



SEAFDEC NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 2 April - June 2017

BANGKOK, THAILAND, ISSN 0857 - 233X

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- SEAFDEC takes part in the Ocean Conference in UN, New York 2
- SEAFDEC participates in the First Meeting of the Parties to PSMA 3
- Special Report: Sustainable Seafood from Community-Based Resource Enhancement 8
- SEAFDEC participates in the 9th AFCF and 25th ASWGF Meetings 10
- Onsite Training for Pilot Testing of eACDS and eACDS Committee Meeting in Brunei Darussalam 11
- SEAFDEC holds preparatory meeting for JAIF project on tropical anguillid eels 13
- SEAFDEC launches eACDS in Brunei Darussalam 16
- MFRDMD welcomes new Deputy Chief 16

SEAFDEC convenes the 49th Meeting of its Council in Brunei Darussalam



Council Directors of SEAFDEC at the Meeting in Brunei Darussalam

At the kind invitation of Government of Brunei Darussalam, the 49th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was convened in Bandar Seri Begawan from 3 to 7 April 2017. The Meeting unanimously elected the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam, *Mr. Abdul Halidi Bin Mohd. Salleh* as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2017-2018, succeeding *Dr. Tran Dinh Luan*, SEAFDEC Council Director for Viet Nam who served as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the year 2016-2017.

The Council noted the progress and achievements of SEAFDEC in 2016, and approved the proposed programs of activities for 2017. Subsequently, the Council discussed the issues related to combating IUU fishing that are important for the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. These included the progress of implementation of several tools for combating IUU fishing, namely: the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from

IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain, the Regional Fishing Vessels Record, the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme, the Regional Cooperation for Supporting the Implementation of Port State Measures in ASEAN Region, and the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity.

On issues related to the Regional Common Position on CITES-related matters, the possibility of setting-up the Technical Fisheries Working Group to work closely with AEG-CITES was raised for further consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat. SEAFDEC was also urged to continue to work and consult with ASEAN Secretariat to explore the appropriate platform for addressing the issues on labor in fisheries sectors under the ASEAN mechanism. The Council also took note of the new US Seafood Traceability Programs, including the US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the US Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP).

(Continued on Page 15)

EDITORIAL

During the second quarter of 2017, SEAFDEC warmly welcomed the new Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, *Dr. Kenji Taki*, who succeeded *Dr. Osamu Abe* on 1 April 2017.

Among the highlighted events of SEAFDEC during this period was the 49th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Bandar Seri Begawan, hosted by the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam. This SEAFDEC Council Meeting was also an opportunity for launching of the pilot testing of one of SEAFDEC important initiatives, the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme or eACDS, the result of which would serve as basis for expanding the application of eACDS to other ASEAN Member States as one of the comprehensive tools for combating


(Continued on Page 2)

EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

IUU fishing. The eACDS aims not only to enhance the effective fisheries management, but also to facilitate intra-regional and international trade, and support the collection of statistics on fish catch. The onsite training for pilot testing of the eACDS was also conducted in Brunei Darussalam, which focused on how to improve the system for smooth operation and the plan for monitoring and evaluation.

SEAFDEC also continued to cooperate and collaborate closely with relevant regional/international organizations in undertaking activities that aim to address the priority fisheries issues. Important meetings that SEAFDEC took part during the quarter include the 9th AFCF and 25th ASWGF Meetings, where the progress of SEAFDEC in implementation of programs and projects, as well as initiatives that address priority issues of ASEAN were reported. Other important events at the global level are the UN Ocean Conference, the Meeting of the Parties to the Port State Measures Agreement, and Meeting of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics.

Moreover, SEAFDEC also continued to undertake activities to address the issues on species under international concern. While there is still on-going needs to improve data collection system on tropical eels, SEAFDEC sought support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) for the new project on “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia” (2017-2019). This project is to be under the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with IFRDMD and AQD, and the project planning meeting is scheduled in August 2017. 

SEAFDEC Newsletter is available at
www.seafdec.org.

You can also send your comment
on our Newsletter to
secretariat@seafdec.org.

SEAFDEC takes part in the Ocean Conference in UN, New York

The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* together with Project Director of the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF/Fisheries *Refugia* *Dr. Christopher Paterson*, and SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* attended the high-level “United Nations Conference on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” which was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14.

The Conference aimed to be the game changer that will reverse the decline in health of our ocean for people, planet and prosperity through the adoption of a “Call for Action” by consensus a concise, focused, intergovernmentally agreed declaration to support the implementation of Goal 14. In addition, the Conference presented a timely opportunity for networking with donors such as the UN Environment regarding several initiatives presently under formulation, including those under the Green Climate Fund (GCF). As of 3 July 2017, a total of 1,393 voluntary commitments for the Ocean Conference

are the initiatives that are voluntarily undertaken by Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors - individually or in partnership - that aim to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. SEAFDEC, as leader in promotion of sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asian region, also voluntarily committed its existing programs to support the UN SDG 14.

With the support and arrangements made by *Dr. Isabelle Vanderbeck*, the Task Manager of Fisheries *Refugia* from the UN Environment, SEAFDEC as a executing agency of the UNEP/GEF Fishery *Refugia* project from 2016-2020 led by *Dr. Kom*, had an opportunity to meet the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, *Dr. Erik Solheim* and Deputy Director *Dr. Jamil Ahmad* during The Ocean Conference on 7 June 2017. SEAFDEC proposed to strengthen more cooperation with the UN Environment and seek support for future programs

(Continued on Page 3)



SEAFDEC officials met with Ms. Yoko Watanabe (seated, second from left), the Global Manager of SGP and staff at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 9 July 2017

SEAFDEC participates in the First Meeting of the Parties to PSMA

The First Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was convened in Oslo, Norway from 29 to 31 May 2017 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and was attended by 34 Parties, and observers from 15 States, 12 intergovernmental and 2 international non-governmental organizations. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* accompanied by the Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* took part in the Meeting.

The Agreement on Port State Measures was entered into force thirty

days after the date of deposit with the Director-General of FAO of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. This number was reached on 6 May 2016 and the Agreement thus entered into force on 5 June 2016. This First Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement reviewed the status of the Agreement; the requirements for the implementation of the Agreement; Port State duties; and discuss the role of flag States and other States as well as the roles of FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, and other international organizations and bodies in implementation of the Agreement.

