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Japanese Vice Minister visits SEAFDEC

The Vice Minister for International Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan, Mr. Shuji Yamada, visited SEAFDEC Secretariat on Monday 27 February 2012. Minister Yamada was accompanied by the Director of International Trade Policy Negotiations of the Department of International Affairs of MAFF, as well as officials from the International Cooperation Division of the International Affairs Department and from the Embassy of Japan in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the visit, Mr. Yamada expressed his appreciation for the adoption of the 2011 Resolution and Plan



Japanese Vice Minister, Mr. Shuji Yamada visited SEAFDEC Secretariat

of Action during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference "Fish for the People 2020" in June 2011, considering that such policy framework document could materialize

all efforts that lead to the sustainable development of fisheries and food security in the Southeast Asian region. He

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SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand visits TD

SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) welcomed the Director-General of the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand and SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand, Dr. Wimol Jantrarotai, during his visit to the TD facilities on 5 March 2012. He was accompanied by the Alternate Council Director for Thailand, Mr. Chirdsak

Vongkamolchoon and other senior officials from the DOF of Thailand.

During the visit, while discussing the collaborative activities that had been undertaken throughout the past years under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP mechanism and various bilateral arrangements, it was agreed that future

collaborations could be fostered in a more systematic way. Specifically, planning for future researches and resources survey activities should be done in more coherent way, the system of data and information sharing should be improved, and the extension of human resources and capacity building activities from TD as well as other experts through SEAFDEC mechanism should be enhanced. It was also agreed that existing consultative mechanism between the DOF Thailand and TD should be revitalized and strengthened to enhance effective planning and implementation of future activities. After the discussion, Dr. Wimol, Mr. Chirdsak and other members of the DOF delegation visited the fishing engineering workshop to observe the fishing gear and selective device models. Later, they went onboard the M.V. SEAFDEC to observe the equipment that could be used in future collaborative activities. ✦



SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand together with staff of TD

EDITORIAL

The first quarter of 2012 saw the continued efforts of SEAFDEC in undertaking activities related to the marine fishery resources. Initiatives and activities were continued on the promotion of sub-regional fisheries management, co-management, strengthening MCS and combating IUU fishing through the conduct of regional training courses and enhancing cooperation with the RPOA-IUU.

SEAFDEC also received high-ranking dignitaries during the period. Led by the Secretary-General Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, SEAFDEC welcomed the Vice Minister for International Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan who complimented on the close cooperation between Japan and the ASEAN countries during the past years through SEAFDEC. He also expressed the need to foster future cooperation especially for the activities in line with the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action. SEAFDEC/TD also welcomed the new Director-General of the DOF Thailand and SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand who encouraged that future collaborative activities between SEAFDEC and the DOF Thailand should be planned in more systematic way. Meanwhile, during the visit of Malaysian Fisheries Department officials to TD, the proposed secondment of TD staff to assist in the establishment of Fishery College and other activities under the existing MOU between SEAFDEC and the National Agricultural Training Council (NATC) of Malaysia, were discussed.

The quarter also witnessed several program review meetings. The SEAFDEC programs supported by Sida and the Japanese Trust Fund were reviewed to enhance the effectiveness of the programs. The reviews were also envisaged to facilitate the more effective planning of future activities to ensure that benefits to the Member Countries from SEAFDEC programs could be maximized. ❖

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Japanese Vice Minister visits SEAFDEC

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complimented on the close cooperation established between Japan and the ASEAN countries through SEAFDEC during the past years, especially on the sustainable utilization of marine living resources. He also conveyed the commitment of Japan to continue supporting SEAFDEC particularly in strengthening the capacity of the countries in the region in promoting sustainable fisheries development and management.

During the discussion, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General extended his profound sympathy to the Government of Japan for the sufferings and losses caused by the Tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011, and expressed the appreciation for the continued support extended by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC in spite of the economic woes that the country has been confronted with. He explained that while delineating the

issues of importance as stipulated in the Resolution and Plan of Action, the activities to be undertaken by SEAFDEC to support the Member Countries would be prioritized. More particularly, the activities could be focused on fishery resources surveys; improvement of fishery engineering technology to come up with gears that are more selective and energy efficient; development of on-board fish handling technologies for small fishing boats to improve the quality of catch for human consumption and increase profits that fishers could derive from fishing; and making available adequate and improved human resources in wide ranging disciplines. In addition to the activities of SEAFDEC at the regional level, Member Countries are also encouraged to undertake national initiatives based on their priorities and needs in accordance with the provisions in the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action. ❖

SEAFDEC convenes Results-based Management Workshop

With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), SEAFDEC organized an In-house Workshop on Results-based Management (RBM) at SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand from 11 to 13 January 2012. The purpose of this Workshop was to enhance better understanding of the staff on key concepts of RBM, which is an approach for program development, implementation and evaluation, as well as on the use of logical framework, which is anticipated to be adopted and used to facilitate future SEAFDEC program planning, monitoring and evaluation. The RBM has increasingly been used by several international organizations, national governments level such as UNDP, OECD, Sida, CIDA, among others.

