industry in Asia-Pacific and beyond. Based in Kuala Lumpur and hosted by Malaysian Government since its inception in 1981, INFOFISH has a membership of fourteen countries in the region.

INFOFISH has been participating in SEAFDEC programmes and activities. This is evident from the fact that INFOFISH participated in the following meetings/workshops:

- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”, 13-17 June 2011, Bangkok; and
- Inception Workshop on Follow-up Activities to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on “Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security towards 2020”, 4-5 July 2011, Bangkok

In addition INFOFISH would like to strengthen long-term collaboration with SEAFDEC and would also like to point out that 5 member countries of SEAFDEC are also members of INFOFISH which include Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Cambodia. Specific areas of mutual collaboration/cooperation are given below:

- Strengthening information network particularly on fishery trade and market related matter, both domestic and international;
- Collaboration in tailor-made training study and tour. While INFOFISH coordinates such program for trade and marketing, INFOFISH seeks collaboration on fishing, post-harvest and processing that SEAFDEC organizes time to time;
- International trade related issues. INFOFISH would like to collaborate in capacity building in SEAFDEC Member Countries. INFOFISH database, particularly on fishery production and trade on ASEAN countries could be useful for provision of statistical information for planning, management and development;
- Utilization of freshwater fish in ASEAN countries: The 3-year INFOFISH/CFC/FAO Freshwater Fishery project commenced in 2011; Indonesia is one of the five beneficiary countries in this project. ‘Sustainable aquaculture development and trade promotion’ is the main focus of this project. Benefits of this project would be shared with the other countries in the region, particularly Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia who are also INFOFISH Member Countries;
- Promotion of sustainable and region-oriented aquaculture: INFOFISH/CFC/FAO freshwater fishery project is one of the activities where SEAFDEC members may benefit from. The earlier Organic Aquaculture Project was successfully implemented in Thailand, Myanmar and Malaysia during 2008-2010; and
- INFOFISH is very much interested to collaborate with SEAFDEC on fishery trade promotion and other areas of mutual interest.



I would like the council to note the particular strengths of INOFISH:

- We work closely with the member governments as well as very closely with the industry;
- We specialize in arranging international conferences and events management; and
- We offer one window facility for participating in seafood shows all over the world.

Thank you

**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE INLAND FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT (IFRDMD) IN INDONESIA**

**I. RATIONALE**

Inland fisheries in SEAFDEC Member Countries are a very important source of food and main alternative livelihood for people in the region. However, the sustainability of the resources has been threatened by overfishing and habitat degradation. In this regard, the promotion of responsible fishing practices, fisheries management and conservation, including fisheries community empowerment, are essential to ensure food security and poverty alleviation. Ecosystem approach required to manage fishery resources should be conducted to achieve human and environment well-being.

Amongst SEAFDEC Member Countries, Indonesia has the widest inland waters inhabited by the relatively highest biodiversity in the most unique ecosystems, covering the Sunda shelf, Sahul shelf and Wallace Area. The inland fishery resources in Indonesia have been utilized, managed, conserved and enhanced on the basis of data and information resulted from research undertaken by the Research Institute of Inland Fisheries (RIIF) in Palembang and by the Research Institute for Fisheries Enhancement and Conservation (RIFEC) in Purwakarta. Meanwhile, socio-cultural and economic consideration in the empowerment of inland fisheries communities have been studied by the Research Center for Marine and Fisheries Socio-economic in Jakarta.

To speed up the implementation of ecosystem approach to inland fisheries, regional cooperation amongst SEAFDEC Member Countries in the field of research, management and conservation of inland fishery resources is necessary. Indonesia has proposed to develop the said cooperation and establish the **Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)**. IFRDMD will be developed by expanding the function of the RIIF in Palembang, Indonesia, that currently undertaking research to support development and management of inland fisheries of Indonesian context, to include and facilitate the regional needs to develop and manage inland fisheries and conserve inland fishery resources.

**II. PROPOSED FUNCTION**

1. To provide a regional forum for consultation and cooperation in research, management and conservation of inland fishery resources, and inland fisheries community empowerment;
2. To coordinate and implement research programs to support sustainable development, management and conservation of inland fishery resources in SEAFDEC Member Countries through:
  - Monitoring condition and exploitation level of fishery resources and fisheries in the inland waters of mutual interest among SEAFDEC Member Countries;
  - Providing scientific basis for policy formulation and appropriate guidelines; and
  - Providing advice on management and conservation of fishery resources, and fisheries community empowerment.
3. To provide training in the field of stock assessment and fisheries management and conservation, and fisheries community empowerment towards improving the capacity of SEAFDEC Member Countries in the sustainable development, management and conservation of inland fishery resources;
4. To publish, disseminate, and exchange information through:
  - Regional fora and consultation in research, management and conservation, and fisheries community empowerment;

- Intensification of publication; and
- Participate in the extension activities.

**Vision**

To be a center of excellent for sustainable development and management of fisheries, resource conservation, and community empowerment in Southeast Asia.

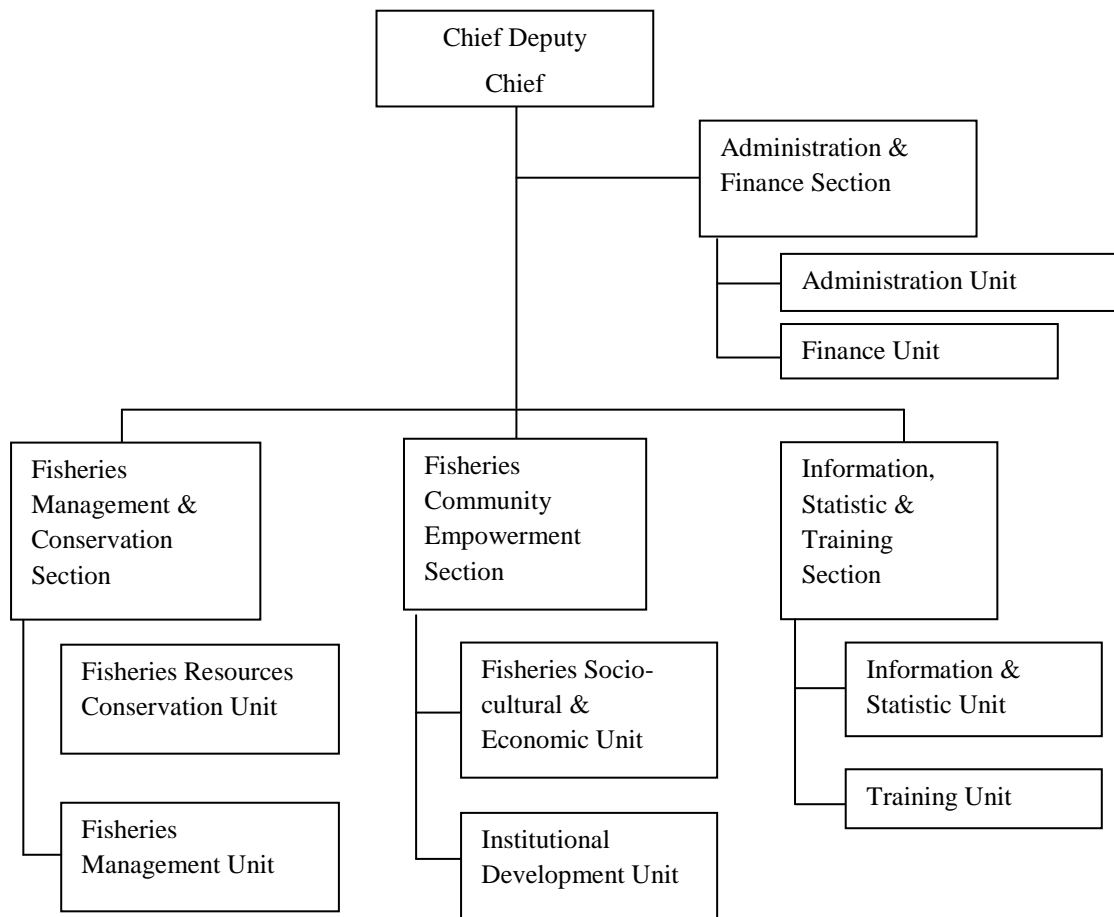
**Mission**

To provide assistance to SEAFDEC Member Countries in matters leading to the sustainable development and management of the fisheries, resource conservation and community empowerment of inland water ecosystem in Southeast Asia through research, training and information dissemination.

**III. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND NECESSARY PERSONNEL**

**Organizational Structure**

The proposed organizational structure for the IFRDMD is described in the organizational chart below:



## Necessary Personnel

Minimum number of personnel required to run the IFRDMD is presented in the table below:

No	Position	Number of Personnel	Source
1	Chief	1	TBA
2	Deputy Chief	1	Indonesia
3	Head of Administration & Finance Section	1	Indonesia
3.1	Administration Unit	1	Indonesia
3.2	Finance Unit	1	Indonesia
4	Head of Fisheries Management & Conservation Section	1	Indonesia
4.1	Fisheries Management Unit	1	Indonesia
4.2	Fisheries Resources Conservation Unit	1	Indonesia
5	Fisheries Community Empowerment Section	1	Indonesia
5.1	Fisheries Socio-cultural & Economic Unit	1	Indonesia
5.2	Institutional Development Unit	1	Indonesia
6	Information, Statistic & Training Section	1	Indonesia
6.1	Information & Statistic Unit	1	Indonesia
6.2	Training Unit	1	Indonesia
		14	

## Program Activities and Facilities

1. To provide a regional forum for consultation and cooperation in research, management and conservation
  - Network;
  - Regular meeting;
  - Facilities (meeting room, office, and land); and
  - Administrative and technical staffs.
2. To coordinate and implement research programs
  - Network;
  - Meeting;
  - Facilities (database, laboratories, office, guest house, boat, vehicle, mobile laboratory, research station, land, and jetty); and
  - Research scientists & technicians.
3. To provide training in the field of stock assessment and fisheries management and conservation
  - Dormitory;
  - Classrooms, theatre room;
  - Training facilities;
  - Medical clinic;
  - Praying room;
  - Sport facilities; and
  - Administrative and technical staffs.
4. To publish, disseminate, and exchange information
  - Internet connection & network;
  - Library;
  - Publishing facility; and
  - Graphic designer and administrative staffs.

**Support for the Operation**

<b>NO</b>	<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>COST ESTIMATION (USD)</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Assets in Research Institute For Inland Water Fisheries, Palembang, South Sumatera.</b>	
1.	Infrastructure: Office, Laboratory	796.456
2.	Laboratory Equipment	640.984
3.	Speed Boat and Rescue Equipment	56.941
	<b>TOTAL A</b>	<b>1.494.381</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Assets in Research Institute For Fisheries Conservation And Fish Stock Enhancement, Jatiluhur West Java</b>	
1.	Infrastructure: Office, Laboratory	587,986
2.	Laboratory Equipment	219,717
3.	Speed Boat and Rescue Equipment	27,246
	<b>TOTAL B</b>	<b>834,949</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Annual Basis Operational Support</b>	
1.	Annual Research Budget in Palembang	447,160
2.	Annual Research Budget in Jatiluhur	393,772
	<b>TOTAL C</b>	<b>840.932</b>



**REPORT OF THE SEAFDEC SECRETARY-GENERAL  
IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST MADE BY THE COUNCIL  
AT THE 43<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE SEAFDEC COUNCIL**

Honorable, SEAFDEC Council Directors,

Under this Agenda, I would like to report to you the progress made by SEAFDEC in response to the directives given by the Council during the Forty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council held in April 2011 in Malaysia.

During the Meeting, while noting that the fisheries situation had continuously under gone changes that led to challenges which could tremendously impact the sustainable development of fisheries in the region, the Council discussed the proposal made by SEAFDEC on the conduct of the “Third SEAFDEC Review”, and the proposal made by Singapore on the “Review of the SEAFDEC Agreement and Plan of Operations of SEAFDEC Departments”. While agreeing with the conduct of the Third Review, the Council requested SEAFDEC to communicate with the National Coordinators of the respective countries to compile the information on the countries’ views on the activities of SEAFDEC. In addition, the Council also requested SEAFDEC to incorporate in the report other relevant documents/information and submit to the Council.

I therefore wish to take this opportunity to report to you the actions that has been undertaken by SEAFDEC that:

- In response to the directives given by the Council, SEAFDEC has developed a questionnaire on expected roles, functions and activities of SEAFDEC, and sent to all Member Countries in order to gather their respective inputs through the National Coordinators;
- Based on the questionnaire developed by SEAFDEC, responses were provided by all Member Countries, and served as a basis for preparation of the “*Preliminary Report on Member Countries Views on the Expected Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC*”. The *Preliminary Report* was submitted to all Council Directors by *ad referendum* in September 2011;
- In addition to the *Preliminary Report*, the relevant documents as identified by the Council during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting were also submitted. These include:
  - 1) Agreement Establishing the Center;
  - 2) Roles and Functions/Operations of the SEAFDEC and Its Departments;
  - 3) List of SEAFDEC Programs for 2011-2012;
  - 4) Number of Staff of SEAFDEC and Organization Structures;
  - 5) Financial Regulation and Expenditures;
  - 6) Sources of Funds;
  - 7) Information on the Japanese Trust Fund and SEAFDEC-Sida Project; and
  - 8) Collaborative Projects/Programs with Other Organizations.
- SEAFDEC also requested all Member Countries to provide feedback on the Preliminary Report by the end of December 2011; and once obtained feedback and updated inputs from Member Countries, namely Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Thailand, SEAFDEC accommodated the feedback into the report and submitted the report to the Council Director once again by *ad referendum*, and the report would also be tabled for discussion during this SEAFDEC Council Meeting.



I therefore would like to reiterate that the exercise undertaken by SEAFDEC in coming up with the “Report on the Member Countries’ Views on the Expected Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC” is only an initial step for the conduct of the Third Review exercise. In taking further steps, clear guidance and directives from the Council Directors are very necessary to enhance the role of SEAFDEC in efficiently and effectively supporting the Member Countries in promoting sustainable development of fisheries in this changing environment. With that I wish to end my report.