The Parties agreed that FAO should play an important role in gathering

information, e.g. on designated ports, national contact points, and any other relevant information useful for the implementation of the Agreement, possibly through relevant templates. FAO should also seek to gather information on contact points from non-Parties as this information would be useful for the implementation of the Agreement. The Parties further agreed that their second meeting would be held in Chile not later than 2019, while the meeting to review and assess the implementation of the Agreement would be hosted by the EU in 2020. The Parties also accepted the invitation from Indonesia to host a meeting of the Parties in 2022.



SEAFDEC takes part in the Ocean Conference in UN, New York

(Continued from Page 2)



Meeting between *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* (right), *Dr. Erik Solheim*, Executive Director of the UN Environment (center), and *Dr. Jamil Ahmad*, Deputy Director of the UN Environment (left)

targeting the Trawl Fisheries Program (focusing on reduction the impacts to marine environment), and Assessment on microplastics in the coastal areas, etc. Moreover, *Dr. Kom* also met *Ms. Yoko Watanabe*, the Global Manager of SGP under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and staff, namely: *Ms. Tehmina Akhtar*, deputy Global Manager and *Dr. Sulan Chen*, Programme Advisor.



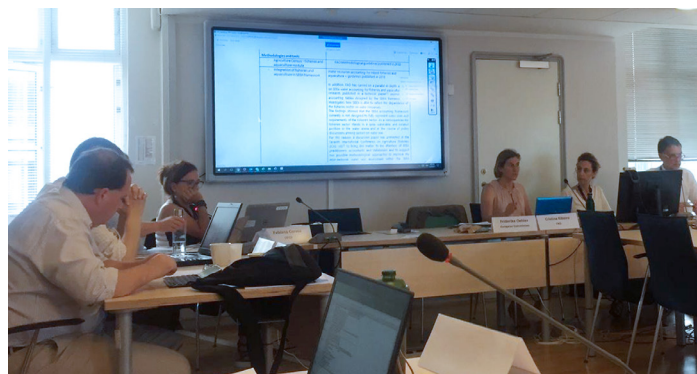
Updating of global fishery statistics standards at CWP Meeting

Hosted by the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the FAO Coordinating Working Party (CWP) on Fishery Statistics Meeting was convened in Copenhagen, Denmark from 19 to 22 June 2017 to serve as the forum for agreeing common definitions, classification, and standard for the collection of fishery statistics. The Meeting was attended by Senior Information officer, *Ms. Saivason Klinsukhon* from SEAFDEC, and 10 other CWP participating organizations.

During the Meeting, deliberation was made on revision of several International Standard Statistics Classification, e.g. the International Standard Statistics Classification of Fishing Vessel (ISSCFV), the International Standard Statistics

Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG), and the International Standard Statistics Classification of Aquatic Animal and Plants (ISSCAAP).

In line with such revision of the international standards, the CWP Handbook has undergone a major revision which aimed to focus only on statistics concepts and eliminate unnecessary information. This matter would be brought for discussion with SEAFDEC Member Countries during the Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia scheduled in August 2017, in order that such revision would be considered and appropriately accommodated.



Participants during the CWP Meeting

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

AQD scientist pushes for equitable sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources in international waters



The conference room where the PrepComm 3 meeting was held (above) and some of the members of the Philippine delegation, from left: Ms. E Tulay and Ms. S Bales of PCAF; Atty. D Escoto of BFAR, Dir. R Villanueva of DFA-MOAO, Ms. D Maano of DENR-BMB and AQD's Dr. MRR Eguia (Photos by IISD/ENB Francis Dejon)

A scientist from SEAFDEC/AQD pushed for the equitable sharing of potential benefits from marine resources in international waters as she became part of the Philippine delegation in a United Nations Committee meeting. Dr. Maria Rowena R. Eguia delivered one of several

Philippine statements during the 3rd meeting of the “Preparatory Committee on Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction” at the United Nations Headquarters in New York last 5 April 2017.

“Whatever resources extracted from international waters are part of the common heritage of mankind,” said Dr. Eguia, referring to marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) or the high seas, for which the UN is developing an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas. “If at all these are to be explored and utilized, research activities should also involve countries with no or little capability to do so as part of their capacity building and whatever product and benefits coming

from the scientific undertakings should be shared equitably,” she added.

Dr. Eguia served as one of two technical advisers for the Philippine delegation on the issue of marine genetic resources in the ABNJ. The other adviser is Dr. Marie Antonette Meñez of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute. She further emphasized that research on conservation and sustainable management of resources should be prioritized before embarking on commercial research that could entail unregulated bioprospecting. “Exploration for commercial purposes may be considered of least priority unless the potential use of the genetic resources can be identified as of utmost importance to mankind, such as in drug development,” she said.

According to Dr. Eguia, research should be conducted first to assess the status of ABNJs especially on depleted habitats and those affected by climate change, as well as the state of biological and mineral resources. “Once done, areas needing rehabilitation (both physically and biologically) can be considered for protection and marine genetic resource conservation,” said Dr. Eguia. ✦



Capacity building on EAFM for university students

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “60th Short-term Training Course for University Students on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)” from 6 to 16 June 2017 at Training Department. The training course aimed to build up and enhance awareness of young generations from universities on the EAFM concept through responsible fishing for sustainable fisheries. Twenty-eight (28) students from seven (7)

universities in Thailand, and Hokkaido University in Japan participated in the training course.

This training course is specifically designed for students to gain knowledge and experience outside the universities, and to acquire knowledge in theory and practice on land and shipboard fishery activities. Besides, students also participated in a survey of fishery communities in Rayong Province. All

of these activities are meant to empower the new generations and develop their capacities in the future. ✦



AQD takes part in China International Shrimp Industry Development Forum

Associate Scientist of SEAFDEC/AQD *Dr. Nerissa Salayo* was invited to present the “Situation and Outlook of the Philippine Shrimp Industry” at the 9th China International Shrimp Industry Development Forum held on 19-20 April 2017 at Zhanjiang City, Guangzhou Province in China.

The forum was organized by the China Aquatic Products Processing and Marketing Alliance, Modern Shrimp Industry Technology Research System,

China-ASEAN Center for Joint Research and Promotion of Marine Aquaculture Technology, and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA). It was attended by about 200 shrimp industry stakeholders, mainly the large-scale shrimp producers, traders, and processors in China.