The Workshop was attended by junior staff and senior officers of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Training



Resource Person from AIMS, Dr. Punit Arora presenting the basic concepts of Results-based Management

Department including the members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network. During the workshop, Dr. Punit Arora, the resource person from the Associates for International Management Services (AIMS) of USA, presented the basic concept of RBM focusing on achieving outcomes rather than activities inputs. This was followed by practical session, where the participants undertook exercises on the application of logical framework for project planning. ❖

SEAFDEC at the 26th Animals Committee of CITES



SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri together with Policy and Program Coordinator, Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon participated in the 26th Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC26) of CITES from 15 to 20 March 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. The AC26 discussed among others, the status of concerned Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species (CEASs), namely: sharks, sea cucumbers and seahorses, with particular emphasis on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Class Chondrichthyes). A total of 165

participants at this AC26 came from various regions of the world, representing observer parties, observer non-parties, observer IGOs including SEAFDEC, and observer NGOs. Representatives from five SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, were also in attendance. While highlighting on CEASs issues particularly on sharks, the AC26 encouraged the top 26 shark fishing Member States to respond to CITES notifications relating to sharks and to the FAO questionnaire on the status of implementation of the FAO IPOA-Sharks, in order that such information could be made publicly available to parties. As for seahorses, the AC26 adopted the recommendations of the Reviews Significant Trade Working Group especially on the urgent and possible concerns that should be directly

applied to major exporting parties including Thailand and Vietnam. On sea cucumbers, the AC26 recommended that the CITES Secretariat issue a notification to the parties drawing their attention to the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Papers presented during the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries.

In order that relevant future actions and preparation could be carried out by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries, the results of the discussions on CEASs at the AC26 would be reported to the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2012. This is envisaged to enable the Member Countries to prepare their stance and safeguard the region's interest during the relevant discussions at the forthcoming CITES-CoP16 to be held in 2013 in Thailand. ✦

International seminar on marine fisheries policy and higher education in fisheries in Southeast Asia

As a part of the activities under the three-year Asia-Africa Sciences Platform Program (2011-2013) funded by the Japan Society of Promotion of Sciences (JSPS), the International Seminar on Marine Fisheries Policy and Higher Education in Fisheries in Southeast Asia was organized at the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand on 21 February 2012. The Seminar was conducted by the Hokkaido University Faculty of Fisheries Sciences (HUFFS) in collaboration with SEAFDEC, the Faculty of Fisheries of Kasetsart University, and the Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

The Seminar was attended by exchange fellows from Thailand and Japan as well as officers and representatives from Kasetsart University, AIT, SEAFDEC, and HUFFS. The results of research activities conducted by recipients of the Program's fellowship grants on relevant research topics in collaboration

with Professors from HUFFS, were presented, including those conducted by three fellows from SEAFDEC, namely: Ms. Sawitree Chamsai, Ms. Namfon Imsamran, and Mrs. Sumitra Ruangsvivakul. Moreover, relevant recommendations and suggestions for the effective implementation of program activities during the succeeding years were also discussed. ✦



Professor Junichiro Okamoto from Hokkaido University giving the background on the Asia-Africa Sciences Platform Program during the Seminar at SEAFDEC Secretariat

Demonstration and fishing trial to promote the use of circle hook for longline fishing

SEAFDEC/TD, in collaboration with MFRDMD and the Department of Fisheries of Sabah State of Malaysia, organized a demonstration and fishing trial to promote the use of circle hook (known as "c-hook") for bottom longline fishing in Sabah State, Malaysia from 12 to 16 March 2012.

This activity was aimed at promoting the use of c-hook in bottom longline fishing, as well as demonstrating the effectiveness in using c-hook for mitigation of sea turtles by-catch in fishing trials. A total of 27 participants comprising interested fishers, staff of the Malaysian Department of Fisheries, and local NGOs joined and observed the activity. ✦

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

JICA supports the three Senegalese officers' training at TD

Three senior fisheries officers from Senegal attended a week-long training program at SEAFDEC/TD starting from 3 February 2012 with financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The program was designed to familiarize these senior officers with fisheries co-management and rights-based fisheries, and serve as means to enhance fisheries good governance applicable to coastal and inland fisheries management.

On the first day, the Senegalese officers participated in the Regional Workshop on Promotion of Strategic Implementation of Fisheries Co-management and Right-

based Fisheries for Enhancing Good Governance in Coastal and Inland Fisheries Management, organized by TD in Bangkok, Thailand. The remaining six days of their training were allocated for their study tour to see firsthand the activities in coastal and small-scale fisheries management, approaches to fisheries

co-management, rights-based fisheries, community involvement and application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management, as well as fishery extension methodologies. ❖

Senegalese officers observed on-site activities on fisheries management



Malaysian officials visit TD to discuss bilateral interests

Five staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (MOA), Department of Fisheries, and National Agriculture Training Council (NATC) of Malaysia paid their visit to TD on 27 February 2012, and discussed bilateral interests with TD officers.