Thank you very much.

## PROGRESS AND CONSIDERATIONS ON THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC)

### I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the unclear financial situation of SEAFDEC during the year 2006, the proposal on the provision of the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all Member Countries to SEAFDEC was first raised during the 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The total amount of MRC of US\$ 400,000 was proposed as one of the prerequisites to ensure sustainable operation of the Center, allowing SEAFDEC operation to continue at the minimum level (specifically for the organization of SEAFDEC annual meetings, the information programs, the operation of SEAFDEC Secretariat, and the operation and maintenance of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2). The allocation of the MRC from individual country was calculated based on the agreed criteria such as the country's GDP, total fisheries production, and other adjustment factors.

During the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2007, all Member Countries agreed to provide their respective MRC to SEAFDEC, starting from 2007; and during the subsequent 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2008, the Council further agreed that the level of MRC should be reviewed every 5 years and appropriately adjusted in order to ensure the sustainable operation of the center.

In line with the Council directives, during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2010, SEAFDEC Secretariat raised the issue on the status of MRC, and proposed the adjustment of the MRC starting from 2012 and onwards to cover additional important areas that will allow SEAFDEC to better serve the Member Countries. These include the enhancing sustainable operation and maximizing the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the sustainability of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN), the sustainability of the SEAFDEC Special Publication "Fish for the People", and other priority areas/activities that may be identified by Member Countries in the future. It was also proposed that the criteria factors for calculation of the proportion of MRC from each Member Countries would be based on the previously agreed principle. During the Meeting, the Council in principle supported the adjustment of the MRC, and requested the Secretariat to put up a more detailed proposal for Member Countries to visualize the scenario and prepare sufficient amount of budget for this purpose.

In response to the directives given by the Council, SEAFDEC Secretariat developed a draft proposal to increase the total amount of MRC from US\$ 400,000 to US\$ 500,000, and convened a Special Meeting of SEAFDEC National Coordinators in December 2010 to discuss such increase of the MRC. However, several countries expressed difficulties to agree with the increasing amount of their respective MRC. The Meeting therefore requested that the draft proposal and comment from the Special Meeting should be circulated to the Council Directors and further discussed during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011.

During the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the proposal for the adjustment of the MRC as prepared by the SEAFDEC Secretariat was tabled for discussion. In the proposal, the rationale for the increase of MRC was elaborated, and the new MRC was proposed. While noting that the issues on adjustment of the MRC need to be a consensus among all Council members; consensus however could not be achieved during the Meeting. Six Member Countries, *i.e.* Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand either supported or expressed no objection on the proposal; while other countries, *i.e.* Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam, expressed their difficulty and requested the Secretary-General to visit and provide clarification and rationale of the proposal to their respective concerned authorities. In 2011 and early 2012, the Secretary-General had made courtesy visit to Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and

Vietnam to provide clarification to the concerned authorities and seek support on the adjustment of MRC. It is therefore expected that the position of all Member Countries would be confirmed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council so that SEAFDEC could take further steps to allow the proposed new MRC comes into effect by 2012.

## II. PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT OF THE MRC

During the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011, SEAFDEC Secretariat proposed the adjustment of the MRC considering that the current level of MRC is sufficient only to cover the expenditures that allow SEAFDEC to continue at the minimum level, while there are also other priority areas that are important for sustainable operation of SEAFDEC and should also be covered by the MRC. The amount of current and proposed new MRC appears as follows:

Countries	Current MRC (2007-2011) (US\$)	Proposed New MRC (US\$)
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	6,000	11,000
Indonesia	26,000	58,000
Japan	280,000	280,000
Lao PDR	4,000	5,000
Malaysia	10,000	21,000
Myanmar	10,000	21,000
Philippines	15,000	25,000
Singapore	8,000	13,000
Thailand	20,000	33,000
Vietnam	14,000	26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>

**Note:** Calculation of the proposed new MRC together with its explanatory note appears as **Appendix 1**.

## III. UPDATE ON MEMBER COUNTRIES' POSITIONS ON THE ADJUSTMENT OF MRC

Throughout the discussion at the various meetings and visits to relevant agencies of the respective countries, the Member Countries' positions in response to the proposal for the adjustment of the MRC could be summarized as follows:

Country	Views
Brunei Darussalam	<i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting (2011):</i> Brunei Darussalam supported the adjustment of MRC as proposed by the Secretariat.
Cambodia	<p><i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting:</i> Cambodia expressed difficulty in proceeding with the adjustment of MRC, and requested SEAFDEC Secretary-General to visit concerned authority to provide clarification and rationale on the proposal.</p> <p>On 14 February 2012, SG made a courtesy visit to the Fisheries Administration, where positive response was in principle provided on the adjustment of the MRC. Cambodia however, requested official letter on this matter to be sent to the country in order to proceed with the required process.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 15 February 2012</i>) was sent from SG to the Council Director for Cambodia to provide further clarification on MRC, and request Cambodia to proceed with internal consultation process in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.</p>

Indonesia	<p><i>Special NC Meeting (2010)</i>: Indonesia expressed concern on high increasing amount of MRC for Indonesia.</p> <p><i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting (2011)</i>: Indonesia expressed concern that it is difficult to justify the high increasing amount of MRC to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). SEAFDEC Secretary-General was therefore requested to visit concerned authority in Indonesia to provide clarification and rationale of the proposal.</p> <p>In <i>September 2011</i>, the Secretary-General made his courtesy visit to the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, where the intention of Indonesia to host the new SEAFDEC Department was also discussed. It was noted that the establishment of the new department could facilitate the provision of adjusted MRC, as in such case the budget would be provided directly from MMAF.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent from SG to the Council Director for Indonesia to provide further clarification on MRC, and request Indonesia to proceed with internal consultation process in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.</p>
Japan	<p><i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting (2011)</i>: Japan supported the adjustment of MRC as proposed by the Secretariat.</p>
Lao PDR	<p><i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting (2011)</i>: Lao PDR supported the proposal for adjustment of MRC as proposed by the Secretariat.</p> <p>On <i>22 December 2011</i>, the Secretary-General made his courtesy visit to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Lao PDR, where the country's support to the adjustment of MRC was concurred.</p>
Malaysia	<p><i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting (2011)</i>: Malaysia has no objection on the proposal, however requested SEAFDEC to also consider minimizing certain budgetary items.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent from SG to the Council Director for Malaysia to provide further clarification on MRC, and request Malaysia to proceed with internal consultation process in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.</p>
Myanmar	<p><i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting</i>: Myanmar expressed difficulty in proceeding with adjustment of the MRC, and requested SEAFDEC Secretary-General visit concerned authority to provide clarification and rationale on the proposal.</p> <p>On <i>19 January 2012</i>, SG made his courtesy visit and discussed with the Vice Minister of Livestock and Fisheries on the adjustment of MRC. The issue would be further conveyed for the Minister/cabinet consideration/approval.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent from SG to the Council Director for Myanmar to provide further clarification on MRC, and request Myanmar to proceed with internal consultation process in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.</p>
Philippines	<p><i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting</i>: Philippines expressed difficulty in proceeding with adjustment of the MRC, and requested the Secretary-General visit concerned authority in order to provide clarification and rationale on the proposal.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent from SG to the Council Director for the Philippines to provide clarification on MRC, and request Philippines to proceed with internal consultation process in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.</p> <p>On <i>29 February 2012</i>, SG made his courtesy visit to the Director of BFAR to further discuss on the adjustment of MRC; where the positive response was indicated.</p>



Singapore	<i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting (2011)</i> : Singapore would follow the consensus of the Council.
Thailand	<i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting (2011)</i> : Thailand supported the proposal for adjustment of MRC considering the circumstance of high inflation rate and devaluation of the US Dollars.
Vietnam	<p><i>Special NC Meeting (2010)</i>: Vietnam expressed concern on high increasing amount of MRC for Vietnam.</p> <p><i>43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting (2011)</i>: Vietnam in principle supported the proposal for adjustment of MRC, but could not commit its concurrence at the Council Meeting. Vietnam therefore requested the Secretary-General to visit concerned authority to provide clarification and rationale on the proposal.</p> <p>Letter (<i>dated 16 February 2012</i>) was sent from SG to Vietnam to provide further clarification on MRC, and request Vietnam to proceed with internal consultation process in order that the country's position could be confirmed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.</p> <p>On 26 March 2011, SG made his courtesy visit to the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to discuss on the adjustment of MRC. Vietnam in principle has no objection on the increase of MRC. However, Vietnam would wait for the results of the 44<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting, and further proceed with internal arrangement to secure budget for the required amount of MRC.</p>

#### IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERTION BY THE COUNCIL

- 1) All Member Countries are requested to provide confirmation on the respective country's position towards the adjustment of the MRC; and
- 2) The Council is requested to provide guidance on steps to be further taken on the new MRC.

### CALCULATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC) FOR SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

(As proposed during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011)

Country	GDP (US\$)	% of Membership Fee (A)	Total Fishery Production of All Fishing Areas (MT)	Adjustment Factors of % of MRC				Special Adjustment Factor** (F)	MRC after Adjustment		Round off Figure by Countries Grouping (I)
				Donor & Recipient Countries (B)	City or Urban State/Land-locked Countries (C)	Host/ Non-host Countries (D)	Fishery Production (E)		% (G)	US\$ (% of 500,000) (H)	
Brunei	14,417,000,000	0.23	2,400	2.37	-0.79	+0.52	-0.79	-0.14	1.40 *	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	10,344,342,200	0.16	471,500	2.37	+0.24	+0.52	-0.79	-0.36	2.14	10,700	11,000
Indonesia	510,504,000,000	7.97	9,052,127	2.37	+0.36	+0.52	+0.79	-0.36	11.65	58,250	58,000
Japan	4,886,970,000,000	76.31	5,541,171	-23.69	-	-	-	+3.38	56.00*	280,000	280,000
Lao PDR	5,474,535,050	0.01	145,687	2.37	-0.79	+0.52	-0.79	-0.36	0.96	4,800	5,000
Malaysia	221,161,000,000	3.45	1,753,310	2.37	+0.36	-0.79	-0.79	-0.36	4.24	21,200	21,000
Myanmar	31,367,000,000	0.49	3,168,630	2.37	+0.36	+0.52	+0.79	-0.36	4.17	20,850	21,000
Philippines	167,491,000,000	2.62	4,966,890	2.37	+0.36	-0.79	+0.79	-0.36	4.99	24,950	25,000
Singapore	193,332,000,000	3.02	5,141	2.37	-0.79	-0.79	-0.79	-0.36	2.66	13,300	13,000
Thailand	272,456,000,000	4.25	3,831,208	2.37	+0.36	-0.79	+0.79	-0.36	6.62	33,100	33,000
Vietnam	90,644,972,320	1.42	4,584,900	2.37	+0.36	+0.52	+0.79	-0.36	5.10	25,500	26,000
Total	6,404,161,849,570		33,522,964						99.93	499,650	500,000

#### Remarks:

GDP of ASEAN Member Countries for the year 2008 based on the data from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD>

GDP (Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar) based on the data from

<http://imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/weodata/weorept.aspx?sy=2007&ey=2009&scsm=1&ssd=1&sort=country&ds=&br=1&c=518%2C516&s=NGDPD&grp=0&a=&pr.x=42&pr.y=10>

\* MRC of Japan and Brunei Darussalam should be retained

\*\* Special Adjustment Factor when Japan and Brunei Darussalam retain the same amount of MRC

**G=A+B+C+D+E+F**



## **Explanatory Notes of Calculation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) for SEAFDEC Member Countries**

*(As proposed during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2011)*

### **Allocation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)**

Considering sustainability issues of SEAFDEC, it becomes necessary to revise the non-host countries' regular contribution to SEAFDEC from the current flat rate of US\$400,000 to 500,000 US\$. The proposed revised scheme would require that the Member Countries share the financial responsibility for the sustainability of SEAFDEC. The principle of allocation of MRC is calculated based on certain criteria that include mainly the GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Thus, it can be justified that countries having high GDP should provide more beneficial contribution to the organization than those with low GDP.

### **Criteria and Factors used in the Calculation of Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)**

The use of GDP as one of the main criteria for allocation of MRC is an appropriate indicator that has been widely applied in other regional fisheries organizations, for example the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA). However, considering the GDP rate only could not reflect the real beneficial contribution of the Member Countries to SEAFDEC, therefore, other relevant factors are also taken into consideration for the appropriate allocation of MRC. Accordingly, the other significant criteria and factors for the calculation of MRC for SEAFDEC take into account the Donor's Contribution, City State/Urban Government/Landlocked Countries, Host and Non-host Countries, and Total Fishery Production. The adjustment factors for the percentage of MRC as shown in the Table can be explained as follows:

- Donor Contribution: Based on percentage calculation from respective GDPs (**Column A**), the donor country should be responsible for 76.31% of the MRC. However, since Japan as a donor will receive less benefit than the recipient countries, the adjustment scale should consider decreasing the percentage of its membership fee by 23.69%. With this reason, it is proposed that the recipient countries shall share the responsibility of the equivalent reduced percentage, and each recipient country would increase its percentage contribution by 2.37% (**Column B**);
- City State/Urban Government/Landlocked Countries: It is understood that small states and/or landlocked countries could have certain disadvantage as far as delivery of services from the various projects of SEAFDEC is concerned. Thus, the percentage of MRC of Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR and Singapore should be decreased accordingly by 0.79% (**Column C**), which is equivalent to 1/3 of the percentage of MRC as recipient countries (1/3 of 2.37). In addition, since Cambodia has the Great Lake, it is projected that its membership fee should be increased by 0.24% or 10% of the percentage of its MRC as recipient country (10% of 2.37). Consequently, the other countries shall each share the responsibility of providing additional 0.36% as equivalent and to compensate for the remaining required percentage. (It should be noted that this factor is not applicable for Japan due to its position as donor.);
- Host/Non-host Countries: For the administrative operating costs of the Departments, most Departments receive operating cost as part of the regular contribution from the respective host countries. It can therefore be justified that the diminishing percentage of MRC could be applied, which is 0.79% for Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand (**Column D**). Consequently, the remaining countries shall share the responsibility for the remaining 0.52% as equivalent and to compensate for the remaining required percentage. (It should be noted that this factor is not applicable for Japan due to its position as donor.);



- **Fishery Production:** It is assumed that the country which has high total fishery production could gain more benefit from the organization than the others. Therefore, an increase of 0.79% of MRC is applied to five countries (Column E) with total fishery production which is ranked in the upper 50% of the region's total fishery production. (It should be noted that this is not applicable to Japan due to its position as donor.); and
- A Special Adjustment factor is required when the MRC of Japan and Brunei Darussalam are fixed. Hence, decrease of 0.14 % and 0.36% will be applied to Brunei Darussalam and other countries respectively, except Japan (Column F). The required equivalent of 3.38% will added to the percentage of the membership fee of Japan in order to maintain the present level of its MRC.

