

**SEAFDEC – Sida Collaborative Project
2004 Annual Report and
Activities Planned for 2005**



Sida



**The Secretariat
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This *Executive Summary* gives a “process oriented” brief summary of the activities implemented during the year 2004 of the SEAFDEC-Sida Collaborative Project, on the support provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to “*Human Resource Development (HRD) on the Support to the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the ASEAN Region*”. This report provides information about the introduction to the project, project’s activities during 2004 and activities planned for 2005. In the last part of this report, it contained useful references linked to those activities which had been carried out during the year 2004.

Key words: Fishing Capacity, Fisheries Management, Habitat Management, Human Resource Development, Pilot Studies, Responsible Fisheries

The implementation of the SEAFDEC-Sida Collaborative Project is based on a process oriented approach to “*enhance awareness*” and to “*promote various human resource development activities*” for fisheries management and to “*alleviate problems caused by excessive levels of fishing capacity*” in line with the **regional guidelines for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia**. The process orientation implies active interaction and consultations with ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries through events (regional technical consultations, expert meetings, etc) organized by not only SEAFDEC but also by other organizations and projects in order to increase awareness and further develop human resources. The project should look for “*consensus building among recipient countries*” on matters and priorities to focus on in the course of implementation. Priorities and directions thus agreed upon, or recommended by participating countries will provide indicators to refer to in assessing the relevance of activities implemented and interactions being developed with related projects. (*Note that the quotations in italics are direct quotations from the project document for the Swedish support*). This summary will try to reflect some stages in the implementation process and how achievements have been reached with reference to indicators developed along the way.

During the year 2004, **three major activities were carried out**, namely: *Regional Workshop on HRD in Fisheries; Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on HRD in Fisheries Management; and Preparatory Experts Meeting on Fishing Capacity and Related HRD Needs in the ASEAN Region.*

With the project’s objective to enhance human resource capacity and awareness building with respect to priorities contained in Article 7, Fisheries Management of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and to promote various HRD activities related to fisheries management, the first activity supported by the project was the co-organization of the regional workshop on HRD in fisheries management (February 2004). The proposed objective of this workshop was to formulate strategies for HRD in fisheries management in the ASEAN Region; to clarify mandates and responsibility of SEAFDEC for HRD programs; and to demarcate national responsibility for similar programs.

A major outcome of this event was the development of a draft “**Strategy for Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region**”. This draft was in April 2004 endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council. In addition, it was agreed during the meeting to develop and establish a “*Regional Inventory, Database and Network for Information Collection on HRD in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region*” for future collaboration among programs/activities among ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. This information of the inventory of the program for the HRD in fisheries will contain essential and usable information from fisheries relevant institutions on their existing and/or future HRD programs/activities which could be shared at the regional level.

The Strategy, and the imbedded recommendations by ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries, have been important to the continued development of the SEAFDEC-Sida Project and the Project have and will continue to give priority to ensure that “*the development of human resource capacity should not only be on technical issues but also integrate social, environmental, legal and other issues as identified by the Resolution and Plan of Action*” (Point 3 of the Strategy). Thus, the integration of **social, environmental and legal aspects** in processes of awareness building and human resources development provides a **key set of thematic indicators** to relate to in assessing continued progress of project implementation. The importance of **partnership and regional cooperation at all levels**, including cost-sharing, were strongly emphasized.

In June 2004 a Regional Technical Consultation was organized on HRD in fisheries management. This event built directly on the recommendation from the previous workshop in order to strengthen the regional collaboration to further improve and define priorities of HRD programs, also at national level. During this RTC, the requirements for HRD including objectives, target groups/areas and levels were discussed and identified. Specific emphasis, including definitions of elements to consider and include, were given to **a) legislation, law and regulations, b) social and economics, c) environment**. For the project this was an important step in that the key set of thematic indicators were re-emphasized and further specified into **sub-indicators**. During the consultation process and group discussions these aspects were also seen in the context of: **1) management of fishing capacity; 2) strengthening of local fisheries management capacity; and 3) integrating fisheries management into habitat management**. Several defined steps were recommended for possible development and implementation of HRD programs at various levels. The latter point seems to be an emerging aspect to address, as highlighted through the cooperation with the UNEP-GEF South China Sea Project, and important in the sense that it implies fostering dialogue between fisheries and environmental agencies. The need for coordination among agencies was further stressed by the RTC and it was recommended that “**in-country coordination among agencies concerned** at national (fisheries, environment, forestry authorities and others) and local (local administrative organizations) should be promoted when developing HRD in fisheries management”.

The RTC also recommended that to further identify suitable HRD focus and applications for the regional usages, there is a need to seek reference from individual countries and to implement pilot studies or embark on **pilot processes in a “representative set of countries”**. Based on criteria developed by the RTC the forthcoming pilot process will

include **Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam** with the aim, apart from direct results in each of the countries, to **share experiences at the regional level** and at the same time promote further nation-wide HRD in fisheries management.

In response to the specific thrust of the project to address the need to reduce fishing capacity, and in follow up to the recommendations on fishing capacity provided during the Consultation held in June, a “*Preparatory Experts Meeting on Fishing Capacity and Related HRD Needs in the ASEAN Region*” was organized in September 2004 by the project. This meeting gave special attention to practical steps to be taken towards development of HRD programs for management of fishing capacity in the region. The meeting also provided recommendation on aspects to consider in planning, preparing and implementing the pilot processes mentioned above. A major output or recommendation provided by the meeting was that **management of fishing capacity and related HRD should be addressed within the context of fisheries management as such**, thereby avoiding an “isolated” process that would not be optimal in terms of identifying options for management of fishing capacity at all levels (at the same it would also economize on the use of project funds).

The Expert Meeting confirmed the **importance and relevance** of the identification and further elaborations done during the two previous meetings with regards to the **key project thematic indicators**. Aspects related to these were also discussed further and summarized in “**points to bear in mind for the continued project implementation**”. The Meeting also confirmed the relevance of the “representative set of countries” for the upcoming pilot processes – while at the same time maintaining contacts with relevant projects in other countries (such as FISH, Philippines and MTCP, Malaysia). It was also pointed out that in embarking on the pilot processes a “**learning by doing**” approach should be taken.

In discussions with the four countries it was emphasized that a **pilot “area” need not to be small** and examples referred to indicated that it could be a whole coastline or a whole segment of fisheries (such as trawling, etc). It was pointed out by the Meeting that at village level it is important to consider existing, **legally established systems of local authority** such as the Tambon Administrative Offices, the Local Government Units, the Commune Councils, the People’s Committee, etc while at the same time recognizing the **establishment/rights of individual initiatives**, local entrepreneurs, cooperatives and/or “community fisheries” of relevance to the management of fisheries and fishing capacity. Consultations and communication would be needed to define the specific patterns available.

In the development of national plans for fishery management there is a continuous development of international agreements, restrictions and trends that in practice, for each country, implies **limits within which the national plans have to be developed**. The development of IPOA’s, **Conventions and international and regional agreements** such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Convention International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), rules by the World Trade Organization (WTO), Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), etc. are all external factors with direct implication for national planning processes – if the

countries are to live up to their obligations as parties to conventions and agreements. The meeting stated that HRD on the implications of these international instruments need to be included.

All three meetings referred to above have stressed the importance to follow-up in the **collaboration among institutions at the national level as well as regional, and international organizations and projects**, working to raise the capacity of the Member Countries should be promoted to raise awareness of and implement the guidelines for responsible fisheries at all levels, and in an appropriate form aimed at each target audience, from the national level to communities, including schools, at the local level. **The project has** in response to this had, apart from different SEAFDEC Departments and Projects, also **had representation from** FAO, AIT, MRC, CORIN, WorldFish Center and projects like UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, CHARM and FISH attending meetings.

In response to recommendations by member countries to promote and work for increased cooperation among institutions and project has used **two approaches of interaction** – one, as indicated above, to **invite relevant projects and organization to Project workshops** and meetings. The other approach is to seek to **actively attend relevant meetings organized by others** and thereby promoting and sharing results and experiences generated by the SEAFDEC-Sida Project in order to increase awareness and promote HRD in fisheries management while at the same time bringing back inputs to continued project development.

The **events in which project staff participated in during 2004** were mostly organized by various projects under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Mechanism and with relevance to fisheries management in its broader sense. Topics for these meetings organized by SEAFDEC included aspects such as fisheries subsidies, fisheries statistics, the use of indicators for sustainable fisheries management, fish trade and the environment, shark fisheries, post-harvest practices and trade, fisheries licenses and rights-based fisheries. In general the overall thrust and approaches adopted by the SEAFDEC-Sida Project were confirmed also during these meetings by recommendations provided during the sessions. The results of these did, in summary, also **confirmed the wide range of issues and aspects the need to be included in HRD programs for fisheries management at various levels**. Subsequently, there is an obvious need to link up with and cooperate among projects within SEAFDEC and one way of doing this is to actively participate in relevant meetings throughout the range of ASEAN-SEAFDEC consultative processes.

Project staff also ensured that participation took place in **meetings organized by others** Such meeting included; Working Group Meetings of Fisheries Component of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project; Workshops organized under the FAO-Sida Project on Strengthening the Capacity in Fisheries Information Gathering for Management; a Session of the Asia Pacific Fishery Commission; UNEP/COBSEA Technical Workshop; FAO/DOF national meeting on reduction and management of commercial fishing capacity; and two WorldFish Centre workshops on Fish Fights for Fish Rights

Without going into detail there have been **clear benefits to the SEAFDEC-Sida Project** and to the progress of the continued planning of the process oriented implementation mode in being actively involved in other events organized by SEAFDEC and others. At this stage, during the first year full year, these benefits has been seen in opportunities to **convey experiences and results directly into other processes** and dialogues, it has given project staff a good opportunity to get early **feedback on approaches and priorities to be implemented** in the continued work of the project, and the results, recommendations and experiences presented in these events have been possible to incorporate into the SEAFDEC-Sida Project Process (through project staff or through engaging identified resource persons). In addition, active participation in related events is a cost-effective way to **follow-up on the recommendations made at several meetings to facilitate and promote collaborative working with other relevant agencies** on issues related to fisheries management.

The participation of the project staff to other relevant meetings either organized by SEAFDEC or other agencies are, as hinted above, have given a benefit to the project in terms of references for **planning, consulting and implementing the project** in the ASEAN region. This approach **allows the project**, through the project staff, to **reach out and assist various stakeholders and enhance awareness** of the necessity of appropriate fisheries management to achieve sustainable fisheries and thereby in the longer term support the improvement and development of fisheries management systems in the region.

This **inter-active approach** is now seen as an important element in the continued process of **project planning and implementation during 2005**. This approach will also be a guiding principle when embarking on the “Pilot Process” in the four representative countries.

In the year **2005, there are four major activities** to be organized by the project: (1) *To implement the Pilot Processes* in the set of representative countries; (2) *Regional Technical Consultation on HRD in Fisheries Management*; (3) *Information Collection on the Regional Inventory, Database and Network for HRD in Fisheries*; and (4) *Establishment of the Regional Inventory Database and Network for HRD in Fisheries*.

As recommended by ASEAN Member countries a **major emphasis for the Project during 2005 will be on the pilot processes** (pilot work) and development of the national events (on-site training or workshop) in the set of representative countries in support of member countries initiatives to implement the Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries through appropriate human capacity building programs. In the pilot process, dialogue with other countries will be maintained and experiences of non-SEAFDEC resource persons from relevant projects such as FISH Project in the Philippines, Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme in Malaysia will be integrated into the pilot process.

To embark on the pilot processes and related work, **meetings with each country’s representative and other related organizations** will be carried out, including also meeting with other cooperating project and organizations such as UNEP/GEF, FAO-Sida,

UNEP COBSEA, MRC, Danida Fisheries Program in Vietnam, the Coastal Zone Management Program in Cambodia to plan and set up activities in each of the countries. This will be followed by preparation of supporting materials, in reference to the Regional Guidelines of Fisheries Management bearing in mind the specifics of each country. It is expected that the supporting materials will also be useful for other countries and further being used as regional references.

In recommending that the Project should embark on these pilot processes it was envisaged that this would lead to an opportunity to share experiences and lessons from the pilot work in the set of representative countries at the regional level and further used as regional references for innovative fisheries management. In finalizing and concluding the findings from the pilot processes (pilot studies), a “*Regional Technical Consultation on HRD in Fisheries Management and Management of Fishing Capacity*” will be organized by the project in the last quarter of 2005 **to allow these experiences to be shared at the regional level.**

In follow-up to work already initiated in 2004, the collection of information, development and establishment of a “*Regional Inventory, Database and Network for HRD in Fisheries*” will be finalized in 2005 in response to the findings and recommendations from the sequence of the meetings/consultations held during 2004. This includes the development of survey sheets to be distributed to the SEAFDEC national focal points for information collection. The database of the inventory for HRD in fisheries will when established be made available information online through SEAFDEC’s website.

In pursuing the **inter-active approach** embarked upon during 2004 the SEAFDEC-Sida Project will continue to actively collaborate and cooperate with other organizations and projects (SEAFDEC as well as SIDA) thus further building on the experiences from 2004. This will also imply a continued participation in **meetings organized by others (SEAFDEC and non-SEAFDEC)**. This will include the Working Group Meetings of the Fisheries Component of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project; Workshops organized under the FAO-Sida Project on Fisheries Information Gathering; Sessions of the Asia Pacific Fishery Commission; UNEP/COBSEA Meetings; Relevant WorldFish Centre workshops such as those on Fish Fights for Fish Rights, relevant meetings organized in ASEAN Member countries as well as other events that will be identified during 2005.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	Conference of the Parties
COBSEA	Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)
Danida	Danish International Development Assistance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO-RAP	FAO- Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FCG	Fisheries Consultative Group
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HRD	Human Resource Development
MRC	Mekong River Commission
MTCP	Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia
NBF	the National Board of Fisheries, Sweden
RES&POA	Resolution and Plan of Action
PCM	Program Committee Meeting, SEAFDEC
RCCRF	Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEAFDEC-SEC	SEAFDEC-Secretariat
SEAFDEC-SEC-OPPC	SEAFDEC-SEC-Office of the Policy and Program Coordinator
SEAFDEC-AQD	SEAFDEC-Aquaculture Department
SEAFDEC-MFRD	SEAFDEC-Marine Fisheries Research Department
SEAFDEC-MFRDMD	SEAFDEC-Marine Fisheries Resources Development and Management Department
SEAFDEC-TD	SEAFDEC-Training Department
SENSA	Swedish Environment Secretariat in Asia
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TOR	Term of Reference
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nation Environment Programme
UNEP/GEF SCS	United Nation Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility South China Sea
WGRFP	Working Group of Regional Fisheries Policy
WTO	World Trade Organization

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BACKGROUND

On 29 August 2003 the Agreement was signed between the National Swedish Board of Fisheries (NBF) and SEAFDEC for the implementation of a support, during 2003 to 2006, from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through the NBF to “Human Resource Development on the Support of Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Management for the ASEAN Region”. The Agreement marks the starting point for Sida cooperation with SEAFDEC – in this case through the NBF in terms of immediate follow up of the implementation of the Agreement.

On the 28th of November 2003 the first in a series of Annual Consultations were held between SEAFDEC and NBF (supported by a representative from Sida). The meeting, it was agreed, was kept informal and the result of the meeting was summarized in a set of “Agreed Minutes” highlighting major points and common understanding for the implementation of the Swedish support. It was at the onset understood that this, the first consultation, would in general to be seen as a point of inception in which NBF, Sida and SEAFDEC could express some of their expectations for the future collaboration. This short introduction is basically a recapturing of some of these results and the spirit of the cooperation between SEAFDEC and Sweden.

Attending the First Annual Consultation was staff and senior staff from SEAFDEC, the Working Group on Regional Fisheries Policy (WGRFP), Mr. Lars Johansson from the Swedish National Board of Fisheries (NBF) and Mr. Johan Sundberg from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Stockholm. Mr. Lars Johansson (NBF) and Mr. Johan Sundberg (Sida) are the Focal Points for their respective organisations. On the SEAFDEC side Dr. Worawit Wanchana is still, for the time being, the Focal Point for the project, while Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn is the Focal Point at the level of coordination between various SEAFDEC activities. A Project Manager is under recruitment.

A basic and important confirmation is that the project, or the Swedish support, is in collaboration with Sida – *through* the NBF. Under this arrangement it is agreed that the NBF would be the responsible partner in matters related to practical and technical aspects with regards to the implementation of the Agreement, including financial matters of the Agreement. Sida on the other hand would be consulted in matters related to broader policy issues, Swedish positions in development assistance in general, aspects on funding levels, etc.

In the context of roles and responsibilities it is again important to mention the role being given to the “Senior Advisor”, supported by Sida, visavis SEAFDEC, FAO-RAPI, UNEP/COBSEA and Sida/SENSA respectively. During the First Annual Consultations it was agreed, in confirmation of the Terms of Reference that in calling upon the services of the Senior Advisor the following hierarchy of priorities should be observed:

- First – SEAFDEC, Sida support and other SEAFDEC activities
- Second – COBSEA and FAO-RAPI Sida support and related activities
- Third – as time permits to, for other Sida or SENSEA, reviews, missions, etc.

In implementing these priorities the Senior Advisor will maintain a planning routine based on quarterly forward looking scheme. The scheme is expected to be part of the reporting procedures and included in next progress report. In line with such a quarterly planning routine it was also agreed that Sida and/or SENSEA should assess their possible needs at a quarterly basis which then could be viewed against the priorities of first and second order not to compromise the planning of SEAFDEC, COBSEA and FAO-.RAPI respectively.

It was agreed during the Annual Consultations that the project will be implemented under ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG). The first program document, in formatting of ASEAN – SEAFDEC, of the project was presented at the 26th SEAFDEC's PCM in Malaysia during 12-16 January 2004. During the Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group, 5 April 2004 (Bangkok, Thailand) the inclusion of the project under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC umbrella was endorsed. The arrangement was further confirmed during the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC, 6 – 9 April 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Objectives and Components of the Project

Sida supports the ASEAN member countries in facilitating programs/activities related to fisheries management to work towards the achievement of sustainable fisheries. The support is channeled through the Swedish National Board of Fisheries (NBF) in collaboration with the regional fisheries development body, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). The project is dealing with Human Resource Development (HRD) with a focus on awareness building and training activities at national and regional levels.

The objective of the project is to facilitate the national implementation of issues related to fisheries management with reference to the Articles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) through HRD programs/activities of relevance to the implementation of the CCRF. The following are the detailed objectives of the project.

- To enhance awareness of the necessity for appropriate fisheries management to achieve sustainable fisheries;
- To advise stakeholders on mechanisms for innovative fisheries management systems;
- To promote various HRD activities on fisheries management for identified target groups; and
- To identify various options to alleviate problems caused by excessive level of fishing capacity.

The proposed project is therefore focused on the following two main components.

1. HRD with respect to the priority issues contained in the Article 7, Fisheries Management of the CCRF, specifically of the Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF); and
2. HRD activities on the issue related to the reduction of “Fishing Capacity”.

The project is to be implemented during the period 2003-2006 and coordinated by staff at SEAFDEC-SEC in Bangkok, Thailand, in full collaboration with relevant SEAFDEC Departments and ASEAN member countries. The activities of the project are to be implemented under the umbrella of the program under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism and specifically under the program known as the RCCRF which is implemented since the year 2002.

The project envisages various activities including the preparation of training materials using the RCCRF, translation of training materials or text books on fisheries management related to the RCCRF to national languages, organizing Regional Technical Consultations related to fisheries human resource development and fishing capacity, support to organizations through on-site training on the fisheries management in ASEAN member countries, and collecting regional information on the fishing capacity and its compilation to the digitized atlas program of SEAFDEC.

2004 Project Activities and Participation of the Project Staff

To support ASEAN Member Countries in facilitating programs/activities related to fisheries management to work towards the achievement of the sustainable fisheries in the region, based upon the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region, and to assist in awareness building and training programs/activities at the national levels, the following activities were organized under SEAFDEC-Sida project in 2004:

- 1. Co-organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on Human Resource Development in Fisheries, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20 – 23 February 2004***
- 2. Organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 3 – 6 June 2004***
- 3. Organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Preparatory Expert Meeting on Fishing Capacity and Related Human Resource Development Needs in the ASEAN Region, Bangkok, Thailand, 14 – 16 September 2004***

To facilitate the project activities and for further adjustment and improvement of the project activities during the period of the project implementation, and to provide inputs from project result and experiences into other related processes, staff of the project participated in the following relevant meetings/events from October 2003 to October 2004:

- 1. ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Subsidies, 9 – 10 October 2003, Bangkok, Thailand.***
- 2. ASEAN- SEAFDEC On Site Training: Fisheries Statistic, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 15 – 19 December 2003***
- 3. The 26th Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC, 12 – 16 January 2004, Manila, Philippines***
- 4. The Regional Scientific Conference of the UNEP/GEF Project “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” 11 – 13 February 2004, Bangkok, Thailand***
- 5. UNEP Technical Workshop and the 17th Meeting of COBSEA, 8 – 11 March, 2004, Bangkok, Thailand***
- 6. The Second Regional Technical Consultation on the Use of Indicators for the Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries, 9-11 March 2004, Kuala Lumpur***

7. *ASEAN-SEAFDEC Preparatory Meeting on Issues Related to Fish Trade and Environment, 16-18 March 2004, Hat Yai, Thailand*
8. *ASEAN-SEAFDEC On Site Training: Fisheries Statistics, 22 – 29 March, 2004, Sihanoukville, Cambodia*
9. *The Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group, 5 April 2004, Bangkok, Thailand*
10. *The Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC, 6 – 9 April 2004, Bangkok, Thailand*
11. *The Forth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Fisheries Component, Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, 26 – 29 April, Manila, Philippines*
12. *The National Workshop on Reduction and Management of Commercial Fishing Capacity in Thailand, 10-14 May 2004, Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand*
13. *Second ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Statistics, 15-18 June 2004, Hua Hin, Thailand*
14. *The Second ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Shark Fisheries, 13 – 15 July 2004, Phuket, Thailand*
15. *Twenty-Eighth Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, 3 – 5 August 2004, Chiang Mai, Thailand*
16. *First Regional Inception Workshop on “GCP/RAS/199/SWE – Strengthening the Capacity in Fisheries Information Gathering for Management”, 28 – 30 September, FAO-RAP, Bangkok, Thailand*
17. *The Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Fisheries Component, Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, 11 – 14 October 2004, Phu Quoc, Vietnam*
18. *Regional Technical Consultation on the Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF) Phase IV: Post-Harvest Practices and Trade, 26 – 29 October 2004, Chiang Mai, Thailand*
19. *National Workshop in Cambodia on “Fish Fights over Fish Rights: Managing Exit from the Fisheries and Security Implications for Southeast Asia; organized by Department of Fisheries and WorldFish Centre, 10 – 12 November 2004, Phnom Penh Cambodia*

- 20. *National Workshop in Thailand on “Fish Fights over Fish Rights: Managing Exit from the Fisheries and Security Implications for Southeast Asia; organized by Department of Fisheries and WorldFish Centre, 17 – 18 November 2004, Songkla, Thailand***
- 21. *ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation Towards Rights-Based Fisheries for Small Coastal Fisheries, 23 – 26 November 2004, Bangkok, Thailand***
- 22. *GCP/RAS/199/SWE Strengthening the Capacity in Fisheries Information Gathering for Management; Planning Meetings for Implementation in Cambodia, 30 November – 2 December 2004, Phnom Penh, Cambodia***
- 23. *The Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Program Committee, 6 – 9 December 2004, Langkawi, Malaysia***

2004 Highlights of the Project Activities

Co-organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on Human Resource Development in Fisheries, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20-23 February 2004

This Workshop was jointly organized by ASEAN and SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Malaysia and Sida. “The Strategy for HRD in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region” ([Appendix 1](#)) was developed during the Workshop and recommended as the major outcome of the Workshop. The “Strategy” is considered vital to clarify role of HRD to effectively implement the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region.

It was highlighted during the Workshop that “*development of the human resource capacity should not only be on technical issues but also integrate social, environmental, legal, and other issues as identified in the Resolution and Plan of Action*”. In addition, it was agreed that each ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Country should conduct an inventory of programs for HRD in fisheries that contain essential and usable information from fisheries-related agencies and other human resource development program operated by relevant institutions. This could lead to the development of the regional database to be useful as a basis for networking in human resource development in fisheries.

Organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 3-6 June 2004

The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) was jointly organized by ASEAN and SEAFDEC with full support from Sida in collaboration with Department of Fisheries, Cambodia, and UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project. Clarification on target groups/areas and priority requirements for HRD in fisheries management at the national levels was made at the RTC with special emphasis on small scale fisheries while also taking into consideration the integration of social, environmental and legal aspects in HRD for fisheries management. The identified requirements will be incorporated in plans and activities to be further promoted by the SEAFDEC-Sida project as well as by other international/regional/national organizations concerned.