SEAFDEC Secretary-General and TD Chief, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri welcomed Dato' Haji Raihan bin Sharif, Honorable Deputy Secretary-General (Planning) of the MOA and his staff. Discussion then proceeded on the activities under the MOU between TD and NATC, especially the status of on-site human resource development programs for staff

of Malaysian Department of Fisheries and NATC in trawling, line fishing and purse seine fishing in 2012, collaborative training onboard SEAFDEC training vessels, expert advice and secondment of experts from TD for the establishment of Fishery College under the NATC, and collaboration with other Thai agencies such as the Vocational Education Commission of Thailand and Merchant Marine Training Centre through SEAFDEC channel. The visitors were also guided to the TD facilities including the fishing and engineering workshops, and tour of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2. ❖

Japanese Trust Fund projects on aquaculture reviewed

A total of 34 studies in four projects at AQD funded by the Japanese Trust Fund were reviewed by respected members of the academes in the Philippines and Japan. The review was made at the annual progress meeting presided over by Dr. Teruo Azuma, AQD Deputy Chief and Trust Fund Manager, held on 8-9 February 2012 at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo, Philippines. In



AQD Deputy Chief Dr. Azuma presiding over the annual progress meeting



With TD officers are Malaysian officials during their visit to TD

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AQD offers culture of milkfish, seaweeds, abalone and sandfish as alternative livelihood

AQD extended its technologies on the culture of high-value marine fishes (including milkfish and seaweed) through a workshop on “Small-scale aquaculture and livelihood ventures”.

Around 40 representatives from the academe, local government, and private sector were in attendance in Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines on 6 March 2012. The workshop was a joint project of AQD, AQUAFISH - Collaborative Research

Support Program, and the Province of Aklan.

In the same vein, AQD was at Molocaboc, Sagay, Negros Occidental from 20 to 25 February 2012 to conduct two separate courses on “Abalone and Sandfish Stocking and Culture Technology” for ten members of the village resource management council. Both sessions were funded by the Japanese Trust Fund to SEAFDEC.



Participants in the milkfish-seaweeds aquaculture training course

Trainees of the abalone-sandfish course

Meeting on cetacean research project

SEAFDEC/TD organized the meeting on “Cetacean Research in the Southeast Asian Waters: Cetacean Sighting Program” from 27 to 29 March 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Cetacean Sighting Program was initiated by TD since 2008 to gather information on the cetacean geographical distribution and species composition in the Southeast Asian waters, as well as to assess the interaction between cetaceans and the fishery resources and habitats, and the extent of impact from cetaceans on the latter. Since the cetacean project has recently been concluded in 2011, this was therefore an opportune time to summarize the major achievements of the project implementation.

The Meeting was attended by representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries participating in the cetacean research, as well as cetacean resource persons from international organizations. It was anticipated that

the recommendations from this meeting would benefit future cetacean studies/research, especially with regards to the interrelation between cetacean and coastal marine habitats in the Southeast Asian countries.



Participants of the cetacean research project meeting

MCS training course for the region at TD

As Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has been one of the key fisheries management issues, SEAFDEC/TD organized the Regional Training Course on Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) to assist the Southeast Asian countries in combating IUU fishing. The training was conducted on 6-15 March 2012 at the TD premises in Samut Prakan, Thailand. Apart from trainees from SEAFDEC Member Countries, trainees from Papua New Guinea responsible for fisheries management and MCS functions also attended the training course, which accentuated on the following issues: 1) MCS system in terms of its approaches, appropriate procedures and methods as well as lessons learned from selected countries in and outside the ASEAN region; 2) critical review of the present status of MCS system in SEAFDEC

Member Countries; and 3) assessment of the requirements to strengthen the MCS system in the Member Countries and in the entire ASEAN region, taking into consideration the existing financial and human resource constraints.

The training course was delivered through class lectures, field visits to observe various aspects of MCS, and a 2-day practical workshop on the Application of the MCS in Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia. ✪

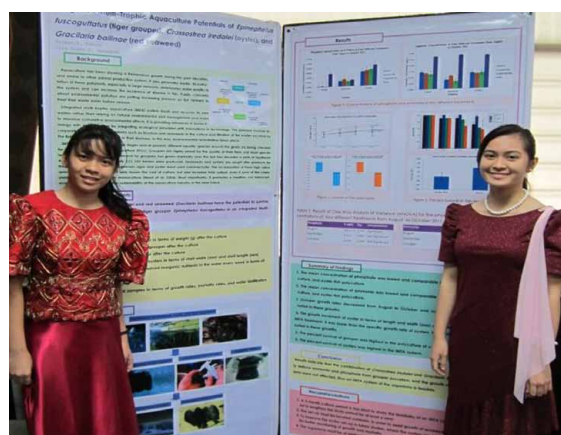


MCS training course participants visited a fish market and observed various aspects of MCS

AQD-mentored students win in science competitions

AQD has an open-door policy for interested young researchers, offering mentorship and collaboration. Early this year, this has borne fruit with three high school students winning in science congresses in Malaysia and the Philippines. Ms. Raymee Tabobo and Ms. Zyra Grace Zaragosa of Philippine Science High School in Iloilo won the “Outstanding award for significant project” at the “8th Regional Congress

Search for SEAMEO Young Scientist” held 6-9 March 2012 in Penang, Malaysia. This was for their research on “Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture potentials of *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* (tiger grouper), *Crassostrea iredalei* (oyster), and *Gracilaria bailinae* (red seaweeds)” which was done in consultation with AQD scientist Dr. Junemie Lebata-Ramos.