Consequently, the percentage of the MRC after adjustment is calculated by adding all the adjustment factors of the percentage of MRC (**Column G**). Converting the percentage of MRC into US Dollars on the basis of the proposed minimum operating costs for the sustainability of SEAFDEC, the corresponding proposed new MRC is shown in **Columns H and I**.



## REPORT ON MEMBER COUNTRIES' VIEWS ON THE EXPECTED ROLES, FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF SEAFDEC

### I. INTRODUCTION

Since the establishment of SEAFDEC in 1967, several review exercises had been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of SEAFDEC. The first review exercise was conducted in 1986; and the second in 1991. In addition, the organizational structures and plans of operations of SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments had also been occasionally reviewed and adjusted in accordance with the changing situation of fisheries in the region and related requirements. During the past decade however, the fisheries situation had continuously undergone changes that led to challenges that could tremendously impact the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. It is therefore envisaged that another review exercise is deemed necessary to enhance the role of SEAFDEC in efficiently and effectively supporting the Member Countries in their continuing efforts towards achieving sustainable fisheries and attaining food security.

During the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the proposal for the conduct of the Third SEAFDEC Review was presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General. While agreeing to have the Third Review on the roles and functions of SEAFDEC, the Council requested the Secretary-General to communicate with the National Coordinators of the respective countries for them to provide information on their countries' views on the activities of SEAFDEC, and to compile the relevant documents/information on SEAFDEC for submission to the Member Countries.

In response to the directives given by the Council, SEAFDEC Secretariat in close coordination with the Departments developed a questionnaire on expected roles, functions and activities of SEAFDEC, which was sent to all Member Countries to gather their respective inputs through the National Coordinators. Responses have been provided by all Member Countries, and used as a basis for preparation of the "*Preliminary Report on Member Countries Views on the Expected Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC*". The Preliminary Report has been submitted by *ad referendum* to the Council Directors, requesting them to consider sending their feedback by the end of 2011.

The following relevant documents identified by the Council during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, were also submitted together with the Preliminary Report:

- 1) Agreement Establishing the Center;
- 2) Roles and Functions/Operations of the SEAFDEC and Its Departments;
- 3) List of SEAFDEC Programs for 2011-2012;
- 4) Number of Staff of SEAFDEC and Organization Structures;
- 5) Financial Regulation and Expenditures;
- 6) Sources of Funds;
- 7) Information on the Japanese Trust Fund and SEAFDEC-Sida Project; and
- 8) Collaborative Projects/Programs with Other Organizations.

### II. FEEDBACK FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES ON THE PRELIMINARY REPORT

Based on the "*Preliminary Report on Member Countries Views on the Expected Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC*" as submitted by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, the Council Directors from Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Thailand provided their respective feedback, which had been taken into consideration in finalizing the Report. Modifications incorporating the feedback and updated information from the countries, were carried out by the SEAFDEC Secretariat while some refinements of the report were made in order to better reflect the views of the Member Countries. The summary of countries' responses appears as **Appendix 1**.



The major modifications and refinements made to the Preliminary Report could be summarized as follows:

- For the “**priority areas that should be addressed/improved in the Member Countries**”, the elements of priority were re-identified (to minimize overlapping as much as possible) and grouped into different scopes of fisheries. It should be noted however that ten priority areas identified by one country could fall under more than ten elements of priority.
- For the “**expected roles and functions of SEAFDEC**”, since some Member Countries indicated “*score*” instead of “*rank*”, such inputs which could still provide indications on their expected roles and functions of SEAFDEC should be acceptable.
- For the “**views on fisheries-related scopes/activities that should be undertaken by SEAFDEC**”, additional inputs provided by Lao PDR have been accommodated in the final report. Moreover, based on the scores given by the countries on particular activities, the SEAFDEC Secretariat deemed it necessary to revise the grouping of “priority activities”, from using “*mode*” (High Priority: mode of 5; Moderate Priority: mode of 4; Low Priority= mode of 3, using the highest mode in case of bi/multi-modal situation) to using “*mean*” (High Priority: means of 5.0-4.5; Moderate Priority: means of <4.5-4.0; Low Priority= means of <4.0) in order to avoid the occurrence of bi/multi-modal values and thus, better reflect the views of all Member Countries.

In addition to their comments on the Preliminary Report, the Council Directors also provided certain views that could be considered in undertaking further steps for the Third SEAFDEC Review and in enhancing the roles and functions of SEAFDEC. Their additional views include the following:

- SEAFDEC should efficiently prioritize its existing and new programs, and re-organize effectively dealing with various issues in accordance with the results of the third review exercise (Japan);
- The Third Review of SEAFDEC should be done in conjunction with the review of the Plans of Operation of the Departments (Malaysia);
- The review on roles and functions of SEAFDEC should be conducted by an independent entity/neutral third party and come up with recommendations/suggestions for improvement (Malaysia and Thailand); and
- The report should conclude only the priorities identified by the Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam).

### III. SUMMARY ON MEMBER COUNTRIES’ VIEWS ON EXPECTED ROLES, FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF SEAFDEC

Based on the inputs from the National Coordinators through the questionnaire issued by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and subsequent feedback from the Council Directors, the views of the Member Countries on the expected roles, functions and activities of SEAFDEC, could be summarized as follows:

#### 1. Priority areas that should be addressed/improved in the Member Countries

Based on the returned questionnaires, the Member Countries identified ten fisheries priority areas that should be addressed and/or improved in the respective countries<sup>3</sup>. The common elements were identified from a wide range of priority areas, and grouped into different scopes of fisheries. The scope and common elements<sup>4</sup> are as follows:

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<sup>3</sup> For countries that identified more than ten priority areas, only the first ten areas were used

<sup>4</sup> Elements that are common for at least 2 countries

### **Fishery resources**

- Fishery resource survey/assessment and researches on species, biology, ecology, etc. (6 countries); and
- Fisheries impact assessment and mitigation/reduction (2 countries).

### **Fisheries management and policy planning**

- Combating IUU fishing (incl. MCS, Port State Measures) (7 countries);
- Fisheries policy planning and management (6 countries);
- Improving fishery statistics, information, inventories, STF (5 countries);
- Habitat conservation and resources enhancement (5 countries);
- Over-fishing capacity (3 countries);
- Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (2 countries); and
- Enhancing sustainable small-scale fisheries (2 countries).

### **Responsible fishing technologies/practices**

- Responsible fishing technologies and practices (5 countries)

### **Aquaculture**

- Aquaculture development (8 countries);
- Aquaculture disease and aquatic animal health (5 countries);
- Aquaculture broodstock and seed production (4 countries);
- Aquaculture feed (low-cost, fishmeal substitution, etc.) (3 countries);
- Good/environment-friendly aquaculture practices (3 countries); and
- Aquaculture impact monitoring and assessment (2 countries).

### **Fishery post-harvest**

- Post-harvest technologies and product safety (8 countries);
- Product development (3 countries); and
- Safety and quality systems and standards for fishery products (2 countries).

### **Trade in Fish and Fisheries Products**

- Fish Trade (2 countries);
- Traceability and certification of fish and fishery products (2 countries);
- Product distribution system (2 countries); and
- Marketing and market information exchange (2 countries).

### **Others**

- Climate change (4 countries);
- HRD and transfer of knowledge and technologies (4 countries);
- Food security (3 countries);
- Rice field fisheries (2 countries);
- Emerging requirements (2 countries); and
- Regional coordination and cooperation in fisheries (2 countries).

## **2. Views on expected roles and functions of SEAFDEC**

The Member Countries provided the following views on the *expected roles and functions of SEAFDEC*, which had been ranked<sup>5</sup> from high to the low priorities:

1. Research, development and verification of relevant technologies (4.3);
2. Transfer of technologies through training and HRD activities to government officers (4.1);

<sup>5</sup> **Priority roles/functions** of SEAFDEC are ranked based on “*means*” of the priority ranked by the Member Countries. Although some countries gave “score” instead of “rank”, the inputs could still provide indications on the expected roles and functions of SEAFDEC and thus, were accepted.

3. Facilitate regional discussion/collaboration and development of common/coordinated positions, regional standards, etc. (3.6);
4. Awareness raising, and generation/dissemination of information package and toolkits (3.2); and
5. Facilitate coordination and networking with other regional/international organizations (2.6).

### 3. Views on fisheries-related scopes/activities that should be undertaken by SEAFDEC

While noting that several sectors/institutions/organizations are working at the national/regional/global levels but undertake different roles and functions to contribute to sustainable fisheries development in the region; this part of the questionnaire was intended to gather the views of the Member Countries on what should be the priority scopes/activities to be undertaken specifically by SEAFDEC. The questionnaire also categorized the fisheries-related scopes into: i) Fishery Resources; ii) Fisheries Management and Policy Planning (General, Coastal/Marine, and Inland); iii) Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices; iv) Aquaculture; v) Post-harvest of Fish and Fishery Products; vi) Trade in Fish and Fishery Products; and vii) Emerging Requirements, with list of activities under the respective scopes. The Member Countries were requested to prioritize each activity under the different scopes using the range from 1 to 5 (with 1=lowest priority and 5=highest priority).

Based on the responses given by the Member Countries, the *priority scopes*<sup>6</sup> and *priority activities*<sup>7</sup> that should be undertaken by SEAFDEC could be ranked as follows:

#### i. Fisheries Management: General Policy Planning and Management (4.44)

Priority	Activities
High	i. Harmonization and compilation of fishery statistics; and enhancing the collection/use of non-routine data and indigenous knowledge for policy planning and management (4.5)
Moderate	i. Promote the implementation and regionalization of International Agreements/ Instruments (4.4); and ii. Facilitate development of common/coordinated positions on international fisheries-related issues (4.4)
Low	-

#### ii. Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices (4.29)

Priority	Activities
High	i. Improving fish quality through on-board handling technologies and good practices (4.7) ii. Improving safety and working conditions of fishers on-board fishing vessels (4.5)
Moderate	i. By-catch reduction including the implementation of international by-catch guidelines (4.4); ii. Development of appropriate fishing gears, improvement of technologies and practices including selective fishing gears and devices (4.3); and iii. Reduction of impacts from fisheries to the inland/coastal/marine ecosystems (4.0)
Low	i. Mitigation of impacts from fisheries to climate change (including energy saving/optimization) (3.9)

#### iii. Fisheries Management: Coastal/Marine Fisheries (4.16)

Priority	Activities
High	i. Management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing (4.6)

<sup>6</sup> **Priority scopes** are ranked based on the “means” of the priority scores of all activities within a certain scope. However, it should be noted that the scopes with higher “means” may not necessarily be more important than those with lower “means”.

<sup>7</sup> **Priority activities** are grouped based on the “mean” of the priority score (means of 5.0-4.5: High Priority; means of <4.5-4.0: Moderate Priority; means of <4.0: Low Priority).

Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Regional, Sub-regional coordination for fisheries management (4.4);</li> <li>ii. Ecosystem approach to fisheries (4.2);</li> <li>iii. Indicators for sustainable fisheries development (4.2);</li> <li>iv. Co-management, rights-based fisheries, strengthening institutions, alternative livelihood (4.1);</li> <li>v. Sustainable exploitation of resources (<i>e.g.</i> under-utilized and deep-sea resources) (4.1)</li> <li>vi. Habitat conservation/rehabilitation and resources enhancement (<i>e.g.</i> <i>Refugia</i>, ARs, MPAs) (4.1);</li> <li>vii. Measures to mitigate impacts of climate change and to build adaptive capacity (4.1); and</li> <li>viii. Conservation and management of species under international concerns (4.0)</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Maximizing utilization of by-catch (3.8)</li> </ul>

**iv. Trade in Fish and Fishery Products (4.16)**

Priority	Activities
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Preventing trade of IUU fishing products (4.5)</li> </ul>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Traceability and certification (4.4); and</li> <li>ii. ASEAN standards for fishery and aquaculture products (4.2)</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Product eco-labeling, branding (3.5)</li> </ul>

**v. Aquaculture (4.15)**

Priority	Activities
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Advancing aquaculture technologies (broodstock management to grow out phase) (4.7);</li> <li>ii. Regional Guidelines for good aquaculture practices (4.6);</li> <li>iii. Minimizing impacts of aquaculture on the environment/biodiversity (4.5); and</li> <li>iv. Development of aquaculture feeds to reduce dependence on fish meal and fish-based products (4.5).</li> </ul>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Aquaculture for rural development, food security and poverty alleviation (4.2);</li> <li>ii. Genetic improvement of aquaculture species (4.1);</li> <li>iii. Regional collaboration on disease diagnosis, surveillance and control (4.1);</li> <li>iv. Regional Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification (4.1);</li> <li>v. Capacity building in responsible aquaculture practices (4.1); and</li> <li>vi. Impacts of climate change on aquaculture (4.0).</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Stock enhancement of endangered species (3.7); and</li> <li>ii. Energy saving/optimization for aquaculture (3.1).</li> </ul>

**vi. Emerging Requirements (4.04)**

Priority	Activities
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Requirements relevant to combating IUU fishing (4.5)</li> </ul>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Emerging requirements from the ASEAN Community Building (4.2); and</li> <li>ii. CITES-related issues and requirements (4.0)</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Requirements on safety and working conditions of fisheries workers (3.7); and</li> <li>ii. Requirements relevant to Fishery Subsidies (3.7)</li> </ul>

**vii. Post-harvest of Fish and Fishery Products (4.03)**

Priority	Activities
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Improving post-harvest technologies and safety/quality of products for export (4.5)</li> </ul>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Capacity building on analysis of chemicals, drugs, toxins, etc. (4.4);</li> <li>ii. Improved handling and preservation, product development and innovation (4.4); and</li> <li>iii. Improving post-harvest technologies and safety/quality of local/traditional fishery products (4.1).</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Optimize utilization of catch, and reduction of post-harvest losses (3.9);</li> <li>ii. Optimizing socio-economic returns from fisheries/post-harvest activities (3.8); and</li> <li>iii. Promotion of “One Village, One Fisheries Products” (3.0).</li> </ul>

**viii. Fishery Resources (3.80)**

Priority	Activities
High	i. Improvement of information on status and trends of fishery resources (4.5)
Moderate	i. Study on impacts of climate change on fishery resources (4.2); and ii. Data collection on shared stocks (4.1).
Low	i. Data collection on species under international concerns (3.9); ii. Fishery resources survey in the territorial seas and EEZs (3.8); iii. Fishery resources survey in the inland waters (3.5); iv. Fishery resources survey in the high-sea and deep-sea areas (3.2); and v. Fish species identification ( <i>e.g.</i> deep-sea fishes) (3.0).