In line with the RTC’s objectives to clarify priority requirements and HRD plan/activities towards development and implementation of HRD in fisheries management a “Plan and Framework for Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management” was developed by the RTC through group discussions on the following three thematic issues:

- Management of Over Fishing Capacity
- Strengthening of Local Fisheries Management Capacity
- Integrating Fisheries Management into Habitat Management

The RTC recommended that to further identify suitable HRD focus and applications there was a need to consider pilot projects in a “*representative set of countries*”, and the HRD in fisheries management is specific to the national situation. In summary, the indicated “*pilot projects*”, as far as SEAFDEC-Sida project is concerned, will include Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia to promote the sharing of experiences at the regional level by in extracting such experiences from ongoing national and regional projects. Dialogue with the other countries will be maintained and experiences and resource persons from the FISH project in the Philippines and the MTCP in Malaysia will be integrated in the process. The Report of this consultation is attached as Appendix 2. A reference to the “*Representative set of countries*” and thoughts on how to progress in the countries appears as Appendix 3.

Organization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Preparatory Expert Meeting on Fishing Capacity and Related Human Resource Development Needs in the ASEAN Region, Bangkok, Thailand, 14-16 September 2004

The Meeting was organized under the ASEAN - SEAFDEC collaborative program with full support from Sida. During the Meeting discussions focused on identification of problem areas, possibilities and target groups for various HRD interventions to alleviate problems caused by excess fishing capacity and related activities to be implemented to respond to social changes/needs due to reduced opportunities to fish. The Meeting gave special attention to practical steps to be taken towards development of human resource development programs for management of fishing capacity in the ASEAN region.

It was recommended at the meeting that in preparations for continued work, including pilot processes of the project, HRD for management of fishing capacity should be incorporated within the context of fisheries management as such, thereby avoiding an “isolated” process that would not be optimal in use of project funds in reaching results related to the project aims. Other SEAFDEC’s project such the ones on Rights-based Fisheries Management and Locally-based Fisheries Management, as well as relevant non-SEFADEC project, should be included or referred to in the process. Through the process of HRD supporting materials should be developed as part of the pilot activities and used in the implementation of the pilot process.

It was suggested at the meeting that a combined RTC on HRD for fisheries management and management of fishing capacity should be organized, possibly by the end of 2005. The RTC should be based on the outcomes and experiences drawn from the implementation of the pilot process as well as similar experiences from the other projects.

More detail information of the issues discussed and recommended during the meeting could be referred to the report of the meeting as appeared as Appendix 4. In line with the objective to manage overfishing capacity in the region, the Meeting took note on the proposal made by staff of SEAFDEC-Secretariat on “*Freezing the Fishing Fleets*” (Appendix 5) which could be considered as a starting point to deal with this issue.

2004 Highlights of the Participation of the Project Staff to Relevant Events

ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Subsidies, 9-10 October 2003, Bangkok, Thailand

Through the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and restrictions with regards to international trade matters related to “subsidies” is something that needs to be addressed in relation to fisheries management. Through training it is important that planners and managers are informed about the implications, and international sanctions, related to various types of subsidies. Some subsidies, for specific purposes are also internationally accepted.

It was noted during the RTC that in the establishment of an effective management framework to ensure sustainable fisheries for food security and livelihoods of the ASEAN people certain forms of subsidies could be a tool to be considered. The RTC recognized, in this context, fisheries subsidies as a tool either to be used as temporary or long-term measures under a broad national development and management framework aiming to ensure sustainable fisheries. One of the important “lessons” from this RTC to the SEAFDEC-Sida project was the message that in matters related to fisheries subsidies need to be addressed at all levels with regards to fisheries management and that it is something that should be considered in plans and development of HRD programs/activities and for the further implementation of the project. The summary report of the RTC could be referred as Appendix 6.

ASEAN-SEAFDEC: On Site Training: Fisheries Statistic, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 15 – 19 December 2003

The meeting was the second in a sequence of three “on site training” events to be held in Cambodia. Participants were gathered from provinces as well as from Phnom Penh. The meeting/training turned out to be a useful exercise in that it also, apart from the specific training, in that it highlighted some of the basic problems in Cambodia in terms of lack of data, lack of resources and facilities and other aspects of missing information and base lines of central information to fisheries management as such. The problem of insufficient or missing information related to fisheries and people involved in fisheries is something than needs to be kept in mind when further developing the context of HRD in fisheries management under the SEAFDEC-Sida project.

Another important aspect to bring forward during the SEAFDEC-Sida project is that this method of having a sequence of three (or more) “on site training” events is something that could be applied during the implementation of the SEAFDEC-Sida project.

The 26th Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC, 12 – 16 January 2004, Manila, Philippines

This meeting was attended mainly by the national coordinators from SEAFDEC's Member Countries, together with SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Department Chiefs, and officers from SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Department as well as representative from the FAO/RAP. The objective of this meeting was aimed at monitoring the progress of the programs carried out in the past year, and evaluating the appropriateness of the proposed future program of SEAFDEC activities in response to the needs and priorities of the Member Countries.

The SEAFDEC-Sida collaborative project was presented at the meeting of the SEAFDEC 26th Program Committee as a program under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Mechanism, Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF): Component II, to be implemented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with their all Departments during the year 2003 to 2006. Full report of the Meeting could be referred to the publication of the SEAFDEC-Secretariat SEC/RM/85 or ISBN 974-9509-55-2.

The Regional Scientific Conference of the UNEP/GEF Project “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” 11 – 13 February 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

The UNEP/GEF project is one of the major activities in the South China Sea that addresses fisheries management and (fisheries) habitats in the region. One of the elements of the Fisheries Component is to promote the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which should indicate a suitable scope for coordination. The Conference itself was to present and discuss backgrounds to the various components of the Project – and to seek matching funding. The Components include: Mangroves; Seagrass; Coral Reefs; and Wetlands. These four are considered as “habitat” component. The fifth component of the project relates to Fisheries. During the meeting the processes of selecting “demonstration sites” for the project was presented together with priority lists for each of the four habitat components – no specific selection process for fisheries had been undertaken. During the meeting it was agreed to follow up on contacts with the Fisheries component and SEAFDEC would be invited to the next Working Group meeting on Fisheries

UNEP Technical Workshop and the 17th Meeting of COBSEA, 8 – 11 March, 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

UNEP – COBSEA is one of three marine environment and fisheries related bodies that receives Swedish support in Southeast Asia. The main thrust of the meeting was for member countries to agree on the general path forward. The major decision during the meeting was the COBSEA should move away from being “project” oriented (and dependent) and rather become more programmatic in its approach. To work in this

direction UNEP was requested to recruit people for posts at the COBSEA Secretariat. Level of activity implementation was – and has remained during the year – very low. Any direct area of cooperation or dialogue with COBSEA and the SEAFDEC-Sida project has for the time being not emerged.

The Second Regional Technical Consultation on the Use of Indicators for the Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries, 9-11 March 2004, Kuala Lumpur

The RTC was organized to discuss and agree on the relevance and scope of the use of indicators in the management of capture fisheries. The use of indicators was considered to be a useful tool for effective planning, communication, monitoring and evaluation in fisheries management. In addition, the RTC recommended that the use of indicators should be integrated into fisheries management plans and there should be clear linkages of indicators with management objectives. It was also recommended that human capacity building to enhance understanding of stakeholders as well as to develop capacity of technical staff to facilitate the use of indicators for fisheries management should be conducted. Recommendations that are of direct relevance to the SEAFDEC-Sida project. Important to highlight is that indicators should not only be developed, and used, with respect to the resources but also with regards to the social well-being and the environmental status.

It is clearly observed that the outcome of this RTC provided information to be further used as an input to the SEAFDEC-Sida project specifically in terms of building the concept of the use of indicators for fisheries management into HRD programs/activities. In addition, the participation of the project staff to this meeting may further enhance closer coordination with the indicators project to the benefit of both projects. See [Appendix 7](#) for Adopted Conclusion and Recommendations of this RTC.

ASEAN-SEAFDEC Preparatory Meeting on Issues Related to Fish Trade and Environment, 16-18 March 2004, Hat Yai, Thailand ([Appendix 8](#))

This meeting was held with the objective to provide a regional forum for discussion among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on important fisheries related issues in preparing for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and further dialogue fisheries subsidies. In the issues related to environment and the use of fisheries subsidies for sustainable fisheries management, the meeting provided useful information to the SEAFDEC-Sida project on directions and approaches for future implementation of the project specifically with regard to trade and CITES related HRD needs.

ASEAN-SEAFDEC On Site Training: Fisheries Statistics, 22 – 29 March, 2004, Sihanoukville, Cambodia

The meeting was the third in the sequence of “on site training” on Fisheries Statistics this time held in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. Invited were provincial and district DOF staff from the coastal provinces of Cambodia together with national resource persons from DOF Phnom Penh. The event again confirmed the limited information that is available with the DOF and provincial offices related to various items to be included in “fisheries statistics” and the participants provided some ideas on how to move forward. The training itself included landing site surveys, species identification, etc and was well conducted. The event confirmed earlier notion that this format, a sequence of “on site training”, could be useful to apply also in relation to the SEAFDEC-Sida project at national level.

The Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group, 5 April, and Thirty-six Meeting of the Council, SEAFDEC, 6-9 April 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

Tentative plan and activities of the collaborative project between SEAFDEC and Sida to be implemented from year 2003 to 2006 under the framework of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) was presented to this meeting. In the conclusion and recommendations, the Meetings took note with appreciation of the collaborative project between SEAFDEC and Sida for the implementation of the program on RCCRF focusing on the issue related to HRD. The Meeting also encouraged SEAFDEC to seek similar cooperation with other international/regional organizations and closer cooperation with the Sida in the future. See [Appendix 9](#) for the more detail information on the report of the Meeting.

The Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC, 6 – 9 April 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

The Meeting was mainly attended by the Council Directors for SEAFDEC’s Member Countries together with their respective delegations. SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, their senior officials as well as observes from ASEAN – Secretariat, FAO/RAP, MRC, NACA, and Sida were also attended the Meeting.

The Councils endorsed the position of SEAFDEC-Sida collaborative project under the umbrella of ASEAN-SEAFDEC as well as endorsing the “*Strategy for Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region*” as adopted at the ASEAN – SEAFDEC RTC on HRD in Fisheries held during 20 – 23 February 2004 in Malaysia. Full report of the Meeting could be referred to publication of the SEAFDEC-Secretariat SEC/RM/86 or ISBN 974-9509-59-5.

The Forth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Fisheries Component, “Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”, UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, 26 – 29 April, Manila, Philippines

In line with the SEAFDEC-Sida’s project objective to support the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and for future collaboration of both SEAFDEC and UNEP/GEF SCS project, a representative from the project attended the meeting and gave a brief outline of the on-going project activities related to HRD in fisheries management to expand both sides future collaboration work. The report of the meeting is referred to as UNEP/GEF/SCS/RWG-F.4/3 of their project. The meeting was attended by working group members from Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, regional experts, WorldFish Centre and SEAFDEC.

A challenge facing the Fisheries Component is that they have to base their “demonstration activities” on the demonstration sites selected for the habitat components of the project – sites that have been selected on environmental criteria rather than on fisheries management concerns. The concept of developing and manage “*refugia*” in the demonstration sites was introduced during the meeting. The question raised on the importance to “*integrate fisheries management into habitat management*” was incorporated into the HRD RTC held in Phnom Penh under the SEAFDEC-Sida project (see above). It was also decided the Working Group Members of the Fisheries Component should be invited to the meeting in Phnom Penh.

The National Workshop on Reduction and Management of Commercial Fishing Capacity in Thailand, 10-14 May 2004, Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand

This workshop was organized by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand with support from the FAO FishCode Programme. This national event was held with the main objective to discuss how to improve the national strategy for the reduction and management of excess fishing capacity in the Gulf of Thailand.

The results from this workshop provided a case study on practical approaches on their management of over fishing capacity. The recommendations and discussions were mainly focused on “technical” aspects and did not get down to discuss social aspects in spite of this being part of the agenda “Assess socio-economic importance of fisheries for livelihoods of different strata of fishing vessels owners, fishing crew and fishing community”. The results of the meeting, including difficulties to address social aspects, will be valuable for the planning of activities during the SEAFDEC-Sida project implementation, particularly on the improvement and development of HRD programs/activities to promote sustainable fishery management in the region. In follow-up to this meeting, and the outcomes from this meeting on the strategic plan for management of trawl, push net and purse seine in the Gulf of Thailand (see [Appendix 10](#) for details) the results was presented and further discussed at the Preparatory Expert Meeting on Fishing Capacity and Related HRD Needs in the ASEAN Region, 14 – 16 September 2004 under the SEAFDEC-Sida project.

Second ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Statistics, 15-18 June 2004, Hua Hin, Thailand

This RTC was organized as a part of the project on “*Capacity Building for the Improvement of the Fisheries Statistical System in the Region*” under the framework of the program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN region. The consultation addressed the importance of fishery statistics in the ASEAN region and stressed the need for further improvement of fisheries statistics particularly on maximizing its usage for fisheries management requirements. Its report is appeared as Appendix 11.

The participation of the project staff to this RTC was considered a benefit to the project in terms of reference on planning, consulting and implementing of the project in the ASEAN region also the RTC as such benefited from project staff participation in helping to highlight certain statistical information of importance to fisheries management and the management of fishing capacity. It was suggested by the RTC that there is still need for human capacity building for improving fishery statistical systems in the region. It can be considered that to promote sustainable fisheries development and management in the region as a major goal of the SEAFDEC-Sida project, the fishery statistical systems in the region can be improved through various HRD programs/activities which will be further implemented by the SEAFDEC-Sida project.

In developing the pilot process of the project for future implementation the SEAFDEC-Sida project staff drafted a small note “*on Projects to link up to and build upon in the development of "Statistics"*” (Appendix 12), for advance reference and information on some on-going projects and possible institutions that could be linked to or consulted.

The Second ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Shark Fisheries, 13 – 15 July 2004, Phuket, Thailand

In highlighting some of the aspects to be kept in mind in preparing for HRD on fisheries management it is important to note that out of the reports on the status of shark fisheries among ASEAN member countries that have been prepared it is noted that shark in general is not a target specie but caught “*incidentally*” while targeting other fish. The important aspect here is that shark fishing, and implications of decisions being taken under CITES and other international fora, should be addressed in the context of fisheries management in general.

Twenty-Eighth Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, 3 – 5 August 2004, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The meeting had attracted participants from several countries and organizations throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Without going into details one of the major points discussed during the meeting was the functions and format of the APFIC Meeting. It was agreed

among member countries that there was a role and function to be played in terms of being a “*consultative forum*” – a role that also was acknowledged by participating countries. From the SEAFDEC (and indirectly the project) it was an opportunity to share experiences in implementation of various programs many of which are similar to those implemented in other sub-regions. Notably the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was on the agenda also in other sub-regions, such as the BOBP-Intergovernmental Organization.

First Regional Inception Workshop on “GCP/RAS/199/SWE – Strengthening the Capacity in Fisheries Information Gathering for Management”, 28 – 30 September, FAO-RAP, Bangkok, Thailand

The Workshop was the first event under a Swedish funded support to activities to be implemented FAO-RAP Bangkok. Already in the preparation stage it has been recognized that this work is complementary to that under the SEAFDEC-Sida Project. At the Workshop delegates from Cambodia, East-Timor, Vietnam and Thailand worked out activity plans for steps to be taken in each of the countries. Process and time-lines were defined and agreed upon. First activity will be a small activity planning meeting in each of the countries. To maintain collaboration with SEAFDEC it was agreed that project and activity related information should be cc: ed to SEAFDEC and, if possible, participation at the planning meeting in Cambodia should be organized (based on the notion that it is in Cambodia where there could be most overlaps if not informed on the planning process).

The Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Fisheries Component, Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, 11 – 14 October 2004, Phu Quoc, Vietnam

SEAFDEC and project staff was invited to, and participated at the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group of the Fisheries Component of the UNEP/GEF SCS project. The progress so far and processes ahead of the SEAFDEC-Sida project were presented during the meeting including explanation of pilot processes ahead in a “*representative set of countries*” – countries that are basically the same as those represented by the members of the Working Group. The members that were attending the meeting came from Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam together with regional experts, FAO RAP, WorldFish Centre, IUCN and SEAFDEC.

Continued focus is to develop fisheries related “demonstration activities” in habitats defined by the habitat components of the project as well as to develop and implement the “*refugia*” concept. All of the habitats defined have fisheries related functions – and with the fisheries component being “under-resourced” compared to the habitat (environment) components the position of the component is difficult. Linking environmental and fisheries line agency action is still a challenge and the environmental thrust is dominating and in that sense not really recognizing that one of the major actions needed to manage the

habitats is to manage the fisheries. Dialogue and cooperation will be maintained in the perspective of the “*refugia*” concept as well as potential to follow on to the action of the Fisheries Component in trans-boundary areas such as Trat-Koh Kong and Phu Quoc-Kampot – and to help to strengthen the Fisheries Component as such. For more details, see the Back-to-Office Report as appeared in Appendix 14.

Regional Technical Consultation on the Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF) Phase IV: Post-Harvest Practices and Trade, 26 – 29 October 2004, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The RCCRF program is currently composed of two components. Component I is the formulation and dissemination of regional guidelines on the main thematic issues. And Component II is supporting HRD activities through the support from Sida. Since 2000, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries has implemented three phases of the Component I of the RCCRF program resulting in the formulation of three sets of Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Fishing operation, Aquaculture and Fisheries Management to assist the member countries in the implementation of the CCRF at the national level.

In 2004, SEAFDEC-MFRD in collaboration with the SEAFDEC-SEC initiated the final phase of formulation of regional guidelines focusing on post-harvest practices and trade. The Regional Guidelines has been formulated and promoted in order to clarify implication and applicability of the CCRF, to identify the issues that specially require attention as well as to identify directions and prioritize actions to implement CCRF in the regional context. The major objective of this consultation is to finalize the draft of Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Post-Harvest Practices and Trade. Participants of the consultation included representatives from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, core experts of post-harvest technology and trade, FAO, etc.

At its conclusion, the priority issues with aspects of HRD programs/activities on responsible fish utilization were the perspective of “*reduction of post-harvest losses and maximizing the use of under-utilized species including pelagic fishes for direct human consumption*” and “*promote improvement of quality and maintenance of freshness of all fish harvested for human consumption through appropriate distribution marketing system*”. These identified issues will be kept in mind and further referred to in the process of developing the appropriate supporting materials to be used for HRD programs/activities as well as for general national/regional usage. The other important issues related to post-harvest technology and trade for planning of future program of activities as concluded by the consultation is presented in Appendix 15.

National Workshop in Cambodia on “Fish Fights over Fish Rights: Managing Exit from the Fisheries and Security Implications for Southeast Asia; organized by Department of Fisheries and WorldFish Centre, 10 – 12 November 2004, Phnom Penh Cambodia

For a brief summary on the workshop see below under the “Fish Fights over Fish Rights” workshop held in Songkla, Thailand a week later.

The meeting in Cambodia was attended by staff from the Department of Fisheries, staff and people involved in fishing from three provinces (one coastal, Kampot) as well as some NGO’s including FACT

National Workshop in Thailand on “Fish Fights over Fish Rights: Managing Exit from the Fisheries and Security Implications for Southeast Asia; organized by Department of Fisheries and WorldFish Centre, 17 – 18 November 2004, Songkla, Thailand

Under the project “Fish Fights over Fish Rights: Managing Exit from the Fisheries and Security Implications for Southeast Asia; a sequence of workshops was organized in Philippines, Cambodia and Thailand respectively by WorldFish Centre in collaboration with counterparts in the three countries. SEAFDEC – Sida Project staff attended the meetings in Cambodia and Thailand while other SEAFDEC staff attended the meeting in the Philippines,

The meeting in Songkla was attended by staff from Department of Fisheries and people with interest in and involved in larger scale anchovy fisheries as well as small-scale coastal fishing.

Objectives of the three National Workshops were:

1. To discuss the conflicts in aquatic resources arising from overcapacity in the fisheries and those that may lead to security problems in Cambodia, Thailand and Philippines respectively as well as possible implications for the region.
2. To develop approaches and guidelines for managing fishing capacity and conflicts brought about by access to declining aquatic resources and in so doing, address national and regional security.

As indicated the workshops were relevant to the process embarked on by SEAFDEC to develop HRD for fisheries management and the management of over capacity in fisheries in the region. Two of the countries, Cambodia and Thailand, are also among the by SEAFDEC chosen “representative” countries to be involved in a forthcoming pilot process. Even though the workshops did not fully live up to their ambitious objectives they were still successful in terms of having the groups defining sets of conflicts between users and various types of fishing (and aquaculture) and subsequent pressure on the resources.

The workshops (in Cambodia and Thailand) did also give important indications to keep in mind for the upcoming SEAFDEC work as to the level of knowledge on the status and tracks of development of fisheries in the two countries. This specifically in the sense that: in Cambodia there is strong need to “define” the fisheries and to distinguish between different user groups (small-scale, large-scale, aquaculture, sea-weed culture, etc), type of gear actually in use (and at what frequency), etc, to define areas and nature of overcapacity and related conflicts affecting the fisheries. In Thailand areas of conflicts geographically, as well as between different types of users (small-scale/large-scale, etc) is more well-known and documented (both in reports as well as in the media) as here in the case of the Anchovy.

There will be a regional follow up meeting in the first half of 2005 and the SEAFDEC-Sida project will explore the possibilities of having people from some of the countries actively taking part in that meeting.

ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation: Towards Rights-Based Fisheries for Small Coastal Fisheries, 23 – 26 November 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

This Regional Technical Consultation was held to discuss and clarify the concept of rights-based fisheries and its applicability in ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries. The meeting also provided a review of fisheries licensing practices of member countries for which each of the participating countries had prepared report on their respective practices.

The Consultation was attended by two representatives from fisheries related agencies of ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries (involved in licensing and user rights as well planning), SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments and FAO RAP.

By the documentation and presentations by member countries useful summaries on some of the licensing practices as well as examples of user right schemes, such as the “community fisheries” in Cambodia was presented. The Consultation also initiated a process to draft some regional guidelines, or reference document (referring to the Japanese system), for rights based fisheries.

GCP/RAS/199/SWE Strengthening the Capacity in Fisheries Information Gathering for Management; Planning Meetings for Implementation in Cambodia, 30 November – 2 December 2004, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

In line with the recommendations at the regional inception workshop with delegates from Cambodia, East-Timor, Vietnam and Thailand worked a sequence of start-up meetings were held in each of the four countries to further planning of activities to take place based on the indicative plans developed during the regional meeting. It was also agreed that collaboration should be maintained with SEAFDEC and the Sida-SEAFDEC collaborative project and as agreed SEAFDEC participated in this planning meeting in Cambodia.

The event was organized as a sequence of meetings and a workshop spanning over three days. The workshop section highlighted some of the focal areas suggested by the Cambodian Department of Fisheries (DOF) in terms of capacity to be strengthened with regards to “fisheries information gathering for management”, these areas were:

- Conflict and resolution affecting coastal small-scale fisherfolk
- Social and economic status of small-scale coastal fishing communities (fishing villages)
- Coastal capture fisheries baseline assessment

The scope of these focal areas is directly relevant to the work of the Sida-SEAFDEC project on HRD in fisheries management and the management of fishing capacity. The need for continued dialogue and cooperation in between the two projects is obvious to avoid overlaps and duplication.

The meeting and workshop was attended by staff from DOF, Phnom Penh (Planning and Accounting Office, Community Fisheries Development Office, Aquaculture Development Office and the Exploitation Office) together with DOF staff from the coastal provinces (Kampot, Koh Kong, Kep City and Sihanoukville).

In the process it was stated that the DOF and others involved should before going into further action look into aspects, such as:

- Where could information already be available??
- Where could capacity (or trained people) already be available??

This means that the DOF staff should also look towards other sources and ministries for information and capacities to be used in the process as it was indicated that quite a bit of the information indicated are available elsewhere – this should be kept in mind to the Sida-SEAFDEC project from the very beginning in the dialogue with Cambodia.

The Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Program Committee, 6 – 9 December 2004, Langkawi, Malaysia

The meeting was attended by the national coordinators from SEAFDEC’s Member Countries, together with SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Department Chiefs, and officers from SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Department as well as representative from the FAO/RAP. The objective of this meeting was aimed at monitoring the progress of the programs carried out in the past year, and evaluating the appropriateness of the proposed future program of SEAFDEC activities in response to the needs and priorities of the Member Countries.

The progress and upcoming plans for the SEAFDEC-Sida collaborative project was presented at the meeting under the umbrella of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Mechanism, Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF): Component II, to be implemented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with their all Departments during the year 2003 to 2006. Full report of the Meeting will be published by the SEAFDEC-Secretariat.