High school students mentored in research by AQD won an outstanding project award in Malaysia

On the other hand, Mr. Michael Angelo Dejando from Oton National High School, also in Iloilo, was second place at the “2012 National Children’s Science Congress” held on 1-3 February 2012 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines. His study on the “Survival of mysid shrimps *Mesopodopsis orientalis* in different iodine concentrations and exposure time” had AQD researcher Ms. Shelah Mae Buen-Ursua as mentor. ✪

Resource enhancement training for ASEAN countries

TD organized a Regional Training Course on the Identification of Critical Fishing Grounds and Habitat Rehabilitation and Management Approach at its facilities in Samut Prakan, Thailand from 18 to 29 March 2012.

The training course was designed to strengthen human capacity and awareness of the ASEAN Member States by providing knowledge on the type and role of critical habitats/fishing grounds and their identification, management plan and fishery resource rehabilitation measures, as well as on impact of climate change to fisheries, and related issues. It was envisaged that, the participants would be able to formulate effective management approaches and strategies to achieve the goal of sustainable fisheries development in their countries and the region. ✪

TD holds open house to welcome students

SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) warmly welcomed a group of primary school children from the Attamit School and students from Kasetsart University of Thailand on 17 January and 22 March 2012, respectively. As part of their extra-curricular activities, 187 primary school children from the Attamit School observed the fishing activities simulated at TD. The children were guided through the fishing workshop to see firsthand the various modern fishing gears and were also given lecture on the concept of sustainable fisheries and the roles of modern fishing gears in fisheries development. They were subsequently guided through the workshop to see the models of purse seine, trawl net, longlines and other gears on display at the workshop. The children showed their apparent excitement and appreciation while being guided through the modern navigation and fishing equipment aboard the M.V. SEAFDEC.

Another group of 54 students from the Faculty of Fisheries at Kasetsart University also paid their visit to TD

Students observing the simulations of responsible fishing activities (right); and students embarked the M.V. SEAFDEC for observation tour (below)



on their study tour to observe the facilities, especially various fishing gear and related equipment. The group also went onboard a Payoon vessel and observed the estuarine fishing operation around the mouth of the Chao Phraya River. A brief lecture



on “Responsible Fishing” was then delivered by TD expert prior to their walk-through observation of the fishing workshop to see the various modern fishing gears, e.g., purse seine, trawl

net, longlines and other gear mounted on display at the workshop. They also visited the M.V. SEAFDEC to observe its modern navigation and fishing equipment. ❖

“Responsible fishing”: focus of TD for National Children’s Day

Foreseeing the importance of fisheries to Thailand and its future generations, the SEAFDEC/TD availed of the opportunity on 14 January 2012 National Children’s Day for staging an exhibition on marine capture fisheries focusing on responsible fishing. Despite the dramatic changes in consumers’ preference in the past decades, fish and rice unfailingly remained as staple food and featured in Thai dishes.

At the Agricultural Museum of Pathumthani Province, TD in collaboration with the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) brought out on display a booth filled with posters and pamphlets on responsible fishing and sea turtle conservation. More than 3,500 children showed up at the TD booth where they asked questions and obtained information materials of their interest.

Models of longline, trawl net, and other fishing gears were also put on display at the Navy Dockyard at Pomprachunlajomkiao, Samut Prakan on the same day for the same purpose. Some 2,000 children showed up to express their curiosity and interest in these fishing gadgets, and were fully satisfied by the information and knowledge they received from the attending TD personnel.

The National Children’s Day in Thailand is traditionally organized on every second Saturday of the year. It largely receives a widespread attention by the public, and most

government organizations, especially the Prime Minister, and military which staged impressive shows for the benefit of the children, as their contribution to the future generations of the nation. ❖



Children participated in activities at the TD booth

SPECIAL REPORT

Utilization of Freshwater Fish For Value-added Products

By SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)

Freshwater fish is an important fisheries resource in many ASEAN Member States where it serves as a major source of animal protein especially for the marginalized and poorer segments of the population thereby contributing to food security in these countries. Freshwater fish is also an important source of raw materials for processing into a variety of traditional fish products in the ASEAN Member States. Freshwater fish products as with other traditional products in the region are largely processed by household producers and small- and medium-sized establishments which are usually family-owned operations with little mechanization. Upgrading of processing and packaging technology for the freshwater fish products will help to improve their quality and safety with the possibility of commercialization.

With Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam becoming members of SEAFDEC, freshwater fish utilization is becoming an important area to study as these Member Countries have significant freshwater fisheries. Under the previous SEAFDEC Special 5-year Program (2001-2005), MFRD conducted a project on Utilization of Freshwater Fish with Cambodia in 2003-2004. However, MFRD was not able to extend the project to the other countries due to budget constraints. At the 42nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2010, Singapore proposed to conduct a 3-year project from 2011 to 2013 on Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products with Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and Indonesia (which requested to participate in the project) through its Post-Harvest Technology Division (PHTD) of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) as the Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC to implement MFRD programs.

The objectives of the Project are to utilize freshwater fish species for the development of value-added products and to assist in upgrading the processing and packaging technology for freshwater fish products in the participating countries.