**ix. Fisheries Management: Inland Fisheries (3.53)**

Priority	Activities
High	-
Moderate	-
Low	i. Habitat conservation/rehabilitation and resource enhancement for inland fisheries (3.9); ii. Co-management, rights-based fisheries, strengthening institutions, alternative livelihood (3.8); iii. Enhancing awareness on the importance of inland fisheries (3.6); iv. Ecosystem approach to inland fisheries (3.5); v. Indicators for sustainable inland fisheries (3.5); vi. Management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing (3.4); vii. Enhancing interconnectivity of habitat and mitigating impacts from water infrastructure (3.4); viii. Measures needed to mitigate effects of climate change and to build adaptive capacity (3.4); and ix. Addressing multiple use resources, and conflict resolution/mitigation (3.3).

**4. Other views on roles and functions of SEAFDEC**

Through the questionnaire, some Member Countries also provided additional views on the roles and functions of SEAFDEC, which could be summarized as follows:

- SEAFDEC should implement activities in efficient and cost-effective manner;
- SEAFDEC should actively follow-up international fisheries-related issues/fora, and safeguard the interest of countries in the region;
- SEAFDEC should assist in the development and implementation of regional plans of actions to enhance and improve sustainable fisheries development;
- SEAFDEC should undertake more work on CITES-related issues and requirements in order to support the Member Countries in evaluating proposals on the listing of aquatic species in the CITES Appendices;
- SEAFDEC should incorporate in its activities the aspects related to the possible impacts from natural disasters (including Tsunami);
- SEAFDEC should promote the role of aquaculture for food security and poverty alleviation, particularly for least developed countries;
- SEAFDEC should promote collaboration and sharing of existing scientific information/knowledge among the countries, including those on inland fisheries research methodologies, and inland development and management;
- SEAFDEC should keep monitoring and provide information on relevant regional/international meetings in advance, and share the outcomes from these meetings to the Member Countries;
- Training courses conducted by SEAFDEC should not be for free of charge on regular basis, but under cost-recovery policy. Some funds could be sourced to subsidize the training fees. In addition, follow-up and assessment should be undertaken, *e.g.* on the outcomes and benefits that could be derived from the training; and



- Activities should cater first to the requirements of individual member countries, to be developed later into regional activity/activities.

#### **IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

During the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Council is requested to:

- 1) Consider the “Member Countries’ Views on the Expected Roles, Functions and Activities of SEAFDEC”, and provide further suggestion for the modification and finalization of the Report; and
- 2) Provide guidance on further steps to be taken for the Third SEAFDEC Review.

**COMPILATION OF COUNTRIES' VIEWS ON ROLES, FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF SEAFDEC**

		Bru	Cam	Indo	Japan	Lao	Malay	Myan	Phil	Sing	Thai	Viet				
<b>1</b>	<b>List ten fisheries-related priority areas that should be addressed/improved in your country</b>															<b>Country</b>
	<i>(Scopes/Elements)</i>															
	<b>Fishery resources</b>															
	• Fishery resources, including resource survey/assessment and researches on species, biology, ecology etc.		1		1	1	1	1		1					6	
	• Fisheries impact assessment and mitigation/reduction					1		1							2	
	<b>Fisheries management and policy planning</b>															
	• Combating IUU fishing (incl. MCS, Port State Measures)	1		1				1	1	1	1	1			7	
	• Fisheries policy planning and management		1		1	1	1		1			1			6	
	• Improving fishery statistics, information, inventories, STF					1	1	1			1	1			5	
	• Habitat conservation and resources enhancement	1	1	1		1		1							5	
	• Over-fishing capacity	1						1			1				3	
	• Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries		1	1											2	
	• Enhancing sustainable small-scale fisheries			1			1								2	
	• Vessel registration, fishing gear licensing										1				1	
	<b>Responsible fishing technologies/practices</b>															
	• Responsible fishing technologies/practices				1		1	1	1	1					5	
	<b>Aquaculture</b>															
	• Aquaculture development		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					8	
	• Aquaculture disease and aquatic animal health			1		1			1	1		1			5	
	• Aquaculture broodstock and seed production	1		1					1	1					4	
	• Aquaculture feed (low-cost, fishmeal substitution, etc.)	1									1	1			3	
	• Good/environment-friendly aquaculture practices							1		1	1				3	
	• Aquaculture impact monitoring and assessment	1										1			2	
	• Genetic improvement for aquaculture species											1			1	
	<b>Fishery post-harvest</b>															
	• Post-harvest technologies and product safety		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1				8	
	• Product development								1	1	1				3	
	• Safety and quality systems and standards for fishery products									1	1				2	
	• Reduction of post-harvest losses		1												1	

		Bru	Cam	Indo	Japan	Lao	Malay	Myan	Phil	Sing	Thai	Viet				
	<b>Trade in fish and fishery products</b>															
	• Fish Trade				1		1								2	
	• Traceability and certification of fish and fishery products							1		1					2	
	• Product distribution system			1						1					2	
	• Marketing and market information exchange			1					1						2	
	• Compliance with importing countries' requirements on combating IUU fishing	1													1	
	• Micro-credit					1									1	
	<b>Others</b>															
	• Climate change		1	1			1		1						4	
	• HRD and transfer of knowledge and technologies		1	1					1	1					4	
	• Food security		1					1	1						3	
	• Rice field fisheries		1			1									2	
	• Emerging requirements				1		1								2	
	• Regional coordination and cooperation in fisheries		1									1			2	
	• Awareness raising on sustainable fisheries									1					1	
	• Creating opportunities in fishery industry	1													1	
<b>2</b>	<b>Views on roles and function of SEAFDEC</b>														<b>Avg.</b>	
1	Research, development and verification of relevant technologies (research and development center)	5	4	4	5	5	3	5	4	5	4	3			4.3	
2	Transfer of technologies through training and HRD activities to government officers (training center)	4	5	3	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	3			4.1	
3	Awareness raising, and generation/dissemination of information package and toolkits (fisheries information center)	3	3	5	3	3	2	4	3	4	2	3			3.2	
4	Facilitate regional discussion/collaboration and development of common/coordinated positions, regional standards, etc.	3	4	2	5	2	4	4	3	3	5	5			3.6	
5	Facilitate coordination and networking with other regional/international organizations	2	4	1	3	1	1	5	4	3	1	4			2.6	
<b>3</b>	<b>Views on scopes/activities that should be undertaken by SEAFDEC</b>															
	<b>Fishery Resources</b>													Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
1	Fishery resources survey in the inland waters	3	4	5	3	5	1	4	4	3	2	4	3.80	3.5	4	
2	Fishery resources survey in the territorial seas and EEZs	5	4	5	3	-	1	5	4	4	4	3		3.8	4	
3	Fishery resources survey in the high-sea and deep-sea areas	4	3	3	3	-	5	3	3	1	3	4		3.2	3	
4	Fish species identification (e.g. deep-sea fishes)	3	3	3	3	-	4	3	3	2	4	2		3.0	3	

		Bru	Cam	Indo	Japan	Lao	Malay	Myan	Phil	Sing	Thai	Viet			
5	Data collection on shared stocks	4	5	3	5	-	4	3	3	5	4	5		4.1	5
6	Data collection on species under international concerns	4	4	5	5	-	1	3	3	5	4	5		3.9	5
7	Improvement of information on status and trends of fishery resources	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	3		4.5	5
8	Study on impacts of climate change on fishery resources	4	5	3	3	4	5	5	5	4	3	5		4.2	5
9	Others (specify)	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	- <i>Marine Fish assessment</i>							✓							
	- <i>Fish Stock Recovery program</i>			5											
<b>Fisheries Management and Policy Planning</b>															
<b>General Policy Planning and Management</b>															
													Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
1	Promote the implementation and regionalization of International Agreements/Instruments	5	4	5	3	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4.44	4.4	5, 4
2	Facilitate development of common/coordinated positions on international fisheries-related issues	3	5	5	5	3	5	4	4	5	4	5		4.4	5
3	Harmonization and compilation of fishery statistics; and enhancing the collection/use of non-routine data and indigenous knowledge for policy planning and management	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	5		4.5	5
4	Others (specify)	-	-	-	-										
	- <i>Develop regional guidelines and technologies for inland fisheries research, management and development</i>					5									
	- <i>Promote ecosystem approaches to fisheries management</i>												✓		
<b>Coastal/Marine Fisheries Management</b>															
													Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
1	Regional, Sub-regional coordination for fisheries management	4	5	5	5	-	3	4	4	5	4	5	4.16	4.4	5
2	Management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing	5	4	5	5	-	4	5	4	5	4	5		4.6	5
3	Co-management, rights-based fisheries, strengthening institutions, alternative livelihood	3	5	5	3	-	5	5	4	3	4	4		4.1	5
4	Sustainable exploitation of resources ( <i>e.g.</i> under-utilized and deep-sea resources)	4	3	5	5	-	4	5	4	4	3	4		4.1	4
5	Maximizing utilization of by-catch	4	4	4	5	-	1	4	4	3	5	4		3.8	4
6	Habitat conservation/rehabilitation and resources enhancement ( <i>e.g.</i> <i>Refugia</i> , ARs, MPAs)	4	4	5	3	-	5	5	4	3	3	5		4.1	5
7	Conservation and management of species under international concerns	3	4	5	5	-	5	3	4	3	3	5		4.0	5, 3
8	Ecosystem approach to fisheries	5	4	5	3	-	5	4	4	3	4	5		4.2	5, 4
9	Indicators for sustainable fisheries development	4	3	4	3	-	5	5	4	4	5	5		4.2	5, 4
10	Measures to mitigate impacts of climate change and to build adaptive capacity	3	4	5	3	-	5	4	4	4	4	5		4.1	4
11	Others (specify)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			

		Bru	Cam	Indo	Japan	Lao	Malay	Myan	Phil	Sing	Thai	Viet	Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
	<b><i>Inland Fisheries Management</i></b>														
1	Management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing	2	4	3	5	1	3	5	4	3	4	3	3.53	3.4	3
2	Co-management, rights-based fisheries, strengthening institutions, alternative livelihood	3	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	3	3	5		3.8	3
3	Addressing multiple use resources, and conflict resolution/ mitigation	3	4	4	3	4	1	4	3	3	3	4		3.3	4
4	Enhancing awareness on importance of inland fisheries	3	5	4	3	5	1	4	4	3	5	3		3.6	3
5	Habitat conservation/rehabilitation and resource enhancement for inland fisheries	4	4	5	3	5	3	5	4	3	4	3		3.9	4, 3
6	Enhancing interconnectivity of habitat and mitigating impacts from water infrastructure	4	4	4	3	3	1	3	4	3	5	3		3.4	3
7	Measures needed to mitigate effects of climate change and to build adaptive capacity	3	3	3	3	5	2	3	4	3	4	4		3.4	3
8	Ecosystem approach to inland fisheries	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	3		3.5	3
9	Indicators for sustainable inland fisheries	3	4	4	3	4	1	5	4	5	3	3		3.5	4, 3
10	Others (specify)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	<b><i>Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices</i></b>												Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
1	Development of appropriate fishing gears, improvement of technologies and practices including selective fishing gears and devices	4	4	5	5	5	3	5	4	4	3	5	4.29	4.3	5
2	By-catch and by-catch reduction including the implementation of international by-catch guidelines	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	4		4.4	5, 4
3	Reduction of impacts from fisheries to the inland/coastal/marine ecosystems	3	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	5	4		4.0	4
4	Mitigation of impacts from fisheries to climate change (including energy saving/optimization)	4	3	3	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	5		3.9	4, 3
5	Improving fish quality through on-board handling technologies and good practices	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	5		4.7	5
6	Improving safety and working conditions of fishers onboard fishing vessels	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	3	4		4.5	5
7	Others (specify)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			