Aside from discussing the production and market scenarios in the Philippines, *Dr. Salayo* noted that based on the shrimp R&D highlights at AQD and

other local government agencies, the research investment preference, mostly on diseases and health studies, remain to focus on the indigenous species *Penaeus monodon* due to its high value. She further explained that initially there was a ban on the culture of *P. vannamei* in the Philippines but the government allowed its commercial production in 2007 to address its increasing local demand.

Most of the presentations in the forum generally focused on *P. vannamei* in the context of ecological farming in China, broodstock development and breeding, use of immune enhancers, production, trade, and global opportunities. Presentations on international shrimp production and marketing included country and institutional reports from NACA, Ecuador, India, Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. ☒



Dr. Salayo together with industry representatives from India and Thailand

AQD mulls for improved R&D management

SEAFDEC/AQD is considering to have a separate Research Management Office (RMO) under the supervision of a Research Director to enable scientists to focus more on their scientific undertakings rather than be preoccupied with project-related administrative work.

RMO as exemplified by the University of California (UC)-Berkeley and the University of the Philippines (UP), Manila templates, is responsible for: a) accessing databases containing information on fund sources and priority topics for possible grants; b) checking scientists' background to ensure no conflicts of interest; c) matching skills and capabilities of the research team members with potential projects to ensure the completion of the studies by the grant beneficiaries; and d) managing the administrative components of projects such as those involving procurement and other logistics.

In paving the way toward this direction, *Dr. Rowena R. Euguia* attended the two-day seminar-workshop which featured discussions on topics like sustaining talents in science and technology, Philippines laws concerning research (e.g. intellectual property code) and presentation of R&D models used by universities like the UC Berkeley and UP Manila.

The seminar gathered key representatives of selected public and private higher education institutions, government agencies, and research institutions to discuss common concerns in R&D management with the aim of formulating recommendations for addressing issues and gaps and in order to enable the enhancement of the country's productivity in research and innovation.

“Through this scheme, the researcher devotes 100 % of his or her time in conducting the project,” said *Dr. Euguia*. *“SEAFDEC/AQD should consider having an RMO especially so that it has to continually look for fund sources for research projects to help sustain its operations, pursue its mandates, and at the same time demonstrate AQD's relevance to the industry that it supports,”* *Dr. Euguia* added.

On the intellectual property, *Dr. Euguia* also mentioned that *“although an Information and Technology Support Office (ITSO) has been established at AQD, it should actively operate. It should start from ensuring that the intellectual property of AQD through its researchers is protected, that is, from proposals submitted particularly to external funding agencies, to the final output which includes not only scientific publications but also patentable technologies.”* ☒

AQD conducts workshop to boost news writing skills



Ms. Hazel Villa, a freelance journalist who holds a Master of Journalism degree from Bond University, gives a lecture on news writing during the two-day workshop at AQD

To enhance their news writing skills, representatives from different offices and programs of SEAFDEC/AQD participated in the two-day workshop on writing engaging news articles which was conducted at Tigbauan Main Station on 15-16 June 2017. *Ms. Hazel Villa*, a freelance journalist who holds a Master of Journalism degree from Bond University, gave lectures on the importance of the journalism stylebook, inverted pyramid, news writing method, writing of headlines, basic photojournalism, and captioning.

Participants were assessed of their basic news writing skills via the journalism stylebook and asked to review

SEAFDEC's current news and make their own lead story. They also wrote their own news and headlines based on the latest activities in their respective sections. *Ms. Villa* emphasized the importance of finding the right angle in writing news stories. She noted that writing news articles that engage the public is a necessity to have a better impact to the community.

The news writing workshop was organized by the Development Communication Section. Further workshops on clear writing and feature writing are intended within the year to further improve AQD's information programs. ❖

Special lecture on UNFSA

SEAFDEC organized the special lecture with the aim of enhancing the understanding of SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD staff, officers of the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand, and university students on the "UN Fish Stock Agreement." The lecture was made by the Senior Fisheries Officer of DOF, Thailand *Ms. Doungporn na Pombejra* at the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand on 27 June 2017.

After the lecture given by *Ms. Doungporn*, discussion was subsequently made with participants exchanging views on the implication of Thailand's Accession to the UNFSA. Discussion was also made on the need to raise awareness and knowledge of stakeholders engaging in offshore or high-sea fisheries in order to enhance to their compliance with requirements of the UNFSA. Moreover, the participants also provided feedbacks on other important issues that SEAFDEC should consider, such as the FAO Compliance Agreement, vulnerability of fisheries to climate change, and so on.



Science-based aquaculture technologies promoted at 61st Aklan Day

On the occasion of the 61st Aklan Day, SEAFDEC/AQD held an aquaculture technology forum on 21 April 2017 in Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines. AQD scientists were invited to talk about the science-based aquaculture technologies developed by the institution such as broodstock management and multi-species hatchery operations, mud crab

culture, freshwater aquaculture, and *Gracilaria* farming. In addition, an AQD fish health expert lectured on the avoidance and detection of common shrimp diseases.

The forum was then followed by an Aquaculture Clinic, where fish farmers consulted with AQD experts about the

problems they encountered in their fish farms. AQD also participated in the week-long Agri-Aqua Trade Fair held at the Godofredo P. Ramos Park, Capitol Grounds from 21 to 26 April 2017 in order to disseminate information on aquaculture technologies to fish farmers and other stakeholders. ❖



SEAFDEC/AQD resource persons and participants (from the LGU, private sector, and academe) of the Aquaculture Technology Forum during the 61st Aklan Day celebration (Photo courtesy of ET Quinitio)

IFRDMD conducts In-house Training on Features of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia

SEAFDEC/IFRDMD conducted an “In-house Training on Features of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia” on 26-28 April 2017 in Palembang, Indonesia. With support from the resource person, *Dr. Luky Adrianto* from Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia, the training was aimed at enhancing the knowledge of staff on how to conduct features study and explore the key issues of inland fisheries in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Adrianto explained the global challenges in inland fisheries, the ecosystem service in the perspective of inland fisheries, and the proposed

structure of the course. He also expressed concern that inland capture fishery is nowadays stagnant despite of the growing aquaculture.