Project Inception and Planning Meeting

The Project Inception and Planning Meeting for the Project was successfully held in MFRD/Singapore on 26-27 April 2011.

Eight representatives, two each from Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Vietnam attended the Meeting together with the Chief of MFRD Programs and the Deputy Director and staff of PHTD. Representatives from each country presented their country papers on the status and utilization of freshwater fisheries resources. The Meeting discussed and planned for all the project activities and project schedule, appointed the key project leaders and identified commercial co-operants in the participating countries.

The Meeting agreed that the new products to be developed in this project should be targeted at Small and Medium Enterprises and therefore should utilize simple and easy-to-use equipment and technology. The Meeting identified the types of freshwater fishes to be utilized and the products to be developed in each country. The Meeting also deliberated on the product development and processing trials to be conducted in the participating countries as well as the publication of the processing handbook on the products developed.



Project Planning and Inception Meeting held at MFRD/Singapore

Regional Training Course

A Regional Training Course on Processing of Value-added Products using Freshwater Fish was organized and conducted in MFRD/Singapore on 18-21 October 2011 with the objective of equipping the participating countries with the basic techniques and equipment necessary for the development of



Participants and trainers of the regional processing training course (above); and sensory evaluation of the products (right)



Hands-on practical session to make the value-added product, fish murukku

Fourteen participants – two each from the participating countries; two participants from the Malaysian Department of Fisheries and four industry participants from Singapore attended the training. Lao PDR, Myanmar and Indonesia had sent one participant each to represent the private sector (commercial co-operant).

Future Activities

Following the Regional Training Course, the participants from the four Member Countries are to return to their countries to conduct their own product development and processing trials including product shelf-life study in 2012. MFRD shall collate all the results for the publication of a handbook on processing of value-added freshwater fish products. An End-of-Project seminar will be held in 2013 for the participating countries to present and share the results of the project.



the value-added products. The training comprised lectures on the processing of value-added products, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and product shelf life testing as well as hands-on practicals on the processing of six types of value-added products, namely: fish sausage, fish patty, spicy fish paste, fish murukku, fish siew mai and fish cracker.



Value-added products made by participants on the last day of the training

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

SEAFDEC at the 3rd sub-regional meeting on RPOA and IUU fishing in the southern and eastern areas of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas

On 20-21 March 2012, SEAFDEC team comprising Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn, Mr. Adi Wibowo (Regional Fisheries Policy Network -RFPN member for Indonesia), and Ms. Keni Anak Ngiwol (RFPN member for Malaysia) attended the 3rd Sub-

regional Meeting on Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Sea (SESCS) and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas (SSS), which was organized by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia

in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. The Meeting was also attended by delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, representatives from the RPOA Secretariat, WorldFish Centre, Coral Triangle Initiatives on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), and Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA).



Participants in the 3rd Sub-regional Meeting on RPOA and IUU Fishing in the Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas

The Meeting aimed to follow-up on the previous sub-regional meeting of SESCO and SSS, to update on the progress of implementation of the workplan in this sub-region, and to harmonize activities with partners of the RPOA Members Countries. SEAFDEC as one of regional advisory bodies for the RPOA-IUU also took the opportunity to share information on its efforts in combating IUU fishing in the region.



Strengthening the role of Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) at SEAFDEC Secretariat

SEAFDEC continued its endeavor to strengthen networking and enhance capacity of fisheries officers representing their respective countries at the SEAFDEC Secretariat as the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN). In 2012, eight RFPN members have been seconded to the SEAFDEC Secretariat, namely: Mr. Em Samy (Cambodia), Mr. Adi Wibowo (Indonesia), Ms. Sisamouth Phengsakoun (Lao PDR), Ms. Keni Anak Ngiwol (Malaysia), Dr. Kyaw Kyaw (Myanmar), Ms. Geselle Frances P. Zeta (Philippines), Ms. Issarapon Jithlang (Thailand), and Mrs. Le Hong Lien (Vietnam).

RFPN members play an important role in bridging the networking mechanism between SEAFDEC and the Member Countries, and are involved in providing inputs that could help in addressing regional fisheries-related issues. They



Eight RFPN members representing their respective countries at SEAFDEC

also actively participate in many SEAFDEC activities such as meetings, workshops and trainings, and provide important contributions during such events. Through such involvement, the RFPN members could gain knowledge and experiences in regional fisheries

policy and management. Importantly, they also facilitate communication between SEAFDEC and their respective offices and keep regional contact to ensure that sustainable fisheries development would be attained by countries in the region.



SEAFDEC-Sida Project convenes 2011 Annual Review Meeting

On 12 March 2012, the SEAFDEC-Sida Project convened its 2011 Annual Review Meeting for the project on “Activities Related to Climate Change and Adaptation in Southeast Asia with Special Focus on the Andaman Sea” at SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand. Attended by Mr. Ola Möller from the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia, Embassy of Sweden in Thailand; Mr. Peter Funegård from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management; and Mr. Lars Johansson, the Consultant to Sida as well as staff of SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department and members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN), the Meeting reviewed the progress of the project activities implemented in 2011.