2005 ACTIVITIES PLANNED

The following activities will be carried out during the year 2005 by the SEAFDEC–Secretariat in full collaboration with Sida supported Senior Advisor and the WGRFP stationed at the office of Secretariat, with concerned Technical Departments with ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries, and non-SEAFDEC organizations.

- 1. Pilot Process/Studies**
 - a. National Consultations/Meeting**
 - b. Meeting with Cooperative Project**
 - c. Preparatory of the Supporting Materials for HRD programs/activities**
 - d. National Workshop/On-site Training**
- 2. The Regional Technical Consultation on HRD in Fisheries Management and Management of Fishing Capacity**
- 3. Information collection on the Regional Inventory, Database and Network for Human Resource Development in Fisheries**
- 4. Establishment of the Regional Inventory, Database and Network on Human Resource Development in Fisheries**

The above-mentioned activities will be developed mainly using the recommendations from the sequences of the meetings organized by SEAFDEC and other relevant organizations. Those are, for instance, in this report Annex 9 of Appendix 5 “*Pilot process for the SEAFDEC-Sida HRD program implementation in Fisheries including Management of Fishing Capacity*”, Appendix 13 “*Project links to build upon in development of statistics*” of this report, and elsewhere. Description for the 2005 project activities and its tentative planned in 2005 are appeared as in the following.

Descriptions of the 2005 Project Activities

Title of Activities	Goals & Objectives	Brief Description	Remarks
1) Pilot Process/Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote the Regional Guideline for Responsible Fisheries Management at the national and regional level - To increase human capacity for sustainable management of fishery resources - To reduce environmental impact from capture fisheries and coastal aquaculture - To follow-up the recommendations made at the RTC on Fisheries Management held in Cambodia 2004 - To share experiences and lessons learned from the pilot process/studies at the regional level with specific focus on HRD in fisheries management and reduction of fishing capacity - To reduce disparity among the Member Countries⁽¹⁾ - To mobilize existing regional expertise and to continue dialogue and cooperation with other relevant organizations 	<p>The pilot process/studies of the project aimed at enhancing management of fishery resources through effective implementation and regional application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Management and reduce excess fishing capacity.</p> <p>The pilot process/studies include Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam to further promote the sharing of experiences at the regional level by extracting such experiences from the pilot process, on-going national and regional projects/initiatives.</p> <p>Dialogue with the other countries will be maintained and experiences from resource persons of relevant project as such FISH Project in the Philippines and MTCP in Malaysia will be integrated in the process.</p>	<p>⁽¹⁾ As a follow-up activity based on the recommendation to develop criteria for the reduction of disparities among the Member Countries through various HRD programs and/or initiatives. (referred to point 16 in Appendix 3)</p>
1a) National Consultations/Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To meet with the countries and other related organizations to plan and set up their national workshop and/or on-site training 	<p>This activity will be conducted through the SEAFDEC-WGRFP together with mobilizing SEAFDEC's and non-SEAFDEC's resources</p>	<p>The national stakeholders will also involve in this activity.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify their existing related HRD programs/activities/initiatives (both for that national and regional level) 	<p>persons as indicated during previous planning and criteria setup process. Mobilization and/or invitation of the relevant institution and expertise within the country will also be included in this activity.</p>	
1b) Meeting with Cooperating Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To establish/confirm links and cooperation with relevant project⁽²⁾ - To join or take part in some relevant events of those above-mentioned projects - To meet and follow up with MRC on their HRD programs for inland fisheries 		⁽²⁾ FISH Project in the Philippines, MTCP (Malaysia), and UNEP/GEF SCS Fisheries Component
1c) Preparatory of the Supporting Materials for HRD programs/activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To prepare and produce training materials (or regional references) on fisheries management to be further used for the following national workshop/on-site training activity of the project - To mobilize regional/national available references/materials to effectively promote the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the ASEAN Region - To prepare the translation of the regional guidelines on responsible fisheries management on the basis of the needs from each member country investigation 	<p>Supporting materials for HRD will be developed for being further used as national and regional references.⁽³⁾ These materials will be based on the Regional Guidelines of the Fisheries Management together with the outcomes from the earlier activities 1a and 1b at each representative country.</p> <p>Sharing available references/materials with cooperating projects such Fish Project, MTCP and UNEP/GEF SCS will be cost effective and benefits to the regional usage.</p>	⁽³⁾ referred to report of the RTC on HRD in Fisheries Management (see <u>Appendix 3</u> on page 30 for more information)

<p>1d) National Workshop/On-site Training⁽⁴⁾</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To test applicability of the regional developed supporting materials for HRD on fisheries management. - To gain experiences to be shared at the regional level on the HRD in fisheries management and management of fishing capacity - To introduce co-management⁽⁵⁾ approaches to effective management of fishery resources - To introduce an appropriate management mechanism including rights-based fisheries⁽⁶⁾ 	<p>The National workshop or On-site training in the set of representative countries will be organized to address the issues in accordance with the overall objective of fisheries development and management of each country (see more details in <u>Appendix 2</u>)</p>	<p>⁽⁴⁾ National Workshop or On-site training of the pilot process/studies will be organized in cost sharing basis.</p> <p>⁽⁵⁾ Co-management will be developed with specific local, national and regional context due note of the existing circumstance (rural – urban, small-scale / large-scale) at various level at the area (referred to point 26 in <u>Appendix 4</u>)</p> <p>⁽⁶⁾ SEAFDEC internal corporation with Rights-based fisheries project of SEAFDEC managed by Dr. Theo Ebbers</p>
<p>2) The RTC on HRD in Fisheries Management and Management of Fishing Capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To draw and analyze lessons and experiences learned from the implemented workshop/on-site training of the project together with other SEAFDEC and non-SEAFDEC’s relevant project implementing in the region - To promote sharing of experiences 	<p>This RTC will be developed and organized based on a number of the initiatives such as: the ASEAN-SEAFDEC RTC on HRD in Fisheries Management held in 2004 in Cambodia; the 4th and 5th Meeting of Regional Workshop of the Fisheries Component of the UNEP/GEF Project</p>	

	<p>of those lessons and experiences learned at the regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To finalize the supporting materials for HRD for regional usage for the future implementation of HRD programs/activities - To continue dialogue with other projects such FISH Project, MTCP, UNEP/GEF, etc. 	<p>on Reversing Environment Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand in 2004 in the Philippines and Vietnam, respectively; and the Preparatory Expert Meeting on Fishing Capacity and related HRD needs in the ASEAN region in 2004.</p> <p>This RTC will stress on the need to continue support member countries on HRD aspects with specific emphasis to draw lessons learned and sharing experiences for the regional usefulness from various project activities including other related projects/programs of SEAFDEC and non-SEAFDEC.</p>	
<p>3) Information collection on the Regional Inventory, Database and Network for HRD in Fisheries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To collect available information on the national HRD programs/activities which can be applicable for future possible regional usage - To update information on training facilities including resource persons for the fisheries HRD programs/activities in their representative countries - To assist Member Countries and relevant organizations in identification and prioritization of the regional fisheries HRD programs/activities 	<p>As agreed at the RTC on HRD in Fisheries Management held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2004, this activity will be carried out to develop a regional inventory, database and network for information collection on HRD in fisheries.</p> <p>The information will also cover information from all SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as other organizations such as FAO, UNEP/GEF, etc.</p>	<p>In collaboration with the appointed national focal point of each Member Countries through mobilization of SEAFDEC-WGRFP</p>

	- To coordinate the communication between interest parties and program coordinators	The inventory will be conducted by compilation of information in accordance with the format agreed at the RTC on HRD in Fisheries (see detail in <u>Appendix 13</u>)	
4) Establishment of the Regional Database and Network for HRD in Fisheries	- To upload collected information from those of Activities no. 3 to SEAFDEC's database server - To provide information collected to be available online search engine through SEAFDEC's website	After collecting information on the national HRD programs/activities which could be applicable for the regional usage, it will be then make available online in the format of search engine via website of the SEAFDEC mobilizing capacity of the database management personnel stationed at SEAFDEC-TD. All collected information and upcoming HRD programs/activities will be updated on the yearly basis.	In collaboration with the Database Management Personnel of Research Division of SEAFDEC/TD through mobilization of SEAFDEC-WGRFP

2005 Tentative Activities Planned

Act.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1a_Cam	■											
1a_Indo		■										
1a_Thai			■									
1a_Viet				■								
1b	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
1c	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
1d_Cam						■						
1d_Indo							■					
1d_Thai								■				
1d_Viet									■			
2											■	
3	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
4						■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Note:

1a = National Consultation/Meeting, 1b = Meeting with Cooperative Project, 1c = Preparation of the Training Materials for On-site training; and 1d = National Workshop/On-site Training

2 = the Regional Technical Consultation on HRD in Fisheries Management & Management of Fishing Capacity;

3 = Information collection on the Regional Inventory, Database and Network for HRD in Fisheries;

4 = Establishment of the Regional Inventory, Database and Network for HRD in Fisheries

Cam = Cambodia; Indo = Indonesia; Thai = Thailand; and Viet = Vietnam

APPENDICES

Adopted Strategy for Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region

Introduction

“The Strategy for Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region” was recommended as the outcome of the Regional Workshop on Human Resource Development in Fisheries. The Workshop was jointly organized by ASEAN and SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Malaysia and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) from 20 to 23 February 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Workshop was attended by national representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries. The Workshop was also attended by resource persons from Kagoshima University and Kansei Gakuin University, Japan, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) as well as representatives from INFOFISH, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific (NACA) and the Senior Advisor supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Officials of the ASEAN Secretariat as well as the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments also attended the Workshop. The list of participants appears as Annex 1.

Principle, Scope and Objective of the “Strategy”

The “Strategy” was considered vital to clarify the role of human resource development (HRD) to effectively implement the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region adopted at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People” held in 2001 (the Resolution and Plan of Action). The “Strategy” covers a wide range of HRD activities with particular emphasis on education, skills/competency training and research-based human capacity building. It is urged that government officials who are directly or indirectly implementing programs under the framework of the Resolution and Plan of Action should be the primary focus for this “Strategy”.

The “Strategy” is based on the following principle:

- The promotion of HRD in fisheries is primarily a national concern, and national capacity and resources are mobilized for maximum impact.
- Where there is insufficient capacity and/or resources available at the national level, bilateral and regional, and/or external supports are sought.
- Regional HRD activities are conducted on common needs to maximize the use of resources and benefits of the ASEAN member countries.

Strategy for Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region

To ensure long-term support to human resource development (HRD) in fisheries in the ASEAN region, the recommendations are as follows:

1. Regional collaboration should be strengthened to improve HRD activities at the national level.
2. Scope of HRD requirements including objectives, target groups/areas and levels will be identified in accordance with the Resolution and Plan of Action.
3. The development of human resource capacity should not only be on technical issues but also integrate social, environmental, legal, and other issues as identified in the Resolution and Plan of Action.
4. The ASEAN member countries should conduct awareness building activities to obtain cooperation/compliance of private sector on the issues, including national requirements for sustainable fisheries.
5. The ASEAN member countries may conduct HRD activities to introduce new technology to private sector, through consultation/collaboration with the intended beneficiaries.
6. HRD activities directed towards competency/skill-based training relevant to the current fisheries situation and demands of industry can be promoted where resources and mechanisms are available.
7. Each ASEAN-SEAFDEC member country should conduct an inventory of programs for HRD in fisheries that contain essential and usable information from fisheries-related agencies and HRD programs operated by relevant institutions, including universities. Based on this inventory, a regional database can be established and regularly updated to provide a basis for networking in HRD in fisheries.
8. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries and international/regional organizations should use the inventory and networking to identify gaps, avoid duplication of effort and ensure complementarity of HRD activities.
9. Partnership and regional cooperation, including south-south cooperation, exchange of expertise at national and regional levels, international/regional organizations, among external funding agencies, government authorities and academe, should be developed by fully mobilizing the inventory and networking.
10. Cost-sharing mechanisms (either cost-recovery or cost-sharing) should be encouraged to enhance the ownership and effectiveness of HRD programs in the ASEAN member Countries.
11. Regular monitoring and assessment of regional HRD activities should be conducted as part of the implementation of programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism.

Recommendations for Follow-up Actions

To promote the implementation of the Strategy for Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region, the following recommendations are identified for immediate follow-up actions:

1. ASEAN and SEAFDEC will jointly submit the “Strategy” to their higher authorities through the existing Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism for their consideration and endorsement. In line with the existing ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism, SEAFDEC will be assigned as the coordinator for the implementation of the “Strategy”.
2. Using the “Strategy” as the basis, and in collaboration with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries and other fisheries-related institutions, SEAFDEC will formulate regional program(s) to promote HRD in fisheries. This can be an integral part of the second phase of the Special 5-year Program on Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region.
3. SEAFDEC in collaboration with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries will develop a standard format for the inventory.

Summary Report of the ASEAN – SEAFDEC RTC on HRD in Fisheries Management, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 3-6 June 2004

I. Introduction

1. The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) was jointly organized by ASEAN and SEAFDEC with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in collaboration with Department of Fisheries, Cambodia, and UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project from 3 to 6 June 2004 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2. The RTC was attended by the national delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as representatives from ASEAN Secretariat, Coastal Habitat and Resource Management (CHARM) Project in Thailand, Mekong River Commission (MRC), SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project including its Regional Fisheries Working Group, and WorldFish Center. The list of participants appears as Annex 1.

3. The RTC was developed based on a number of the following important initiatives:

- Seminar on ASEAN-Japan Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries through SEAFDEC, 3-5 December 2003 in Tokyo, Japan;
- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on Human Resource Development in Fisheries, 20-23 February 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- SEAFDEC-Sida collaborative project on Human Resource Development on the Support of Implementation of the Code of conduct for Responsible Fisheries Management for the ASEAN Region; and
- 4th Meeting of Regional Working Group of the Fisheries Component of the UNEP/GEF Project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, 26-29 April 2004, Manila, the Philippines.

4. The RTC stressed on the need to support human resource development (HRD) aspects to the Member Countries in the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action adopted at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the Millennium Conference: 'Fish for the People' in 2001. Special emphasis of the RTC was given to the integration of social, environmental and legal aspects in HRD for fisheries management.

5. The RTC was held with the objectives to:

- Clarify objectives, target groups/areas and priority requirements for HRD in fisheries management at the national level with emphasis on small-scale fisheries;
- Clarify plans/activities to be promoted by the international/regional/national organizations concerned to fulfill the above identified requirements; and
- Suggest steps towards development and implementation of HRD in fisheries management in line with the CCRF and implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action.

6. The Meeting adopted Agenda as appears as Annex 2.

II. Plans and Framework for Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management

7. In line with the RTC's objectives particularly to clarify priority requirements and HRD plans/activities as well as steps towards development and implementation of HRD in fisheries management, the RTC developed plans and framework through group discussion focusing on the following three thematic issues:

- Management of Over Fishing Capacity (Annex 3);
- Strengthening of Local Fisheries Management Capacity (Annex 4); and
- Integrating Fisheries Management into Habitat Management (Annex 5)

III. Conclusion and Recommendations

8. HRD in fisheries management is specific to national situation. The Member Countries are encouraged to take initiatives and ownership in addressing the issues in accordance with the overall objective of fisheries development and management of each country. International/regional organizations are in the position to support or facilitate the national initiatives.

9. Based on the outcomes of the group discussion, HRD in fisheries management should be developed at all levels considering:

- **Legislation, law and regulations** – implication of international initiatives and conventions, structures/rules of local management, co-management approaches, functions of right-based fisheries and rights of resource users, institutional roles and responsibilities;
- **Social and economics** – implication of limiting access, reducing and managing fishing capacity, facilitating exit from fisheries, supplementary/alternative livelihoods, co-management concepts, survey/research techniques including consultation and participation; and
- **Environment** – habitats and reproduction areas, migratory routes and interconnectivity, supplementary/alternative livelihoods.

10. In line with the above considerations, in-country coordination among agencies concerned at national (fisheries/environment/forestry authorities and others) and local (local administrative organizations) levels should be promoted when developing HRD in fisheries management.

11. HRD should be promoted for effective integration of habitat management and fishery management including ecosystem approach to fisheries management, habitat rehabilitation, resources evaluation, and preparation of local fishery management plans. This also includes capacity development for communities to assess and regularly monitor the health of their fishery ecosystems through application of simplified but effective methods.

12. Follow-up in the collaboration among institutions at the national level as well as regional, and international organizations (SEAFDEC, FAO, UNEP/GEF, AIT, MRC, WorldFish Center) and projects (i.e. CHARM, FISH), working to raise the capacity of the Member Countries should be promoted to raise awareness of and implement the guidelines for responsible fisheries at all levels, and in an appropriate form aimed at each target audience, from the national level to communities, including schools, at the local level.

13. SEAFDEC was requested to consider provide assistance in capacity building to the Member Countries in the conduct of habitat surveys to determine their function in regards to spawning, feeding, nursery grounds, and connective corridors for important commercial, threatened, and migratory species. The outcome of the surveys will provide a basis for further development and establishment of refugia (areas managed for the maintenance of fish stocks) for each country, and also bilateral or sub-regional refugia.

Continued Steps for Development and Implementation of Human Resource Development in Fisheries management

14. To raise awareness and clarify practical approaches and steps in HRD in fisheries management in each country, national consultation can be conducted as an initial process to clarify ways forward.

15. The RTC supported the planned regional workshop on management of excess fishing capacity to clarify implementation guidelines in details and to define practical steps towards management of excess fishing capacity. The regional workshop should taken into account of the result of FAO technical consultation on the same topic scheduled to be held in the end of June 2004.

16. As a practical approach to develop/promote HRD in fisheries management, pilot projects in a representative set of countries in the region should be promoted as an approach for sharing experience at the regional level and further nation-wide HRD in fisheries management. Based on the outcomes of the group discussion, criteria for selection should be developed considering reduction of disparities among the Member Countries. Differences in development stage and fisheries situation should be considered including:

- Inland and marine fisheries;
- Building up process of developing marine fisheries;
- Archipelago fisheries;
- Major fishing industries with diversity of fisheries with conflicts between small-scale and commercial fisheries;
- Land-locked country; and
- Fisheries in political and economic transition.

17. As far as HRD in inland fisheries management in Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) is concerned, the RTC suggested that MRC could lead in promoting the HRD initiatives. SEAFDEC and other international/regional organizations should assist this effort and explore possibility to cover the other countries in the region.

Development of a Regional Inventory, Database and Network for Information Collection on Human Resource Development in Fisheries

18. The RTC agreed to develop a regional inventory, database and network for information collection on HRD in fisheries. The regional inventory will cover information from all SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as other organizations such as FAO, UNEP/GEF.

19. It was proposed that the national representatives attending this RTC could be appointed as the national focal point. SEAFDEC Secretariat was requested to send official letter requesting appointment of the national focal point and advising on detailed plan of the inventory to facilitate future undertaking. The terms of reference of the national focal points are:

- Collecting available information on the national HRD programs/activities which can be applicable for future possible regional usage;
- Updating information on training facilities including resource persons for the fisheries HRD programs/activities in their representative countries;
- Assisting in identification and prioritization of the regional fisheries HRD programs/activities; and
- Coordinating the communication between interested parties and program coordinators.

20. The regional inventory will be conducted by compilation of information in accordance with the agreed format ([Annex 6](#)) at the national level by the national focal points to be further compiled by SEAFDEC Secretariat. Selection of inputs will be decided by the national focal point taking into account the benefits of the information to other Member Countries.

Development of Supporting Materials for Human Resource Development Programs/Activities

21. The RTC recognized the importance of supporting materials for HRD programs/activities, and therefore generally supported the following initiatives:

- **Translation of regional guidelines on responsible fisheries management** – Each member country is encouraged to investigate the need for translation of the regional guidelines. Translation should consider conveying message and implication of the regional guidelines to the audience not direct translation. Where need arises, assistance from international/regional organizations like SEAFDEC and its collaborative partners can be sought.
- **Promotional materials on important management issues** – When developing promotional materials, existing materials developed by various institutions/projects such as Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme in Fisheries Management (MTCP), SEAFDEC, AIT, UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, etc. could be mobilized. The promotional materials could be developed in various forms such as comic book, brochures and mass media as an effective communication tool.

- **Regional reference for fishery managers** – Further investigation on the target groups, usage and focused issues of fisheries management of the regional reference should be conducted.

22. SEAFDEC Secretariat was requested to further clarify objectives, target audience and usefulness of the materials when developing supporting materials.

“Representative set” of countries: Process to be applied for follow up on HRD in Fisheries Management and the Code of Conduct

The recommendations from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 3 – 6 June 2004) stated in point 8 that:

“HRD in fisheries management is specific to national situation. The Member Countries are encouraged to take initiatives and ownership in addressing the issues in accordance with the overall objective of fisheries development and management of each country. International/regional organizations are in the position to support or facilitate the national initiatives.”

In point 16 it was furthermore stated that:

“As a practical approach to develop/promote HRD in fisheries management, pilot projects in a representative set of countries in the region should be promoted as **an approach for sharing experience at the regional level** and further nation-wide HRD in fisheries management. Based on the outcomes of the group discussion, criteria should be developed considering reduction of disparities among Member Countries. Differences in development stage and fisheries situation should be considered including:

- Inland and marine fisheries (1)
- Building up process of developing marine fisheries (2)
- Archipelago fisheries (3)
- Major fishing industries with diversity of fisheries with conflicts between small-scale and commercial fisheries (4)
- Land-locked country (5)
- Fisheries in political and economic transition (6)

In planning for activities to be implemented there should be a “follow up in the collaboration among institutions at the national level as well as regional, and international organisations and projects” (point 12 under RTC recommendations).

Given the variations among ASEAN Member Countries and the recommendations provided during the RTC the framework for the development and dialogue in terms of continued activities looks as indicated below with respect to the individual ASEAN Member Countries. The notes given bellow will also indicate opportunities to follow up on collaboration with other institutions and projects. In summary the indicated “pilot project” development would, as far as the **SEAFDEC-Sida Project** is concerned, include Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia to promote the sharing of experiences at regional level by in as far as possible “extracting” such experiences from ongoing national and regional projects. The SEAFDEC-Sida Project and SEAFDEC as such being regional in scope activities will primarily maintain this regional focus. Dialogue with the other

countries will be maintained and experiences and resource persons from the FISH project in Philippines and the MTCP in Malaysia will be integrated in the process.

CLMV Countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam)

Cambodia – the prime focus has been on *inland fisheries (1)* but there are also *substantial marine and coastal fisheries (1)*. Seen from the point of management the marine and coastal fisheries are in a *building up process of developing (2)* in terms of applying organised management schemes as well as in relation to the collection of information on the status of marine and coastal fisheries. With regards to inland fisheries the MRC has been a major provider of support whereas the coastal fisheries only have had limited support through the DOF. Most of support to “coastal development” has been provided through the Ministry of Environment, including support from **Danida, IDRC, ADB** (with Sida funds) and/or programmes such as those under **UNEP-COBSEA** (sometimes with involvement of DOF staff). A sequence of workshops similar to those organised for training on “statistics” could be recommended, using the experiences from these workshops while at the same time coordinate with **FAO-Sida Project on “Strengthening the Capacity in Fisheries Information Gathering for Management”** and related activities in Cambodia. The prime objective is to “extract” experiences to be shared at the regional level through a process that would also provide an initial training in defining fisheries management needs and opportunities to Cambodian authorities. Cooperation with **UNEP-GEF South China Sea Project** in the border areas towards Thailand and Vietnam respectively would help to focus on ways on addressing fisheries management aspects in “habitat” management (and finding a way to getting a dialogue between production and conservation interests – or between ministries/departments of fisheries and ministries/departments of environment) which was a regional priority aspect identified during the RTC. Given the coastal and EEZ “geography” of Cambodia the “pilot area” would initially cover all coastal provinces.

Lao PDR – is unique in the sense that it is the only *landlocked (5)* ASEAN Member Country. Being more or less totally within the Mekong basin, Laos is much dependent on the important inland fisheries of the Mekong. Laos is very much involved in the **MRC Fisheries Programme** which includes HRD for fisheries management, co-management, reservoir fisheries (a stated Lao priority during the RTC on statistics) as well as the **MRC Environment Programme** which among other things looks into aspects of “people and aquatic ecosystems”. As far as the **SEAFDEC-Sida project** is concerned, being set up to focus on coastal fisheries (knowing the important efforts already being done through the MRC on Mekong Fisheries), there is not any plans within the SEAFDEC-Sida project for specific activities in Laos. Experiences on regional and trans-boundary dimensions of fisheries management as perceived by the MRC could as found applicable be useful in building HRD on small-scale coastal fisheries in the region. **Other SEAFDEC projects** and initiatives are, and will continue to be implemented in Lao PDR. Reference above to MRC and Mekong Fisheries is also applicable to the Mekong fisheries in Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand

Myanmar – is rich in both *inland and marine/coastal fisheries (1)*. There are needs in HRD in both marine/coastal and inland fisheries management, development of statistical systems, etc. A well known problem is that it is at the moment difficult to attract external funding for activities and projects in Myanmar. Being a Member Country of SEAFDEC, SEAFDEC could explore possible ways to facilitate promotion of HRD in Fisheries Management in Myanmar.