		Bru	Cam	Indo	Japan	Lao	Malay	Myan	Phil	Sing	Thai	Viet			
	<b>Aquaculture</b>												Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
1	Advancing aquaculture technologies (broodstock management to grow out phase)	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	4.15	4.7	5
2	Minimizing impacts of aquaculture on the environment/biodiversity	5	5	5	5	3	5	4	5	3	5	4		4.5	5
3	Genetic improvement of aquaculture species	3	5	4	3	5	5	3	4	5	5	3		4.1	5
4	Regional Guidelines for good aquaculture practices	5	5	4	5	4	3	5	5	5	5	5		4.6	5
5	Regional collaboration on disease diagnosis, surveillance and control	4	5	4	3	3	5	3	4	5	4	5		4.1	5, 4
6	Development of aquaculture feeds to reduce dependence on fish meal and fish-based products	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	4		4.5	5
7	Aquaculture for rural development, food security and poverty alleviation	3	5	4	3	5	5	5	4	4	4	4		4.2	4
8	Energy saving/optimization for aquaculture	3	4	4	3	1	3	2	4	3	3	4		3.1	3
9	Regional Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	4	5	4	5		4.1	4
10	Stock enhancement of endangered species	3	5	3	5	5	4	3	4	2	4	3		3.7	3
11	Impacts of climate change on aquaculture	4	4	3	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	5		4.0	4
12	Capacity building in responsible aquaculture practices	4	5	4	3	5	5	4	4	4	4	3		4.1	4
13	Others (specify)	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	<i>- Information exchange on aquaculture</i>			5											
	<b>Post-harvest of Fish and Fishery Products</b>												Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
1	Improving post-harvest technologies and safety/quality of products for export	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	4	5	3	5	4.03	4.5	5
2	Improving post-harvest technologies and safety/quality of local/traditional fishery products	5	4	5	3	5	4	3	4	5	3	4		4.1	5, 4
3	Optimize utilization of catch, and reduction of post-harvest losses	4	4	4	5	1	5	3	4	5	4	4		3.9	4
4	Optimizing socio-economic returns from fisheries/post-harvest activities	4	3	-	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4		3.8	4
5	Capacity building on analysis of chemicals, drugs, toxins, etc.	4	5	4	5	5	4	5	3	5	4	4		4.4	5, 4
6	Improved handling and preservation, product development and innovation	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	4		4.4	4
7	Promotion of "One Village, One Fisheries Products"	3	3	-	3	5	1	5	3	1	3	3		3.0	3
8	Others (specify)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	<i>- Risk assessment concerning seafood safety/safety of fishery products</i>										4				

		Bru	Cam	Indo	Japan	Lao	Malay	Myan	Phil	Sing	Thai	Viet			
	<b>Trade in Fish and Fishery Products</b>												Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
1	Preventing trade of IUU fishing products	5	4	5	5	3	5	5	4	5	4	5	4.16	4.5	5
2	ASEAN standards for fishery and aquaculture products	4	5	5	3	5	2	4	4	5	5	4		4.2	5
3	Traceability and certification	4	5	5	3	3	5	5	4	5	4	5		4.4	5
4	Product eco-labeling, branding	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4		3.5	3
5	Others (specify)	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	- <i>Information Exchange of National Residue Control Plan (NRCP)</i>			5											
	<b>Emerging Requirements</b>												Scope Mean	Activity Mean	Activity Mode
1	Requirements relevant to IUU fishing (e.g. port-state measures, etc.)	4	5	5	5	3	5	4	4	5	5	4	4.04	4.5	5
2	CITES-related issues and requirements	4	4	5	5	3	5	3	4	3	5	3		4.0	5, 3
3	Requirements on safety and working conditions of fisheries workers	3	5	5	5	1	3	5	4	3	3	4		3.7	5, 3
4	Requirements relevant to Fishery Subsidies	4	5	5	5	1	3	5	3	3	3	4		3.7	5, 3
5	Emerging requirements from the ASEAN Community Building	4	5	4	3	5	5	4	4	4	4	4		4.2	4
6	Others (specify)	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-			
	- <i>FAO Global Record on Fishing Vessel</i>						5								





**PROPOSAL ON POSSIBLE OPTIONS TO ENHANCE THE MODALITY AND INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FCG/ASSP MECHANISM**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) was established in 1999 as a strategic alliance to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of fishery programs in the ASEAN. The FCG is mandated to identify important regional/international fisheries issues, provide technical assistance to the ASEAN for the formulation and implementation of common policies, and assist the Member Countries in formulating common positions on regional/international fisheries issues. The mechanism for the implementation of the joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative programs can be summarized in **Figure 1**.

Later, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) was established to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration on sustainable fisheries development through the signed Letter of Understanding (LOU) between the ASEAN and SEAFDEC on 2 November 2007. The LOU on the ASSP provides a new framework for the ASEAN and SEAFDEC cooperation with formal Terms of Reference (TOR) and Scope of Work, using the existing ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG as the operating mechanism of the ASSP.

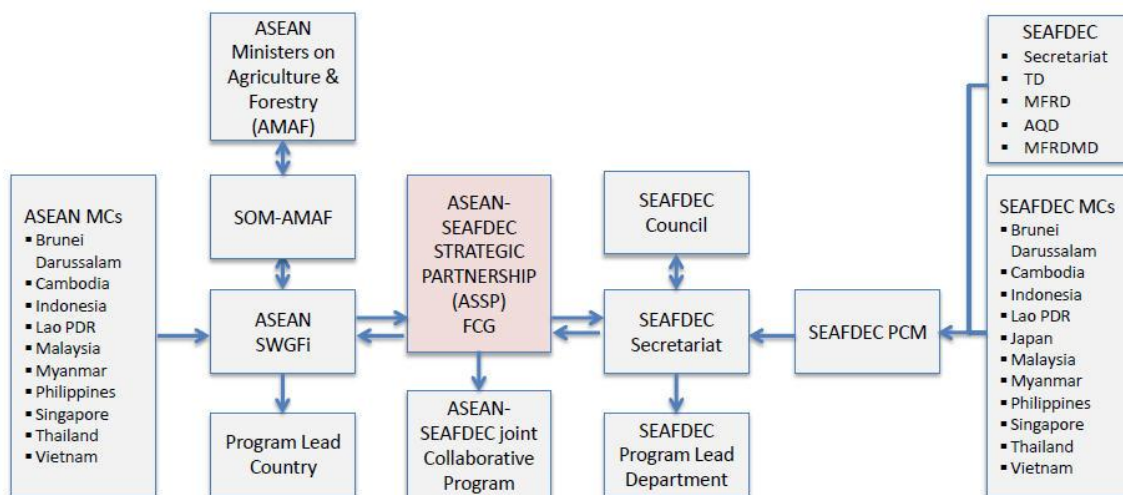


Figure 1. Mechanism of the implementation of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)-FCG Programs since 1999

It should be recalled that an adjustment in the working arrangement of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism was made starting in 2007. Specifically, the schedule of FCG/ASSP meetings was adjusted to take into consideration the convenience of the Member Countries as members of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the FCG/ASSP. Since then, the FCG/ASSP meetings were held back-to-back but **after** the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM) instead of **before** the SEAFDEC Council Meeting as practiced earlier.

The main reasons for such adjustment were: 1) to provide more time for the formulation of any joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC projects/activities, and 2) to provide more time for the SEAFDEC Council Directors and the ASWGFi members to consider the reports and proposed activities adopted and endorsed, respectively during the FCG/ASSP meetings. It should be noted that most of the representatives attending the FCG/ASSP meetings are the same persons attending the PCM

except for Singapore and Thailand, where their representatives at these two are usually different persons.

Moreover, it should also be noted that the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) was established in 2009 with the objective of enhancing regional cooperation in fisheries. During such time, key cluster areas of cooperation were identified by the ASEAN Member States under the AFCF Framework, where each ASEAN Member State is tasked to serve as the lead country for one key cluster area. The progress of implementation of the ASEAN Member States under the AFCF Framework has been included as one of the sub-agenda of the FCG/ASSP meetings since the AFCF was established.

Based on the abovementioned aspects, the yearly timeline of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism is summarized in **Figure 2**.

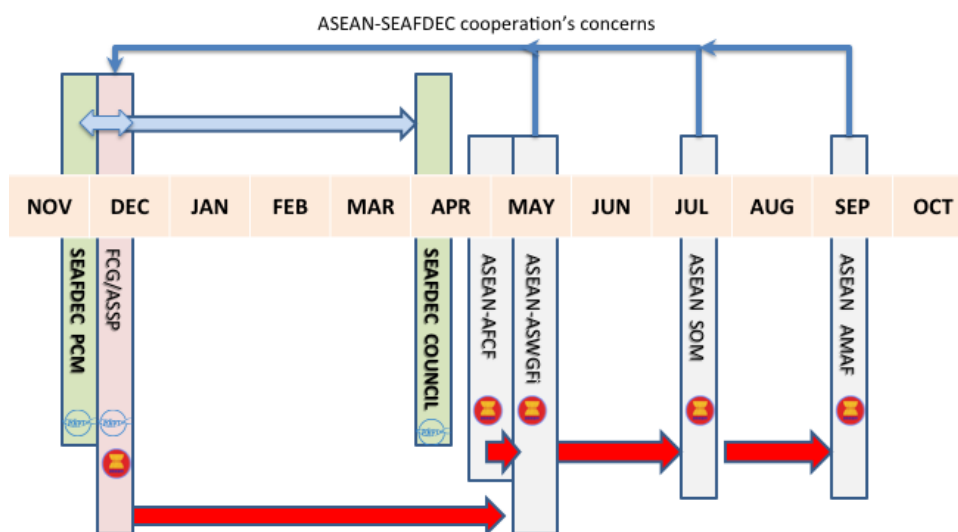


Figure 2. Yearly Timeline of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaborative Mechanism

## II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### 2.1 Existing Template of the FCG/ASSP Meeting Agenda

The existing Template of the FCG/ASSP Meeting Agenda has been designed to include 4 main topics as shown in **Box 1**.

**Box 1: Existing Template of the FCG/ASSP Meeting Agenda**

- A. Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at SEAFDEC Meetings (Council and FCG/ASSP) and ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries
- B. Summary Report of the FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs Based on the Outputs from PCM.
- C. Progress of the Proposals Implemented under the ASSP
  - a. *Ad-hoc* Program proposed by SEAFDEC in cooperation with ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member Country (such as ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference);
  - b. ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework by ASEAN Secretariat;
  - c. ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) by AFCF Secretariat (hosted by an ASEAN Member State on rotation basis);
  - d. ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) by ASEAN Lead Country; and
  - e. Others
- D. Policy Consideration on Important Issues: This part is open for SEAFDEC and ASEAN to propose any Regional Policy or coordinated positions for consideration by the ASEAN.

Based on the aforementioned arrangements, SEAFDEC, which is responsible for the organization of the FCG/ASSP meetings, communicates with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries requesting for updated relevant information that could be used as inputs in the preparation of the necessary working documents for such meetings. However, some problems and difficulties have been encountered in the process that includes the following:

- i) Endorsement of the FCG/ASSP programs and activities by the FCG/ASSP members based on the outcomes of the PCM is required under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism. Thus, recommendations/suggestions raised during FCG/ASSP meetings are only taken note for consideration by the responsible SEAFDEC Departments, to avoid possible delays in the implementation of such programs and activities;
- ii) Issues presented at FCG/ASSP meetings seem to be duplicating. For example, Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries (A) have similar details with those in C(b): ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework by ASEAN Secretariat; and
- iii) Discussion on C(c): ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) could not be carried out since the AFCF Secretariat is usually not represented during the FCG/ASSP meetings to report on the progress of the AFCF key cluster areas. In addition, the rotation system among ASEAN Member States to host the AFCF Secretariat makes it difficult for the organizer of the FCG/ASSP meetings, which is the SEAFDEC Secretariat, to coordinate/communicate with the responsible persons at the AFCF Secretariat.

## **2.2 Members Attending FCG/ASSP Meetings**

- i) Since the FCG/ASSP meetings had been organized back-to-back (after) with the PCM, most of the FCG/ASSP members are the same persons attending the PCM, who are SEAFDEC National Coordinators except for Singapore and Thailand. Generally, the latter are more familiar with ASEAN and ASSP programs considering that they are also members of the ASWGFi;
- ii) In principle, the FCG/ASSP meeting is co-chaired by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and representative from an ASEAN country who is a member of the ASWGFi and could represent the Chair of the ASWGFi. However, in practice a representative from an ASEAN country particularly the SEAFDEC National Coordinator for such country acts as the Meeting Co-chair for the ASEAN; and
- iii) Therefore, in order to increase the effectiveness of the discussions at FCG/ASSP meetings, representatives attending FCG/ASSP meetings should be different persons from those attending the PCM (except for Japan), and should preferably have some involvement in ASEAN fisheries programs or ASWGFi programs.

## **2.3 Timing of FCG/ASSP Meetings**

- i) The two-day FCG/ASSP meetings were earlier organized back-to-back (**before**) with the SEAFDEC Council Meeting. However, due to the required adequate time for the SEAFDEC Council Directors to consider important issues, the meetings had been organized back-to-back (**after**) with the PCM. Although this could be an advantage since the same participants attend the two consecutive meetings, but this could also be a disadvantage because of possible occurrence of some information gaps with respect to the ASEAN and ASSP activities;
- ii) In addition, SEAFDEC also requires ample time for the preparation of documents on the proposed FCG/ASSP collaborative programs which are generally based on the outputs and recommendations of the PCM. Therefore, it would seem more advantageous if the FCG/ASSP meetings could be separately organized within a certain period of time after the PCM but before the SEAFDEC Council Meeting.

## 2.4 Agenda of the FCG/ASSP Meetings

- i) Referring to the existing template of the meeting agenda, some topics appear to duplicate with the SEAFDEC efforts, while some participants could encounter certain information gaps especially with regards to the ASEAN and ASSP programs/activities. Thus, this could possibly lead to ineffective discussion during the meeting; and
- ii) Since SEAFDEC had been asked by the PCM to include more policy-oriented issues for discussion, it is therefore proposed that the agenda template be adjusted accordingly in order to have more effective discussion during the FCG/ASSP meetings.