The Chief of IFRDMD *Dr. Arif Wibowo* expressed the hope that this training would help strengthening and improving the capacity of IFRDMD researchers for planning and implementation of projects and activities on inland fisheries in the future. He then encouraged participants to study further on inland fisheries resources and activities including aspects on social well-being of people dependent on the inland aquatic resources. ❖



Youths from Indonesia pay a visit to TD

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) warmly welcomed 43 Indonesian youths from the Youth Center to Act for Nation (YOUCAN) on 11 May 2017. The activities of SEAFDEC and TD were presented through fishery management scheme for sustainable fisheries resources in the region. Moreover, the youth also visited TD facilities such as the fishing workshop, marine engineering workshop and the M.V. SEAFDEC.

The Youth Center to Act for Nation (YOUCAN) is a non-government organization of youths based in Indonesia and founded primarily to address concern on youth empowerment and aims to promote awareness among youngsters on the importance of their participation in the progress of every nation on environment. ❖



Stakeholders learn sustainable oyster farming techniques



To address the need for a more sustainable source of oysters, 14 stakeholders attended the training course on “Oyster Hatchery, Nursery, and Grow-out” conducted by SEAFDEC/AQD from 29 May to 3 June 2017.

Experts shared effective and research-based aquaculture techniques to the trainees in order to provide them with enough knowledge and technical skills to start their own oyster farms that do not rely on wild stocks. “*We used to rely on stocks from the wild until now that we think about putting up a hatchery without any knowledge,*” one of the trainees *Mr. Jaime Martin Pabalan, Jr.* of Hok Bay Aquaculture said during the training’s closing ceremonies. “*I’m glad that we came here [SEAFDEC/AQD] to gain knowledge. We appreciate the help from the instructors. They are very accommodating in answering our questions,*” he added.

The trainees were from Agricultural Sustainability Initiatives for Nature (ASIN) Inc., Aklan State University-College of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (ASU-CFMS), and Hok Bay Aquaculture and Arton Farms, Inc.

Having done research work on oyster biology, rearing, and monitoring, AQD had been in the forefront of promoting and boosting the expansion of oyster aquaculture in the Philippines to meet high export demands. According to FAO, the foreign market for Philippine oysters include Canada, United States, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Saudi Arabia. ❖

SPECIAL REPORT

Sustainable Seafood from Community-Based Resource Enhancement

By SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD)



Corals are thriving in the project's protected area.
Photo credit: Teruo Azuma

Earlier this year, Manila's top hotels, restaurants, and various support groups including SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD), signed a commitment to "improve the health of the oceans" by "sourcing seafood products from more sustainable fisheries and aquaculture." The Sustainable Seafood Initiative received the support of AQD to increase awareness on the need for "fully traceable, legal, sustainable, and socially responsibly-produced seafood." The movement also led hotels and restaurants to regularly source live abalone (*Haliotis asinina*) sustainably harvested from AQD's Community-Based Resource Enhancement (CBRE) project in Molocaboc Island, Sagay City, Negros Occidental, Philippines.

Molocaboc is an island-village of more than 7,000 residents dependent on fishing. It is within the multi-use buffer zone of the Sagay Marine Reserve. After years of social preparation activities, AQD first released hatchery-bred abalone juveniles in 2011 in a 4,000 m² coralline release site. Today, local gleaners sustainably harvest abalone which are sent to various buyers including top hotels in Manila. Sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) were also first released in the area in 2011 but those that successfully grew to the recommended harvest size of 320 g. body weight were those nursed in floating *hapa* nets and released in sea ranching areas in 2015. Sampling data showed that the sandfish may also be ready for harvest soon.

The apparent success of the CBRE project did not come quickly nor simply. When AQD first conducted baseline surveys in Molocaboc Island back in 2006, they found that the increasing number of households, high fishing effort, and destructive gathering methods led to diminishing harvests of abalone and sandfish which further translated to low fishing incomes. Abalone used to thrive in the intertidal flats of Molocaboc Island, however they were overfished due to their high value.

Armed with technology on the mass production of hatchery-bred abalone developed back in 1998, and experience on several stock-enhancement projects, AQD, through the Government of Japan Trust Fund, informed and organized local fisherfolk



Molocaboc Island fisherfolk show live abalone and sandfish sourced from the CBRE project site.

and the local government's Protected Area Management Board to collaborate for the CBRE project. While AQD provides the science and technology, local fisherfolk are accountable to protect, monitor, and maintain the project site. Meanwhile, the local government provides and enforces needed regulations.

Community organizing and information-education campaigns on fisheries and coastal resource management catalyzed the "bottom-up" endorsement and promulgation of a village ordinance on abalone fishing in June 2010. Local governance regulated access to the release site, prohibited the use of *sungkit* or hook fishing gear (used to upturn corals where abalones dwell), and implemented a minimum abalone harvestable size of 6 cm. Abalone buyers now refuse to buy abalone smaller than 6 cm. Starting 2010, 6-cm abalone rulers and highlights of the regulation were periodically distributed around the village to demonstrate the minimum size of abalone that was legal to catch. They know that the regulation ensures abalone have the chance to breed before they are harvested.

Abalone juveniles released at the marine reserve are offspring of breeders sourced by AQD from the target release area to maintain the integrity of the local gene pool. They also carry diet-tags to aid monitoring. The tags, which distinguish hatchery-bred abalone from the wild stock, are green bands on their shell caused by a special formulated diet – a technology developed by AQD in 2000.

AQD involved fisherfolk and local government officials in the release of abalone in the CBRE project site. Fishers were likewise tasked to maintain the pens and cages of sandfish in the sea ranch site while students from local schools are also involved in the monitoring of released stocks. Strong community participation and cooperation also protected the coral reef in the release site. Satellite images reveal that a 2,100 m² patch of branching coral in 2009 has grown to cover about 9,300 m² in 2014.

Today, the successful collaboration between the fisherfolk, local government, and SEAFDEC/AQD has resulted in local gleaners collecting more abalone. Members of the Molocaboc Sea Ranchers Association regulate their harvest in the release site



Local school children assist AQD researchers in monitoring sandfish stocks



A local diver inspects a recovering coral boulder for abalone at Molocaboc Island.

to manage stock density and secure funds for organizational and maintenance expenses. All other fisherfolk in Molocaboc Island may catch abalone outside the CBRE release site. Soon, they will also be harvesting sandfish to further supplement their income. The harvest of other species of sea cucumber and other fishes reportedly increased inside and outside the protected release site.