While highlighting on the efforts made continuously on the promotion of sub-regional cooperation around the Andaman Sea, the Meeting also noted the information on important areas such as fisheries and habitat management, as



The 2011 Annual Review Meeting for the SEAFDEC-Sida Project

well as management of fishing capacity in response to climate change context provided during the local and sub-region events in 2011, which were successfully conducted by the project in the Gulf of Thailand and the Southern Andaman Sea. The Meeting was also informed on the new Project Agreement which is expected to be signed in early 2013, with highlights on the increasing requirement from Sida particularly for results-based reporting.

Sida expressed the appreciation to the work undertaken by SEAFDEC, and assured that the cooperation between Sida and SEAFDEC would be continued to enable even more fruitful results in the future. Sida also encouraged that the future project should be implemented in close coordination with collaborating partners for the betterment of the fisheries and habitat management as well as food security for people in the region.



SEAFDEC takes part in BOBLME workshop for “fisheries statistical working group”

SEAFDEC was represented during the Workshop on “Fisheries Statistical Working Group” to support the development of regional and sub-regional fisheries management plans organized by the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project from 18 to 19 March 2012 in Medan, Indonesia. The main objectives of this Workshop were to improve the collection of fisheries data and make progress towards regional harmonized approaches; and to strengthen and enhance the capacities of national fisheries statistics units, research institutes and fisheries administrations in attaining better data collection and management practices. The Workshop recognized that while it is necessary to assess fisheries data for its quality and coverage, some elements for future joint resources assessment models could also be explored for transboundary resources in the region.

During the Workshop, SEAFDEC Information Officer, Ms. Saivason Klinsukhon summarized the efforts of SEAFDEC in improving fishery statistics and information in the Southeast Asian region. SEAFDEC initiatives included the development of the new Framework on Regional Fishery Statistics to support the establishment and improvement of national fishery statistics systems and mechanisms for regional compilation; the sharing of experiences in the implementation of the framework with Non-member Countries; the usage of statistics data and other fisheries information for policy-making, planning and management of fisheries; as well as the attempt in improving the collection of statistics from small-scale fisheries.

Meanwhile, the Workshop recognized the need to strengthen the collection of fisheries data in the BOBLME countries which could proceed by developing



Representative from SEAFDEC presenting a paper during the Workshop

the minimum requirements for data collection based on identified objectives, and defining the quality standards of the data, to be carried out in a collaborative approach with SEAFDEC, IOTC and FAO. It was also noted that the data collected could be integrated through a bottom-up strategy within the countries before bringing up to regional/international levels.



Fish health researchers convene international workshop

Fishfarmers can protect their stocks from disease outbreaks by practicing good aquaculture management. This was the message of the International Workshop on Fish Health Management held on 1-2 March 2012 in Iloilo City, Philippines. The workshop was organized by AQD with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund.

Attended by 222 participants comprising scientists, researchers and stakeholders from Southeast Asia, the workshop recommended capacity-building activities such as intensive hands-on training on fish pathology; continuous collaboration with relevant agencies; and information sharing to improve fish health management, food

security, and aquaculture sustainability. It also emphasized on the need for enhanced regulations and better monitoring of diseases in accordance with the protocols of the OIE (Office International des Epizooties). Real-time disease reporting is also necessary so that countries can have access to information on diseases of regional concern. ☒



Participants in the International Workshop on Fish Health Management organized by AQD

SEAFDEC at forum to build coastal resilience in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam

From 28 February to 2 March 2012, the SEAFDEC-Sida Project staff and the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) Members for Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam attended in the First Annual Forum on Building Coastal Resilience in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, hosted by IUCN at Burapha University, Chantaburi Province, Thailand. The Forum, which was also attended by community representatives, local and national NGOs and government agencies and media representatives from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, was aimed at sharing on information, experience and good practices on climate change adaptation in the coastal zone, including local assessment, mangrove restoration, erosion management, as well as the use of rights-based approaches.

The forum served as good opportunity for SEAFDEC staff and the RFPN members to gain useful information through the presentations and discussion on the concept of Community-based Adaptation (CBA),

Vulnerable and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology, scientific research and case studies relevant to the climate change. The participants also acquired information on lessons learned and experiences on how local people living in the coastal areas adapt to the impacts from climate change.

During the field trip, initiatives and efforts of local communities in conserving and rehabilitating their mangroves and management of their fisheries to strengthen their capacity for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the future were also demonstrated. ☒



SEAFDEC staff and RFPN members attended at the 1st Annual Forum on Building Coastal Resilience

Regional workshop on co-management and rights-based fisheries

The Regional Workshop on Promotion of Strategic Implementation of Fisheries Co-management and Rights-based Fisheries for Enhancing Good Governance in Coastal and Inland Fisheries Management was conducted by SEAFDEC Training Department from 2 to 3 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Through the Workshop, participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries exchanged their experiences and national strategies in implementing fisheries co-

management and rights-based fisheries. SWOT analysis of small-scale fisheries at the national level was used as an approach to facilitate the formulation of a regional strategy, based on the commonality of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats at the regional level. The outputs of this workshop were

compiled by SEAFDEC for publication into a form of a guidebook, intended for fisheries officials and national fisheries organizations. ✦