## III. SUGGESTIONS FROM THE 14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE FCG/ASSP

- 3.1 The issue on “Modality to Increase the Effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism” was proposed by the SEAFDEC Secretariat during the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP on 17-18 November 2011. This was intended to create a forum for consultation and discussion on the current problems and to find ways of improving the existing practices and working mechanism.
- 3.2 The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP then suggested that “the Proposal for Adjustment of Modality to Increase the Effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism” should be put forward during the forthcoming meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and the ASWGFi for consideration and guidance. In addition, the Meeting also provided the following recommendations, which should be taken into consideration in the development of such proposal:
  - a. Although the program under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism has been scrutinized at the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM), where the same country representatives usually attend the FCG/ASSP meeting, working documents on the progress and proposed programs to be endorsed at the FCG/ASSP meeting should be developed in a concise manner. However, it should also be detailed enough for deliberation at the meeting;
  - b. The appropriate timing for the conduct of the FCG/ASSP meeting should be revisited, whether this would be held back-to-back with the PCM or back-to-back with the Council Meeting or separately organized; and
  - c. The agenda of the FCG/ASSP meeting should be reviewed and revised to make it more effective but should fulfill the TOR of FCG/ASSP. The SEAFDEC Secretariat could propose a new agenda for the next meeting for circulation to Member Countries for consideration.
- 3.3 The Meeting then requested the **SEAFDEC Secretariat in close coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat to develop a proposal on possible options to enhance the modality and increase the effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism.** Such proposal would be submitted to the forthcoming meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi for consideration and guidance.

## IV. PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT IN THE MODALITY TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FCG/ASSP MECHANISM

Referring to the issues/problems mentioned in “*para 5-8*”, SEAFDEC in consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat would like to propose adjustment in the modality to increase effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP mechanism by taking into consideration one of the important parameters that need to be changed, which is the template of Meeting Agenda. A new template of the Meeting Agenda is therefore proposed as shown in **Box 2**.

<p><b>Box 2: Proposed Template of the FCG/ASSP Meeting Agenda</b></p> <p>A. Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at SEAFDEC Meetings (Council and FCG/ASSP) and ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries</p> <p>B. The FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs</p> <p>a. Executive Summary of the Progress of Implementation of the FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs and Recommendations for Onward Activities</p> <p>b. Executive Report on Issues of Interest by the ASEAN such as:</p> <p>i) IUU fishing;</p> <p>ii) Tuna fisheries;</p> <p>iii) Sustainable inland fisheries; and</p> <p>iv) Others</p> <p>c. Endorsement of the FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs and Recommendations from the PCM</p> <p>C. Progress of the Proposals Implemented under the ASSP</p> <p>a. <i>Ad-hoc</i> Program proposed by SEAFDEC in cooperation with ASEAN Member Countries (if any);</p> <p>b. ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework; and</p> <p>c. Others.</p> <p>D. Policy Consideration on Important Issues:  <i>&lt;This part is open for SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member Countries to propose any Regional Policy or Coordinated Positions for consideration by the ASEAN&gt;</i></p>
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In addition, the timing for the FCG/ASSP meeting is also being proposed with the following three possible options:

Option No.	Proposed Adjustment in the Timing	Advantage	Disadvantage
1.	<b>Certain period between the SEAFDEC PCM and Council Meeting</b> (during the first or second week of February), to be organized in Thailand only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough time for preparation of the technical issues and policy consideration under the ASSP programs and activities; and</li> <li>• Representatives are expected to be the same as those in the ASWGFi meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase country's budget for separate FCG/ASSP and SEAFDEC Program Committee (PC) meetings;</li> <li>• Results of FCG/ASSP meetings will be sent directly to ASWGFi by the ASEAN Secretariat without having been considered by the SEAFDEC Council; and</li> <li>• SEAFDEC have to prepare additional budget for organizing the FCG/ASSP Meeting in certain venue such as in Bangkok, Thailand.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Certain period between the SEAFDEC Council Meeting and Meeting of ASWGFi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough time for preparation of the technical issues and policy consideration under the ASSP programs and activities;</li> <li>• Regional policies/ coordination positions/ /recommendations from SEAFDEC events could be endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council before their submission to ASEAN through the FCG/ASSP mechanism;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase country's budget for separate FCG/ASSP and PC meetings; and</li> <li>• SEAFDEC have to prepare additional budget for organizing the FCG/ASSP Meeting in certain venue such as in Bangkok, Thailand</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option 2 will expand the timeline of the FCG/ASSP mechanism as shown in <b>Figure 1</b>. (Flowchart); and</li> <li>• Representatives are expected to be the same in FCG/ASSP meetings as those in ASWGFi meetings.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Meeting schedule between the meetings of the SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi, back-to-back (before) the ASWGFi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough time for preparation of the technical issues and policy consideration under the ASSP programs and activities;</li> <li>• Regional policy/ coordination position/ /recommendations from SEAFDEC events could be endorsed by SEAFDEC councils before submission to ASEAN through the FCG/ASSP mechanism; and</li> <li>• Representatives are expected to be the same as those in the ASWGFi meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two events would be held before ASWGFi meetings: (1) AFCF and (2) as proposed the FCG/ASSP, which would be inconvenient for the ASEAN Secretariat to participate in both events conducted at the same period; and</li> <li>• SEAFDEC have to prepare additional budget for organizing the FCG/ASSP Meeting following the ASWGFi venue.</li> </ul>

Considering the proposed three possible options for the FCG/ASSP meetings, the SEAFDEC Secretariat is considering option 2 when a certain period will be available between the SEAFDEC Council Meeting and the meeting of the ASWGFi. This would make it possible for the SEAFDEC Council to endorse some regional policies/coordinated positions/ recommendations from SEAFDEC events/meetings prior to their submission to the ASEAN through the FCG/ASSP Mechanism. Moreover, in the proposed option 2, the period for the FCG/ASSP mechanism could be expanded as shown in **Figure 1**. Furthermore, the members of FCG/ASSP meeting could be the same persons as those in the ASWGFi meetings. Meanwhile Japan could nominate a different high level person to such meetings.

## V. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to consider and endorse the proposed Option to Enhance the Modality and Increase the Effectiveness of the FCG/ASSP Mechanism. The Council is also invited to provide policy guidance for enhancing the effective implementation of programs and activities under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism to ensure that highest benefit could be obtained by the Member Countries from the FCG/ASSP meetings.

## OPERATION OF SEAFDEC TRAINING AND RESEARCH VESSELS

### I. INTRODUCTION

SEAFDEC has been implementing various collaborative programs and activities using its Training and Research Vessels, namely: the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2. The main objective of such programs is to provide technical assistance to the SEAFDEC Member Countries to enable them to conduct fisheries resources surveys in their respective EEZs.

In February 1993, the M.V. SEAFDEC, 1,178 GT steel purse seiner was provided by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC Training Department. The vessel has since then been utilized by the Member Countries through collaborative fisheries resources assessment programs, in regional shipboard training on fishing technology, marine engineering, navigation, and seamanship, and also in the conduct of hydro-acoustic and fishery oceanographic surveys. By the end of 2011, a total of 1,772 days of 76 cruises for fishery resource surveys comprising 84 fishing trials and other relevant activities had been conducted by the M.V. SEAFDEC covering the Andaman Sea, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Timor Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Gulf of Thailand.

However, the onboard training programs were discontinued since 2002 due to budgetary constraints as a result of the phasing out of the financial support from the Government of Japan for the operation of the vessel. Currently, the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC is dependent on request-basis programs, such as the deployment of Tsunami warning system (DART-II system) which was carried out in collaboration with the National Disaster Warning System of Thailand with support from the NOAA; and the offshore fisheries development activities in certain areas of the Andaman Sea and Indian Ocean of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand.

In addition, in order to assist the SEAFDEC Member Countries in the development of sustainable fisheries particularly their respective research activities of the near shore fishery resources within the countries' EEZs, the Government of Japan provided a new research and training vessel, a 200 GT trawler, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to replace the M.V. PLATOO which had been in service for more than 15 years. This was also a response to relevant provisions in the 2001 Resolution and Plan of Action, which was adopted during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference in 2001.

M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has since then been used to support the national research activities particularly on fisheries resources assessment, fishery oceanography, environment surveys as well as shipboard training programs in the aspect of promoting the utilization of fishery resources in deep-sea and un-trawlable grounds within the respective EEZs. In a broader sense, the acquisition of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been envisioned to help strengthen technical cooperation in the Southeast Asian region by enhancing the countries' capabilities in research and training aspects.

Over the years, the annual plans for the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 used to be agreed upon during the annual review/consultation meetings of the "*Eligible Countries Committee and Operations Committee under the cost-sharing policy of SEAFDEC*". Due to budgetary constraints, the Meeting of the Eligible Countries Committee and Operations Committee for the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was discontinued since 2006 and discussion on the annual plans of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has since then been included in the agenda of the SEAFDEC Program Committee meetings.

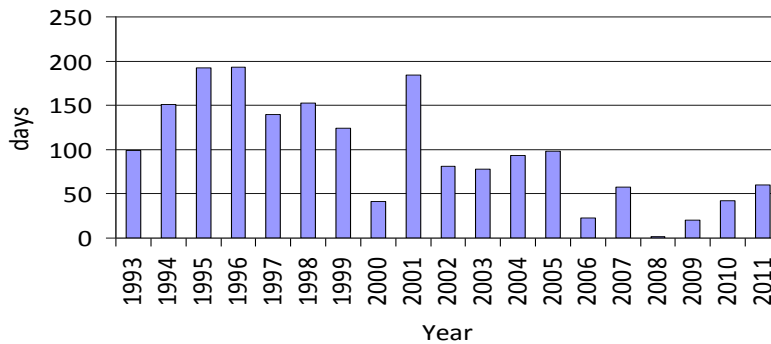
In this regard, the proposed utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for fishery resource surveys by the Member Countries is endorsed by the Program Committee Meeting a year before the actual

operation of the vessel, and that the plan/schedule of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is then submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for information.

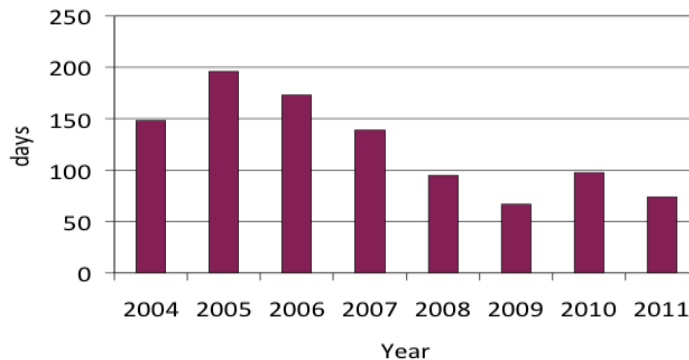
Furthermore, funding support for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 starting in 2007 has been mainly sourced from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) of SEAFDEC. Such support has enabled SEAFDEC/TD to conduct a number of fishery resource surveys within the EEZs of the Member Country under the Cost-sharing Policy of SEAFDEC.

During the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2009, the Council agreed that the countries that gain the benefit from the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be responsible for the cost incurred by the vessel. The Council also agreed to secure the budget for the additional cost of operating the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, while the cost-sharing scheme was modified.

The major change in the cost-sharing scheme for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is in **para III (1)** which states that “*the requesting country will support the fuel supply for the entire duration of the research activity including cruising to and back from the requesting countries*”. The Revised Guidelines on the Cost-sharing Policy for the Operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 appears as **Appendix 1**.



**Figure 1.** Total number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC (1993 to 2011)



**Figure 2.** Total number of days at sea of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 (2004 to 2011)

During the discussion of the Program on “**Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2**”, at the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in 2011, the Program Committee expressed the concern on the low usage of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 which could affect the conduct of collaborative projects in the region. Moreover, the Committee Member for Japan also encouraged other Member Countries to make full use of the vessel especially in conducting surveys and exploration activities to be able to compile valuable data that are useful for the analysis of the respective countries’ fishery resources.

Nevertheless, it should be understood that the current high cost of fuel globally and the provision in the cost-sharing policy which indicates that *requesting country has to be responsible for the cost*



of fuel for the vessel cruising to/from the survey area, could be the major causes of the reduced utilization of the research and training vessels of SEAFDEC.

Since the first year of their service until the end of 2011, the total working days at sea of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 are summarized in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**, respectively.

It could be clearly seen from the above figures that the number of operating days of the SEAFDEC training and research vessels had considerably decreased. It should be noted that the abrupt change occurred around 2006, which could be brought about by the global increasing price of fuel. In addition, the impact should also be due to the revised cost-sharing scheme for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which was agreed in 2009 indicating that the requesting countries/agencies should be responsible for the fuel expenditure for cruising to/from TD to their respective survey areas.

## II. OPERATION OF THE M.V. SEAFDEC AND M.V. SEAFDEC 2 FOR 2012

For the M.V. SEAFDEC, two cruises are planned in 2012 for the maintenance of the tsunami warning system buoy in the Andaman Sea. Meanwhile, for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the planned fishery resources survey in Vietnam waters would be conducted from April 2012 for a total of about 146 days. As proposed by Vietnam at the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in 2011, the fishery resources survey in Vietnam waters aims to:

- Collect scientific-based information on species composition and the distribution of small pelagic fishery resources in Vietnam waters;
- Assess the status of demersal marine fishery resources in Vietnam waters, including collection of data on biomass, demersal stock status, and commercially species distribution;
- Assess the status of small pelagic fishery resources in Vietnam waters using hydro-acoustic survey equipment; and
- Develop fisheries management plan based on the information obtained from the national activities including the 5-year cruise survey by M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for appropriate future program implementation by MARD.

Therefore, the proposed 2012 annual plans for the utilization of the SEAFDEC research and training vessels (M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and M.V. SEAFDEC) are summarized in **Table 1**.