Vietnam – is with its long coastline and “narrow” landmass highly dependent on marine and coastal resources and other developments in the coastal areas. In the deltas of the Mekong and Red River there is also a rich freshwater fishery. Vietnam is a country that is in *political and economic transition (6)* while maintaining the central role of the Party. This is also reflected in the need for HRD in fisheries management at various levels. The sequence of work would, with regards to follow up under the **SEAFDEC-Sida project**, (at least initially) be a line of consultations from which to “share experiences at the regional level as there are a number of major fisheries related projects such as the sector support from **Danida** and the support from **Norad** to develop the Fisheries Law (and mariculture). Cooperation with **UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project** would allow for views and responses to the integration of fisheries management into habitat management (note that the Ministry of Fisheries has been asked to develop a strategy for Marine Parks, etc). On the collection of information, including social, environmental and legal aspects experiences could be drawn from a number of earlier projects such as the **PCM** (Sida funded) and an **ADB** project on the South China Sea (Sida funded through ADB) while in the immediate future follow up on the implementation of the **FAO-Sida Project “Strengthening the Capacity in Fisheries Information Gathering for Management”**.

Countries other than the CLMV

Thailand – is the country in the region with the largest and most *developed fishing industry (4)* (even though Indonesia is landing more fish). At the same time there is a *substantial small-scale fishing sector* and there are *frequent conflicts (4)* between the commercial and small-scale sectors indicating that to develop and sustain local village based management of the small-scale fisheries aspects related to the “management” of the commercial (urban based) fisheries needs to be addressed. The complexity is important as under the 1997 Constitution there is an obligation to involve villagers in planning and management and the through the development of Tambon Administrations decentralisation is promoted. Subsequently HRD on fisheries management is needed at all levels (centrally to adopt and adjust to a new system). With regards to the **Sida-SEAFDEC Project** the activities will primarily be to maintain a dialogue with projects such as **CHARM**, **SEAFDEC Chumpon**, etc. and thereby be provided with “experiences to share at the regional level”. Along the same line it will also be important to explore ways to interact with and follow up on the implementation of the **FAO-Sida Project “Strengthening the Capacity in Fisheries Information Gathering for Management”**. Cooperation with

UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project would allow for views and responses to the integration of fisheries management into habitat management including aspects related to trans-boundary management issues in the border area between Thailand and Cambodia (Trat and Koh Kong Provinces).

Indonesia and Philippines – are both *archipelagic states* with large *archipelagic fisheries* (3). Indonesia is the country with the highest reported landings of the ASEAN Member Countries. Indonesia will be approached by SEAFDEC (under the **SEAFDEC-Sida Project**) to explore what steps to be taken, projects to follow up on with regards to aspects and experiences related to HRD in Fisheries Management (to be shared at the regional level). Parallel to this there will be a follow up on a dialogue between the Swedish National Board of Fisheries and Indonesia. With regards to the Philippines the initial stage will be based on a dialogue with the **FISH Project**. A maintained dialogue with **UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project** would in both countries allow for views and responses to the integration of fisheries management into habitat management.

Malaysia – is through its federal constitution a bit unique in that marine fisheries is a federal matter and freshwater and river fisheries is a state matter. Malaysia has embarked on an ambitious programme for “**Development of National Plan and Framework for Human Resources Development in Fisheries**”. It is expected that progress of the development will provide useful experiences to the region. Based on these experiences and other Malaysian projects together with staff at a number of institutes located in Malaysia (including SEAFDEC MFRDMD, World Fish Centre, INFOFISH, etc) there is a pool of resource persons available to draw upon.

Brunei and Singapore – are also unique due to the small size of the countries and in the case of Singapore in being a small island state. For the immediate work under the SEAFDEC-Sida Project Brunei and Singapore will primarily be a pool for resource persons, as needed, and a dialogue partner in the sharing of experiences.

**Report of the ASEAN – SEAFDEC Preparatory Experts Meeting
on Fishing Capacity and Related HRD Needs in the ASEAN Region
Bangkok, Thailand, 14-16 September 2004**

I. Introduction

1. The Preparatory Expert Meeting on Fishing Capacity and related Human Resource Development Needs in the ASEAN Region was organized under the ASEAN - SEAFDEC collaborative program with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) from 14 to 16 September 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand.

2. The Meeting was attended mainly by experts from SEAFDEC Secretariat and its Regional Fisheries Working Group as well as representatives from SEAFDEC Training Department (TD), SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Coastal Habitats and Resources Management Project (CHARM), Faculty of Fisheries of Kasetsart University of the Department of Fishery Management (KU), and Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest Project (FISH). The list of the experts and participants appears as Annex 1.

3. The framework and objective of the meeting was developed out of a number of important initiatives and events, such as:

- SEAFDEC-FAO Regional Workshop on the Management of Fishing Capacity, 7-9 November 2000 in Penang, Malaysia;
- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on Human Resource Development in Fisheries, 20-23 February 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management, 3-6 June 2004 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; and
- SEAFDEC-Sida Collaborative Project on Human Resource Development on the Support of the Implementation of the Code of Conduct

4. The Meeting was held with the objectives to:

- Highlight critical problems to manage fishing capacity in the ASEAN region;
- Promote collaboration between SEAFDEC and non-SEAFDEC projects and activities on how to respond to these problems in terms of HRD in the ASEAN region;
- Clarify implementation guidelines and to define practical steps towards management of excess fishing capacity, with special focus on human resource development; and to
- Discuss on the practicability and usefulness of human resource development focused pilot activities/studies to support the management of fishing capacity.

5. During the Meeting discussions focused on identification of problem areas, possibilities and target groups for various HRD interventions to alleviate problems caused by excess fishing capacity and related activities to be implemented to respond to social

changes/needs due to reduced opportunities to fish. The Meeting gave special attention to the practical steps to be taken towards development of human resource development programs for management of fishing capacity in the ASEAN region.

6. The Meeting adopted the Agenda as appears as Annex 2, and the list of the documents used during the meeting as shown in Annex 3.

7. The Meeting discussed on the issues and made recommendations based on the following “*Guiding Principles*” and “*Directions towards management of excess fishing capacity*” as recommended from group discussion at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on HRD for Fisheries Management in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Guiding principles

- FAO IPOA-Capacity
- Multi-gear/species of fisheries
- Emphasis on small-scale fisheries both inland and marine waters
- Integration social, economic, environmental, legal and political consideration
- Priority and practicability

Direction towards management of excess fishing capacity

- To control/regulate fishing capacity
- To replace open-access with limited access regime of fisheries
- To promote co-management approaches in fisheries management
- To understand the status and trends of fisheries

II. General Conclusion and Recommendations

8. Based on the presentation of SEAFDEC-PPC at the FAO Meeting on IUU and Fishing Capacity on the five major issues (Annex 4) related to the regional implementation of the IPOA-Capacity, the Meeting stated important and needs to implement issue on “Institutional and Human Capacity Building” which should not be considered as isolation.

9. The Meeting noted that the emphasis in the IPOA-Capacity on high sea commercial fisheries were not really applicable for many counties of the region in the development of NPOA’s for management of fishing capacity. Where it is applicable, related plans of action may, in a number of countries, already exist.

10. It was suggested that in follow-up of the implementation of the IPOA-Capacity in the region it is important to look at the linkage between the issue of over capacity in fisheries to other problems related to fisheries management in order to be able to fully address over capacity at the national and regional level. This should be further discussed with country representatives at regional meetings/workshops.

11. The application of the Lighthouse approach and “learning by doing” (Annex 5) used in the FISH Project in the Philippines was recognized by the Meeting as a useful approach.

The need to identify government “service delivery system” and its link and support to local authorities (Annex 6) was also seen as central in order to define applications of local management systems and responsibilities. Further exploration on the full line of this delivery system would be essential. Relevant and responsive “constituencies” should be built. With this approach and along these delivery systems it is required to look at related HRD needs and to explore the whole line of delivery down to the LGU’s (TAO’s, Commune Councils, Peoples’s Committees, etc.).

12. It was observed that there were two types of inputs to the meeting. The first reflected consultations, projects and project preparations at the international, regional and national level (FAO Meeting on IUU and Fishing Capacity, SEAFDEC-FAO Regional Workshop on Management of Fishing Capacity, and DOF Thailand-FAO).

13. The second type of inputs was experiences learned from various existing projects such as CHARM, FISH and some of those implemented by SEAFDEC in the region. Although the practical approaches on HRD for the continued implementation of the Sida supports under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG framework could not be directly drawn from those experiences, the points related to the HRD issues are being addressed below and elsewhere:

14. In terms of priority issues and HRD directions, the value for further reference of the summaries of the consultative process within the Trawl Base Project was recognized (Annex 7). During the discussions the Meeting came to highlight a number of important issues relevant to the management of fishing capacity both for capture fisheries and aquaculture in the region. However, in these discussions HRD related directions or recommendation was not clearly stated and the list of issues (Annex 8) became merely indications of topics around which HRD, for various levels, need to be developed.

III. Points to bear in mind for the continued the project implementation:

15. As indicated above - although the implications for HRD in not only technical aspects but also to legal, environmental and social aspects should be the prime focus for the meeting. It seemed not easy to maintain the specific focus on HRD related aspects during the discussions at the meeting that instead tended to shift into thematic and issues based aspects rather than HRD as such. In conclusion, the Meeting addressed the necessity to develop HRD initiatives for the management of fishing capacity bearing in mind the priority issues and thematic points listed in Annex 7, Annex 8 and elsewhere.

16. Both statistical data and the use of “indicators” are considered as necessary and useful tools in planning and managing of fishing capacity with HRD to be developed accordingly. The Meeting pointed out the need to know actual number of fishing boats and various types of gear of both commercial and small-scale fisheries. It was considered that measurement of fishing capacity in large scale operations seems, in principle, easier than that of small scale. It was also noted that there seems to be some “grey” areas on what is to be considered legal or illegal in many types of fisheries such as in the case of trawlers, push-netters, purse seiners, etc. (referred mainly to Agenda 3.2.3). Overall it is recognised

that measuring the fishing capacity actively used at different times is difficult – even in a well-organised society.

17. HRD programs should be developed at various levels and in various agencies/organizations on the content and applicability of existing legal and institutional frameworks (not only direct “fishery” law but also those related to public and social rights/responsibilities, environment, etc.) Distinctions and clarifications should be sought on aspect of legal and illegal fishing (and other uses of aquatic habitats), and unregistered and unregulated operations.

18. Regarding data on social aspects, trade, economic situation and development, environmental, etc., responsible agencies for collecting statistical data and information will be different in various countries depending on country specific institutional mandates. Accordingly, this might imply that the target group for HRD programs should include a wide range of various agencies other than those specifically focused on fisheries.

19. The Meeting noted the importance to link non-routine (often project based) to routine data collection for the development of HRD programs to further support management of fishing capacity in the region. The importance of also linking non-routine HRD and human capacity building to efforts to be made on a more routine based nature (less costly) that could be sustained over longer periods of time with the existing structures in the respective countries.

20. HRD for the management of fishing capacity should not be developed in “isolation” but it should, taking into consideration related aspects such as those indicated in Annex 7 and Annex 8, be developed with references to and in consideration of the perspective of HRD for overall fisheries management, including both rural and national perspectives and development.

21. An observation made was that, even tough being on the Agenda it was difficult to get social, legal and environmental aspects for fisheries management fully addressed in discussions at meetings like this. Other related meetings on fishing capacity, where social and legal matters had been on the Agenda such as the DOF-FAO meeting in Cha-Am Meeting (on management of commercial fishing capacity) provide similar experiences.

22. In the development of national plans for fishery management there is a continuous development of international restrictions and trends that in practice, for each country, implies limits within which the national plans have to be developed. The development of IPOA’s, Conventions and international and regional agreements such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Convention International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), rules by the World Trade Organization (WTO), Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), etc. are all external factors with direct implication for national planning processes. HRD on the implications of these international instruments need to be included.

23. An area, often neglected, in terms of HRD is to gain a feeling for changes over time in the values being given to various species and products, including “Changes in consumer preferences”. It should be recognized that products of low value could become of higher value (and vice versa) – low value fish should perhaps be termed “presently low value fish” – which could imply needed changes in management responses.

24. HRD on the implementation of “rights-based fisheries” and systems of licenses should be developed taking into consideration the implications of these systems in promoting a balanced and sustainable management of the fisheries as a whole. It should be recognised that giving “rights” is basically, in an open access context, taking away the rights from others (those not holding the introduced right or license). In addition, it is important to distinguish between user rights and property rights with that of rights and responsibilities to “manage”.

25. Regarding HRD programs to support management of fishing capacity, specific focus should be given to that of the human side of fisheries management rather than that of the management of resources as such management as it might be easier or more productive to focus on the persons involved in fisheries and using the fishing capacity than to try to manage capacity by managing the natural fishery resources.

26. “Co-management” should be seen and developed in its specific local, national and regional context taking due note of the existing circumstances (rural – urban, small-scale/large-scale) at various levels and areas.

27. In developing HRD programs special efforts should be made to build into the design, for each target group, abilities to find and develop opportunities out of sets of problems and issues.

28. In the design of HRD programs for the use of “indicator” for sustainable capture fisheries in the region the use of indicators for the following three points should be included:

- Resource status and change;
- Social status and change; and
- Environmental status and change

IV. Considerations for the Pilot projects/area (including On-site Training)

29. Taking due note of the recommendation that HRD (and pilot work/activities) on the management of fishing capacity should be planned and implemented in conjunction with that of fisheries management as such, including aspects of rights based fisheries, local management responsibilities, statistics, etc it was further recommended that a focus on fishing capacity should be included in the “process of pilot project” recommended on fisheries management for the SEAFDEC-Sida project implementation during the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management, 3-6 June 2004 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia”

30. As recommendations from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on HRD in Fisheries Management in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during 3-6 June 2004 stated in point 8, 12 and 16 of its report, the Meeting took note on the following for the process of the pilot project for SEAFDEC-Sida project implementation:

31. HRD in fisheries management is specific to national situation. The Member Countries are encouraged to take initiatives and ownership in addressing the management of each country. International/regional organizations are in the position to support or to facilitate the national initiatives. (Point 8)

32. Planning for pilot activities for future implementation should be a follow-up in the collaboration among institutions at the national level as well as regional and international organizations and project. (Point 12)

33. As a practical approach to develop/promote HRD in fisheries management, pilot projects in a representative set of countries in the region should be promoted as an approach for sharing experience at the regional level and further nation-wide HRD in fisheries management. Based on the outcomes of the group discussion, criteria should be developed considering reduction of disparities among the Member Countries. Differences in development stage and fisheries situation should be considered including (Point 16):

- Inland and marine fisheries
- Building up process of developing marine fisheries
- Archipelago fisheries
- Major fishing industries with diversity of fisheries with conflicts between small-scale and commercial fisheries
- Land-locked countries
- Fisheries in political and economical transition

34. In planning for pilot activities (pilot processes) in addressing the development of HRD programs at various levels it is important that specific criteria is developed for each country and each situation. These criteria should, ideally, be developed together with involved/relevant institutions (and projects) to define size, scope, location, etc.

35. Note that pilot activities or pilot processes “to share experiences at the regional level” needs could in practice be merely a process of extracting relevant experiences from a range of implemented activities and projects at various levels on items to consider in the development and implementation of HRD programs.

36. A pilot “area” for drawing experience on HRD related matters does not have to be small. It can, as shown during the meeting by the example from Tunisia, be a whole coastline or a whole segment of fisheries (such as trawling, etc.).

37. Experiences in site selection from the project on “Resource Enhancement” showed that difficulties occurred as the area, being the same area as that of another project on locally based management, turned out not to be ideal for the application of artificial reefs.

38. At village level criteria should consider existing, legally established systems of local authority such as TAO, LGU, Commune Councils, People’s Committees, etc. while at the same time recognising the establishment/rights of individual initiatives, local entrepreneurs, cooperatives/“community fisheries” of relevance to the management of fisheries and fishing capacity. Consultations and communication would be needed to define the specific patterns available.

39. In the pilot process (dialogue, sequences of workshops and consultations, etc) training elements could be included already in the process to share experiences at the regional level on HRD related matters on how to respond local needs and to incorporate recommendation from relevant institutions. Focus for this training could be various levels in the “service delivery system” as well as for specific target groups. As far as possible this should be applied to help “to reduce disparity among the ASEAN countries”.

VI. Practical steps for development of HRD programs to support management of fishing capacity

40. In the preparations for the continuation, including the pilot process, HRD for management of fishing capacity within the context of fisheries management will not only be an isolated process for the pilot project implementation of the SEAFDEC-Sida project. Other SEAFDEC’s project such the ones on rights-based fisheries management and locally-based fisheries management, as well as relevant non-SEAFDEC projects, should be included or referred to in the process.

41. Contacts will in the near future be taken with a number of countries, through the working group members, as indicated to discuss steps to be taken and to develop suitable criteria for each pilot process including contacts with existing capacities at different levels of the organisational structures. The experiences from the implementation of other projects will be sought and shared at the regional level.

42. Implement pilot activities, according to criteria to be developed, in a “representative set of countries” to draw common lessons learned from ongoing activities and relevant projects is a basis for the sharing of experiences and to develop ways forwards at the regional level on HRD programming.

43. Identify projects/institutions in the countries which are, or have been, involved in HRD, training or other activities (and projects) of relevance, and as appropriate promote dialogues and coordination with them to share information and experience in the course of implementation of pilot processes. Maintain a dialogue with projects like FISH (the

Philippines), MTCP (Malaysia) and the Fisheries Component of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project.

44. In each of the pilot processes (in the representative set of countries), conduct national consultation as an initial HRD activity to raise awareness on the importance of fisheries management, identify existing or prior HRD and capacity building programs, identify capacity building requirement and strategies, and HRD activities to be followed-up by SEAFDEC-Sida project (and by others after the project). The consultation will involve representatives of stakeholders in fisheries as defined during earlier contacts and criteria setting. The regional guidelines on responsible fisheries management, the HRD meeting in Phnom Penh and the outcomes of preparatory expert meetings can provide inputs to the consultations.

45. Through the processes HRD supporting materials should be developed as part of the pilot activities and used in the implementation of the pilot projects. The materials produced will be part of a learning-by-doing within the processes as such while in its documented, after accommodating various experiences from the pilot activities, also be considered as a major outcome of the SEAFDEC-Sida project. In preparations for some of these materials cooperation could be sought from organisations and projects as indicated during the HRD Meeting in Phnom Penh (point 7.3.2 of the report from that meeting)

46. The implementation of the pilot process implementation for the SEAFDEC-Sida based on the recommendation from the meeting is illustrated in Annex 9.

47. After the end of the sequence of the pilot process or consultations in each of the countries summarize/synthesize experiences and lessons learned to be used as an input for presentations and discussions at a forthcoming RTC on HRD for Fisheries Management and the Management of Fishing Capacity.

48. A combined RTC on HRD for Fisheries Management and the Management of Fishing Capacity should be organised, possibly by the end of 2005. It should be based on the outcomes and experiences drawn from the implementation of the pilot processes as well as similar experience from other projects. The RTC is envisaged to better clarify practical approaches for fisheries management and specifically for the management of fishing capacity and what supporting HRD to develop in the future directed towards specified target groups.

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ADOPTED AGENDA

Agenda 1 Opening of the Meeting

Agenda 2 Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda 3 Review of references and papers

3.1 IPOA-Capacity

3.2 International/regional/national related events/meetings

3.2.1 FAO Meeting on IUU and fishing capacity

3.2.2 Regional Workshop on management of fishing capacity
(Malaysia, 2000)

3.2.3 National Workshop on management of fishing capacity in
Thailand (2004)

3.2.4 Other related Meetings/Consultations

**Agenda 4 Co-management approaches for fisheries management by experiences
learned from the existing SEAFDEC relevant projects**

4.1 Locally-based fisheries management

4.2 Resource Enhancement

Agenda 5 Status and Trends of Fisheries

5.1 Inland and small-scale coastal capture fisheries, commercial capture
fisheries, and status of the regional fisheries aquaculture

5.2 Identification of indicators for sustainable fisheries management in
capture fisheries

5.3 Improvement of fisheries statistical system

Agenda 6 Limited access regime of fisheries and control/regulate fishing capacity

6.1 Decentralized/Right-based fisheries for sustainable development

6.2 Right-based project in Bang Saphan Bay fishery community

6.3 Management of fishing capacity in an archipelagic state

6.4 Various coastal fisheries management project in Thailand

6.5 Freezing the fishing fleet (Proposal)

**Agenda 7 Practical steps towards development of HRD programs for management of
fishing capacity**

Agenda 8 Adoption of the meeting report (cancelled)

Agenda 9 Closing

LIST OF THE DOCUMENTS

Information Documents

- INF_01 Provisional Prospectus
INF_02 Provisional List of Documents

Working Documents

- WP_01 Provisional Agenda
WP_02a Provisional Agenda and Timetable
WP_02b Provisional Annotated Agenda
WP_ADD1 Solving the Fishers' Delimma Towards Right-based Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia
WP_ADD2 Freezing the Fishing Fleets
WP_ADD3 Identification of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region: An Overview

References

- REF_01 Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region
REF_02 Strategy for Human Resource Development in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region
REF_03 Short Note on the Issue of Fishing Capacity and the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
REF_04 Initial Guidelines for the Management of Fishing Capacity in Southeast Asia
REF_05 Minute of the Regional Workshop on Management of Fishing Capacity, 7-9 November 2000, Penang, Malaysia
REF_06 FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity: Review of Progress in ASEAN Countries (DRAFT)
REF_07 Report of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management, Phnom Penh, Cambodia 3-6 June 2004
REF_08 Result of Group Discussion on Excess Fishing Capacity during "ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Human Resource Development in Fisheries Management" held at Cambodia during 3-6 June 2004
REF_09 Back to Office Report: National Seminar on Reduction and Management of Fishing Capacity in Thailand, 10-14 May 2004, Cha-am, Petchaburi
REF_10 Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries
REF_11 Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Major Issues

- 1) Effective access regulatory system to fisheries
 - a. Rights-based fisheries
 - b. Freezing number of vessels
- 2) Supporting legislation
- 3) Capacity building – institution & human
- 4) Effective tools to understand status & trend of fisheries
- 5) Co-management

NOTE: The meeting recognized that point 3) Capacity building – institution & human should not be a separate item but a generic point that should be applicable to all the other four points.