With the success of the project, CBRE is bound to be duplicated in other areas. Fisherfolk in the neighboring Molocaboc Diut Island requested AQD to also establish CBRE in their shoreline. Last 22 July 2017, hatchery-bred abalone juveniles were released off the second island. In Camarines Sur, 320 km north of Molocaboc Island, AQD was also requested to consider the potential of CBRE in the town of Caramoan, a popular tourist destination. An exploratory meeting and social and environmental assessment was done last 30-31 May 2017 upon the invitation of Partido State University. Similarly, the project aims to sustain the abalone and sandfish fishery in the area and improve catch and income of fisherfolk.

This CBRE project in Sagay City in the Philippines has demonstrated that hatchery-bred juveniles released in suitable protected sites enables the rebuilding of depleted coastal resources, supplement livelihoods, and contribute to improving the supply of abalone, and soon sandfish, in local and export markets.



Hatchery-reared abalone juveniles were released off the island of Molocaboc Diut Island on 22 July 2017 upon the request of fisherfolk who hope to replicate the success of SEAFDEC/AQD's Community-Based Resource Enhancement project in the neighboring Molocaboc Dacu Island.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

SEAFDEC participates in the 9th AFCF and 25th ASWGFi Meetings

Hosted by the Government of Singapore, the 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) was convened on 15-16 May 2017 in Singapore. Officials of SEAFDEC led by the Deputy Secretary-General *Dr. Kaoru Ishii*, Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*, and senior officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat attended the meeting, which was updated on the initiatives and activities undertaken by the ASEAN Member States and partner organizations in relation to several priority fisheries issues, namely: Fishing Capacity and Zoning System; Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries; Resource Rehabilitation and Enhancements; Impact of Climate Change to Fisheries and Aquaculture; Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating IUU Fishing; Cooperation in Combating IUU Fishing in the Region; and Traceability of Fisheries and Aquaculture Products. Specifically, regional initiatives of SEAFDEC, e.g. on combating IUU Fishing, resource enhancement, regional approach for the Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries, the USAID-SEAFDEC Oceans and Fisheries Partnership Project, and the UNEP/GEF/Fisheries *Refugia* Project, among others, were also reported.

Back-to-back with the 9th AFCF was the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) held during 17-19 May 2017. Officials of SEAFDEC led by *Dr. Kaoru Ishii* also attended this Meeting where the progress in the implementation of several measures under the ASEAN cooperation on fisheries was reported by SEAFDEC. On combating IUU fishing, the Meeting noted in particular the adoption of the “ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity,” and the “Regional Guidelines on Traceability



Delegates attending the 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) and the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi)

System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region” by the 38th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in October 2016. The ASWGFi also noted the progress made by SEAFDEC in developing and updating the database of the “Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for vessels 24 meter in length and over” and the “ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme” or ACDS which is being pilot tested in Brunei Darussalam, and agreed to submit the ACDS Concept to the SSOM-38th



SEAFDEC team led by Dr. Kaoru Ishii (right) at the 25th ASWGFi Meeting AMAF for consideration and adoption.

On stock assessment of neritic tunas which was conducted under the framework of the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in Southeast Asia, the ASWGFi agreed to submit results

from such stock assessment to SOM-AMAF for notation. The ASWGFi also supported SEAFDEC in its effort to undertake further study on the level of fishing efforts in order to determine the appropriate fishing capacity, and come up with joint management plan for neritic tunas among countries in specific sub-regions. Discussion was also made on SEAFDEC’s roles in relation to issues on labor in fisheries, and came to a decision that SEAFDEC and ASWGFi may not be the appropriate platform to address labor issues and develop regional guidelines on the subject. However, SEAFDEC would work closely with International Labour Organization (ILO) by supporting the participation of fisheries agencies to the regional events of ILO.

On the collaborative ASEAN-SEAFDEC projects, the ASWGFi noted the progress made by SEAFDEC in the implementation of twenty-three FCG/ASSP projects in 2016, and one new project for 2017 “Enhancing the Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia,” which SEAFDEC is in the process of seeking funding support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). In response, Indonesia offered to be the ASEAN Lead Country for this new project. ☒

Onsite Training for Pilot Testing of eACDS and eACDS Committee Meeting in Brunei Darussalam

The ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) is a regional effort of SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States toward improving traceability of marine capture fisheries and preventing the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain. Supported by the Governments of Sweden and Japan, the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme or eACDS was designed to function as a web-based application or mobile android application on devices such as mobile phones, tablets, or computers and it was first launched for pilot testing in Brunei Darussalam on 3 April 2017.

To improve the eACDS system, SEAFDEC conducted the “Onsite Training to Facilitate the Pilot Testing of the eACDS in Brunei Darussalam” and the “eACDS Committee Meeting” on 19-21 June and 22 June 2017, respectively with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF). The participants of the Training were government officers, relevant stakeholders (master fishermen, buyers, fish processors, and fish exporters), representative from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, and Catch Documentation Traceability (CDT) developer from the USAID Oceans. The Project Advisor of Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), *Mr. Pramuan Rugjai* and eACDS Developer,

Mr. Prach Konphet from Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) of Thailand served as the resource persons. During the Training, SEAFDEC found some technical points to be improved to ensure that the eACDS is user-friendly.

On the other hand, the eACDS Committee Meeting discussed the concern on improving the system for smooth operation and plan for monitoring and evaluation of the pilot testing which is until the end of 2017. Based on the progress, the committee agreed that the Department of Fisheries of Brunei Darussalam can test the system from the origin of catch to fish processors using both web-based and mobile applications in the first phase. For the second phase, SEAFDEC will provide the data to the system from fish processors to fish exporters including



Director of Department of Fisheries of Brunei Darussalam, Mr. Abdul Halidi bin Mohd. Salleh (left), tested the performance of the mobile application of the eACDS

consumers which is planned in August 2017. Before the end of the meeting, the Director of DOF Brunei Darussalam and SEAFDEC Council Director for Brunei Darussalam, *Mr. Abdul Halidi bin Mohd. Salleh* and staff tested the performance of eACDS system on mobile application. ✦



SEAFDEC conducts Technical Workshop on Improvement of Regional Fisheries Statistics on Sharks

SEAFDEC Secretariat conducted the “Technical Workshop on Improvement of Regional Fisheries Statistics on Sharks” from 13 to 15 June 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Workshop was attended by the representatives from SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD, resource person from MFRDMD *Dr. Ahmad bin Ali*, and the shark expert from the Department of Fisheries, Thailand *Mr. Tassapon Krajangdara*.