**Table 1** Program of Activities of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and M.V. SEAFDEC in 2012

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>M.V. SEAFDEC 2</b>												
• Fishery resource survey in Vietnam water					73 days				73 days			
• Oceanographic survey in the Gulf of Thailand by PMBC								23 days				
<b>M.V. SEAFDEC</b>												
• Maintenance of Tsunami Warning System in the Andaman Sea											19 days	



### **III. ONLINE INFORMATION ON CRUISES AND SURVEYS CARRIED OUT BY THE M.V. SEAFDEC AND M.V. SEAFDEC 2**

To date, 663 and 357 fishing operations were conducted by the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and M.V. SEAFDEC, respectively. Information on the survey locations of the cruises of the SEAFDEC training and research vessels are available online at:

*[http://map.seafdec.org/cftd/survey\\_mv2/mvseafdec\\_2.php](http://map.seafdec.org/cftd/survey_mv2/mvseafdec_2.php)*

*[http://map.seafdec.org/cftd/mv\\_seafdec/index.php](http://map.seafdec.org/cftd/mv_seafdec/index.php)*

### **IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council is requested to:

- 1) Take note the operational plans of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2012; and
- 2) Provide views and guidance for increased utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the future.

## **GUIDELINES ON THE COST-SHARING POLICY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE “M.V. SEAFDEC 2”**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

With favorable understanding of the Government of Japan about the function of SEAFDEC to assist in the sustainable development of fisheries of the Member Countries, the Government of Japan agreed to provide a new research vessel, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 under the Japanese Grant Aid Program to SEAFDEC.

Through a series of consultations with the Government of Japan, SEAFDEC and Japan reached to the agreement that the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be secured for the benefit of the countries, which are eligible to the Japanese Grant Aid Program. On the other hand, it was also agreed among the SEAFDEC Member Countries that the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 should be based on cost-sharing policy taking into account both aspects, such as the benefits of the operation of the vessel to the Member Countries and the expected budgetary constraints of SEAFDEC in the future. The cost-sharing policy regarding the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has also been recognized as an important element to establish the ownership of research activities by the Member Countries and to promote sustainable research activities using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the region.

In exploring the research needs of the Member Countries, SEAFDEC established two mechanisms, namely: the Eligible Countries Committee where the eligible countries could provide or propose their own research needs or plans for the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2; and the Operations Committee where the annual plan of operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 would be developed taking into account of needs of the SEAFDEC Member Countries other than the eligible countries as well.

During the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee held in Manila in 2004, three categories of the expected operation using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 were presented. It was also recommended that all categories of collaborative operations that are related to the needs of the Member Countries and operation in the national waters would be under the cost-sharing policy except the operation by SEAFDEC to verify the application of standardized research methods using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which have been considered through the Technical Consultative Meeting in October 2003 and November 2004.

### **II. OBJECTIVES**

This Guideline will provide the outline of the expected cost-sharing policy to be considered by the Member Countries, for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 based on the policy arrived at SEAFDEC in early March 2004.

### **III. OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED COST-SHARING POLICY**

Regardless of whether it is in cash or in kind, the following financial items related to the operations cost should be borne as a matter of principle, by the Member Country requesting for the collaborative operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in her national waters in response to her needs and interests.

- 1) **Supply of fuel** for the entire duration of the research including cruising to and back to the requesting country;



- 2) **Supply of fresh water** that would be consumed by the vessel during the operation of research in the national waters;
- 3) **Salary and necessary DSA of the local or national participants** onboard, who are involved in the research activities should be borne by the Member Country based on its own national standard; and
- 4) **Agency fee and port clearance fee** should be borne by the Member Country when the vessel visits and stays at the port for implementation of the collaborative research program.

#### **IV. WORKING SCHEME FOR THE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH THE MEMBER COUNTRIES**

- 1) Each Member Country is requested to prepare her research proposal, if any, taking into account of the short or medium-term activities. The proposal should be presented to the Eligible Countries Committee and/or Operations Committee to consider the cruise plans for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.  
As a matter of principle, the staying period for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the national waters could be limited to a maximum period of one month, taking into account of the availability also of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the other member countries.
- 2) Through consultation with the Operations Committee, each proposal from the Member Countries and Departments should be reviewed and finalized based on priority, practicability, readiness and financial background of the proposed research programs. The schedule of the research program of the country finalized by the Operations Committee could be adjusted to cater to the next priority country's needs or could be postponed until financial arrangements become ready by the requesting country.
- 3) Two months prior to the implementation of the individual research program, TD staff in charge of the operation will communicate through E-mail/or visit each beneficiary Member Country to discuss with the concerned staff on the detailed arrangements of the cruise and research program. The concerned members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) could be mobilized for effective communication with their respective countries, as the case may be.
- 4) Preliminary cruise report including comments on the immediate impacts of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 as well as the results of the national research program should be submitted to SEAFDEC/TD within six months after the cruise.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
**ABRIDGED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

	In US\$	
	2010	2009
<b>REVENUES</b>		
<b>Contributions from :-</b>		
Member governments	7,615,539	7,194,564
Other sources	1,023,516	765,385
Other income	551,930	661,083
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>9,190,985</b>	<b>8,621,032</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	953,076	784,547
Training	775,591	608,385
Information	734,724	675,243
Collaborative	141,591	130,635
Others	157,735	243,068
Administrative	5,969,473	6,450,250
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>8,732,190</b>	<b>8,892,128</b>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	458,795	(271,096)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	4,657,243 <sup>(1)</sup>	4,630,582
FUND ADJUSTMENT		(84,253) <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>FUND BALANCE, End of year</b>	<b>5,116,038</b>	<b>4,275,233</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>REPRESENTED BY :</b>		
Cash at Bank	4,766,329	4,271,108
Other receivables	101,663	80,978
Advances and Deposits	354,913	455,243
Supplies inventory	57,903	47,300
Fuel oil for vessels	260,075	103,040
Prepayments	18,918	20,568
Total Current assets	5,559,801	4,978,237
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	42,000	
Termination indemnity fund	1,928,340	1,611,244
Other assets-Net	5,929	6,710
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>7,536,070</b>	<b>6,596,191</b>
<b>Less : Liabilities</b>		
Accrued payable	491,692	709,714
Provision for termination indemnity	1,928,340	1,611,244
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,420,032</b>	<b>2,320,958</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>5,116,038</b>	<b>4,275,233</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The difference of US\$382,010 (US\$ 4,657,243 – US\$ 4,275,233) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Consolidated financial statements 2009 have been changed from last year because of the AQD have some Adjustment entries.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
THE SECRETARIAT**

**ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

	In US\$	
	2010	2009
<b>REVENUES</b>		
<b>Contributions from:-</b>		
Member governments	400,000	400,000
Other sources	53,066	-
Other income	(14,709)	85,758
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>438,357</b>	<b>485,758</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Information	61,623	56,189
Collaborative	141,591	130,635
Others	87,798	164,903
Administrative	192,614	285,886
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>483,626</b>	<b>637,613</b>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(45,269)	(151,855)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	467,503 <sup>(1)</sup>	573,523
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
<b>FUND BALANCE, End of year</b>	<b>422,234</b>	<b>421,668</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Cash at Bank	434,386	423,723
Other receivables	8,694	12,291
Advances and Deposits	19,912	37,392
Prepayments	704	2,975
Total Current assets	463,696	476,381
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	42,000	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>505,696</b>	<b>476,381</b>
<b>Less : Liabilities</b>		
Accrued payable	83,462	54,713
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>83,462</b>	<b>54,713</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>422,234</b>	<b>421,668</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The difference of US\$ 45,835 (US\$ 467,503 – US\$ 421,668) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
TRAINING DEPARTMENT**

**ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

	In US\$	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
<b>Contributions from:</b>		
Member governments	2,566,288	2,196,030
Other sources	374,799	280,155
Other income	50,558	91,059
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u><b>2,991,645</b></u>	<u><b>2,567,244</b></u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	360,829	347,843
Training	665,416	502,496
Information	222,313	221,722
Other programs	69,937	78,165
Administrative	1,271,789	1,880,719
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u><b>2,590,284</b></u>	<u><b>3,030,945</b></u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), for the year	401,361	(463,701)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	2,429,050 <sup>(1)</sup>	2,654,609
<b>FUND BALANCE, End of year</b>	<u><b>2,830,411</b></u>	<u><b>2,190,908</b></u> <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Cash at Bank	2,531,017	2,199,352
Other receivables	77,971	56,134
Advances and Deposits	91,594	182,661
Fuel oil for vessels	260,075	103,040
Prepayments	18,214	17,593
Total Current assets	2,978,871	2,558,780
Termination indemnity fund	1,928,340	1,611,244
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>4,907,211</b></u>	<u><b>4,170,024</b></u>
<b>Less: Liabilities</b>		
Accrued payable	148,460	367,872
Provision for termination indemnity	1,928,340	1,611,244
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><b>2,076,800</b></u>	<u><b>1,979,116</b></u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>2,830,411</b></u>	<u><b>2,190,908</b></u>

<sup>(1)</sup> The difference of US\$ 238,142 (US\$ 2,429,050 – US\$ 2,190,908) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT**

**ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

	In US\$	
	2010	2009
<b>REVENUES</b>		
<b>Contributions from:</b>		
Member governments	3,421,533	3,231,018
Other sources	595,651	485,230
Other income	<u>516,081</u>	<u>484,266</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b><u>4,533,265</u></b>	<b><u>4,200,514</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	592,247	436,704
Training	110,175	105,889
Information	450,788	397,332
Administrative	<u>3,277,352</u>	<u>2,916,129</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>4,430,562</u></b>	<b><u>3,856,054</u></b>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	102,703	344,460
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	1,760,690 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,402,450
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	(84,253)
<b>FUND BALANCE, End of year</b>	<b><u>1,863,393</u></b>	<b><u>1,662,657</u></b> <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Cash at Bank	1,800,926	1,648,033
Advances and Deposits	243,407	235,190
Supplies inventory	57,903	47,300
Other Current Assets	<u>14,998</u>	<u>12,553</u>
Total Current assets	2,117,234	1,943,076
Other assets-Net	<u>5,929</u>	<u>6,710</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>2,123,163</u></b>	<b><u>1,949,786</u></b>
<b>Less : Liabilities</b>		
Accrued payable	<u>259,770</u>	<u>287,129</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>259,770</u></b>	<b><u>287,129</u></b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>1,863,393</u></b>	<b><u>1,662,657</u></b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The difference of US\$ 98,033 (US\$1,760,690 – US\$1,662,657) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT  
AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

**ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

	<b>In US\$</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
<b>Contributions from:</b>		
Member governments	1,227,718	1,367,516
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>1,227,718</b>	<b>1,367,516</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Administrative	1,227,718	1,367,516
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,227,718</b>	<b>1,367,516</b>
 SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	 -	 -
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	-	-
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
<b>FUND BALANCE, End of year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
 <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Cash at Bank	-	-
Advances and Deposits	-	-
Total Current assets	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	-	-
<b>Less : Liabilities</b>		
Accrued payable	-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



## SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	In US\$	
	2011 (Un-audited)	2010 (Audited)
ACCUMULATED FUND		
As at December 31	<b>5,929,138</b>	<b>5,116,038</b>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Current assets		
Cash in hand and at banks	5,711,095	4,766,329
Other receivables	45,715	101,663
Advances and deposits	193,758	354,913
Supplies inventory	50,102	57,903
Fuel oil for vessels	115,440	260,075
Prepayments	14,213	18,918
Total Current assets	<b>6,130,323</b>	<b>5,559,801</b>
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	68,599	42,000
Termination indemnity fund	1,888,776	1,928,340
Other assets	105,572	5,929
Total Other assets	<b>2,062,947</b>	<b>1,976,269</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>8,193,270</u></b>	<b><u>7,536,070</u></b>
<u>Less</u> : Liabilities		
Accounts payable	375,356	491,692
Funds held in trust	0	0
Provision for staff termination indemnity	1,888,776	1,928,340
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,264,132</b>	<b>2,420,032</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b><u>5,929,138</u></b>	<b><u>5,116,038</u></b>

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

	In US\$				Total	
	Operating Fund		Fellowship	Others	2011	2010
	Host Department	MRC	Fund	Fund	(Un-audited)	(Audited)
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Contributions from:-						
Government of Brunei Darussalam		7,000			7,000	7,000
Government of Cambodia		6,000			6,000	6,000
Government of Indonesia		26,000			26,000	26,000
Government of Japan		280,000			280,000	280,000
Government of Lao PDR		4,000			4,000	4,000
Government of Malaysia	927,103	10,000			937,103	1,237,718
Government of Myanmar		10,000			10,000	10,000
Government of Philippines	3,925,173	15,000			3,940,173	3,436,533
Government of Singapore		8,000			8,000	8,000
Government of Thailand	2,519,770	20,000	24,657		2,564,427	2,586,288
Government of Vietnam		14,000			14,000	14,000
Sub-total	7,377,690	400,000	24,657	0	7,796,703	7,615,539
Other sources	665,382	(5,017)	3,305	1,195,955	1,859,625	1,575,446
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>8,037,428</b>	<b>394,983</b>	<b>27,962</b>	<b>1,195,955</b>	<b>9,656,328</b>	<b>9,190,985</b>

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

	In US\$				Total	
	Operating Fund		Fellowship	Others	2011	2010
	Host Department	MRC	Fund	Fund	(Un-audited)	(Audited)
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
Operating Expenditures						
Program of Activities:						
Research	699,143			250,228	949,371	953,076
Training	488,231		8,100	411,833	908,164	775,591
Information	407,265	48,876		228,938	685,079	734,724
Collaborative		140,327			140,327	141,591
Others	280,369			102,623	382,992	157,735
	1,875,008	189,203	8,100	993,622	3,065,933	2,762,717
Administrative & Capital expenditures	5,425,995	164,975		62,641	5,653,611	5,969,473
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>7,301,003</b>	<b>354,178</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>1,056,263</b>	<b>8,719,544</b>	<b>8,732,190</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>736,425</b>	<b>40,805</b>	<b>19,862</b>	<b>139,692</b>	<b>936,784</b>	<b>458,795</b>