Participants of the 2012 Fisheries Co-management Workshop



Asia-Africa science platform program (AASPP) of Hokudai and MFRD

On 11 January 2011, an international seminar on “Highly Efficient Utilization and Processing of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia” was held at MFRD in Singapore under the AASPP. The seminar was attended by Prof. Kunihiko Konno of the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University (FFS-HU), the Chief of MFRD Programs and officers of the Post-Harvest Technology Division (PHTD) of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) as the Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC to implement MFRD programs. During the seminar, Prof. Konno presented an overview of the AASPP and highlighted the exchange program for young researchers, followed by a presentation on the research capabilities of Hokkaido University. He further extended an invitation to MFRD/PHTD for collaborative research work. The Chief of MFRD Programs and Deputy Director of PHTD then gave presentations on the MFRD and PHTD



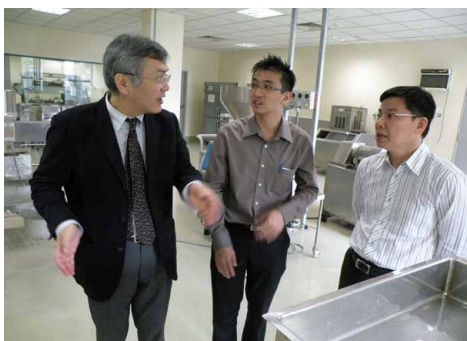
Hokkaido University's Prof. Konno and MFRD/PHTD staff at the Hokkaido U-MFRD seminar

programs, respectively. Additionally, Prof. Konno gave a technical presentation on surimi and thermal gel and discussed on the exchange program and research collaboration with MFRD/PHTD.

At the welcome lunch meeting hosted by the Deputy CEO of AVA, Mr Lee Kwong Weng shared his view on AVA's challenges and strategic directions for food security, and the role of fishery post-harvest research and development in addressing the gaps in the fish supply chain. Observation visits to two local supermarkets and the Jurong Fishery Port were also arranged for Professor Konno to have better insights into Singapore's fish supply chain.

As a follow-up to the seminar, the Chief of MFRD Programs visited the FFS-HU in Hakodate, Japan under the

exchange program from 27 February to 2 March 2012 to gain better understanding of the research work and facilities in FFS-HU as well as to further discuss on the staff exchange and collaborative research program between FFS-HU and MFRD/PHTD under the framework of the AASPP. The visit program included meetings and discussions with the FFS-HU professors especially those who are working in the research areas of interest to MFRD/PHTD. A half-day seminar was also held where the Chief of MFRD Programs gave presentations on the MFRD and PHTD programs. Three FFS-HU professors also gave presentations on their respective research works. Once MFRD/PHTD has decided on the candidate and research areas for staff exchange for FY2012, the Chief will liaise with FFS-HU on the period and schedule of the attachment. ✦



Prof. Konno viewing the MFRD/PHTD facilities in Singapore

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer
2012			
2-6 April	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	44 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC
7 April	Yangon, Myanmar	SEAFDEC Department Chief's Meeting	SEAFDEC Secretariat
11-25 April	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Sea Cucumber Production and Management	AQD
22-26 April	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	Regional Workshop on Taxonomy and Identification of Sharks and Rays in Southeast Asia	MFRDMD
23-27 April	Bangkok, Thailand	FAO/APFIC Regional Workshop to Support the Implementation of the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement	FAO/APFIC
23-27 April	Philippines	Training Course on Catfish Hatchery and Grow-out	AQD
23 April-4 May	Samut Prakan, Thailand	University Training Course on Condition and Utilization of Fisheries Resource around the Mouth of Chaophraya River (in Thai)	TD
30 April	Bangkok, Thailand	Round Table Discussion for the REBYC-II CTI Project	TD
1-3 May	Phuket, Thailand	Mekong-2-Rio: International Conference on Transboundary River Basin Management	MRC
1-4 May	Bangkok, Thailand	REBYC-II-CTI Inception Meeting	TD
7-11 May	New York, USA	Meeting of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Open-ended Informal Working Group to Study Issue Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction	UN
10-30 May	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Abalone Hatchery and Grow-out	AQD
21 May-8 June	Rizal, Philippines	Training Course on Freshwater Aquaculture	AQD
23-25 May	Bangkok, Thailand	World Tuna Trade Conference and Exhibition 2012	INFOFISH
28 May-19 June	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Crab Hatchery, Nursery & Grow-out	AQD
4-5 June	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	4 th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)	ASEAN
6-9 June	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	20 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF)	ASEAN
18-20 June	Suva, Fiji	Coral Triangle Fishers Forum II (Forum Theme: Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and traceability for fishing communities and industry)	CTI
25-29 June	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Expert Group Meeting on Fishing License and Boats Registration in Southeast Asia	TD
26 June-1 August	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Marine Fish Hatchery	AQD
June (Tentative)	Singapore	Mid-term Evaluation and Progress Meeting for JTF Project on Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products	MFRD
9-13 July	Rome, Italy	30 th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)	FAO
13 July	Rome, Italy	4 th Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network	FAO
16-20 July	Philippines	Training Course on Tilapia Hatchery & Grow-out	AQD
17-19 July	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	5 th Core Expert Meeting on Tagging Program for Economically Important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea	MFRDMD
8-9 August	Phuket, Thailand	2 nd Andaman Sea Meeting	SEAFDEC-Sida
13-17 August	Philippines	Training Course on Freshwater Prawn Hatchery & Pond Grow-out	AQD
10-14 September	Penang, Malaysia	Inception Workshop for the Aquaculture for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition (AFSPAN) Project	FAO