The Workshop participants updated and summarized the past information and

ongoing regional initiatives of SEAFDEC related to sharks to clarify the areas for improvement, and identify the future challenges for SEAFDEC in supporting the management of sharks in Southeast Asia through regional fisheries statistics, as well as discussed the way forward for improving shark landing information. At the end of the Workshop, inputs were discussed for the upcoming SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Statistics scheduled in August 2017, which would discuss issues on the collection of statistics for several species



SEAFDEC staff during the Technical Workshop on Improvement of Regional Fisheries Statistics on Sharks

under international concerns including sharks. ✦

Introduction of co-management and CBFM in Lao PDR

SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) with support from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) under the project on “Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Community-based Fisheries Management” is implementing activity on effective implementation of co-management/CBFM at the project pilot site in Nam Souang Reservoir,

Vientiane, Lao PDR during 2017-2019. To follow-up on the baseline survey conducted earlier in Phone Hong District and Naxythong District in March 2017, SEAFDEC convened a meeting with representatives from Fisheries Management Committee (FMC), Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) as well as officers and fishers from the two districts on 22-26

May 2017 to develop work plan for fisheries management in Nam Souang Reservoir.

During the 5 day-meeting, the Project Design Matrix (PDM) framework and work plan that cover the year 2017-2019 were developed. The first step of activities is to consider establishing FMC for Phon Hong District, which shall be responsible for establishing necessary rules and regulations for conservation area in consistent with those already established in Naxythong District in order to ensure effective fisheries management of the reservoir. Subsequently, it is expected that extension media, such as poster, booklet, signboard, etc., could be produced and disseminated to enhance awareness of local people, as well as for the FMC, fishers and local officers in the two Districts. ❖



Representatives from SEAFDEC and DLF of Lao PDR discussed on the project site in Nam Souang Reservoir

TD supports co-management and CBFM in Cambodia

Supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) in collaboration with the Fisheries Administration (FiA) Cambodia convened a meeting on “Improvement Conservation Zone and Promote Eco-tourism” in Chong Khneas Commune, Siem Reap from 15 to 20 May 2017. This site was selected for the promotion and implementation of “Co-

management and Community-based Fisheries Management” in Cambodia. In parallel, the training on fiber glass boat construction was introduced and organized for twenty participants from Chong Khneas Commune to provide knowledge on fiber glass boat construction for “Monitoring in Narrow Water Conservation Zone” through “Support Eco-tourism Activity.” ❖



SEAFDEC TWG for the USAID Oceans participates in the Intergrated Stakeholders Consultation Workshop in Indonesia

Three (3) members of the SEAFDEC Technical Working Groups (TWG) for the USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership attended “The USAID Ocean Integrated Stakeholders Consultation Workshop (ISCW)” in Manado, Indonesia from 19 to 21 June 2017. The three-day ISCW was organized by USAID Oceans in close collaboration with the Fisheries Resources Directorate, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), and University of Sam Ratulangi (UNSRAT), Manado. Stakeholder groups from national and local fisheries, related

government agencies, private sector, civil society organizations, and men and women fishers individual/groups who



are engaged in the implementation of project activities attended the Workshop in Bitung Site. The Workshop came up with proposal for the development of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Plan (SFMP) through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). Moreover, the SEAFDEC TWG visited Bitung fishing port to observe landing and uploading process of one-night fishing and long-trip fishing of purse seiner, handliner, and pole and liner.

(Continued on Page 15)

2016 SEAFDEC-Sweden Project Annual Review Meeting

The 2016 Annual Review Meeting for the SEAFDEC-Sweden Cooperation Project on “Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia” was held on 23 May 2017 at SEAFDEC Secretariat.

Attended by the representatives from the Embassy of Sweden in Thailand, SEAFDEC officials, and Regional Fisheries Policy Network members, the Meeting reviewed the progress of

the Project activities during 2016 and the proposed work plan in 2017. The



Meeting also discussed and addressed the issues and challenges faced during the course of the implementation of the project and recommendations were made towards attaining the project objectives. During the Meeting, Ms. Louise Herrmann, representative from the Embassy of Sweden took the opportunity to congratulate SEAFDEC for its celebration of 50th Anniversary in December 2017. ❖

SEAFDEC holds preparatory meeting for JAIF project on tropical anguillid eels

The increasing global demand for eels resulted in declination of several eel species. While the stock of Japanese eels had drastically declined over the past few decades, the European eels had been listed under Appendix II of CITES during its 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 2007. Recently, the continuing high demand for eels called for attention over tropical eels, and the issue was raised during the CoP17 CITES in 2016 in South Africa. Considering that Southeast Asia is inhabited by several tropical eel species, it is therefore necessary for the region to ensure that the species are properly managed and sustainably utilized. Information on situation on utilization of tropical anguillid eel resources in the region is therefore necessary as basis for possible discussion at the forthcoming CoP18 CITES scheduled in 2019.

To enhance the capacity of countries in the region toward improving eel statistics collection system and information on the condition of tropical eel resources, as well as establishment of management plan for sustainable utilization of anguillid eel resources, SEAFDEC proposed to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) to grant a budget for SEAFDEC to implement the project entitled “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia.”

To smoothly start off this new project just after the approval of JAIF, the Project Preparatory Meeting was organized by SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with IFRDMD in Palembang, Indonesia on 9 June 2017 with the aim of providing a

platform to introduce, discuss, and clarify the project components, objectives, and outputs among concerned SEAFDEC Departments. The Meeting was attended by Japanese experts on eels and delegates from five SEAFDEC Member Countries that have anguillid eel fisheries in place, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam. The Meeting discussed key project activities to be undertaken, *i.e.* baseline survey, regular survey, regular meetings, and workshops. After the discussion, participating countries were requested to gather information for the upcoming baseline and regular surveys scheduled in August 2017.

The JAIF fund for this project is expected to be released in August 2017. ❖

AQD to lead the aquaculture component of eel project

In order to improve the current on-farm survival of glass eels in the nursery, SEAFDEC/AQD was assigned to take charge of the aquaculture component of the project “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia” which is to be funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Dr. Maria Lourdes Aralar, Scientist from AQD, attended the preparatory meeting for the JAIF project on anguillid eels on 9 June 2017 in Palembang, Indonesia.