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**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE  
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**
**In US\$**

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	Balance as at January 1, 2011	Adjustment of fund	Surplus (Deficit)	<b>Balance December 31, 2011 (Un-audited)</b>	<b>Balance as at December 31, 2010 (Audited)</b>
Operating fund	3,511,301		777,230	4,288,531	3,585,113
Fellowship fund	141,712		19,862	161,574	148,481
Others fund	1,339,341		139,692	1,479,033	1,382,444
<b>Net</b>	<b>4,992,354</b> <sup>1/</sup>		<b>936,784</b>	<b>5,929,138</b>	<b>5,116,038</b> <sup>1/</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> The difference of US\$ 123,684 (US\$ 5,116,038 – US\$ 4,992,354) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

**STATUS OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION FOR THE YEAR 2012**

**Contribution received from SEAFDEC Member Countries  
as Annual Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) in 2012**

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)</b>	<b>Amount Received (In US\$)</b>
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	6,000	
Indonesia	26,000	26,000
Japan	280,000	280,000
Lao P.D.R.	4,000	
Malaysia	10,000	10,000
Myanmar	10,000	
Philippines	15,000	7,500
Singapore	8,000	8,000
Thailand	20,000	20,000
Vietnam	14,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>358,500</b>





**THE PROPOSED BUDGETARY REQUIREMENT OF THE CENTER FOR THE YEAR 2013**

**Table 1: Estimated Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other sources (in US Dollars) in fiscal Year 2012**

Sources	Secretariat	Training Department	Marine Fisheries Research Department	Aquaculture Department	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department	Total	
						In US\$	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000					7,000	0.05
Cambodia	6,000					6,000	0.05
Indonesia	26,000					26,000	0.20
Japan	280,000					280,000	2.19
Lao P.D.R.	4,000					4,000	0.03
Malaysia	10,000				1,568,896 <sup>f/</sup>	1,578,896	12.33
Myanmar	10,000					10,000	0.08
Philippines	15,000			4,535,147 <sup>e/</sup>		4,550,147	35.54
Singapore	8,000		0 <sup>d/</sup>			8,000	0.06
Thailand	20,000	2,483,800 <sup>c/</sup>				2,503,800	19.56
Vietnam	14,000					14,000	0.11
Sub-total	400,000 <sup>a/</sup>	2,483,800	0	4,535,147	1,568,896	8,987,843	70.20
Others	3,210,206 <sup>b/</sup>			605,227		3,815,433 <sup>a/</sup>	29.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,610,206</b>	<b>2,483,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,140,374</b>	<b>1,568,896</b>	<b>12,803,276</b>	<b>100%</b>

Remarks:

- <sup>a/</sup> Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$400,000 (see Annex 1)  
<sup>b/</sup> Including extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,758,596 and Sida Fund = US\$1,451,610 (see Annex 1)  
<sup>c/</sup> Contribution in cash from Thailand (see Annex 2)  
<sup>d/</sup> No contribution from Singapore (see Annex 3)  
<sup>e/</sup> Contribution in cash from the Philippines (see Annex 4)  
<sup>f/</sup> Contribution in kind from Malaysia (see Annex 5)  
<sup>g/</sup> Including contributions from non-member governments, international organizations/agencies and miscellaneous receipts.

**Table 2: Estimated Expenditures of the Center for 2012(In US\$)**

Category	SEC <sup>1/</sup>	TD <sup>2/</sup>	MFRD <sup>3/</sup>	AQD <sup>4/</sup>	MFRDMD <sup>5/</sup>	Total	%
<b>I Program of Activities</b>							
1.1 Research Programs				1,604,974		1,604,974	12.54
1.2 Training Programs		12,900		75,963		88,863	0.69
1.3 Information Programs	54,000	50,000				104,000	0.81
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000 <sup>6/</sup>	89,400				239,400	1.87
1.5 Other Programs	3,210,206 <sup>7/</sup>			234,270		3,444,476	26.90
Sub-total	3,414,206	152,300	0	1,915,207		5,481,713	<b>42.81</b>
<b>II Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures</b>							
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	2,331,500 <sup>8/</sup>		2,658,274		5,178,274	40.45
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500			566,893		574,393	4.49
2.3 In-kind Expenditures	196,000	2,331,500		3,225,167		5,752,667	44.94
					1,568,896	1,568,896	12.25
Sub-total	196,000	2,331,500	0	3,225,167	1,568,896	7,321,563	<b>57.19</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,610,206</b>	<b>2,483,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,140,374</b>	<b>1,568,896</b>	<b>12,803,276</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Remarks:**
<sup>1/</sup> Secretariat

<sup>2/</sup> Training Department

<sup>3/</sup> Marine Fisheries Research Department

<sup>4/</sup> Aquaculture Department

<sup>5/</sup> Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

<sup>6/</sup> Included operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of M.V. SEAFDEC2

<sup>7/</sup> Included program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,758,596 and Sida Fund = US\$1,451,610

<sup>8/</sup> Included cost of maintenance and insurance for Office building, Dormitory, Office cars, Equipment and the vessels : M.V. SEAFDEC, M.V. PLALUNG-1 and M.V. PAYOON = US\$341,800

**Table 3: Expected Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other sources (in US Dollars) in fiscal Year 2013**

Sources	Secretariat	Training Department	Marine Fisheries Research Department	Aquaculture Department	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department	Total	
						In US\$	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000					7,000	0.05
Cambodia	6,000					6,000	0.04
Indonesia	26,000					26,000	0.18
Japan	280,000					280,000	1.99
Lao P.D.R.	4,000					4,000	0.03
Malaysia	10,000				1,725,786 <sup>f/</sup>	1,735,786	12.30
Myanmar	10,000			4,629,630 <sup>e/</sup>		10,000	0.07
Philippines	15,000		0 <sup>d/</sup>			4,644,630	32.91
Singapore	8,000					8,000	0.06
Thailand	20,000	2,745,400 <sup>c/</sup>				2,765,400	19.59
Vietnam	14,000					14,000	0.10
Sub-total	400,000 <sup>a/</sup>	2,745,400	0	4,629,630	1,725,786	9,500,816	67.32
Others	3,817,048 <sup>b/</sup>			796,388		4,613,436 <sup>g/</sup>	32.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,217,048</b>	<b>2,745,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,426,018</b>	<b>1,725,786</b>	<b>14,114,252</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Remarks:**

- <sup>a/</sup> Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$400,000 (see Annex 1)
- <sup>b/</sup> Including extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,639,628 and Sida Fund = US\$2,177,420 (see Annex 1)
- <sup>c/</sup> Contribution in cash from Thailand (see Annex 2)
- <sup>d/</sup> No contribution from Singapore (see Annex 3)
- <sup>e/</sup> Contribution in cash from the Philippines (see Annex 4)
- <sup>f/</sup> Contribution in kind from Malaysia (see Annex 5)
- <sup>g/</sup> Including contributions from non-member governments, international organizations/agencies and miscellaneous receipts.

**Table 4: Estimated Expenditures of the Center for 2013 (In US\$)**

Category	SEC <sup>1/</sup>	TD <sup>2/</sup>	MFRD <sup>3/</sup>	AQD <sup>4/</sup>	MFRDMD <sup>5/</sup>	Total	%
<b>I Program of Activities</b>							
1.1 Research Programs				1,586,626		1,586,626	11.24
1.2 Training Programs		12,900		123,840		136,740	0.97
1.3 Information Programs	54,000	50,000				104,000	0.74
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000 <sup>6/</sup>	89,400				239,400	1.70
1.5 Other Programs	3,817,048 <sup>7/</sup>			380,877		4,197,925	29.74
Sub-total	4,021,048	152,300	0	2,091,343		6,264,691	<b>44.39</b>
<b>II Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures</b>							
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	2,593,100 <sup>8/</sup>		2,839,305		5,620,905	39.82
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500			495,370		502,870	3.56
	196,000	2,593,100		3,334,675		6,123,775	43.38
2.3 In-kind Expenditures					1,725,786	1,725,786	12.23
Sub-total	196,000	2,593,100	0	3,334,675	1,725,786	7,849,561	<b>55.61</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,217,048</b>	<b>2,745,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,426,018</b>	<b>1,725,786</b>	<b>14,114,252</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Remarks:**
<sup>1/</sup> Secretariat

<sup>2/</sup> Training Department

<sup>3/</sup> Marine Fisheries Research Department

<sup>4/</sup> Aquaculture Department

<sup>5/</sup> Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

<sup>6/</sup> Included operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of M.V. SEAFDEC2

<sup>7/</sup> Included program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$1,639,628 and Sida Fund = US\$2,177,420

<sup>8/</sup> Included cost of maintenance and insurance for Office building, Dormitory, Office cars, Equipment and the vessels : M.V. SEAFDEC, M.V. PLALUNG-1 and M.V. PAYOON = US\$357,000

### ADOPTED PRESS STATEMENT

1. At the kind invitation of the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council was held in the stunning new Administrative Capital City Nay Pyi Taw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 2 to 6 April 2012. Being the second largest country in Southeast Asia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar embraces one-third of the continual coastline along the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. The Council Meeting was held amidst growing opportunities for fisheries development in Myanmar as the country has lots of potentials for investment and exciting tourist destinations.

2. In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and their delegations from the 11 Member Countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Inaugural Ceremony of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 2 April 2012, and was presided over by the Honorable Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar, *U Khin Maung Aye*. The Meeting unanimously elected the Council Director for Myanmar, *U Khin Ko Lay* as the new Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2012-2013, succeeding *Dato' Ahamad Sabki bin Mahmood*, SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia who served as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the year 2011-2012.

3. The Council noted the good progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2011, as well as approved the proposed program of activities to be undertaken in 2012, which were formulated to respond to the current fisheries situation, challenges and priorities of the Member Countries.

4. The Council emphasized the importance of following up on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 "Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment" by SEAFDEC in collaboration with ASEAN and all Member Countries in June 2011 hosted by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. The Conference successfully came up with the "Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2020" adopted by the Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for fisheries of the Member Countries. All ASEAN Member Countries were encouraged to implement activities in line with the Resolution and Plan of Action, with support from relevant regional/international organizations, of which the progress in the implementation of the relevant activities should be relayed to SEAFDEC once every five years for appropriate documentation.

5. The Council also discussed a range of issues that are important to the sustainable development fisheries in the region requiring greater attention and cooperation. In particular, the Council focused on combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, the international- and trade-related issues that may have impacts on fisheries development of the region, particularly the possible listing of species under CITES Appendices during its forthcoming 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties, and the sharing of experiences among countries in the implementation of catch certification scheme.

6. The Council also recognized the initiative undertaken by SEAFDEC in the production and publication of "The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012" aiming to enhance better utilization of available fisheries-related data and information of the region. The Council also supported that activities of SEAFDEC in enhancing the collection of technical/scientific information should be intensified to provide better understanding and knowledge on the status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture, and serve as a basis for policy planning and management of fisheries.



7. The Council welcomed the proposal made by the Council Director for Indonesia, which was first raised by the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia during the 2011 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference, for the establishment of the “Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development” as part of the SEAFDEC organization. The Council expressed appreciation to Indonesia for the proposal considering the importance of inland fisheries to food security and livelihood of people in the region.

8. The Council also welcomed the cooperation and partnership between SEAFDEC and relevant international and regional organizations in the areas of mutual interests and of priority to the Member Countries. The Council in particular urged SEAFDEC to seek more cooperation with relevant institutions/organizations including the Plus Three Countries under the ASEAN Framework. In addition, the Council also supported the proposal to invite Timor-Leste as observer in future SEAFDEC activities as appropriate.

9. The Council expressed its commitment to support SEAFDEC to continue its role in promoting sustainable fisheries development in the region. The Council Directors and delegations of the Meeting expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the excellent hosting of the Meeting and the warm hospitality accorded to them throughout the event.

10. The Council announced that its 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2013 would be hosted by the Philippines.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Htun Win, SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Myanmar: [twunwinkyil@gmail.com](mailto:twunwinkyil@gmail.com); or

Ms. Nualanong Tongdee, Information Program Coordinator, SEAFDEC Secretariat, Thailand: [nual@seafdec.org](mailto:nual@seafdec.org).

## CLOSING REMARKS

*By U Khin Ko Lay  
Council Director for Myanmar and  
SEAFDEC Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2012-2013*

Distinguished Council and Alternative Council Directors,  
Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of the SEAFDEC, Chief and Head of the SEAFDEC's Department, Ladies and gentlemen,

Now it has to the end of our council meeting.

On behalf of the government of Myanmar and myself as the council director for Myanmar, I would extend heartfelt gratitude to you all for the active participate, support, cooperation and understanding through the meeting. As I had stated at opening remark, chairing the council is indeed a great challenge for me.

Without your support it would have never have more difficult for me as a very fresh chair to the council meeting. For that I would like to thank you all once again. Also I would express my wish to demand and request for you further extends of cooperation as there are challenges of emerging issues and to solve for the sustainable development of fisheries. I would also like to extend the apologies for any inconvenience or shortcomings that might have come your ways during the meeting and stay in here.

Before the end this closing remarks, On behalf of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Department of Fisheries and on myself I would like to thank the SEAFDEC secretariat for the work behind the scene but come up with expecting achievement of our meeting. I would therefore to request SEAFDEC secretariat for intense support and to undertake such a gigantic tasks ahead of the chairperson council.

Also my deep appreciation will be to everyone in the supportive group and liaisons from the Department of Fisheries, and the manager and staff of the Myat Taw Win Hotel for your all best effort to reach successfully accomplished of this 44<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting.

On the way back home in your countries, wishing you all are in safe journey and kindly please convey the best wishes and blessing of Myanmar people to your families and country people. We hope that you all have fond memories from the city of Nay Pyi Taw. It was indeed a pleasure for having with you all here.  
Thank you and good day.

Now I would declare "The 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAFDEC Council is official accomplished".

Thank you.