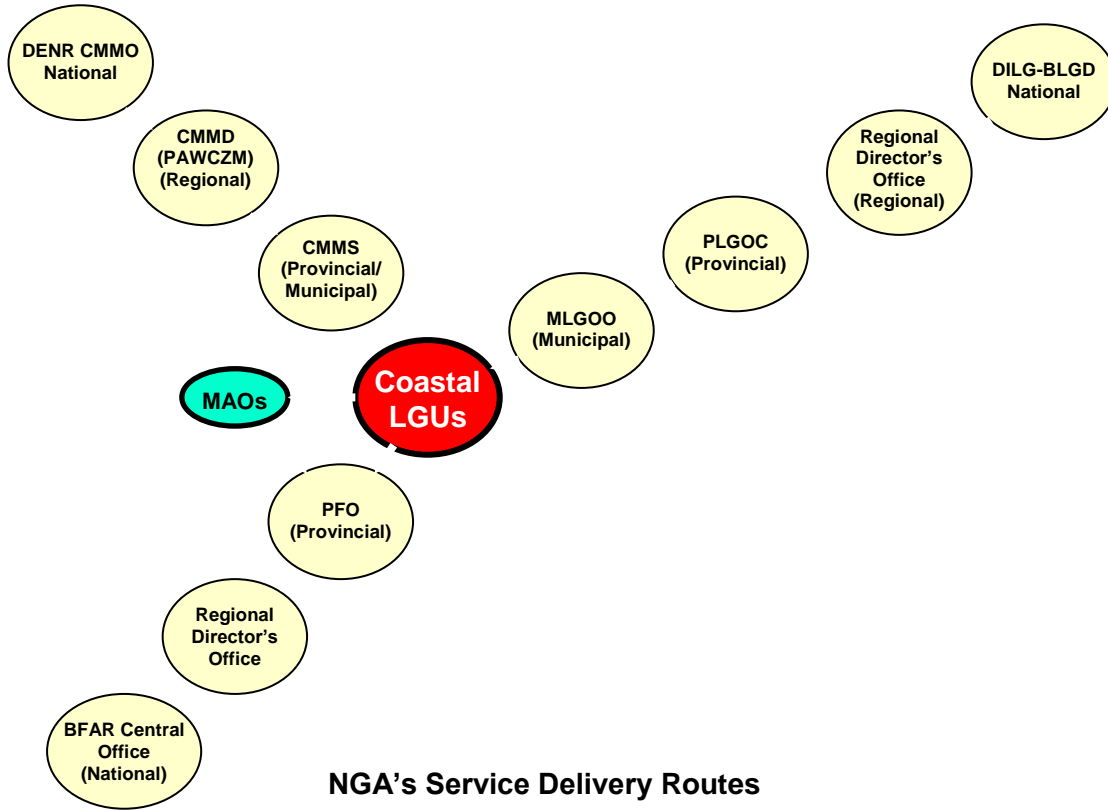
**LIGHTHOUSE APPROACH APPLIED IN THE FISH PROJECT
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

- Need for Fisheries Management/Practitioners**
 - National, sub-national, local levels
 - Planning, implementation, M&E skills
 - Appreciation of biophysical, economic, social and institutional context of fisheries
 - Solid understanding of management situation, tools and constituency-building

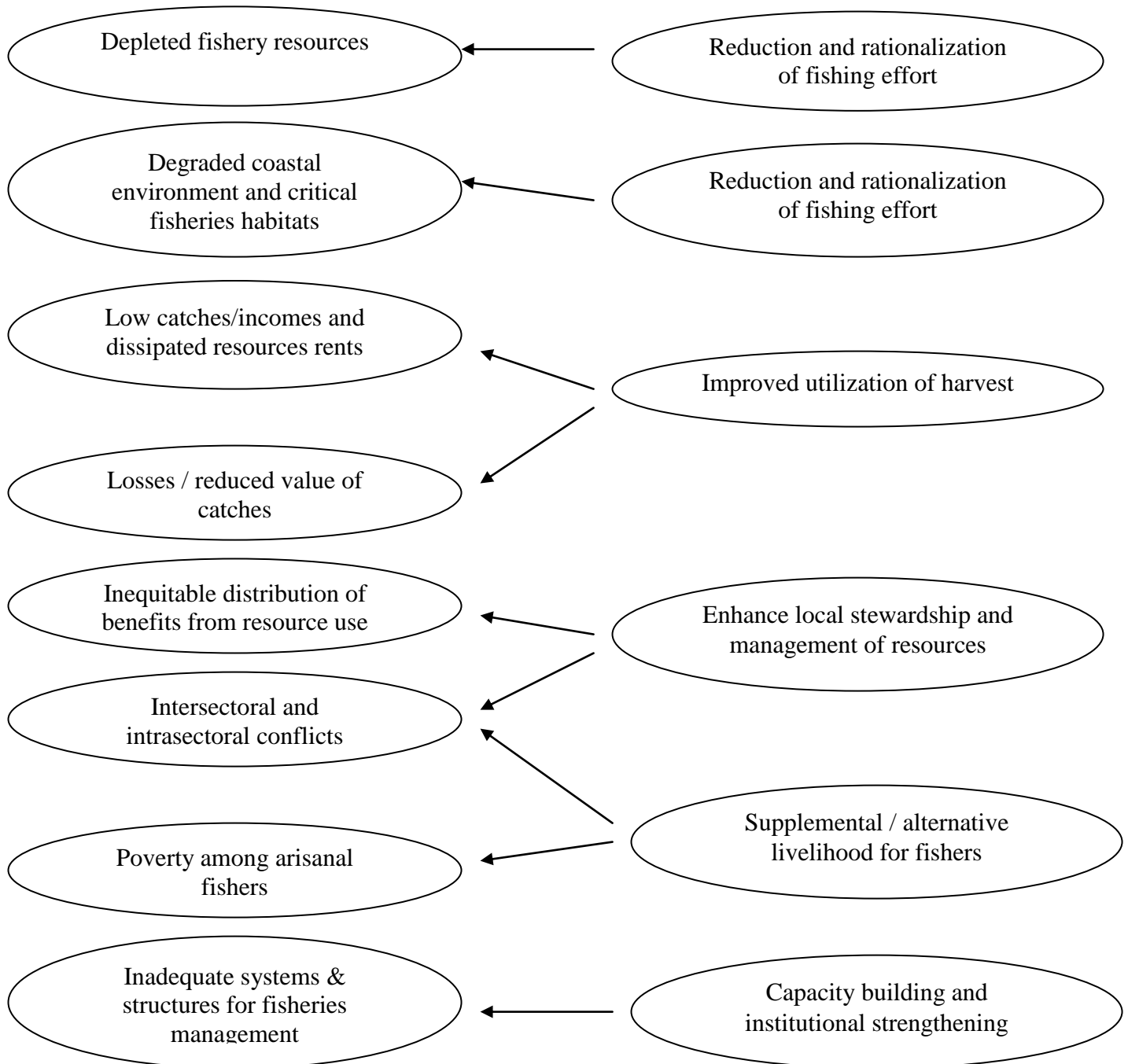
- Need for Specialists/Practitioners in**
 - MPAs
 - Effort rationalization, licensing and enforcement
 - Livelihood programs
 - Co-management
 - Post-harvest and marketing
 - Institutional strengthening
 - Constituency-building
 - Reproductive health

- Need for “Training by Doing” via “Lighthouse” projects**

- Need for Capability and Training Needs Assessment**



PRIORITY ISSUES AND HRD DIRECTIONS AS FURTHER REFERENCE



MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

Coastal Fisheries

- **Effective access regulatory system to fisheries**
 - **Rights-based fisheries (Enhanced local stewardship and management of resources)**
 - **Freezing number of fishing boats**
- **Supporting legislation**
- **Capacity building – institution & human**
- **Effective tools to understand status & trend of fisheries**
- **Co-management**
 - **Introduction of the Japanese system**
- **Reduction and rationalization of fishing effort**
- **Protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of coastal habitats**
- **Improved utilization of harvests**
- **Supplemental/alternative livelihood for fishers**
- **Limit fishing technology**
- **Introduction of the selective fishing gear and devices**
- **Stop fishing subsidy**
- **Enforcing an age limit on fishing boat**
- **Provide compensation for fishers whose jobs are lost**
- **Non-transferable fishing license**
- **Market mechanism**
- **Closer consultation with stakeholders**

Aquaculture

- **Including external cost in production cost**
- **COC, GAP**

Pilot process for the SEAFDEC-Sida HRD program implementation in Fisheries Management (including management of Fishing Capacity)¹

Through the WGRFP organize a planning and criteria setting meeting with countries

- Initiate and have meetings in Cambodia, Indonesian, Thailand and Vietnam
- Establish/confirm links and cooperation with FISH Project (the Philippines), MTCP (Malaysia) and UNEP/GEF Fisheries Comp.
- Meeting with MRC on their HRD program for inland fisheries



Pilot Process 1a: Organization of National Consultations

- Mobilization of SEAFDEC and other resource persons as indicated during planning and criteria setting
- Mobilization/invitation of relevant institutions and expertise within the country.



Pilot Process 1b: Meeting with cooperating projects

- Arrange meeting with FISH Project (the Philippines), MTCP (Malaysia) and UNEP/GEF Fisheries, respectively, and/or take part in some relevant event under each/either of the projects
- Follow up on MRC experiences as indicated during earlier meeting



Pilot Process 2a + 2b: Continued activities, dialogue and/or “on-site training” (including references and materials development)

- Build on results and recommendations from stage 1a and 1b, by:
- As recommended, on a country by country basis, embark on sequence of “on-site training” (similar to the ones for statistics in the CLMV countries) and in a learning-by-doing process gather experiences to be shared at the regional level
 - In other countries establish links/cooperation with major project(s) to share experiences at the regional level
 - Continue the dialogue/cooperation with FISH, MTCP and UNEP/GEF Fisheries to share experiences at the regional level



Pilot Process 3: Lessons learned and experiences to share

- As needed a final sequence of the “on-site-training”
- Mobilization of SEAFDEC and other resource persons to analyze lessons learned and experiences to share
- Preparation for a Regional Technical Consultation, including mobilization and invitation of relevant institutions and expertise



Organization of the Regional technical consultation (Fisheries Management and the Management of Fishing Capacity)

¹ Discuss with Dr. Theo Ebbers (Rights Based Fisheries) on practical links in the processes ahead

“Freezing the Fishing Fleets”

Olivier Delahaye Gamucci

(Presented at the Preparatory Experts Meeting on Fishing Capacity and Related HRD Needs in the ASEAN Region, 14-16 September 2004, Bangkok, Thailand)

Introduction

The issues of excess fishing capacity in world fisheries are of increasing concern as they contribute considerably to overfishing, the degradation of marine fisheries resources and habitats, and are a significant economic misuse. Without action, fishing pressure and fishing conflicts are likely to increase, and will lead to resource depletion through overfishing. These issues call for strong collaborative efforts to curb the escalation.

On 1st July 2004, 84 FAO Member Countries concluded a technical consultation to review the progress and implementation of International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity) and issues related to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Importantly for the region, the meeting required FAO to provide further support to developing countries struggling with problems of capacity management and illicit fishing. Similarly, fishing capacity has been a sizzling issue on the WTO forum, where subsidies encouraging overcapitalization are increasingly seen as unacceptable.

What is fishing capacity?

In the simplest of terms, fishing capacity is the ability of a vessel or fleet of vessels to catch fish. This ability is based on four components which contribute to the overall catching power of the fleet:

1. The number of fishing vessels in the fleet;
2. The size of each vessel;
3. The technical efficiency of each vessel, determined by factors such as on-board gear and equipment, fishermen's knowledge and techniques, and the size of the crew; and
4. The time spent fishing.

The term "overcapacity" indicates a level of catching power that exceeds what is needed to catch available fishery resources. When a fishery is described as “overcapitalized”, it means that the industry has invested more in fishing capacity than what is needed to catch fish at the least cost.

The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries specifies that States should take measures to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity and ensure that levels of fishing effort are commensurate with sustainable use of fishery resources. In order to address the issue of excess fishing capacity through fisheries management, FAO prepared the IPOA-Capacity, endorsed in June 1999. Subsequently, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, specified implementation of the IPOA-Capacity as a time-bound goal, calling for developing and implementing national and, where appropriate, regional plans of action by 2005.

‘The tragedy of open access’

The main reason behind the worldwide overcapitalization in fisheries is unlimited access to the resources. Participation in a fishery managed under an open access regime is restricted only by required skills and investment. In a very market economy approach and understanding of fishing, on which most solutions currently tried out are based, the tragedy is as follow.

Early entrants in an open access fishery generally reap substantial profits, which in turn attract additional fishermen. Eventually, the fishery reaches a level where no additional fishing pressure is needed to capture available fishery resources. Yet, the fishermen often continue to invest capital in the fishery beyond that level, creating an excess of fishing capacity through what is known as ‘capital stuffing’ in order to catch the fish before any competitor does, a phenomenon also called ‘race for the fish’.

Once total catch exceeds the maximum biological productivity of the stocks, the fishermen have to invest even more capital in the fishery just to maintain the same level of catch. This cycle of increasing investments and decreasing returns ultimately reduce profits to a level where fishing become unprofitable, causing the fisheries to collapse. Where subsidies are provided, fishing activities may even continue beyond that point, possibly leading to a near-complete exhaustion of resources.

Controlling fishing capacity

In the past, fishery managers have attempted to control fishing capacity through regulations on inputs (such as numbers of vessels, time spent fishing, or gear restrictions) or outputs (total allowable catch possibly divided into individual quotas). More recently, managers began to implement limited access regimes to fisheries and resources, relying on rights-based management schemes. Yet, none of these measures does effectively remove the incentive in capital stuffing to race for the fish.

A recent FAO review of the progress on the implementation of the IPOA-Capacity shown that most countries deals with the management of fishing capacity through the limitation of new boats entries to fishing fleets, at least for commercial fisheries, together with measures aimed at limiting the use of existing capacity. Practically, they directly incorporate capacity considerations into their fisheries management regimes. Generally, countries worldwide seem to have been rather successful in stabilizing the size of their commercial fishing fleet, although new technologies and improvements to vessels’ ability to catch fish may counterbalance these trends. More importantly, smaller-scale fisheries - still largely unchecked - continue to expand.

Controlling capacity in the less developed regions of the world does not consist in removing the poor from fishing and make way for the richer commercial vessels. While the poor are competing for a resource for their basic survival and livelihoods; the “commercials” can make good profits with it. Yet, any attempt to control capacity by focusing only on the larger fishing operations is doomed to failure in these developing

countries since mounting overcapacity in these areas is often simply caused by a growing number of fishermen rather than occurring because of new technologies or capital stuffing.

Thus any reduction of fishing capacity must be accompanied with alternative or supplementary livelihoods, as often these people depend on fishing for their very survival. In many ways, fisheries is seen by the poorest as the last alternative for employment. The dominance of small-scale fisheries also renders the management of capacity very difficult to implement as it requires well developed and effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) schemes. Yet, in these countries, there is usually a lack of institutional and technical capacity for research and policy development as well as for implementation.

The case of tropical coastal fisheries

During the FAO Technical Consultation mentioned above, it was recognized that the nature of fisheries is so diversified in the various regions of the world that more should be expected from regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and States. The global initiatives promoted mainly by the more developed nations, although useful to raise awareness on the issues, might not be valid for less privileged countries. The international framework as promoted by FAO through the IPOA-Capacity might be appropriate for high seas fisheries if addressed, but when working with issues related to resources and fisheries in EEZ or for transboundary fish stock, practical approaches should be left to more local authorities such as RFMOs or individual states.

In the ASEAN region, overcapacity is seen as the largest fisheries management problem threatening sustainability. In many places, catches by coastal fisheries are (guessed to be) in excess of sustainable levels, but with little alternative source of employment, reducing fishing capacity is a difficult challenge. The relevant fisheries management agency in each ASEAN Member Countries is considered as responsible to address such a task.

Although one may reject such an assertion, it is important to generalize and recognize that the fisheries situation in the region is in the state of overcapacity. Some may argue that a particular fishery has not (yet) reached that status, and they might be correct in some cases, but nonetheless it is imperative that each Member Country first recognizes that fisheries resources which are not fully regulated are likely to be overexploited as a basis for future actions. There lies the assumption that the current number of fishing boats in the region should be frozen to its current level before proceeding with further management based on reliable statistical information.

As discussed above, reducing fishing capacity in the region goes with important socio-economic consequences for some of the poorest segments of the population. Although these must be considered, and as much as possible answered for, there is no way to start policy consideration for achieving sustainable fisheries if such arguments must be directly fully accommodated.

Addressing the issues in Southeast Asia

Shortly after the adoption of the IPOA-Capacity, SEAFDEC and its Member Countries organized a joint workshop with FAO on overcapacity in Penang in November 2000, fixedly recognizing problems of excess fishing capacity in the region. Beside the recognition that the mechanisms proposed by FAO would not be appropriate for the region considering its specific fisheries, the meeting also came out with initial guidelines for the management of fishing capacity in the region. Amongst these, the meeting recognized the importance to develop indicators that would help to understand the status and trend of individual fisheries, as a first step to consider the problem of overcapacity.

If ASEAN governments are to take management action to stabilize and even reduce excess fishing capacity, it is imperative for the scientific basis and facts that support such policy to be explained to the various stakeholders for their compliance, especially to the political stakeholders. The progressive decentralization of fisheries management and the introduction of rights-based fisheries are seen as providing a two-fold solution to the issue of excess capacity of small-scale fisheries. First, they build awareness and a sense of responsibility amongst the local stakeholders. Second, such schemes reorient the incentives influencing fishing communities so that instead of racing the fish, the fishermen tend to adjust their efforts toward levels ensuring longer-term sustainable resource use.

Managing the fishing capacity of commercial fleets in Southeast Asia

The Millennium Conference encouraged measures to improve the registration of fishing vessels together with the reduction of their number and level of fishing effort. Larger vessels are managed under a rights-based fisheries system, through each national licensing scheme, which usually encourages the freezing of their number to their current level. Most of commercial vessels are excluded from fishing into coastal waters.

Closing the commons

Along this line, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries recognized the importance of community participation when limiting access to fisheries resources. Local communities are progressively empowered to make the difficult decisions concerning fishery capacity and the sharing of incomes from coastal fisheries.

The Millennium Conference placed the first stone in the process of promoting directions toward the decentralization and the introduction of rights-based fisheries in the region. The adopted Resolution pledged to encourage effective management of fisheries through delegation of selected management function to the local level, and recognized the need to progressively replace “open access” to fisheries resources with “limited access regimes” through the introduction of rights-based fisheries, which may also facilitate the management of fishing capacity and promote the use of responsible fishing gears and practices. Besides, the Plan of Action adopted during the Conference guided to review the issues of fishing capacity at the national level and to recommend, where appropriate, the

introduction of rights-based fisheries and the reduction of the number of fishing boats and level of fishing effort using government incentives.

The implementation of limited access regimes and the delegation of management authority to the local level were extensively discussed during the Regional Workshop on Innovative Fisheries Management Approaches in Southeast Asia: Rights-Based Fisheries and Decentralization, held in Phuket in May 2003. Serious efforts were put to clarify possible ways to implement these issues at the regional and national level. The workshop recognized the need for individual countries, to review their existing legal frameworks with regards to fishing rights, with a view on how the existing legal provisions relate to capacity management and regulation of access to fisheries.

Policy consideration: where to start?

In the recent Regional Technical Consultation on Human Resource Development for Fisheries Management, held in Phnom Penh last June, clarification were sought on what policy change was required to achieve sustainable fisheries, especially in the light of possible human resource development needs. In this context, the issues of overcapacity were raised once again, and conversed through a specific group discussion. The outcomes mostly confirmed that alleviating issues of excess fishing capacity in the region could be achieved through three main tracks:

1. To gradually introduce rights-based fisheries management regimes,
2. To understand the state and trends of fisheries using indicators, and
3. To control the number of fishing boats.

These form a basis to consider changes in policy. While the two first tracks are relatively well accepted by the stakeholders in the different Member Countries, controlling the numbers of fishing boats, especially for small-scale fisheries is a far more sensitive issue. If one consults with fishing communities in each Member Country, he could likely realize that most of the fishermen may immediately agree with the concept of not allowing any additional fishing boat to enter the local fisheries. In other words, the concept of freezing the number of fishing boats is relatively well accepted; as fishermen feel this will somewhat guarantee the stability of their income in the future. It also provides them with a basic sense of ownership and responsibility toward the resources. Most are extremely concerned that the ever increasing numbers of fishermen and boats will eventually reduce their portion of catch. If this is confirmed, the Member Countries should start to discuss with their fishermen on how to freeze the numbers of boats or fishers, as a first step toward the management of fishing capacity on a case by case, fishery by fishery basis.

The way out

Such an approach would require each government fishery management agency to introduce appropriate registration of all large-scale and small-scale fishing boats as well as fishermen, consequently followed by the complete stops of any new registration after a certain period of time. The agency must reach an agreement with the fishermen, stating that only

registered boats and fishermen can go fishing from now on, and encouraging fishermen to collaborate with existing MCS enforcing authorities in reporting illegal fishing. In the course of freezing existing capacity, a framework must be set by the government in direct consultation with the fishermen and other stakeholders, notably answering the following important questions:

1. Who are the “professional fishermen” to who a fishing right would be granted? What are the criteria that will be used to identify them (e.g. minimum % of incomes coming from fisheries, minimum number of fishing days per year)?
2. How can we deal with part-time fishermen?
3. What are the benefits for the fishermen to be registered and thus support such as registration system?
4. What kind of registration system? At what level: national, provincial or district level?
5. Which are the registration agencies? Who decides which individuals are entitled to be registered?
6. To which frequency the registration will be revised?
7. What are the obligations of the fishermen who registered? Monitoring, provision of basic fisheries statistics?
8. What are the enforcement mechanisms for the conditions agreed through the registration system?
9. What are the penalties for registered users violating the agreed conditions? Termination of the user’s right of registration? What for unregistered users?

This will be factually the introduction of all national fishing activities into a rights-based fisheries management approach. Fishing rights will therefore have to be clarified with further discussion with the fishermen and other stakeholders:

1. To whom the government provides the right? If fishermen individually, can the rights be casually transferred to some entrepreneurs? A small numbers of local entrepreneurs such as traditional middlemen could then eventually monopolize a large portion of the fishing rights. Then the question may goes to provide responsibilities and mandate to appropriate local institutions such as fishermen groups or communities.
2. How the government will encourage and support the local institution, including financial and technical assistance?
3. What kind of right can be provided? Based on areas, type of fishing gears, period of time?
4. What are the conditions of implementation of these fishing rights? Especially, what will be the measures against illegal fishing?

Once simple but enforceable conditions to access fishing rights at the community level are established, compliance can be left for the community to manage, with proper support from the government.

Conclusion

The need for freezing the number of fishing boats and fishermen with the right to fish to its current number are a reality that all must recognize. Although registration and freezing of the larger-scale commercial fishermen has been initiated, this must be extended to all users, to include all fishermen, counting in small-scale operations that altogether catch far more fish in the region than their commercial counterparts. Control of fishing rights for these dominantly impoverished subsistence fishermen can be only achieved through collaboration and consultation with the local communities, and possibly the devolution of some management authority later on. Local communities and fishermen must be at the heart of the registration, freezing, management and reporting measures for proper compliance and enforcement.

The urgent need for freezing fishing capacity is critical to avoid further acceleration in the depletion of resources, although it is little but a first step toward the serious management of fishing capacity that must be accomplished later on. Provided that both the relevant governmental agency and local communities get proper assistance, and that the use of indicators to understand the status of each fishery on a case by case basis is promoted, these future management action will definitely help to match fishing capacity with sustainable yields. It may mean further educing fishing capacity in some cases, while allowing new entrants in others. This must be judged on a case-by-case basis, on the base of sounds scientific evidence. In all, it will set into place the foundation of a robust policy framework for the management of fishing capacity and fisheries in general in Southeast Asia.

Summary Report of the ASEAN – SEAFDEC RTC on Fisheries Subsidies 9-10 October 2003, Bangkok, Thailand

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Subsidies was organized by SEAFDEC Secretariat from 9 to 10 October 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Consultation was held as part of the program on Fish Trade and Environment under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism. The program was funded by the Japanese Trust Fund to SEAFDEC.

2. The Consultation was attended by national delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The Consultation was also attended by representatives from the Regional Office of the Asia-Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/RAP), and SEAFDEC Secretariat. The list of participants appears as Annex 1.

3. The Consultation was held with the objectives to monitor the current status of government subsidies in fisheries sector in the ASEAN region and follow-up the progress of issues and initiatives on fisheries subsidies currently conducted by international competent organizations such as FAO and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Other objectives were also to provide a preparatory forum on fisheries subsidies for the ASEAN Member Countries to develop recommendations to be used a basis for common positions and appropriate policy options reflecting the ASEAN fisheries in the international fora on fisheries subsidies.

II. LINKAGES BETWEEN SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND FISHERIES SUBSIDIES IN THE ASEAN REGION

4. The Member Countries stressed importance and needs to establish effective management framework in place to ensure sustainable fisheries for food security and livelihoods of the ASEAN people. The Member Countries also recognized fisheries subsidies as a tool either used as temporary or long-term measures under a broad national development and management framework to ensure the sustainable fisheries. Use of fisheries subsidies needs to be coupled with close monitoring and evaluation of status of fishery resources as well as the impacts of subsidies on socio-economic and the resources, which are different from countries to countries.

5. Under the above broad principles and linkages between sustainable fisheries and fisheries subsidies, the Member Countries discussed and agreed on the issues and context of fisheries subsidies as attached in Annex 2.

6. The Member Countries agreed that:

- Fisheries subsidies contributing to sustainable fisheries as well as poverty alleviation should be permitted;
- Some fisheries subsidies whether they should be permitted or removed will depend on a number of factors including management regime, status of resources and the length of time that subsidies will be applied; and
- Fisheries subsidies contributing to over-exploitation of fishery resources or unsustainability of fisheries must be removed.

7. The Member Countries suggested that the importance of fish and fishery products for food security and livelihoods should be given due consideration in order to alleviate poverty status for poorest communities in the region.

III. FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AND TRADE DISTORTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ASEAN REGION

8. The Member Countries clearly concluded that fisheries subsidies that directly contribute to both over-exploitation of resources and trade distortion must be removed.

9. Considering the uniqueness of fisheries, the Member Countries agreed that sustainability should be used as the criteria to decide whether a subsidy should be permitted or prohibited. The Member Countries suggested that in permitting this kind of fisheries subsidies, the Member Countries should take a cautious approach together with close monitoring of impacts of the subsidies in order to minimize possible trade distortion effects.

10. With regards to the policy on cost recovery for public goods that has been raised by some countries in other regions, the Member Countries agreed that this needs to be taken into consideration. However, it is up to each government policy to look at multiple roles and contributions of fisheries to national development whether for livelihoods and food security or commercial purposes, which is diversified and different from countries to countries.