SEAFDEC, BOBLME and CORIN-Asia conduct sub-regional consultative workshop for the northern Andaman Sea

(Continued from Page 16)

during previous workshops, and on-site trainings conducted by the SEAFDEC-Sida Project and BOBLME Project; 2) develop a platform for agreements between Myanmar and Thailand on joint approaches for the management of habitat and fisheries, and management of fishing capacity; 3) enhance the dialogues among key institutions involved; and 4) provide opportunities for group of “legal advisors” to grasp the scope, purpose and context of existing and planned legal and regulatory framework as basis for developing agreements.

After the background presentation on the status of marine fisheries resources and management around Northern Andaman Sea/Mergui Archipelago, on-going activities implemented at national level and other projects/initiatives such as those carried out by IUCN and SEAFDEC/MFRDMD were reviewed. Participants were then divided into three groups to discuss the existing gaps/needs and required actions relevant to the thematic areas, namely 1) critical habitat management (seagrass, mangrove, coral reefs); 2) management responses for trans-boundary and migratory fish stock (*Rastrelliger* spp.); and 3) management of fishing capacity (vessel record, MCS, including port monitoring and landings across boundaries). After the discussion, the groups came up with recommendations on collaborative work plan that are doable and time-bound, taking into consideration the budget required/available for such plan. ❏

Japanese Trust Fund projects on aquaculture reviewed

(Continued from Page 4)

attendance were 70 study leaders, AQD staff and stakeholders.

In particular, two community stakeholders expressed their appreciation of AQD’s project at Sagay Marine Reserve in northern Negros, west central Philippines, stating that: “the technical advances introduced, like sandfish nursery and grow-out, serve as good alternative livelihood to fishing especially because the reserve has enforced a no-take policy”. ❏



Community stakeholders from Sagay City where AQD has a community-managed stock enhancement project, also attended the progress meeting

Note for contributors

The SEAFDEC Newsletter publishes quarterly news on all aspects of fisheries in Southeast Asia. The Editors reserve the right to accept and/or abridge articles based on available space. Anyone wishing to submit an article to the SEAFDEC Newsletter is requested to send it to the Editor in Chief or Editors at the given addresses.

Information in this Newsletter may be quoted only if reference is made to SEAFDEC.

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SEAFDEC, BOBLME and CORIN-Asia conduct sub-regional consultative workshop for the Northern Andaman Sea

Along with the efforts undertaken by the SEAFDEC-Sida Project in collaboration with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project that aim to promote sustainable fisheries and protection of the marine environment of the Andaman Sea, on-going dialogues to promote sub-regional arrangement between Thailand and Myanmar on the Northern Andaman Sea including the Mergui Archipelago have continued to gain momentum since 2009. The dialogues had been supported by the outputs of a series of on-site activities conducted in 2011, which placed particular attention on the Northern Andaman Sea including areas of common interest to Myanmar and Thailand.

On 13-14 March 2012, the SEAFDEC-Sida Project in collaboration with the BOBLME Project through the Asian Coastal Resources Institute Foundation

(CORIN-Asia) co-hosted the Sub-regional Consultative Workshop of the Northern Andaman Sea in Bangkok, Thailand. Opened by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, the Workshop was attended by 68 participants from the national governments, local government agencies,

academic institutions, international agencies, and private sector from Thailand and Myanmar.

The workshop aimed to: 1) review and follow up on issues and recommendations that were identified

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Participants in the Sub-regional Consultative Workshop of the Northern Andaman Sea, 13-14 March 2012

Second meeting of SEAFDEC program review for Japanese Trust Fund

SEAFDEC organized the 2nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Review for Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) for 2011 and Onwards at SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand, on 22-23 February 2012. The meeting was attended by external evaluators as resource persons, namely: Dr. Oopatham Pawaputanan, Mr. Damrong Silpachai, Mr. Somsak Chullasorn, Dr. Rolando R. Platon, and Dr. Junichiro Okamoto and the representative from Japan as well as the SEAFDEC officials and the members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN). During the meeting, the JTF-V projects implemented in 2011 were evaluated, while the activities proposed for 2012 were reviewed. The Meeting also discussed the new JTF-II proposals of which the activities would be implemented starting from 2013 onwards, and provided recommendations to be incorporated into the future programs. Among the several recommendations, SEAFDEC



SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri delivering the opening remarks during the Meeting

was requested to consider prioritizing its regional programs, projects and activities to address the priorities and requirements of the Member Countries. The Secretariat and Departments was also requested to review their respective project documents to ensure that project titles are specific and correspond to the objectives and activities, which should

also be in line with the mandate and capacity of SEAFDEC. Furthermore, the Meeting also encouraged SEAFDEC to seek collaboration with organizations/institutions that are working on similar subject of interest, and enhance the applicability and usage of knowledge and technologies that may already be available in the region. ☒