The aquaculture component of the project will involve rearing trials of glass eels using various refinements to improve survival. It will also include a survey of existing eel farms for rearing practices and survival data. Based on Dr. Aralar’s report, DNA analysis of glass eels will be conducted in the second year of the project. It was agreed that the ASEAN Member States with anguillid eel fisheries (*i.e.* Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam) will conduct their own genetic analysis

for their own stocks. For the Philippines, Dr. Evelyn Ame of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region II and the technical person for eel, said that the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) will do the analysis. In addition, Dr. Aralar suggested during the meeting that AQD can do the analysis for glass eel samples collected for the nursery rearing component. ❖

FUTURE ACTIVITIES


Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
2017			
10-13 July	Malaysia	Regional Training Course on Specimen Preservation and Its Application in Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Monitoring and Studies	MFRD
12-14 July	Bangkok, Thailand	Oceans and Fisheries Partnership Technical Working Group (TWG) Planning Workshop	USAID Oceans Project
13-19 July	Luzon, Philippines	Preliminary Anguillid Eel Survey in the Northern Philippines	IFRDMD & Secretariat
25-26 July	Bangkok, Thailand	2 nd Sub-regional Technical Meeting on Effective Fisheries Management between Malaysia and Thailand	Secretariat
25-27 July	Singapore	Cold Chain Management for Seafood: Project Evaluation and Progress Meeting	MFRD
31 Jul-6 Aug	Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand	Field Survey on Inland Capture Fisheries in Thailand	IFRDMD
3 August	Thailand	Review Meeting for the JTF-6 Projects and First Meeting for Drafting of the JTF-7	Secretariat
4 August	Bangkok, Thailand	Project Planning Meeting for the Project on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	Secretariat
6-10 August	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	Training/Workshop on Risk Assessment and Management Framework/Measures of Longtail Tuna and Kawakawa in Southeast Asia	MFRDMD & Secretariat
13-17 August	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	Training and Workshop on Chondrichthyan Taxonomy, Biology and Data Collection	MFRDMD
14-18 August	Binangonan, Philippines	Training Course on Tilapia Hatchery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
14 Aug-4 Sep	Tigbauan, Philippines	Training Course on Mangrove Crab Hatchery & Nursery Operations	AQD
15-18 August	Bangkok, Thailand	RTC on Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia	Secretariat
21-25 August	Tigbauan, Philippines	Training Course on Catfish Hatchery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
24-27 August	Makassar, Indonesia	RTC on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management	MFRDMD
28 Aug-2 Sep	Sabah, Malaysia	Field survey on inland capture fisheries in Malaysia	IFRDMD
4-8 September	Busan, Republic of Korea	16 th Session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade	FAO
5-7 September	Bellagio, Italy	Expert Workshop on Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: Towards monitoring progress of applying the SSF Guidelines	FAO
6-8 September	General Santos, Philippines	19 th National Tuna Congress	Philippines
11-15 September	Binangonan, Philippines	Training Course on Freshwater Prawn Hatchery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
11 Sep-16 Dec	Online	Distance Learning Course on Principles of Health Management in Aquaculture (AquaHealth Online)	AQD
12-14 September	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	The Core Expert Meeting on Comparative Studies for Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD
18-27 September	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Mangrove Crab Nursery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
23-24 September	Tokyo, Japan	International Symposium on Fisheries Science for Future Generation	Secretariat
26-28 September	Bangkok, Thailand	Experts Workshop on Regional Approach for the Implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Human rights-based approach and gender equitability	Secretariat
26-29 September	Vung Tau, Viet Nam	On-Site Training on Elasmobranch Taxonomy and Biology	MFRDMD
10-12 October	Singapore	18 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Information Staff Program (ISP)	SEAFDEC
16-18 October	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	RTC on Promotion of the ASEAN Guidelines on Preventing the Entry of IUU Fish and Fishery Products into the Supply Chain	MFRDMD
23-27 October	Binangonan, Philippines	Training Course on Catfish Hatchery & Grow-out Operations	AQD
7-9 November	Manila, Philippines	4 th Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas	MFRDMD & Secretariat
15 November	Bangkok, Thailand	50 th SEAFDEC Anniversary Celebration Event	SEAFDEC
21-30 November	Binangonan, Philippines	Training Course on Community-Based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Rural Areas of Southeast Asia	AQD

SEAFDEC convenes the 49th Meeting of its Council in Brunei Darussalam

(Continued from Page 1)


With regards to the regional cooperation to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the ASEAN region, important issues discussed includes the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas, particularly on the scientific-based policy recommendation and management measures for kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) and longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*), the Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources, and the Establishment of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture.

On the issues reflected in the national actions based on the 11 key actions of the “Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products,” which was supported by the 38th AMAF, SEAFDEC was asked to come up with new regional activities that would lead to stronger efforts by the Member Countries in combating IUU fishing and enhancing the competitiveness of fish and fishery products. The proposals for “Establishment of Regional Repository Center for Marine Fisheries,” and for seeking funding support for “Monitoring Methodologies for the Resources of Inland Fisheries and Freshwater Aquaculture” from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), were approved. The Council also supported the conduct of a special event for the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC, which would be organized in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 November 2017.

At the closing of the 49th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, The Council then announced that the 50th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2018 would be hosted by Cambodia. 

SEAFDEC TWG for the USAID Oceans participates in the Intergrated Stakeholders Consultation Workshop in Indonesia

(Continued from Page 12)

SEAFDEC in collaboration with USAID conducted the project of “The USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans)” to strengthen regional cooperation to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, promote sustainable fisheries and conserve marine biodiversity in the ASEAN. The partnership seeks to achieve these objectives through the development of a “Catch Documentation and Traceability System” (CDTS) that supports enhanced traceability, fisheries management, and human welfare. Working across ASEAN and Coral Triangle member countries, USAID Oceans has established two learning sites in General Santos City, Philippines and Bitung, Indonesia. These sites will support the development, implementation, and testing of the CDTS and will serve as a hub for regional knowledge sharing for replication and expansion. 

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.