11. The Member Countries agreed that trade distortion issues, in most cases, are not limited to fisheries. This should be clarified in a broader trade context. Along this line, close coordination between fisheries related agencies and trade related agencies in each country should be promoted. In addition, specific requirements of fisheries on subsidies should be clarified considering its distinctiveness from other sectors.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

12. In following up the above conclusion, the Consultation made the following recommendations for future actions:

- a) SEAFDEC Secretariat is requested to compile sources of relevant information on international initiatives on fisheries subsidies for circulation to the Member Countries to facilitate their regular monitoring.

b) Considering the fact that initiatives related to fisheries subsidies are not always promoted by fishery related agencies and this has led to lack of thorough understanding of requirements and complexity of the fisheries particularly in the ASEAN region, the Member Countries should closely monitor the progress of the initiatives, actively involve in formulating common positions reflecting the ASEAN uniqueness of fisheries and coordinate with relevant agencies representing each country at the international fora.

c) The Member Countries should exert their utmost efforts in establishing sound fisheries management in place and ensure that fisheries subsidies do not contribute to over-exploitation and unsustainability of fisheries.

d) The outcome of this Consultation, considered as a follow-up to the Resolution and Plan of Action adopted at the 2001 Millennium Conference on “Fish for the People”, should be submitted, through ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism, to relevant ASEAN high-level fora for consideration and appropriate actions to ensure impacts on the sustainability of fisheries and ASEAN common positions on fisheries subsidies in international fora.

e) The Member Countries and other participants agreed that the above conclusion to focus discussion on fisheries subsidies in the context of sustainable fisheries will be used as the basis for further preparatory work for concretizing the ASEAN common policy on fisheries subsidies at the international fora in particular the forthcoming FAO technical consultation on fisheries subsidies.

f) The Member Countries recognized that “Notification” and “Burden of Proof” of fisheries subsidies are important possible future issues in international discourses.

ISSUES AND CONTEXT OF FISHERIES SUBSIDIES IN THE ASEAN REGION

(**Notes:** the information contained in the tables below is subject to restructuring of which the outcome will be put into the final summary report of the Consultation)

I. Non-Actionable Fisheries Subsidy (Green Light)

Categories	Specific Subsidies	Comments
1. Subsidy to support the retraining of fishermen, early retirement schemes and diversification	a). License/permits/quota buy-outs and retirement grants b). Grants for retraining fishers for other industry	
2. Limited subsidies for modernization of fishing vessels to improve safety, product quality or working conditions or to promote more environmentally friendly fishing methods (such modernization should not increase the ability of the	a). Grants for safety equipment b). Monitoring and the development of product’s quality control to create awareness of stakeholders c). Development of gears/equipment and training to promote more environmentally friendly fishing methods (i.e.:	2a. For fair competition, safety equipment should be the responsibility of fishers themselves and treated as part of production cost. 2a. & 2b. Could be considered as special consideration for developing countries.

vessel to catch fish)	JTED, FAD etc.).	2c. This could be an area of unfairness between actioning and inactioning countries and who will bare the cost.
3. Subsidies to fishermen and vessel owners who have to temporarily stop their fishing activity; when stoppages are due to unforeseeable circumstances such as natural disasters, or in the framework of tie- up schemes linked to permanent capacity reduction measures in the context of recovery plans for overexploited fish stocks.	a). Disaster relief payments to fishers b). Compensation for closed or reduced seasons c). Bad weather unemployment compensation schemes d). Compensation for damages e). Grants for temporally withdrawal fishing vessels f). Vacation support payments	3a. Results from disaster to aquaculture sites 3b. Results from government intervention 3c. Unemployment issues 3d. i.e. insurance issue, conflicts among fishers, results from disaster
4. Subsidies for the scrapping of vessels and the withdrawal of capacity		
5. Subsidies on the construction of fisheries specific infrastructure; prevention of disease, scientific research & training	a). Fish market, landing sites, fishing ports, cold storage, ice plants, engine workshop etc. b). Information data collection, statistics, analysis and dissemination	5a. These may lead to over-capacity as facilities attracts fishing vessels. However, it is up to whether the government charges fees for the usage. Proper management intervention is required. Landing sites could also serve monitoring and management purposes for fisheries. Note should be taken that constructing infrastructure may not be responsible by fishery related agency. This may lead to lack of information.

II. Expanded Category of Prohibited (Red-Light) Fisheries Subsidy/ Prohibition of Capacity Enhancing Subsidies:

Categories	Specific Subsidies	Comments
1. Subsidies for marine fishing - fleet renewal (e.g. construction of vessels, increase in fishing capacity)	a). Credit at preferential rates for offshore fishing boat building → shift to III “Dark Amber”	1a. Could be beneficial as a strategy to shift fishing efforts from inshore to offshore areas due to resource situation or to restructure fisheries.
2. Subsidies for the payment transfer of fishing vessels to third countries, including through the creation of joint enterprises with third	a). Grants to establish joint ventures → shift to III “Dark Amber” b). Price support payment to the fishers → shift to III “Dark	2a. This can be considered as a strategy to reduce fishing capacity, which is up to the countries. 2b. Temporary measures may

country partners. - Expressly prohibit all fisheries subsidy of a commercial nature, directly geared towards lowering costs, increasing revenues, raising production (by increasing capacity) or directly promoting over capacity and over fishing, such subsidies would comprise inter alia	Amber” c). Payment to reduce accounting costs → shift to III “Dark Amber”	be accepted to alleviate short-term problems. There are both positive/negative arguments to low/high price.
3. Subsidies designed to transfer a country’s ship for operation on the high seas or in the local waters of a third country	a). Payments to foreign government to secure access to fishing grounds → shift to III “Dark Amber”	3a. Depends on the status of fishery resources and rights of coastal states. But this can also lead to unfairness competition.
4. Subsidies that contribute to the purchase of ships, whether new or used	a). Grants to purchase of new or old vessels, or to modernize	
5. Subsidies to help modernize an existing fleet	a). Matching contributions for private sector investment → shift to III “Dark Amber”	5a. If this implies increase capacity.
6. Subsidies that contribute to reducing the cost of producing factors	a). Transport subsidy → shift to IV “Developing countries” b). Sales of input commodities of less than market price → shift to IV “Developing countries” c). Income support unemployment insurance and guarantee payments d). Direct export incentives e). Price support systems f). Provisions of bait services	6a. Transportation of aquaculture seeds to remote areas.
7. Subsidies that generate positive discrimination in the tax treatment of the economic activity of operators involved in the capture, processing and/ or marketing of fisheries resources	a). Fuel tax exemption for vessel → shift to III “Dark Amber” b). Sales tax exemptions c). Special incomes tax deduction for fishers d). Tax exemptions for deep sea fisheries e). Deferred tax programs → shift to III “Dark Amber” f). Investment tax credits g). Tax and duty exemption for importation of fishing vessel to encourages commercial fisheries to operate	7a. Considering different degree of tax exemption in different countries, tax exemption to the extent to create fairness competition could be accepted. Other argument is that this should be left to market mechanism. 7b. For example value-added tax. If it is meant to increase access of resource poor people to fishery products → “green”. If it is meant to create unfairness for trade competition → “red”.

	at the EEZ and beyond → shift to III “Dark Amber”	<p>7d. In some countries, this category is used as a short-term subsidy to promote some specific deep-sea fisheries. In addition, some countries use tax exemptions for inland fisheries for poverty alleviation and livelihoods of local people.</p> <p>7e. This category may be used for short-term to attract investment.</p> <p>7g. Accepted in a short-term subject to sound fisheries management scheme in place to avoid over-exploitation of resources.</p>
8. Subsidies that result in positive discrimination in access to credit	<p>a). Loans made on favorable terms (preferential interest rates) for offshore boats building → shift to III “Dark Amber”</p> <p>b). Government guarantees of bank loans → shift to III “Dark Amber”</p>	<p>8a. In the context of development loans obtained through WB and ADB, it is required for government guarantees.</p>

Notes: All red-light subsidies if implemented in the short-term can be moved to “Dark Amber” or “Special consideration for developing countries”. This should be carefully monitored that impacts of subsidies do not lead to over-capacity.

III. Serious Prejudice and a Presumptively Harmful (“Dark Amber”) Category: (it can be “red” or “green” up to certain conditions!)

Categories	Specific Subsidies	Comments
1. Subsidies of a social nature, the final purpose of which is to resolve problems affecting small-scale fisheries, for the benefit of coastal communities and with a view to improving quality of life	<p>a). Grants to small scale fisheries and direct aid to participant in specific fisheries</p> <p>b). Support to improve economic efficiency for small fisheries poverty alleviation</p> <p>c). Gear development</p> <p>d). Revolving funds in fishing capture and aqua culture for small scale fisheries</p>	<p>1a. Green → in case of eradicating destructive fisheries</p> <p>1b. Green → should be coupled with sound management for certain period of time.</p> <p>1c. Green → in the context of selective and responsible fishing.</p> <p>1d. Green → in the context of poverty alleviation as part of overall rural development.</p> <p>1h. Under the WTO framework, government supports that are generic in</p>

	<p>e). Fisher’s insurance programs or subsidized insurance</p> <p>f). Gear conflict compensation programs</p> <p>g). Income support, unemployment insurance and income guarantee payments</p> <p>h). Government health funded programs specific to fisheries</p>	nature are not considered as a subsidy.
<p>2. Subsidies relating to fisheries management, including research and administrative and other measures, the sole purpose of which is to ensure the sustainability of hydro-biological resources and their environment</p>	<p>a). Government funded R &D programs</p> <p>b). Research on deep-sea fishing</p> <p>c). Market research and pricing information and dissemination → shift to “Green”</p> <p>d). Exploratory fishing & gears development</p> <p>e). Fishing (resource) enhancement to promote the development of artificial reef, reserves & restocking to ensure food security programs → shift to “Green”</p> <p>f). Development of marine patrol vessels for the purpose of strengthening MCS and Law Enforcement in the fishing regions → shift to “Green”</p> <p>g). Inspection & certificate service → shift to “Green”</p> <p>h). Support to consultative groups & mechanisms → shift to “Green” in this region</p> <p>i). Free trade zones</p> <p>j). Grant to establish joint venture (if better management and reducing capacity)</p> <p>k). Regional development programs → shift to “Green”</p> <p>l). International fisheries cooperation → shift to “Green”</p> <p>m) Vessel/gear decommissioning payments</p>	<p>2a. Considered “green” in the regional context.</p> <p>2i. Based on national policy and this may not be applicable only fisheries.</p> <p>2m. Many of decommissioning programs are ineffective and positive impact is insignificant. Revoking licensing from fishing boats does not solve reducing fishing capacity as they may turn to IUU fishing. Scrapping the boats is regarded as a more effective measure.</p>

Notes:

- Cost recovery policy for public goods of other regions needs to be taken into consideration. However, it is up to each government policy to look at multiple roles and contribution of fisheries whether for livelihoods and food security or commercial purposes, which is different from countries to countries.

IV. Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Country Members:

Categories	Specific Subsidies	Comments
1. Access fees and	a). Training & extension	

development assistance – any development. Assistance granted to small vulnerable coastal states by developed on more advanced developing countries to facilitate sustainable management	services → shift to “Green” b). Support CBFM and regional development, producer organization → shift to Green	
2. Fiscal incentives to domestication and fisheries development. Incentives applied by small vulnerable coastal states for the Development and domestication of their fisheries	a). Reduced charged by government agencies (tax and duty exemption for middle scale fresh water)	Particularly for traditional subsistent fisheries and during initial stage.
3. Artisanal fisheries – those measures undertaken by government of small vulnerable coastal state to assist their artisanal fisheries sectors	a). Provisions of bait services fisheries → shift to “Dark Amber” and not applicable to the region. b). Market promotion programs → shift to “Green” c). Promotion of fish consumption → shift to “Dark Amber”	

Notes: Subsidies for promotion and development of fisheries should be more clarified.

Adopted Conclusion and Recommendations of the Second RTC on the Use of Indicators for the Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries, 9-11 March 2004, Malaysia

WITH THE VIEW TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE USE OF INDICATORS FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE ASEAN REGION, THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL CONSULTATION (RTC) ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Indicators should be used as effective planning, communication, monitoring and evaluation tool in fisheries management.
2. Use of indicators should be integrated into fisheries management plans and there should be clear linkages of indicators with management objectives with special consideration on reduction of excess fishing capacity.
3. In using indicators for fisheries management, due consideration should be made to linkages, relationships and combination among various indicators or indicators groups to provide better understanding of management problems and solutions.
4. Active involvement as well as close consultation and communication among stakeholders i.e. those who are contributing to or influenced by the outcome of fisheries management process, should be promoted. This is in order to ensure their common understanding, awareness and consensus building and cooperation in selecting and using indicators thereby enhancing their compliance in fisheries management.
5. Close coordination between a long-term routine data collection system and scientific research as well as cooperation with stakeholders in the provision of data and information should be promoted to develop indicators in sustainable manner.
6. Capacity building to enhance understanding of stakeholders as well as to develop capacity of fishery officers, researchers and managers to facilitate the use of indicators for fisheries management should be conducted.
7. To support future promotion in the development and use of indicators, "Guidelines on the Use of Indicators for Improved Marine and Inland Fisheries Management in the ASEAN Region" should be developed. The tentative framework proposed during the RTC will be used as the basis for formulating the guidelines.
8. While appreciating the progress of pilot projects being implemented in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, all the Member Countries are encouraged to further promote the implementation of pilot projects. The results of pilot project implementation are found very useful for the formulation of the guidelines.

9. To ensure successful implementation of this Special 5-year project on the Use of Indicators for the Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region, the work plan for 2004 and 2005 was adopted for future implementation.
10. There should be closer collaboration and cooperation among SEAFDEC member countries, national and international bodies e.g. Assessment of Living Marine Resources of Vietnam (ALMRV), World Fish Center (WFC) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to promote the use of indicators for improved fisheries management in the ASEAN region.
11. Considering close linkages between the use of indicators and reduction of excess fishing capacity, the Member Countries are encouraged to participate in the Technical Consultation on the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity) to be conducted by FAO in June 2004.

Summary Report of the ASEAN – SEAFDEC Preparatory Meeting on Issues Related to Fish Trade and Environment, 16-18 March 2004, Thailand

I. Introduction

1. The Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Preparatory Meeting on Issues Related to Fish Trade and Environment was organized by SEAFDEC Secretariat from 16 to 18 March 2004 in Hat Yai, Thailand. The Meeting was held as part of the program on Fish Trade and Environment under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism. The program was funded by the Japanese Trust Fund to SEAFDEC.
2. The Meeting was attended by national delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. It was also attended by representatives from ASEAN Secretariat as well as SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The list of participants appears as Annex 1.
3. The Meeting was held with the objective to provide a regional forum for discussion among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on important fisheries related issues to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and fisheries subsidies. It is envisaged that the outcome of the regional discussion will be used as a basis for developing common positions and appropriate policy options reflecting fisheries in the Member Countries in the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of Parties (CoP13) of CITES to be held from 2 to 14 October 2004 and the FAO Technical Consultation on the Use of Subsidies in the Fisheries Sector to be held from 30 June to 2 July 2004.

II. Conclusion and recommendations

2.1 Fisheries Related Issues under CITES

2.1.1 Proposed Policy Options and Common Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC

Member Countries

4. In line with the 23rd Senior Official's Meeting for ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) in October 2001, the Member Countries reiterated that the management of commercial fisheries should come under the purview of FAO and not CITES. As such any proposal for listing in CITES Appendices on any species related to fisheries including shark species, undermining sustainable exploitation and management in the Member Countries, should not be supported.

5. The Member Countries agreed to establish the National Plan of Action on Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) in line with the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) supported by best available scientific evidence.
6. The Meeting proposed that a representative from the national fisheries related agency of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries be included in the national delegation to CITES-CoP in accordance with the earlier decision made by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) that ASEAN fisheries agencies should play an active role in their national delegations to CITES-CoPs.
7. Close coordination among the national fisheries related agency and agency responsible for CITES should be strengthened to facilitate any preparatory work for CITES-CoP13.

2.1.2 Follow-up Actions Related to CITES by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member

Countries and SEAFDEC

8. The Member Countries agreed to exert their utmost efforts in implementing the above agreed policy options and common positions.
9. Each Member Country is requested to provide available secondary data and information related to shark landings, utilization and trade to supplement the regional study on sharks to the SEAFDEC Secretariat for further compilation and distribution to all Member Countries.
10. In establishing the NPOA-Sharks and ensuring effective implementation of management and conservation of sharks, the following aspects should be included, but not limited to:
 - Building of public awareness on the need for management and conservation of sharks;
 - Harmonizing NPOA-Sharks with the national fisheries management policy and framework;
 - Providing an appropriate legal framework;
 - Establishing an appropriate support mechanism for data and information collection on shark landings, utilization and trade; and
 - Taking into consideration the result of national/regional studies on shark landings, utilization and trade.
11. Guidance to assist the Member Countries in the formulation of NPOA-Sharks should be developed at the Second Regional Technical Consultation on Shark Fisheries taking into consideration the result of the regional study on sharks and experience in the formulation of NPOAs by Japan and Thailand.
12. The Department of Fisheries, Thailand is requested to coordinate with the Thai CITES Office, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department and to provide to other ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries through SEAFDEC Secretariat on the

information including the final preparatory process, agenda and arrangement for CITES-CoP13 to ensure distribution of relevant information and publications of the result of regional studies on shark landings, utilization and trade.

13. The Meeting took note of works undertaken by various Member Countries and SEAFDEC on sea cucumber and seahorse as well as initiatives by the Philippines in developing a stock assessment survey on sea cucumber to understand status of and trade in commercial species. ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries should initiate an inventory of sea cucumber species available in their countries through exchange of information. The Meeting proposed that Thailand and SEAFDEC undertake the coordinating role in this exercise.

2.2 Issues on Fisheries Subsidies

14. The Meeting reaffirmed the conclusion and recommendations reached at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Fisheries Subsidies held from 9 to 10 October 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand and agreed to use them excluding its appendix as the basis for ASEAN Member Countries for their contribution and intervention to the Technical Consultation on the Use of Subsidies in the Fisheries Sector.

2.3 Recommendations for Immediate Follow-up Actions

15. In following up the above conclusion and recommendations, the Meeting requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to submit the outcome adopted at this Meeting, as a common policy to the forthcoming meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism for consideration and endorsement by respective higher authorities of ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries.

**Report of the Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN – SEAFDEC FCG
5 April 2004, Bangkok, Thailand**

I. Introduction

1. The Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) was held on 5 April 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand with the objectives to discuss the ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries collaborative programs as well as issues related to ASEAN-Japan cooperation on sustainable fisheries through SEAFDEC and fisheries policies of ASEAN importance.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries (except for Indonesia), ASEAN Secretariat as well as SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The Meeting was also attended by a representative of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The list of participants appears as Annex 1.

3. The Meeting was co-chaired by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Mr. Niwes Ruangpanit and the representative of Lao PDR, Mr. Mahanakorn Souriya, in capacity of the current Chairman of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i).

4. The Agenda, which appears as Annex 2 was adopted.

II. ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Collaborative Programs

2.1 Review of the Progress and Proposed Future Program of Activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism (2003-2004)

5. The Meeting took note of the review of progress and proposed of future program of activities for the year 2003 and 2004 under the FCG mechanism by respective SEAFDEC Lead Departments as follows:

- Promotion of Mangrove-friendly Aquaculture in Southeast Asian Countries (Annex 3);
- Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles in Southeast Asian Countries (Annex 4);
- Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Annex 5);
- Development of Fish Diseases Inspection Methodologies for Artificially-bred Seeds (Annex 6);
- Fish Trade and Environment (Annex 7);
- Coastal Resource Management (Annex 8);

- Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region (Annex 9);
- Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea (Annex 10);
- Digitized Atlas (Annex 11); and
- Application of HACCP in the Fish Processing Industry in Southeast Asia² (Annex 12).

6. As part of the program on the Promotion of Mangrove-friendly Aquaculture in Southeast Asia, the Meeting suggested SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) to also incorporate cost and earning analysis as well as trade-related issues to aquaculture i.e. use of fishery subsidies, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measure, anti-dumping in future program activities.

7. Regarding the ASEAN Post-harvest Technology Network, which will be mobilized for the implementation of the program on Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF), Phase IV: Post-harvest Practices and Trade, the Meeting requested SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) to include a core expert from all ASEAN Member Countries to reflect common requirements and to ensure active participation from the Member Countries.

8. The Meeting took note with appreciation of the collaborative project between SEAFDEC and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) on human resources development under the program on RCCRF focusing on issues related to fisheries management. The Meeting also encouraged SEAFDEC to seek similar cooperation with other international/regional organizations and closer cooperation with Sida in the future.

2.2 New Proposed Programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism (2004)

9. The Meeting took note of the three new proposed programs presented by respective SEAFDEC Lead Departments to be placed under the FCG mechanism as follows:

- Management of Fisheries and Utilization of Shark in Southeast Asia (Annex 13)
- Seafood Safety Information Network (Annex 14)
- Chloramphenicol and Nitrofurans Residues in Aquaculture Fish and Fish Products (Annex 15)

10. Considering the advance expertise of Thailand in laboratory testing of Chloramphenicol and Nitrofurans residues in fish and fisheries products, the Meeting suggested MFRD in collaboration with AQD to work closely with Thailand in developing human capacity on the issue for other ASEAN Member Countries.

² The program ended in 2003.

11. While expressing appreciation to the success in the implementation of the FCG program of activities in the year 2003, the Meeting requested SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to incorporate the above recommendations for future implementation. The Meeting, after deliberation, endorsed the review of progress and proposed future program of activities for 2003-2004 as well as new proposed programs to be placed under the FCG mechanism.

III. ASEAN-Japan Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries through SEAFDEC

12. The Meeting expressed appreciation to Japan for continuous support and cooperation for sustainable fisheries in the ASEAN region, as this could serve as a basis for closer partnership among ASEAN Member Countries and Japan. The Meeting also supported the following initiatives promoted under the ASEAN-Japan cooperation for sustainable fisheries through SEAFDEC as presented by SEAFDEC Secretariat:

- Statement of the Seminar on ASEAN-Japan Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries through SEAFDEC (Annex 16);
- Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region (Annex 17); and
- Strategy for Human Resource Development (HRD) in Fisheries in the ASEAN Region (Annex 18).

13. Based on the above initiatives, the Meeting supported the proposal made by SEAFDEC Secretariat to evaluate the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action including the results of the first phase implementation of the Special 5-year program and its impacts in close consultation with the Member Countries. The Meeting also suggested that the outcome of the evaluation and the Strategy for HRD in fisheries could provide bases for formulation of activities under the second phase of the Special 5-year program to support the ASEAN Member Countries in the future implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action.

IV. Policy Consideration on ASEAN Important Issues

4.1 Policy Consideration on Issues related to Fish Trade and Environment

14. The Meeting took note with appreciation of the outcomes of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Preparatory Meeting on Issues related to Fish Trade and Environment (Annex 19) organized from 16-18 March 2004 by SEAFDEC Secretariat particularly on issues related to marine species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and fisheries subsidies.

15. The Meeting also noted the information presented by the representative from Japan related to the on-going discussion on fisheries subsidies issues at the World Trade

Organization (WTO) and suggested that due consideration should be given to socio-economic importance of fisheries subsidies. The Meeting also suggested that any proposal against the use of fisheries subsidies without sufficient supporting scientific evidence and/or undermining on-going national resource management should not be supported.

16. Based on the outcomes of the above Preparatory Meeting on Issues related to Fish Trade and Environment, the Meeting stressed the importance to concretize a common position among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on fisheries subsidies to be reflected in the forthcoming FAO Technical Consultation on Fisheries Subsidies to be held in June 2004.

17. Back-to-back with the FAO Technical Consultation on Fisheries Subsidies, the Meeting was also informed by SEAFDEC Secretariat of another FAO Technical Consultation on Fishing Capacity. In this connection, the Meeting suggested that the outcomes related to excess fishing capacity concluded at the Regional Technical Consultation on the Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries, which was held from 9 to 11 March 2004 by MFRDMD should be reflected in the FAO Consultation. The Meeting also urged the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries for their active participation into the above two FAO technical consultations.

18. With respect to the issues related to commercial marine species particularly shark species under CITES, the Meeting strongly suggested that the issues should come under the purview of international fisheries competent agency like FAO and not under CITES. This common position was well echoed during the recent Technical Consultation on Sea Cucumber organized from 1 to 3 March in Malaysia.

19. Considering the fact that issues related to CITES are responsible by the national CITES competent authority not the national fishery agency, the Meeting encouraged all ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to promote in-country coordination between the two agencies. The Meeting also supported that fisheries representatives of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries should be actively involved in relevant CITES preparatory meetings and included in the national delegates to participate into the forthcoming CoP13 of CITES to be held in October 2004 in Thailand. In addition, the Meeting also supported the proposal for a representative of SEAFDEC Secretariat to participate as observer in the forthcoming meeting of ASEAN Expert Group (AEG) on CITES and the Special Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) to coordinate the above issues.

4.2 Recommendations on Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Boats in the Southeast Asia

20. The Meeting endorsed the recommendations on Safety at Sea for Small Fishing Boats in the Southeast Asia (Annex 20) as presented by SEAFDEC Training Department. The Meeting viewed the issue as of importance to the region reflecting the nature of

fisheries, of which the majority is coastal small-scale fisheries. The issue could also contribute to achieving the Vision “to be the leader in sustainable tropical fisheries for the people” as adopted at the Seminar on ASEAN-Japan Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries through SEAFDEC held in December 2003.

21. The Meeting noted the information provided by the ASEAN Secretariat on the similar initiative promoted under the ASEAN cooperation in maritime transportation and suggested that the issue be consulted and coordinated within the appropriate framework and mechanism.

4.3 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cost-sharing Issues

22. The Meeting in principle supported the proposed guidelines and mechanism to promote the national actions in the cost-sharing manner on the national component of FCG programs as presented by SEAFDEC Secretariat (Annex 21). With the view to enhance active participation and ownership of the Member Countries in the FCG programs, the Meeting suggested that cost-sharing issues should be integrated into overall formulation, planning and implementation of the FCG programs by SEAFDEC in close collaboration with the Member Countries.

23. The Meeting also took note of the existing cost-sharing experiences of ASEAN presented by the ASEAN Secretariat including in-kind and in-cash contribution as well as special treatment to new Member Countries under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). The Meeting further suggested that the above experiences could be used as a basis to develop detailed guidelines and mechanisms on cost-sharing for future implementation of the FCG programs.

24. While noting the concern regarding readiness to share cost in the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and the request for special treatment expressed by some of the new ASEAN Member Countries, the Meeting suggested that the cost-sharing principle including arrangement with the requesting countries should be left to the Eligible Countries Committee and the Vessel Operation Committee for finalization.

V. Conclusion

25. After deliberation on collaborative programs and issues under the FCG mechanism, the Meeting agreed to submit the proposals and recommendations concluded at this Meeting for consideration at the forthcoming meetings of SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries.

The National Workshop on Reduction and Management of Commercial Fishing Capacity in Thailand, 10-14 May 2004, Petchaburi, Thailand

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Back to Office Report

The National Seminar was organized by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand from 10-14 May 2004 in Cha-am, Petchaburi during 10-14 May 2004, with fully support by FAO FishCode Programme. The Seminar was held with the main objectives to develop a national strategy for the reduction and management of fishing capacity with regard to:

- Assess extent of overcapacities in different fisheries, fishing grounds/areas and fleet segments
- Assess socio-economic importance of fisheries for livelihoods of different strata of fishing vessels owners, fishing crew and fishing community
- Identify measures to assist in fleet reduction and mobility out of fisheries
- Determine needed changes in fisheries management regimes for commercial (and small-scale???) fisheries
- Identify financial resources to fund transition program

The Seminar was attended by fisheries officers of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, from various coastal area of Thailand such as Eastern Marine Fisheries Development Center, Samutpakan, Chumporn, Central Office, Office of Upper and Lower part of the Gulf of Thailand, Office of the Andaman Sea, Provincial Fisheries Office (Trad, Ranong, Satul, Trang, Satul, Petchaburi, Nakonsritammarach, Phuket, Songkhla), as well as the representatives from Kasetsart University, Songkhla University, Fisheries Association of Thailand, Fisheries Associations (Pak-Nam Chumporn, Prachup Kirikhan, Pattanee, Songkhla, Nakonsritammarach, Klongdan, Samutsakorn), Small-scale fishermen of Pang-ga area, NGOs and SEAFDEC.

At the beginning of the Seminar, presentations by the keynote speakers included:

- An overview of the marine fisheries situation in Thailand;
- Economic, social and institutional aspects of the transition to responsible fisheries: Case study of the demersal fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand;
- Anchovy fishery zoning – a case study of Songkhla Province experiences from Europe and US; and
- Fisheries management through individual transferable catch quotas – the case study of Pacific halibut fishery.

The Seminar developed the considerations for improvement of the national strategy for management of fishing capacity focusing on the demersal fisheries and anchovy fisheries, both focusing on the following topics.

Element of a voluntary vessel decommissioning program

- scope of a vessel buyback program
- criteria for eligibility
- level of compensation

- disposal of retired vessels
- incentives and training to facilitate the uptake of other occupations
- measures to prevent fraud and corruption
- vessel registration and licensing
- pre-authorization requirements for vessel construction/import
- capacity measurement criteria and unitization
- establishment of total allowable capacity for catch
- criteria for the allocation of capacity or catch quotas
- transferability and trading of catch or capacity quotas
- levying of fishing fees
- measures to prevent fraud and corruption

Legal and Institutional Requirements

- create legal and institutional basis for right-based fisheries management
- establish licensing criteria and provisions
- improve monitoring, control and surveillance
- strengthen legal provisions for prosecution and sanctions
- anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures

After the group discussion, the Seminar developed national action plans for management of anchovy fishing and demersal fishery (focusing on trawlers and pushnet) as shown in Annex 1 and Annex 2, respectively.

Management of Fishing Capacity for Anchovy Fishing

Issues	Measures	Responsibility
1. System for data collection on quantity of catch	<p>1. Survey and collect data on catch composition including its quantity from existing anchovy landing sites.</p> <p>2. Record of total amount of catch from the fishing boats.</p> <p>3. Distribution of Log Book to fishers asking for recording their fishing activities and catch data.</p> <p>4. Include conscious building and public awareness program to all anchovy-catching fishers as one of the national action plan.</p>	<p>DOF</p> <p>Anchovy-catching fishers including their fishing ports submit data to DOF, Pilot projects were build up in Chumporn and Songkhla areas. In the beginning stage, DOF will send staff as the facilitators to the areas to implement the programs/activities.</p> <p>Fishers</p> <p>DOF and other relevant agencies</p>
2. Investigation on number of boats	<p>1. For legal anchovy fishing boats who want to move their fishing ground from one place to another, they must inform it in advance to their representative fishery association. Afterwards, their fishery associations have to report to authorized provincial fishery office. In case they do not belong to any fishery association, their moving information must be given directly to the provincial fishery office.</p> <p>2. Authorized agencies for monitoring and control of those illegal fishing boats of anchovy-catching will pay strictly intension. However, the agency that will responsible for this will be transferred to local fishery committee in very near future.</p>	<p>Fishers, Fishery Association Representatives, and Provincial Fishery Offices.</p> <p>DOF and Local Fishery Committee.</p>
3. Fishery Licensing	<p>1. Fishery license will be given on yearly basis. It must be renewed within 90 days before the date of expiry.</p> <p>2. Application procedure and regulation for fishery license will be changed to be similar to that for car licensing. The following renew of the fishery license will be based on the date of their previous renewal date (not at the</p>	<p>DOF</p> <p>DOF</p>

	31 March of this year as usual, and also refer to point 1 above).	
4. Zoning System	<p>1. Remain and use the same zoning as it is (referred to an announcement of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on 23 March 2003) in line with the appointed measures that already given at the provincial committee level.</p> <p>2. Quota of fishing boats in the specific area could be applied to effectively management of number of boats in each area based on the available technical and scientific data. Involvement of the local fishers should also be promoted.</p>	<p>DOF</p> <p>Local fishery committee of each area</p>
5. Reduction of number of boats	<p>1. Keep/Freeze the same number of boats at the level of the current licensed boats. For an appropriate period of time, management scheme and practical approaches for reduction of fishing boats should be established. Technical inputs will be mainly used as a basis for development of the scheme. New boat construction will not be permitted. And fishing boats buy-back scheme may also be applied for this.</p> <p>2. Law and their measures must be seriously enforced.</p>	<p>DOF</p> <p>DOF</p>
6. Management of fishing capacity (Monitoring, Surveillance and Control)	<p>1. Agreement on the principle to manage fishing capacity was made; more detail for further consideration will be discussed later.</p> <p>2. Remain the same mesh size for anchovy purse seine net as referred to the announcement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on 1 February 2000.</p>	<p>DOF</p> <p>DOF</p>

**Management for Reduction of Excess Fishing Capacity:
Trawlers and Push Net Fishing Boat**

Issues	Methods	Measures	Remarks
1. Control number of the boats	1. Actual number of the boats must be investigated using the existing database of the number of fishing boats by type of the fishing gear made at 31 December 2003.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fines (by size of the fishing boat) will be taken from those who have no fishery license. 2. Strongly punish, confiscate and destroy fishing gear and boats. 3. Constructing new boat is not allowed. 4. For fishing boats using different type of fishing gear from their fishery license, the boats and fishing gear will be confiscated. 5. Consideration for approval and permission at the provincial committee level is required for constructing a new boat. 6. Application procedure and its mechanism for licensing fishing gear will be used as same manner as car licensing. In addition, it could be applied 90 days before the date of expiry. 7. Appropriate fines will be taken considering type of fishing gear and size of fishing boat. 	For an appropriate management and practical actions to be further taken in reducing excess fishing capacity, such dynamic and potential fishery organizations are required.
2. Reduce number of boats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Voluntary 2. Encouragement/Incentive from government 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application of the buy-back scheme could be considered as voluntary. 2. About 1 % from the total value of the exported aquatics and from budget to construct artificial reef could be used for the buy-back program. 	
3. Zoning Control	Specify the fishing area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In line with the other notification/announcement, 3,000 kilometer away from coast line will be used as a based line to control fishing area. 2. Fishing must be operated in the area of 3,000 and 6,000 kilometers away from the coast line for otter-board trawlers and pair-trawlers, respectively. 	
4. Catch data should be given		1. It was proposed that Fishery Association of Thailand should provide financial support to the	

for stock assessment		local fishery association for the data collection. 2. Improvement of coordination between fishers and data collectors should be encouraged.	
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**Summary Report of the Second ASEAN – SEAFDEC Regional
Technical Consultation on Fisheries Statistics
15 – 18 June 2004, Hua Hin, Thailand**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Fishery Statistics was organized by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Prachuab Khiri Khan Province, Thailand from 15 to 18 June 2004. The Consultation was organized as part of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative project on “Capacity Building for the Improvement of Fishery Statistical System in the ASEAN Region” with financial support from the ASEAN Foundation (Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund) under the framework of the Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region.

2. The Consultation was attended by delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Consultation was also attended by resource persons and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) project as well as SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments. The List of Participants appears as Annex 1.

3. The Consultation addressed the importance of fishery statistics in the ASEAN region and stressed on the need for further improvement of fishery statistics particularly on maximizing its usage for fisheries management requirements.

4. The Consultation recognized the regional policy directives given by the high-level authorities of ASEAN and SEAFDEC particularly on:

- Regional Plan of Action for Improvement of Fishery Statistics (1999);
- Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region (2001); and
- Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Fisheries Management (2003).

5. The Consultation was held with the following objectives:

- To review and evaluate the result of the implementation of the project on Capacity Building for the Improvement of the Fishery Statistical System in the ASEAN Region;
- To review and finalize the regional reference document on Collecting Fishery Statistics for Inland and Coastal Fisheries as well as to identify future usage for capacity building in support of improvement of fishery statistics in the region;
- To discuss on the establishment of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region; and
- To clarify priority actions/activities, which will be used as a basis for planning of future activities in the improvement of fishery statistics in the ASEAN region.

6. The Consultation adopted the Agenda of the meeting, which appears as Annex 2

II. RESULT OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ON “CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FISHERY STATISTICAL SYSTEM IN THE ASEAN REGION”

7. The Consultation took note with appreciation on the result of project implementation on “Capacity Building for the Improvement of the Fishery Statistical System in the ASEAN Region” (Annex 3), highlighting on the results of the First Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics as well as outcomes of the National Workshops and On-site Trainings conducted in CLMV Countries.

8. The Consultation recognized that activities in the forms of workshops and on-site training is a practical approach to review the national fishery statistical system and identify requirements and context of capacity building for improvement of fishery statistics at the national level. The use of regional reference document on collecting fishery statistics for inland and coastal fisheries was found useful in the planning and conducting of national workshops and on-site training.

9. While expressing appreciation to the ASEAN Foundation, through the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund for the provision of support to this project, the Consultation agreed that there is still need for capacity building for improving fishery statistical systems in the region. Taking into account experiences from project implementation in the CLMV Countries, activities should be further conducted with priority given to the ASEAN region as a whole.

III. REGIONAL DOCUMENT ON COLLECTING FISHERY STATISTICS

10. Based on the experience in the implementation of Capacity Building for the Improvement of the Fishery Statistical System in the ASEAN Region, the Consultation requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to finalize the regional reference document on Collecting Fishery Statistics for Inland and Coastal Fisheries and promote its usage with the view to enhance improvement of fishery statistics in the ASEAN region.

11. To facilitate the finalization of the regional reference document, the Consultation provided the following comments and suggestions:

- To reflect regional tropical nature of fisheries (e.g. multi-species, multi-gear and small-scale fisheries);
- To distribute the regional reference document to wider user groups, e.g. to other projects such as those of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), to verify the applicability of the Guidelines in various locality in the region;
- Translation of the regional reference document, particularly on the part that applicable to countries, to national languages should be encouraged. However, investigation on the usefulness for specific target groups should be conducted before the translation;

- While recognizing the importance of aquaculture statistics, there is still however no clear direction in the production of aquaculture statistics in the region, future development of regional guidelines on aquaculture statistics should be considered;
- To clarify possible usage of the regional reference document;
- To have comprehensive coverage on all aspects of statistics production; and
- To provide more practical examples of data collection methodologies and forms used in data collection.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FISHERY STATISTICAL BULLETIN FOR THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION

12. In accordance with the policy directives given by the SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) in 2004, the Consultation supported the establishment of the new Statistical Bulletin, which was modified based on the Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the South China Sea Area.

13. The Consultation stressed on the principle that compilation of statistical data should take into account of the availability of data in each member country. The new Bulletin should also clarify clear objectives and reflect requirements for fishery statistics at regional level, while the definitions and classification as well as reporting forms should be harmonized with those of FAO in order to reduce burden of Member Countries in provision of statistics.

14. The Consultation agreed that the Member Countries would provide current national statistical definitions and classification as well as recent national fishery statistical yearbooks to SEAFDEC Secretariat by the end of July 2004 to facilitate harmonization and development of detailed scope, framework and structure including presentation of the new Statistical Bulletin. The Consultation also suggested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to coordinate with programs related to fishery statistics and information under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism such as sharks fisheries, use of indicators, sustainable pelagic fisheries and inland capture fisheries to obtain inputs/requirements for compilation of fishery statistics at the regional level. It was envisaged that another consultation among the Member Countries, ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC would be conducted to finalize the scope and framework of the new Statistical Bulletin.

15. To assist the SEAFDEC Secretariat in developing framework of the new Statistical Bulletin, the Consultation provided the following comments and suggestions:

- To harmonize definitions and classification of fishery statistics based on inputs of the Member Countries, where appropriate apply international standards that reflect regional tropical nature of fisheries, particularly on:
 - Definition of fishery sub-sectors
 - Classification of scale of fisheries
 - Classification of fishing gear both inland and marine capture fisheries
- Area coverage and sub-areas – to include all ASEAN Member Countries (covering the FAO Fishing Area of 71, 61, 57 and 04);

- Definition of fishing establishment – to cover all sub-sectors
- Coverage and classification of fishing boat – to also include boat for inland fisheries. It is encouraged that gross tonnage could be used for classification of fishing boat
- Fishers – to include fish farmer for aquaculture. This item could be modified to ‘ People involved in fisheries and aquaculture’.
- Fishing Unit – to clarify the usage and linkage with fishing establishment and fishers.
- Statistics on Inland Fishery – to seek collaboration with and inputs from MRC.
- Statistics on Aquaculture – to collaborate with FAO on relevant initiatives.
- Statistics on Price of Fresh Fish (producer price – farm gate price/landing price) – to investigate the use and validity of actual value of fish and annual average fish price.
- Statistics on Disposition of Catch and Fish Processing – to coordinate with MFRD for the revision of classification and definition of fishery products.
- Statistics on Export and Import of Fishery Commodities – to check with the international standards developed by the World Customs Organization and where possible develop sub-categories of fishery commodities for tropical fisheries.
- Regional specificity on multi-gear and multi-species nature of fisheries should be fully taken into consideration.

V. COLLABORATION ON IMPROVING INFORMATION ON STATUS AND TRENDS OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

16. The Consultation supported the Strategies for Improving Status and Trends of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Annex 4). Close cooperation among FAO, SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member Countries in this area should be promoted.

17. With regards to the Improving Information on Status and Trend of Aquaculture, once the framework of FishStat AQ, including the Explanatory Notes, is finalized, FAO will communicate to provide the information to the focal point of the Member Countries as well as SEAFDEC for further investigation on practicability of the format in the Southeast Asian region.

VI. DIRECTION AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF FISHERY STATISTICS IN THE ASEAN REGION

18. The Consultation identified the following major issues and requirements for improvement of fishery statistics at both national and regional levels:

- Clear objectives and usage of fishery statistics for decision making;
- Capacity building and human resource management for statistical personnel at all levels to ensure sustainability of statistical system and higher quality of statistical data. This includes reduction of disparity among the Member Countries by giving emphasis on capacity building in CLMV countries;
- Quality of statistics (accuracy, reliability and timeliness) and maximum usage of statistics, taking into consideration of applying appropriate and cost-effective data collection methodologies, application of validation of data, widening the application of

database management and information technology, better presentation of statistics and statistical information, and so on;

- In-country coordination among agencies concerned and involvement of stakeholders in statistics and information collection at the national level as well as networking among the Member Countries;
- Linkage and coordination between routine and non-routine data collection among various data providers; and
- Comparability of fishery statistics in the region by harmonizing definitions, standards and classification of statistics including statistical measurement and units as well as reporting formats.

19. In response to the above identified issues and constraints of fishery statistics, the Consultation identified priority actions/activities covering statistics for marine fisheries (Annex 5) and statistics for inland/coastal fisheries (Annex 6), which will be used as a basis for planning of future activities in the improvement of fishery statistics in the ASEAN region as follows:

- Pilot projects in establishment/improvement of fishery statistical system to provide a basis for nation-wide improvement. The following are preliminary proposals for immediate and medium-term in conducting pilot projects in the Member Countries:
 - For marine fisheries in Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam;
 - For inland capture fisheries in Indonesia, Lao PDR (reservoirs), Myanmar (flood plain) and Thailand (riverine systems);
 - For coastal capture fisheries in Cambodia and Indonesia; and
 - For freshwater and/or coastal aquaculture in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam;
- Development of database and application system at the national level as well as review and development of common regional database and application system;

20. The Member Countries are encouraged to take initiatives in planning and implementation of pilot projects with supports from international/regional organizations including FAO, SEAFDEC, UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, MRC, AIT and Sida. In addition, the Consultation requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to coordinate with the Departments implementing relevant programs to fishery statistics and information under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultation Group (FCG) mechanism in planning pilot projects.

21. The Consultation suggested that policy directions and issues including achievements of project implementation under the Special 5-year program as well as outcomes of this Consultation should be disseminated to wider audience through SEAFDEC Special Publication on Fish for the People.

22. The Consultation requested SEAFDEC as being a new member of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) to reflect regional requirements of tropical fisheries when reviewing and developing standards and norms of fishery statistics.

23. To facilitate future harmonization of efforts and collaboration among the Member Countries and international/regional organizations in fishery statistics, the Consultation suggested to establish an ASEAN network of fishery statistics. The network is composed of a national focal point from each of the ASEAN Member Countries, whose proposed terms of reference are as follows:

- To act as the national focal point in developing regional standards and classification of fishery statistics;
- To involve in planning and implementation of regional programs/projects on fishery statistics; and
- To provide national inputs for compilation of fishery statistics at regional and international levels.

24. The Consultation requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to propose the establishment of the network for consideration and approval by higher authorities of ASEAN through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG mechanism.

OUTCOMES FROM GROUP DISCUSSION: GROUP A

Priority Actions/Activities Covering Statistics for Marine Fisheries

Major Statistical Issues and Requirements

Major National and Regional Issues	Needs and Requirements
National level	
1) Lack of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly define requirement for statistics and its usage for decision making • Cost effective methodology in data collection
2) Lack of skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building at all levels • Human Resource Management
3) Awareness program/priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve relationship with stakeholders • Promote/enhance advocacy • Provide awareness program
4) Timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of data collection • Widening application of IT
5) Data accuracy and reliability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation/verification of data • Training on species and gear identification; units of measurement • Correct application of data collection methodologies • Application of appropriate sampling techniques
6) Problems to get the data/estimation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness program with stakeholders • Establish good relationship with fishers/boat owners/fishing establishment • Proper application of collection methodology
7) Data analysis into useful information for presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building/training • Application of IT
8) Data management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper database management system • Software development • Training
9) Linkage and coordination between routine and non-routine data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination among various data providers, agencies and research institutions • Incorporation of non-routine data sets into routine data sets
10) Sustainability in data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set minimum requirement • Stress the importance of data collection through regular consultations • Legislation • Fostering and promoting statistician groups
11) Lack of coordination at national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating committees among relevant agencies • Encourage regular meetings/workshops/dialogues, etc. among relevant agencies

<i>Regional level</i>	
1) Disparity of statistical system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue capacity building in the CLMV countries • Sharing of expertise and experiences between member countries
2) Differences in statistical measurement and units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC to play a coordinating role • Improvement of the framework for the Southeast Asian Fisheries Bulletin • Harmonization and standardization of measurement and terminologies
3) Differences in international/regional reporting format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC to play a coordinating role
4) Lack of networking among member countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular regional meetings • Regular communications • Establishment of “Network of Statisticians/ personnel”
5) Common statistical information for regional usefulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common database and application system
6) Trans-boundary unreported landing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage cooperation among member countries

Proposed Activities

- Pilot projects in data collection in CMV countries
- Pilot project in development of database and application system at national level
- Expert consultation workshop on the framework for publication of the Bulletin
- Review and expedite the development of common regional database and application system
- Establish a forum for networking among focal point/statistician within member countries
- Finalize and translate the guidelines for collecting fishery statistics for inland and coastal fisheries

OUTCOMES FROM GROUP DISCUSSION: GROUP B
Priority Actions/Activities Covering Statistics for Inland/Coastal Fisheries

Countries	Type of water bodies	Propose Pilot Project	Rationale for initiation	Statistical Information to be collected / Area for improving
1. Brunei Darussalam	Inland	Coastal Aquaculture – offshore cages/cage culture Freshwater Aquaculture - ponds	1. To speed up of the processing. <u>Note</u> The country encountered few problems when compare with others.	1. Data processing 2. Data analysis
2. Cambodia	Coastal	Coastal capture fishery	1. To build awareness among stakeholders. 3. To build up capacity related to statistical data for coastal capture fishery. 4. To strengthen of communication and cooperation. 5. To utilize cost effective method. 6. To support the planning and management office.	1. Catch and value 2. Fish species 3. Consumption 4. Ecological information 5. Fishing effort 6. Export value 7. Socio-economic survey
3. Indonesia	Inland and Coastal	Capture Fishery in Inland and Coastal area	1. To develop an electronic data processing using ‘data processing software’. 2. To change the transferring from the paper-based and air-mail system to the electronic system. <u>Note</u> The country needs capacity building on methodologies/techniques on data transfer as well as raw data processing.	1. Raw data processing 2. Methodologies/techniques on data transfer
3. Indonesia (cont’ d)	Inland and Coastal	Freshwater and coastal aquaculture	1. To obtain the information of socio-economic condition on freshwater and coastal aquaculture.	1. Social data 2. Economical data

4. Lao PDR	Inland	Capture Inland Fishery (Reservoir)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To study on species composition and fishing gear. 4. To support planning and management of inland fisheries. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structure data 2. Fish production data 3. Community data 4. Socio-economic
5. Malaysia	Inland and Coastal	Aquaculture project (land base and cage culture in gazetted "Aquaculture Industry Zone" - coastal, river, reservoir)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To achieve target production from the 3rd Agricultural Policy. 2. To look into the coordination between state and federal administration. 3. To look into differences in terms of production and viability of projects in different water bodies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production 2. Catch and value 3. Socio- economic 4. Consumption 5. Ecological information 6. Market study
6. Myanmar	Inland	Capture Inland Fisheries (Flood plain area- Leasable Fisheries)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop the data collection system. 2. To obtain information of flood plain fisheries. 3. To make a planning program for flood plain fisheries base on reality data set. 4. To support national planning and calculation of GDP. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socio-economy 2. Fish price 3. Fish consumption 4. Species composition 5. Market study
7. Philippines	Inland and Coastal	Aquaculture (in Region 7-Visayas Island)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To establish and update master sampling frame to generate more accurate and timely results. 2. To be used as reference by NGOs, government, fisheries federation and association. 3. To establish rapport and strong linkage with fishery federation and/or associations and stakeholders. 4. To test a modified survey methodology and survey questionnaires. 5. To develop data processing system for survey data evaluation/validation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Master sampling Frame 2. Lists of all aquaculture farms in the region 7 include seaweed.