SEAFDEC ADDRESSES

SECRETARIAT

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office,
Chatuchak, Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: +66 2940 6326 Fax: +66 2940 6336
E-mail: secretariat@seafdec.org
<http://www.seafdec.org>

TRAINING DEPARTMENT (TD)

P.O. Box 97, Phrasamutchedi,
Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand
Tel: +66 2425 6100 Fax: +66 2425 6110 to 11
E-mail: td@seafdec.org
<http://www.seafdec.or.th>

MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (MFRD)

2 Perahu Road, Off Lim Chu Kang Road,
Singapore 718915
Tel: +65 6790 7973 Fax: +65 6861 3196
E-mail: ava_mfrd@ava.go.sg
<http://www.seafdec.org>

AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT (AQD)

Main Office: Tigbauan, 5021 Iloilo, Philippines
Tel: +63 33 330 7000, 511 9171
Fax: +63 33 330 7002

Manila Office: Rm 102 G/F Philippine Social
Science Center (PSSC) Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City 1101, Philippines
E-mail: aqdchief@seafdec.org.ph
<http://www.seafdec.org.ph>

MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (MFRDMD)

Taman Perikanan, Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +609 617 5940, 617 1543
Fax: +609 617 5136, 617 4042
E-mail: mfrdmd@seafdec.org.my
<http://www.seafdec.org.my>

INLAND FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (IFRDMD)

Jl. Gub. HA. Bastari No.08 Rt.29 Rw.07 Kel.Silaberanti Kec.
Seberang Ulu I-Jakabaring, Palembang 30252
South Sumatra, Indonesia
Tel: +62 711 5649600; Fax: +62 711 5649601
E-mail: ifrdmd@seafdec.id
<http://www.seafdec.id>

Advisory Board:

Kom Silapajarn
Secretary-General and TD Chief
Kaoru Ishii,
Deputy Secretary-General and TD Deputy Chief
Yeap Soon Eong, *MFRD Chief*
Chihaya Nakayasu, *AQD Chief (acting)*
Raja Bidin Raja Hassan, *MFRDMD Chief*
Arif Wibowo, *IFRDMD Chief*

Editorial Board:

Nualanong Tongdee,
Information Program Coordinator, a.i.
Somboon Siriraksophon,
Policy and Program Coordinator
Saivason Klinsukhon, *Senior Information Officer*

Editors in Chief:

Nualanong Tongdee
Virgilia T. Sulit, *Fisheries Technical Officer*

Editors:

Saivason Klinsukhon (Secretariat)
Kongpathai Sarapaivanich (TD)
Yeap Soon Eong (MFRD)
Junemie Lebata-Ramos (AQD)
Suriyana binti Yusof (MFRDMD)
Dina Muthmainnah (IFRDMD)

Layout: Sunutta Pudtal

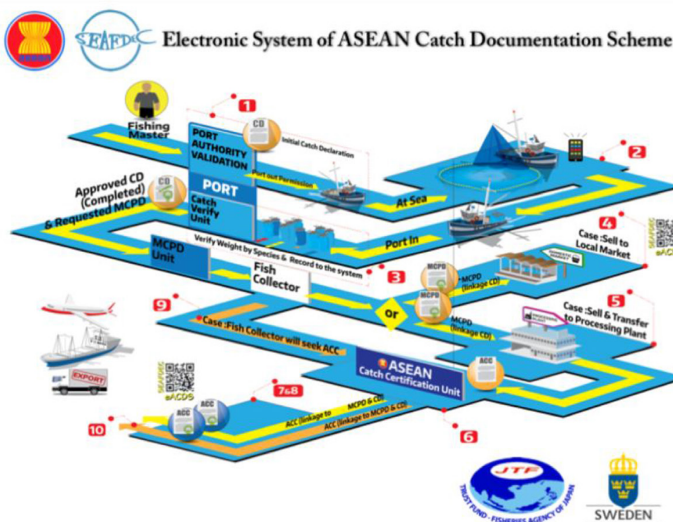
SEAFDEC launches eACDS in Brunei Darussalam

Improving the traceability of marine capture fisheries is one of the big challenges faced by countries in the Southeast Asian region as a result of more stringent requirements for effective fisheries management framework as well as for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) at national level. The development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) is a regional effort of SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) toward improving traceability of marine capture fisheries and preventing the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain.

To proceed with the task of ensuring the applicability of ACDS in the region, the SEAFDEC Council in 2016 agreed to pilot test the ACDS in Brunei Darussalam. Thus, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) of Thailand has been making progress in developing the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme or eACDS. Supported by the Governments of Sweden and Japan, the eACDS was designed to function as a web-based application or mobile android application on devices such as mobile phones, tablets, or computers. Although the system is mostly electronic-based, it also includes paper-type catch declaration to be applicable onboard fishing vessels in several AMSs, where electronic communications may not be available.

In developing the system, lessons learned from similar initiatives of other agencies were mobilized, e.g. that of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) in monitoring and controlling fishing vessels, and in validating vessels before these depart for fishing by port authorities, as well as the several key data element modules including international standard list of species used by SwAM. Alignments were subsequently made taking into consideration the various trade requirements including the Final Rule for a US Seafood Traceability Program.

On 3 April 2017, the eACDS was first launched for pilot testing in Brunei Darussalam by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam, *Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin*, during the Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. Results of the pilot testing could serve as basis for expanding the application of eACDS to other AMSs in 2018. It should be noted that the eACDS aims not only to enhance the effective fisheries management framework, but also to facilitate intra-regional and international trade and support efforts to combat IUU fishing. Furthermore, this could also serve as one of the most valuable and comprehensive tools for collecting fisheries statistics at reasonable costs.



MFRDMD welcomes new Deputy Chief



*The new MFRDMD Deputy Chief
Dr. Kenji Taki*

MFRDMD recently welcomed *Dr. Kenji Taki* as its new Deputy Chief of MFRDMD on 1 April 2017, succeeding *Dr. Osamu Abe* who completed his two-year term of office at MFRDMD.

Dr. Taki's post prior to moving to MFRDMD was as a senior research scientist at Oceanic Resources Department, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries. He also served as a Senior Scientist for six years and as a researcher at Tohoku National Fisheries Institute of Japan from April 1992 to September, 2003. As a scientist, his field of research is on stock assessment of toothfish in Southern Ocean and study on distribution and life history of euphausiids off northeastern Japan and in Southern Ocean,

Dr. Taki had published many scientific papers in journals such as *Journal of Plankton Research*, *Plankton and Benthos Research*, *Fisheries Science*, *Fisheries Oceanography*, among others. *Dr. Taki* acquired his Doctorate degree in agriculture from the University of Tokyo and obtained his Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Agriculture from Kyoto University.

MFRDMD congratulated *Dr. Taki* for his assignment as the new Deputy Chief and rendered much gratitude to *Dr. Osamu Abe* for his excellent service from March 2015 to March 2017.