8. Thailand	Inland	Capture Inland Fishery - riverine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To estimate the total annual freshwater production from the river by species. 2. To estimate fishing effort. 3. To complete the freshwater production survey. 4. To provide basic information in fisheries management i.e. maintenance fish species biodiversity for food security. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fish production 2. Catch and value 3. Fishing effort
9. Vietnam	Inland and coastal	Freshwater and coastal aquaculture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance the current fishery statistical system more realizable, accurate and timely for policy-making. 2. To provide a basic for implementing strategy. 3. To unite fisheries statistical data between agencies and institutions. 4. To monitor aquaculture activities (produce seed, consumption, quality of products). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production 2. Fish price 3. Species composition 4. Market study <p>Socio-economic data</p>

Projects to link up to and build upon in the development of “Statistics”

During the Second ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Human Resource Development in Fishery Statistics (Prachuab Khiri Khan Province, Thailand, 15 – 18 June 2004) it was stated that:

“The Member Countries are encouraged to take initiatives in planning and implementation of pilot projects with supports from international/regional organisations including FAO, SEAFDEC, UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, MRC, AIT and Sida. In addition the Consultation requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to coordinate with the Departments implementing relevant programs to fishery statistics and information under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism in planning pilot projects” (Point 20 of the Summary Report). As statistic and information, and subsequent analysis, is a central to the inputs needed for fisheries management it was envisaged that the SEAFDEC-Sida project would follow up on some relevant aspects.

A concern raised during this and other meetings is that “statistics” should not be developed just for the sake of collecting numbers. Instead it should be developed to be a useful tool in planning and management. In doing so it is important that a dialogue is maintained with various organisations and projects as indicated above. Also relevant national institutions and projects should be included to seek ways in which useful statistics could be collected on a cost-effective (low cost) routine basis.

Below is an *ad hoc* list on some ongoing and earlier projects and possible institutions that could be linked to or consulted in developing “pilot projects”. The list or structure could be updated or revised as practical. The list is by country, and within the countries an attempt has been made to identify a “representative” set of provinces/areas. The list is followed by the identification of some “regional” institutions/projects.

CLMV

Cambodia

Coastal provinces (at RTC a Cambodia Priority)

- UNEP/GEF (Koh Kong and Kampot)
- FAO – Sida Information
- Danida (Coastal Zone)
- IDRC (Mangroves)
- ADB-RETA (Marine and Coastal)

Stung Treng (Riverine, border to Laos)

- MRC Fish and MRC Environment
- ICLARM Wetlands Approach

- IUCN/GEF Mekong Wet Biodiversity
- WWF Living Mekong
- Oxfam International

Siem Reap (Tonle Sap)

- ICLARM Wetlands Approach
- FAO Community fisheries/flooded forests
- ADB Tonle Sap Initiatives
- ADB Chong Kneas (includes fish landing sites)
- MRC Fish and Environment

Takeo/Svay Rieng (flood plain – border to Vietnam)

- AIT Aqua Outreach
- MRC Fish and Environment
- ICLARM Wetlands Approach
-

Lao PDR

Vientiane (Reservoir, at RTC a Lao Priority)

- MRC Fish and Environment (Reservoir)
- Lao National Mekong Committee
- Univ of Kristianstad/Lund
-

Champassack (Riverine, border to Cambodia and Thailand)

- MRC Fish and Environment
- Lao National Mekong Committee
- AIT Aqua Outreach
- IDRC (See Pan Don)
- ICLARM Wetlands Approach

Savannakhet (Floodplain, Rice fields)

- MRC Fish and Environment
- AIT Aqua Outreach
- "Self Recruiting Species"
- ICLARM Wetlands Approach

Myanmar

Name of area (floodplain at RTC a Myanmar Priority)

- Name some projects
- FAO

Vietnam

Coastal provinces 1 (General)

- Provincial Coastal Management (Sida)
- FAO – Sida Information
- Danida (Fisheries Sector Support)
- Norad (Fisheries Law, Coastal Aquaculture)
- ADB-RETA (Marine and Coastal)
- ADB/ICLARM “Trawl Base”
- UNEP-GEF South China Sea Project
-

Coastal provinces 2 (Selected Provinces)

- Quang Binh and Nge Anh (Provincial Coastal Management (Sida)
- Kieng Giang/Phu Quoc (UNEP-GEF)
- Nah Trang (Danida Marine Protected Area, Fisheries University)
-
-

Inland Waters 1 (Selected Provinces)

- Mekong Delta (AIT Aqua Outreach, MRC Fish and Environment)
- Red River (RIA no 1, AIT Aqua Outreach)
- Upper Sesan and Sekong (MRC Fish and Environment)
- Dien Bien Phu and area of Mekong (AIT Aqua Outreach, MRC Fish and Environment, Sida “forestry”)
-
-
-

Other Countries

Thailand

Thai inland

Songkram River Basin (“Riverine systems” at RTC a Thai priority)

- IUCN/GEF (Mekong Wet Biodiversity)
- AIT Aqua Outreach
- WWF Living Mekong
- MRC Fish and Environment
-

Mekong (in general - “Riverine systems” at RTC a Thai priority)

- MRC Fish and Environment
- AIT Aqua Outreach
- WWF Living Mekong
- ICLARM Mekong Wetlands Approach

Songkla Lake and River Basin (“Riverine systems” at RTC a Thai priority)

- UNEP/GEF South China Sea
- ICLARM Wetlands Approach
- CORIN/Prince of Songkla University
- MRC Fish and Environment
-

Thai coastal/marine

Trat Province and Koh Chang

- UNEP/GEF South China Sea
-
-

Phang Nga Bay and Ao Don Bay

- CHARM (EU)
-
-

Songkla and Pattani

- UNEP/GEF South China Sea
-
-

Chumpon

- SEAFDEC
-
-

Indonesia

Inland “sites”/provinces (at RTC an Indonesian Priority)

- I have to check a bit here
-
-
-

Coastal “sites”/provinces (at RTC an Indonesian Priority)

- I have to check a bit here

- UNEP/GEF South China Sea
-
-

Malaysia

Inland “sites”/provinces

- I have to check a bit here
-
-
-

Coastal “sites”/provinces

- I have to check a bit here
- Langkawi (SEAFDEC)
-
-

Philippines

Coastal “sites”/provinces

- I have to check a bit here
- UNEP/GEF South China Sea
- FISH Project
-

Brunei and Singapore

The smallness of the countries indicates that more or less the whole countries would constitute suitable “sites”.

Proposed Terms of Reference of National Focal Point for Regional Inventory, Database and Network for Information Collection on HRD in Fisheries

A national focal point will be appointed by each member country to work with SEAFDEC Secretariat for the following activities:

1. Collecting available information on the national HRD programs/activities which can be applicable for future possible regional usage.
2. Updating information on training facilities including resource persons for the fisheries HRD programs/activities in their representative countries
3. Assisting in identification and prioritization of the regional fisheries HRD programs/activities
4. Coordinating the communication between interested parties and program coordinators

The format for the inventory survey will be used as follow:

1	Title of the Program	
2	Keywords	
3	Field of Training	
4	Responsible Institution	
5	Background of the program	
6	Type of language to be used in the program	
7	Type of Achievement	
8	Date	
9	Venue	
10	Target beneficiary	
11	Entry Qualification of the participants	
12	Optimal number of participants	
13	Cost for participation	
14	Source of funding	
15	Name of Program Coordinator	
16	Name of the National Focal Point	

Selection of inputs will be decided by the national focal point taking into account the relevance of the information to other member countries.

**Back-to-Office Report: Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the
Fisheries Sub-Component
11-14 Oct. 2004, Phu Quoc, Vietnam**

I. General

1.1 SEAFDEC's Attendees	Worawit Wanchana (SEAFDEC-Sida Project) and Theo Ebbers (Rights-based Fisheries Project)
1.2 Title of the Meeting	Fifth Meeting of the Regional Working Group for Fisheries for the Fisheries Component of the Project
1.3 Project Title	Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand
1.4 Executing Agency	Secretariat for the Action Plan for the Seas of East Asia (EAS/RCU); Ministries of Environment in each country.
1.5 Implementing Agency	United Nation Environmental Programme (UNEP)
1.6 Organizer's contact person	Kelvin Dale Passfield ; Project Coordinating Unit (PCU), focal point for intersessional activities of the group
1.7 Meeting date	11 – 14 Oct. 2004
1.8 Meeting venue	Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam
1.9 Participants of this meeting	Working group members for the Fisheries Component (Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines and Cambodia) and relevant organizations (SEAFDEC, FAO, World Fish Centre, and IUCN)
1.10 Keywords	Fisheries, Gulf of Thailand, <i>Refugia</i> , South China Sea, Transboundary

II. Background and Sequence of the Meeting (the following information was collected from the available references, mainly from those of each time meeting reports, as for being useful information for the readers)

Project Duration	2002 – 2007 (approved by the 12 th meeting of the COBSEA in 1996)
Participating Countries	(1) Cambodia, (2) Indonesia, (3) Philippines, (4) Thailand, (5) Malaysia, and (6) Vietnam. (China may participate to the project after the initial phase, Malaysia is not participating the Fisheries Component of the Project)
Overall goals of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To create an environment at the regional level, in which collaboration and partnership in addressing environmental problems of the South China Sea, between all stakeholders, and at all levels is fostered and encouraged - To enhance the capacity of the participating governments to integrate environmental considerations into national development planning - To produce Regional Strategic Action Programme, with inputs from all the habitat, fishery and land-based pollution components
Objectives of the Fisheries	To assisting the countries in developing more regionally coordinated approaches to addressing the problems of the marine environment. The

component	focus of the activities envisaged in this component of the project was directed towards the habitats that served as important nursery, spawning and feeding grounds for migratory or shared fish stocks.
Relevant notes from the 1st Meeting (Bangkok, 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project wishes to provide the necessary scientific and technical guidance required for successful execution of the fisheries component. - Concerning <i>refugia</i> (or called <i>fish sanctuaries</i> in the Philippines), the criteria for the designation of the area for the <i>refugia</i> had been established in the Philippines which might be of value to the project when considering the need for such areas. - PCU was in the progress of discussion with Director of the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for the System for Analysis, Research and Training of the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (SEA-START) with regard to the creation of the <i>national meta-database</i> (might include the data and information on the transboundary stocks in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand to be useful for its further fishery management at the national/regional level) - SEAFDEC might have a number of relevant data sets which could be incorporated into the regional GIS database and that discussion was underway between the Director of SEA-START and SEAFDEC regarding acquisition of these data. (so far no information concerning this: Worawit) - Recognizing the decline in fisheries resources, national policies focused on optimizing productivity; ensuring more equitable distribution of benefits; strengthening institutions; whilst at the same time minimizing environmental problems. Problems included overfishing, use of inappropriate technology; post harvest losses; conflict between small and large-scale fisheries and destruction of coastal habitats for aquaculture.
Relevant notes from the 2nd Meeting (Phuket, 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The preliminary list of shared and transboundary stocks for the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand appeared as Annexes attached to the report of this meeting. The list includes pelagic and demersal fish species, cephalopods, crustaceans, marine mammals' species and reptiles, and invertebrate species of transboundary significance. - The preliminary list of threatened and near threatened fish species of marine mammal and reptiles in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand was also drafted and attached to the meeting report. - Regarding the problems of blast fishing including the nature of the bombs and its impacts, it was noted that authorities with responsibility, for example, marine resources, marine protected areas, artificial reefs, spawning areas, marine wildlife, tourism and dive sites could all potentially have interest in developing enforcement to prevent and control the blast fishing. This could involve communities in the regulation process in controlling blast fishing activities. - Trawl Base Project of the World Fish Centre was presented in the meeting. The objective of the Trawl Base Project is to promote sustainable management of coastal fish stocks in Asia. Development of

	<p>the regional database called “Fisheries Resource Information Systems and Tools” (FiRST) was also presented to the meeting. It was noted that this FiRST database is an important regional repository of information for sustainable management of coastal fish stocks in developing Asian countries.</p>
<p>Relevant notes from the 3rd Meeting (Seim Reap, 2003)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regarding the problem of non-participation of Malaysia to work as the regional working group, involvement of SEAFDEC will be useful to this project in terms of the past research and development relating to the information collected for the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. - The work plan for this Fisheries Component of the Project includes the promotion of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and that there was an obvious linkage between this project activities and the work of SEAFDEC on the Regionalization of the CCRF - No data had been submitted for inclusion in the meta-database or regional GIS as mentioned in earlier meetings. It was proposed to compiled fisheries information in the agreed GIS format of the project. - The meeting agreed on the blast fishing detection trials. Malaysia possessed significant marine control and surveillance (MCS) capability, and that Sabah was the preferred location due to the availability of the oil drilling platforms and other infrastructure, as well as MCS capability.
<p>Relevant notes from the 4th Meeting (Manila, 2004)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of the awareness-raising materials such as posters, leaflets, CD-ROM, comic books, T-shirts, etc. will be prepared and soon disseminated to the target audiences in each country of the project members, regarding problems in fisheries such as impacts of destructive fishing gear. However, it was noted that format of materials to be produced for awareness-raising should assess the needs of in-country stakeholders and specific situations to decide. - The meeting noted that the meeting(s) should be organized between the habitat and fisheries components in each country in order to work together in the consideration of which of the demonstration sites would be considered as potential <i>refugia</i> for transboundary fish stock. It was also noted that socio-economic and ecological perspectives should be balanced in the consideration of the demonstration site. - Demonstration site proposals have not taken enough consideration of fisheries problems, and that the importance of fisheries should be emphasized by habitat demonstration site proposals. Where fisheries related issues were identified as treats to the demonstration site, the regional working group urged the respective habitat sub-component to ensure the participation of the country’s national fisheries committee and focal point in devising appropriate strategies to address the threats, and ensure that the social impacts to fishers of any mitigation measures were adequately addressed. - Original work plan of the project includes the development of national and regional management plan for a regional system of <i>refugia</i> for

	<p>transboundary fish stocks in the Gulf of Thailand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEAFDEC’s representative presented relevant activities/objectives such as the promotion of regional guideline for responsible fisheries. Discussion was made on possible opportunities for future collaboration between SEAFDEC and UNEP/GEF SCS Project Fisheries Component regarding the promotion of the CCRF.
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III. Relevant notes from the 5th Meeting

3.1 Draft version of the *Strategic Action Programme* (SAP) for the South China Sea was circulated to the meeting’s members. The ultimate goal of this SAP is to halt or slow the current rate of environmental degradation and as such it contains priority actions that need to be undertaken at both the national and regional. Major achievements of this SAP may contribute to the protection of human health, promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources; and contribute to the maintenance of globally significant biological diversity.

3.2 Participating countries submitted the materials for awareness-arising as follow:

Cambodia – Field guide for marine environment of Cambodia, Brochure on important marine habitats, Poster of endangered aquatic species.

Philippines – Flip charts to be distributed to fishery officer in the coastal provinces.

Thailand – Stickers and CD-ROMs

Vietnam – Calendar, Posters (small size for display in schools and offices, big size for display on the roadside) and Booklet on important marine resources.

3.3 Regarding trial of a blast fishing detection device in Sabah, Malaysia, as discussed during their last meeting, the testing site in there was proposed to be the demonstration site under the coral reef component of the project.

3.4 There was a general commonality of understanding of the concept of *refugia* related to specific areas of significance to the (multi-species) life cycles of particular species. The establishment of the fishery *refugia* had been reviewed by the meeting’s members and its definition made by the members including explanatory notes and management measures recommended for the *refugia* is attached as Annex 1 to this report. It was discussed at the meeting that the establishment of *refugia* should be integrated into fisheries management and future collaborative among national/regional relevant agencies should be promoted.

3.5 Vietnamese participants informed the meeting that they had already translated SEAFDEC’s Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fishing Operations and this translated version will be distributed to fishermen throughout the country.

3.6 It was discussed on the need for direct translation of the Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries into national language of the participating countries. It was noted that the SCS project might be able to reach higher policy levels in the countries hence

there might be value in the translation. However, it was suggested that such translations will be unlikely to be interest for fishers or the general public.

- 3.7 There will be three demonstration sites under each of mangrove, seagrass and coral reef sub-component for the habitat component. These sites had been developed by the regional working groups which were clustered on the basis of their similarity and ranking determined on the basis of environmental and socio-economic criteria.
- 3.8 Concerning the SCS *refugia*, FAO's representative noted that the FAO/Sida project had activities in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia that were relevant to the *refugia* activity.
- 3.9 The 6th Meeting for the Regional Working Group will be held during 5th to 8th September 2005 as agreed by the meeting's members.

IV. Next steps/follow-up activities for future collaboration between SEAFDEC and UNEP/GEF SCS Project

- 4.1 Project Director noted that the Project budget could support participation of the regional working group members in relevant SEAFDEC and FAO activities with regards to the promotion of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- 4.2 SEAFDEC upcoming programs/activities related to the issue of *refugia* might be identification of spawning grounds through collection of juveniles and eggs of important species. This may be based on the information collection by the use of MV SEAFDEC 2.
- 4.3 With regards to the design, identification, establishment and management of *refugia* in the Gulf of Thailand it was noted, that the SEAFDEC project on resource enhancement might be of interest for the UNEP/GEF SCS Project.
- 4.4 The meeting noted that there are other SEAFDEC programs and activities as well, which are of interest within the framework of the UNEP/GEF SCS project and its different components. SEAFDEC-AQD's activities on developing guidelines for responsible aquaculture in Mangrove areas were mentioned as one of these. The meeting expressed its particular interest in the SEAFDEC program on information collection on pelagic fisheries in the South China Sea.
- 4.5 Within the program on Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia implementing by SEAFDEC-Secretariat under ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG Mechanism through SEAFDEC-Sida Project, future collaboration between SEAFDEC and UNEP/GEF SCS project would be further promoted as referred to the Pilot Process/Study in the set of representative countries as an outcome and attached to the meeting report of the "ASEAN-SEAFDEC Preparatory Experts Meeting on Fishing Capacity and Related Human Resource Development Needs in the ASEAN Region" held in Bangkok during 14 – 16 September 2004.

4.6 The meeting took note that it might be value to have a meeting among SEAFDEC, FAO and UNEP/GEF SCS Project to follow a common strategy towards promotion of the Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries.

Concluding remarks:

Within the general framework of the UNEP/GEF SCS project, the fisheries component is only one of several components. With the other components focusing on the rehabilitation and sustainable use of “critical habitats” and the national executing agencies of the project being the Ministries of the Environment, the fisheries component seems to be of lesser importance within the overall framework of the UNEP/GEF SCS project.

To strengthen the fisheries component and to make sure the interests of the fisheries sector are “safeguarded”, it would be in SEAFDEC’s own interest to seek further dialogue and cooperation with the UNEP/GEF SCS project. Of particular interest for the fisheries sector and therefore for SEAFDEC are the project’s activities within its demonstration sites, where the management of fisheries will be critical for the responsible and sustainable management of the habitat. Another area of concern for SEAFDEC is the establishment of a system of *refugia*, which may have considerable impacts on fisheries activities in and beyond the project’s demonstration sites. A continuation of the communication and cooperation with the project could strengthen its fisheries component and ensure that the fisheries sector is aptly engaged in the project.

Refugia

"A spatially and geographically defined, marine or coastal area in which specific management measures are applied to sustain important species³ [fisheries resources] during critical stages of their lifecycle, for their sustainable use."

Explanatory notes:

- Should not be a "no take zone"
- have the objective of sustainable use for the benefit of present and future generations
- Some areas within a refugia might be permanently closed due to their critical importance [essential contribution] to the live cycle of a species or group of species.).
- critical areas of importance in the life cycle include spawning, and nursery grounds, or areas of habitat required for the maintenance of brood stock
- Refugia will have different characteristics according to their purpose and the species or species groups for which they are established and within which different management measures will apply.
- Refugia may be sub-divided reflecting the differing importance of sub-areas to the species or species group. A management plan for the refugia will reflect different measures for the subdivisions.

Management measures that may be applied would be drawn from the following [non-exhaustive] list:

- Exclusion of a fishing method (e.g. light fishing)
- Restricted gears (e.g. mesh size)
- Prohibited gears (e.g. push nets, bottom trawl)
- Vessel size /motorization
- Seasonal closures during critical periods
- Seasonal restrictions (specific gears that may trap larvae)
- Limit access

³ In the context of this project the initial focus is on a system of refugia for transboundary species

IMPORTANT ISSUES RELATED TO POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE FOR PLANNING OF FUTURE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

With the view to further clarify linkages between post-harvest practices and trade, and responsible fisheries as well as to support better implementation of the CCRF by the Member Countries, the following issues are identified as priority, which could be used as a basis for planning of future program of activities at both national and regional levels.

Priority Issue on Responsible Fish Utilization

- Develop/harmonize appropriate guidelines on good manufacturing practices [based on products] focusing on domestic industry e.g. small and medium enterprises.
- Develop appropriate guidelines on the quality assurance of fish and fishery product from on-board and on-shore handling to consumers compiling the existing practices and various factors including economic, social, environmental and nutritional aspects.
- * Train personnel on the implementation of safety & quality assurance programmes, handling and processing of fish and fishery products under hygienic conditions.
- Develop appropriate national/regional standards (safety and quality assurance) in relation to domestic, ethnic and traditional products including fermented products, if these have not yet been developed at international level.
- * Establish a network of experts to clarify the safety and quality issues for its application and practical use, in accordance to FAO/WHO CODEX standards.
- Promote coordination amongst government agencies in relation to legislation and regulatory requirements, safety and quality control, and inspection of fish and fishery products within the country.
- * Promote the development of the local/traditional fish processing industry and upgrade the industry's products to meet the quality and safety requirements.
- Promote better handling, preservation and utilization of fish through research and development of appropriate technologies *, marketing opportunities and distribution and training of personnel and provision of infrastructure.
- Promote research and development in the suggested following areas:
 - Risk assessment / risk analysis
 - * Reduction of post-harvest losses and maximizing the use of under-utilized species including pelagic fishes for direct human consumption.
 - * Utilization and marketing of newly discovered species / identified stocks for human consumption.
 - Nutritional composition
 - Environmental impact
 - Packaging of fish and fishery products
 - * Mechanization for SMEs through the introduction of appropriate processing equipment

 * refers to issues that can be accommodated into existing SEAFDEC regional programs.

- Distribution, storage and logistic improvement in relation to food safety and quality
- ***** Utilization of trimmings, by-products and waste from the fish processing industry.
- Introduce alternative environment-friendly means of fish preservation, and the development and transfer of appropriate technologies.
- Promote improvement of quality and maintenance of freshness of all fish harvested for human consumption through appropriate distribution/marketing system.
- ***** Promote direct usage for human consumption of fishery products made from resources that are not fully used for that purpose such as small pelagic, unwanted catch, etc,
- ***** Encourage the proper handling and quality preservation of fish of low economic value for direct human consumption taking into consideration economic factors.
- ***** Transfer technology in the development of value-added products in the region.

Priority Issues on Fish Trade

- ***** Strengthen existing regional collaborative mechanisms to develop ASEAN common positions/policies relating to trade in fish and fishery products as well as to reflect them in relevant international fora.
- ***** Develop a clear ASEAN policy direction on ecolabelling for fish and fishery products including
 - Investigating the draft international guidelines on ecolabelling for fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries in order to develop regional common positions for finalization of the guidelines by FAO; and
 - Investigating possibility for development of similar guidelines for aquaculture products.
- Investigate linkages between promotion of international trade, intra-regional trade, and domestic markets on one hand, and responsible/sustainable fisheries on the other hand. Where appropriate, developing guidelines for the promotion of intra-regional trade and domestic markets.
- Strengthen in-country coordination among agencies in the formulation of policy related to trade in fish and fishery products.
- ***** Develop criteria to support the use of fisheries subsidies that contribute to sustainable development and management of fisheries, poverty alleviation and promotion of livelihoods in fisheries.
- ***** Monitor issues (e.g. sharks, sea cucumber) under CITES framework in relation to management of commercial species/fisheries.
- Investigate linkages of trade in fish and fishery products and food security.
- ***** Strengthen collection/compilation and analysis_of statistics on trade in fish and fishery products.
- Develop a work program on issues of non-tariff barriers to trade in fish and fishery products involving concerned agencies. Where appropriate technical supports from SEAFDEC can be extended to the Member Countries on the issues.

***** refers to issues that can be accommodated into existing SEAFDEC regional programs.